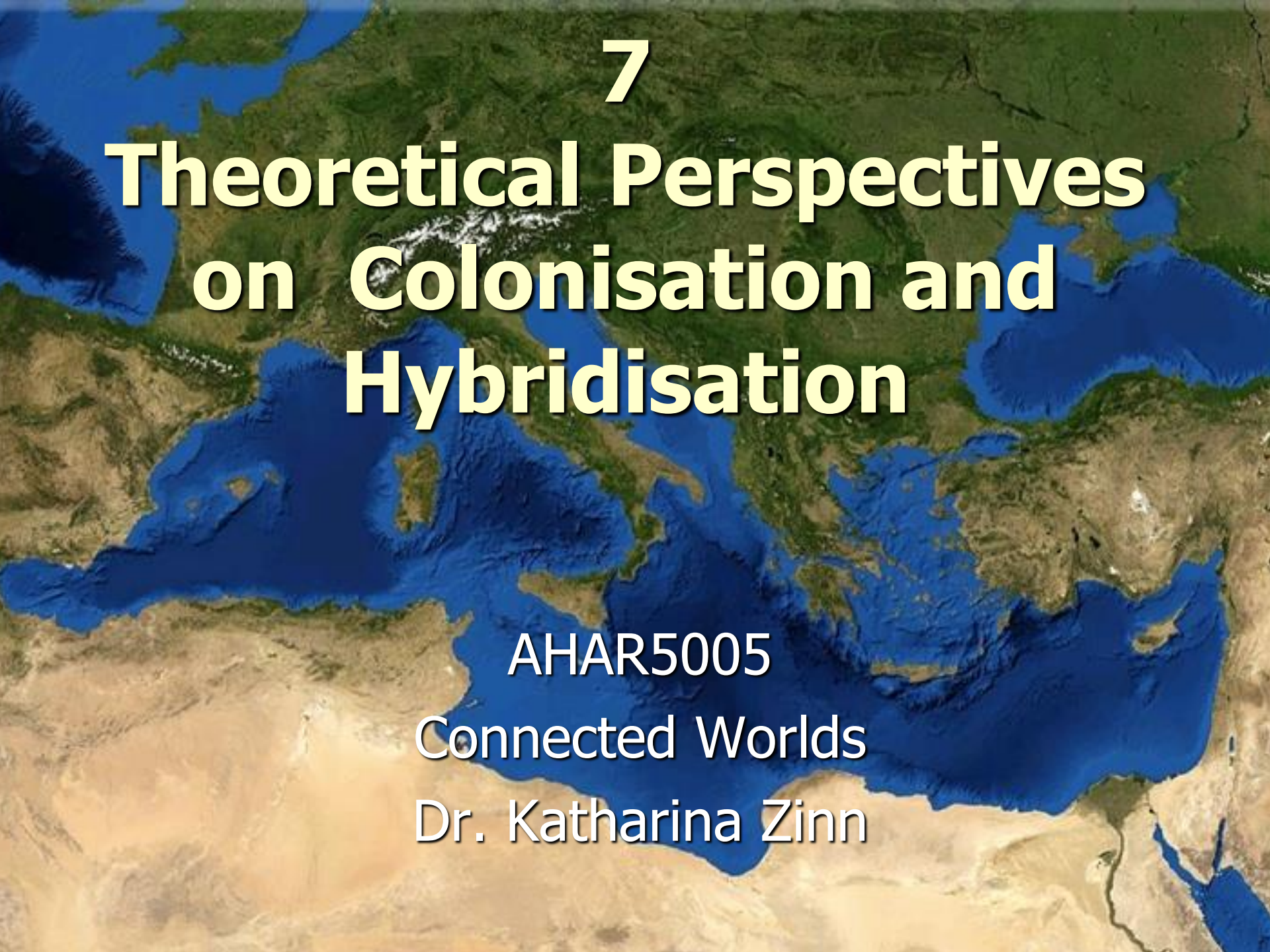


A satellite map of the Mediterranean region, showing the sea in blue and the surrounding landmasses in green and brown. The map is centered on the Mediterranean Sea, with the Iberian Peninsula to the west, the Balkans to the north, and North Africa to the south.

7

Theoretical Perspectives on Colonisation and Hybridisation

AHAR5005

Connected Worlds

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Readings

- ❑ Gosden, Chr. (2004). *Archaeology and Colonialism: cultural contact from 5000BC to the present*. Cambridge: CUP.
- ❑ Knapp, B. (2008). *Prehistoric & Protohistoric Cyprus: identity, insularity and connectivity*. Oxford: OUP. (on hybridization in the Mediterranean, especially Cyprus)
- ❑ García Canclini, N. (1995) *Hybrid cultures : strategies for entering and leaving modernity*. Minneapolis, Minn. : University of Minnesota Press.
- ❑ Wachsmann, Sh. (1987). *Aegeans in the Theban Tombs*. Leuven: Peeters. (statements on hybridism/hybridization Aegeans on basis of tomb decorations in Egypt)

Readings

- ❑ Finley, M.I. 1976. Colonies: an Attempt at a Typology. In: *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 26: 167-88. [JSTOR]
- ❑ Boardman, J. 2001. Aspects of “Colonization”. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 322: 33-42. [JSTOR]
- ❑ Friedman, J. 1994. *Cultural Identity and Global Process*. London: Sage Publications.
- ❑ Finley, M.I. 1976. Colonies: An Attempt at a Typology. *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 26, 167-188.

Colonisation

- Cultural contact: colonisation is at the forefront of interpretative paradigms in studies of the ancient Mediterranean
- Mediterranean archaeology tends to avoid notion of “colonialism”; instead talks more about colonisation
- Three case studies in this module:
 - EB I Egyptian colonies in Palestine

Syria-Palestine



Et-Tell, Jerusalem: Early Bronze Age temple

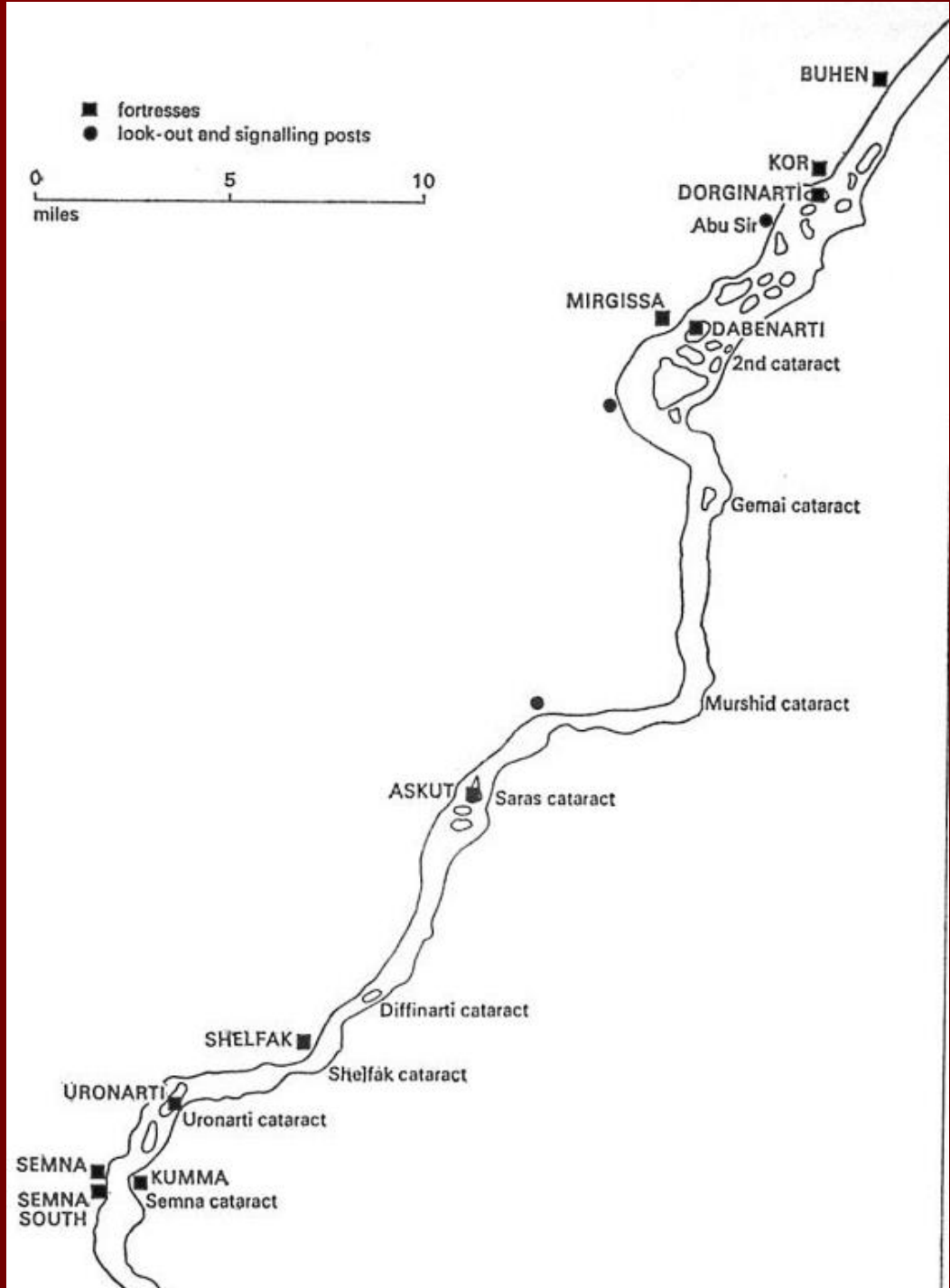
Egyptian masonry technique + presence of
alabaster



