

Life, Death and Warriorism in Mycenaean Greece

By Deidre Crouch
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Chronology High Low		Crete	Cyclades	Greece	Egypt		
3100 3000 2900 2800 2700 2600 2500 2400 2300 2200 2100 2000 1900 1800 1700	3100	EM I	EC I	EH I	1 st -2 nd Dynasty 3100/3000-2700		
	3000						
	2900						
	2800						
	2700						
	2600	EM IIA	EC II	EH IIA	Old Kingdom (2700-2136)		
	2500						
	2400	EM IIB		EH IIB			
	2300						
	2200	EM III		EH III			
	2100						
	2000	MM IA	MC I	MH I	Middle Kingdom (2116-1795)		
	1900	MM IB	MC II	MH II			
	1800	MM II					
1700 1600 1500 1400 1300 1200 1100 1000	1700	MM III	MC III	MH III	2 nd Intermediate Period (1795-1540)		
	1600	LM IA	LC I	LH I			
	1500	LM IB	LC II	LH IIA			
	1400	LM II		LH IIB			
	1400	LM IIIA1	LC III	LH IIIA1	18 th Dynasty (1540-1295)	Akhenaten 1353-1337	
		LM IIIA2		LH IIIA2			
	1300	LM IIIB	LH IIIB	19 th Dynasty (1295-1186)	Ramesses II 1279-1213		
	1200	LM IIIC	LH IIIC				
	1100				20 th Dynasty (1186-1070)	Ramesses III 1184-1153	
	1000	Subminoan	Submycenaean				

FIGURE 1.1. Table of Aegean relative and absolute chronology. Table by Dan Davis.

Mycenae: Namesake and Citadel



The Mycenaean World (1600-1200 BCE)



Archaeology and Evidence

Homeric Epic

- ❖ 700 years later
- ❖ Only a fraction of society
- ❖ Great descriptions
- ❖ Captivating

(both a help and a hinderance)



Archaeology and Evidence

Linear B

- ❖ Lists
- ❖ Who wrote them?
- ❖ Drier but still informative
- ❖ Found extensively through Greece



Archaeology and Evidence

Excavation

- ❖ Enables us to cross section data
- ❖ Helps to paint a bigger picture of society



Cultural Context

Minoan and Cycladic Culture

- ❖ Palaces
- ❖ Pottery
- ❖ Grave styles
- ❖ Religions



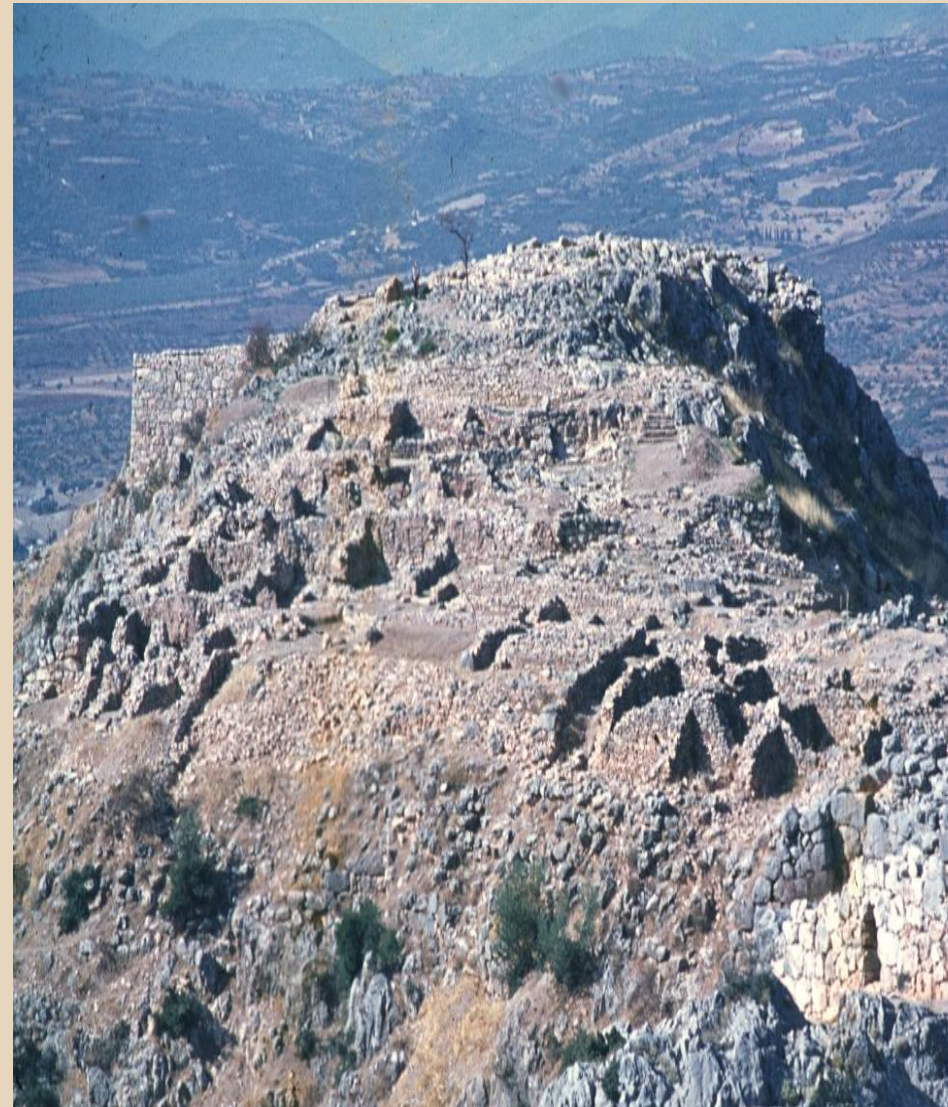
Destruction and slow expansion (EH II and III)

