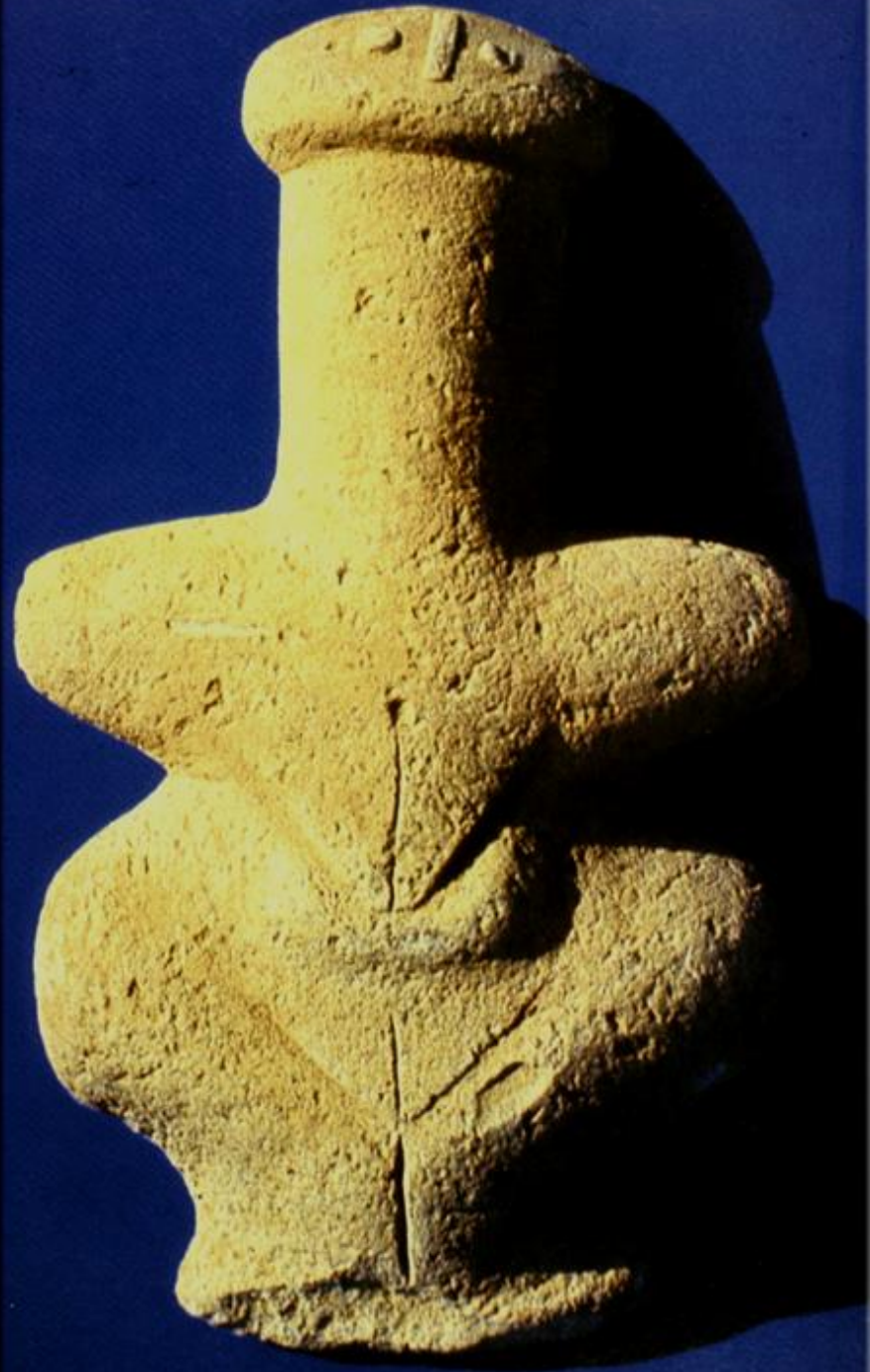


Middle Chalcolithic Households



Households



Bronze Age Social Relations

- Population growth: impetus for social change
- Passing certain population threshold impacts on social organisation:
 - More complex social structures
 - Increased symbolic communication
 - New social practices to facilitate group relations



Anthropomorphic vase,
Souskiou

Where and When?

