

Homer's Iliad

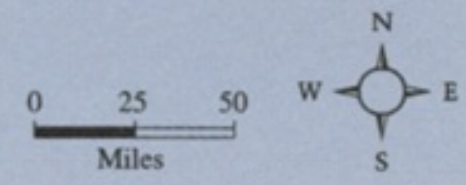
Final Preliminaries



Review: Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Crete, Cyprus, Delphi, Peloponnesus, Ionia



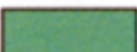









GREECE, THE AEGEAN SEA,
AND WESTERN ASIA MINOR





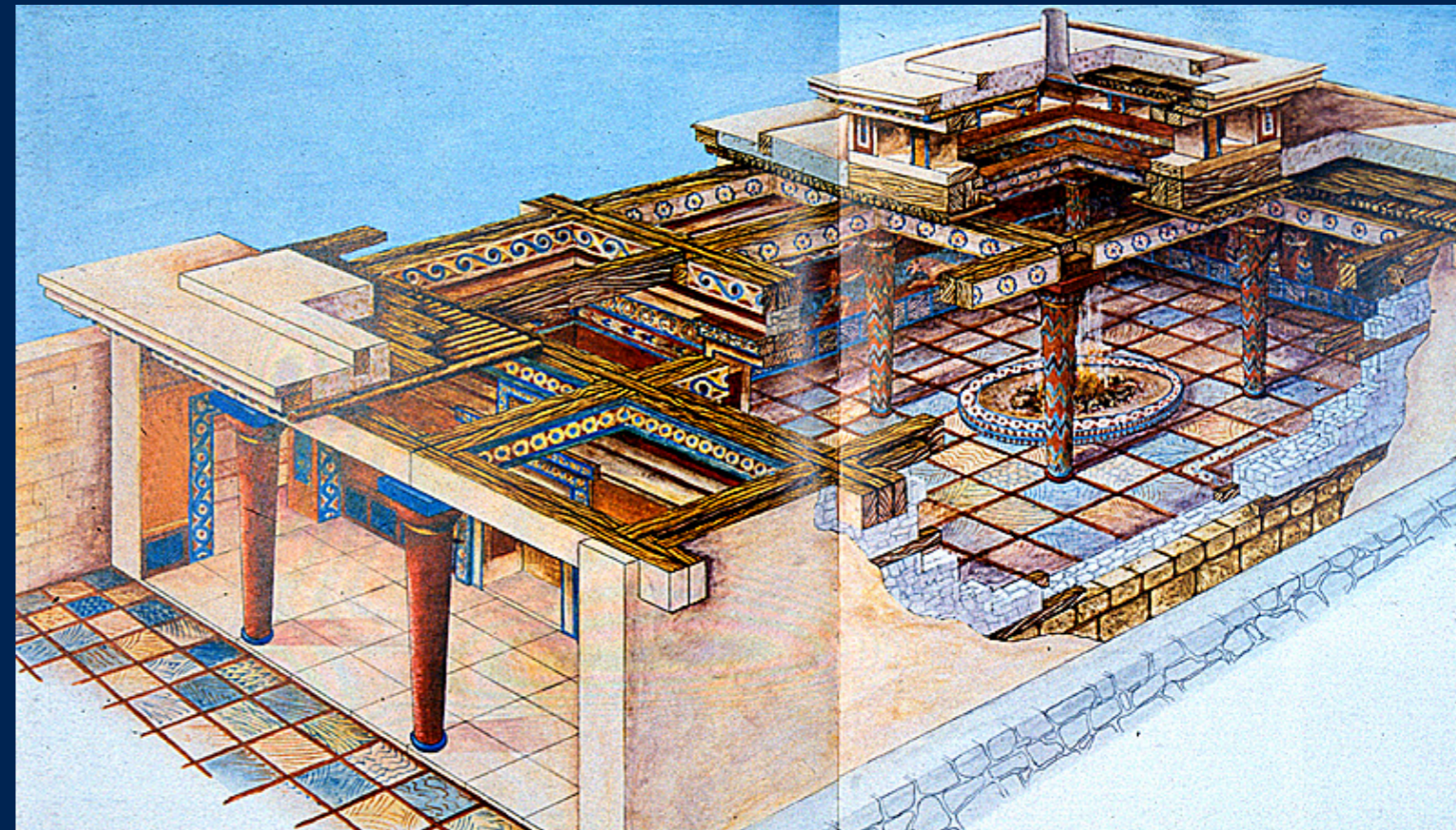
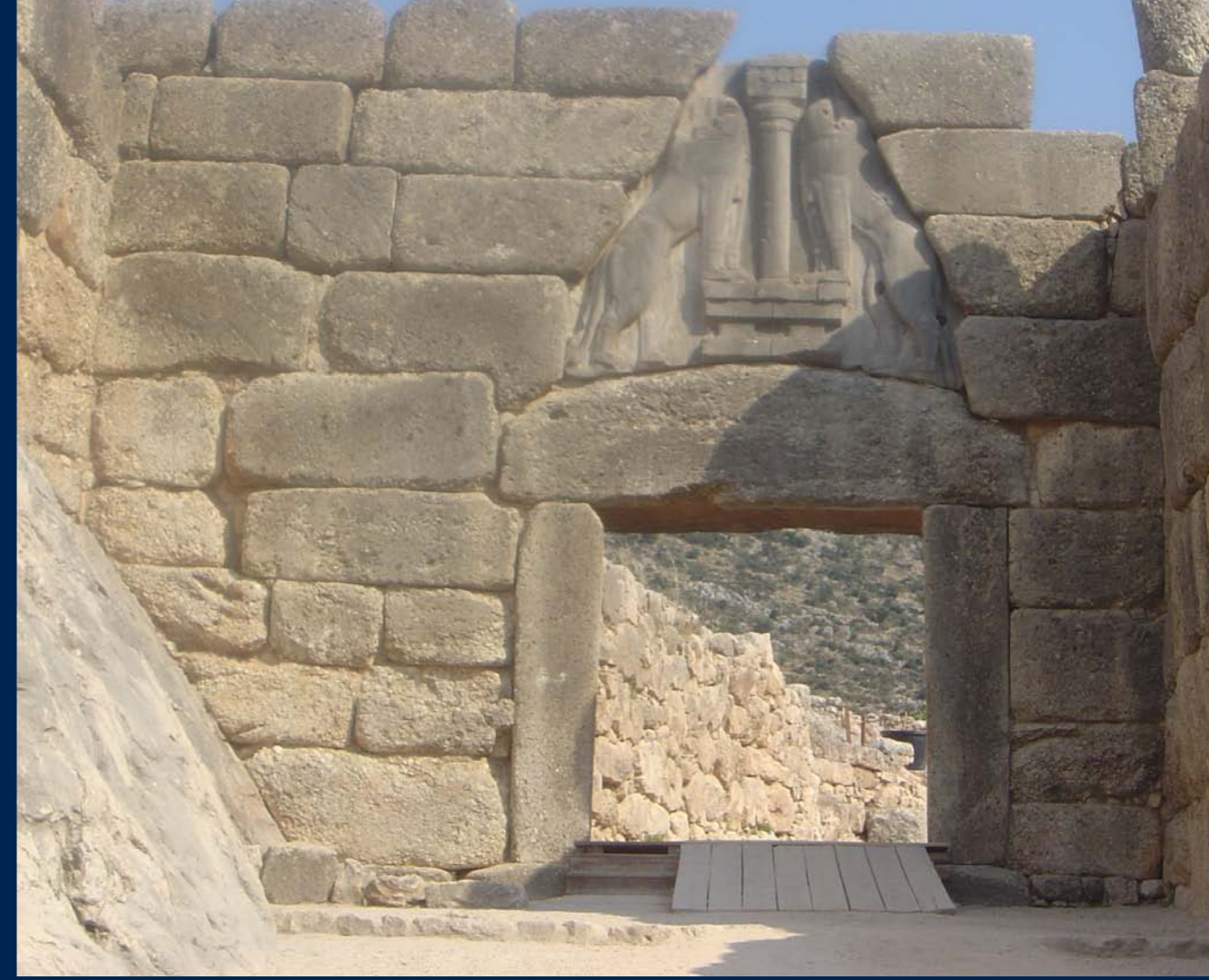
Review: Knossos, Mycenae, Pylos

