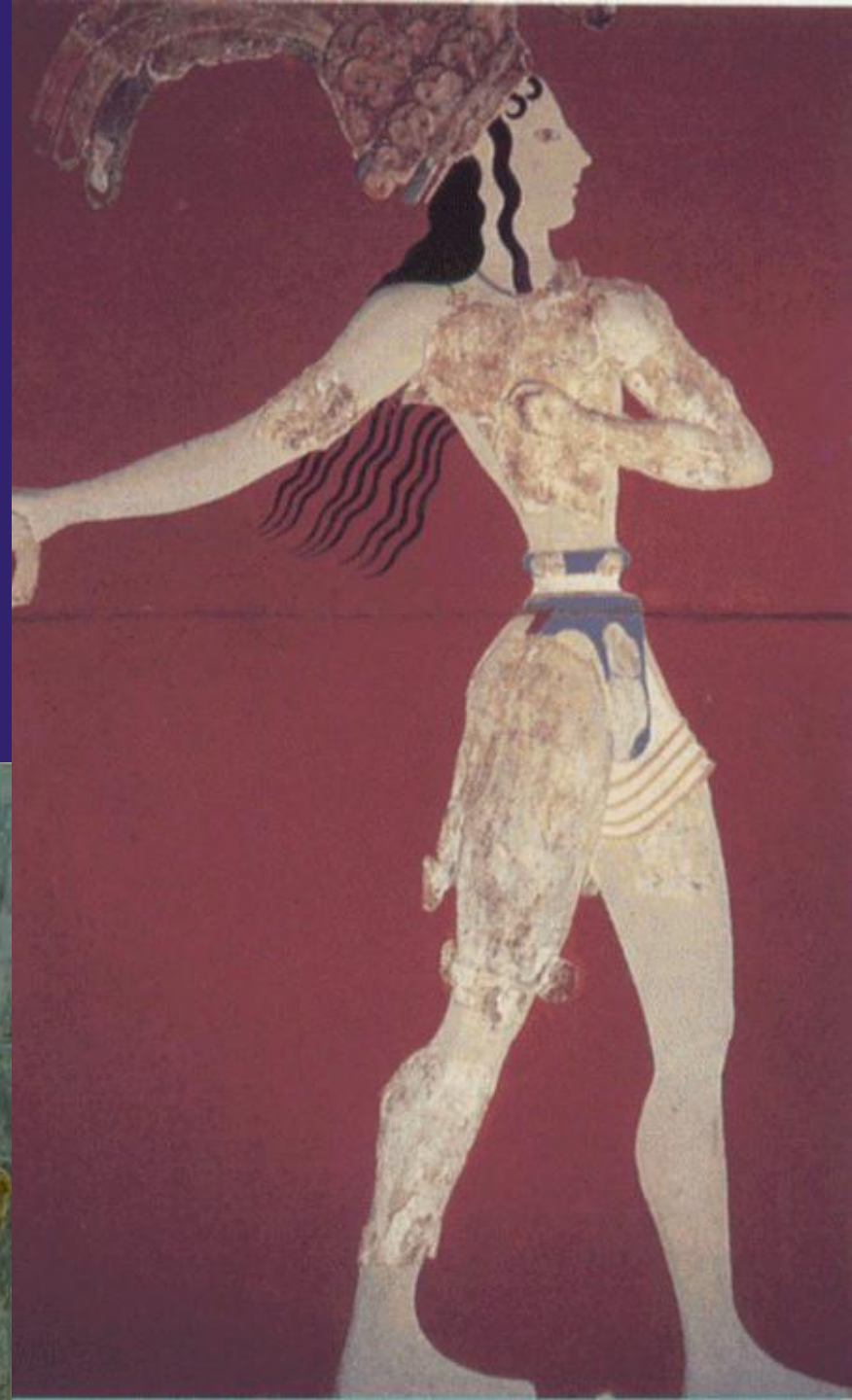


Ancient Greece:
Laying the
Foundation for a
Civilized Democracy



Civilization Improves

- How could our early civilizations and empires improve?
- Which of the 6 characteristics are the most important for continuing civilization?







