



Late Bronze Age Cyprus
**Pharaohs, Phoenicians
& Peoples of the Sea**

Geography

- Strategic position in East Mediterranean:
 - Plays key role in development of maritime trade during 2nd millennium BC
 - Contacts with Aegean, Egypt & Levant documented through archaeology & textual evidence
- Key resources:
 - Copper (Troodos)
 - Timber



Chronology

- LBA in Cyprus = Late Cypriot period
- Covers period from c.1600-1050 BC
 - 16th-15th century = LC I
 - 14th-13th century = LC II
 - 12th century = LC III
- Alternative terminology (Knapp): **Protohistoric Bronze Age** (ProBA)



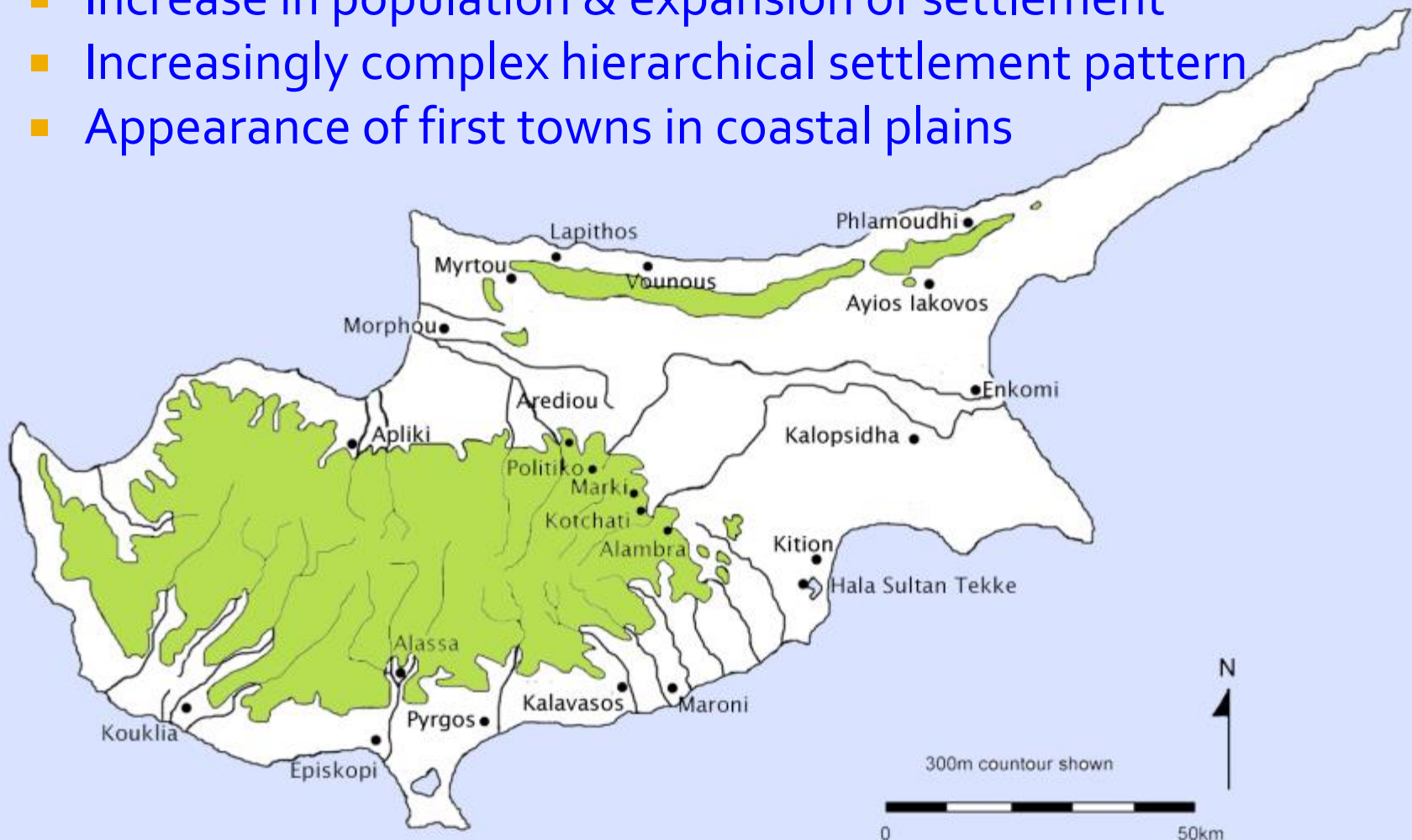
Base Ring I juglet

LBA Narratives

- Increasing complexity, urbanisation & elites:
 - Secondary state formation?
 - Or heterarchy?
- International period:
 - Trade & exchange
 - Identification of Cyprus?
 - Cultural hybridity
- Mycenaean migration c. 1200 BC?

Late Bronze Age

- Increase in population & expansion of settlement
