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Doctor Steel

Pharaohs, Phoenicians, and People of the Sea

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Topic-In my annotated bibliography I will examine warfare in the Aegean region during the bronze age. I will focus on how common war was and what weapons and armors were used.

Annotated Bibliography

Dickinson, Oliver. "How Warlike Were the Mycenaeans, in Reality?" *Athyrmata: Critical Essays on the Archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean in Honour of E. Susan Sherratt*, edited by Yannis Galanakis et al., Archaeopress, Oxford, 2014, pp. 67–72. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvqmp101.12. Accessed 8 Apr. 2020.

In Dickinson's Chapter he discusses the validity of claiming that the ancient Mycenaeans were a warlike civilization. Dickinson writes that this popular myth likely spread because of the popularity surrounding stories like the Iliad and the Trojan war. The idea of a warrior culture is appealing and alluring leading many Dickinson to claim many academics made false assumptions to fit that narrative. The warlike narrative does not survive as easily now that Linear B has been deciphered. The evidence revealed in the chapter talks about how the myth has taken the stance that only the ruling elite would have been warriors. This is supported by the large palaces, fortifications, and burials from the time period. Dickinson argues that even this is false. Weapons in the mainland are rare and usually only consist of smaller daggers. Real weapon production, such as swords, began later and on Crete and the Cyclades islands. Dickinson makes it clear that he believes there was still some form of warrior within Mycenaean culture. Important centers of communities have been found to have spear heads and swords providing

evidence for a warrior culture. Dickinson argues that these items are probably related to defenders of the community instead of warrior bands set on conquest. Dickinson's article was extremely useful because it provides a counter point to the idea of warfare in the ancient Aegean world. The evaluation that war was uncommon and warriors were used primarily for defense gives a different perspective on myths related to Mycenaean society.

Gauss, Walter. "Fortification Systems of the Aegean Bronze Age.: The Early and Middle Bronze Age." *Understanding Ancient Fortifications: Between Regionality and Connectivity*, edited by ARIANE BALLMER et al., 1st ed., Oxbow Books, Oxford; Philadelphia, 2018, pp. 43–62. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvh1dqkc.8. Accessed 8 Apr. 2020.

Gauss's article covers bronze age defensive fortifications found throughout the Aegean region. The article is important for studying warfare during the bronze age because it goes over several types of defensive fortifications and how they are different. Layouts, wall heights, uses, and expansions are all detailed in Gauss's writing. The article describes the evolution of defensive structures of several important sites such as Troy, Thermi, Heraion among others. Settlements in the bronze age were often expanded upon or rebuilt. In Gauss's article settlements are referred to by the number of times it has been altered. One of the earliest known fortified settlement, Troy, started with a simple wall with a narrow passage way acting as a gatehouse. Over time this grew to have proper gatehouses shielding entrance to the fortification. The walls were also improved by becoming taller, stronger, and free standing structures and towers and other defensive sites were added for extra strength. The pattern for improvement came from the expansion of the settlements. Gauss's article would be useful for a paper on warfare by explaining the different fortifications found in ancient Bronze age sites and describing

how these sites improved their defenses as they became larger and more important. The article mentions that perceptions about fortifications have changed in recent years. Fortified sites were previously thought to be something normally only found around Crete, as they were not common in other places, but in recent years more fortifications are being found, particularly at coastlines. Gauss speculates fortified coasts probably related to how common seaborne invasions were.

MOLLOY, BARRY. "Swords and Swordsmanship in the Aegean Bronze Age." *American Journal of Archaeology*, vol. 114, no. 3, 2010, pp. 403–428. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/25684288. Accessed 8 Apr. 2020.

Molloy's article details the types of swords found in the ancient Aegean, their classification, and how they were used. Swords have a standard type of classification. There are types from A to G. Within these categories are sub sections to provide more detail to accurately describe every sword. The swords are placed into categories based on several different aspects of its forging such as its length, how many edges it has, the tang of the metal, handle shape and form and more. To study the swordsmen portion of the article Molloy examined iconography of warriors, battles, and sword fights. Molloy states that the iconography portrays swordsmanship and warriors in an idealized way making it difficult to find any real technique in the depictions, however there is still usefulness in the images. Images showing combat still provide evidence for the combinations of weapons used and the dimensions of particular weapons like spears and shields. Images of battle are not as common in this period, but there are still some sources. Warfare in the ancient period is commonly depicted in a line battle, with the warriors of both armies arrayed to face each other. Swords are rarely seen in these depictions, the spear and shield

is preferred for group combat, in rare cases archers are seen in the line providing missile support. Molloy's article was the most useful on this list for examining warfare and its style in the ancient bronze age. The article explained the types of weapons that were commonly used, what differentiated them, how battles were fought, and how battles were depicted in Aegean cultures.

"Early Greek Warfare." *The Ancient Greeks at War*, by Louis Rawlings, Manchester University Press, 2007, pp. 19–42. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt155jg05.7. Accessed 8 Apr. 2020.

In Rawling's chapter about Mycenaean warfare he offers an argument that is directly opposed to Dickinson's view of Mycenaean culture. Rawling uses evidence from linear B tablets to support his argument that the Mycenaean's had an organized military similar to their eastern neighbors. The clay tablets that support the warlike argument write about the armaments that the Mycenaeans have on hand and ready for actions. Items such as chariot parts, arrow and javelin heads, helmets, and corselets were all kept ready and listed on the tablet found in Knossos. Rawling also writes about a tablet from Pylos that describes organized military and strategy. It is suggested in the article that the military was strengthened out of fear of their neighbors. Rawlings believes that this was a valid fear considering the palace at Pylos was destroyed soon after this tablet was written. Rawling's article was very useful because it gave a strong counter argument to Dickinson's work saying that Mycenaean warrior culture is exaggerated. Both sides offer different and appealing reasons to why they are correct, however they both agree that the warriors of the early bronze age mainly acted as a defense force rather than a military for conquest, though Rawling says this did happen. While both cases are compelling and offer strong facts, Dickinson's was written more recently giving him an edge in the argument.