- ❖ Competition through networks
- ❖ Invasion from Balkans or Anatolians
- ❖ Draught



Reconstruction in MH

- ❖ Sites were much closer together
- ❖ Magnetized to citadels.
- ❖ Towards the end of the MHIII new settlements were built.
- ❖ Size and location

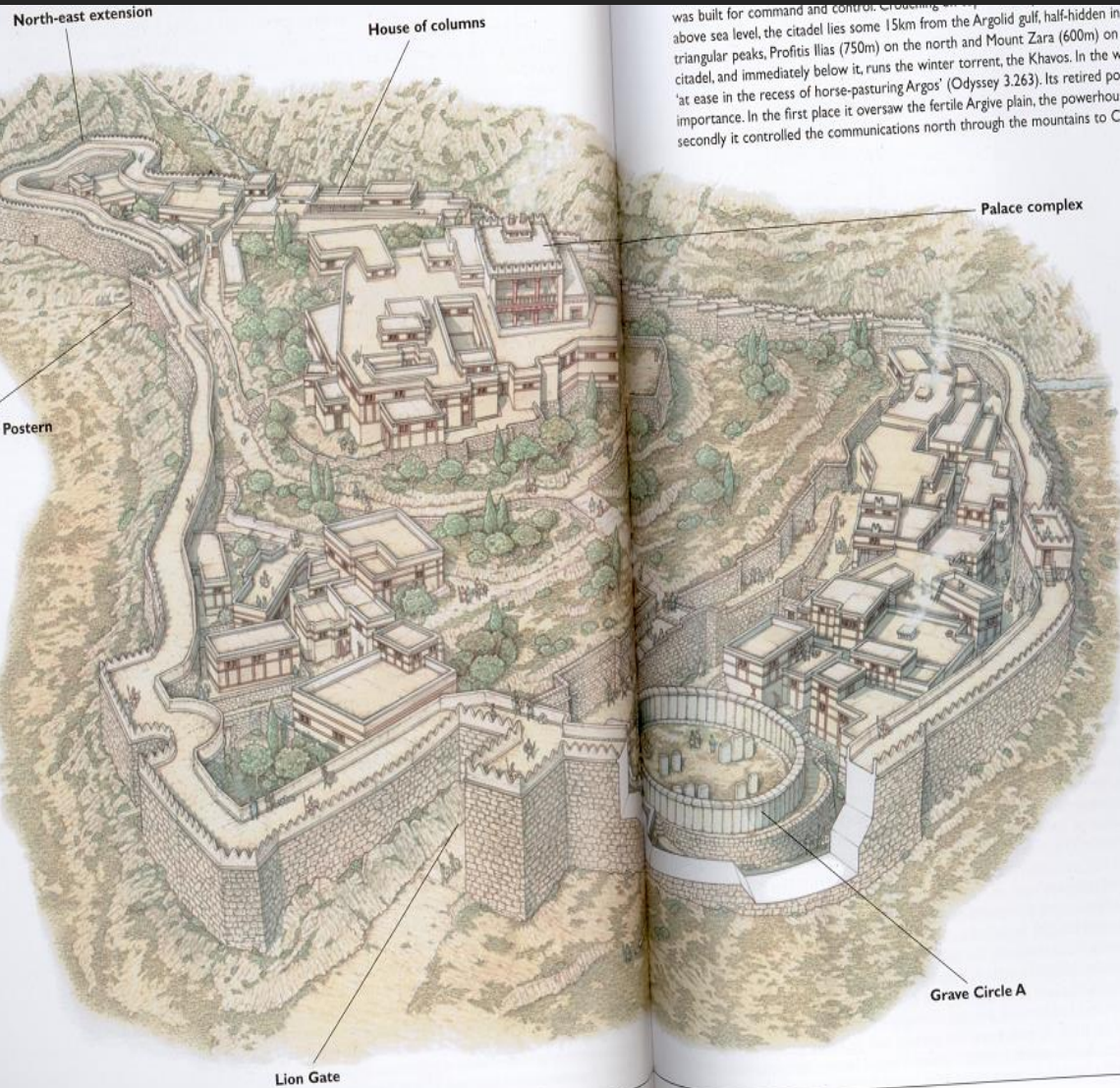


Citadel Layouts

North-east extension

House of columns

Postern



was built for command and control. Crowning the hill above sea level, the citadel lies some 15km from the Argolid gulf, half-hidden in a triangular peaks, Profitis Ilias (750m) on the north and Mount Zara (600m) on the south. The river, the Kladeos, runs the winter torrent, the Khavos. In the walled citadel, and immediately below it, runs the winter torrent, the Khavos. In the walled citadel, and immediately below it, runs the winter torrent, the Khavos. Its retired position 'at ease in the recess of horse-pasturing Argos' (Odyssey 3.263). Its retired position importance. In the first place it oversaw the fertile Argive plain, the powerhouse secondly it controlled the communications north through the mountains to Corinth.

