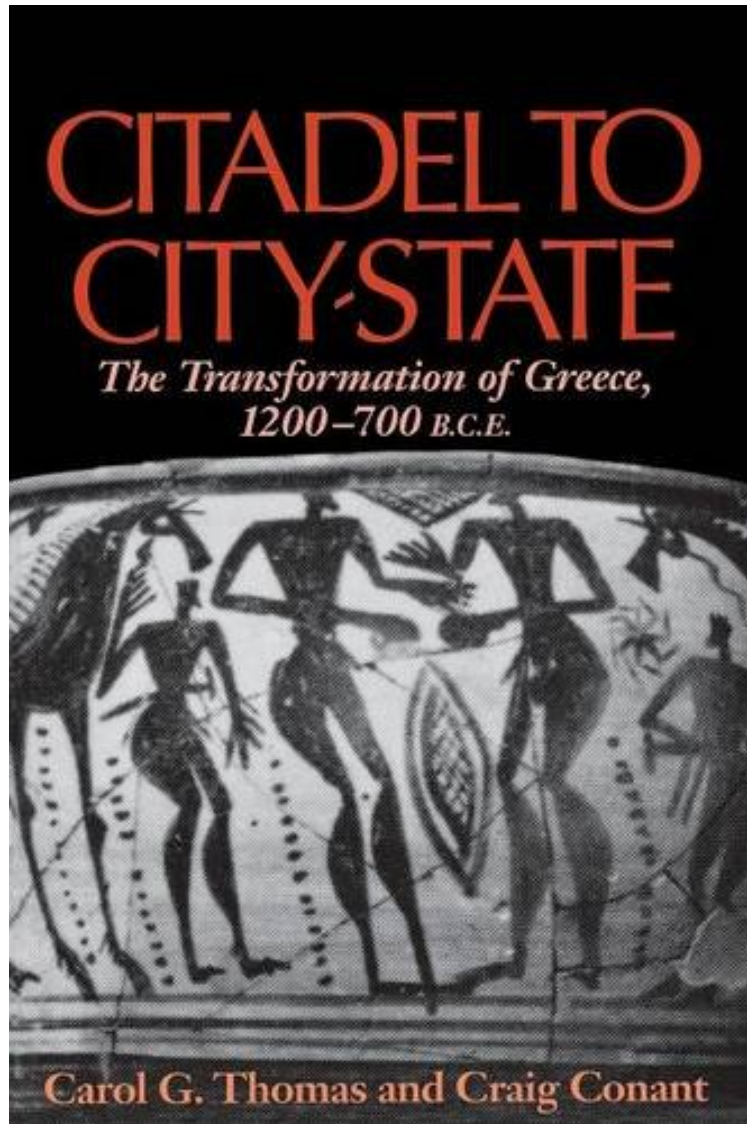


[Mobile ebook] Citadel to City-State: The Transformation of Greece, 1200-700 B.C.E.

# Citadel to City-State: The Transformation of Greece, 1200-700 B.C.E.

*Carol G. Thomas, Craig Conant*  
DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1382796 in Books Carol G Thomas Craig Conant 2003-01-21 2003-01-21 Original language: English PDF #1 9.25 x .72 x 6.12l, .90 #File Name: 0253216028240 pages Citadel to City State The Transformation of Greece 1200 700 BCE | File size: 54.Mb

**Carol G. Thomas, Craig Conant : Citadel to City-State: The Transformation of Greece, 1200-700 B.C.E.** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Citadel to City-State: The Transformation of Greece, 1200-700 B.C.E.:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Greek dark ages By Robert J. Crawford This book covers the 500