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Egyptian colonies in Nubia



Colonisation

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- Three case studies in this module:
 - EB I Egyptian colonies in Palestine
 - Egyptian colonies in Nubia (OK, MK)
 - New Kingdom Egyptian Empire in Nubia and Palestine

Colonies & Colonialism

- ❑ What is a colony?
- ❑ 1548: **colony** describes a settlement in a new country, forming a community subject to a parent state
- ❑ Derives from *colonia* (a farm, settlement, landed estate) established in conquered territory by veteran soldiers
- ❑ Colonialism: refers to presence of foreign people at some distance from their place of origin
- ❑ From Hellenistic/Roman period colonialism is connected with cities & transmitting benefits of urban living

Classical Tradition

- Classical Archaeology: product of 19th century intellectual tradition of Western Europe
- Modern colonial experience & evolutionary theory both had a direct impact on 19th century narratives
- Underlying implicit link between civilisation & colonisation
 - Philhellenic approach assumes Greek cultural superiority

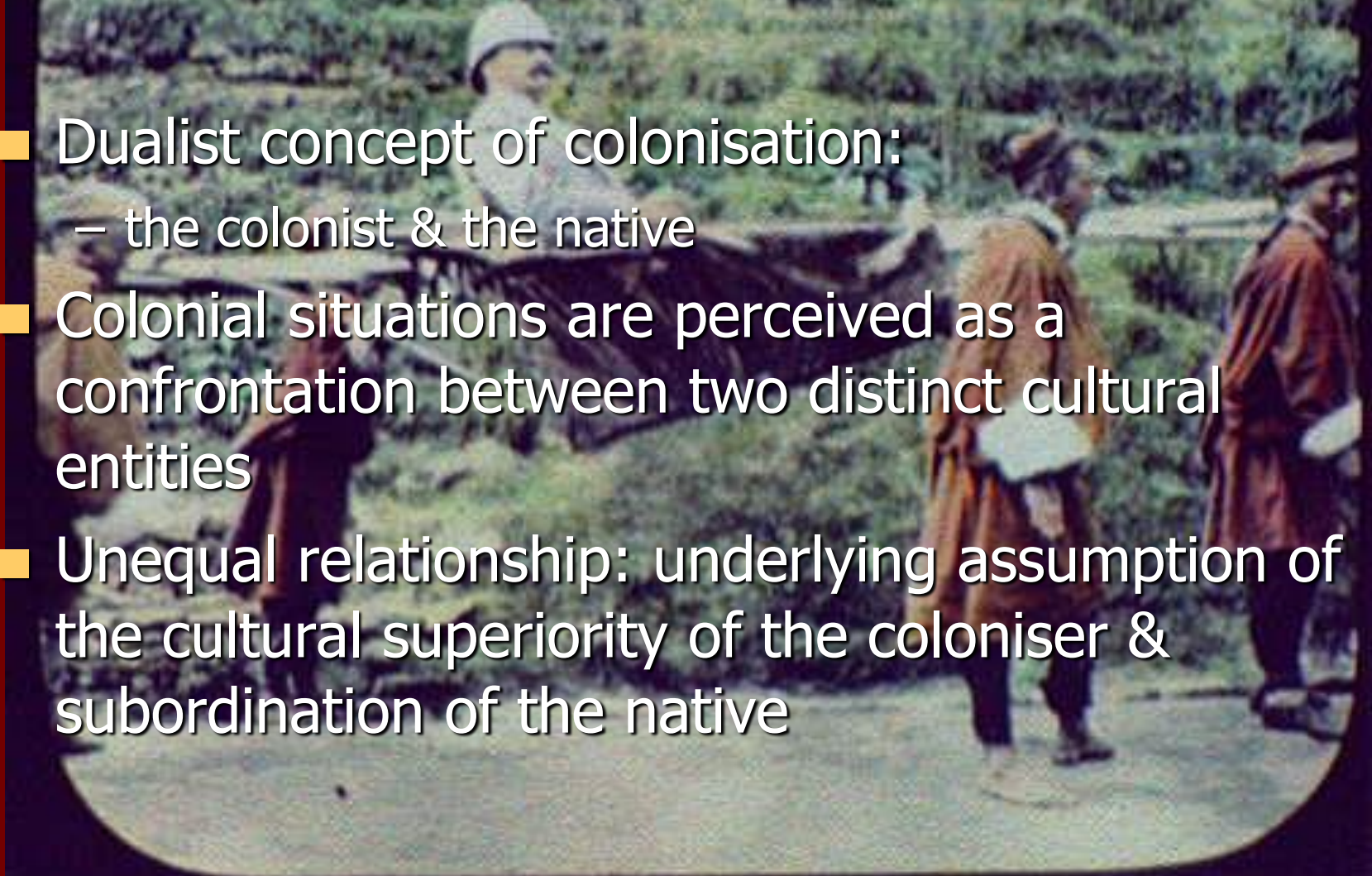
Paestum: Temple of Hera

Colonies

- ❑ ‘Colony’: a settlement established by a people of a different descent/ethnicity, language & social practices to the local population
- ❑ This is distinguished by distinct domestic & civic architecture, material culture & burial customs
- ❑ Finley (1976): large-scale immigration from a homeland & appropriation of land from the indigenous population
- ❑ Finley (1976): the newcomers subjugate the indigenous population, control their labour, & institute formal political & economic control from the homeland