- Increasingly complex hierarchical settlement pattern
- Appearance of first towns in coastal plains



Late Cypriot I

- Emergence of elite group
- Increasingly wealthy burials & accumulation of luxury crafted objects
 - Associated with mines & new coastal centres
 - Evidence for long-distance trade



Spearhead, Arediou Vouppes

Late Cypriot I

- Prominent new coastal settlements :
 - *Morphou Toumba tou Skourou*
 - *Enkomi Ayios Iakovos*
- Maritime trade (copper)
- Large central elite residences & evidence for craft specialisation:
 - Enkomi: copper production
 - Morphou: pottery production



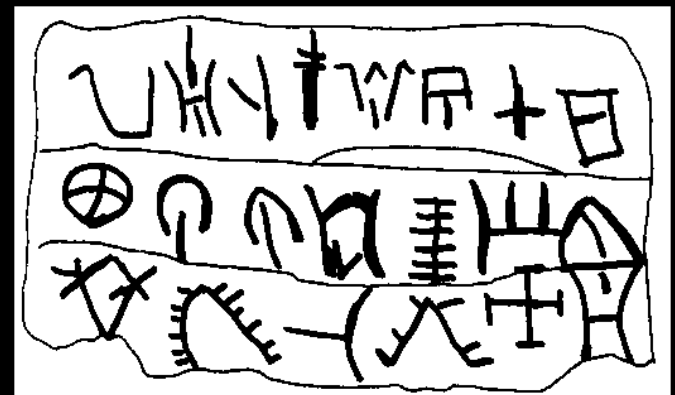
Morphou Toumba tou Skourou

Emergence of State?

- Peltenburg (1996): LC I emergence of state centred on Enkomi?
 - Increasing exploitation of copper
- Evidence:
 - Monumental building: the fort
 - Centralised control of metallurgical production
 - Writing
 - Production of wheelmade pottery
 - Wealthy burials



