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University of Durham



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**To Tania and Edmund, who have been living with this book
for a very long time.**

CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page x
<i>Preface and acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xxi
Introduction	i
1 Terminology and chronology	9
2 The natural environment and resources	23
3 The first human populations	30
4 Settlement and economy	45
5 Arts and crafts	95
Introduction	95
Pottery	101
Non-ceramic vessels and furniture	130
Architecture (a) buildings (b) other structures	144
Frescoes	164
Figures	168
Jewellery and ornaments	179
Seals	188
Writing	193
Weapons and armour	197
6 Burial customs	208
7 Trade, exchange and overseas contact	234
8 Religion	257
9 Conclusions	295
<i>Bibliography</i>	310
<i>Index</i>	333

ILLUSTRATIONS

(showing sources, where this information is not incorporated in captions. NB that scales cited in captions for objects may be approximate)

Figures

Intro.1	The Aegean, showing geographical subdivisions frequently mentioned in the text.	<i>page</i> 3
1.1	The tripartite system of classification, showing the most commonly used terms.	10
1.2	Suggested sequences of the Aegean cultures, showing the terms used in this book.	13
1.3	Suggested outline of absolute chronology.	19
2.1	Physical map of the Aegean.	24
3.1	Important sites of the Palaeolithic to Neolithic periods.	33
3.2	Examples of Neolithic house-plans, pottery and figurine. 1 <i>CAH</i> I:1, 590 fig. 45. 2 Hood 1978, fig. 2: A. 3–4, 7 Treuil <i>et al.</i> 1989, fig. 9: d, f, h. 5 after <i>CAH</i> I–II, pl. 20: c. 6 after Hood 1978, fig. 3. 8 after Christopoulos 1973: 65.	39
4.1	Significant sites of the Prepalatial Period.	52
4.2	Plan of Myrtos. After Whitelaw 1988: 323, with additions from Warren 1972, Key plan (opposite 11).	53
4.3	Plan of Trypiti. After plan supplied by Dr A.S. Vasilakis.	54
4.4	Site distribution in the Ayiopharango valley. Adapted from Blackman and Branigan 1982, 56 fig. 17, partly on basis of personal information from T. Whitelaw.	55
4.5	Plan of Kastri on Syros. Hägg and Konsola 1986, fig. 75.	56
4.6	Site distribution in the south Argolid in the EH and MH periods (a), and LH period (b). After Van Andel and Runnels 1987, figs 16, 18, 19.	57
4.7	Plan of ‘Lerna III’ buildings at Zygouries. Hägg and Konsola 1986, fig. 71.	58
4.8	Plan of Lerna III. Hägg and Konsola 1986, fig. 32.	59
4.9	Plan of Lerna IVB. Hägg and Konsola 1986, fig. 35b.	60
4.10	Significant sites of the MBA and LBA.	61
4.11	Plan of LB Phylakopi. After Renfrew and Wagstaff 1982: 42.	61
4.12	Plan of MB–LB Gournia. After Hutchinson 1962, fig. 57.	62