Palace complex

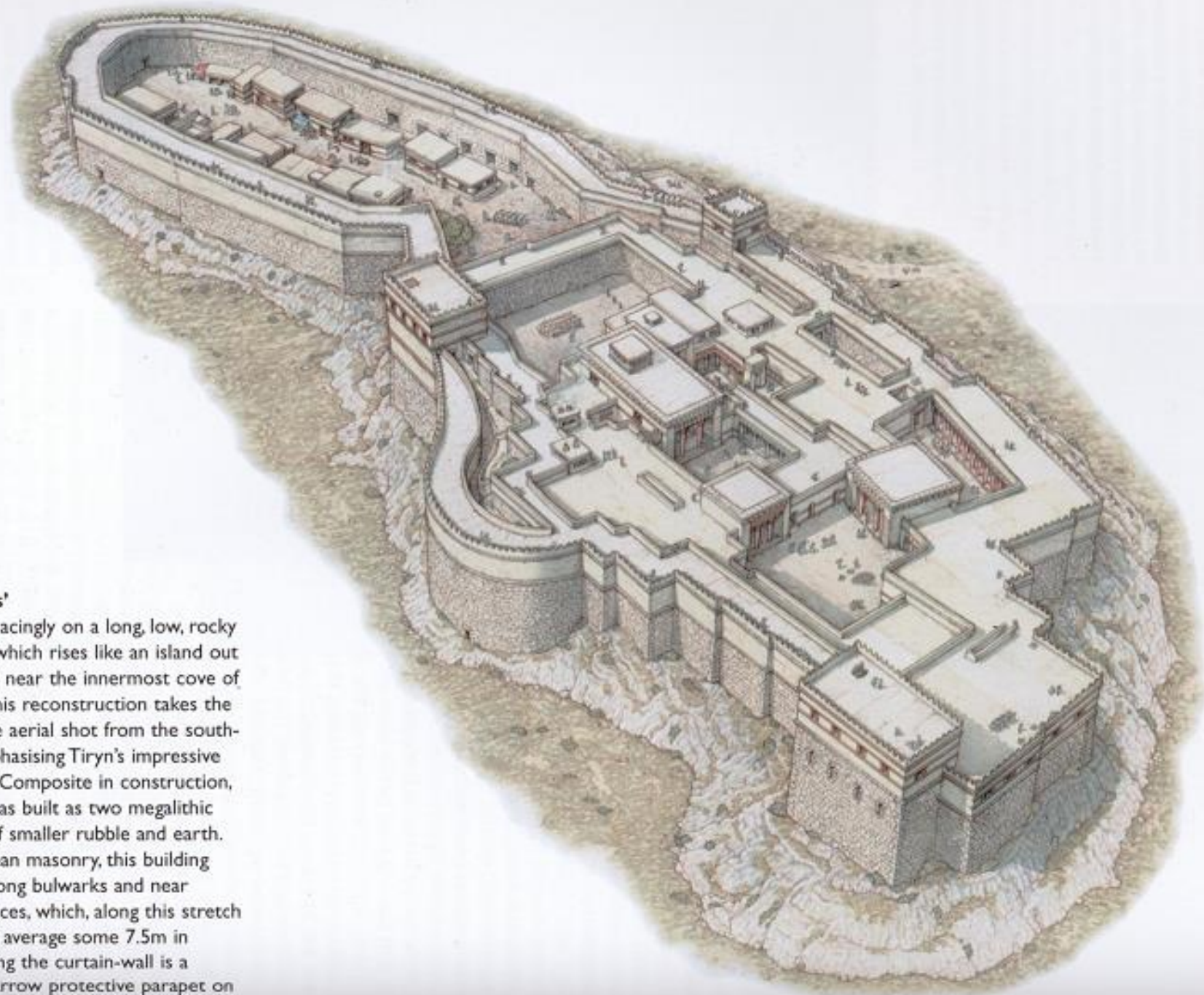
Grave Circle A

Palace complex



Wall-girt Tiryns'

Tiryns squats menacingly on a long, low, rocky limestone height, which rises like an island out of the Argive plain near the innermost cove of the Argolid gulf. This reconstruction takes the form of an oblique aerial shot from the south-west, thereby emphasising Tiryn's impressive west curtain-wall. Composite in construction, the curtain-wall was built as two megalithic skins with a fill of smaller rubble and earth. Typical of Cyclopean masonry, this building method forms strong bulwarks and near impregnable defences, which, along this stretch of Tiryns' enceinte, average some 7.5m in thickness. Crowning the curtain-wall is a walkway with a narrow protective parapet on



Fierce competition

Social stratification

❖ hierarchy

- Wanax, “anax”
- Lawgetas
- korete,
prokorete, qaesri
u
- etc.