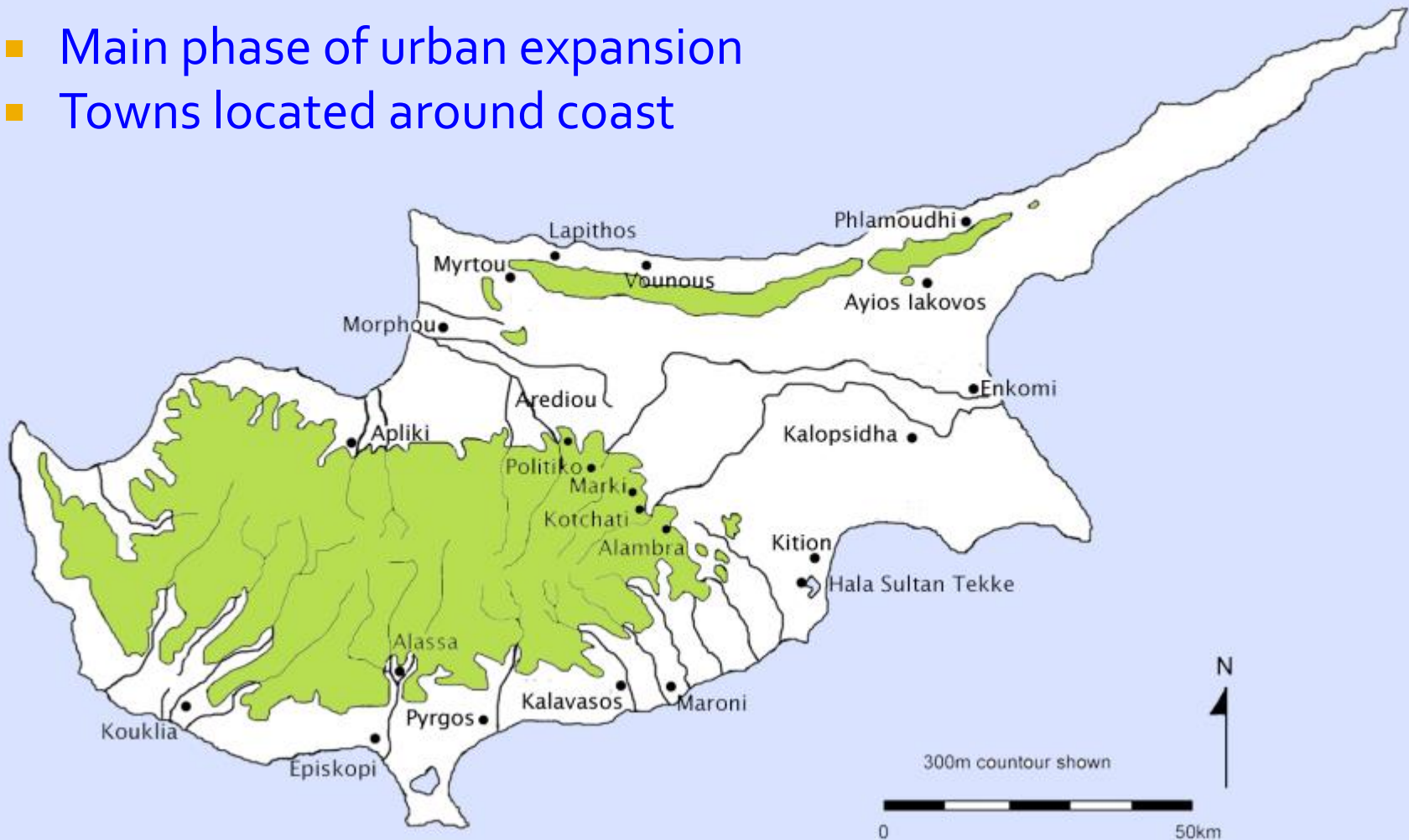
Enkomi fortress



Cypro-Minoan tablet

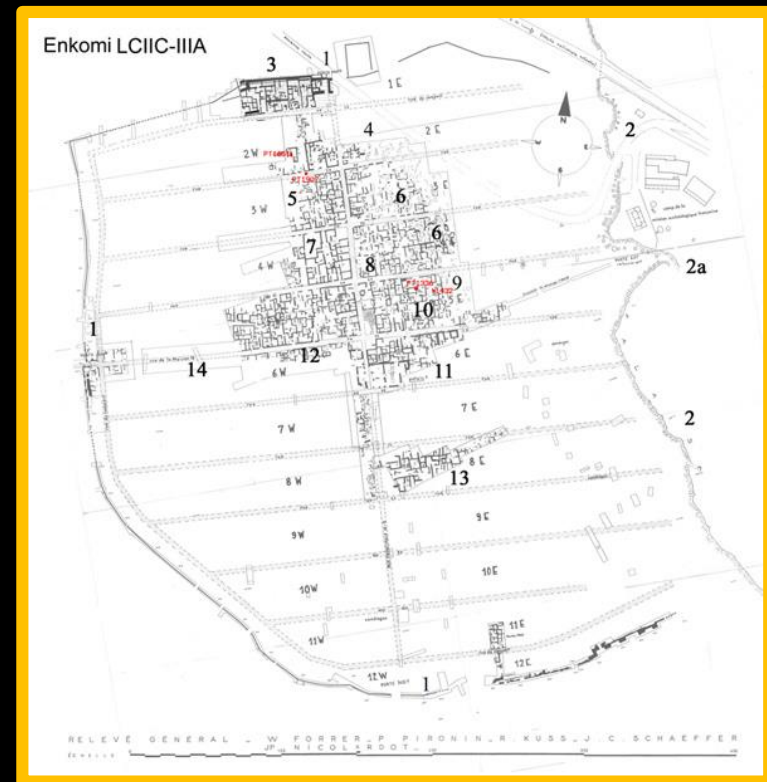
Late Cypriot II

- Main phase of urban expansion
- Towns located around coast



LC II Towns

- Characteristics:
 - Small size of settlement
 - Urban planning
 - Monumental architecture
 - Unfortified (till LC III)
 - Public spaces?
 - Economic centres: considerable wealth in circulation
 - Craft specialisation