- Early Chalcolithic:

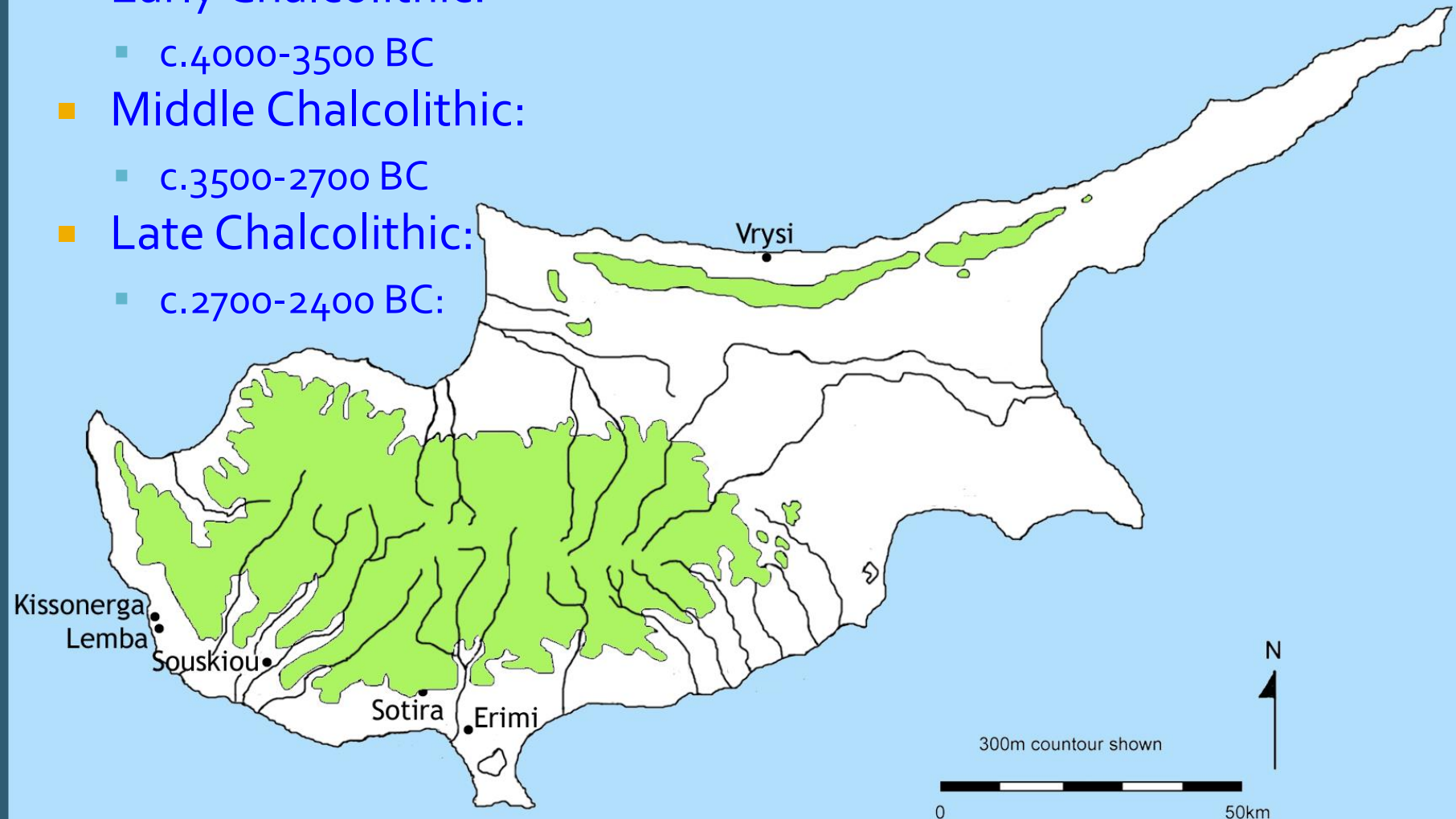
- c.4000-3500 BC

- Middle Chalcolithic:

- c.3500-2700 BC

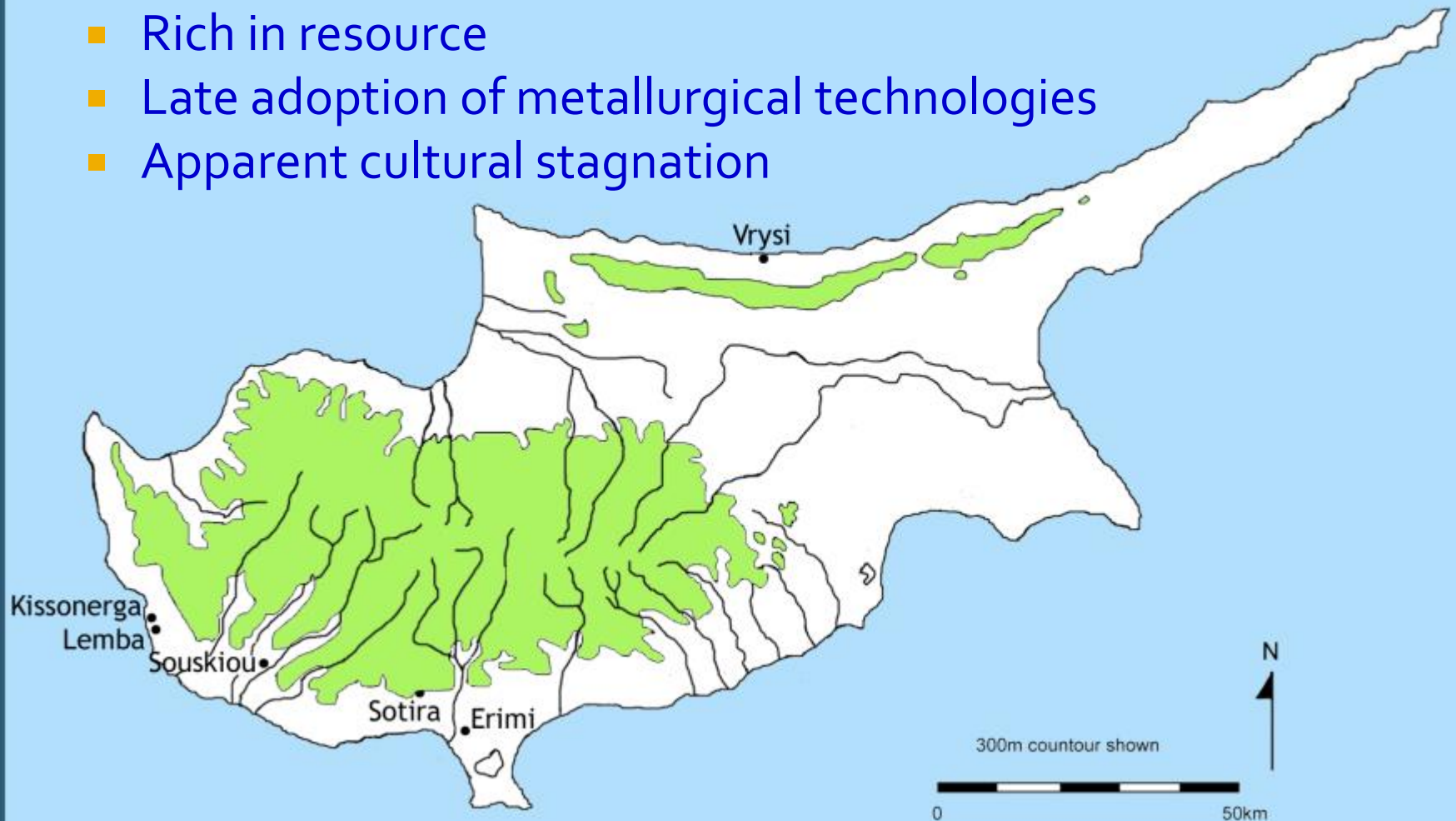
- Late Chalcolithic:

- c.2700-2400 BC:



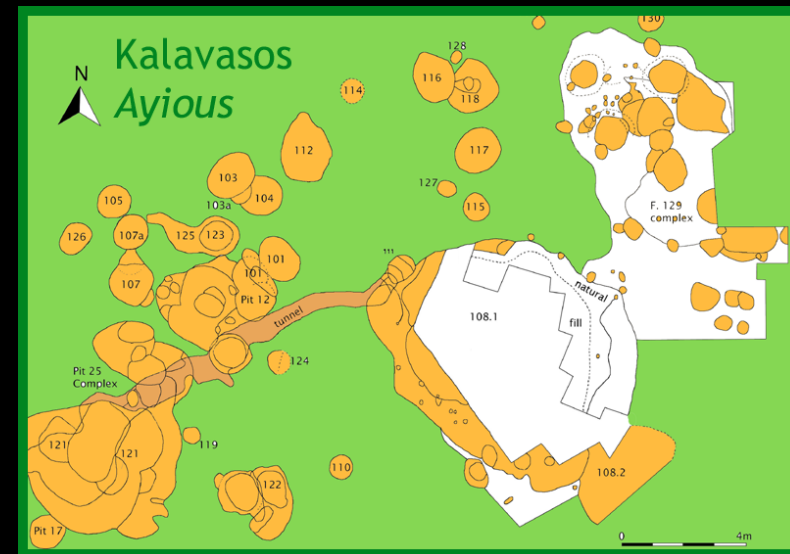
Chalcolithic Cyprus

- Rich in resource
- Late adoption of metallurgical technologies
- Apparent cultural stagnation



Early Chalcolithic Settlement

- Ephemeral architecture (pits & potholes): transient occupation
- Floor surfaces in larger pits:
 - Dwellings, living/sleeping areas
- Domestic activities in the outside areas:
 - Debris of food processing & craft production
- Large pits: food storage
- Pits with substantial burning & fire-cracked stones: Ovens
- Peltenburg: communal storage, preparation & consumption



Middle Chalcolithic

- Appearance of a new architectural form: the Chalcolithic house
- New burial practices
- Intensification of production & greater diversity of artefact types:
 - Pottery, representations & personal ornamentation



Lemba *Lakkous*

Settlement & Society

- Large unwallled villages
 - Up to c.10 hectares
- Substantial architectural remains
 - Some evidence for internal hierarchical organisation?
- Villages have moved beyond population threshold (150-400): social complexity?
- Craft specialisation
- Household activities?



