

# MINOAN CIVILIZATION

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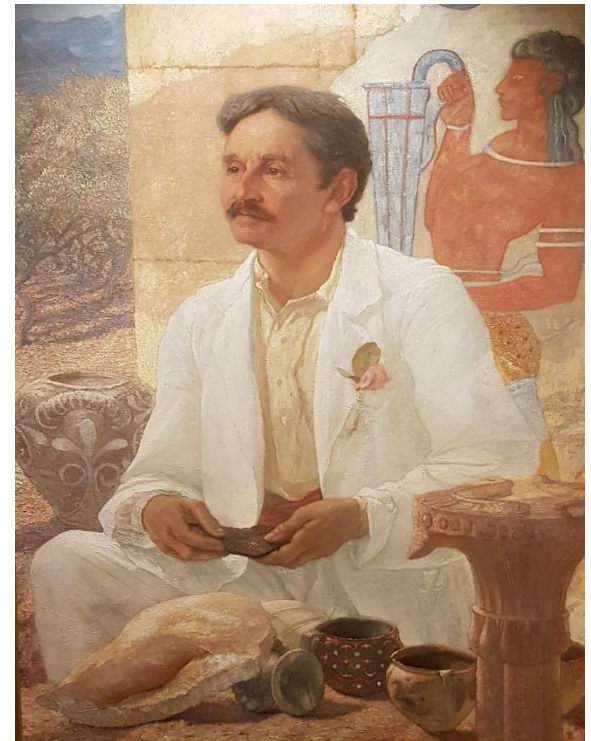
The **Minoan civilization** was an **Aegean Bronze Age** civilization on the island of **Crete** and other Aegean islands which flourished from about 2600 to 1100 BC.



# THE REDISCOVERING

The civilization was rediscovered at the beginning of the 20th century through the work of British archaeologist **Arthur Evans**.

ARTHUR EVANS



# THEORIES

- It has been described as the earliest of its kind in **Europe**, with historian **Will Durant** calling the Minoans "the first link in the European chain".
- WILL DURANT



# MINOS AND KNOSSOS

- The term "Minoan", which refers to the mythical King **Minos**, originally described the **pottery** of the period. Minos was associated in **Greek mythology** with the **labyrinth** and the **Minotaur**, which Evans identified with the site at **Knossos** (the largest Minoan site). According to **Homer**, Crete once had 90 cities.

MINOS

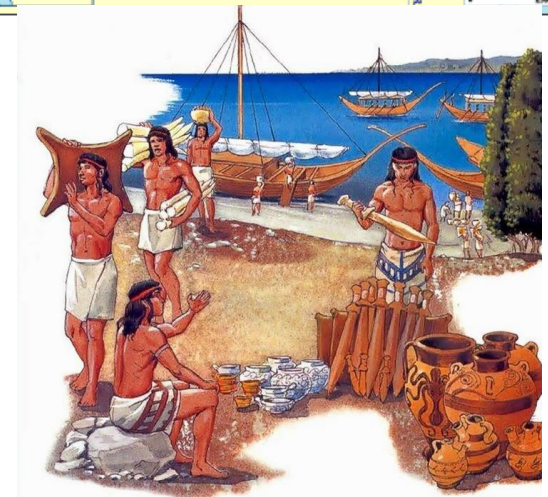


# TRADE

- The Minoan period saw trade between Crete and Aegean and Mediterranean settlements, particularly the Near East. Through their traders and artists, the Minoan cultural influence reached beyond Crete to the Cyclades, Egypt's Old Kingdom, copper-bearing Cyprus, Canaan and the Levantine coast, and Anatolia. Some of its best art is preserved in the city of Akrotiri on the island of Santorini, which was destroyed by the Thera eruption.



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# MINOAN LANGUAGE

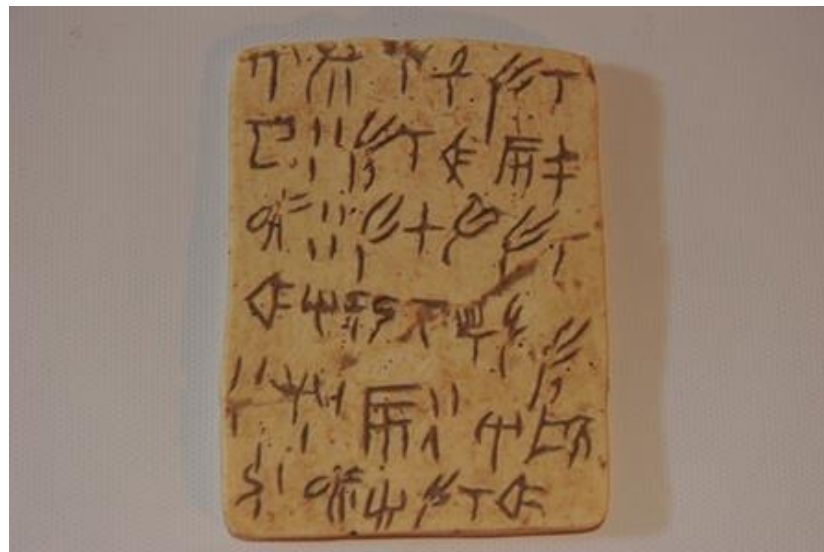
- Although the **Minoan language** and writing systems (**Linear A**) remain undecipherable and are subjects of academic dispute, they apparently conveyed a language entirely different from the later Greek. The reason for the end of the Minoan period (around 1400 BC) is unclear; theories include Mycenaean invasions from mainland Greece and a volcanic eruption of **Thera**.



PHAISTOS



DISK



LINEAR

# GEOGRAPHY

- Crete is a mountainous island with natural **harbors**. There are signs of earthquake damage at many Minoan sites, and clear signs of land uplifting and submersion of coastal sites due to **tectonic** processes along its coast.



# PLACES

- According to **Homer**, Crete had 90 cities. Judging by the palace sites, the island was probably divided into at least eight political units at the height of the Minoan period. The north is thought to have been governed from Knossos, the south from **Phaistos**, the central-eastern region from **Malia**, the eastern tip from **Kato Zakros** and the west from **Chania**. Smaller palaces have been found elsewhere on the island.

CRETAN SEA



LIBYAN SEA

### Minoan Crete

- Palaces sites
- Country houses
- Tombs or other settlements
- ★ Sacred caves
- ▲ Mountain sanctuaries

0 10 50 km



# MINOAN FASHION

- Minoan men wore **loincloths** and **kilts**. Women wore **robes** with short sleeves and layered, flounced skirts. The robes were open to the navel, exposing their breasts. Women could also wear a strapless, fitted **bodice**, and clothing patterns had **symmetrical, geometric designs**.



# THE END OF MINOAN THE CIVILIZATION

- At 1450 BC a tragic tsunami happened and destroyed all minoan cilivization.



**THE END**