

THE MYCENAEANS

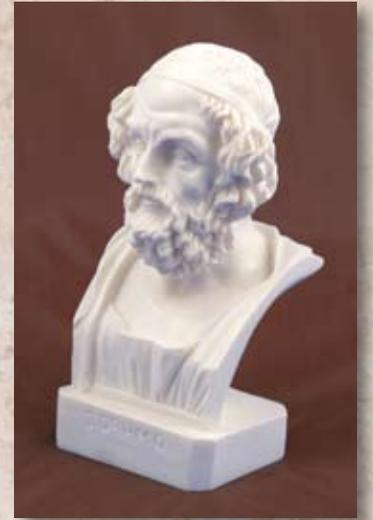
The Mycenaean (my-suh-NEE-uhn) people arrived around 1600 B.C. They lived on the mainland of Greece. This was at the same time as the height of the Minoan civilization on Crete. The Mycenaeans had small kingdoms built high on hills. Each kingdom had a different ruler. The rulers lived in palaces protected by stone walls.

The Mycenaeans were warriors. They were also great at trading and crafts. Foreign invaders began to threaten Mycenaean kingdoms

around 1250 B.C. By the year 1000 B.C., the Mycenaean civilization had totally collapsed.

This collapse began a period in Greek history known as the Dark Ages. This was a hard time for the Greeks.

▼ Ruins of a Mycenaean kingdom



Lasting Poetry

A man named Homer wrote two very famous stories. The stories are the epic poems the *Iliad* (IL-ee-uhd) and the *Odyssey* (AW-duh-see). They are believed to describe events in Mycenaean history.

Old Food

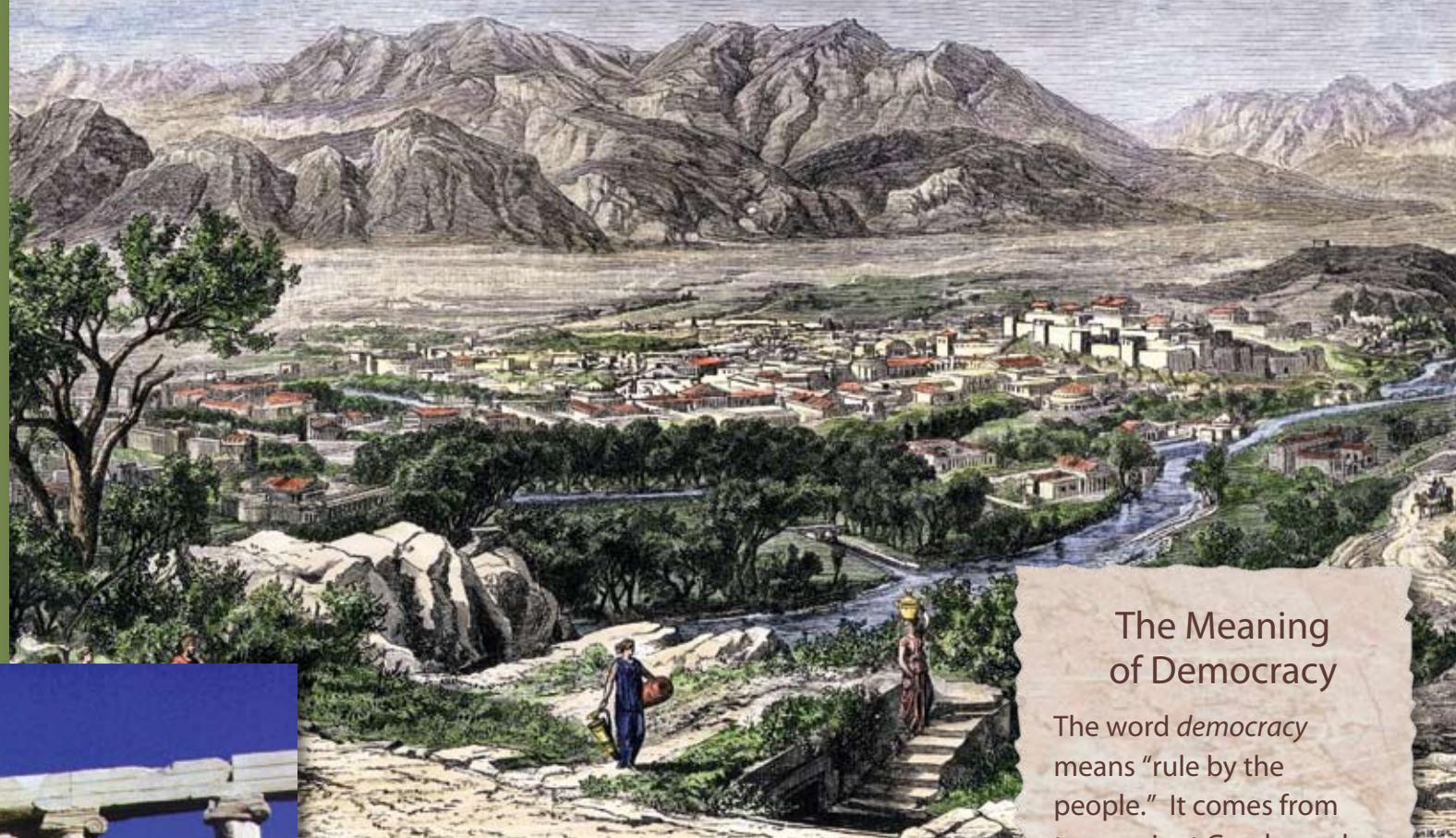
Mycenaeans probably ate the same foods that Greeks eat today. Bread, cheese, olives, figs, grapes, goat, and fish are common Greek foods.