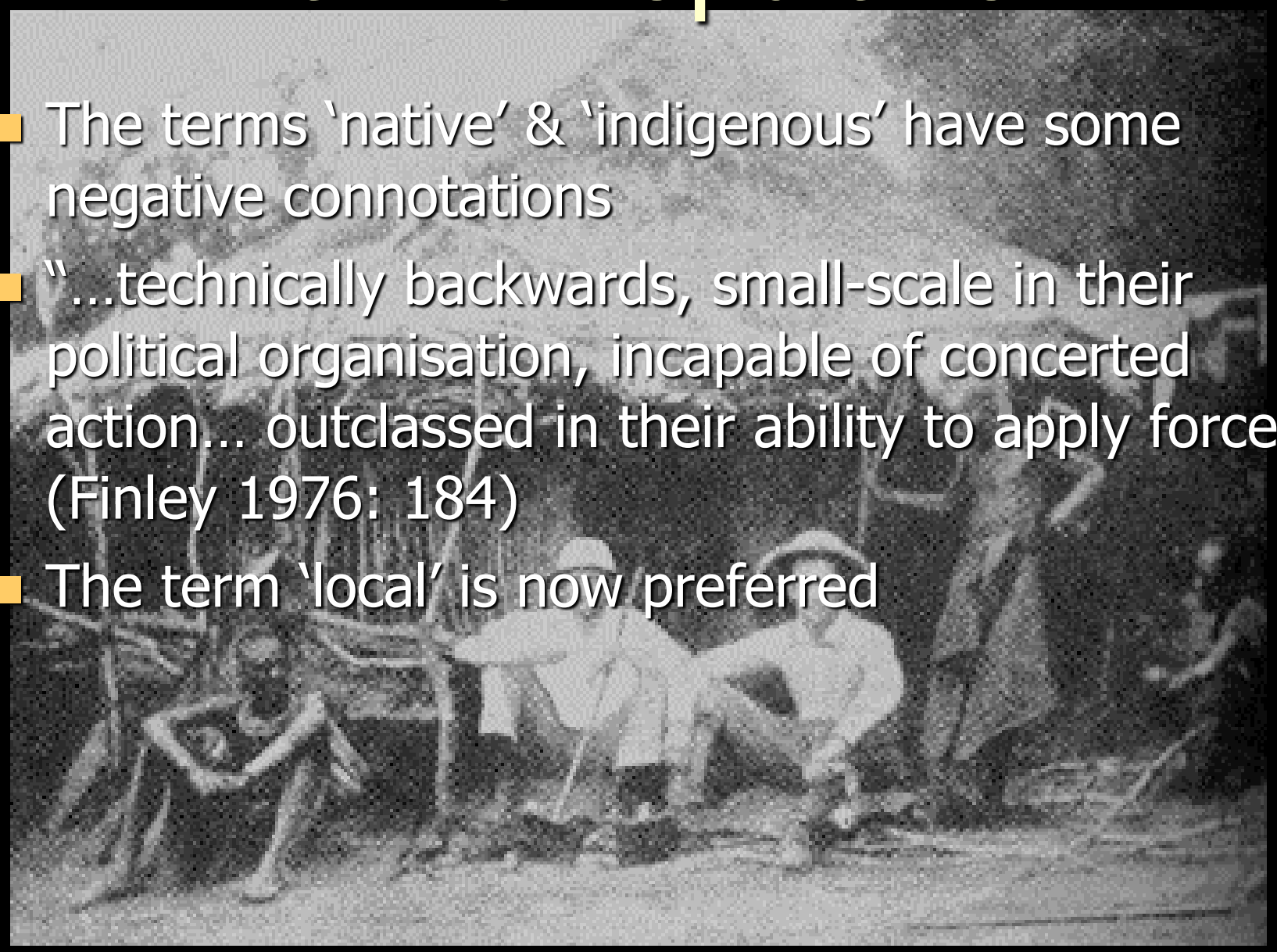
Coloniser & the Colonised

- Dualist concept of colonisation:
 - the colonist & the native
- Colonial situations are perceived as a confrontation between two distinct cultural entities
- Unequal relationship: underlying assumption of the cultural superiority of the coloniser & subordination of the native



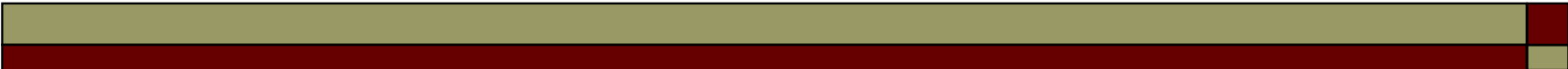
Native Population

- The terms 'native' & 'indigenous' have some negative connotations
- "...technically backwards, small-scale in their political organisation, incapable of concerted action... outclassed in their ability to apply force" (Finley 1976: 184)
- The term 'local' is now preferred



Post Colonial Theory

- A reaction against the over-riding western intellectual paradigm:
 - This has its roots in Said's critique of "colonial discourse" in the Near East: *Orientalism*
- Reacts against the narrative of native peoples as the exoticised & passive "**Other**"
- Focuses on the **local** context of colonialism, the diversity of local cultures, & agency of the colonised
- How are local social identities reworked by peoples living in colonial situations?



NEW

□ acculturation

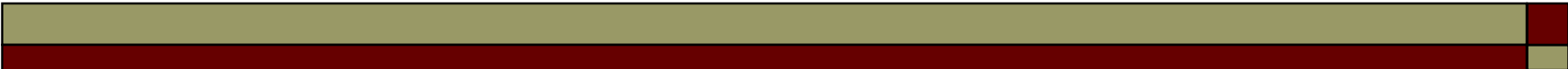
Hybridisation

- "...cultural mixture is the effect of the practice of mixed origins" (Friedman 1995: 84)
- Hybridisation: the construction of a new identity & new social practices exhibiting a mix of cultural similarities & differences (in a contact zone)
- This is more than a fusion of colonial & indigenous features
 - Van Dommelen (1997): hybridisation is social practice; involving active social agents

Rock crystal vase: grave Omikron, Mycenae

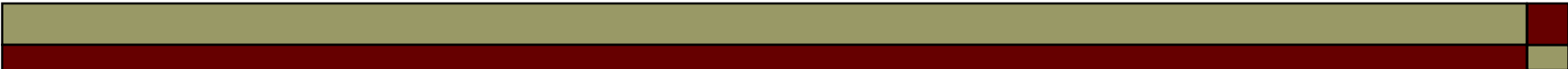
TT63 Treasurer Sobekhotep: Foreign Tribute (BM 1869,1025.5)





Questions

- ❑ Are these figures Aegeans?
- ❑ Are they Mycenaean, Minoan?
- ❑ What is the historical value of these scenes?
- ❑ How do we have to see these scenes?
- ❑ **Hybridism in art**: uniting elements – combination of ornaments, normally not at a single object..., combination foreign and Eg. motives)



Examples for hybridism

- Karnak temple in Thebes – Th III akhmenu (“Botanical Garden”): 275 examples Syrian flora + fauna – birds accurate, flora: some accurate, others based on imprecise memory, others made up

Botanical Garden in Festival Temple: plants and animals of foreign countries



Botanical Garden in Festival Temple: plants and animals of foreign countries



Examples for hybridism

- ❑ Th III *akhmenu* (“Botanical Garden”): 275 examples Syrian flora + fauna – birds accurate, flora: some accurate, others based on imprecise memory, others made up
- ❑ Representation of foreigners