I/The Mycenaean world, c. 1400 BC

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | fertile plains |  | major settlement |
|  | Cretan settlers, 2500-1450 BC |  | other important settlements |
|  | routes |  | smaller settlement with tholos tomb |
|  | major Mycenaean palaces |  | other tholos tombs |
|  | major Cretan |  | major fortification |







The Trojan War: The Gods

Note: the Greek gods live on mythical Mt Olympus.

ZEUS

Sky God. King of the Gods. Son of Kronos.



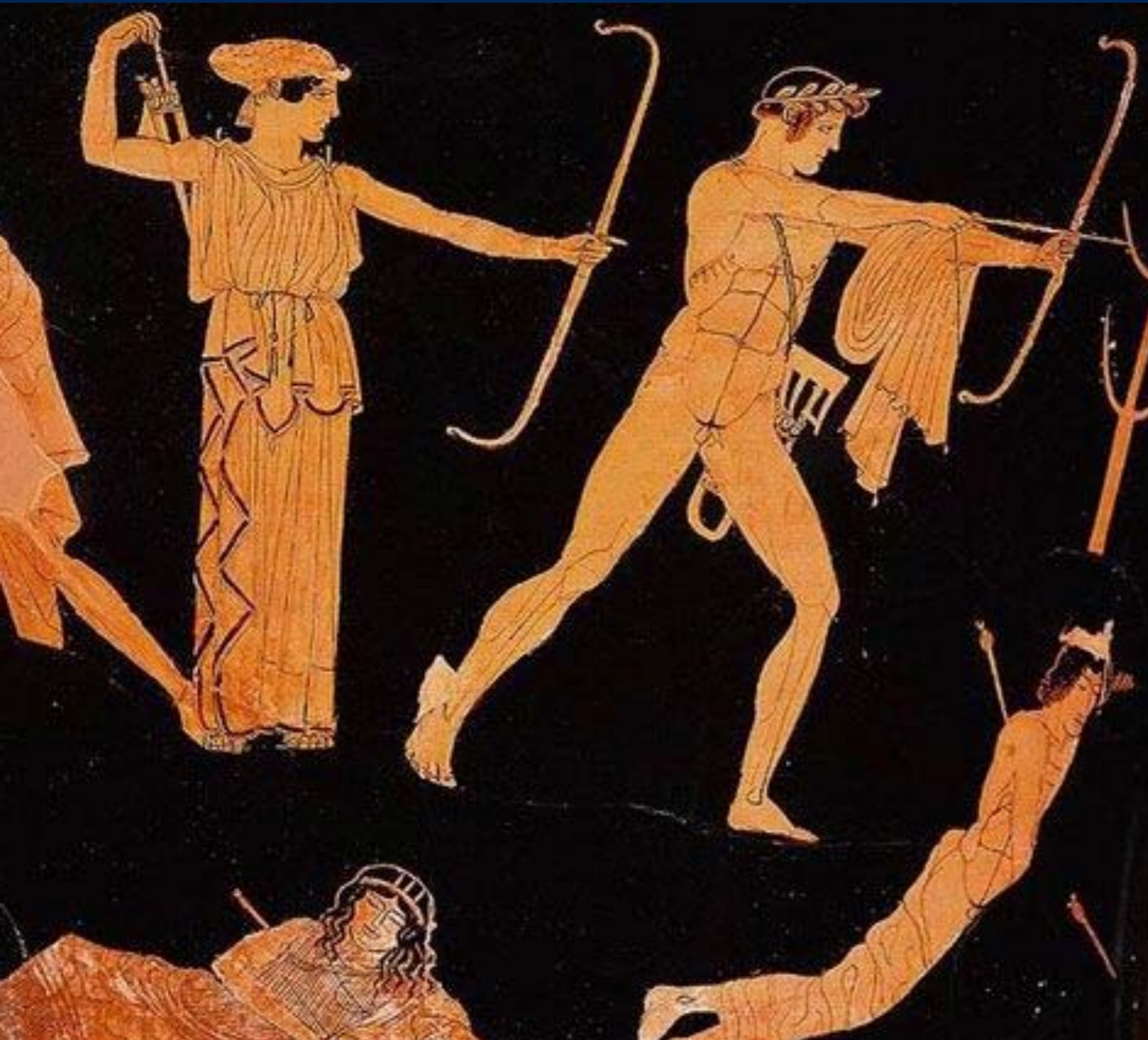
HERA

Married Women. Queen of the gods. Zeus' "wife".



APOLLO

Archer god. God of plague and medicine. God of music and arts. Sister is Artemis, also an archer god.



ATHENA (PALLAS ATHENA)

Virgin “sprung fully armed from the head of Zeus.”
Wisdom. Warrior. Helmet, Aegis (breastplate). Patron of Athens.



ARES

God of War. Consort (“husband”) of Aphrodite.



APHRODITE Goddess of sexual love.



HEPHAISTOS

Smithy god (blacksmith). God of crafts and fire. Lame.



THETIS

(one of the Nereids, the 50 daughters of Nereus, the old man of the sea; mother of Achilles by Peleus)



The Trojan War: Background Stories

Background: The Story of the Trojan War

Marriage of Peleus and Thetis

Strife (Eris) and the apple: "to the fairest"

Judgement of Paris

Abduction of Helen

Assembly of the Greek army at Aulis

Sacrifice of Iphigeneia

The siege: 9 years plus 1

Fall of Troy: the Trojan horse

Greek Stories

The Wedding of Peleus and Thetis



Greek Stories

The Wedding of Peleus and Thetis

Eris (Strife) and the apple: "to the fairest"



Judgement of Paris



Greek Stories

Judgement of Paris (or Alexander, son of Priam)

Hera,
Athena,
Aphrodite



Greek Stories

Judgement of Paris (or Alexander, son of Priam)



