

# BRONZE AGE GREECE & THE DARK AGES

LW4U1 - GRADE 12 CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION - MR. A. WITTMANN

UNIT 1 - LECTURE 2



Mask of King Agamemnon  
(c.1500 BC) excavated at  
Mycenae by Heinrich  
Schliemann.

# Greek History Timeline

Bronze Age (3000 - 1100 BC)

Dark Ages (1100 - 800 BC)

Colonization Period (800 - 600 BC)

Archaic Period (600 - 480 BC)

Classical Period (480 - 323 BC)

Hellenistic Period (323 - 32 BC)

# The Bronze Age

- 2700-2000 BC, 1st Greek-speaking peoples migrated from Central Europe
- Indo-European warrior/raider people.
- Horses, advanced technology & patriarchal social organization.
- Invaded the less advanced pre-Greek population.
- Male sky-god religion dominates (also influenced by ) native female fertility religion.
  - Marriage of Zeus & Hera.
- 2 peoples/cultures mixed & evolved into Mycenaean Civilization.
  - Ἕλληνες = Hellenes = Greeks
  - Ἑλλάς = Hellas = Greece

# The Late Aegean Bronze Age

cities & palaces 1250-1000 BCE



- Cities, Palaces, or Citadels
- Extent of Mycenaean Culture in late Bronze Age

# Geography of Greece

- Warm climate fostered open community of participation & discussion.
- 80% limestone with little topsoil, bad for agriculture, except for...
  - goats, pigs, grapes, honey, and olives (Athena myth)
- Mountainous & rocky terrain caused polis to develop individually.
- Each Greek polis felt superior to others.
- Constant competition & warfare between them.
- Same pictographic Linear B & language, but 14 different dialects.
- Because they create a civilization out of hardship, they thought themselves superior to other civilizations.