Settled areas



ANCIENT GREECE: Geography



- Mountainous terrain – travel by land was difficult; travel by boat was easier
- Greeks treated the sea with great respect
- Farmers used terracing to farm in the hills: sheep, goats, honey, grapes, olives
- Shortage of good farmland led to wars
- Traded with the Phoenicians and Persians





The Minoan Civilization

- 2700 - 1450 B.C. on the Island of Crete
- Palace complex of Knossos
- Empire based on trade



ANCIENT GREECE



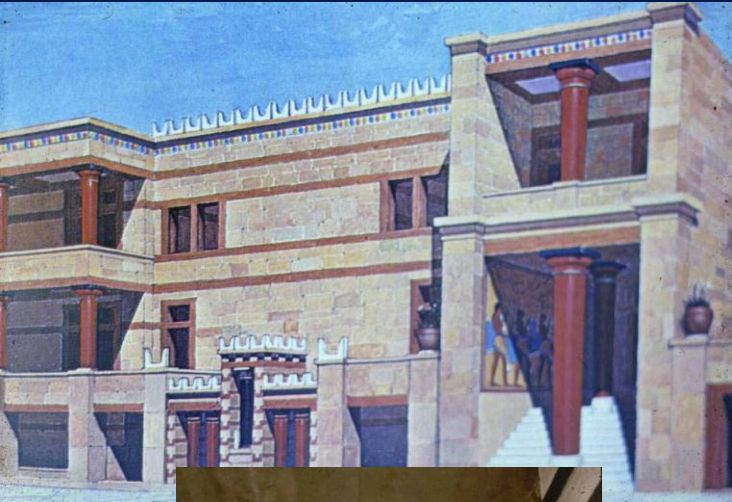






Palace of Knossos

MINOAN PALACES



- Complicated, HUGE structures
- Strong foundations meant to withstand earthquakes
- Many rooms decorated with brightly colored frescoes that depicted various aspects of Minoan life; we know that -

- men were clean shaven and wore short kilts
- women had elaborate hair-dos and wore dresses with wide sleeves and pinched-in waists (appx. 15 inches)