Hybridism in foreigners

Headrests of the Sea People

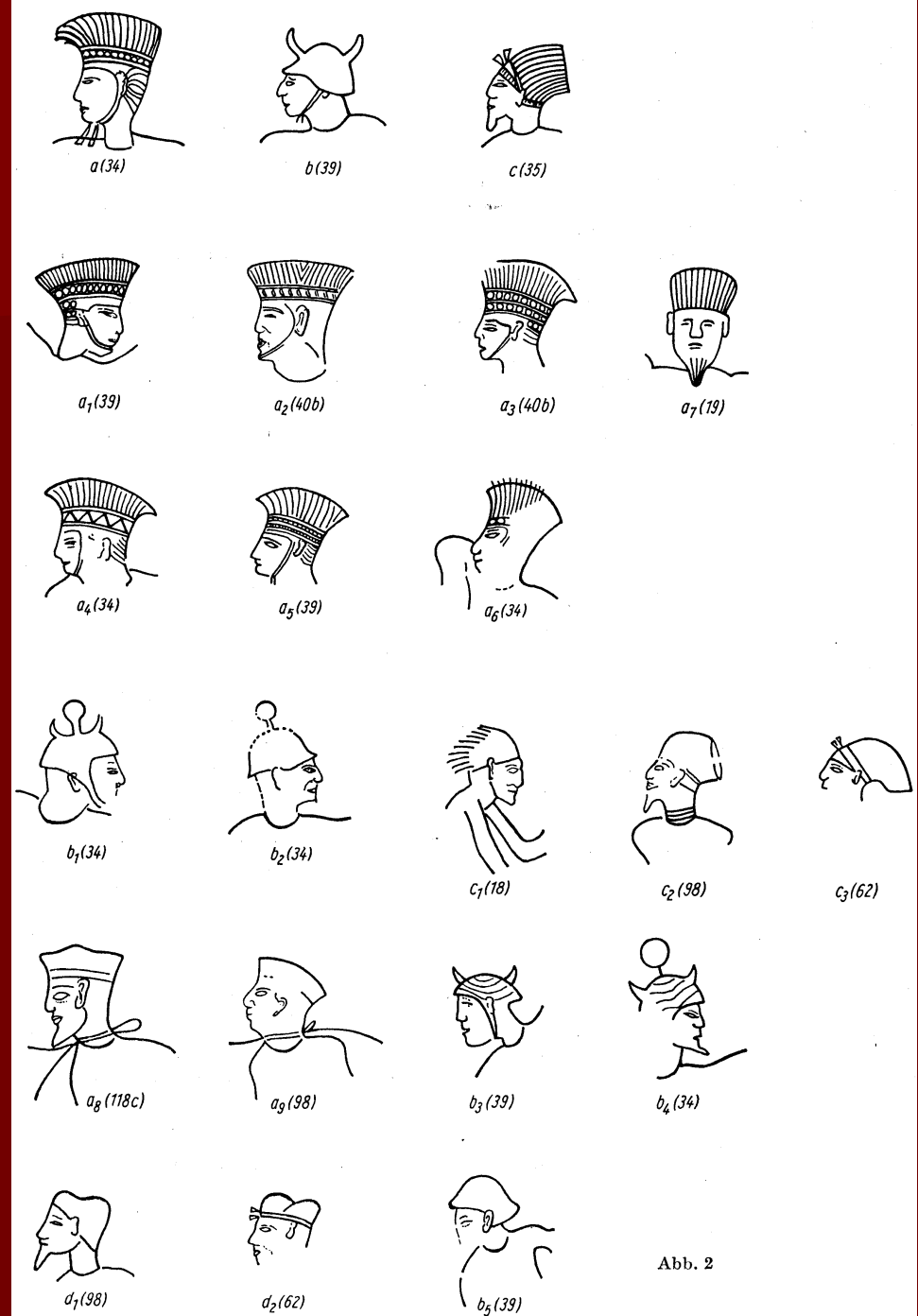
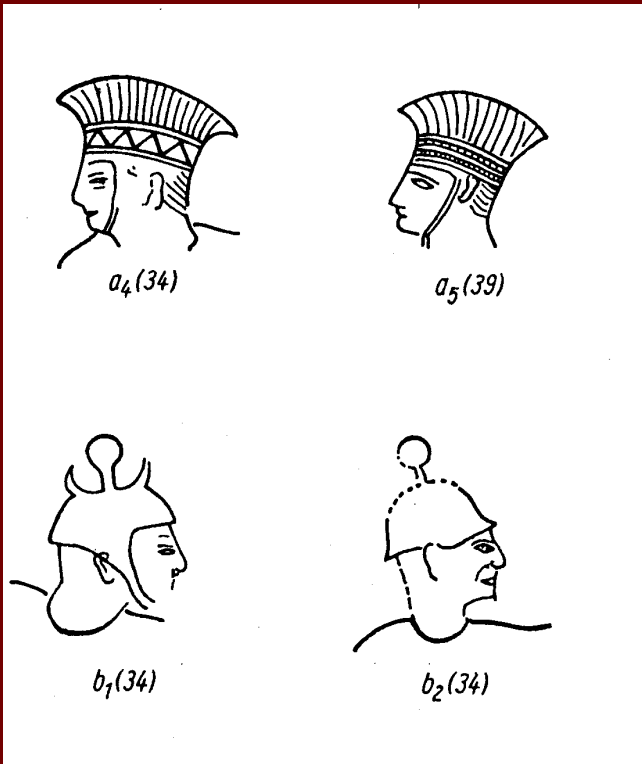
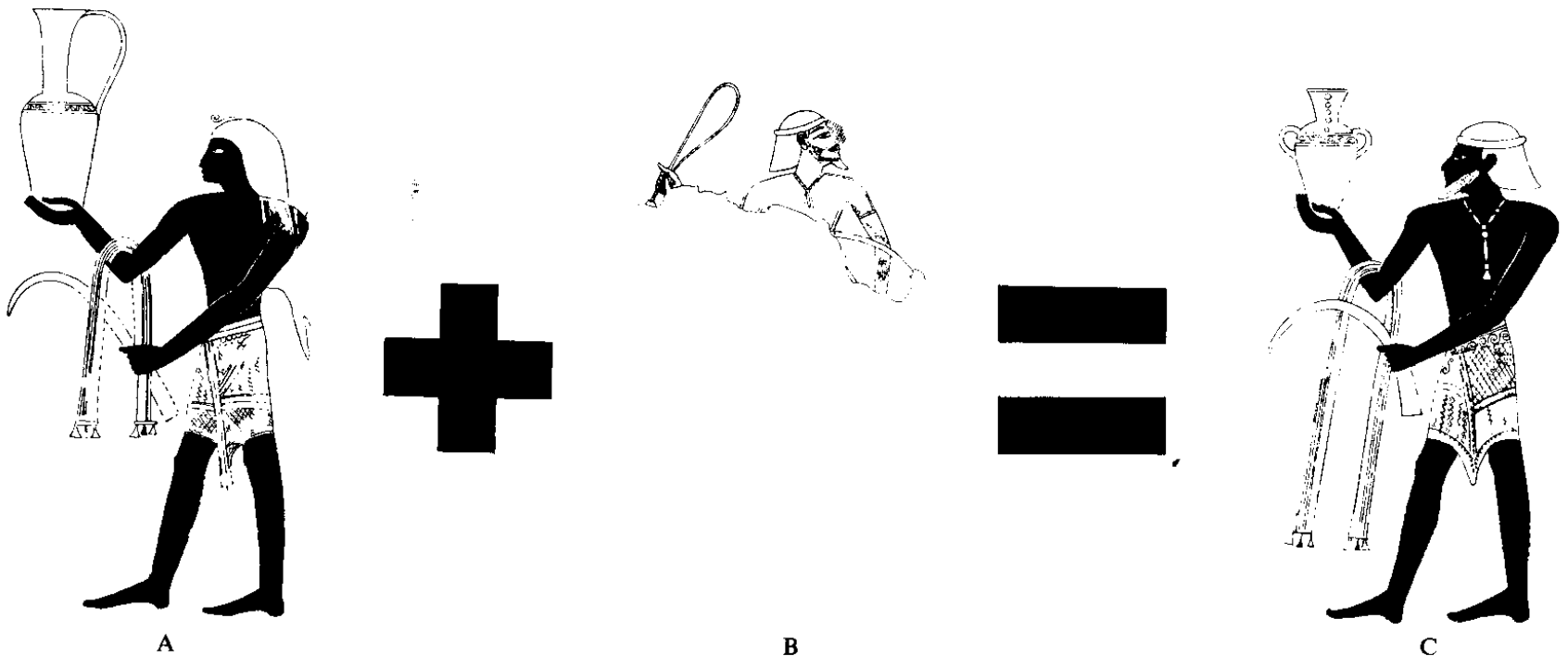


Abb. 2

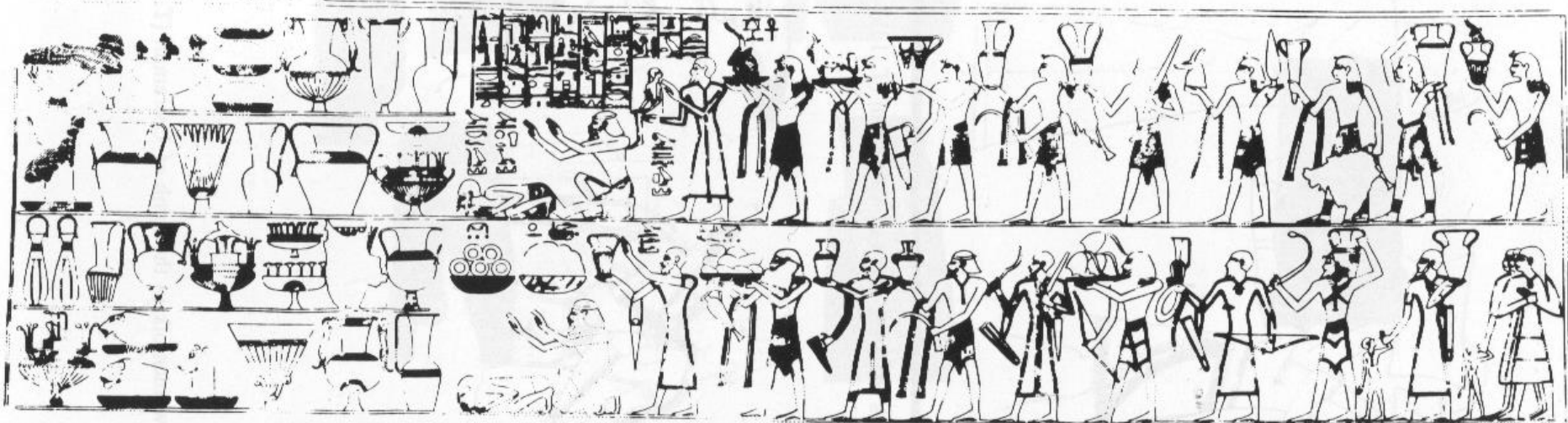
Examples for hybridism: TT 86

Mencheperreseneb (Th III)

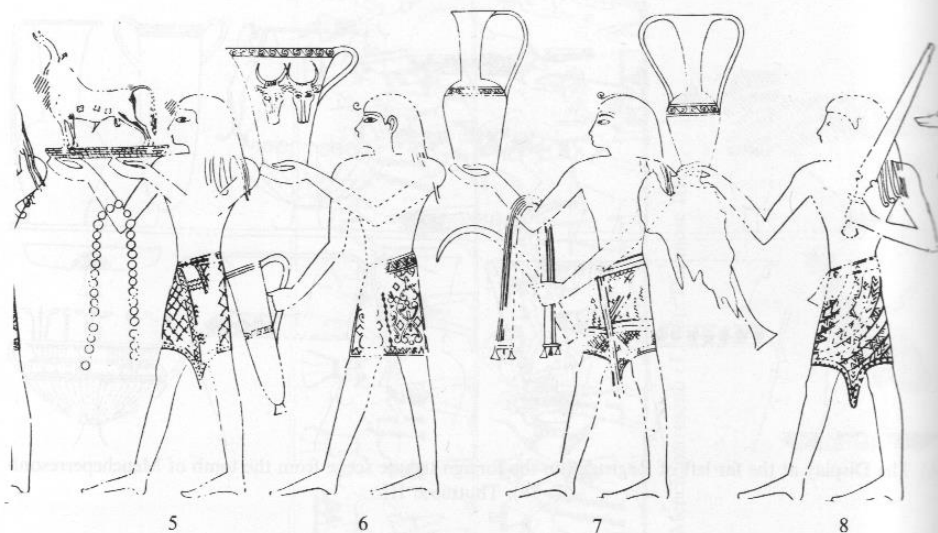
Scene of foreign tribute, second register:
Figures mixed Syrian and Aegean attributes