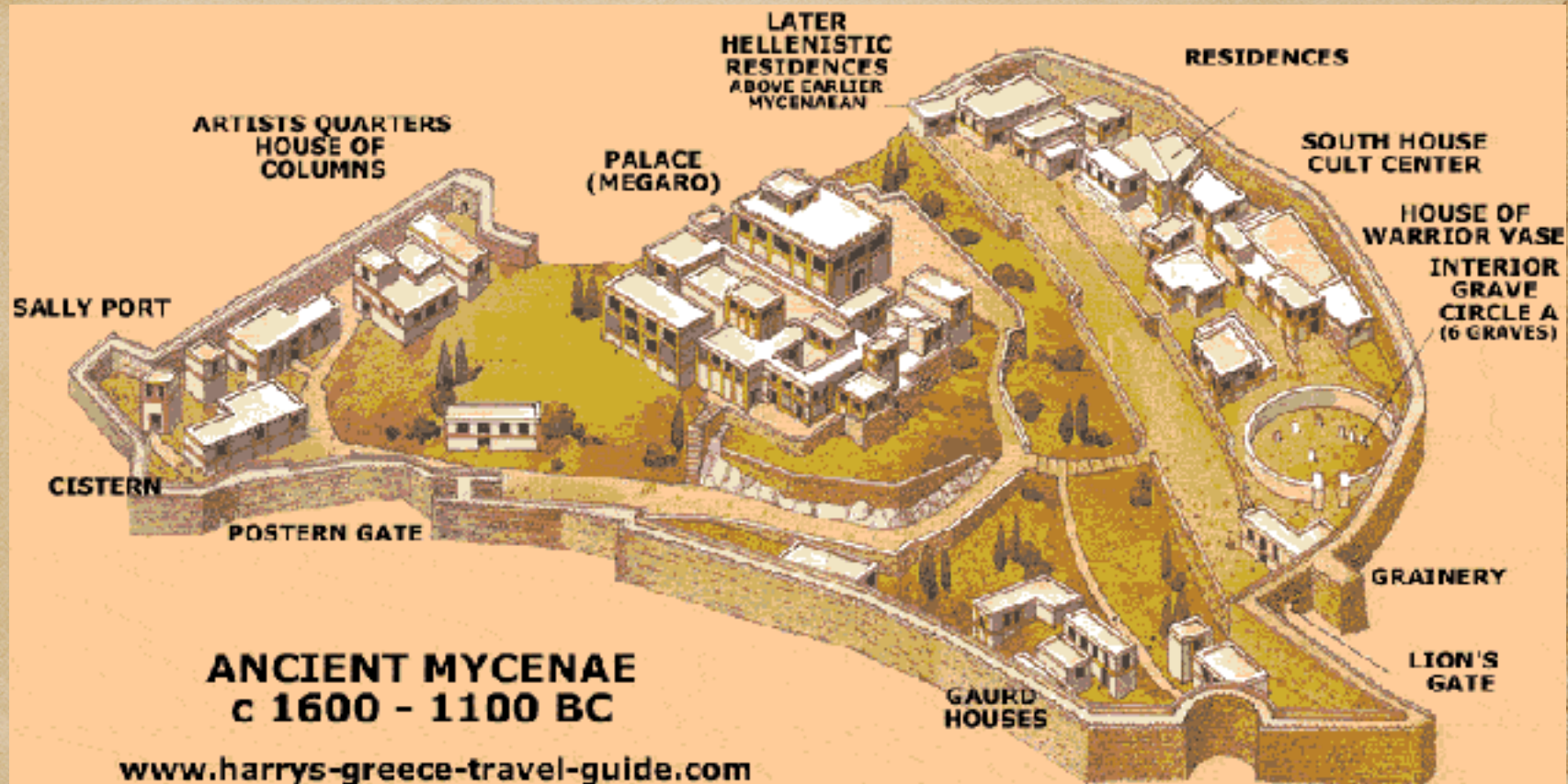


## Trade Routes of the Mycenaeans and Minoans



## Mycenaean Civilization (continued)

- By the late Bronze Age (1550-1100 BC) Mycenaeans developed Cyclopean Citadels (large fortified cities) at...
  - Mycenae, Argos, Tiryns, Midea, Thebes, Gía, Pylos & Athens
  - Main architectural feature = megaron
- Lots of rare imported fine goods from Near East & Egypt.
- Seafaring marine trading empire.
- 12 anthropomorphic Olympian gods, each city had their patron god.
- The time and people Homer (c.750) wrote about.
  - Iliad & Odyssey
- Heinrich Schliemann (1822-1890)



