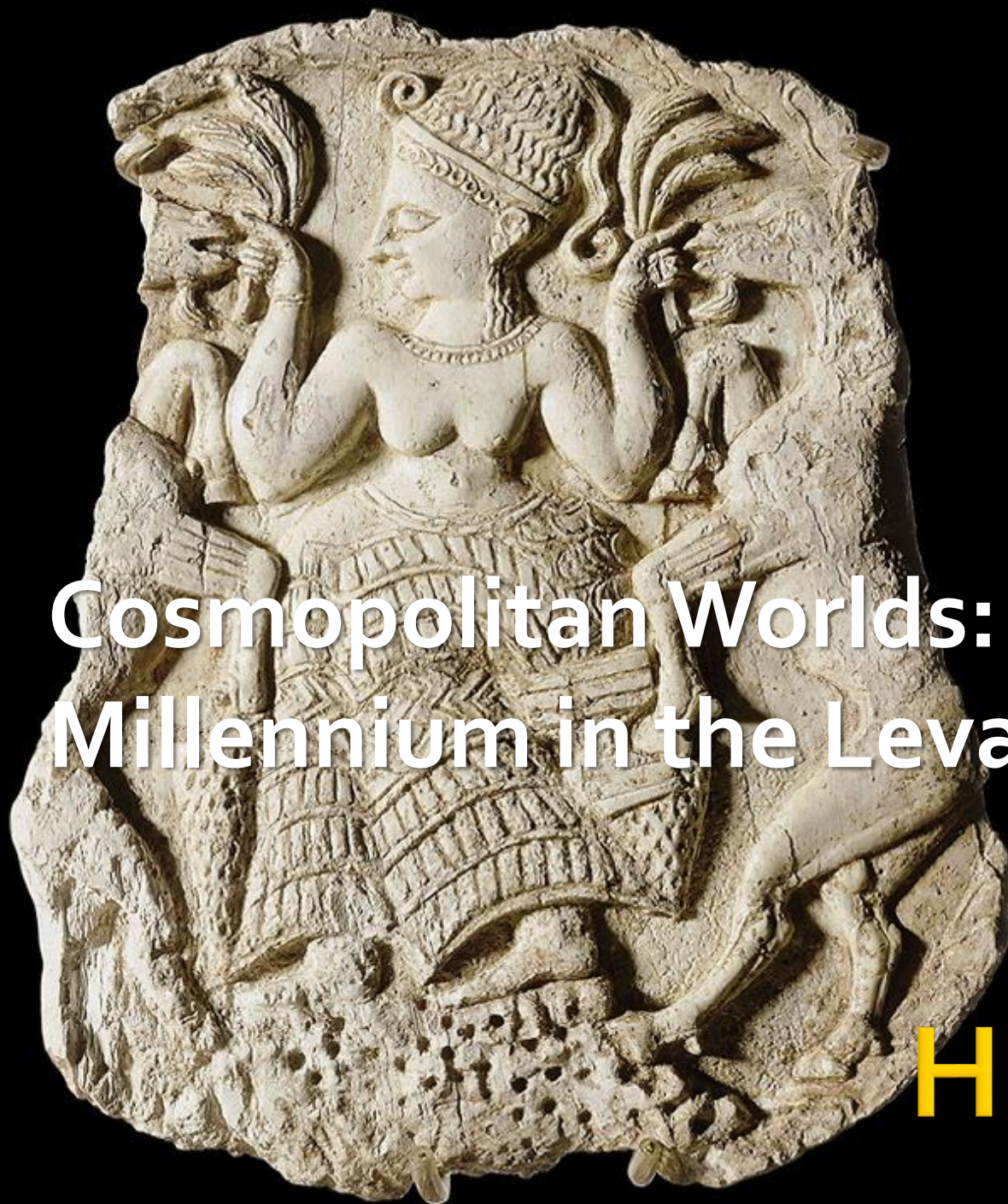




Cosmopolitan Worlds: Second Millennium in the Levant

HPAR4005

Chronology

- Syria:
 - MB I: 2000-1800 BC
 - MB II: 1800-1600 BC
 - LB: c.1600-1200 BC
- Palestine: cross-dating & correlations with Egypt
 - MB: 2000-1550 BC
 - LB: c.1600/1550-1200 BC

