

1177 BC The Year Civilization Collapsed Eric H Cline

1177 BC The Year Civilization Collapsed Eric H Cline 1177 BC The Year Civilization Collapsed Exploring Eric H Cline's Controversial Claim Eric H Cline's compelling book 1177 BC The Year Civilization Collapsed presents a provocative thesis: a widespread societal collapse occurred around 1177 BC, impacting the Near East and the Mediterranean world profoundly. While not universally accepted, Cline's work synthesizes archaeological and textual evidence to build a compelling narrative of upheaval and transformation. This article explores Cline's arguments, acknowledging both the strengths and limitations of his perspective.

The Bronze Age Collapse: A Multifaceted Crisis

The Late Bronze Age (c. 1600–1200 BC) witnessed the flourishing of powerful empires across the Near East: Mycenaean Greece, the Hittite Empire, the Egyptian New Kingdom, and the kingdoms of the Levant. All enjoyed periods of remarkable cultural and technological advancement. However, this era culminated in a dramatic collapse characterized by political upheaval, the downfall of major empires, and the disintegration of established political orders.

Economic Disruption

The collapse of trade networks led to scarcity and economic instability. Social Change: Mass migrations, population decline, and a shift in social structures. Technological Regression: A loss of advanced technologies and skills.

Cline argues that while these factors had been accumulating for some time, 1177 BC serves as a crucial marker, a pivotal year signifying the culmination of these interconnected pressures.

Cline's Evidence: Weaving Together Archaeological and Textual Clues

Cline's argument relies on a meticulous examination of both archaeological findings and textual records. His analysis reveals a striking convergence of events around 1177 BC:

- 2. The Destruction of Ugarit:** The sophisticated coastal city-state of Ugarit, located in modern-day Syria, was violently destroyed around this time. Archaeological evidence points to a catastrophic event possibly involving fire and widespread violence.
- 3. The Fall of the Hittite Empire:** The mighty Hittite Empire, a dominant force in Anatolia and Syria, fragmented into smaller, weaker successor states.
- 4. The Mycenaean Greek Demise:** Mycenaean civilization, the dominant culture in Bronze Age Greece, experienced a period of profound collapse, with palaces destroyed and societal structures disrupted.

While the decline had been gradual, the final collapse accelerated around 1177 BC. The loss of this powerful empire created a power vacuum, contributing to regional instability.

Conclusion

Eric H. Cline's controversial claim that 1177 BC marks the year civilization collapsed is based on a synthesis of archaeological and textual evidence. While not universally accepted, it provides a compelling narrative of a multifaceted crisis that impacted the Near East and the Mediterranean world profoundly.

debated the upheaval occurred roughly concurrently with events in the Near East. The End of the Egyptian New Kingdoms Expansion While Egypt didn't collapse entirely its period of extensive expansion and influence in the Levant came to an abrupt end around this time. Weakened by internal strife and external pressures Egypt withdrew from its overseas territories. Sea Peoples Invasions Cline emphasizes the role of the Sea Peoples a mysterious group of maritime raiders who attacked numerous coastal settlements across the Mediterranean. While their precise origin remains unknown their attacks coincided with the period of widespread instability exacerbating existing problems. Criticisms and Alternative Perspectives While Cline's work is highly influential it hasn't escaped criticism. Some scholars argue that the 1177 BC date is too precise. The collapse wasn't a single sudden event but rather a protracted process unfolding over several decades. Pinpointing a single year as the year of collapse is an oversimplification. The focus on a single year overshadows longterm trends. Environmental factors internal societal pressures and gradual economic shifts also played significant roles in the Bronze Age collapse and focusing solely on 1177 BC risks neglecting these critical aspects. The role of the Sea Peoples is overstated. While the Sea Peoples certainly played a part their impact might have been less decisive than Cline suggests. The collapse was likely a complex interplay of factors with the Sea Peoples being one piece of a larger puzzle. 3 Key Takeaways from Cline's Work Despite the criticisms Cline's book remains a significant contribution to our understanding of the Bronze Age collapse. His work highlights the interconnectedness of ancient civilizations. The collapse wasn't isolated events but a cascade of interconnected crises affecting multiple regions simultaneously. The fragility of even powerful empires Major empires seemingly stable and prosperous can be surprisingly vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances. The importance of considering multiple sources of evidence Cline's work effectively demonstrates the value of combining archaeological data with textual sources for a more comprehensive understanding of the past. Frequently Asked Questions FAQs 1 What were the Sea Peoples? The Sea Peoples are a mysterious group of maritime raiders mentioned in Egyptian and other Near Eastern texts. Their origin and ethnic composition remain unknown though they likely comprised a diverse confederation of groups from various regions. 2 Was climate change a factor in the Bronze Age collapse? Evidence suggests that climate change including droughts and other environmental stresses likely played a contributing role exacerbating existing societal pressures and contributing to resource scarcity. 3 Did the Bronze Age collapse lead to the Iron Age? The collapse marked a transition period not an immediate switch. The Iron Age gradually emerged as new technologies and social structures developed in the aftermath of the upheaval. 4 How reliable is the dating of 1177 BC? The dating relies on chronologies derived from various sources including radiocarbon dating and textual evidence. While the exact year is debated the timeframe around 1177 BC

represents a period of significant upheaval 5 Is Cline's theory universally accepted? No, the year of collapse thesis isn't universally accepted. Many scholars agree on the existence of a broad collapse but disagree on the precise timing, causality, and the role of specific factors like the Sea Peoples. However, Cline's work has significantly advanced the discussion and stimulated further research. In conclusion, while not without its critics, 1177 BC: The Year Civilization Collapsed offers a valuable and engaging framework for understanding a pivotal period in human history. By highlighting the interconnectedness of ancient societies and the multifaceted nature of collapse, Cline's work continues to spark debate and encourage deeper investigation into this 4 fascinating and consequential era.