List of illustrations

xi

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| 4.13 | Plan of Second Palace Period Palaikastro. After plan supplied by Prof. J.A. MacGillivray. | 63 |
| 4.14 | Plan of Palaikastro Block N. After <i>BSA</i> 60 (1965), 254 fig. 1. | 64 |
| 4.15 | Restored house facades from the 'Town Mosaic', Knossos. | 65 |
| 4.16 | Plan of LC I Akrotiri. After <i>PAE</i> 1985, parenthesis pl. 0'. | 66 |
| 4.17 | Plan of Second Palace Period Ayia Irini. Barber 1987, fig. 46. | 67 |
| 4.18 | The distribution of First and Second Palace Period remains over the site of Knossos. After Hood and Smyth 1981, fig. 2. | 68 |
| 4.19 | Plan of Second Palace Period Pseira. After plan supplied by Prof. P.P. Betancourt. | 70 |
| 4.20 | Site distribution in the Second Palace Period in the south coastal region of Crete. Hägg and Marinatos 1984: 41, fig. 3. | 71 |
| 4.21 | Plan of farmhouse at Phtellos, Thera. Barber 1987, fig. 47. | 72 |
| 4.22 | Significant sites of the Palatial Periods in Crete. | 74 |
| 4.23 | Significant MH-LH IIIB sites on the mainland. | 75 |
| 4.24 | Site distribution on the mainland in LH IIIA ₂ -B. After Hope Simpson and Dickinson 1979, Map 4. | 77 |
| 4.25 | The distribution of remains over the site of Mycenae. Based on map supplied by Dr E.B. French, with additions. | 79 |
| 4.26 | Plan of Area IV at Nichoria. After McDonald and Wilkie 1992, figs 7-33, 34. | 80 |
| 4.27 | The administrative subdivisions of the Pylos state. | 82 |
| 4.28 | Significant sites of the Postpalatial Period. | 87 |
| 4.29 | Suggested distribution of major agricultural work with the most important crops. | 90 |
| 5.1 | EM II pottery types. 1-6 Warren 1972, P642, 349, 651, 373, 444, 77. | 103 |
| 5.2 | EC pottery types. 1-2, 4-6 Barber 1987, fig. 58: 3-5, 13-14. 3 Renfrew 1972, fig. 10.3: 3. | 105 |
| 5.3 | EH pottery types. 1 after <i>Hesperia</i> 41 (1972), 369: B 29. 2 after <i>Hesperia</i> 25 (1956), pl. 46: e. 3 after <i>Hesperia</i> 24 (1955), pl. 21: c. 4, 5, 7 Rutter 1979a, figs 1: 1, 2: 3, 3: 1. 6 Barber 1987, fig. 58: 21. | 107 |
| 5.4 | 'Phylakopi I' and MC pottery types. 1 after Renfrew 1972, pl. 10: 1. 2 Renfrew 1972, fig. 12.1: 2. 3 after <i>Hesperia</i> 26 (1957), pl. 42: d. 4 after <i>Hesperia</i> 41 (1972), fig. 9: D 128. 5 after Higgins 1981, fig. 60. 6 after Davis, J.L. 1986, U 61 in pls 27, 54. | 109 |
| 5.5 | MH painted pottery types. 1-2, 4 after Zerner 1988, figs 14: 39, 35: 45, 31: 25. 3, 5 after Zerner 1978, figs 12: 5, 6: 17. 6 after <i>Hesperia</i> 26 (1957), pl. 43: b. | 110 |
| 5.6 | MH Minyan and coarse pottery types. 1-2, 5 after Zerner 1978, figs 11: 4, 19: 1, 10. 3-4 after Dickinson 1977, fig. 2: 4, 3. | 111 |