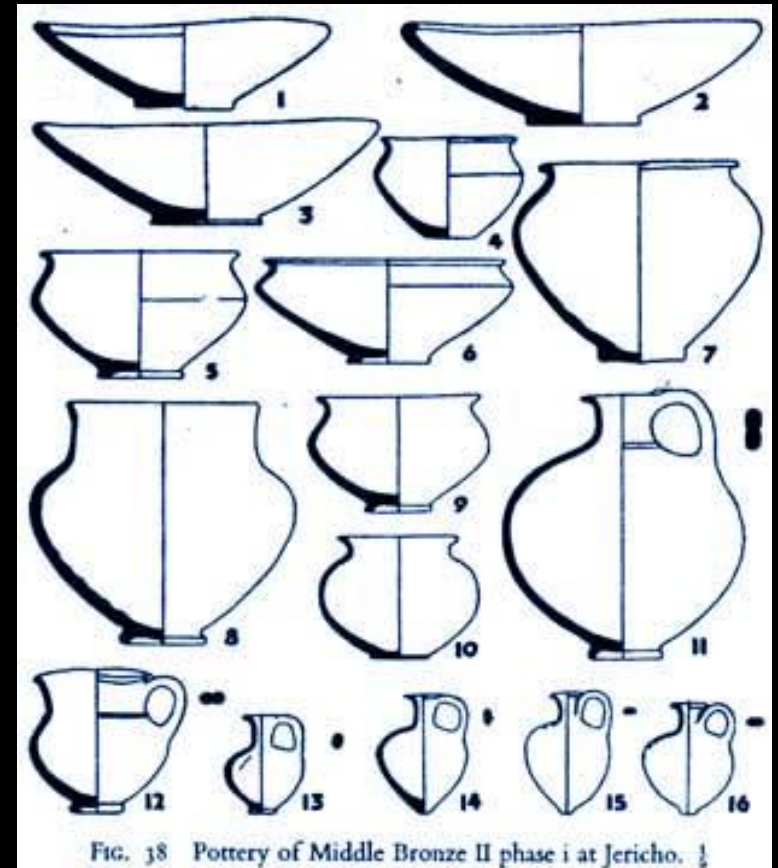


FIG. 38 Pottery of Middle Bronze II phase I at Jericho. $\frac{1}{2}$

Cosmopolitan Worlds & Hybridity

- MB-LB: cross-cultural interactions:
 - Migration
 - Trade & exchange
 - Diplomacy
 - Colonisation
- **Hybridization** considers the experience & agency of the colonized
 - How the colonized actively rework their social identities blending existing practices & new ideas
- Colonial situations: a complex mix of local & intrusive cultural elements which create something new
 - Development of new / modified customs & social practices
 - Adoption of new items of material culture

MBA: Transformations

- Urbanisation:
 - Towns built in locations
 - Fortifications & triple entry gateways
 - Monumental architecture
 - Craft specialisation
 - Intramural burials
- New material culture:
 - Pottery, metallurgy, figurines, scarabs



Figurine



Duckbill axehead

Amorites

- Changes attributed to the arrival of the Amorites ("Martu")
- Largely known from Syrian & Mesopotamian texts
 - Rulers with Amorite names (e.g. Hammurabi of Babylon)
 - Nomadic pastoralists herding flocks of sheep & goats



