

## **Aegean**

- Cultures: centered around the Aegean Sea
- The Minoan People
- King Minos of Crete
- The king is associated with the Labyrinth and the minotaur
- The Mycenaeans are located on the Peloponnese Peninsula and central Greece
- Islands of Cyclades, Asia Minor

### **Setting and Chronology: Minoans**

- Island of Crete
- High mountain peaks
- Small open plains
- Protopalatial and Neopalatial periods (--4000 years ago)
- Complex social institutions
- Earlier than Mycenaeans (--500 years)

### **Setting and Chronology: Mycenaeans**

- Peloponnese Peninsula (south)
- Central Greece (North)
- High mountain peaks, small open plains
- Late Minoan period (--3,500 ya)
- Complex social institutions

### **State Comparisons**

- Assumed opposite
- Minoans=peaceful
- Mycenaeans=aggressive

- Minoans had few defensive features
- Mycenaean have large fortifications Ex: Lion Gates

### **Political Units**

- Colin Renfrew (1980s)
- Early State Module (ESM): autonomous units
- Peer polity interaction: relationships between ESMs
- Develop complexity through interaction

### **Palace**

- Core for both states
- Administrative center
- Minoan: the palace had really elaborate construction
- Central Court
- Bull games, feasting, dancing
- Mycenaean: Megaron (banquet hall)

### **Burials**

- Minoan: Absence of large, elaborate tombs
- Mycenaean: Elaborate funerary ritual

### **Writing**

- Minoan: Linear A and Cretan hieroglyphics
- Not deciphered
- Mycenaean: Linear B, form of Greek

### **Rulers and Written Language**

- Mycenaean texts outline **wanax**, control
- Harvest, livestock

- Match archaeological data
- Texts outline special use
- Palaces: workshops

### **Peripheral Connections**

- Palace controlled production
- Peripheral agricultural land
- Controlled by taxes and the Palace owned some land
- Provisioned Goods

### **Violence and Warfare**

- Some military conflict
- Ritualized contests
- Boxing, Bull leaping
- Skilled fighters

### **Santorini Eruption**

- Island of Santorini (Thera)
- Volcanic eruption (3,600ya)
- Tsunami hit Crete?
- Ash found on inland
- 100 years later Mycenaean influence
- Possibly cause by eruption
- Loss of faith in leaders?
- Destroyed Crete's navy?