

V. Aegean Civilizations
The Artistic and Material Cultures of the
“Sea in the Middle of the Earth”

DU1701 Periods of Art History I

AEGEAN CIVILIZATIONS

--- Northern frontier of the Mycenaean civilization at its greatest extent circa 1250 BC



0 25 50 75 mi

0 25 50 75 100 km

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Cycladic cultures, ca. 3200 – ca. 1050 BCE



Cycladic "folded-arm figure", ca. 2400 BCE, marble
Getty Museum, Villa Collection, Malibu



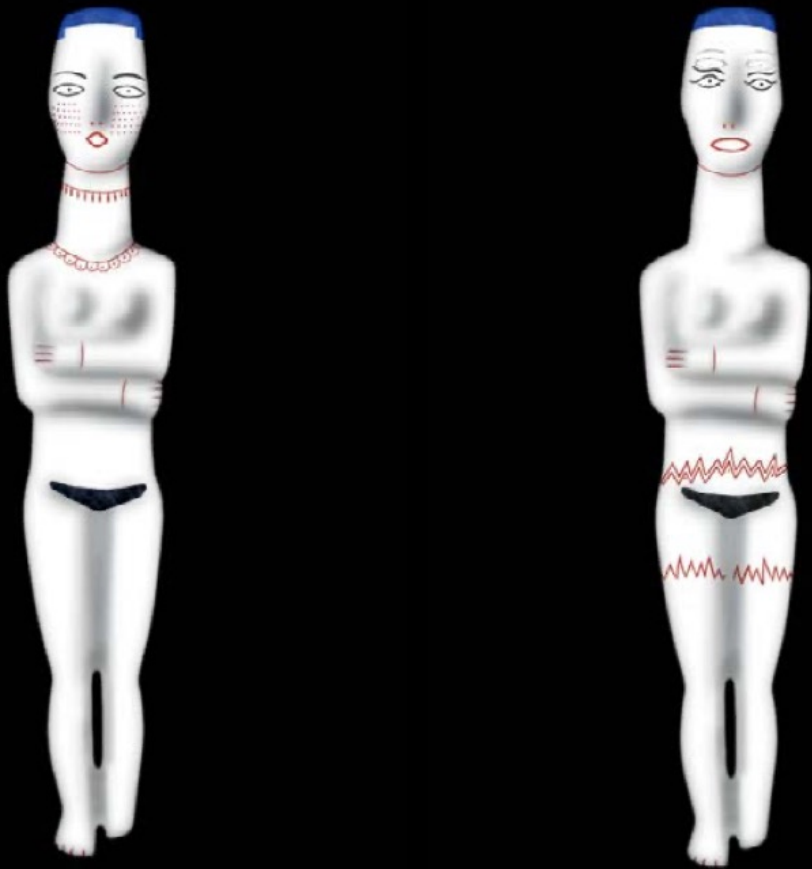
Cycladic female figure, 1,49 m, ca. 2800 – 2300 BCE
Museum of Cycladic Art, Athens



Seated harp player, Late Early
Cycladic I–Early Cycladic II, 2800–
2700 BCE, marble, H: 29.21 cm
Metropolitan Museum, New York

Seated Harp Player of the Early
Spedos Type, 2700–2300 BCE,
marble, 35.8 × 9.5 × 28.1 cm
The J. Paul Getty Museum, Villa
Collection, Malibu, California





Contents of a Cycladic grave from the Island of
Iralkia, ca. 2600–2400 BCE



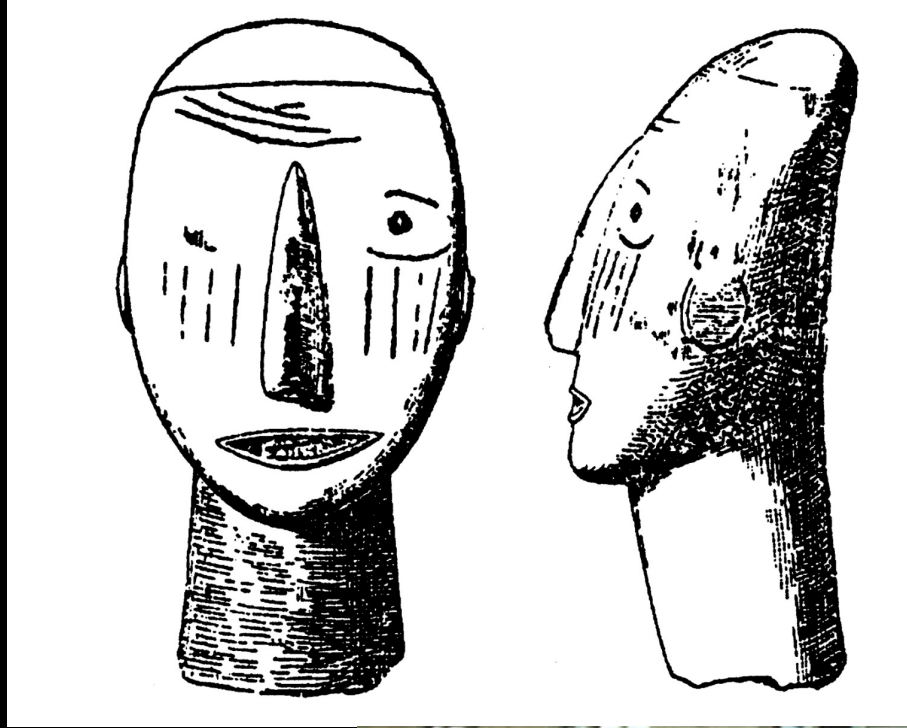




Marble head, Cycladic II, H: 25,3 cm, marble, ca. 2700–2500 BCE
Metropolitan Museum, New York



Marble head with painted vertical striations, Cycladic II, H: 25,3 cm, marble
ca. 2800–2300 BCE, from Amorgos
National Archaeological Museum, Athens



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Minoan cultures, 3000 – 1100 BCE