- xii *List of illustrations*
- 5.7 EM III–MM small pottery types. 1, 5, 7 Betancourt 1985, figs 39: E, 71: A, C. 2–4 Momigliano 1991, figs 1: 2, 23: 26, 4: 10. 6 MacGillivray 1987, fig. 1: c. 8 *BSA* 74 (1979), 26, fig. 18: 95. 112
- 5.8 EM III–MM large pottery types. 1, 5–6 Betancourt 1985, figs 39: G, 75: left, 72. 2 Momigliano 1991, fig. 26: 54. 3 MacGillivray 1987, fig. 1: b. 4 *BSA* 74 (1979), 26, fig. 18: 90. 113
- 5.9 Late MH pottery types. 1–2, 6–7 Dietz and Divari-Valakou 1990, fig. 15: V.3, 1, fig. 12: VIII.1, III.1. 3–5, 8 Nordquist 1987, figs 48: 2, 60: 5, 47: 1, 50: 5. 115
- 5.10 MM IIIB–LM IA and related pottery types. 1–2, 4 Popham 1984, pls 141: 7, 142: 4, 143: 4. 3 *BSA* 74 (1979), 45, fig. 31: 250. 5 after Doulmas 1983, pl. 51. 6 Betancourt 1985, fig. 100: D. 116
- 5.11 Domestic Minoan shapes. 1, 4 *BSA* 74 (1979), 33 fig. 21: 69, 35 fig. 23: 161. 2 Popham 1984, pl. 176: 3. 3, 5–6 Betancourt 1985, figs 116, 96: F left, 117. 117
- 5.12 LH I–IIA and contemporary pottery types. 1–2, 5–8 Mountjoy 1986, figs 8: 1, 7: 4, 31: 4, 21: 1, 32: 1, 20: 1. 3 Dietz and Divari-Valakou 1990, fig. 22: VII.3. 4 Laffineur 1989, pl. XXXIIIa. 117
- 5.13 ‘Palatial’ LM IB and LH IIA pottery types. 1, 4 Betancourt 1985, figs 101, 108. 2 after Hood 1978, fig. 17. 3, 5 Evans 1928, figs 312c, 309. 6 Mountjoy 1986, fig. 24: 1. 7 *CAH* I–II, pl. 130: a. 119
- 5.14 LM II–IIIA₁ pottery types. 1–7 Popham 1984, pls 147: 2, 150: 7, 152: 4, 151: 8, 171: bottom left, 172: 2, 1. 121
- 5.15 LH IIB–IIIA₁ pottery types. 1–6 Mountjoy 1986, figs 50: 4, 47: 1, 54: 1, 43: 1, 72: 1, 60: 1. 121
- 5.16 LH IIIA₂ pottery types. 1–4, 7 Mountjoy 1986, figs 81: 1, 83: 2, 84: 2, 100: 2, 107: 1. 5–6 *BSA* 60 (1965), 182 fig. 8: 2, 165 fig. 2: 521. 122
- 5.17 LH IIIB and LM IIIB open pottery types. 1–2 Mountjoy 1986, figs 143: 1, 141: 1. 3 *BSA* 68 (1973), 316 fig. 11: 64. 4 Popham 1984, pl. 17: 2. 123
- 5.18 Probable olive oil container types. 1–4 Mountjoy 1986, figs 91: 1, 91: 128, 131: 1, 96: 1. 5 after Betancourt 1985, pl. 30: H. 6 *BSA* 76 (1981), 227 Fig. 1: d. 124
- 5.19 Plain LH III and LM III pottery types. 1–4, 6 *BSA* 64 (1969), 286 fig. 10: 97, 284 fig. 9: 88, 286 fig. 10: 104, 287 fig. 11: 114, 283 fig. 8: 82. 5 Popham 1984, pl. 180: 8. 126
- 5.20 LH IIIC Middle pottery types. 1–6 Mountjoy 1986, figs 209: 1, 222: 1, 215: 1, 226: 1, 231: 1, 228: 1. 127
- 5.21 Examples of stone vessels. 1–3 after Renfrew 1972, figs 10.3: 4,

