

Illustrated Site Report: Troy

Discuss the archaeological evidence for social complexity in the Bronze Age East Mediterranean in one of the following: the Aegean, or the Near East/Cyprus, or Aegean. Should this be considered a chiefdom or a state, using the criteria covered in the module?

Troy has been a famous archaeological site since its first excavation, with 4,000 years of history (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). Troy is famous for the siege by Spartan and Achaean warriors from Greece in the thirteenth and twelfth century B.C.E. (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). This siege has been immortalised in The Iliad by Homer and has inspired great creative works and artists throughout the world for centuries (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy).

The city of Troy was located along the northwest coast of Asia Minor, which is now Turkey (Uncovering Troy). Troy is on the mound of Hisarlik, which overlooks the plain along the Turkish Aegean coast (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). It is 4.8 km from the southern entrance to the Dardanelles (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy) and on a fifteen-meter-high hill that hides all and any traces of successive waves of colonization (Troy, 2016). The location of Troy enabled the city and its residents to flourish because of the trade routes in the ancient world and during the Bronze Age (Uncovering Troy) as it was only five kilometres away from the sea (Troy, 2016). Archaeologists have divided the history of Troy into nine periods and the first being from 3000 to 2550 B.C.E which can be established as a small village (Troy, 2016).

The second was from 2550 to 2300 B.C.E and is considered as a city with seven consistent layers lying on top of one and other with a wall surrounding the city (Troy, 2016). The third, fourth and fifth parts were from 2300 to 1750 B.C.E and was a period of gradual growth and development of the city, although there is very little information on this era (Troy, 2016). The sixth and seventh (a) parts of Troy's history, 1700 to 1300 B.C.E and 1300 to 1180 B.C.E was the peak of the prosperity of the city in the late Bronze Age (Troy, 2016). The seventh (b) historical period of Troy 1180 to 950 B.C.E was established from the ruins of seven (a) period, however like the eighth part of Troy's history, 950 to 700 B.C.E, there has been no traces of settlements identified or found which suggests the hill was uninhabited or was only a small insignificant village (Troy, 2016). Troy VIII continues from 700 to 85 B.C.E which represented a restoration of the city as it was colonized by Greek settlers (Troy, 2016). The final ninth part, was from 85 B.C.E to 500 C.E, which was a rebuild of the ruins of the eighth part of Troy's history (Troy, 2016). It became a Hellenistic-Roman city. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire, Troy fell with it and was gradually forgotten (Troy, 2016).

The first ever recorded find of Troy was of the mound called Hisarlik, which was recorded by Franz Kauffer in 1703 (Troy, 2016). In 1801, Edward Daniel Clark associated the location with the legendary and mythical city of Troy (Troy, 2016). Charles MacLaren in 1822 stated that the mound had been where the Trojan War took place according to the description in the

Iliad by Homer (Troy, 2016). The first excavation at the site was conducted by an officer in the British Navy, John Burton, in 1856 and work was continued there from 1863 to 1865 by Frank Calvert (Troy, 2016). However, the excavations by Calvert had yet to reach the layers from the Bronze Age (Troy, 2016).

Heinrich Schliemann arrived to excavate Troy in 1870 (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). The site's extensive remains were significant demonstration of the first contact between the civilizations of Anatolia and the Mediterranean world (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). This excavations at Troy can be considered as a starting point of modern archaeology and public recognition for the profession (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). After no new huge discoveries Calvert decided to return to Hisarlik, where he repeatedly went to and from until his death (Troy, 2016). In 1873, one of the biggest discoveries was made by Schliemann (Troy, 2016). He found a rich collection of objects which spanned from copper pots, bronze weapons to silver and gold jewellery (Troy, 2016). Schliemann claimed to have found the "King Priam's treasure" as well as necklaces and earrings that supposedly belonged to the mythical Helen of Troy (Troy, 2016). Most of these findings were taken to be exhibited in Germany, where they remained until 1945 (Troy, 2016). The objects then disappeared before reappearing in the Pushkin Museum in Moscow in 1993 (Troy, 2016).

Excavations at Hisarlik continued by a German archaeologist, Wilhelm Dörpfeld from 1893 until 1894 (Troy, 2016). The site was left until 1932 when work began lead by Carl Blegen from the University of Cincinnati and continued until 1938, when they established Troy's history into nine main layers (Troy, 2016). In 1988, Professor Manfred Korfmann became the director of excavations in Troy, where he devoted seventeen years of his life to the study of Troy (Troy, 2016). He discovered Troy was much bigger than had been thought initially (Troy, 2016). He discovered that the city would have covered a wide area around the mound of Hisarlik (Troy, 2016). Korfmann also proved that there was a fight in the city due to the discovery of arrowheads and human remains, which dated back to the twelfth century B.C.E (Troy, 2016). In 1998 Troy became a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Troy, 2016). In 2014, it was announced that the first Turkish team would be working on the site, led by Professor Rüstem Aslan (Troy, 2016).

Before any excavations began, the mound had risen to a height of fifteen feet above the plain (Troy, 2019). It had accumulated a vast amount of rubble, which helped distinguish layers in the earth (Troy, 2019). This identified nine time periods, which are all known to have ended either by a fire or an earthquake (Troy, 2019). When rebuilt, the city was enlarged and had circuits erected which were cut out of limestone walls (Troy, 2019). These walls were thick at the base, reaching fifteen feet and seventeen feet tall (Troy, 2019). The fortress had brick ramparts and watchtowers (Troy, 2019). There was a citadel which stood at 650 feet long and 450 feet wide, with great houses laid out on an uphill concentric terrace (Troy, 2019). Troy VI was destroyed a little after 1300 B.C.E by a violent earthquake (Troy, 2019). This was identified as the Homeric Troy period by Dörpfeld (Troy, 2019). However, the destruction of Troy via earthquake does not harmonise with the realistic account of the sack of Troy in Greek historical accounts (Troy, 2019).