Knossos

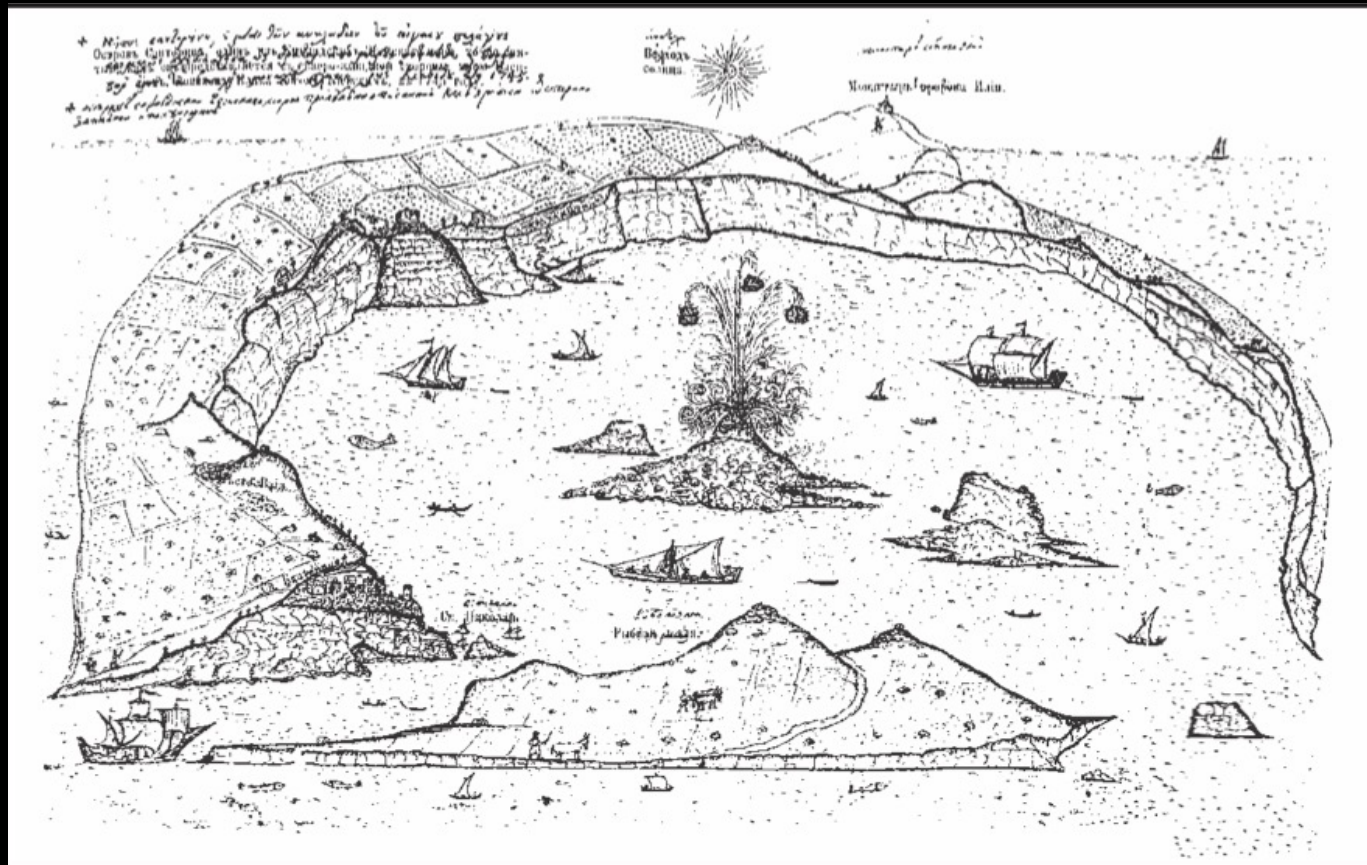


Thera (Santorini)