- Populated with chieftains and priestesses





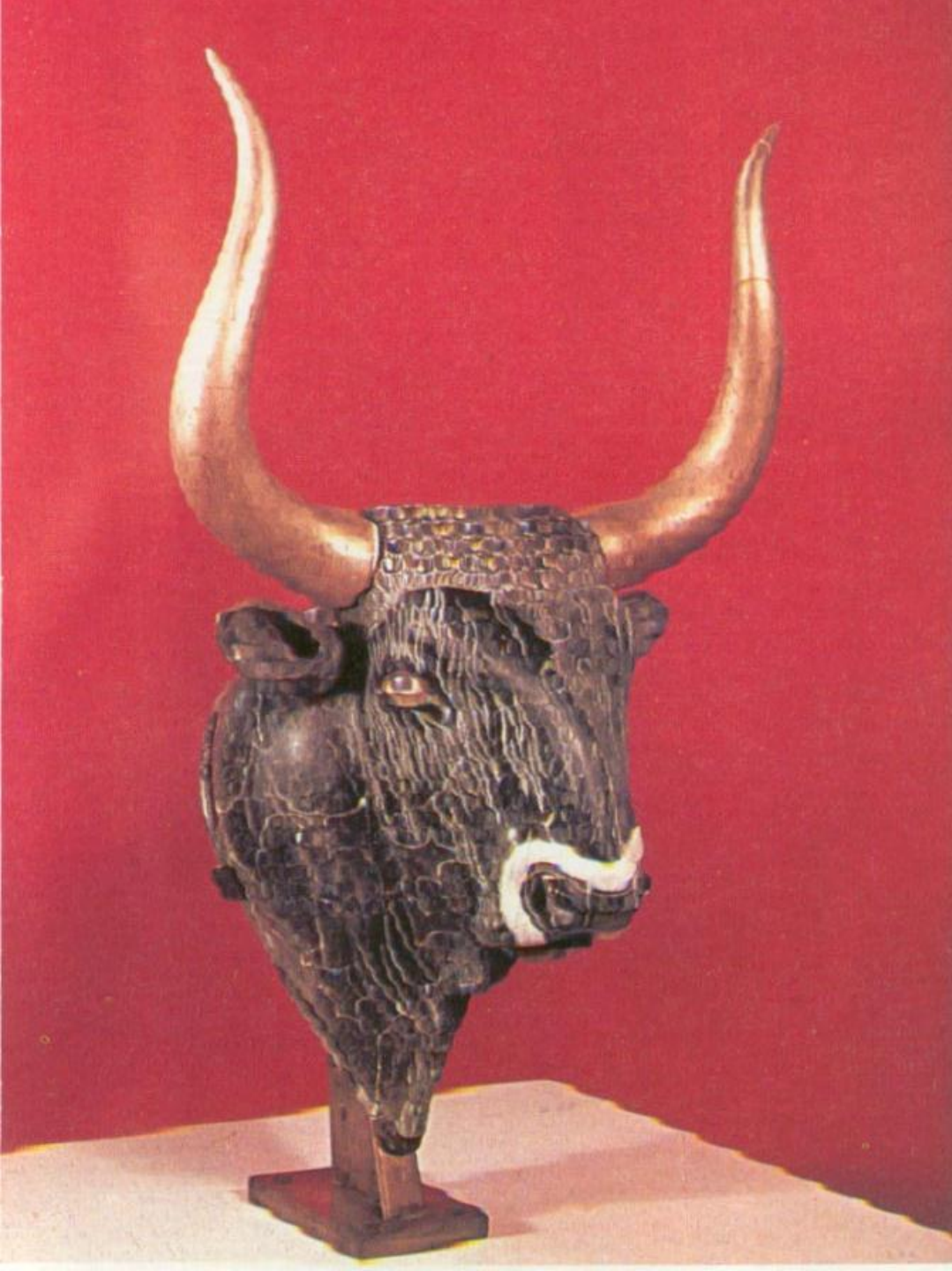
Minoan
Palace
at
Knossos



**Throne
room at
Palace of
Knossos**



Minoan Palace



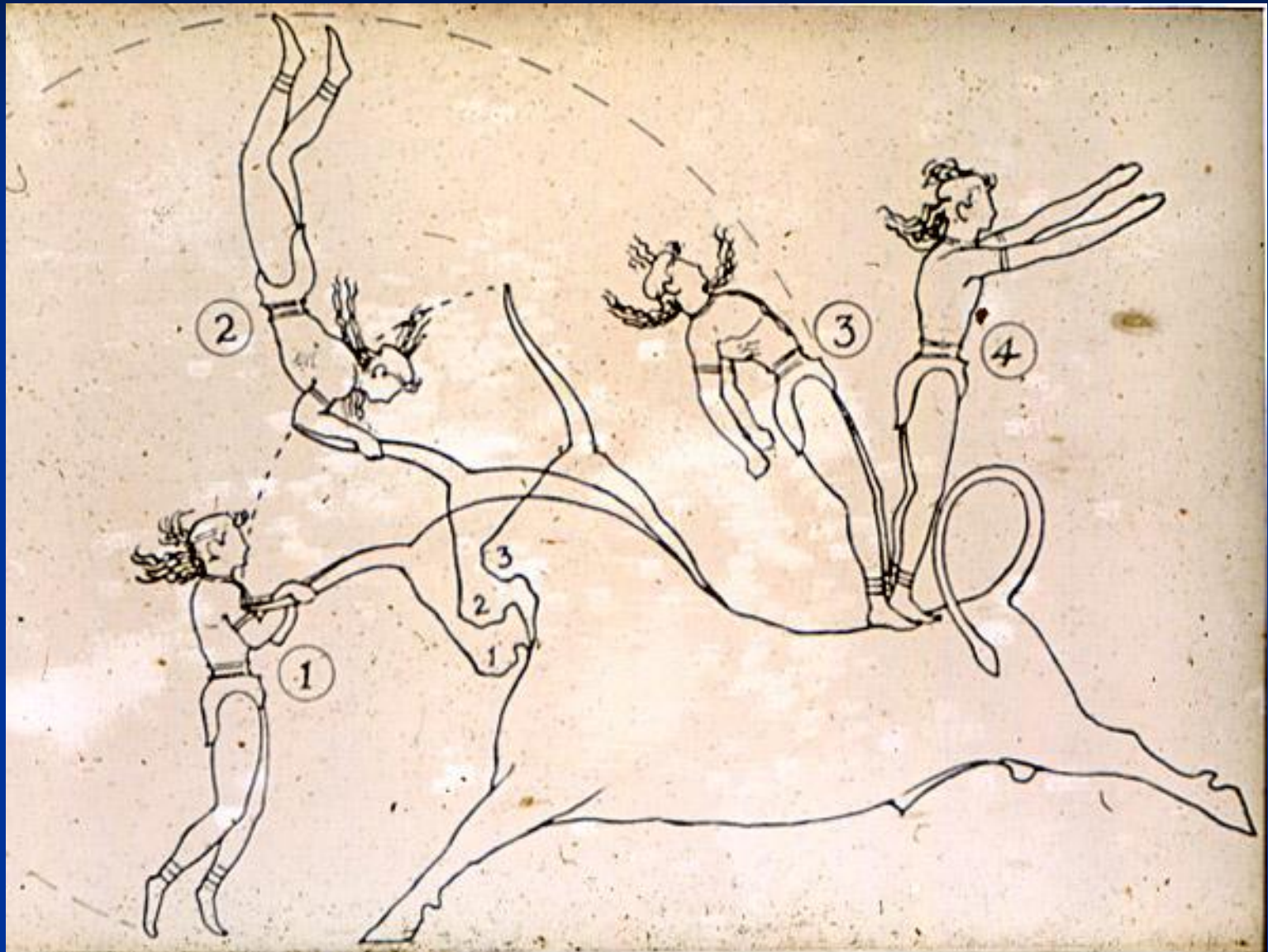
Sacred
Minoan
Cult of
the
Bull

MINOAN WOMEN



- Women played important role in society; gods were female
 - “Snake Goddess”