Idrimi, King of Alalakh

Fortified Towns

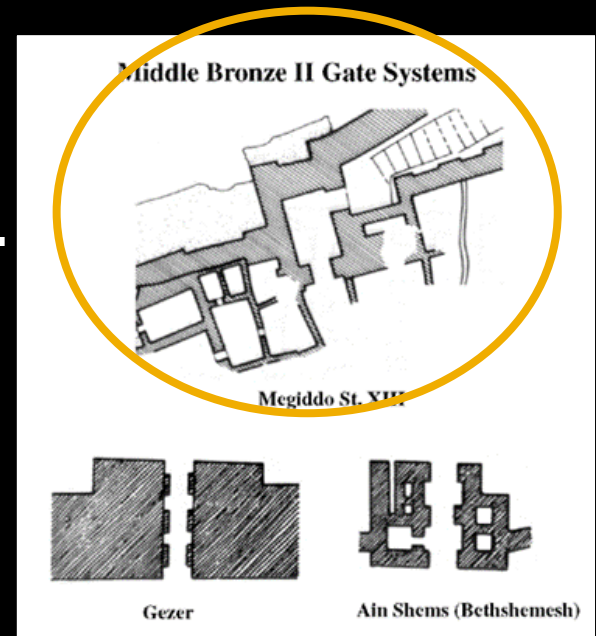
- Statement of power, authority & strong central government
 - Large freestanding earthen ramparts: artificial earthworks
 - Solid brick walls 3-4m wide with stone foundations
 - Glacis : artificial slope created of earth on existing mound or hill, outer slope covered with lime
- Western Syria: fortified acropolis & fortified lower town



Fortifications Shechem

Gates

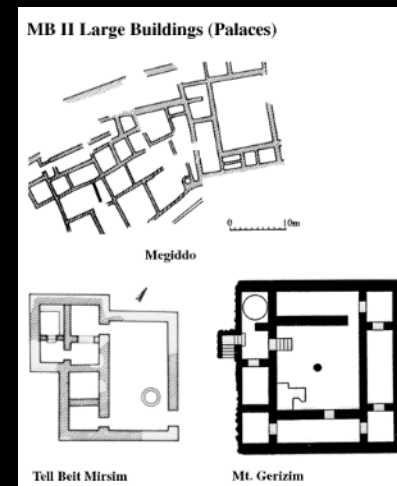
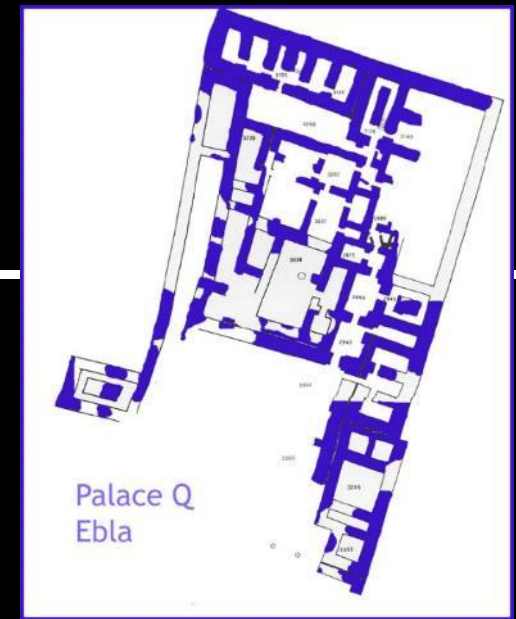
- MB IIA: massive structures
 - Long corridor approach & bent axis
 - Good for defence; less convenient for approaching vehicles
- MB IIB: introduction of new city gate (migdol)
 - Two massive towers flanking elongated passage
 - Divided into two guard chambers by three pilasters
 - Easy access for chariots



Ashkelon gate

Palaces

- Large buildings residential & economic:
 - Ebla Lower citadel: Palace Q: 7300 m² with 10 royal tombs
- Smaller palaces in southern Levant: using similar types of architecture:
 - Large courtyards & halls
 - Use of stone orthostats