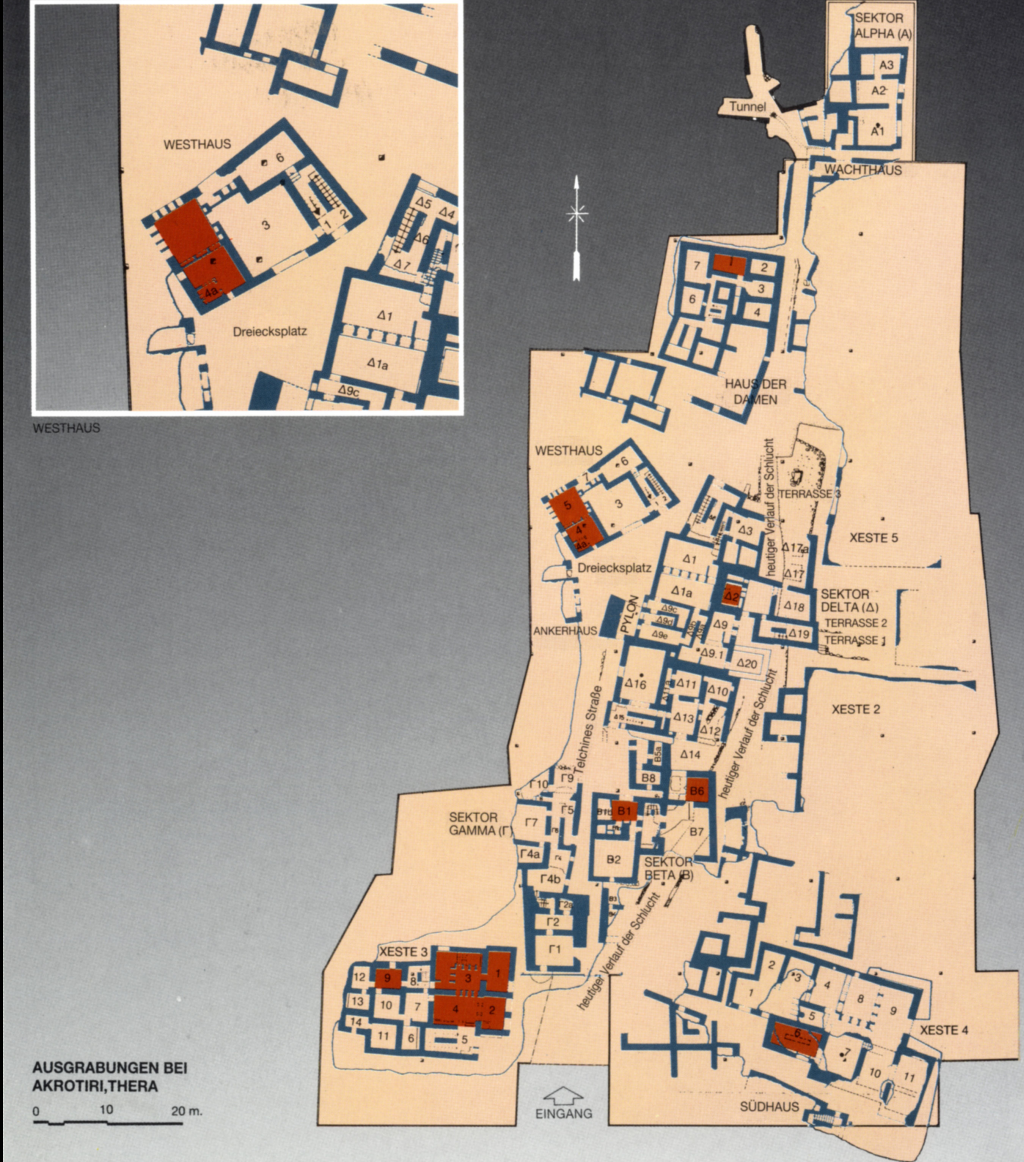
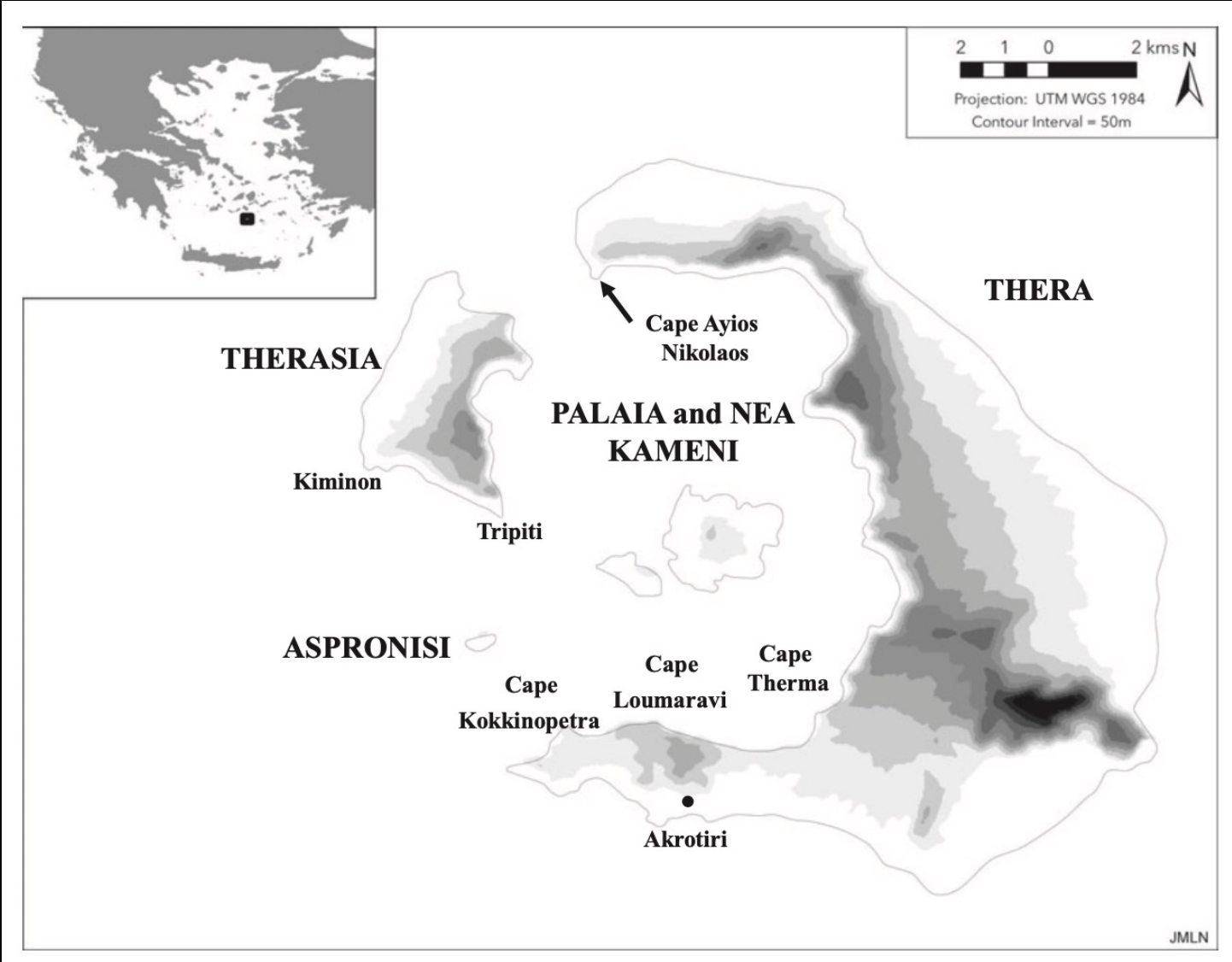




The “Minoan” Eruption, between 1642 and 1540 BCE?