Chalcolithic House

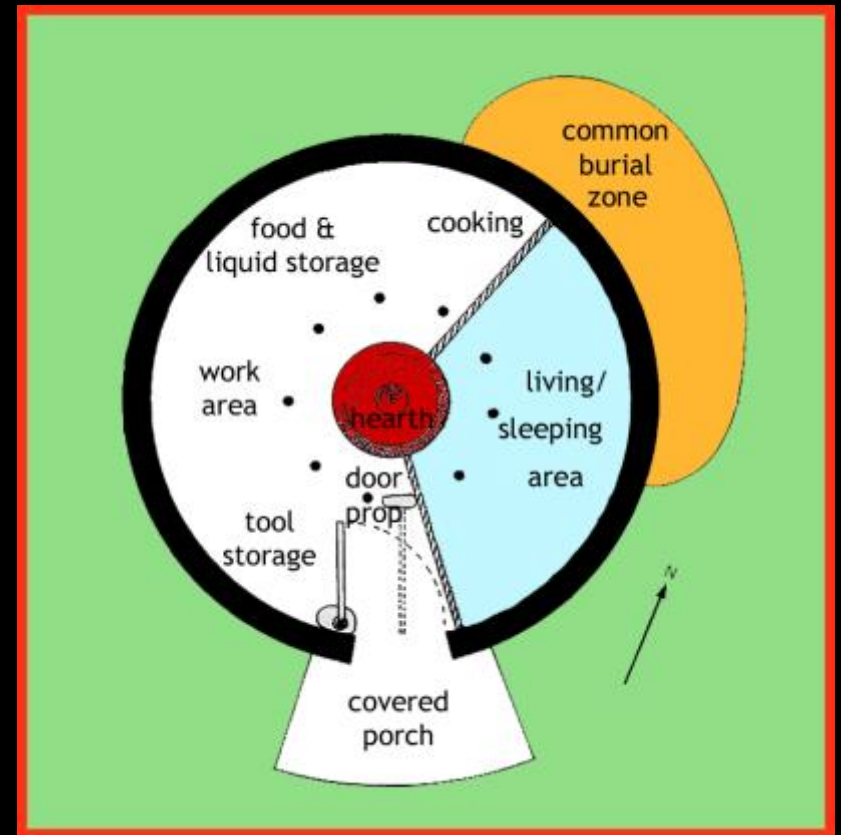
- New organisation of domestic space
- Typical features:
 - Circular plan
 - Pisé walls on stone foundations
 - Central raised platform hearth
 - Plaster floor
 - Internal partition ridges defining activity areas



Reconstructed House at Lemba

Chalcolithic Household

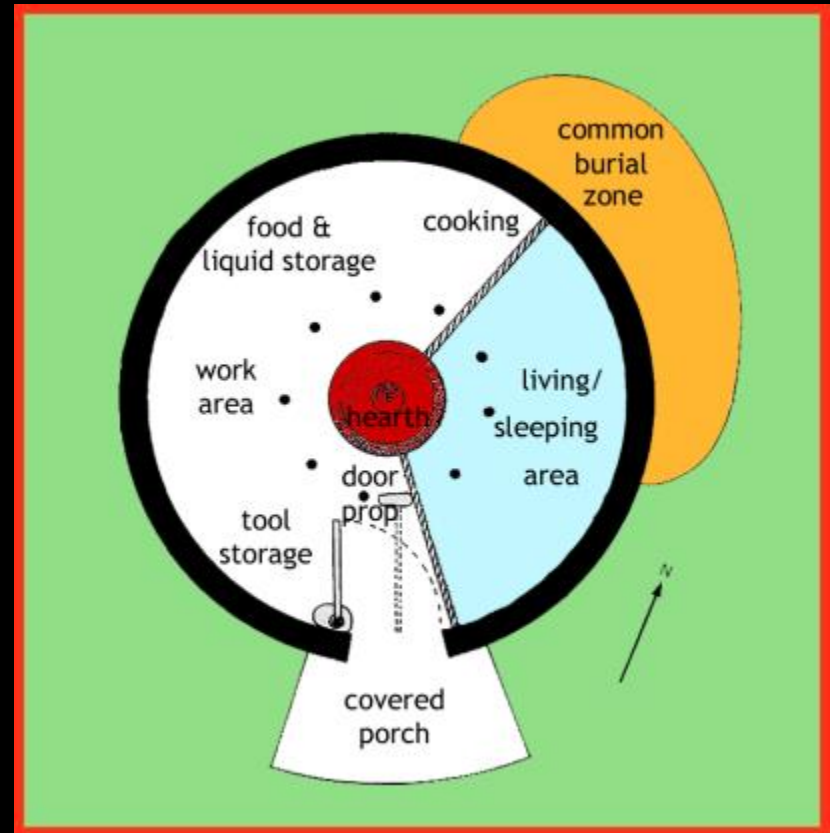
- Small family units
 - Household rather than communal production?
- Standard use of space with culturally defined activity areas
- Concentration of figurines at the interface between living platform & food preparation



Plan of Chalcolithic house

Chalcolithic Household

- What is the household?
 - Basic unit of society: nuclear or extended family
 - Place where social actors/agents learn tradition & cultural practices (habitus / social preproduction)
- How can we progress from spatial arrangement & function to past social relations?