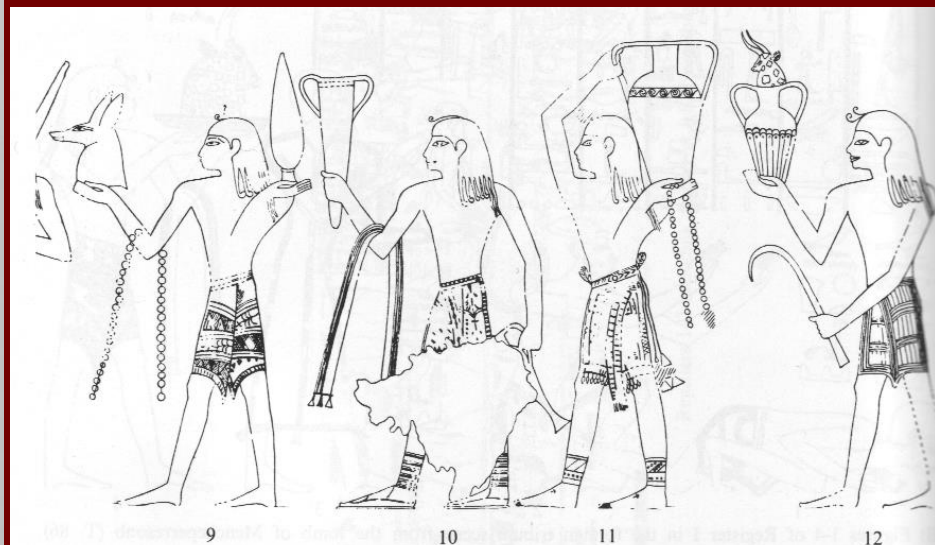
Hybridism. A clearly hybrid figure (right) is composed by combining the red skin colour and skirt of an Aegean (left) and the bearded head with head band of a typical Syrian (middle). Tomb of Mencheperreseneb (T. 86). Thutmose III.



Registers I-II including display at left, from the tomb of Mencheperresonb (T. 86). Thutmose III.



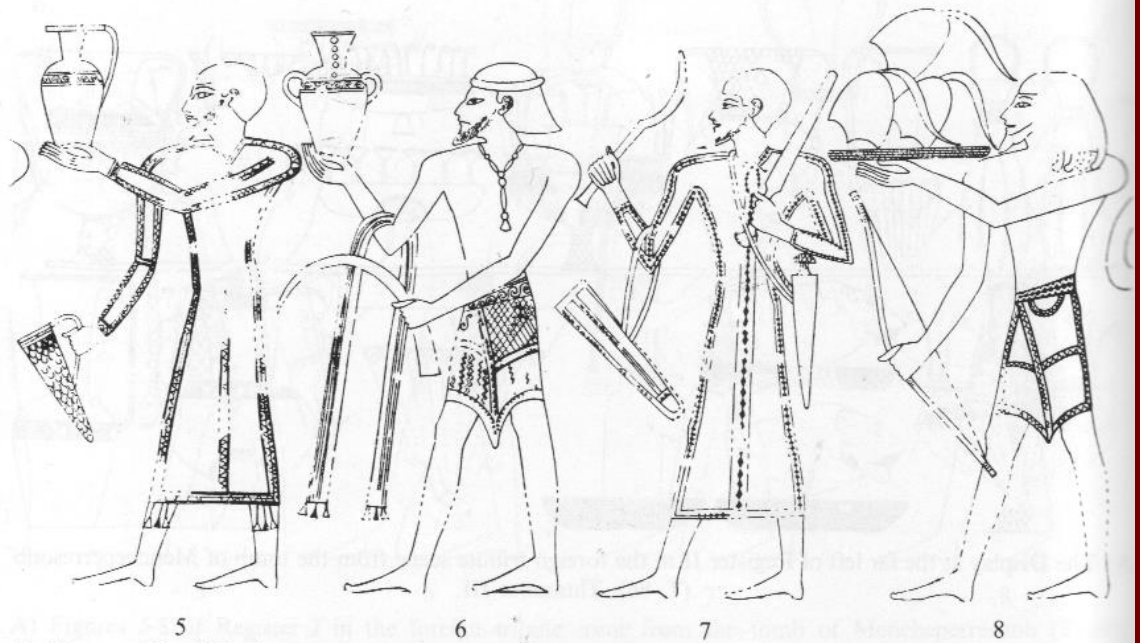
A) Figures 5-8 of Register I in the foreign tribute scene from the tomb of Mencheperresonb (T. 86). Thutmose III.



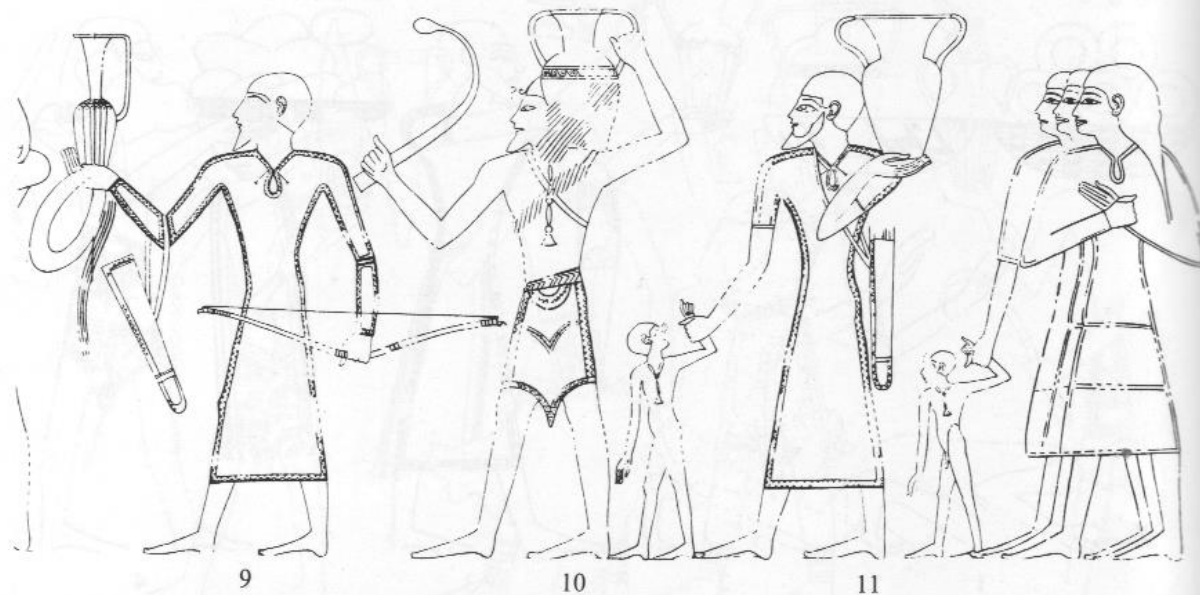
B) Figures 9-12 of Register I in the foreign tribute scene from the tomb of Mencheperresonb (T. 86). Thutmose III.

Register II: Hybrid types

- Figure 6: skin colour, kilt = Aegean; but bearded + Syrians head
- Figure 8: pseudo-Aegean skirt, curled locks, but beard
- Figure 10: seems Aegean forehead, but Syrian beard, Libyan cross belt + pendant necklace; made up skirt (pointed, decorated border, V-shaped hem)