Drawing of the island with an active volcano by Russian monk Barskij, 1745



ca. 1600 BCE



House of the Ladies

Western house

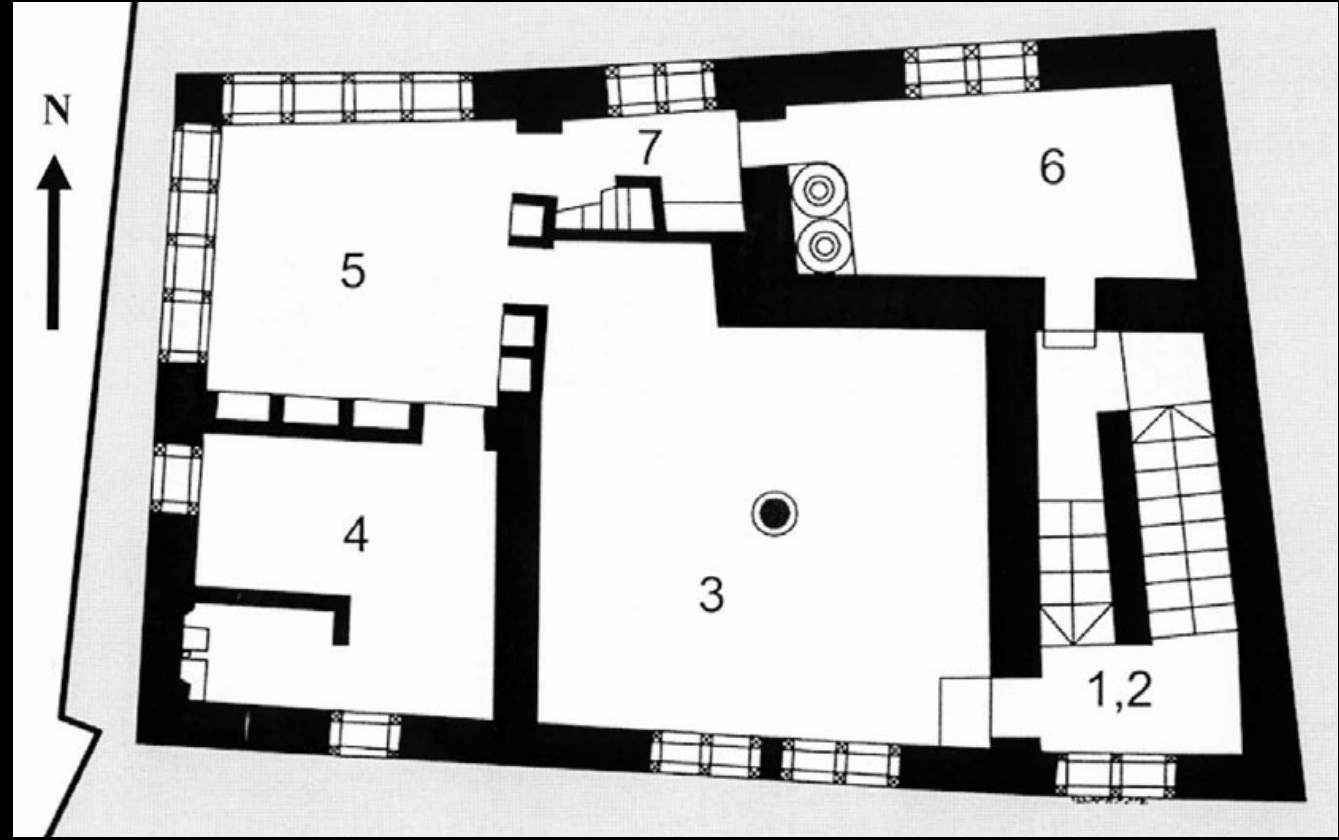
Xeste 3



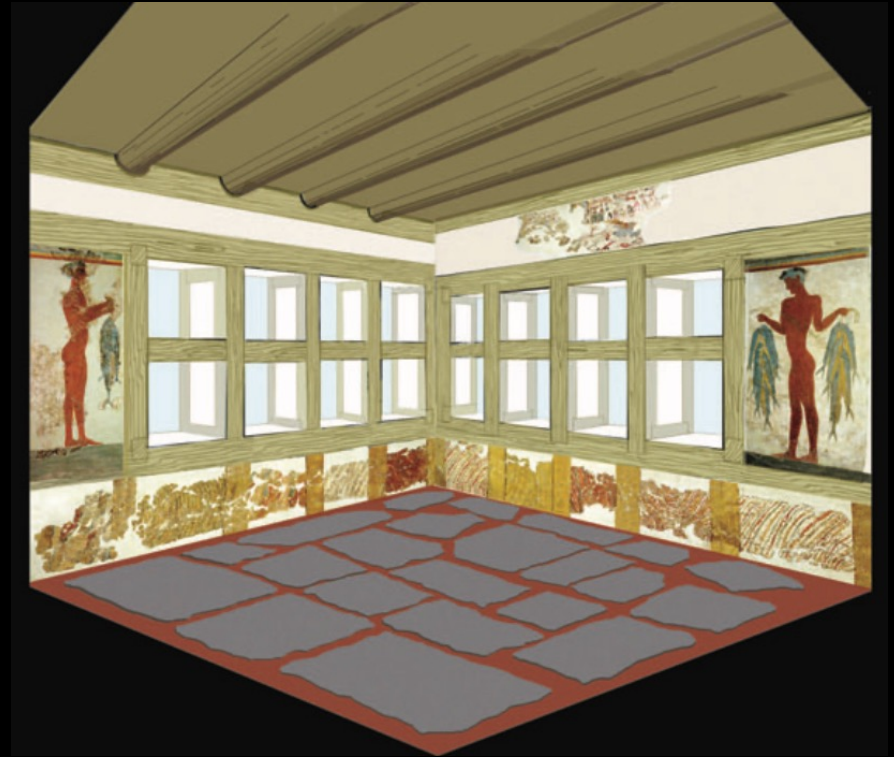


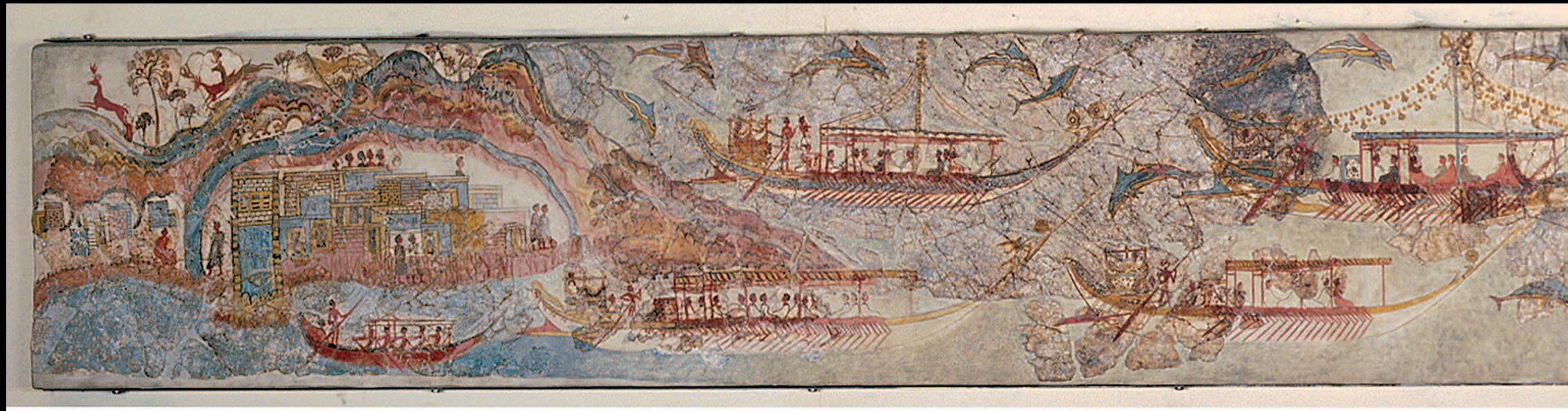






Reconstruction of the West House as seen from the north & plan of the second floor of the West House