Plan of Enkomi

Monumentality

- 13th century:
 - Construction of monumental buildings at major urban centres
 - Extensive use of ashlar masonry
- Mobilisation of workforce
- Function of buildings?
- Symbolises power, control, social order



Kalavassos Ayios Dhimitrios

Centralised Redistribution

- Redistribution centres identified at Kalavassos, Maroni & Alassa
- Kalavassos Building X:
 - Tripartite building with an imposing ashlar façade
 - Two largest storage areas: the Pithos Hall & North Pithos Magazine
 - 50+ large pithoi with estimated storage capacity of c.50,000 litres
 - Gas chromatography



*Kalavassos Ayios Dhimitrios
Building X*

Redistribution Economy

- Centralised storage of agricultural surplus
- Cypro-Minoan script
- Standardised pithoi & weights & measures?
- Impressed pithoi :
 - Transport of agricultural produce between the hinterland & towns?
 - Used to identify contents reserved for a specialised workforce?



Cypro-Minoan



Impressed pithos

Religious Buildings

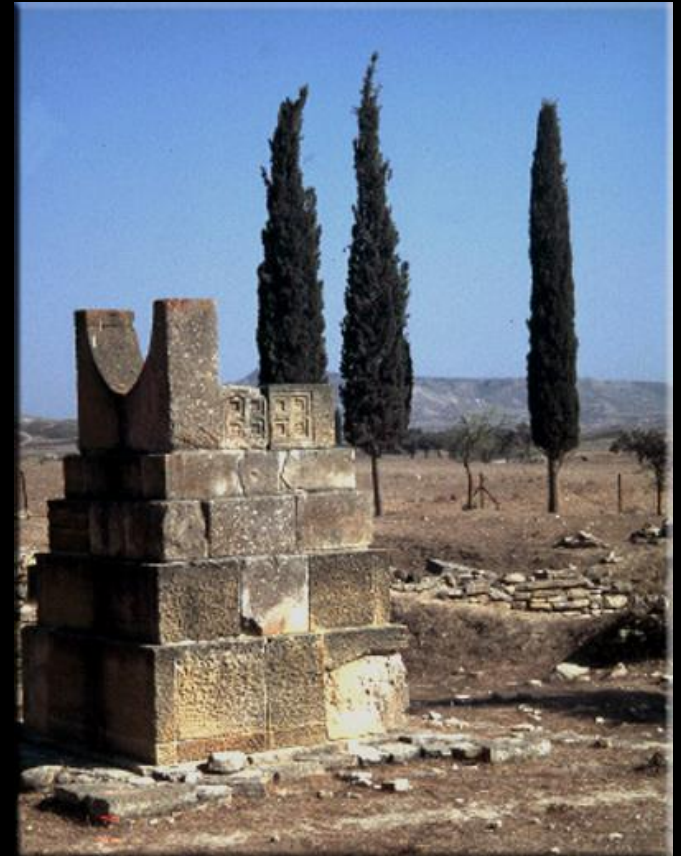
- LC IIC-III A: religious architecture at the urban centres
 - Ashlar built temples
 - Transformation of the urban landscape
- Freestanding rectangular structures with enclosed courtyard (the *temenos*)
- Usually laid out on an east-west axis



Kouklia (ancient Paphos)

Religious Buildings

- Apparent control by temples over production:
 - Copper
 - Textiles
- Incorporation of Aegean religious symbols?
 - Horns of consecration



Myrtou Pigadhes

Religious Practice

- No representations of deities:
 - Not clear who was worshipped
- Some external influences:
 - Figurines
 - Baetyl
- Importance of bull iconography