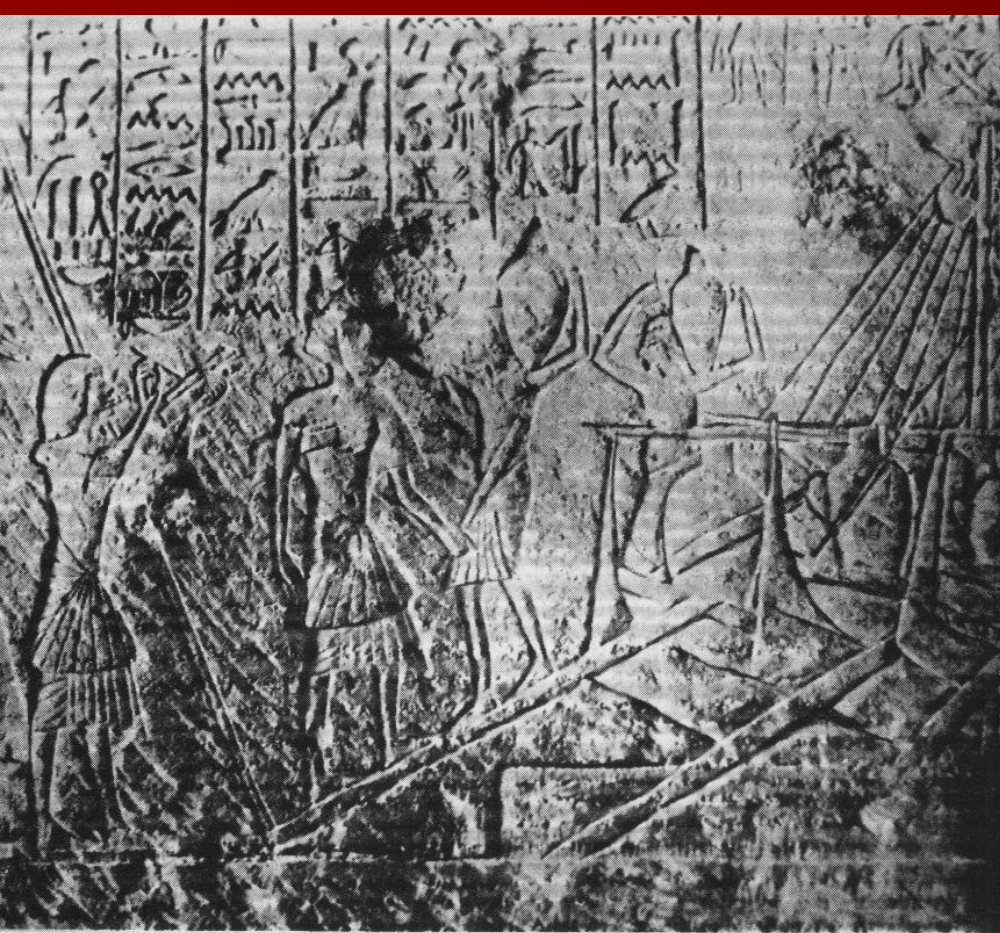
A) Figures 5-8 of Register II in the foreign tribute scene from the tomb of Mencheperresonb (T. 86). Thutmose III.



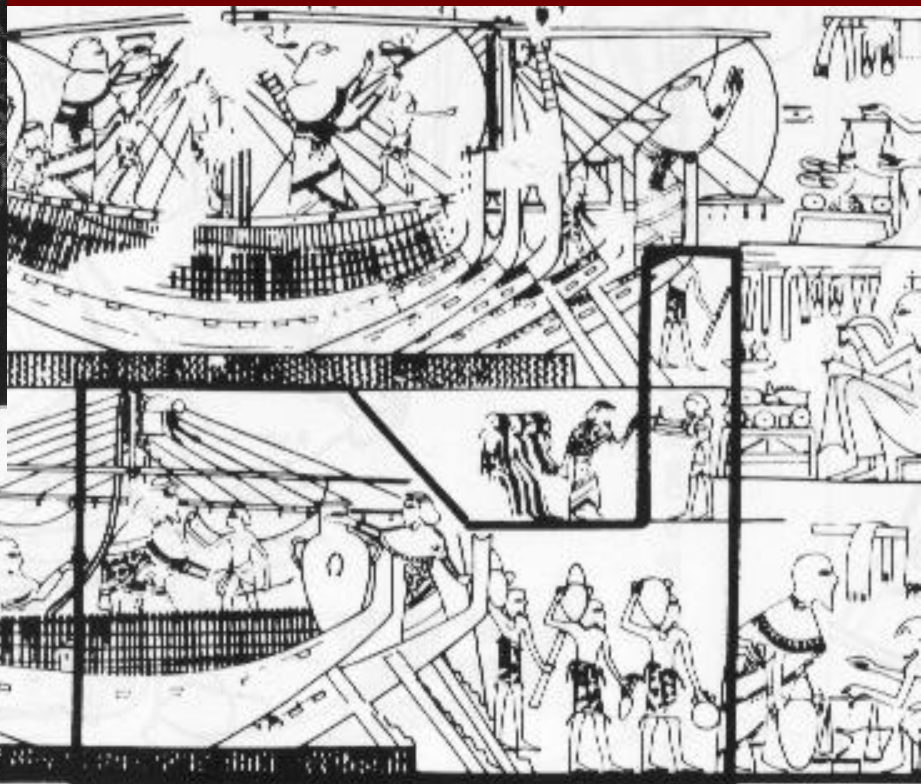
B) Figures 9-11 and women of Register II in the foreign tribute scene from the tomb of Mencheperresonb (T. 86). Thutmose III.

Examples for hybridism

- ❑ Th III akhmenu (“Botanical Garden”): 275 examples Syrian flora + fauna – birds accurate, flora: some accurate, others based on imprecise memory, others made up
- ❑ Representation of foreigners
- ❑ Representations of ships

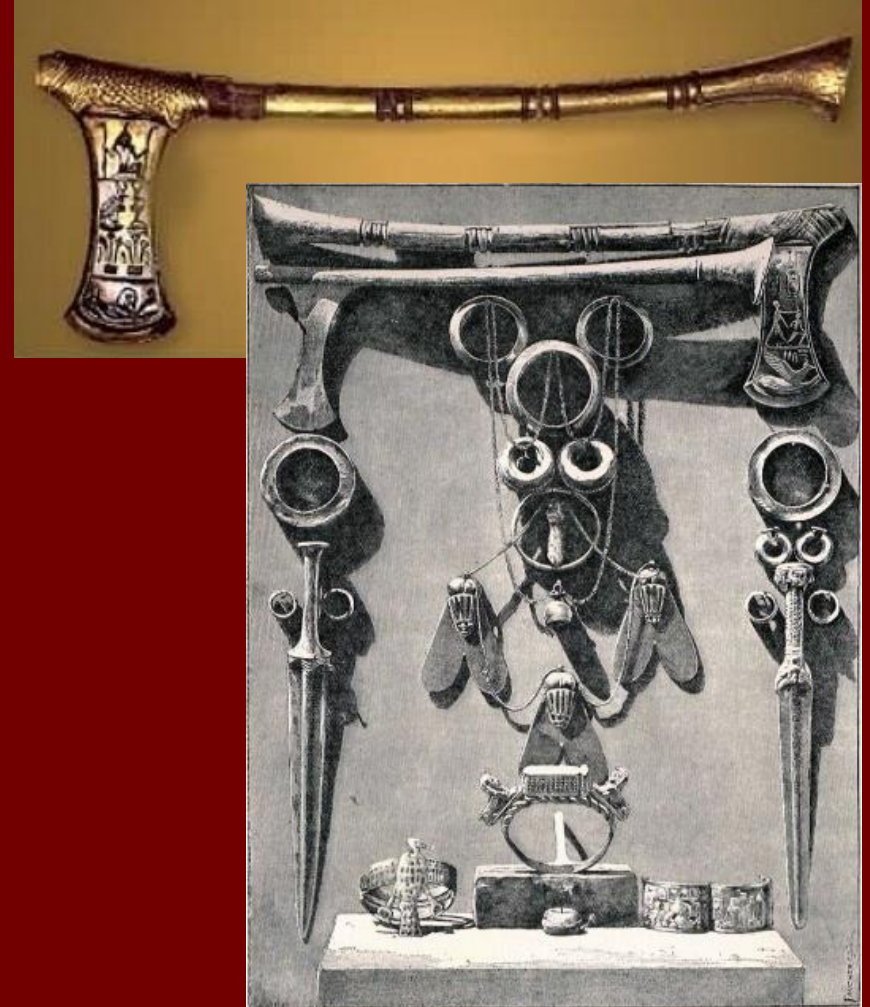


A) The ship relief from the tomb of Iniwia. XIXth-XXth Dynasties.