 - Women also portrayed at the head of processions and as participants in athletic events
 - Even bull-leaping (in the modern Olympics – the vault)
- May not have been a matriarchy but women enjoyed a prominent social position

BULL-LEAPING

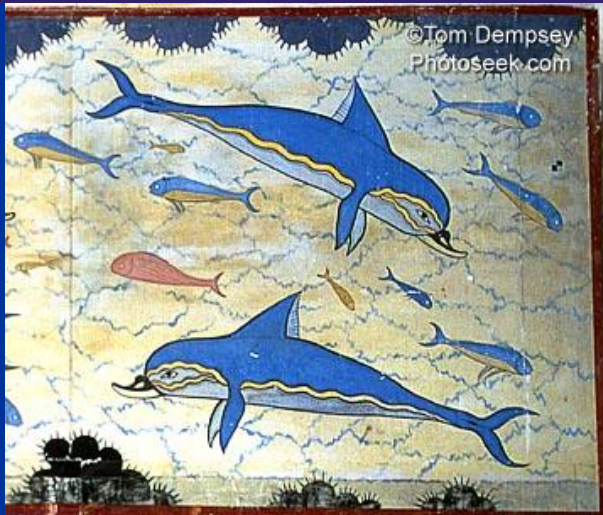
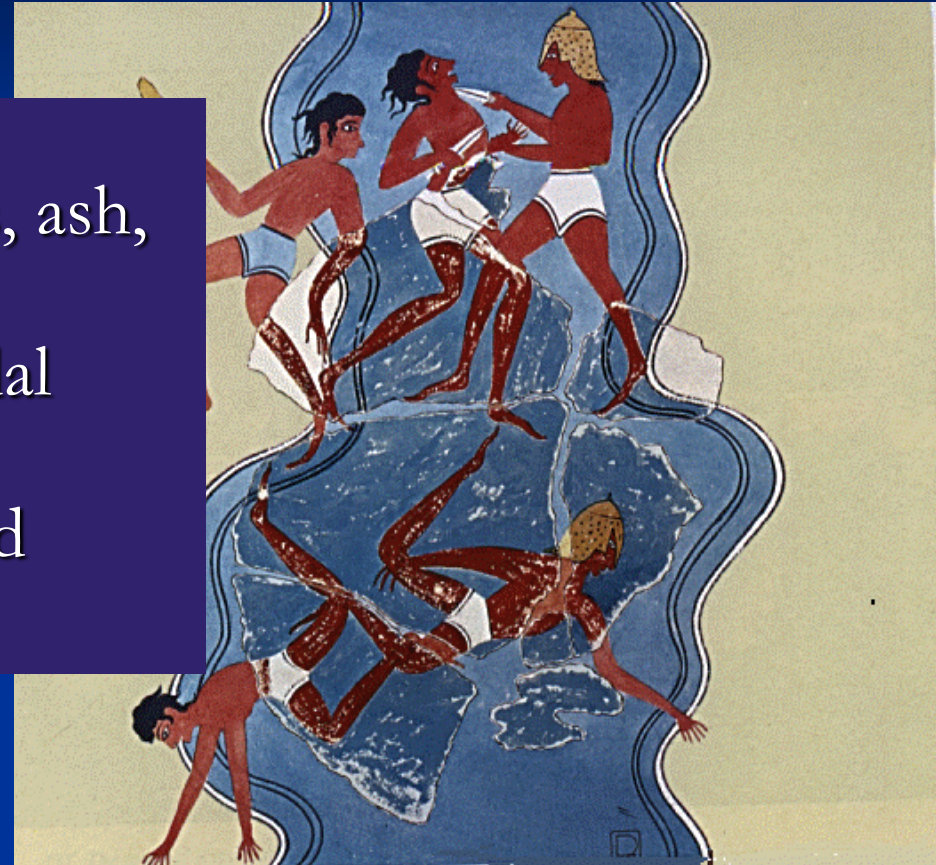