Palace of Yarim-Lim, Alalakh

Foreign Links

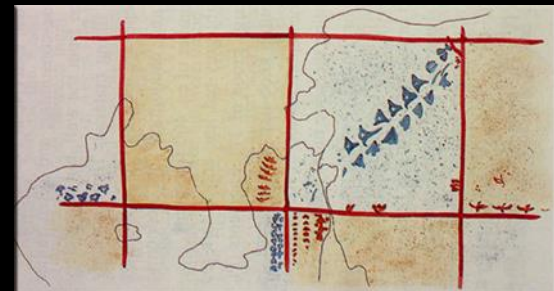
- Ebla: ties with Egypt:
 - Ceremonial mace with an inscription of Hetepibre (Dynasty 13)
- Alalakh palace of Yarim-Lin
 - Archives refer to **Alashiya**
 - Minoanising wall paintings
 - Cylinder seals: Minoan & Egyptianising imagery
- Kabri: Aegeanising floor & wall paintings



Hetepibre mace



Alalakh wall-painting



Kabri

MB II Byblos

- Very strong connections with Egypt
- Trade: cedar wood
- Royal tombs contemporary with the 12th dynasty:
 - Ceremonial weapons of gold & silver
 - Egyptianising pectoral
- Temple of the Obelisks:
 - 1000+ Egyptianising figurines & ceremonial weapons



Pectoral



Figurines
Temple of the Obelisks



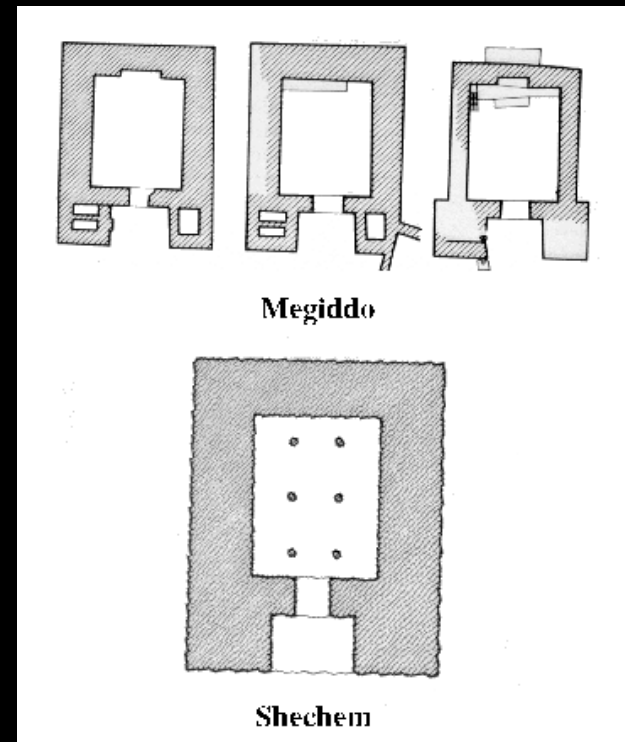
Dagger & sheaf, Temple of the Obelisks

Temples

- Architectural & religious uniformity throughout region
- Monumental buildings:
 - Thick walls: considerable height?
 - Single room: the cella
- Open cult place with standing stones (*masebot*) at Gezer
- Continue in use in LBA
- Ebla, Monument P₃: platform (52.5 x 42m) dedicated to Ishtar



Gezer



Pottery

- Apparent break in pottery tradition:
 - Introduction of the fast wheel
- New shapes:
 - Globular jars
 - Jugs
 - Carinated bowls
 - Piriform juglets
 - Dipper juglets

