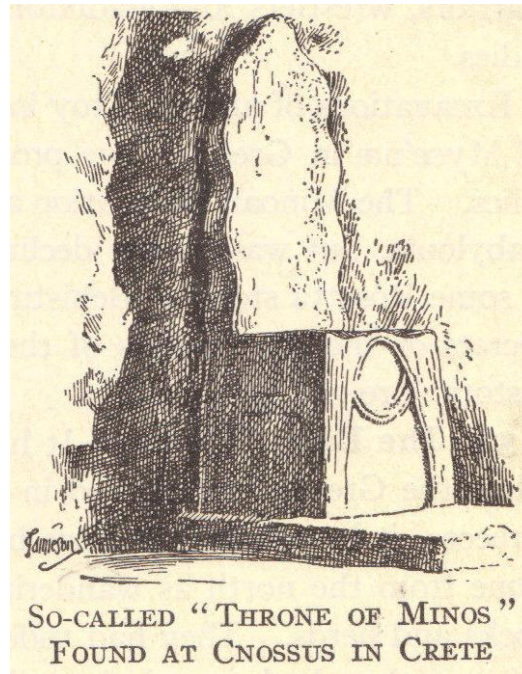


# Ancient Crete: Minoan Civilization



# Archaeology

- Cretan history previously known only through myths and legends
- British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans found and studied remains on Crete
- Called “Minoan” civilization after numerous kings named Minos



Sir Arthur Evans

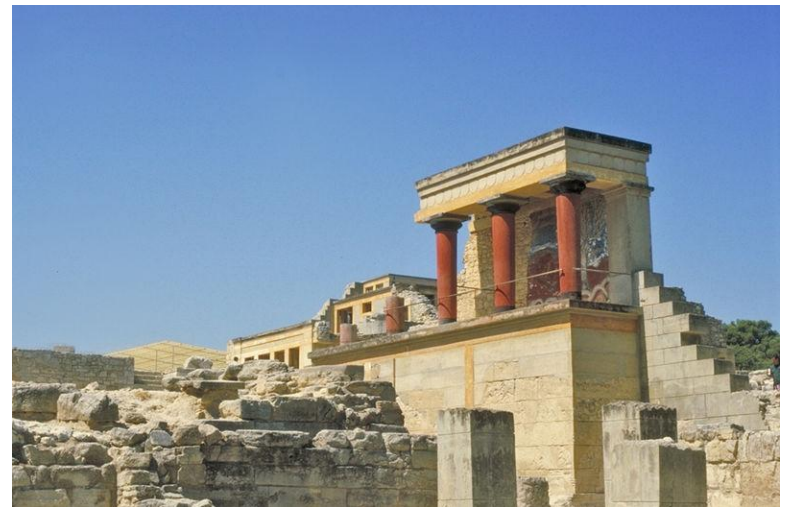
# Natural Resources

- Copper
- Fertile soil
- Gold
- Good harbors
- Lead
- Silver



# Early History

- 3000-1400 B.C.E. – Cretan empire
- Parts of Asia and Greek peninsula, and other Aegean islands
- Major cities
  - Knossos (a.k.a. Cnossus)
  - Phaestus



# Economy

- **Leading sailors and traders before the Phoenicians**
  - Traded metal goods, pottery, and textiles
  - Traded with Egyptians, Syrians, and others
- **Strong navy**
  - Exacted tribute from neighbors
  - Protected the merchant marine



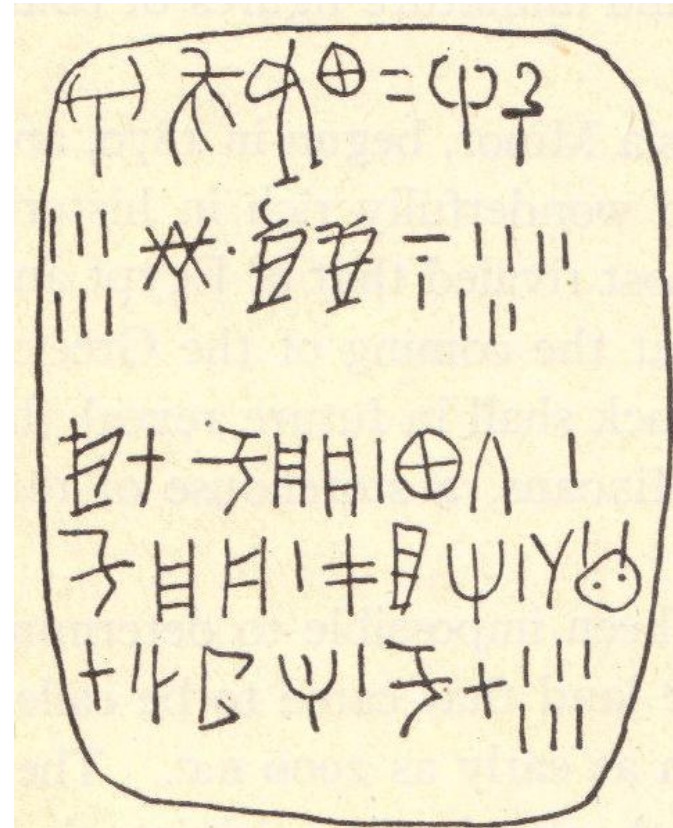
# Decline and Fall

- 14<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E.
  - Conquered by barbarians from central and Eastern Europe
  - Hellenes attacked and destroyed Crete
  - Mixture of Cretans and Hellenes became the Greeks



# Legacy

- Link between ancient Egypt and classical Greece
- Cretan writing remains largely undeciphered
- Palaces had baths, drains, and plumbing
- Stressed athleticism – boxing, dancing, and running
- Women enjoyed a level of equality with men



CLAY TABLET FROM CRETE,  
SHOWING MINOAN WRITING



# Art and Religion

- Principal deity was a goddess
- Art illustrates religious festivals and rituals
- Colorful palaces
- Painting, pottery, and sculpture





# Review Questions

- What famous British archaeologist first excavated and studied Minoan remains at Crete?
- Upon what was the Minoan economy based?
- What caused the decline of Minoan civilization?
- Describe Minoan culture.