Figurine



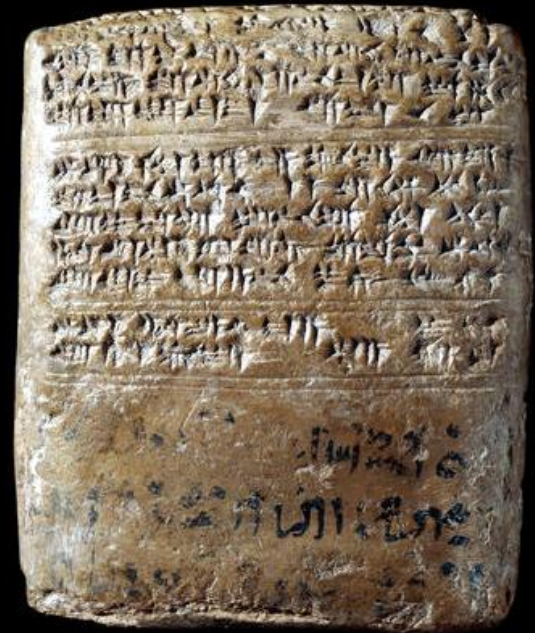
Baetyl



Bull vase

Identification of LBA Cyprus?

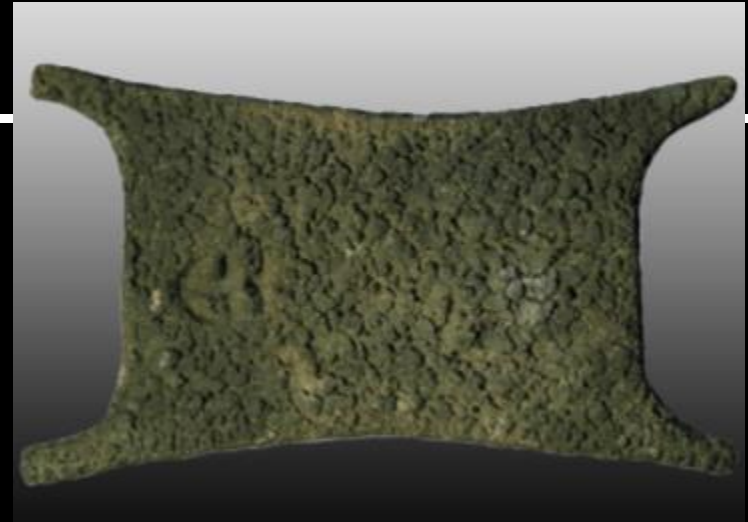
- Near Eastern texts refer to kingdom of **Alashiya**:
 - 18th-17th century BC: archives at Mari, Babylon, Alalakh
 - Early 15th century BC: Annals of Tuthmosis III
 - 15th century: Hittite archives
 - 14th century: Amarna letters
- Powerful kingdom, involved in gift exchange & source of copper



Amarna letter

Cyprus & Alashiya

- Cypriot copper widely exported around Mediterranean:
 - Lead isotope analysis
- Possible evidence for Cypriot participation in gift exchange
- Petrographic analysis of Amarna tablets from Alashiya



Copper oxhide ingot



Horemheb sceptre-head

Maritime Trade

- Cypriot pottery in Syro-Palestine & Egypt in 15th-13th centuries:
 - Base Ring juglets
 - White Slip bowls
 - Red Lustrous spindle bottles
- Incorporated into daily life (*habitus*) & expression of identity in burials