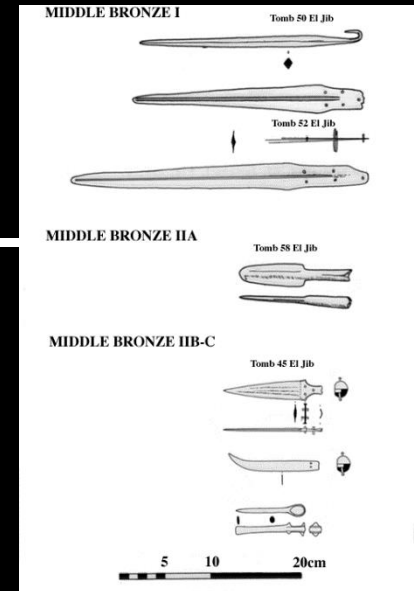


Metallurgy

- Introduction of tin bronze
- Mari archives (18th century): shipments of tin to cities such as Hazor
- MB IIA: new range of metal artefacts:
 - Duckbill axe
 - Socketed spear heads
 - Chisel shaped axe
 - Daggers & spearheads
- Personal items crafted from bronze & gold:
 - Toggle pins



Pendant, 'Ajjul



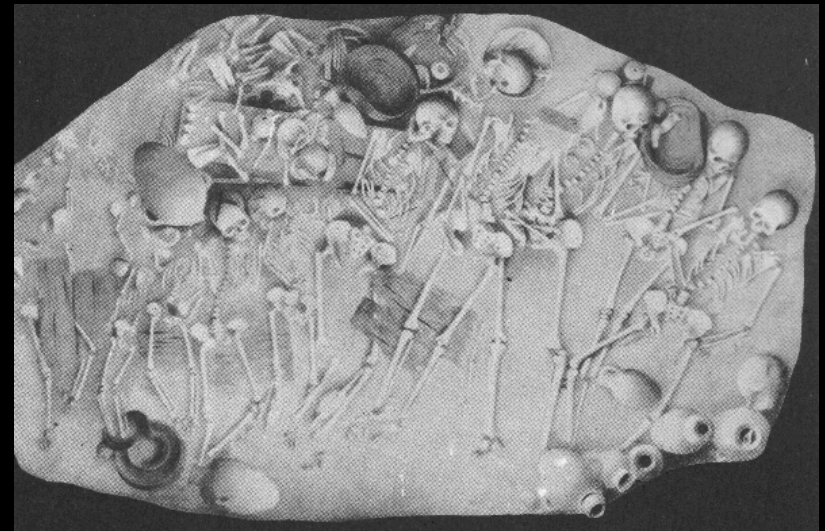
Duckbill axe

Burial Practices

- Multiple inhumation in chamber tombs
- Increasing importance or commemoration of the ancestors
- Provision of goods for afterlife:
 - Pottery
 - Personal adornment
 - Jericho: wooden artefacts (boxes, inlay & furniture)



Jericho

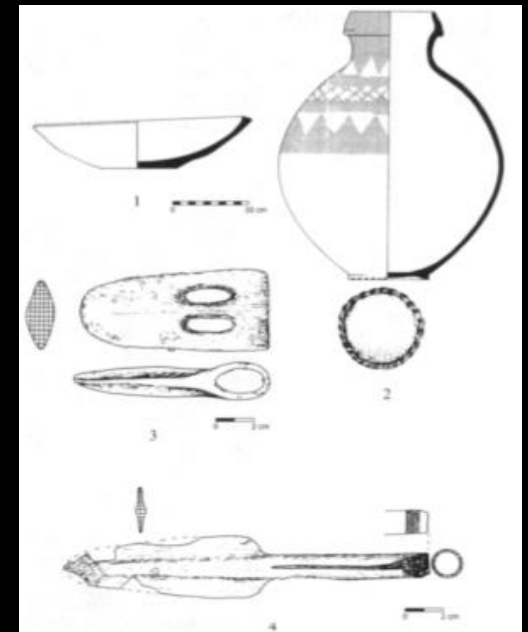


Warrior Graves

- Widely distributed:
from Ugarit to 'Ajjul &
Tell el-Dab'a
- Horse burials
- Warrior equipment:
 - Daggers & spears
 - Axes
 - Bronze belts