BULL-LEAPING



END OF MINOAN CIVILIZATION

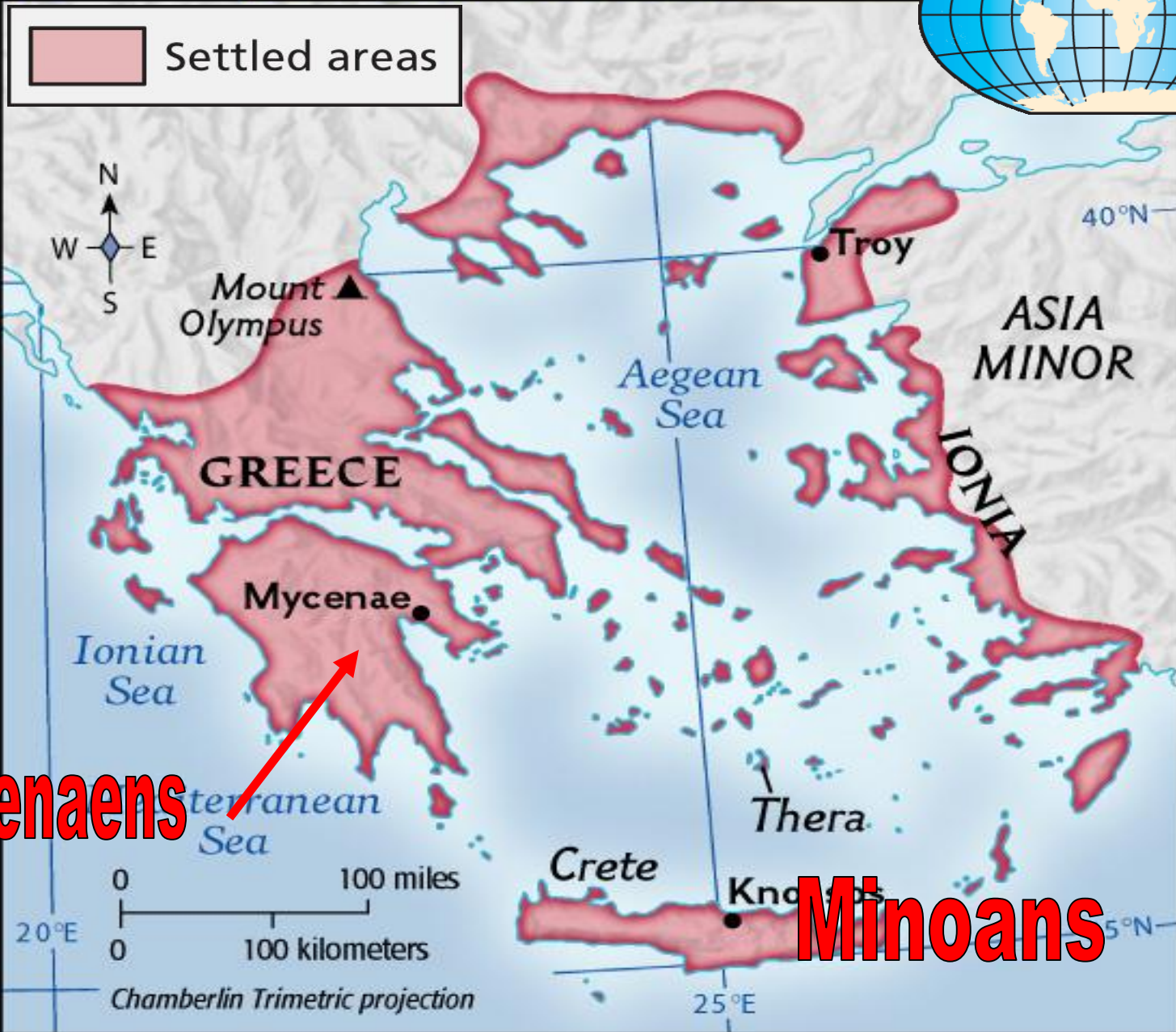
- Massive volcanic eruption showered Crete with debris, ash, and poison gas
 - Destroyed fleets with tidal waves
 - Mycenaean's invaded and destroyed what was left