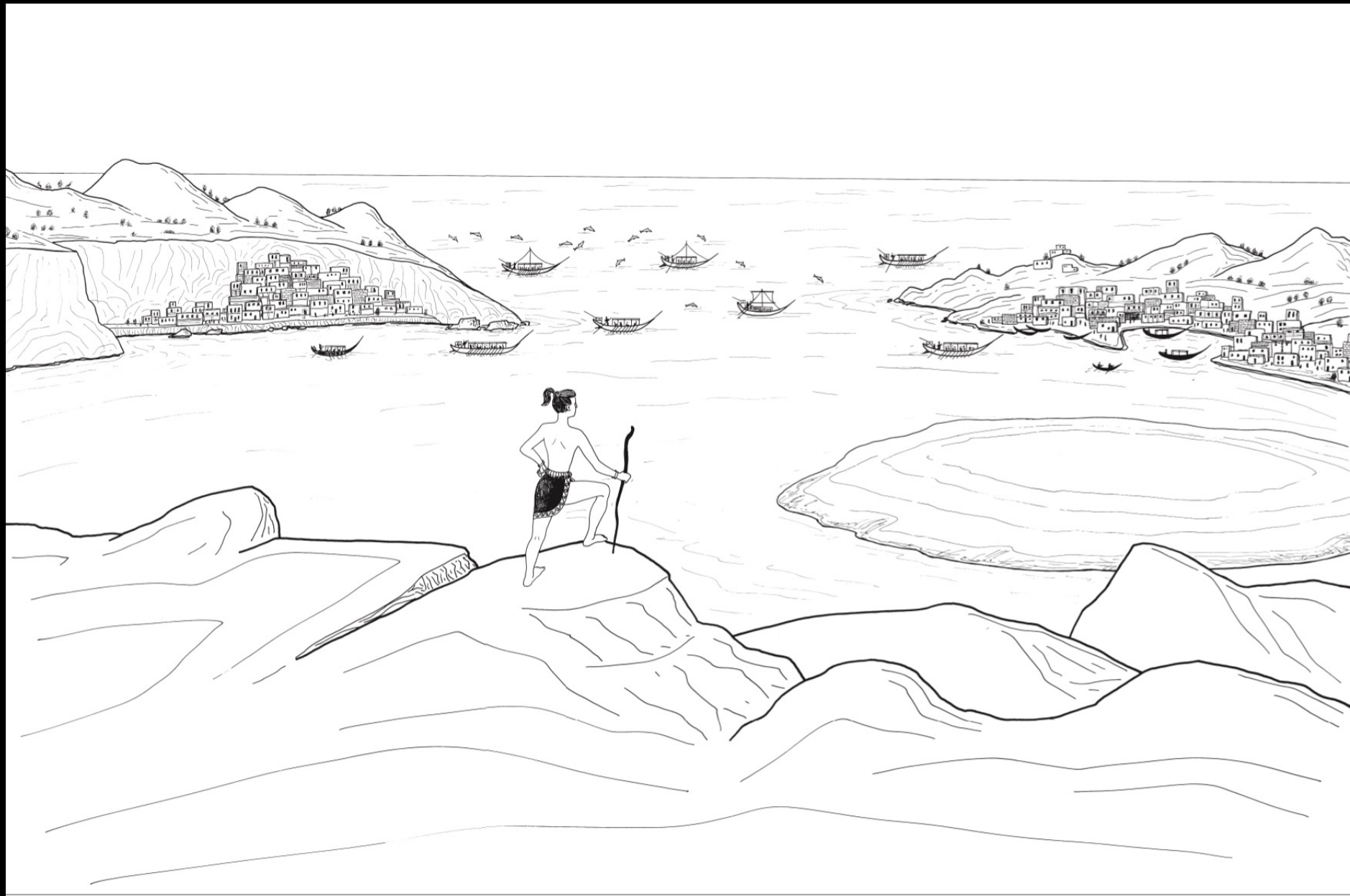




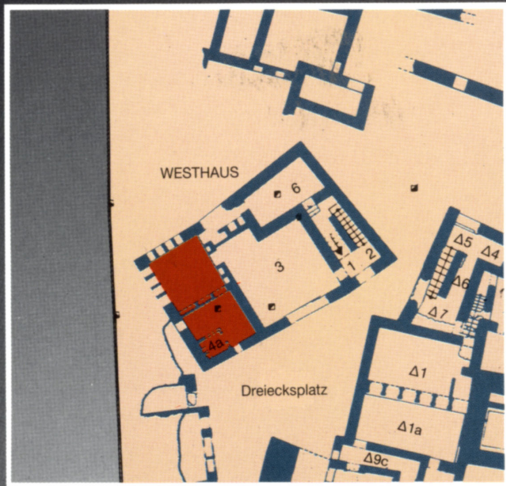








A reconstruction of the perspective proposed by Thomas F. Strasser (2010) – Thera prior to the Bronze Age volcanic eruption), with its inundated caldera as seen from its east lip. (Drawing by Doug Faulmann)



WESTHAUS



AUSGRABUNGEN BEI AKROTIRI, THERA

0 10 20 m.

House of the Ladies

Western house

Xeste 3





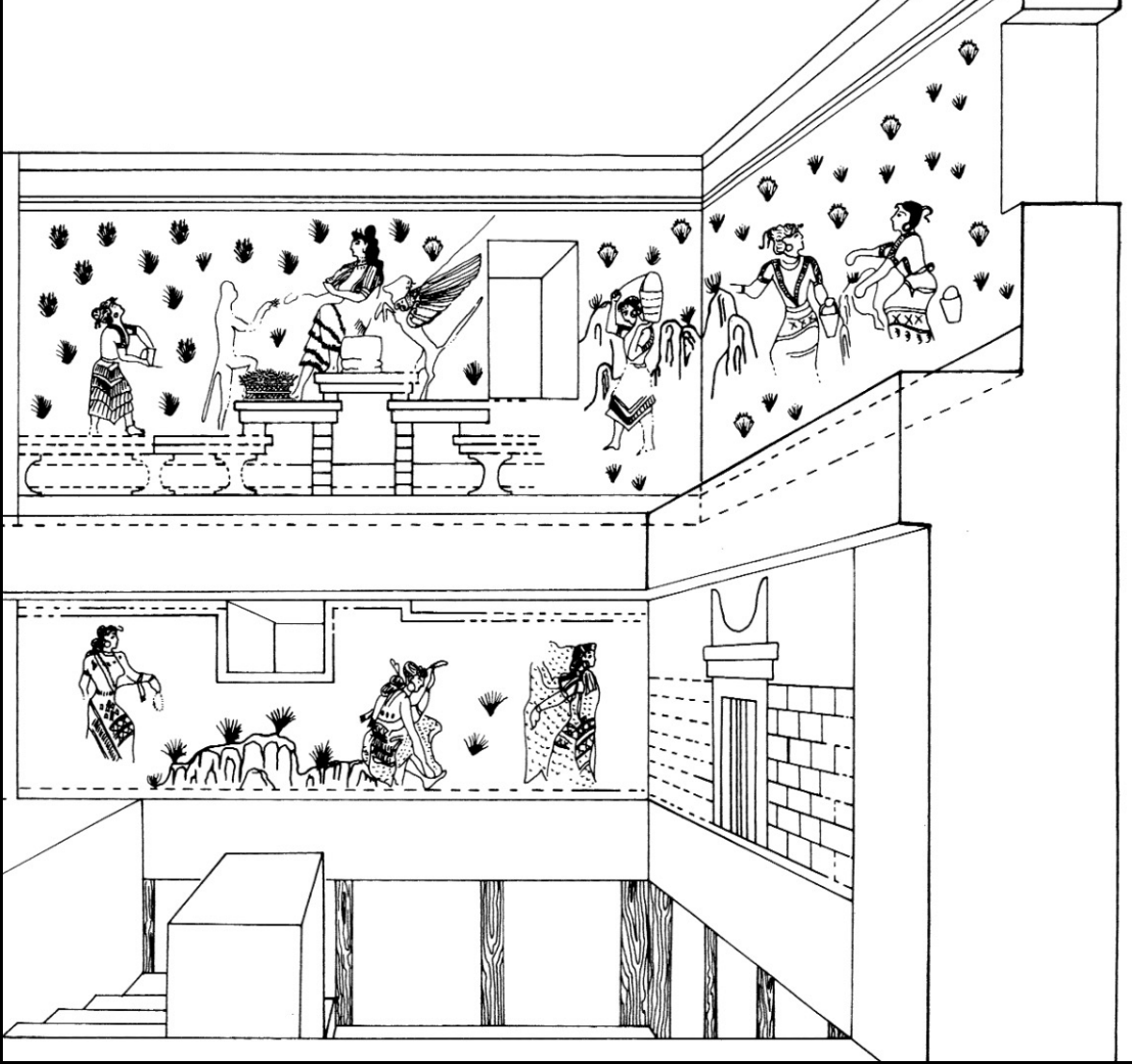
Akrotiri murals on display at the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, Santorini