List of illustrations

xiii

- 11.1: 6, 4. 4–14 Warren 1969, D282, D1, D7, D122, D163, D263, D157, D285, D175, D173, D20. 15 after Warren 1969, P467. 16 after CAH I–II, pl. 145: c. 133
- 5.22 Examples of gold and silver vessels. 1, 3 Hood 1978, figs 144: A, 148: A. 2, 6, 10 after Davis, E.N. 1977, figs 66, 170, 153. 4–5, 7–9 Matthäus 1980, pls 76: 1, 75: 7, 74: 8, 5, 10. 135
- 5.23 Bronze/copper vessel types. 1–9 Matthäus 1980, pls 1: 4, 23: 197, 34: 284, 26: 217, 9: 59, 44: 372, 19: 168, 38: 321, 15: 126. 138
- 5.24 Plans of monumental ‘Lerna III’ structures. After Hägg and Konsola 1986, fig. 4. 144
- 5.25 Plan of the remains of the first palace at Phaistos. Treuil *et al.* 1989, fig. 17. 146
- 5.26 Plan of the later palace(s) at Knossos. Based mainly on Higgins 1973: 41 and Hood 1978: 12–13. 150
- 5.27 Plan of the second palace at Mallia. After Higgins 1973: 67. 151
- 5.28 Plan of the ‘villa’ at Nirou Khani. After Cadogan 1976, fig. 14. 152
- 5.29 Plan of the acropolis at Mycenae. After Iakovidis 1983, Plan 4. 154
- 5.30 Successive LH III phases of the acropolis at Tiryns. French and Wardle 1988, 132. 155
- 5.31 Plan of the palace at Pylos. After Blegen and Rawson 1966, fig. 417. 156
- 5.32 Plan of the West House group of buildings at Mycenae. After BSA 62 (1967), 150 fig. 1. 157
- 5.33 Plan of Gla. After Iakovidis 1983, plan 17. 162
- 5.34 The suggested Mycenaean road system in the northeast Peloponnese. A.J.B. Wace and F.H. Stubbings, *A companion to Homer* (1962), fig. 25. 163
- 5.35 The sequence of EC figurine types. Fitton 1989, fig. 15. 170
- 5.36 Some Minoan figurine types. 1 after Xanthoudides 1924, pl. XXXIX: 172. 2–4, 6–7 after Rutkowski 1991, pls B2 and X: 4, VI: 2, XXVII: 1, XLVIII: 1, XLVII: 9. 5 after Marinatos and Hirmer 1960, pl. 108. 8 after Hood 1978, fig. 99. 174
- 5.37 The sequence of LH female figurine types. After French 1981b, fig. 1. 178
- 5.38 The sequence of LH animal figurine types. After French 1981b, fig. 2. 179
- 5.39 Pins, bracelets and earrings. 1, 3–5, 7–8, 10 Hood 1978, figs 187: A, 189: D–F, 187: D, 198: A, C. 2 after Marangou 1990, fig. 35: right. 6 after *Hesperia* 44 (1955) pl. 37a. 9 after Hood 1978, fig. 200. 182
- 5.40 Types of gold plate ornament. 1 after BSA 70 (1975) 103, fig. 3. 2–3 after Higgins 1980, pls 3A, 7B. 4, 6 Dickinson 1977, figs 9: 6, 10: 4. 5 after Mylonas 1973, pl. 159β. 7–9 Hood 1978, figs 203: E, A, C. 183

xiv	<i>List of illustrations</i>	
5.41	Some common types of relief beads. After Higgins 1980, fig. 13.	186
5.42	Some seal and sealing types. 1, 5–8 Hood 1978, figs 211: A, 213: A–B, 222: A, 236. 2 after <i>Hesperia</i> 27 (1958), pls 20: S3, 22: S55. 3–4 after Xanthoudides 1924, pl. IV: 517–18. 9 Evans 1921, fig. 498. 10 after Higgins 1980, pl. 11D.	190
5.43	The distribution of items inscribed in the ‘hieroglyphic’ and Linear A scripts.	195
5.44	The distribution of items inscribed in Linear B.	195
5.45	The Linear B syllabary, with a selection of ideograms and other symbols. After Ventris and Chadwick 1973: figures on 50–1, 53, 55, 57 and 385 fig. 27.	196
5.46	Sword and dagger types. 1, 7–9, 11–12 Hood 1971, figs 92: far right, 93: b–c, e–g. 2 Renfrew 1972, fig. 16.5. 3 <i>BSA</i> 63 (1968), 193 fig. 3: 20. 4–6 Dickinson 1977, fig. 8: 6, 1–2. 10 after Sandars 1963, Pl. 24: 26. 13 after Iakovidis 1980, fig. 158. 14 after <i>CAH</i> I–II pl. 164b: upper.	199
5.47a	Spearhead types. 1–6 after Avila 1983, pls 30: 839, 1: 3, 2: 10, 7: 43, 10: 55, 17: 118.	200
5.47b	Arrowhead types. 1 after Zerner 1978, pl. XV: 19. 2 after Wace 1932, pl. XXXIX.236. 3–5 after Avila 1983, pls 26: 648, 27: 724D, 28: 766.	200
5.48	An early LB warrior, after Morgan 1988, fig. 144: leftmost.	201
6.1	EC tomb types. After Barber 1987, fig. 52: a–d.	210
6.2	The distribution of some major tomb types in Crete.	213
6.3	Plan of the Platanos cemetery. After Branigan 1970b, 12 fig. 2.	213
6.4	Plan of the Mochlos cemetery. After Soles 1988, 52.	214
6.5	Plan of the Phourni cemetery, Arkhanes. After Sakellarakis 1991, fig. 40.	216
6.6	Plan of the Pappoulia tumulus. After Korres 1976, fig. 5.	223
6.7	Plans of Grave Circle B, Mycenae, and the Pylos ‘Grave Circle’. After Dickinson 1977, 41 fig. 7, and Blegen <i>et al.</i> 1973, figs 326–7.	224
6.8	Plans of various types of rock-cut chamber tomb. 1 <i>BSA</i> 82 (1987), 238 fig. 4: T. 2. 2–4 after Atkinson 1904, 235 fig. 193: 5, 2, 13. 5–6 after <i>BSA</i> 28 (1927), 256 fig. 8, 251 fig. 4. 7–8 Coldstream and Huxley 1972, figs 73, 77. 9 after Wace 1932, fig. 45.	225
6.9	Part of the Kalkani chamber tomb cemetery, Mycenae. After Wace 1932, fig. 9.	226
6.10	Plan and section of the Kato Phournos tholos tomb, Mycenae. After Wace 1923, fig. 16.	227
7.1	Map to illustrate Aegean overseas contact within the Mediterranean and Near East.	235