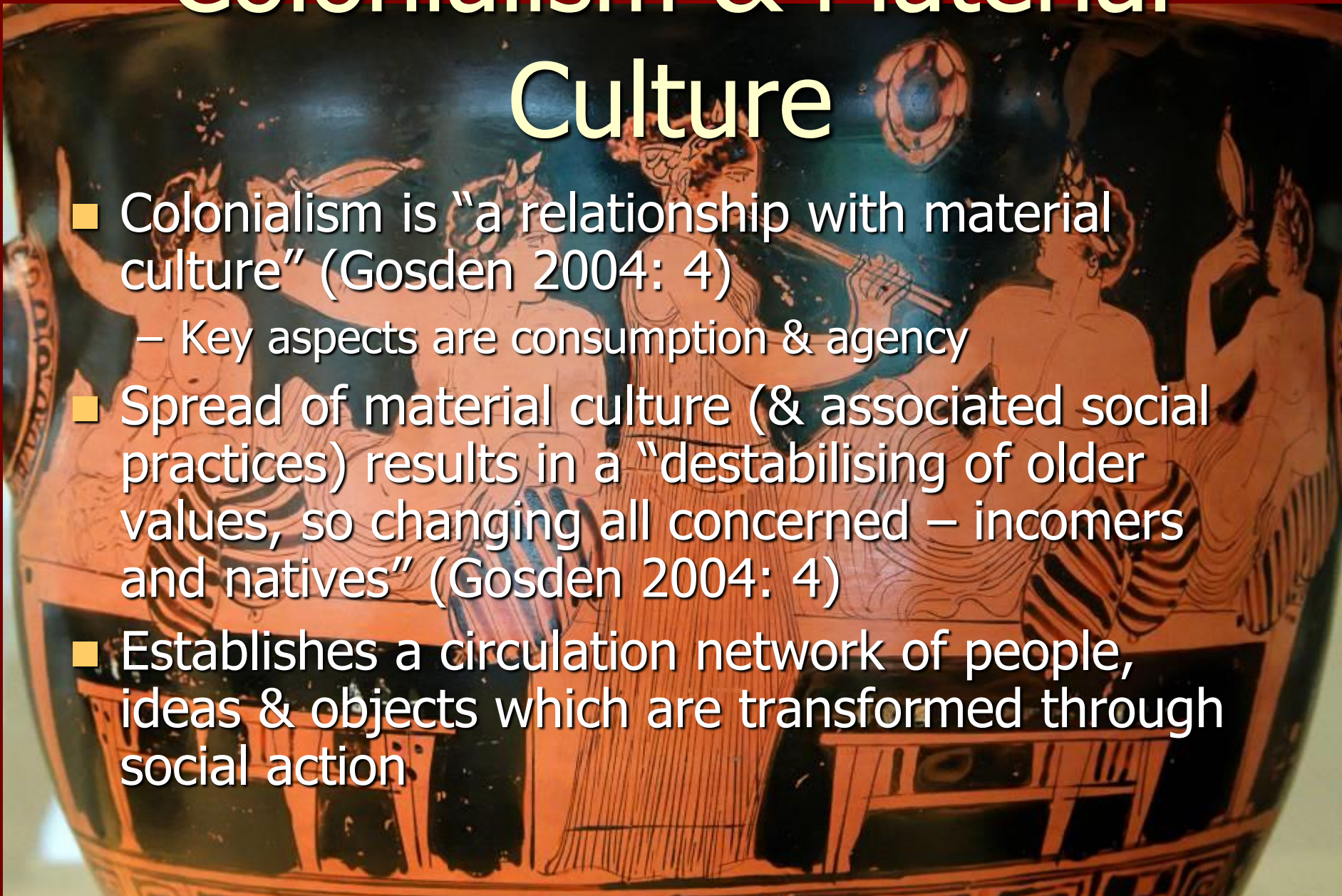
Detail of the scene from the tomb of Kenamun (T. 162) showing the po

Axe of Ahmose (found in the tomb of his mother Ahhotep)



Colonialism & Material Culture

- Colonialism is “a relationship with material culture” (Gosden 2004: 4)
 - Key aspects are consumption & agency
- Spread of material culture (& associated social practices) results in a “destabilising of older values, so changing all concerned – incomers and natives” (Gosden 2004: 4)
- Establishes a circulation network of people, ideas & objects which are transformed through social action



Typologies of Colonialism

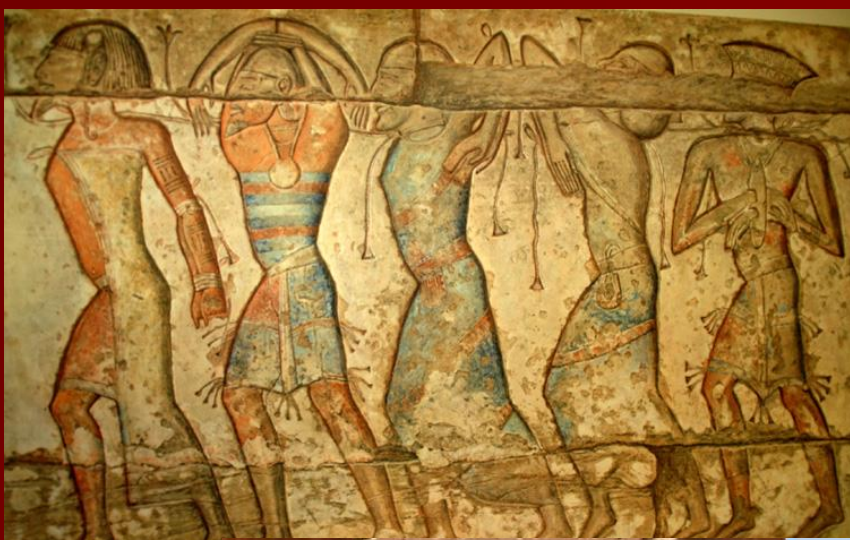
- Focusing on material culture & human agency
Gosden (2004) develops a model of colonialism with three categories (Gosden 2004):
- *Terra nullius*:
 - modern, Western mode of colonisation
 - violence
- Middle ground:
 - cultural mixing pot: experiment & creativity
- Colonialism within a shared cultural milieu:
 - cultural power

Terra Nullius

- 19th century European colonisation seeking out raw materials & new markets
- Violent process: mass killings & dispossession of indigenous inhabitants
- Mass settlement by incomers
- Active deployment of domination using sophisticated technologies of transport, communication, production & militarism
- Ideological legitimisation

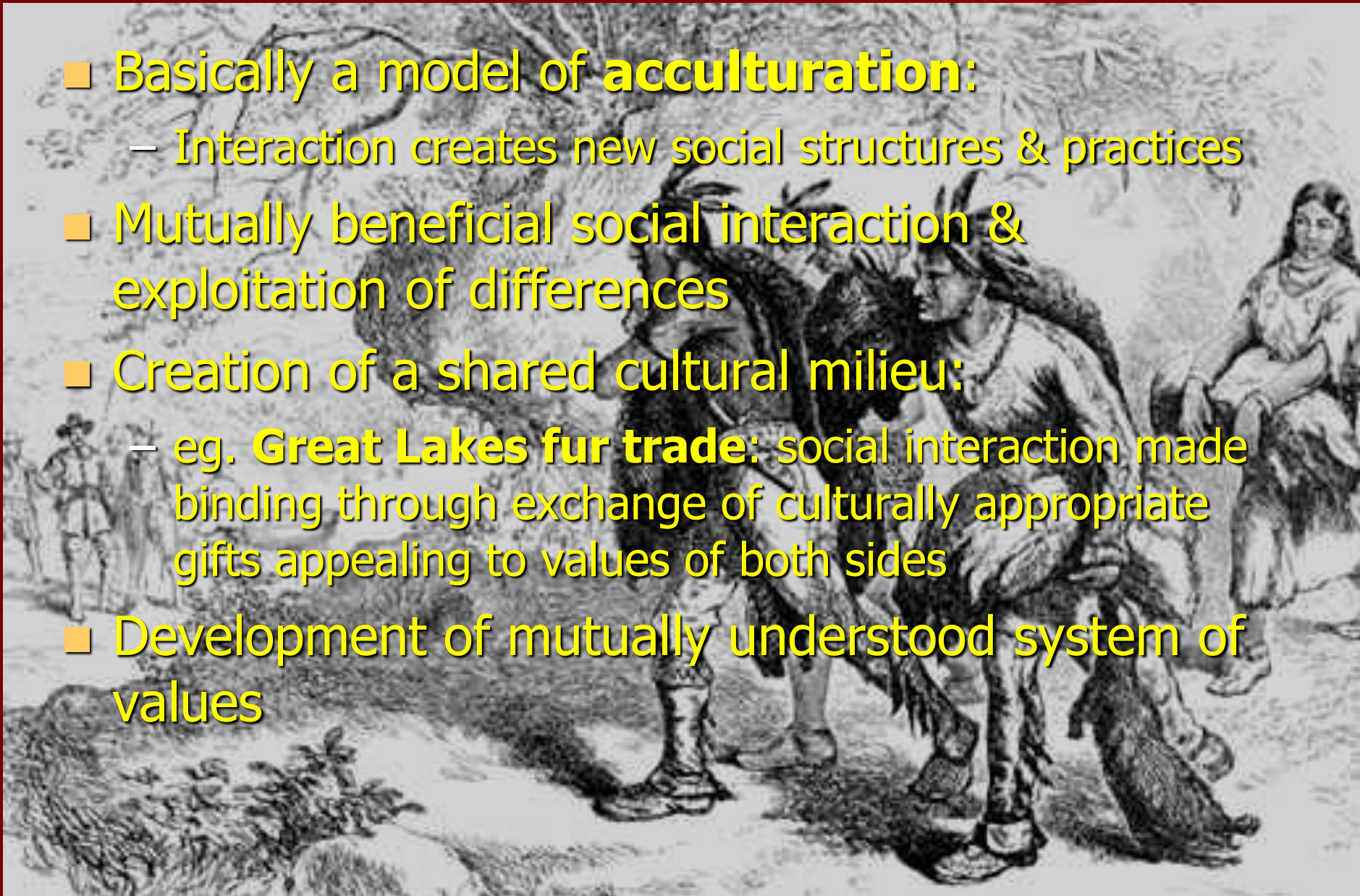
50. Tasmanian Aborigines.