Plan of Chalcolithic house

Economy: Animal Husbandry

- Cypriot prehistoric trio:
 - Sheep/goat, pig, deer
- Goat: high proportion of males:
 - Wool rather than meat / milk production
 - Large horns: maintenance of flocks with full-grown males was socially desirable, an indicator of wealth
- Conspicuous consumption of meat important in competitive feasting



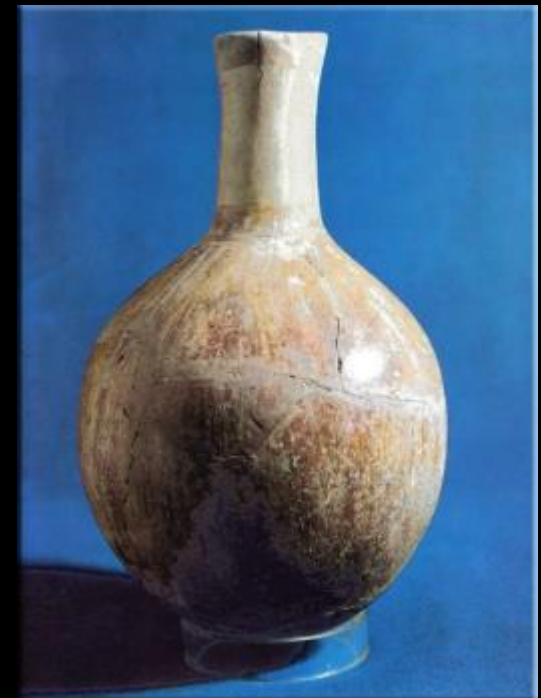
Dama mesopotamica

Economy

- Ground stone tools: querns, mortars
- Agriculture: diverse range of plants:
 - Barley, emmer, einkorn, & bread wheat
 - Lentils, vetch & grass pea
- Wild fruits/orchard husbandry:
 - Olive, grape, pistachio, fig, capers & juniper berries
- Possible wine production



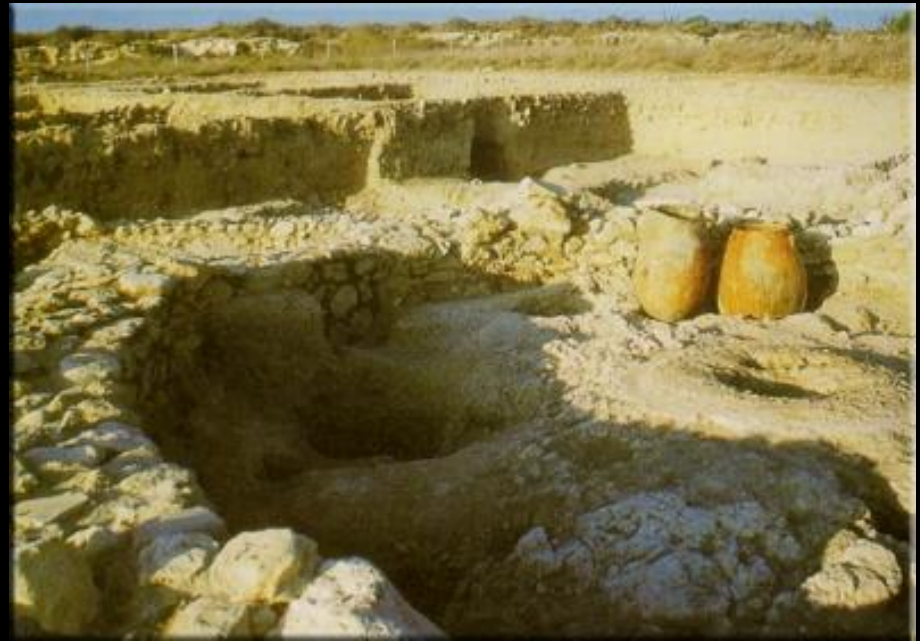
Lemba Building 1



Red on White
bottle

Household Agricultural Production

- Large storage jars: intensified agricultural production
- Appears to be at household level
- No evidence for centralised control until Late Chalcolithic:
 - Pithos House, Kissonerga Mosphilia
 - Lemba Building 2