❖ Nobility of deeds

- prizes
- honor
- glory



Honor

Homeric Afterlife

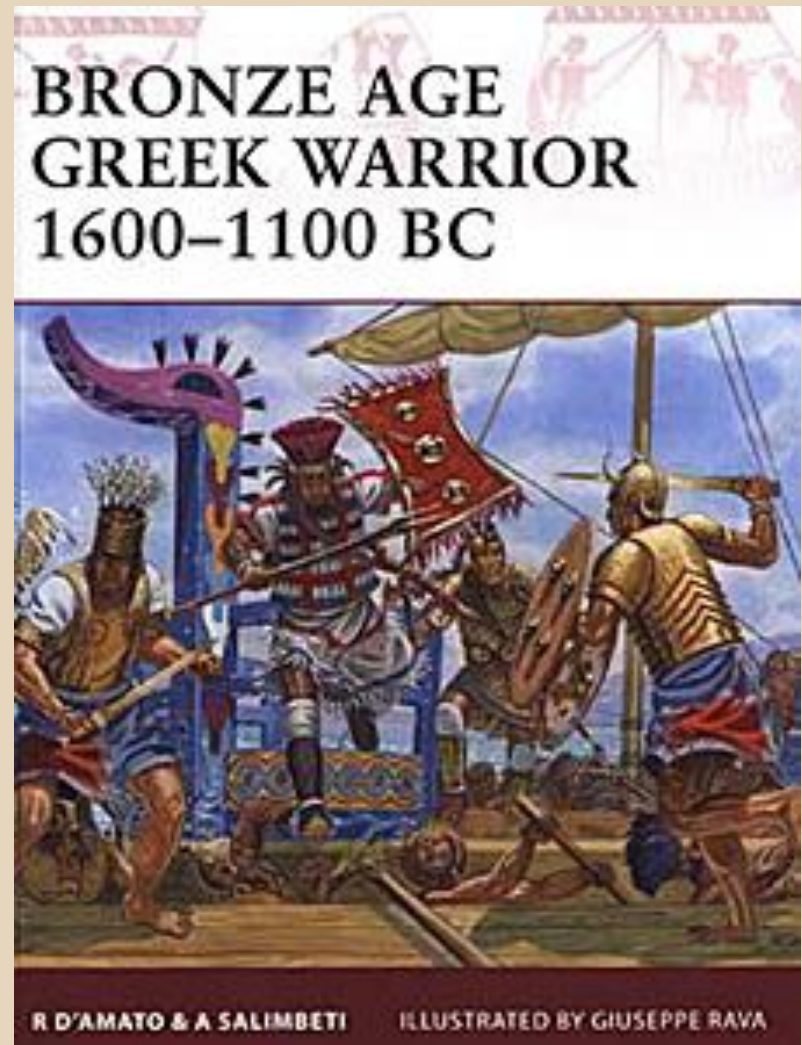
- ❖ bleak
- ❖ rewardless

Life

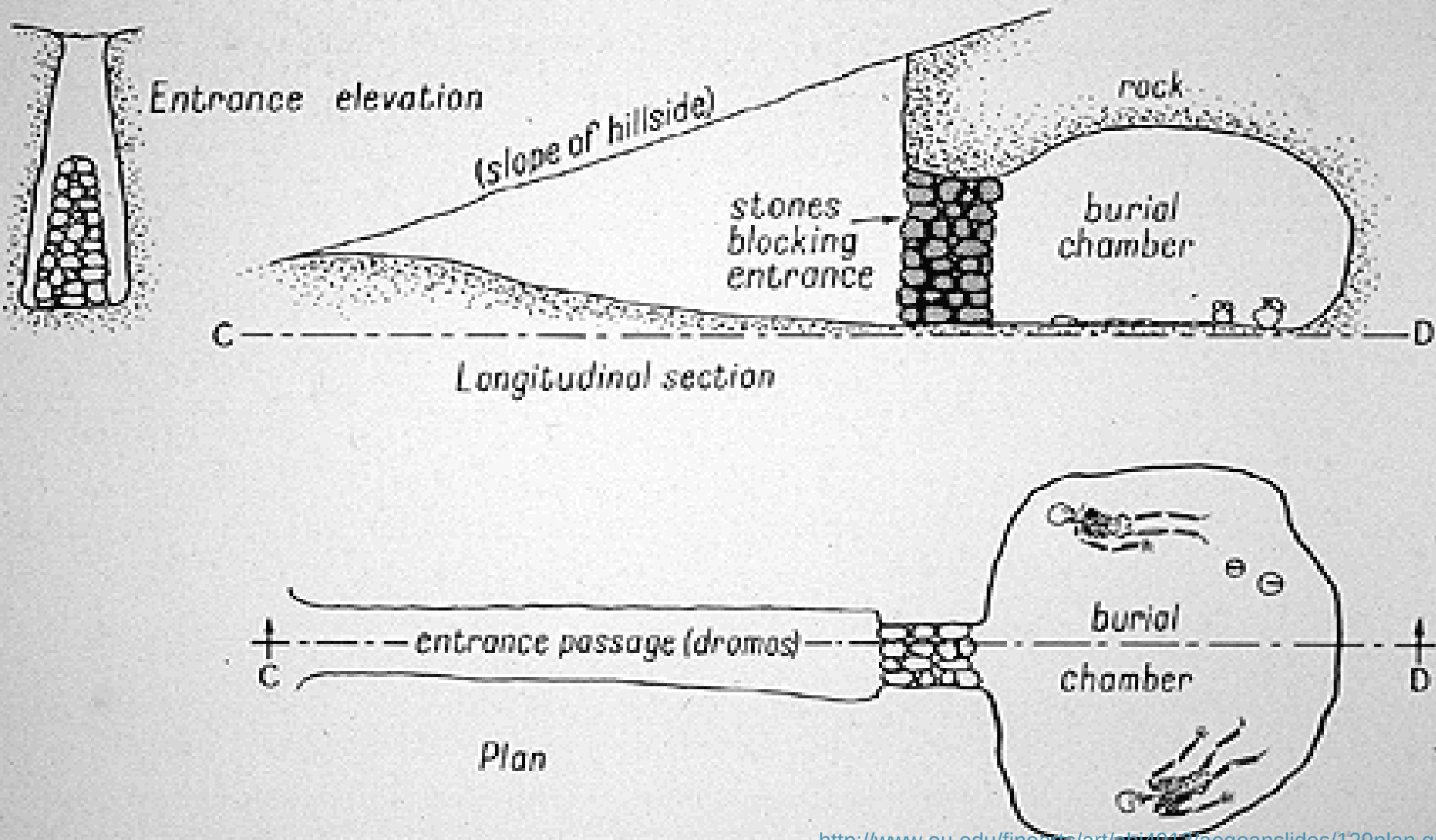
- ❖ Short, violent,
Competitive

Honor

- ❖ an engine for
immortality



Reflection on Tomb Styles