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the instant times bestseller award winning classicist and historian emily hauser takes readers on an epic journey to uncover the astonishing true story of the real women behind ancient greece s greatest legends and the real heroes of those ancient epics homer s iliad and odyssey bold and intellectually thrilling blending history and science rigorous scholarship and dazzling feats of imagination tom holland historian and co host of the rest is history podcast absolutely blew me away rich evocative and original work this book is quite wonderful elodie harper author of the wolf den offers a dazzling new way of thinking about the ancient world a wonderful beautifully written and important book dan jones author of henry v a book the world has been waiting for i loved it bettany hughes author of the seven wonders of the ancient world contrary to perceptions built up over three millennia ancient history is not all about men and it s not only men s stories that deserve to be told in mythica emily hauser tells for the first time the extraordinary stories of the real women behind some of the western world s greatest legends following in their footsteps digging into the history behind homer s epic poems piecing together evidence from the original texts recent astonishing archaeological finds and the latest dna studies she reveals who these women queens mothers warriors slaves were how they lived and how history has or has not until now remembered them a riveting new history of the bronze age aegean and a journey through homer s epics charted entirely by women from helen of troy briseis cassandra and aphrodite to circe athena hera calypso and penelope mythica is a ground breaking reassessment of the reality behind the often mythologized women of greece s greatest epics and of the ancient world itself as we learn ever more about it

in this important book a leading authority on japanese religions brings together for the first time in english his extensive work on the subject the book is important both for what it reveals about japanese religions and also because it demonstrates for western readers the distinctive japanese approaches to the study of the subject and the different japanese intellectual traditions which inform it the book includes historical cultural regional and social approaches and explains historical changes and regional differences it goes on to provide cultural and symbolic analyses of festivals to reveal their full meanings and examines japanese religions among japanese and non japanese communities abroad exploring the key role of religion in defining japanese ethnic identity outside japan

will our future imitate our past the purpose of this book is threefold to explain what makes civilization civilization what it is to show what we are in danger of losing in the event of collapse and to point the way toward renewal there is a consensus in the west that something is wrong many people have the uneasy feeling that the liberal democratic order is in danger and that civilization itself hangs in the balance this feeling could be dismissed as alarmism but the present moment of pandemic political instability and rioting is a startling reminder of the fragility of civilization everywhere and we should never forget that empires and societies have collapsed many times before but history shows that human civilization also has extraordinary powers of recuperation writes michael r j bonner in this bracing tour de force drawing on such examples as the revival of europe after the collapse of the roman empire and the ebb and flow of civilization in china despite repeated foreign conquest he shows how humankind s quest for clarity order and beauty the crucial elements of civilization does not necessarily succeed through innovation or a futuristic orientation but by thoughtful examination and imitation of past experience

by end of july 2024 i gave a completion to my research on various topics which were intertwined to perfection thus it made possible to write a book on one of my favourite topics of discussion reflected in the book s title which had intrigued me since my school days i have done my best to logically break down my arguments and hypothesis and use maps and other pictorial references wherever required to make it more appealing for readers ancillary reason for writing this book we do have a recorded ancient history of more than 1000 years before christ and it is a proud one no it did not start from the mauryas as we were taught in our childhood but still had all hallmarks of an advanced civilization namely 1 martial prowess 2 literature including sacred texts written in indigenously developed brahmi script 3 religion as a way of life with righteousness as its core 4 currency based trade instead of barter 5 iron metallurgy most advanced of its time e g wootz steel swords 6 earliest use of iron weapons 7 ancient port and harbour it is itihasa of our bharatavarsha take pride in it

linear a is a middle and late bronze age script principally used on crete dated to 1800 1450 bc it was discovered by archaeologist sir arthur evans in 1900 and for over 120 years it has until now defied decipherment in his book author mark cook a forensic accountant demonstrates how he deciphered linear a his work describes how he first approached decipherment by setting aside commonly held misconceptions previous decipherment attempts typically incorrectly assumed the underlying language was an unknown minoan language crete being the heart of the minoan empire or misconstrued its

relationship with linear b the earliest written form of greek which replaced it linear a is found mainly on clay tablets recording ephemeral accounting information and mark cook tackled the decipherment as an accountant focussing on the numbers noting the mathematical relationships between the items recorded which relationships were evident in the later linear b script where the same things were being recorded and analysing the characters used to record them mark cook demonstrates that linear a is middle egyptian written in a form of shorthand used by the later greeks and romans using hieroglyphs that were modified and simplified to be incised quickly and easily in wet clay many of the tablets he reveals are egyptian taxation records based on the tablets he translates and the reinterpretation of egyptian evidence mark cook concludes that new kingdom egypt ultimately came to rule crete for a brief period rewriting what we know of the end of the minoan empire

as our society confronts the impacts of globalization and global systemic risks such as financial contagion climate change and epidemics what can studies of the past tell us about our present and future how worlds collapse offers case studies of societies that either collapsed or overcame cataclysmic adversity the authors in this volume find commonalities between past civilizations and our current society tracing patterns strategies and early warning signs that can inform decision making today while today s world presents unique challenges many mechanisms dynamics and fundamental challenges to the foundations of civilization have been consistent throughout history highlighting essential lessons for the future

very good no highlights or markup all pages are intact

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