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Minoan cultures, 3000 – 1100 BCE

Knossos





Aerial view of the
Palace at Knossos



Procession fresco from Knossos (heavily restored)



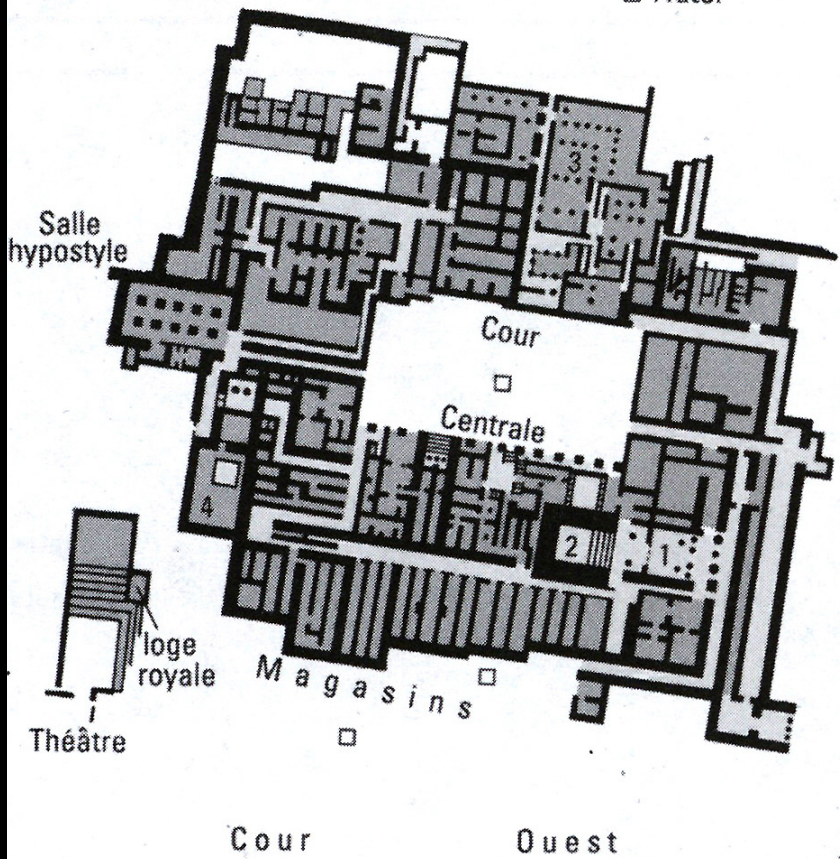
Kamares-style pottery, ca. 2100–1700 BCE / Heraklion Archaeological Museum, Crete

Vessel made of clay with octopus, sea urchins, seaweed and rocks, ca 1500-1450 BCE, from Palekastro (Crete) / Heraklion Archaeological Museum, Crete

Le palais de Knossos

- 1 Propylées du Sud
- 2 Grand escalier
- 3 Mégaron du Roi
- 4 Bain lustral
- Autel

← N — Terrasse sur la vallée
du Kairatos



1/2 500
0 50 m







“Bull-leaping” fresco, from the Palace at Knossos, fresco on stucco, ca. 1450 BCE, 78,2 x 104,5 cm
Heraklion Archaeological Museum



Bronze Group of a Bull and Acrobat, lost wax bronze,
ca. 1600-1450 BCE, from Rethymnon, Crete
British Museum, London



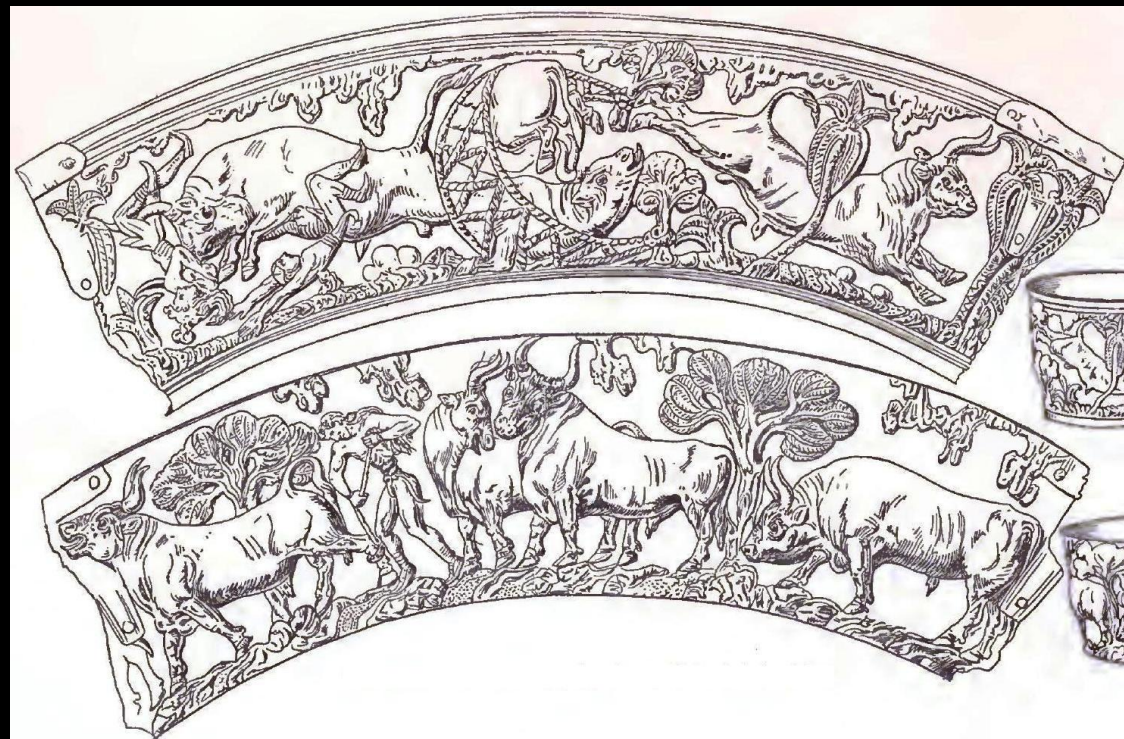
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Mycenaean Civilization,
c. 1600 – ca. 1100 BCE