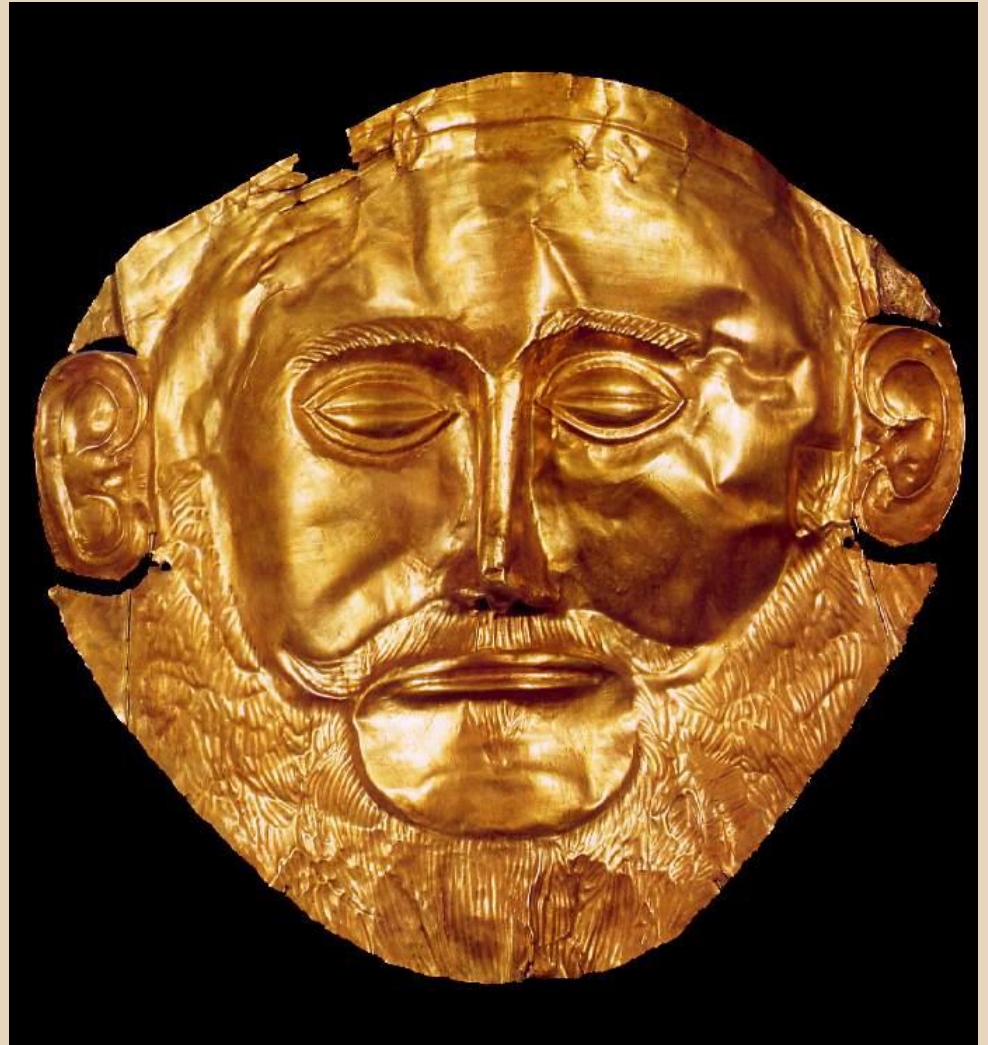
Grave Artifacts- Warrior Graves

- ❖ Foreign goods
- ❖ latest armor
- ❖ ornately decorated
- ❖ Large processions



High Status=

- ❖
- ❖ riches
- ❖ war gear
- ❖ dromos burial
- ❖ group burial
- ❖ ***REBURIAL***



Η σύγκρουση που ακολούθησε ήταν
τρομακτική. Έγινε από το νερό (λίμνη) και
χύνονταν ποτάμια το αίμα.

The clash that followed was
staggering. Around that Britain
body, the blood ran in rivers.



Why?....

Undying Fame= Everlasting Life



Βρήκαν τον Αχιλλέα να παίζει την κιθάρα και να τραγουδάει μπροστά στον Πάτροκλο.

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