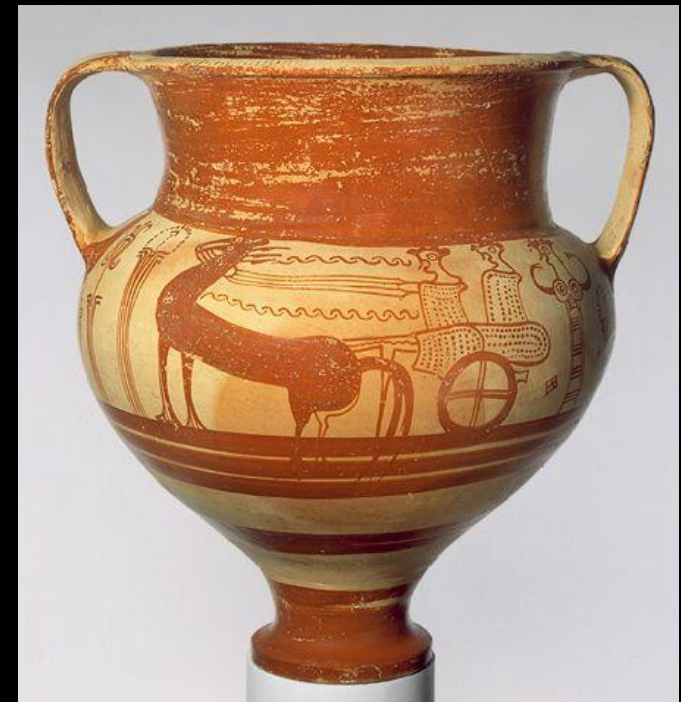


Maritime Trade

- Imports (14th & 13th centuries):
 - Levantine & Egyptian transport amphorae
 - Large quantities of Mycenaean pottery, smaller quantities of Minoan pottery
 - Perfume containers (stirrup jars)
 - Kraters: commissioned drinking sets?



Stirrup jar, Arediou



Chariot krater

Maritime Trade

- Trade in luxuries from Egypt, Mesopotamia & Near East:
 - Cylinder seals
 - Gold, faience, glass, ivory



Twelfth Century

- 12th century (LC IIIA):
 - Mycenaean colonisation of island?
 - Paralleled by Philistines in Levant?
 - Some cultural continuity?
- Evidence:
 - Destructions
 - Changes in material culture: pottery, metallurgy
 - Some changes in funerary practices



Maa Palaekastro



Mycenaean style skyphos

Eleventh Century

- Completely new settlement pattern
- Complete change in material culture & cultural practices
- Introduction of Greek language to Cyprus
- Establishment of Greek speaking city-kingdoms



Bronze fibulae



PWP lekythos

Crete and Cyprus

- 11th-10th centuries BC
Cypriot luxuries found in
tombs in Crete
 - Bronze tripod stands
- 12th-11th centuries:
widespread trade in iron
knives between Cyprus,
southern Levant & Crete
- Early development of
Greek warrior
paraphernalia:
 - Bronze & iron *obeloi*



Bronze tripod



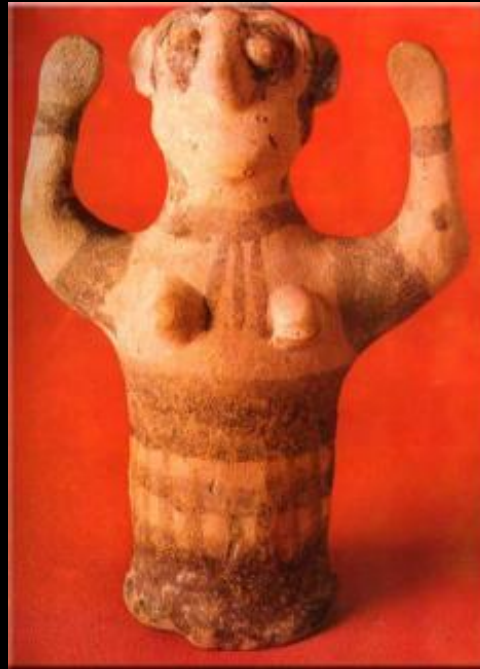
Iron knife

Crete and Cyprus

- Cretan influence on Cypriot religious practices?
 - Female figures
 - Occasional large wheelmade figures
 - Shrine models
 - *Kernos*



Kernos



Goddess with
upraised arms



Centaur

Summary

- Cyprus plays a key role in the East Mediterranean during LBA:
 - Maritime trade & in particular copper resources
- Possible evidence for development of state
- 14th century: appearance of urban communities, around coast
- Incredible wealth: usually deposited in tombs or sanctuaries
- Probably to be identified with Alashiya?
- Possible Mycenaean migration in 12th century