Lemba Building 2

Craft Production

- Increasing investment in the production of portable objects:
 - Including ideological items & personal adornment
- Household based or evidence for development of craft specialisation?
- Procurement of picrolite associated with early development of copper metallurgy



Picrolite figurine

Craft Production: Pottery

- Island-wide pottery style: Red on White (RW) Close Line style
 - Diversified range of shapes
 - Decorative bowls primarily found in ceremonial contexts
- Bolger: role of women in pottery production



Red on White bottle

Craft Production: Metallurgy

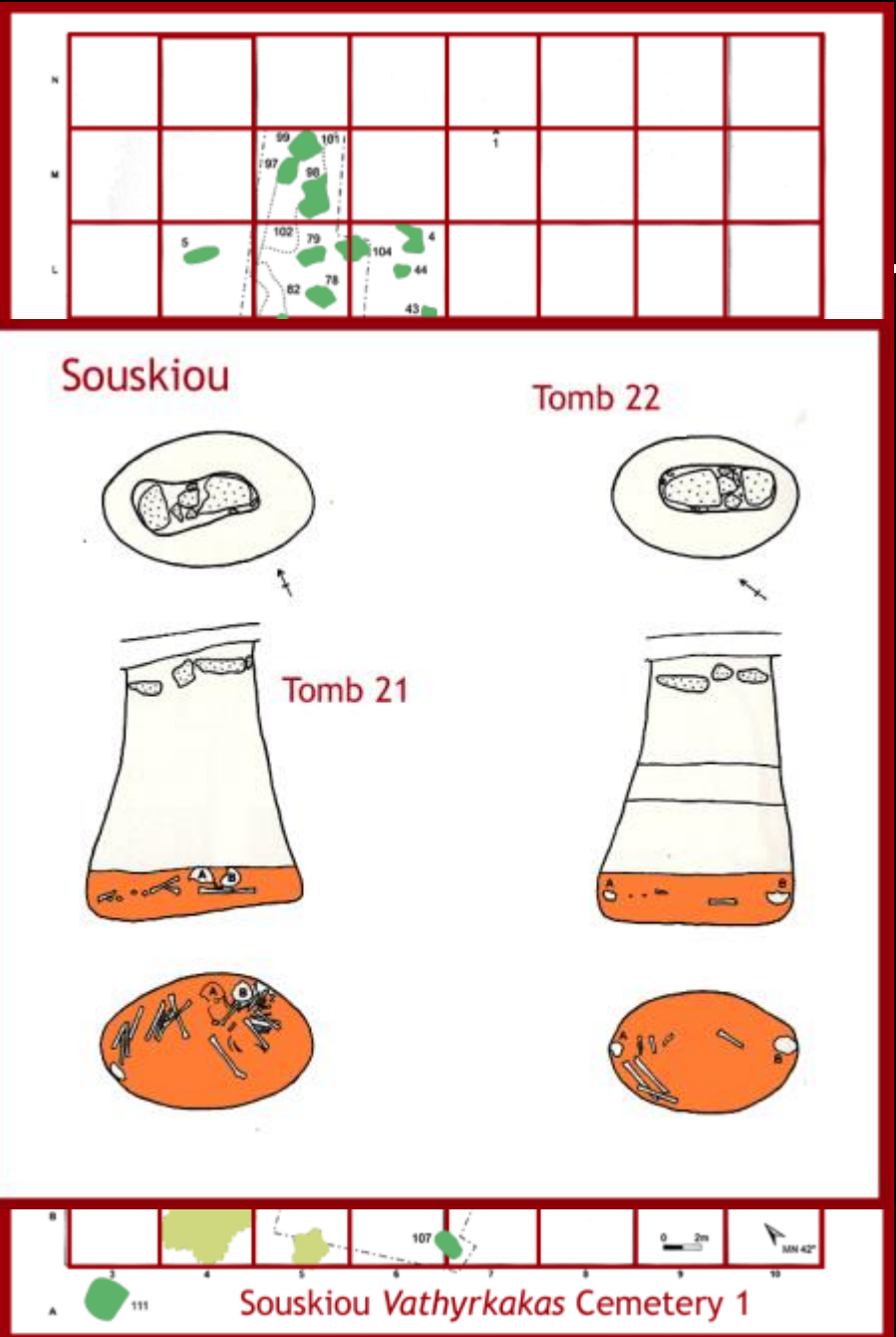
- Still largely dependent on stone tools
- Copper production:
 - Native copper & hammered technology
- Small simple implements (used in settlement)