The Mycenaeans

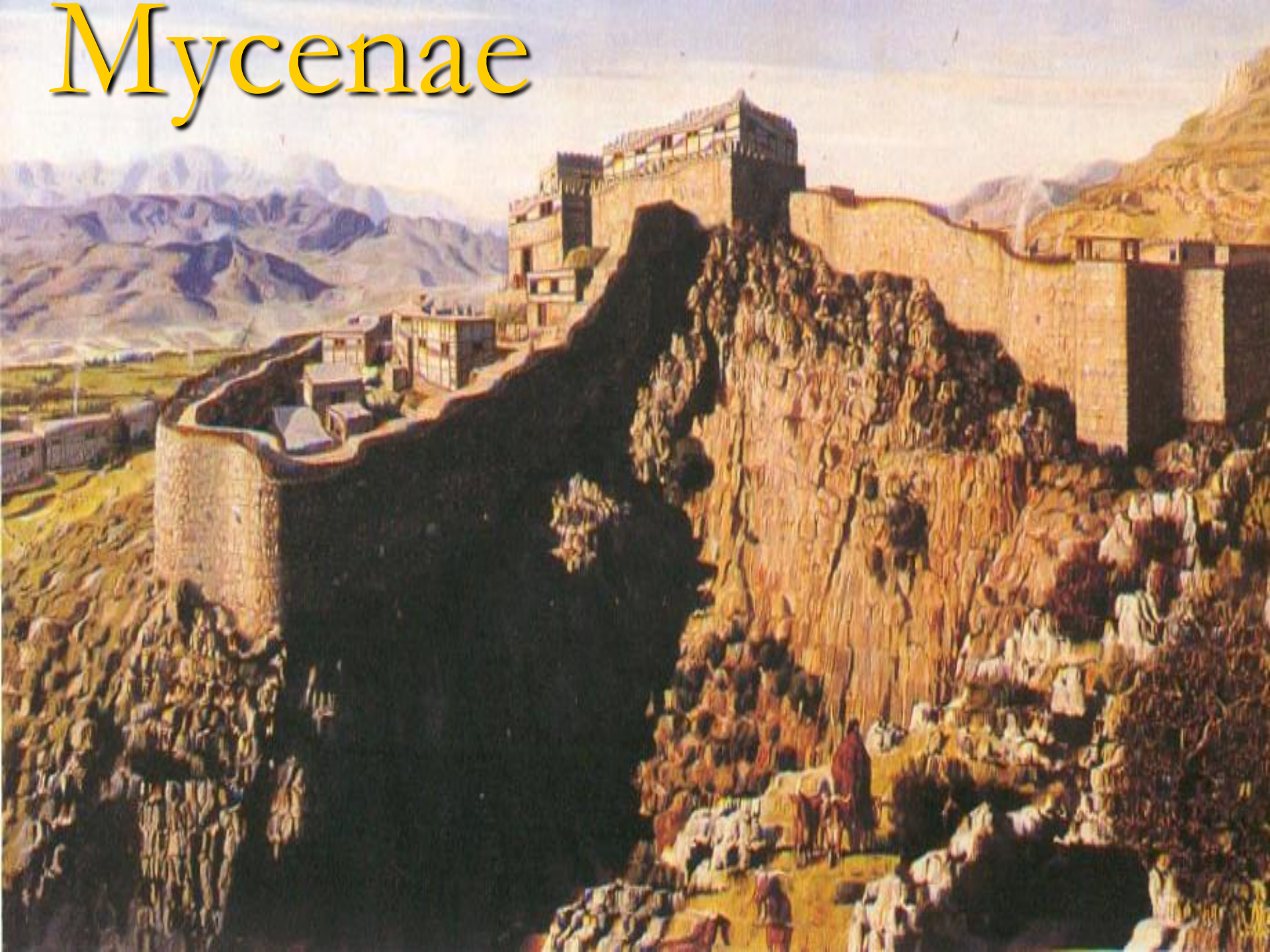
1600-1100 BC



Mycenaens

Minoans

Mycenae

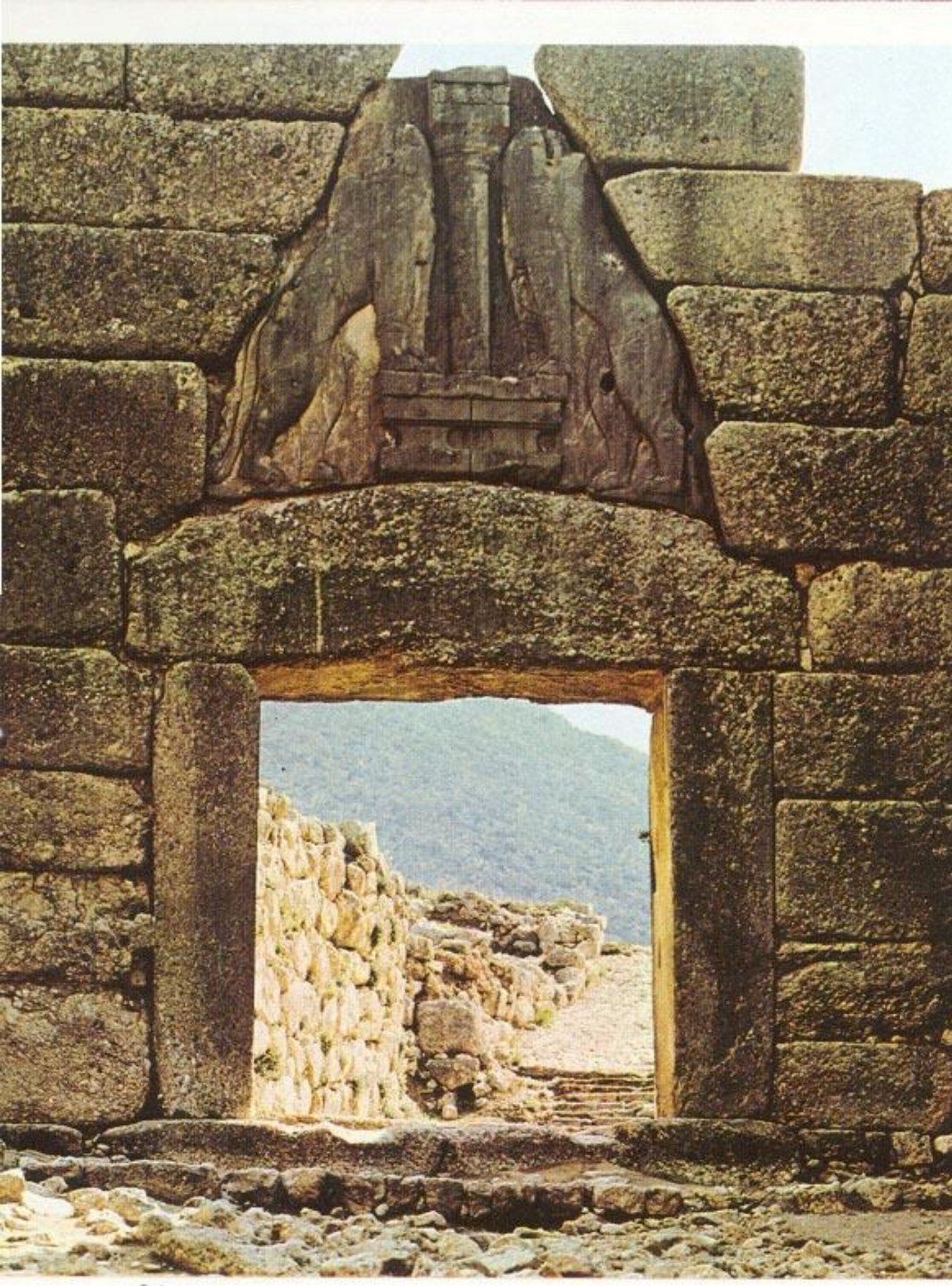


MYCENEANS

1600 BC – 1200 BC

- Sea traders – beyond Aegean to Sicily, Italy, Egypt and Mesopotamia.
- Warriors, living in several city states.
- The Mycenaean city-state became the mainland Greek civilization.
- Best known for Trojan War.





Lion's Gate at Mycenae

Mycenae Today



Collapsed after a wave of Invaders

EPIC POEMS and MYTHS



Heracles

- Homer - Iliad and Odyssey
- Epic poems have common themes:
 - Superhuman deed of heroes
 - Provided a history to explain how people got where they were and why
- Wandering poets used these basic plots but embellished them in order to appeal to their particular audience
- Was Troy real? Was there really a Trojan War?

