

Ch 10, Sl

Ancient Greece

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Greek Culture

Influenced Europe and the Americas

- art
- drama
- philosophy
- politics

Geography of Greece

On the edge of 2 continents

- Europe } traded goods,
- Asia } ideas, customs

Rugged Land - mountainous - good for grazing sheep/goats

Peninsulas - Modern Greece is on Peloponnesian Peninsula (south)

Islands of Aegean Sea

Mainland Greece divided by mountain ranges - which made travel difficult

Narrow valleys / small plains (farmland)

Isolated lowland communities

- people fiercely independent

NEVER united / often @ war w/ ea. other

Summary:

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Geography (cont)

Surround by the Sea - contact w/ wider world

- became skillful sailors & merchants, fishermen
- Mediterranean Sea (south)
- Aegean Sea (east) ↓ connected
- Ionian Sea (west) to N. Africa

A Mediterranean Climate

- mild, wet winters
- hot, dry summers

Lack grain - but could grow
 olives = oil
 grapes = wines } desirable goods used to trade for grains, etc.

Early Greek History

Greeks influenced by Minoans
 - from Crete → Aegean Islands
 2000 BC

Minoan Civilization - highly advanced (writing system & running water in palace)
 1450 BC disappeared (Greeks to blame??)

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Early Greek
History
(cont.)

The Mycenaeans

- on mainland Greece (1600BC)
- monarchy
 - king lived in fancy fortresses
- known for fine weapons & pottery
- destroyed 1100BC by Dorians (north)

The Dark Age

1100 - 750 BC

- Greek culture declined
- lost ability to read & write
- some remembered "heroic age"
(Trojan)

Mycenaeans

- Greek speakers from mainland
- 1600 BC
- governed by monarchy (headed by a king) (lived in stone fortresses on hilltops)
- made bronze weapons / pottery
- traded for copper, ivory and other luxury goods
- sometimes raided others
- defeated in 1100 BC by northerners called the Dorians

The Dark Age

Fall of Mycenaeans

- loss of reading / writing
- 1100 to 750 BC
- migrated east to Asia - Asia Minor - "Ionia"
- told stories of Mycenaean Age

The Trojan War

lasted 10 years

Troy - city in Asia Minor

Greeks tricked the Trojans into accepting a gift "The Trojan Horse" (big/wood)

Homer

- Greeks hid inside wooden horse gained access to city
- burned Troy
- poet.
- Wrote Iliad and Odyssey
- Greeks developed alphabet based on Phoenician alphabet
- Poems that taught values
 - courage, bravery, strength and honor

City States

- Greek communities organized into a polis (city-state)
- Created city states everywhere they settled - included surrounding area
- city w/ own government
 - marketplace
 - government center
 - citizens (had legal rights) met to make laws
 - discuss issues

Polis

polis population was small
- all could gather in a single group

Built on 2 levels

"high city" = acropolis

- public buildings
- temple

- fortress during danger

"lower city" = farms, shops, homes

agora (marketplace)

(Athens)

→ people gathered to discuss public affairs



politics

the art and practice of government

different governments in city states

- monarchies - kings
- aristocracies - "best people"
- some self-rule - citizens

Citizens

Women, slaves, foreigners were
NOT citizens allowed to make
decisions.

inhabitants

Citizens (who could vote)
women & free foreigners (not vote)
slave (few rights at all)

Citizens identified with their polis - very proud of their polis

