



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

historical overview of Athens and Attika

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives



www.uwtsd.ac.uk

General Overview for Athens

- Bronze Age – c3000-1050 BCE
- Iron Age – c1050 BCE-500 CE
 - Archaic period 800-500 BCE
 - Classical period 500-336 BCE
 - Hellenistic 336-31 BCE
 - Imperial Roman 31 BCE -284 CE
 - Late Antiquity 284 – 500
- Byzantine 324-1204
- Latin (crusader) kingdoms 1204-1446
- Ottoman 1458-1830
- Modern Greece 1830-today

Continuous Settlement

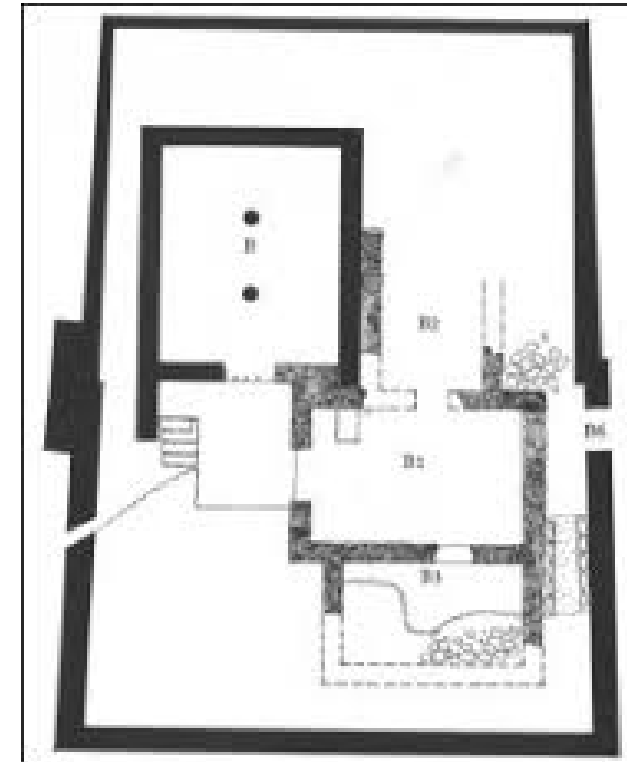
- From Neolithic to today
- Effect on archaeology
 - Reuse of land and materials
 - Important heritage identifiers
- Settlement focused on Acropolis and surrounds

Bronze Age

- Mycenaean Palace 15th century.



Bronze Age: Eleusis



Plans of Megaron B
(Travios)

After 1200 BCE

- Athens not as affected by fall of the palaces – greater continuity
- Athens remained main settlement in Attika 1200-800

Archaic period (all BCE)

- Large-scale synoikismos – unlike “normal” development
- Internal issues but no settlement abroad
- Internal strife and constitutional changes:
 - Draco (and laws) – c624
 - Solon (and laws) – 594
 - Peisistratids (tyranny) – 546-510

Constitutional Changes

- Aristocracy till 594 BCE
- Oligarchy (timocratic system) 594-510
- Democratic elements 510-470
- Democracy – classical period – c470-317

5th century BCE

- Persian Wars – 490-479 (Marathon, destruction of Athens, Salamis)
- Pentekontaetia – 479-431 (between Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War II)
- Delian League 478-404
- 1st Peloponnesian War 461-446
- 2nd Peloponnesian War 431-404

4th century

- Democracy continues
- Resurgence of empire: 378-355
- Conflict with Macedon: 356-317

Hellenistic

- Demetrius of Phalerum 317-307 (oligarchy imposed)
- Demetrius Poliorketes 307-294 (democracy restored)
- Rebellion and Macedonian occupation 294-229
- With the Romans against Macedon 200

Athens and Rome

- Allied with Mithridates against the Romans
88 BCE
- 86 BCE Destruction by Sulla
- Centre of Learning (no political importance)
c50 BCE – 250 CE

Late Antiquity and beyond

- Destruction by the Heruli 267 CE
- Centre of Learning c300-529
- 421 Athenian Eudocia – Empress of Byzantium – wife of Theodosius II
- 529 Academy closed by Justinian
- Plundered but not destroyed by Slaves 582
- Byzantine period: Dual identity: Philosophy and culture (pagan), Christian centre

The Duchy of Athens

- De la Roche 1204-1311
- Compagnie 1311-1385
- Acciaiuoli 1385-1446
- Byzantine 1446-1456

Ottoman Athens

- 1458 – Sultan Mohamed the Conqueror visits Athens.
- 1470-1610 Part of the sandzak of Euboea, but ferman stopped any incursion by the Pasah to Athens
- 1610-1687 Directly belonging to the Sultan's harem for taxes.
- 1687-1690 Venetian take-over - destruction/abandonment of Athens
- 1690-1754 Quiet period, small population
- 1754-1833 Malikane of the Sultan

Athens in Time and Space