

BRONZE AGE GREECE

I. Before the Bronze Age

II. Minoan Civilization of Crete/Islands (ca. 2000-1400 BC)

A. Minoans

1. Spoke Non-Indo-European Language
2. Written documents, undeciphered, in "Linear A" script

B. "Palace Civilization" Large Palace Centers on Crete

1. **Knossos**: Palace of "Minos"; Minotaur/Labyrinth Legend
2. Phaistos: Phaistos Disk; an undeciphered hieroglyphic text

C. Akrotiri on **Thera** (Santorini)

1. Destroyed by Volcanic Eruption ca. 1400 BC
2. Origin of Atlantis Legend in Plato?

III. Mycenaean Civilization of Mainland

A. Greek Speaking (Achaean Invasion)

1. Written Documents: "Linear B" script
2. Deciphered in 1952 by John Ventris; = Greek

B. Major Centers

1. Mycenae: type site, first excavated by Schliemann
2. Tiryns; Athens; Sparta; Pylos; Gla; Thebes (14th-13th cents BC)

IV. The Trojan War (ca. 1250-1230 BC)

A. Achaeans vs. Troy (NW Anatolia)

B. Can be correlated with excavated remains at Troy, 1250-1230 BC

1. Site = Hissarlik on eastern shore at mouth of Dardanelles
2. Excavated by Schliemann, Dorpfeld, others

V. The End of the Bronze Age

A. Collapse of Bronze Age Palace Civilizations in Greece around 1200 BC

B. "Dorian Invasion"