Archaic Greece

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80SsC_ZNbyI
Early Greek Island Cultures

- The Cyclades (ca. 3000–ca. 1500 BCE)
  - Metal workers, pastoral farmers
- The Minoans (ca. 1900–1375 BCE)
  - Massive trade network
  - Legend of the Minotaur
  - By 1375 BCE = destroyed by mainland Greeks
Culture on the Greek Mainland

- Ca. 1600 BCE = Mycenaean culture
- Centralized government & taxation
- 1200 BCE = Mycenaean culture disappeared
  - Plunged Greece into 400-year long “Dark Age”
The Greek “Dark Age”

- What happened to the Mycenaens?
  - Self-destruction & collapse
- “Dark Age” = 1200–800 BCE
  - 90% of Greeks slaughtered by Sea People
- Ca. 1100–1000 BCE = writing disappeared
- Collapse of trade networks
  - End of the Bronze Age in Greece
Archaic Age in Greece (800–500 BCE)

- 700s BCE = massive population growth
  - Adds wealth, forces migration and adaptation
- New Politics:
  - Oligarchy = rule by an elite few
  - Polis = city-state

“LEAVE THE THINKING TO US.”
—THE OLIGARCHY
Written Culture & War

- Reintroduction of writing
  - Used Phoenician alphabet
- Warfare shifted from aristocrats to infantry
  - Hoplites = infantry soldiers
  - Phalanx = regiment/strategy
    - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdNn5TZu6R8
  - Democratized war = democratized politics?
Early Greek Imperialism

- By 750 BCE, early attempts at colonization:
  - Messina, Syracuse, Sybaris
- Colonialism relieved political pressure
- “Tyrants” & dissent
Gender & Sexuality in Ancient Greece

- Archaic Greece = rigid gender politics
- Same-sex intimate friendship
  - Bisexuality was mainstream
- Unmarried women usually slaves, prostitutes
  - Rape, infanticide
- Sexuality was fluid, complicated
  - Pederasty
Religion held throughout the “Dark Age”
No priest class
Temples
  ◦ Olympics!
Greek gods . . .
  ◦ Superhuman power, but moral weakness
Importance of myth
Philosophy
  ◦ 6th century = Ionian Greeks (esp. in Miletus)
City–State: Sparta

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrIbxk7idYA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrIbxk7idYA)
  - Emerging from the Greek “Dark Age”
    - Three-tiered social structure: homoioi, helots, perioeci
  - 700s BCE = Sparta invaded Messenia
Emerging from the Greek “Dark Age”
- Three-tiered social structure: homoioi, helots, perioeci
- 700s BCE = Sparta invaded Messenia
- 600s BCE = Sparta invaded Thyreatis

Lycurgus & Reform
- Emphasis on collective honor
- New government = two kings, council of elders
  - “ephors” = administrators
City–State: Sparta

- New social order
  - From birth to death, serve the state
  - Citizenship was earned
  - Life of boys
  - Life of women
  - Peloponnesian League
City–State: Athens

- Survived the Greek “Dark Age”
City–State: Athens

- Survived the Greek “Dark Age”
- Ca. 630 BCE = Cylon the Tyrant?
  - Revolts
- Legal Reforms
  - 621 BCE = Draco
  - 594 BCE = Solon
City–State Athens

- Tyranny in Athens
  - Peisistratus
  - Hipparchus
  - Hippias

- New aristocracy?
  - Cleisthenes (ca. 570–507 BCE)
  - Democratic government