Troy VIIa saw the crowding of houses together, especially measures to store up food supplies which suggests that they were in preparation to withstand a siege (Troy, 2019). Blegen concluded that Troy VIIa was likely to be the capital of King Priam as described in Homer's Iliad, which was destroyed by the Greek armies (Troy, 2019). A partly rebuilt Troy VIIb did show evidence of new settlers with a lower level material culture (Troy, 2019). However, they vanished completely by 1100 B.C.E (Troy, 2019). For the next four centuries Troy was effectively abandoned until 700 B.C.E when Greek settlers began to occupy the city once more (Troy, 2019). The reoccupation of Troy by the Greeks meant the name of the city had now changed to the Hellenized name of Ilion, which archaeologists have called Troy VIII (Troy, 2019). The city was sacked by the Romans in 85 B.C.E, however it was practically restored in the same year by the Roman general, Sulla (Troy, 2019). The then Romanized town, known to us as Troy IX, received public buildings from Emperor Augustus and his successors (Troy, 2019). After the founding of Constantinople in 323 C.E, Ilion or Troy faded into insignificance (Troy, 2019).

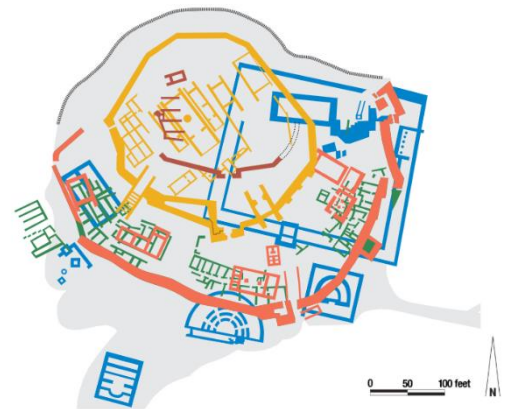
Key finds through both research and excavation have found that the regions of Troia and Troas have been inhabited for 8000 years (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). Throughout the centuries Troy has been a cultural bridge between the Troas and the Balkans, Anatolia as well as the Aegean and the Black Sea region (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). The cultural bridge was mainly built through migration, occupations, trade and the transmission of knowledge (UNESCO, Archaeological Site of Troy). Schliemann and Dörpfeld identified these layers as being different time periods in which they named from Troy I to Troy IX (Troy, 2019). They could see where houses were built, occupied and ultimately destroyed (Troy, 2019). The survivors of each time period simply levelled out any earth and rebuilt new houses upon it (Troy, 2019). Periods Troy I to Troy VII had a stronghold that served as the capital of the city and had a residence which included the king, his family, advisers, retinue, officials and slaves (Troy, 2019). However, most of the population were farmers and lived in unfortified villages nearby the capital and took refuge in the citadel in times of danger (Troy, 2019).

Troy I to Troy V corresponded roughly with the Early Bronze Age (Troy, 2019). From this period Schliemann uncovered under the burnt layers of earth, gold jewellery and ornaments with gold, silver, copper and bronze, alongside ceramic vessels in which he named "Priam's Treasure" (Troy, 2019). Troy VI and VII can be assigned to the Middle to Late Bronze Age which was a time of rebirth and new vigorous settlers who introduced domesticated horses to the Aegean area (Troy, 2019). All imported Mycenaean pottery found in earthquake debris indicates it is too early to be from the time of the Trojan War (Troy, 2019). It was found that the town was destroyed in an overwhelming fire during Troy VI (Troy, 2019). Human bones were found in some homes and streets. This strengthened the idea and theory that the town could have been captured, looted and burnt by enemies (Troy, 2019). Based on the evidence, that is the imported Mycenaean pottery, the end of Troy VIIa can be dated between 1260 to 1240 B.C.E (Troy, 2019).



To the left is a map of Troy from 2009. It is from an above angle showing the scale of the city. This demonstrates how big the area is and the red line outlines the edges of where the city would have ended. Outside of this red line would be the people on the farms, consisting of most of the population. It can be found on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization under the title 'Archaeological Site of Troy' (UNESCO).

To the right is a site plan of the city of Troy. Troy was split into nine different historical time periods. Here the colour coordinated with a time period, for example, yellow is Troy II and blue ins Troy VIII to IX. It demonstrates the different buildings, structures and progression in each period. It can be found on the Archaeological Institute of America.



On the map at the left, each color represents a different time period and highlights certain archaeological features of each era. Click on the links below to read more about how the settlement and its inhabitants changed over time. Click a settlement layer to select.

■ Troy I (ca. 3000-2550 B.C.)
 ■ Troy II (ca. 2550-2300 B.C.)
 ■ Troy III-VI (ca. 2300-1300 B.C.)
 ■ Troy VII (ca. 1300-1050 B.C.)
 ■ Troy VIII-IX (ca. 700 B.C.- A.D. 500)

In conclusion, it can be said and seen by all evidence that Troy began as a small village and grew into a city of riches, hitting its peak in the Late Bronze Age with a huge trade route. Troy is more of a chiefdom than a state. To be a state the city must be centred around a civil government or authority. There is no sign of a government however, there is a king. This suggests that Troy was a city ran by one person.

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