The Rise of the Mycenaean Palaces

Tiryns
Pylos
THE PELOPONNESUS

Scale of Miles

0
Early Excavations

Heinrich Schliemann
1884-1885

Wilhelm Dörpfeld
1905-1929
Strong-walled Tiryns
Cyclopean architecture
Citadel
Rundbau from EH II

1000 years later...
The Early Citadel LH IIIA
Early Megaron complex
Bathroom near megaron
LH IIIB

c. 1250-1200

*same time as Mycenae’s Lions Gate renovations*
Altar
The acropolis of Tiryns

The Altar, in front of the palace, consists of 15 stones. The inner part is carved in the shape of a bowl.

Circumference (outer): \(5\sqrt{2} \text{ MC} \approx 4\pi(\text{MC}) \text{ MC}\).
Circumference (inner): \(5\phi \text{ MC}\). Therefore, the ratio is \(\sqrt{\pi}\).

The outer diameter is \(4(\pi-2) \text{ MC} = 1 \text{ rod}\) (see the "Treasury of Atreus" and "Stonehenge").

The difference in radius is \(1 \text{ MC}\).

Measurements are in Megalithic Cubits - \(1 \text{ MC} = 0.454 \text{ m}\).

Passage way within the wall
The acropolis of Tiryns

The Altar, in front of the palace, consists of 15 stones. The inner part is carved in the shape of a bowl.

Circumference (outer): $5\sqrt{\pi}$ MC $\sim 4\pi(n/2)$ MC.
Circumference (inner): $5\pi$ MC. Therefore, the ratio is $\sqrt{\pi}$.

The outer diameter is $4(n/2)$ MC $= 1$ rod (see the "Treasury of Atreus" and "Stonehenge").

The difference in radii is 1 MC.
Gate, or sally port
The acropolis of Tiryns

Sally port or gate

The Altar, in front of the palace, consists of 15 stones. The inner part is carved in the shape of a bowl.

Circumference (outer): $5\varphi\sqrt{\pi} \text{ MC} = 4\pi(\pi-2) \text{ MC}$.
Circumference (inner): $5\varphi \text{ MC}$. Therefore, the ratio is $\sqrt{\pi}$.
The outer diameter is $4(\pi-2) \text{ MC} = 1 \text{ rod}$ (see the "Treasury of Atreus" and "Stonehenge").
The difference in radii is 1 MC.
The Art at Tiryns
Minoan Genius

Tawret
LH IIIC
1200-1050 BCE
SANDY PYLOS
Nestor’s Cave
Carl Blegen
The Palace of Nestor

Built c. 1400 BCE
LH IIIB
The archive room

32 scribes working at Pylos

Over 1000 tablets
The first palace buildings LH II

Building A

Building B

Building C
Fresco from Building A

Found in dump near Room 65
Palace of Nestor LH IIIA-B

- Southwest building
- Main palace
- Northeast building
- Wine Magazine
The main building – the Palace
Court of the megaron
The Megaron

Mycenae (based on Pylos)

Pylos

Tiryns
Fluted columns

67. Throne Room: North Column Base and Imprint of Flutings on Stucco of Successive Floors. 1952
(photograph by Alison Frantz)
Knossian connections in art?

Pylos

Knossos
Ashlar blocks – like Knossos

Tholos tomb at Peristeria

Palace of Nestor
Secondary megaron
Bathroom
Secondary megaron

Large jars sunken into a bench
Banqueting at Pylos

Banquet hall on main level

Banquet hall on upper level
Pottery stores
Cups and bowls

Kylix (kylikes)
Pottery from Pylos

Kylix (kylikes)
[2853 in room 19!]

Dipper or ladle
Hall 65 – mostly war
Halls on second floor of Palace - hunting

Hunter with bull or stag

Stag head
Workshop or clearing house
Chariot shop
Defence wall?

Aqueduct
Drains and pipes
Textile production?