Horse burial 'Ajjul



Gesher
warrior equipment

Canaan: MB-LB Transition

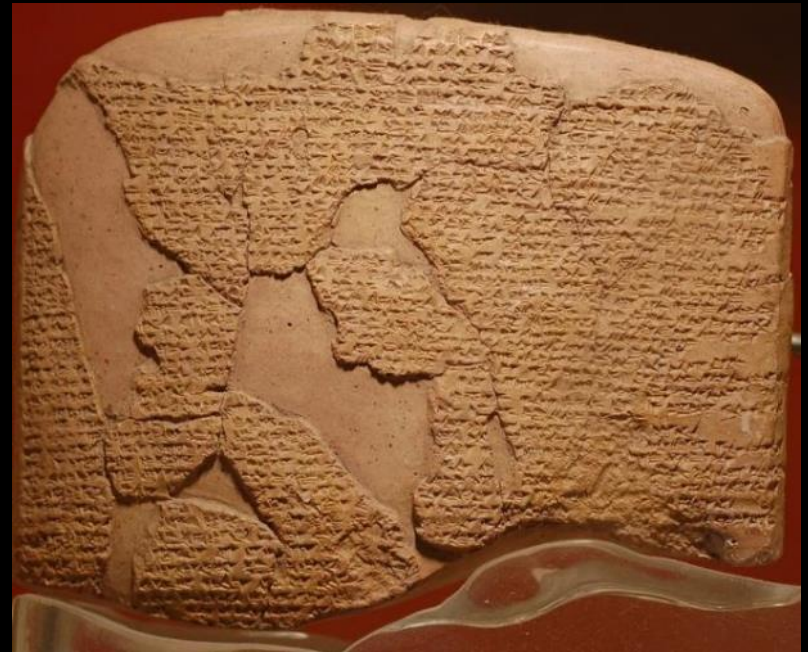
- 16th BC: horizon of destructions in southern Levant
 - Egyptian military activity
- Decline in number of settlements & some sites abandoned: **Jericho**
- Some Egyptian strongholds: **Tell el-'Ajjul, Beth Shan**
- Large trading settlements flourish: **Hazor, Tell Abu Hawam**



Southern Levant in LBA

Egyptian Empire

- Egyptian Sources:
 - Egyptian annals
 - Amarna archives
 - Treaties: Rameses II & Suppiluliumus II
 - Triumph / victory stela (wd n nhtw): at approaches to temples
 - Temple war reliefs
 - Private biographical statements



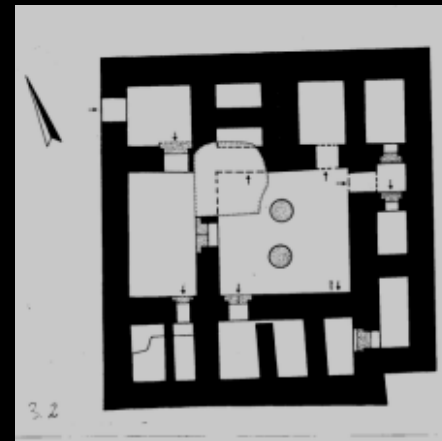
Treaty: Battle of Qadesh

Archaeological Evidence

- Egyptian residences identified at:
 - Ajjul & Deir el Balah
 - Tel Rehov
 - Beth Shan: Egyptian garrison
- Egyptian pottery at Tel Rehov & Beth Shan
- El-Moghraqa: possible funerary cones
- Ajjul: "Governor's tomb": Egyptian named objects