Copper awl

Burial Practices

- Variable, highly organised, complex & multi-phased
- Adults in extramural cemeteries; infants in settlement
- Primary burial contracted on right side
- Secondary burials:
 - Exhumed to make room for the later inhumations
 - Post-cranial remains bundled against wall of tomb



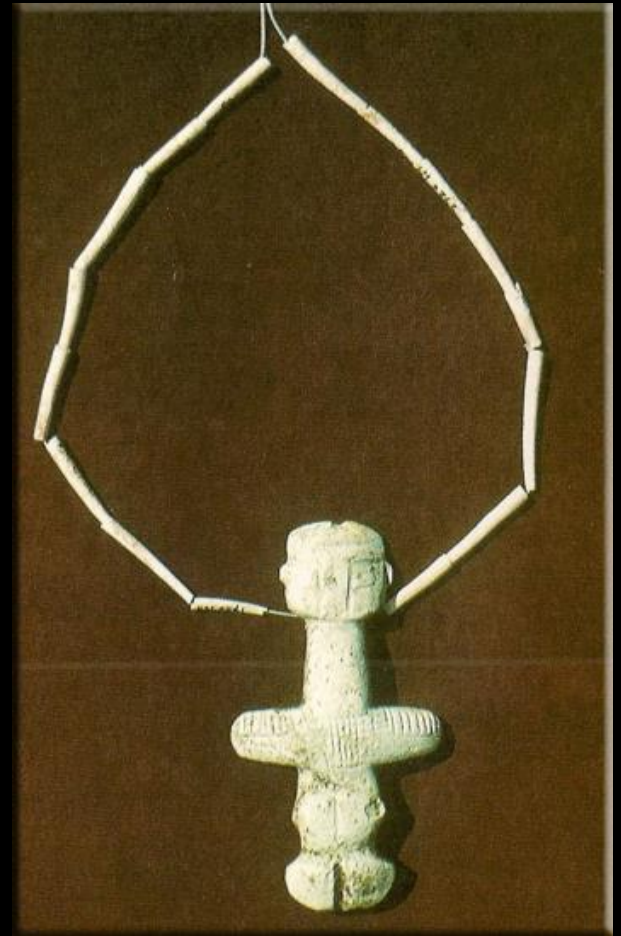
Ideology

- Island-wide symbolic system with strong funerary connotations
- Rich in figured representations:
 - Large stone figures
 - Hand held figures: stone, picrolite, ceramic
 - Personal adornment
- Emphasis on female fertility (or ambiguity?)



Birthing Ideology

- Picrolite figurines:
 - Funerary associations
 - Use-wear analysis
 - Analysis of form/gesture
- Identified as birthing figures
 - Apotropaic charms used in childbirth?



Pendant, Kissonerga

Summary

- 4th millennium BC: period of major social change & technological innovation & changes in household organisation
- Village/egalitarian level of organisation?
- Shift from communal to smaller units of production
- Craft production & some limited copper exploitation
- Development of sophisticated forms of symbolic communication & shared ideology associated with motherhood