List of illustrations

	XV
8.1 Minoan religion as ritual action. Warren 1988, fig. 19.	258
8.2 The distribution of major types of cult site in Crete.	268
8.3 Plan and reconstruction of the peak sanctuary at Petsopha. Rutkowski 1988, pls XVIIIB, XIXB.	270
8.4 Plan of the peak sanctuary at Juktas. After Karetsou 1981, fig. 5 and <i>PAE</i> 1985, pl. II'.	271
8.5 Reconstruction of the shrine depicted on a stone rhyton from Zakro.	272
8.6 Types of Minoan dedication and cult object. 1 Evans 1921, fig. 124. 2–4 after Rutkowski 1991, pls XLVI.11, XLIV.7, LI.9. 5 after Gesell 1985, fig. 76: right. 6 after Rutkowski 1986, fig. 87. 7 <i>BSA</i> 60 (1965), 309 fig. 22.101. 8 <i>BSA</i> 65 (170), 192 fig. 1A: top. 9 Renfrew 1985, fig. 6.15. 10 after Gesell 1985, fig. 140: centre.	273
8.7 Plans of Minoan built shrines. 1 after Gesell 1985, fig. 48. 2 after Marinatos and Hägg 1986, 60 fig. 3. 3 after Rutkowski 1986, fig. 231.	277
8.8 Provisional plan of Kato Symi podium. After Lebessi and Muhly 1990, fig. 3.	279
8.9 Probable Minoan deity representations. 1 Warren 1972, fig. 92. 2 after Warren 1973a, pl. XIX: 3. 3 after Evans 1935, fig. 597A: e. 4 after Hallager, E. 1985, fig. 11. 5 Niemeier 1988, fig. 2.	280
8.10 The central figures in the Xeste 3 'Crocus Gatherers' fresco. After Marinatos 1984a, fig. 40.	281
8.11 The successive phases of the Phylakopi shrines. After Renfrew 1985, fig. 3.1.	288
8.12 Plan of the Mycenae Cult Centre. After French 1981a, 42 fig. 1 and W.D. Taylour, <i>Well-built Mycenae 1: the excavations</i> (Aris and Phillips 1981), Plan 6.	289
8.13 Late deity representations. 1–2 after Marinatos and Hirmer 1960, pls 129, 132 lower, centre. 3, 6 after Hägg and Marinatos 1981, 176 fig. 9: right, 54 fig. 6. 4–5, 7 Renfrew 1985, figs 6.4: left, 6.14: left, 8: 3.	290
8.14 Reconstruction of the fresco over an altar in the Room of the Fresco, Mycenae. After Marinatos 1988b, 251.	292