The 11 Supersyllabograms for “Cloth” in Linear B

* PAWEA = Cloth

** ideograms:

The 11 Supersyllabograms for “Cloth” in Linear B

Ideogram

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ideogram</th>
<th>KU</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>PA</th>
<th>PU</th>
<th>SA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><img src="image2.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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<td><img src="image4.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="Image" /></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

NOTES:
- Deciphered: All 5 deciphered supersyllabograms were found in Tschetlin. All 5 are attribution. See the post for discussion.
- New -> new textiles or new cloth
- New丝绸之路 (Greek derived only), a type of cloth
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- New丝绸之路 (Greek derived only), a type of cloth

Undeciphered: All 6 variants of WEHANO a type of cloth

![Loomweights](image6.png)
Perfumed oil industry at Pylos
Perfume samples?
Linear B, Mycenaean seals and palace administration
Sir Arthur Evans’ work
Dear Bennett,

I'm sorry to inflict another letter on you so soon after my last one, but I have, I think, great news for you. You must judge for yourself, but I think I've deciphered Linear B, & that Knossos & Pylos are both in Greek. Rather than go into great detail just now, I'll try & give you a representative transliteration of the most interesting tablets. I won't bother to write the Minoan, & the actual phonetic values I'll put on the attached table. You'll see that the whole crux of the transliteration lies in the fact that L & Π have no

in which he claims he has finally deciphered Linear B
It is Greek!

- τιπόδες "tripod"
- ἀκσόνες "axes"
- δλευκός "new wine"
- θυγατέρα "daughter"
- παχανά "swords"
- κορώς "boy"
- ωνάκ "king"
- Αίγυπτιος "Egyptian"
BASICS OF THE LANGUAGE
Symbols

• Phonograms

• Logograms

• Ideograms
Phonograms

Each symbol represents a sound (syllable)
Logograms

The sign represents the word for the object
Ideogram
Ideograms

The sign represents the object directly
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>English</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer</td>
<td>Horse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mare</td>
<td>Stallion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewe</td>
<td>Ram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanny</td>
<td>Billy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>Goat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>Bull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>Barley</td>
</tr>
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<td>Olive</td>
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<td>Spice</td>
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<td>Kapo</td>
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<td>Oil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arepa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>Horn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cloth</td>
<td>Garment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armour</td>
<td>Month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree</td>
<td>Helmet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footstool</td>
<td>Bathtub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spear</td>
<td>Arrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sword</td>
<td>Wheeled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chariot</td>
<td>Chariot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chariot</td>
<td>Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheel</td>
<td>Dart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TYPES OF TABLETS
Tablets inscribed
Tablets stored for future reference
Pylos Archives Room
Nodules
Leaf Tablets

- Ram
- Ewe
- Billy goat
- Nanny goat
Page Tablets
Transactions and inventories

"Two tripods - Albany the Cretan (?) brings them. 2 Tripods. 2 big three-handled vases. 2 Vases."

2. Pylea tablet Ts 996, showing numbers of both rhyta and other vessels, some of bronze, some gold.
RECONSTRUCTING SOCIETY FROM TEXTS
The Pylian State
Pylos (PU-RO)
Political organization from tablets
c. 1200 BCE

- **Wanax**
  - 13 Heqetai
  - 4 collectors
    - Damokoros
      - Hither Province
      - 9 koreters
      - 9 prokoreters
      - One per district
      - 7 koreters
      - 7 prokoreters
    - Damokoros
      - Further Province
      - Numerous basileis (sg. basileus)

- Lawagetas
Social hierarchy

- Palatial elite
- Regional elite
- Lower classes
Sphagianes
Landholders connected to the Wanax

Landholders connected to the Lawagetas have land in unknown area (ti-no?)
Professional groups monitored by palace

- Smiths
- Herders
- Armourers
- Shipwrights
- Leather stitchers
- Glassworkers
- Perfumers
- Weavers
- Fullers
- Carpenters
- Potters
- Bakers
- Hunters

- Compensated by:
  - Staple goods
  - Allocations of land
  - Tax exemptions
Workers in the tablets

Free workers
- Wanakteros (Royal)
  - Armourer
  - Potters
  - Fullers
- Potnian (attached to goddess/god)
  - Priest
  - Priestess
  - Key bearer
  - Servant (?)

Dependant workers
- 1,654 women and children working on textiles
- Overseers of these workers
- Attendants
- Grain-grinders
- Bath attendants
Storage
Craft Production

Controlled production
- Wine
- Olive oil
- Fine linen
- High value crafts (gold, ivory)

Monitored production
- General textiles
- Bronzework
- Ceramics
3-4 Basileis

Smiths

collectors

wool

Sacrificial animals

Herders

Wanakteros flocks

Private flocks
Raw Materials
- copper
- tin

Craftspeople

Finished Goods