CITY-STATES

Around the eighth century B.C., the towns and countrysides of Greece began to grow. Greece was coming out of the Dark Ages. Military leaders and wealthy families ruled small areas. These were called *poleis* (PAW-lays), or **city-states**.

Over the centuries most *poleis* developed **democratic** forms of rule. A typical city-state was

▼ These are the ruins of a marketplace in Athens.



The Meaning of Democracy

The word *democracy* means “rule by the people.” It comes from two ancient Greek words—*demos* meaning “people” and *kratos* meaning “rule.” Democracy began in the city-states of ancient Greece more than 2,500 years ago.

Ancient Law

The United States currently has a law that everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty. This is a law that was created in ancient Greece.

▲ Sparta was an important city-state.

made up of **citizens** and others. The citizens were adult males. They made all the important decisions. The other people had no rights. These included women, children, foreigners, and slaves. Elected citizens ruled the states. They met in the marketplace to decide how the community should be run. The democracies of the *poleis* were unique to ancient Greek culture.

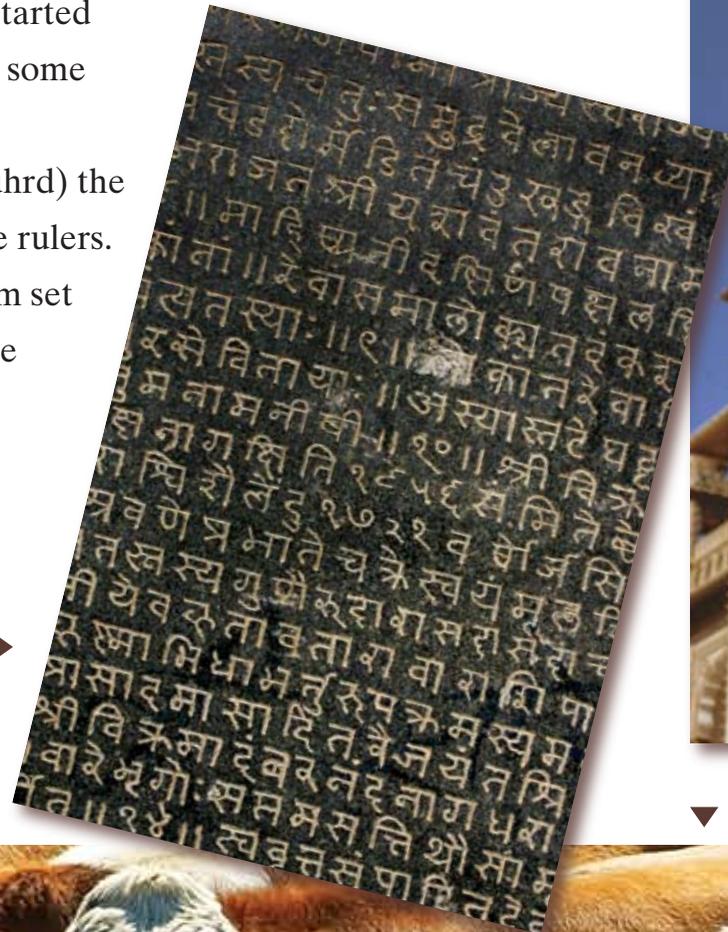


The Aryans

The Aryans spread throughout northern India. Many of them wandered through the country raising cattle. Some settled in villages. They invaded the Indus Valley. This pushed the Dravidian people farther south. The Dravidians who stayed started living like the Aryans. Aryans also took on some **customs** of the Dravidian people.

When the Aryans **conquered** (KAN-kuhrd) the people of the Indus Valley, they became the rulers. They set up a **caste system**. The caste system set up different levels for people in society. The Aryans also developed a language. It was called Sanskrit (SAN-skrit). This is one of the oldest languages in the world.

This tablet shows Sanskrit carvings.



▼ Guards like this one were part of the second level of the caste system.



▼ Cattle were very important in ancient India.

Speaking the Same Language

Most of the languages spoken in the northern part of India today come from Sanskrit. Even though they come from the same language, the languages sound very different. Sometimes, Indians from different parts of the country will speak English to one another.

Old System in Modern Times

The caste system was officially stopped in India in 1950. But, it still affects who people choose to marry.



More Invasions

The Aryan people developed the Hindu religion. Some of the important Hindu gods were Shiva, Kali, and Brahma (BRAH-muh).

The Aryans recorded the first **sacred** (SAY-kruhd) Hindu **scriptures** (SKRIP-shuhrz).

The scriptures were written in Sanskrit.

The second great invasion of India occurred around 500 B.C. The king of Persia (PURR-zhuh) was Darius (duh-RI-uhs). He conquered the Indus Valley and West Punjab (puhn-JAB).

His armies ruled both areas until he died. The Persians continued to rule for 150 years.

Next, the Greeks attacked the Persians. Alexander the Great overthrew King Darius's family. But, the Indians fought Alexander with a strong force. The Greeks left India and returned home.

◀ The Hindu gods were honored by the Aryans and other Hindus.



◀ Indians still have shrines like this for Brahma.

Ancient Writing

Indian writing can be traced back nearly 3,000 years to the Hindu scriptures. Today in India, Hindu writers enjoy retelling the tales of the gods in new and exciting ways.

Buddha

Around 563 B.C., a man named Siddhartha Gautama (sihd-DAHR-tuh GAU-tuh-muh) was born in India. He is better known as The Buddha. He preached his beliefs about a balanced life. This is how the religion of **Buddhism** (BOO-dih-zuhm) began.



◀ Buddhism is popular throughout Asia. This is the Great Buddha in Japan.