

# Decline, Destruction, and Aftermath

## The End of the Mycenaean Palaces

# THE AEGEAN IN THE BRONZE AGE



(Middle & Late Bronze Age sites in mainland Greece & Crete are shown on the maps of Mycenaean Greece & Minoan Crete)

J.D. Falconer

## “Cyclopean” West Wall of the citadel at Tiryns



## Mycenae - defensive steps taken



# LH IIIC burnished pottery

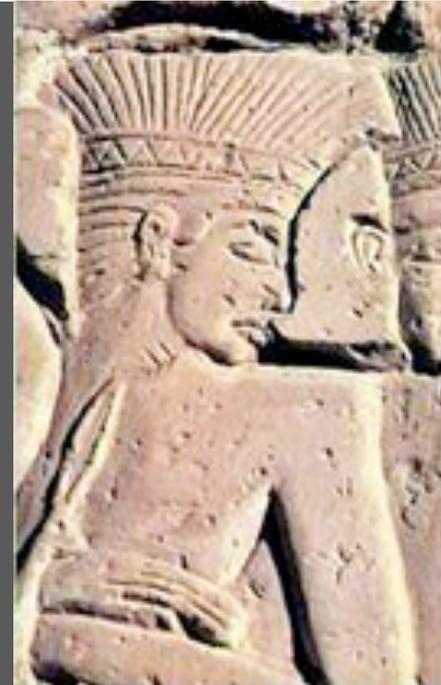




## Theories about the cause of the destruction of the Mycenaean palaces

- foreign enemies (invasion from Outside the Aegean)
- social uprising (Internal Social Upheaval)
- natural catastrophe (Climatic changes)
- systems collapse (Economic factors)
- changes in the nature of warfare

# “Sea Peoples”



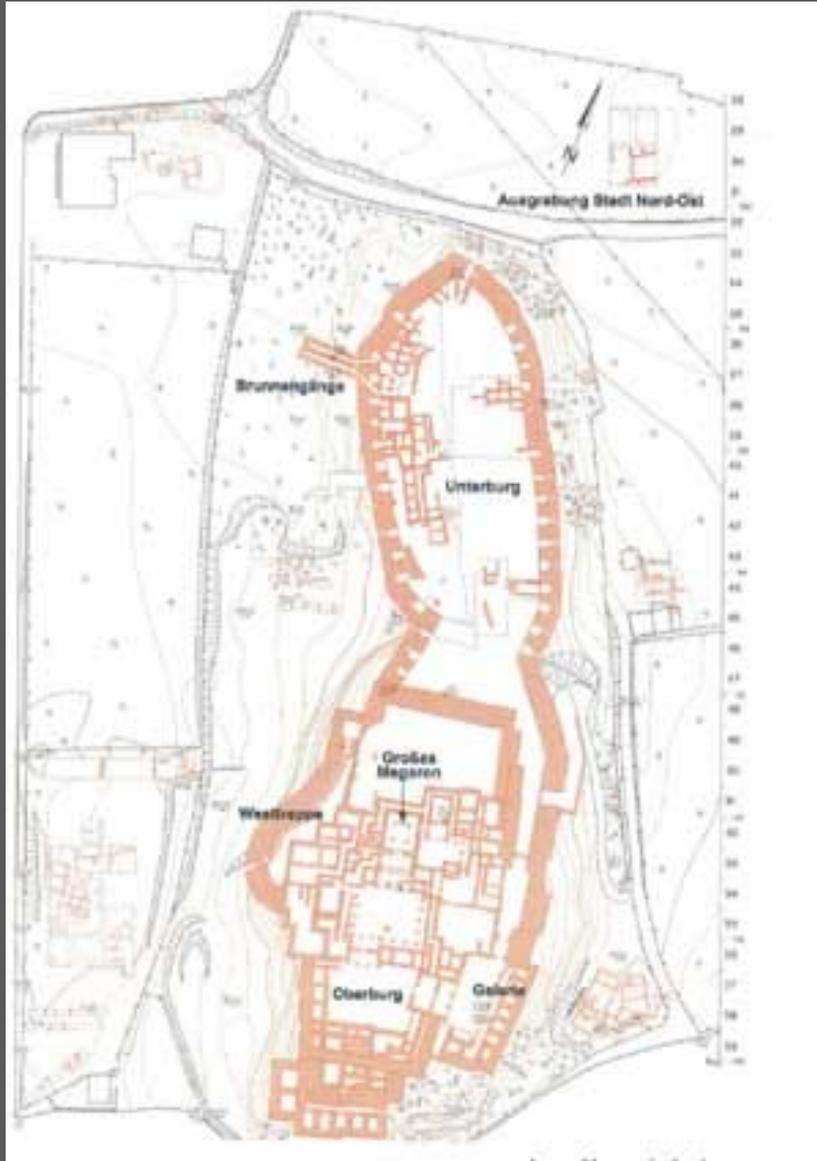
What are we left with? Some questions to think about for the future:

- 1) How stable was the Mycenaean palatial system in the first place?
- 2) Were there certain “shocks” that affected the Mycenaean palatial system as a whole?
- 3) Why were the palaces never rebuilt?
- 4) Why were large areas of the Peloponnese, including some of the richest agricultural zones in southern Greece, so thoroughly depopulated during the century following the destruction of the palaces?

# THE AEGEAN IN THE BRONZE AGE



# Tiryns - reoccupation and reuse



# THE AEGEAN IN THE BRONZE AGE



- + Major Neolithic sites
- x Major Early Bronze Age sites
- ▲ Site with strong Minoan influence
- ▼ Sites with strong Minoan influence later replaced by Mycenaean
- Major Mycenaean citadel
- Other Mycenaean settlements or tombs

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LH IIC Pictorial style krater found on Cyprus



Pictorial painted krater - "The Warrior Vase" - LH IIIc from Mycenae





LH IIC marine style  
stirrup jar from Kos

# Metalwork - armor and weaponry





Large wheelmade figurines from the LH IIC sanctuary in the Lower Citadel at Tiryns

LH IIIC painted plaster head from Mycenae



## Ships and sea-faring



Stirrup jar from Skyros with bird-headed boat



“warship”? depicted on fragment from Kynos





Goddess with Upraised Arms  
LM III, Knossos,  
Shrine of the Double Axes