- Paris, a Trojan prince, kidnaps Helen, the wife of the king of Sparta.
- The Mycenaean Greeks lay siege to Troy for ten years, finally taking the city with the famous Trojan horse.
- The *Iliad* – focuses on the destruction & anger of the Greek hero Achilles.

Helen of Troy

*“The face that
launched 1,000 ships”*



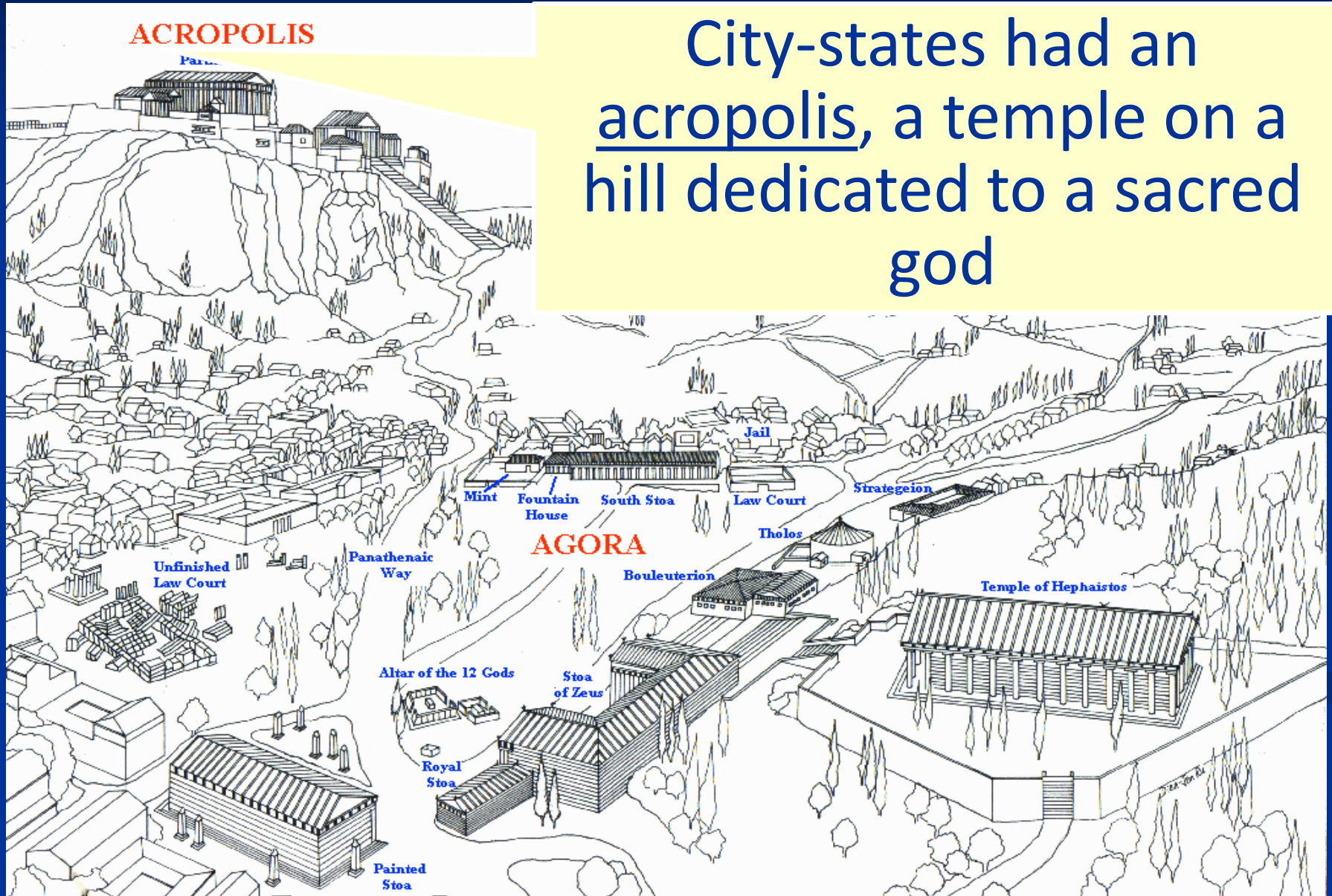
Homer – Fact or Fiction?

Arete: The Greek word for Excellence

In Homer's stories and poems they were focused around the hero's search for Arete/Excellence.

Most Greek city-states had an agora that was the center for trade & government

City-states had an acropolis, a temple on a hill dedicated to a sacred god



Acropolis



Agora