# Mycenae



Lions Gate, Mycenae



Mycenaean Warriors



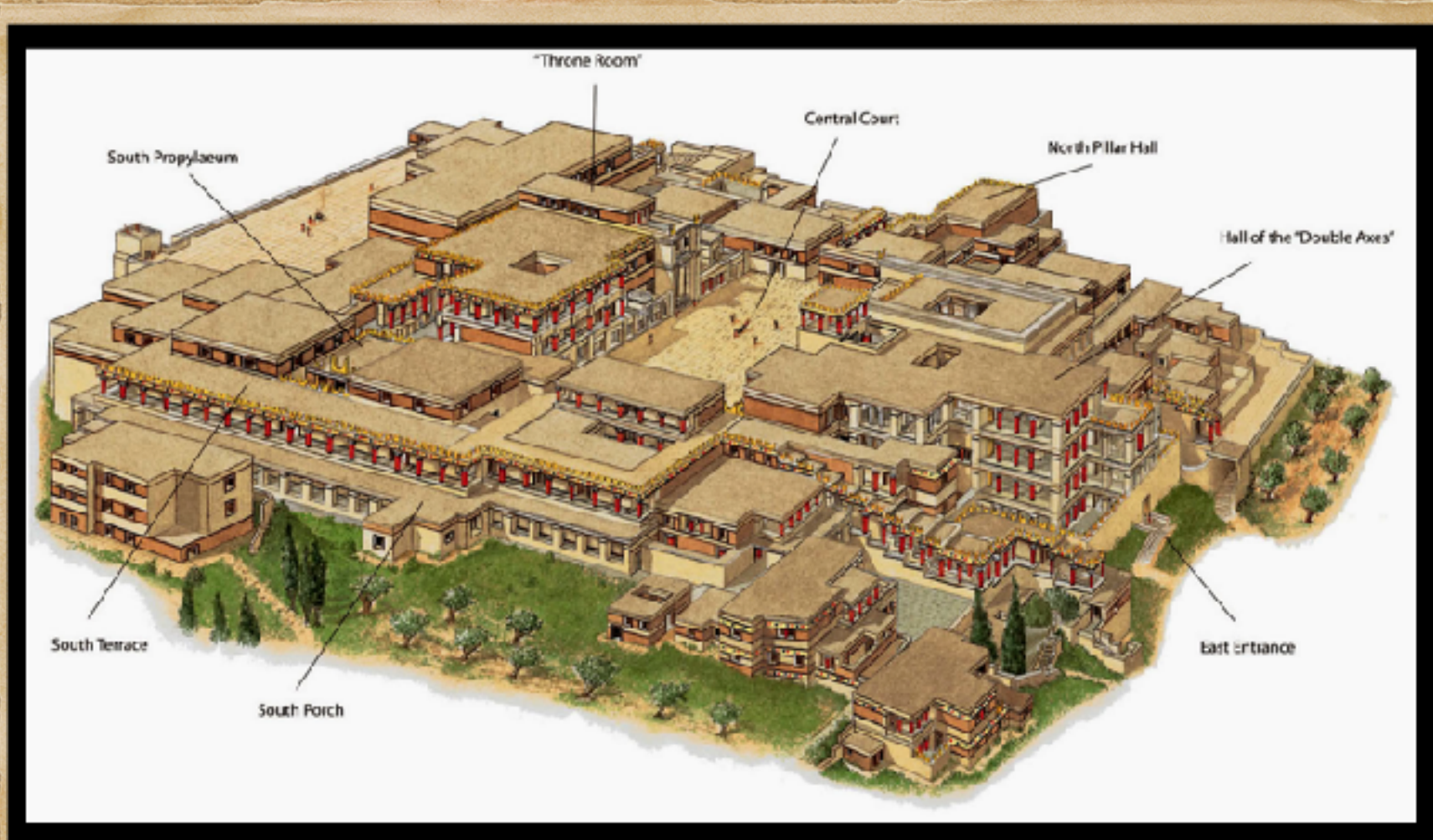
Mycenaean Women

# Minoan Civilization

- c.3500 BC the Minoan culture developed at Knossos on Crete.
- Older marine trading empire, non-Greek people.
- Worshiped snake & fertility goddess & bulls.
- Linear A pictographic writing, not fully deciphered.
- Influenced younger Mycenaean culture.
- Mythical home of King Minos and the minotaur.
- c.1450 BC Mt. Thera erupted weakening Minoan society.
- c.1400 BC Mycenaeans invade & took over Crete.
- Sir Arthur Evans (1851-1941)