Hera: Kingdom

Hera,
Athena,
Aphrodite



Athena: Success in War



Aphrodite: Most Beautiful Woman



Greek Stories

Aphrodite: Most Beautiful Woman

Abduction of Helen



Greek Stories

The Wedding of Peleus and Thetis



Greek Stories

The Wedding of Peleus and Thetis



Son: ACHILLES

Homer: The Gods

Trojan supporters

- Aphrodite (won the judgement of Paris)
- Ares (lover of Aphrodite, rival of Athena)
 - Apollo (traditional friend of Troy)
 - Artemis (sister of Apollo)
- Scamander (river of the Troad, fights Hephaistos)
 - Leto (mother of Apollo and Artemis)

Greek supporters

- Hera (lost the judgement of Paris)
- Athena (lost the judgement of Paris)
- Poseidon (traditional friend of Troy, but denied payment by Laomedon after building the walls: but he helps Aeneas in Book 20)
 - Hephaistos (friend of Thetis)
 - Hermes (fights Leto)

Wenjia Liu: “it can be inferred that Apollo and Hera are supporters of the Trojans, but why?” Ted Tao: “why has Hera helped Achilles so many times?” “Why does Hera not want Zeus to help the Trojans?”

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Greeks

Agamemnon, "king of kings", son of Atreus ("Atrides")

Menelaus, brother of Agamemnon, husband of Helen, son of Atreus

Achilles, king of the Myrmidons, son of Peleus and Thetis

Patroclus, dear friend (second self?) to Achilles

Nestor, the old wise man

Calchas, the seer

Trojans

Priam, the old Trojan king, father of 50 sons

Hector, the greatest warrior, & son of Priam

Paris (=Alexander), son of Priam, abductor of Helen

Important only in Book one

Chryses, the priest (confusingly, from Chryse island)

Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses & prize of Agamemnon

Briseis, prize of Achilles

Structure of the army

Primus inter pares: "first among equals": kings vs the "king of kings"

Culture of raiding parties: thus the "prizes" Chryseis and Briseis: distribution of the prizes

Yi Liu: "you cannot imagine this in ancient China, since the emperor is so powerful that no one can ever disobey." Lingfei Zhou, "This hierarchy is kind of like democracy"(!).

Clst 181SK Ancient Greece and the Origins of Western Culture

Homer's Iliad

Book 1

Iliad as poetic text: narrative technique

The Story of the Iliad

The Trojan War: 10 years

The Iliad: 52 days, concentrating on 5 days,
set in the 9th year of the war

Homer's Iliad

Book 1

First, a literary analysis from a moderately informed modern
viewpoint

Book 1

Proem and opening scene

The opening scene: proem, the priest's appeal and the plague: startlingly modern narrative technique (the poet jumps *in medias res*)

What do we learn in the opening scene? About Agamemnon? About men and their relations to the gods?

What is the tone?

What is the setting?

Wenjia Liu: “line 5 reads ‘For such is the will of Zeus.’ but what is Zeus’s will?”:

Lingfei Zhou: “The depiction of Achilles and Agamemnon appears very real and vivid. ... we can understand their feelings without any historical or even transitional obstacles.””

Book 1

The argument

Why is Agamemnon so stubborn? Why in particular is he so quick to "go ballistic" in response to (a) Calchas? (b) Achilles?

Why in turn is Achilles so resentful, bitter, frustrated? Why does he decide to give in to Agamemnon?

In what sense is Agamemnon "stronger" than Achilles? In what sense is Achilles "stronger" than Agamemnon?

What about the interference of Athena? What about the detail of the sword? What about the detail of the staff? (T.S. Eliot: "objective correlative")

Yuyi Zhou: "What would make Achilles so angry just because of a girl being taken?" Shuo Wang wants to see this and other elements of the tale as a story of "endurance" (persuasion? obedience?) Jerry Guan wants to see the story of Helen behind the focus on the stealing of the girls ("war trophies" - Lingfei)

Book 1

The closing scene

Relationship between Hera and Zeus: what is this all about? does the humor and humanness surprise you? why?

The intervention of Hephaestus: why does Hera smile? why do the gods laugh?
(Ganymede, cup bearer of the gods)

In what ways do the actions of the gods in book one mirror those of the men? In what ways is the world of the gods distinct?

What does that tell us of what is essential about the moral condition? Note the contrast between Apollo in the opening scene ("Apollo, the archer god") and Apollo in the closing scene (*nec semper arcum tendit Apollo, Apollo does not always use his bow*)

Lingfei Zhou: Zeus and Hera: "not like a divine relationship but a pretty mundane one." Qin Li: "What is the hierarchy in Olympus?"

Iliad: the Proem