Plates

3.1 Foundation deposit of figurines, Plateia Magoula Zarkou. Supplied by Dr K. Gallis.	41
4.1 The 'arrival town' on the West House miniature fresco. Morgan 1988, pl. 105.	69
4.2 The 'flagship' on the West House miniature fresco. Morgan 1988, pl. 10.	92

xvi	<i>List of illustrations</i>	
5.1	The Lion Hunt dagger, Shaft Grave IV. National Museum, Athens 394.	100
5.2	A 'Syros' frying pan. National Museum, Athens 5064.	104
5.3	EM II teapot in Vasiliki ware. British Museum A425.	106
5.4	A barbotine pot.	111
5.5	A Kamares pot.	114
5.6	A Palace Style jar, Knossos.	120
5.7	A Mycenaean 'pictorial krater', Maroni, Cyprus. British Museum 1911.4-28.1.	125
5.8	A LH IIIC stirrup jar with octopus decoration, Attica. National Museum of Denmark no. 13517.	128
5.9	Stone jug from Mochlos T. VI. Warren 1969, P284.	134
5.10	Gold cup, probably Minoan work, Vapheio tholos.	137
5.11	Closeup of the 'Harvester Vase', Ayia Triada.	139
5.12	Ivory pyxis, Routsis T. 2. Marinatos and Hirmer 1960, pl. 223 left.	141
5.13	Lightwell in the Hall of the Double Axes, Knossos. Evans 1921, fig. 250.	148
5.14	The Lion Gate, Mycenae.	161
5.15	Fresco of lilies, Amnisos 'villa'.	166
5.16	Fresco showing 'Minoan genii' carrying a palanquin, Tsountas House, Mycenae.	168
5.17	Seated Cycladic figurine. Goulandris Collection no. 286.	171
5.18	Faience figure, the Temple Repositories, Knossos.	175
5.19	The ivory, stone and gold figure, Building 5, Palaikastro.	176
5.20	A steatite jewellery mould, Mycenae Archive 66-1708.	187
5.21	Suit of armour, Dendra T. 12. Åström 1977, pl. XV.2.	204
6.1	The facade of the Treasury of Atreus, Mycenae, with half-columns flanking doorway restored.	228
6.2	Larnax, Tanagra T. 6.	229
7.1	Miniature fresco fragment showing bull-leaping, from Avaris (Tell ed-Dab'a), with tracing to show figures. After illustration in Bietak 1992, 26.	246
8.1	A 'cupule stone', Myrtos. Warren 1972, pl. 78c.	263
8.2	Gold ring showing epiphany scene, Isopata T. 1, Knossos. Marinatos and Hirmer 1960, pl. 111 above, top left.	266
8.3	The Ayia Triada sarcophagus: scene of sacrifice.	284

PREFACE

This book is intended to be a general introduction to the Aegean Bronze Age. The need for generalised coverage within this format means that no topic can be discussed in great detail, and not all have received attention; the reader is urged to consult other sources for more extensive discussion and richer illustration, particularly the works cited in the first part of the General Bibliography and the chapter bibliographies. The General Bibliography is obviously not comprehensive (this would require a book in itself), but lists relatively recent works of wide coverage and all other sources cited. Similarly, the chapter bibliographies are principally intended to provide references, generally used extensively in the text, for the main themes and sources of data. Citations have been chosen with coverage of previous discussion and accessibility particularly in mind, but more obscure sources have also been included because of their significance.

Creating a general account of the Aegean Bronze Age in a limited space has proved a far more difficult and lengthy process than I once envisaged, and I am still not satisfied with the result. I have certainly not had the space to mention everything that deserves it, and although I have tried to absorb the findings of the ever-lengthening series of important conferences covering various parts of the subject, some could only be consulted very recently and partially (especially Hardy 1990, and Darcque and Treuil 1990). As one who has specialised in mainland archaeology, I may have fallen into error over the interpretation of Minoan material, and I have felt obliged to take a provisional position, which many specialists may consider outdated, on some crucial questions of chronology. Thus this must, like all its predecessors, be considered a progress report, which will start being superseded as soon as it is published.

In attempting to synthesise the work of many specialists of differing theoretical approaches without having any particularly clearcut position of my own, I have given prominence to the viewpoints that I find most plausible, but have frequently qualified statements, to a degree that may irritate the reader. But I believe that this is absolutely necessary; the days are gone when the evidence of a few sites or finds could be blithely assumed to be typical of a whole culture. We are far less certain of everything than our predecessors often seemed to be, and continually ask new questions without having sufficient data to answer them.