Pottery Beth Shan



Residency: Tell Rehov



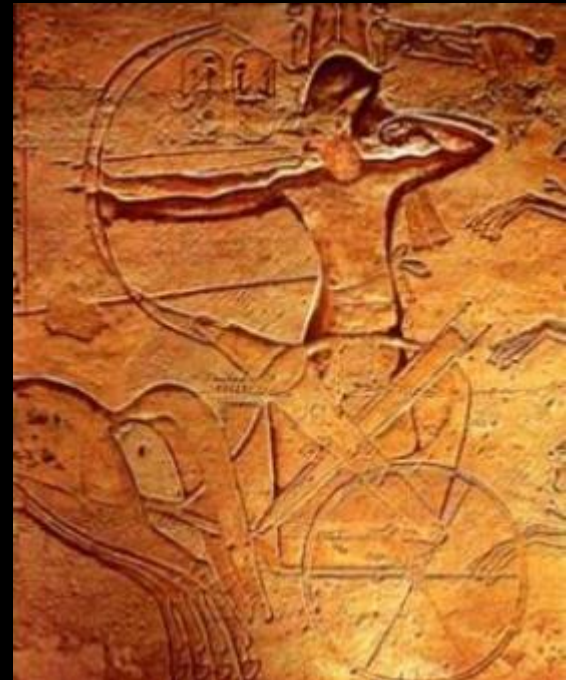
"funerary" cone

Hittites

- Hittites: major power of the later LBA
- **The Land of the Hatti:** based at **Hattusas** (Boğazköy)
- C. 1370 BC: establishment of Hittite Empire
- 13th century come into conflict with Dynasty 19 of Egypt:
- Battle of Qadesh: 1274 BC



Lion Gate, Hattusas



Ramesses III

LBA Trade

- Extensive maritime trade networks
- Bulk movement of raw materials
- Pottery: traded for contents
 - Large quantities of Cypriot pottery: Alalakh & 'Ajjul
 - From 14th century large numbers of Mycenaean imports



Base Ring krater



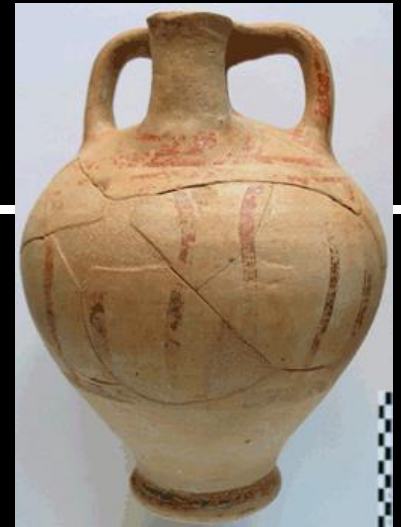
Mycenaean stirrup jar



Copper oxhide ingot

Ugarit

- Hittite vassal
- Major trading emporium
 - Minet el Beidha: excavation of warehouse
 - Immense wealth of the material remains illustrate the prosperity & importance of LBA Ugarit
- Close cultural links with Cyprus & Mycenaean Greece
- Ivories: international artistic style



Minoan stirrup jar



Ivory pyxis lid

LBA Southern Levant

- Decline in number of occupied tell sites
- Almost total lack of fortifications
 - Repeated Egyptian military campaigns & Egyptian rule
 - City states of Canaan were imperially dominated vassal states
- Apparent cultural impoverishment?
 - But palaces & temples identified at a number of sites
 - Portable wealth
 - Participating in international maritime trade



Lachish



Ivory: Megiddo

Burials (North & South)

- Variable practices:
 - Cultural diversity?
- Ugarit: intramural in corbel-vaulted tombs
- Chamber tombs for multiple inhumations
- Egyptianising practices:
 - Clay coffins at Beth Shan & Deir el-Balah



Tomb, Ugarit



Coffins,
Deir el Balah

Burials

- Richly furnished with variety of grave goods:
- Open to material from other cultures
 - Local & imported pottery (from Cyprus & the Aegean)
 - Jewellery, seals
 - Weapons
 - Toiletry articles



Necklace & mirror, Deir el Balah



Summary

- MB-LB Levant incredibly rich archaeological evidence
- Change in material culture at beginning MBA: new population?
- Common material culture throughout region
 - But very different individual identities
 - North & south have very different political organisation
- An 'international' period:
 - Trading contacts
 - Imperialism: Egypt & Hittites in particular
 - Artistic styles