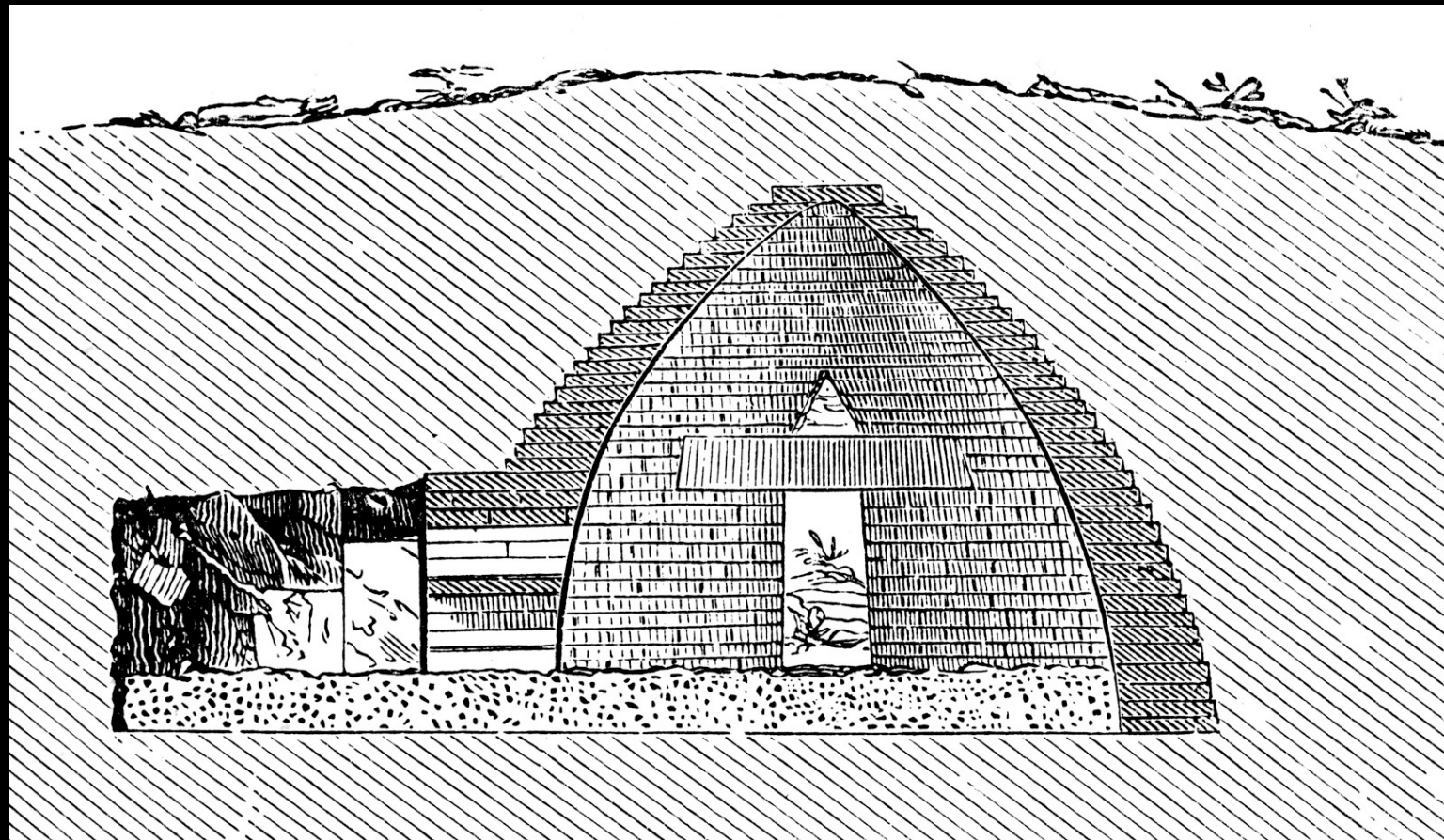
Mycenae



Gold cup with relief, from Vaphio, Sparta,
Peloponnese, ca. 1500–1450 BCE
National Archaeological Museum, Athens



4-18 | RECONSTRUCTION OF CITADEL AT MYCENAE



Tholos tomb, so-called
Treasury of Atreus,
Mycenae







Figure 10. Enlarged drawing of the Combat Agate, as it appears on the face of the sealstone.
Drawing T. Ross; courtesy Department of Classics, University of Cincinnati





Carved head from
a Mycenaean
Chamber Tomb
on the Acropolis,
14th-13th century
BCE