The Aegean Bronze Age is a recognisable unit with a degree of internal coherence in the sequence of Greek development, although of course its societies

xviii *Preface and acknowledgements*

inherited a great deal from their Neolithic predecessors and transmitted much in their turn to those of the succeeding 'Dark Age' from which Archaic Greece developed. To emphasise the element of continuity, I shall give brief coverage to Greece's earlier prehistory and refer on occasion to the Dark Age, but I shall be concentrating on a period stretching from the late fourth millennium into the eleventh century BC. I shall also be limiting coverage effectively to the region of the Minoan, Cycladic, and Helladic cultures in the southern part of the Aegean; the northernmost parts of modern Greece, the north Aegean islands, and most of the Turkish coastal areas are culturally separate and, although often demonstrably in contact with the Aegean cultures, have an essentially different history.

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Preface and acknowledgements

xix

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A note on usage and nomenclature

Greek placenames are cited in a mixture of forms, in which I have been guided by familiarity and, for modern personal and placenames, closeness to the modern pronunciation. Unless otherwise indicated, common names like Akrotiri, Ayia

xx *Preface and acknowledgements*

Irini, Ayia Triada and Palaikastro will refer to the best-known sites bearing those names; 'Myrtos' will refer to Warren's EM site at Fournou Korifi, 'Pyrgos' to Cadogan's mainly later site nearby.

It has proved convenient to have a single term to cover all the eastern countries with which the Aegean had links. I have preferred to follow logic rather than modern usage and call the whole region the Near East, including within this Egypt, Cyprus, and the territories commonly known to archaeologists as Anatolia, Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia. These names will be used separately, where necessary, in preference to those of modern states.

ABBREVIATIONS

Periodicals

AA	<i>Archäologischer Anzeiger</i>
AAA	<i>Athens Annals of Archaeology</i> (Αρχαιολογικά Ανάλεκτα εξ Αθηνών)
AE	Αρχαιολογική Εφημερίς
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
AthMitt	<i>Mitteilungen der deutschen archäologischen Instituts: athenische Abteilung</i>
AR	<i>Archaeological Reports</i> (supplement to <i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>)
ASAtene	<i>Annuario della Scuola archeologica di Atene e delle Missioni in Oriente</i>
BAR	<i>British Archaeological Reports</i>
BCH	<i>Bulletin de correspondance hellénique</i>
BICS	<i>Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies</i> (University of London)
BSA	<i>Annual of the British School of Archaeology at Athens</i>
CR	<i>Classical Review</i>
CAJ	<i>Cambridge Archaeological Journal</i>
Hydra	<i>Hydra, working papers in Middle Bronze Age studies</i> , coordinated by G. Nordquist and C. Zerner
JdAI	<i>Jahrbuch des deutschen archäologischen Instituts</i>
JFA	<i>Journal of Field Archaeology</i>
JMA	<i>Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology</i>
JPR	<i>Journal of Prehistoric Religion</i>
JRGZM	<i>Jahrbuch des römisch-germanischen Zentralmuseums, Mainz</i>
OJA	<i>Oxford Journal of Archaeology</i>
OpAth	<i>Opuscula Atheniensi</i>
PAE	Πρακτικά τῆς ἐν Αθήναις Αρχαιολογικῆς Ἐταιρείας
PZ	<i>Praehistorische Zeitschrift</i>
SIMA	<i>Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology</i>
SMEA	<i>Studi micenei ed egeo-anatolici</i>
TUAS	<i>Temple University Aegean Symposium</i>

xxii *List of abbreviations*

Others

BA	Bronze Age
BP	Before present
CAH	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i> (3rd edition)
CAH I–II, pl. ...	<i>Cambridge Ancient History</i> , Plates to Volumes I & II (3rd edition)
EB(A), MB(A), LB(A)	Early, Middle, Late Bronze (Age)
EC, MC, LC	Early, Middle, Late Cycladic
EH, MH, LH	Early, Middle, Late Helladic
EM, MM, LM	Early, Middle, Late Minoan
EN, MN, LN	Early, Middle, Late Neolithic
ha	hectares