Palace at Knossos



Palace at Knossos



Minoan Snake  
Goddess or  
Priestess



Bull Leaping



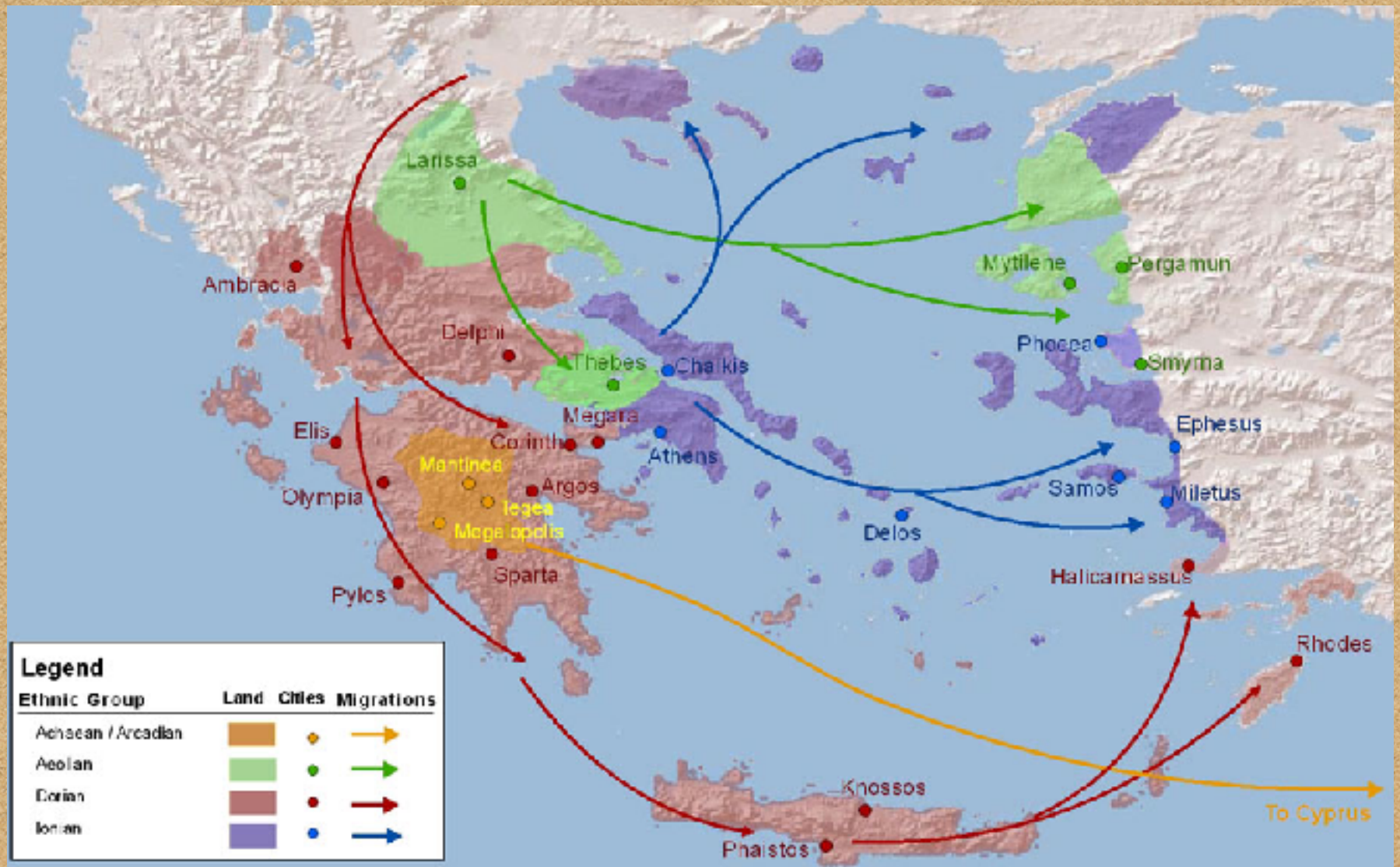
Throne Room



Minoan Women

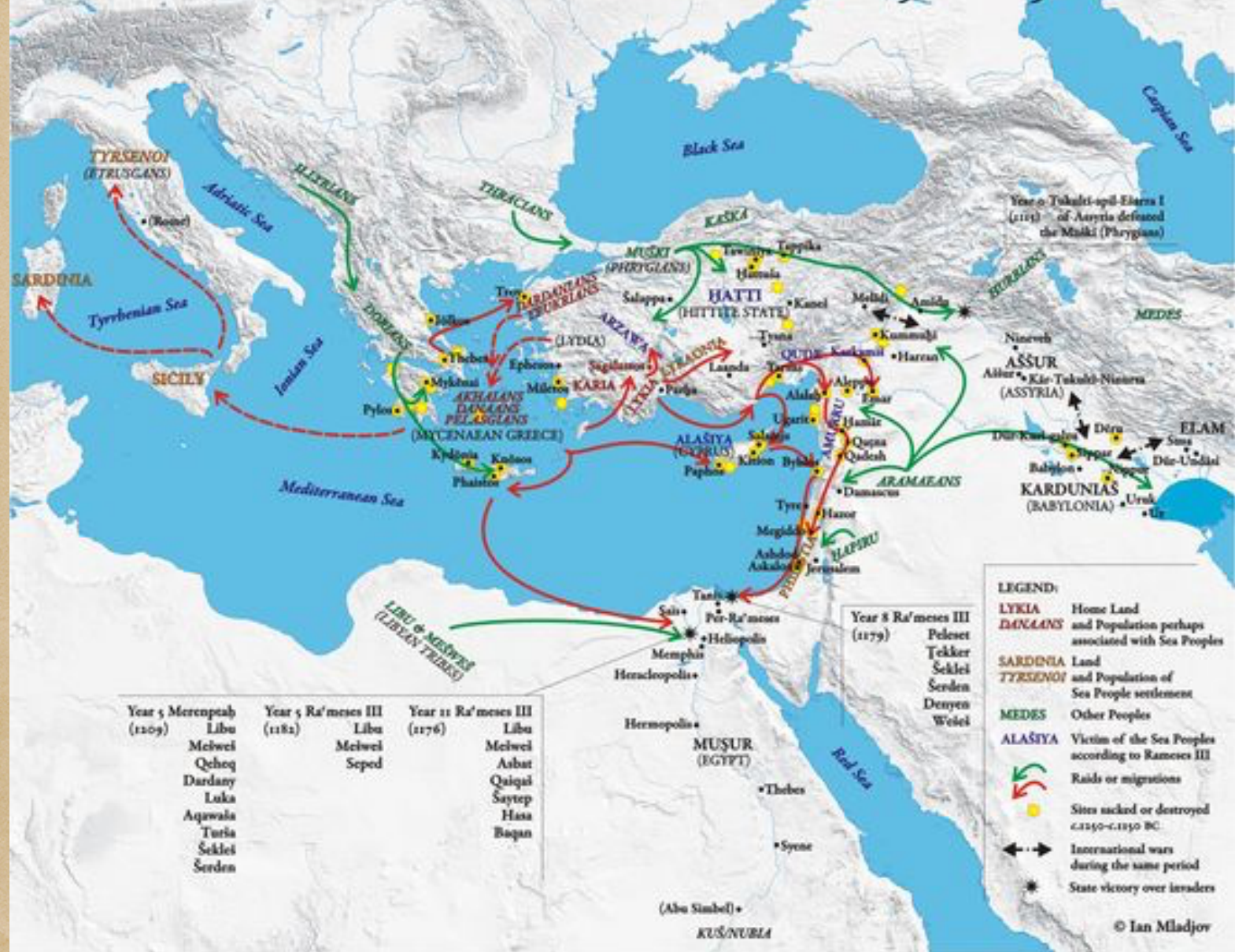
# The Dark Age & the Iron Age

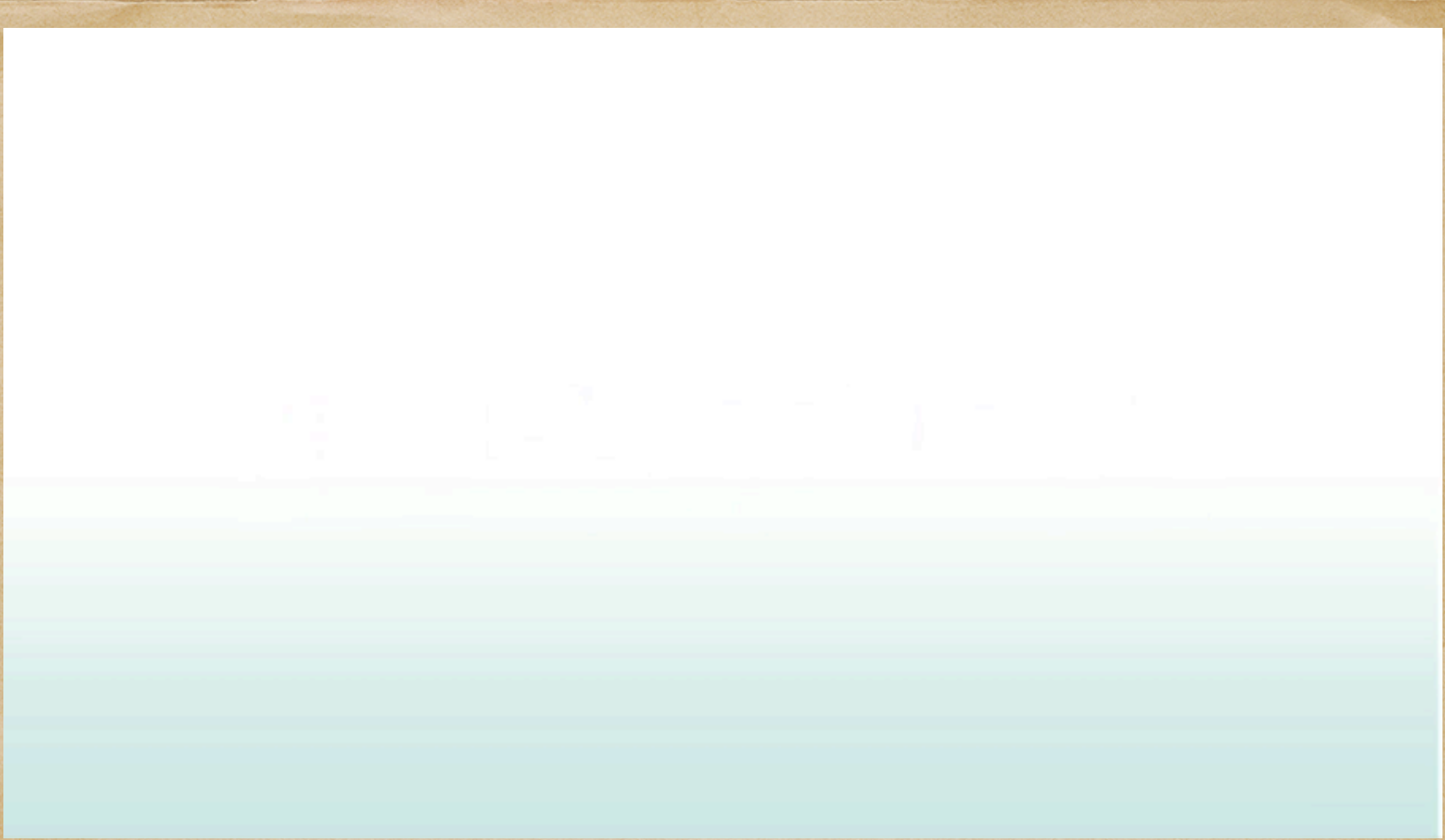
- 1100-800 BC no written records, mass migrations, mass destruction.
- Archaeological record shows quality of technology and life-style decreased & Linear B disappears completely.
- c.1150 BC another, Greek-speaking peoples, the Dorians begin to invade mainland Greece with iron weapons.
- People leave cities to form small agricultural tribes living little villages.
- Mycenaean refugees move east to Ionian in Asia Minor eventually establishing new Greek poleis.
- Dorians settle in the mainland, especially the Peloponnese (Sparta their main city) & Crete.
- These migrations established the dialects & ethnic boundaries.



## Dark Ages Migrations & Dialect/Ethnic Patterns

# THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN c.1250-C.1150 BC





# Bronze Age

THE END

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