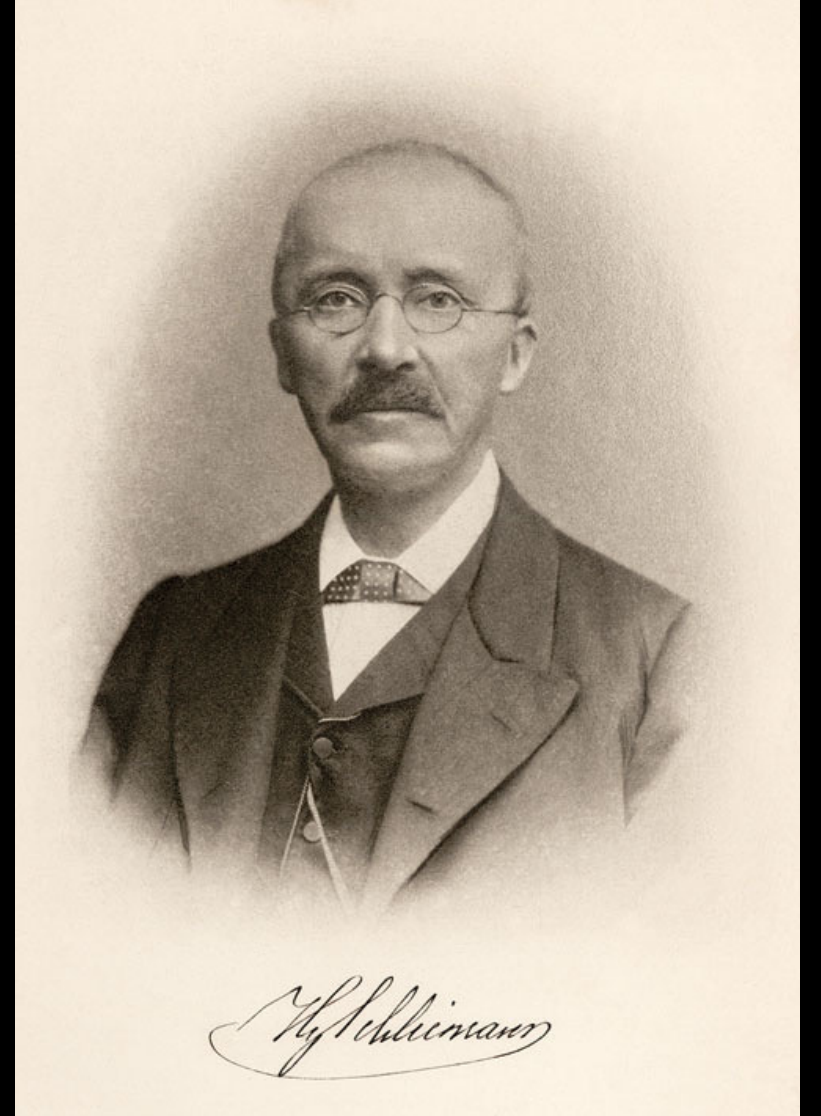


Boar's tusk helmet, Mycenae, chamber Tomb
515, 14th – 13th centuries BCE



Funerary masks, from the tombs of Mycenae, ca. 1600–1450 BCE



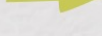






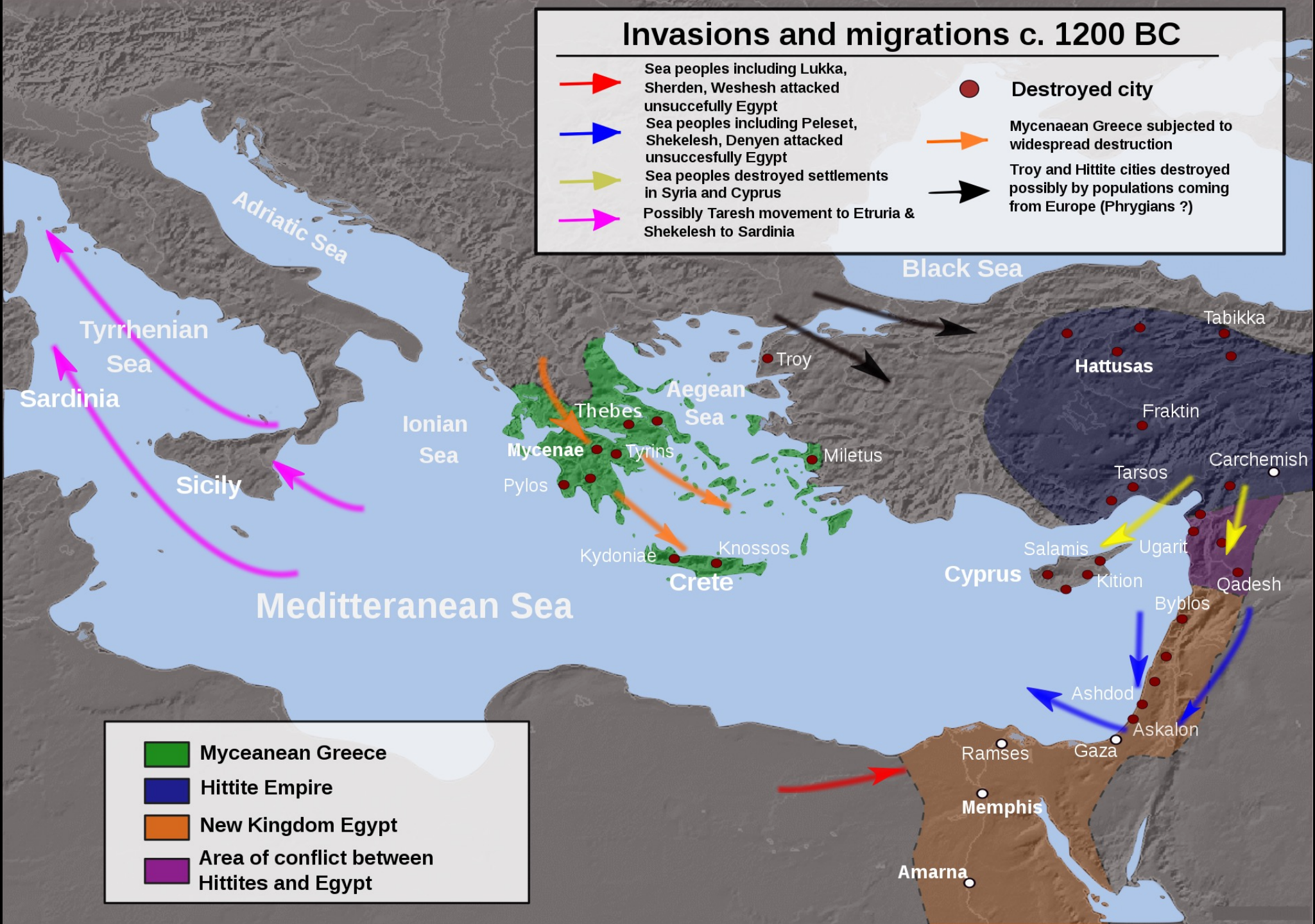


Heinrich Schliemann (1822–1890)

So-called 'Mask of Agamemnon', excavated in 1876 at Mycenae by Schliemann

Invasions and migrations c. 1200 BC

-  Sea peoples including Lukka, Sherden, Weshesh attacked unsuccessfully Egypt
-  Sea peoples including Peleset, Shekelesh, Denyen attacked unsuccessfully Egypt
-  Sea peoples destroyed settlements in Syria and Cyprus
-  Possibly Taresh movement to Etruria & Shekelesh to Sardinia
-  Destroyed city
-  Mycenaean Greece subjected to widespread destruction
-  Troy and Hittite cities destroyed possibly by populations coming from Europe (Phrygians ?)



-  Mycenaean Greece
-  Hittite Empire
-  New Kingdom Egypt
-  Area of conflict between Hittites and Egypt