Images of enemies OR
Seti I attacks the town of
Yenoam in Canaan.



Middle Ground

- Basically a model of **acculturation**:
 - Interaction creates new social structures & practices
- Mutually beneficial social interaction & exploitation of differences
- Creation of a shared cultural milieu:
 - eg. **Great Lakes fur trade**: social interaction made binding through exchange of culturally appropriate gifts appealing to values of both sides
- Development of mutually understood system of values

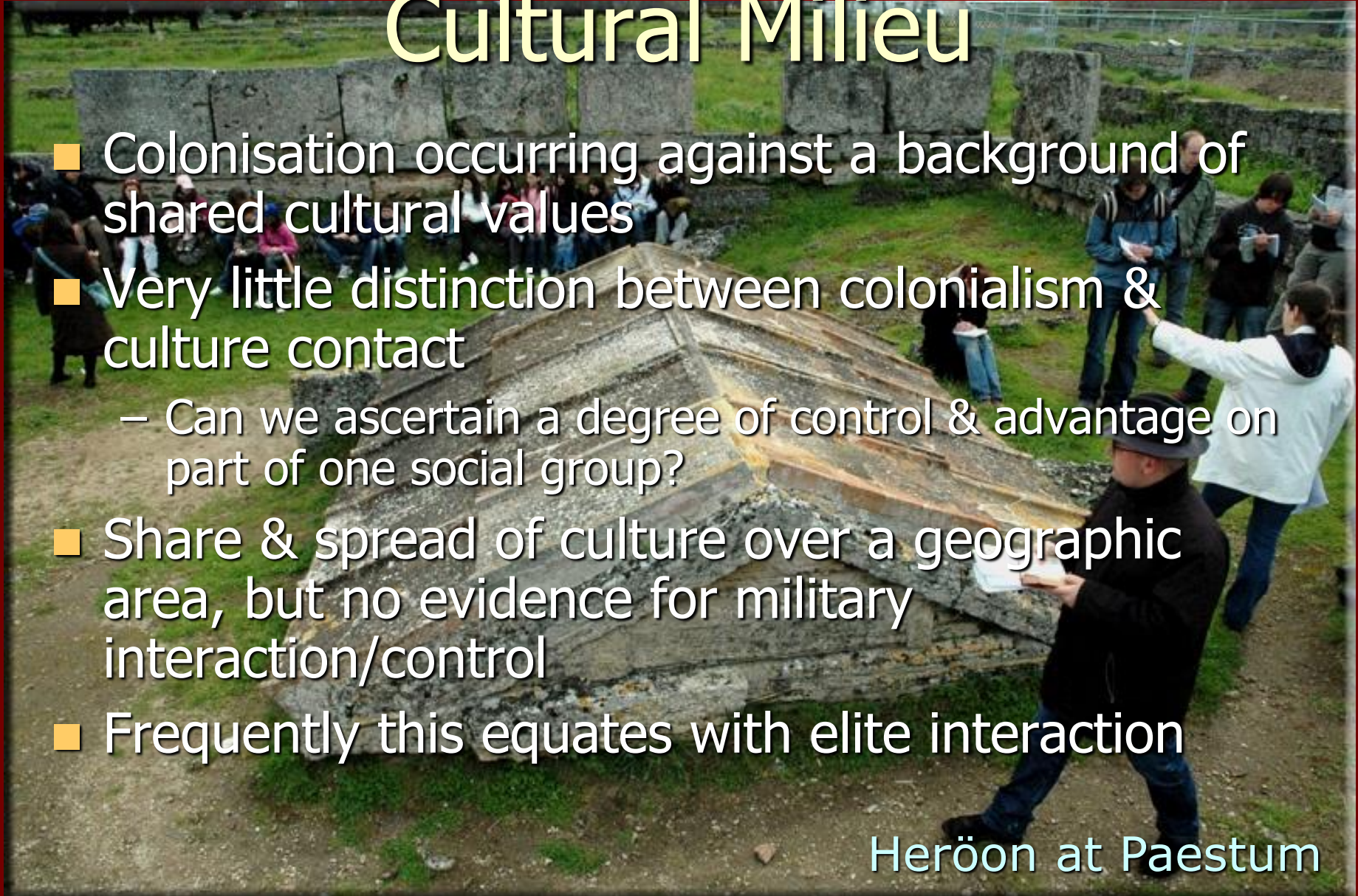




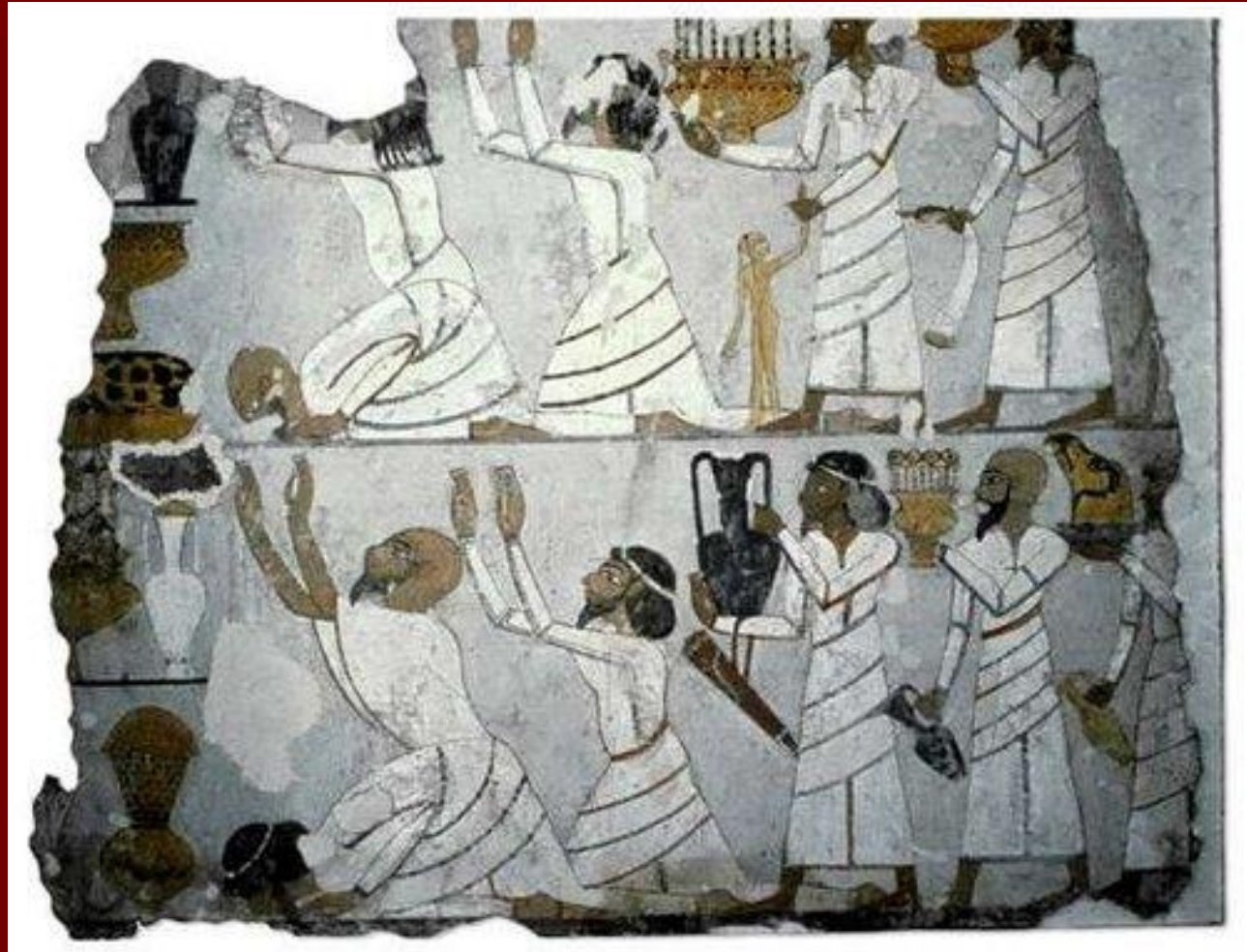
Colonialism in a Shared Cultural Milieu

- Colonisation occurring against a background of shared cultural values
- Very little distinction between colonialism & culture contact
 - Can we ascertain a degree of control & advantage on part of one social group?
- Share & spread of culture over a geographic area, but no evidence for military interaction/control
- Frequently this equates with elite interaction

Heröon at Paestum



Tribute bringing



Summary

- ❑ Colonisation is an important model for interpreting cultural contact in the ancient Mediterranean
- ❑ Terminology can be problematic: many terms are culturally loaded
- ❑ A tendency in early narratives to equate colonisation with the spread of civilisation
- ❑ Post-colonial models emphasise social agency in particular on the part of the colonised:
 - development of concept of hybridisation