years from the collapse of Mycenaean domination of the Greek mainland, through the dark ages, to the beginnings of the polis, or city-state. Due to lack of sources beyond archaeology and the occasional reference in later literature, the treatment is of necessity academic and technical in detail. Thomas structures the book to cover a single city or geographical area in some detail as the embodiment of each of these stages. The book begins with Mycenae (think Agamemnon), which dominated almost the entire Greek world during the Bronze Age. This was the time of the citadel, an elite administrative enclave of palaces, food storage facilities, and workshops with walls to bar commoners from access. Residences of the majority of the population (peasants and slaves, who doubled as cannon fodder) were outside and obscure. The workshops produced a wide range of goods, principally for export to the other elite enclaves of the Bronze Age, in such places as Egypt, Anatolia, and Mesopotamia. There was a rudimentary system of writing, Linear B, for keeping accounts, though its inflexibility as a syllabic system made the composition of poetry difficult if not impossible. For unknown reasons, this civilization completely collapsed some time during the 12C BCE. Thomas reviews the possible causes - invasion, revolt, climate change, plague, natural catastrophe - and chooses the current consensus view that it was a "systems failure", whereby whatever it was sparked a self-reinforcing downward spiral. The result was a near-complete breakdown in trade (and artisanal production), the complete loss of literacy, and a precipitous decline in population, probably due to starvation and violence. The middle of the book covers what happened in a variety of cities. While there are too many distinctions to cover in a review, it boils down to a subsistence economy, the renewed importance of an oral cultural tradition, and the reorganization of small groupings in isolated locales to marshal resources for survival and security. Mycenae remained a somewhat active urban center for much of the dark age, Athens rose as a relatively dynamic area, but most of the Greek cities sunk into near-oblivion. The settlements were run by "big men", anthropologists believe, who governed by competence and their riches rather than by hereditary rights of sovereigns; they could lose their status quickly if they did not deliver the goods. Finally, we see the rise of larger agglomerations as precursors to the golden era of the city state. Corinth is the model in this section. As the "big man" organization no longer sufficed, a new socio-political organization began to emerge, i.e. as the population and trade revived, larger groupings came together for purposes of defense and resource management as they dealt with a wider world also in recovery. This sowed the seeds, according to the authors, of a unique political culture of duty and honor as a means to glorify the city-state, i.e. the well known traits of Classical antiquity, including in some places alternating leadership. Literacy was recovered and so many great oral poems were written down (i.e. Homer) in the easier alphabet that was adapted from the Phoenician system. There is also a wonderful chapter on Hesiod (of Ascra), the first Greek poet identified as an individual of the early city-state era. While I think the book errs on the side of inevitability of the city-state culture - we are never told why it arose in Greece the way it did - it is an interesting review and solid argument. The polis emerged as self-governing, each with its own culture, and resulted in an era of prolific experimentation in all areas. As a classics major who has dabbled in ancient history ever since, I found the book a treat, if occasionally dry, and very well written. Though there is nothing particularly original about it, the book offers a nice review as based on concrete evidence and inference from physical remains. Nonetheless, I would recommend the book only for serious history buffs or undergraduate students - it does not cross into the territory of popular history.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting

By Larry N. Stout

An interesting look at the apparent diversity and complexity of post-Bronze Age evolutions of Mycenaean population centers in Greece, as inferred from archaeological data, with reference to (variously problematical) ancient sources of later times. The archaeological data, unfortunately, are in most cases not as extensive and cogent as we might wish; as a consequence, some inferences of the authors (one an amateur) are perhaps less than self-evident, or too confidently stated. (One of the five sites treated in this work is Ascra, which had not even been excavated when the book was published! The inferences are based solely on surface finds.) I've learned from this book (although I find it rather unseemly that senior author Thomas has deigned to post her own high rating of it).

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Well organized introduction to the era

By American Gothic

This is a well organized work of an understudied era - Greece between the collapse of the Bronze Age and the beginnings of the Classical era. This so-called Dark Age may lack a literature or the intriguing art and sudden collapse of the bronze age, but is interesting nonetheless. This work is pleasant to read, and I recommend it to anyone interested in ancient history.

Citadel to City-State serves as an excellent summarization of our present knowledge of the not-so-dark Dark Age as well as an admirable prologue to the understanding of the subsequent Archaic and Classical periods." David Rupp, Phoenix

The Dark Age of Greece is one of the least understood periods of Greek history. A terra incognita between the Mycenaean civilization of Late Bronze Age Greece and the flowering of Classical Greece, the Dark Age was, until the last few decades, largely neglected. Now new archaeological methods and the discovery of new evidence have made it possible to develop a more comprehensive view of the entire period. Citadel to City-State explores each century from 1200 to 700 B.C.E. through an individual site: Mycenae, Nichoria, Athens, Lefkandi, Corinth, and Ascrathat illustrates the major features of each period. This is a remarkable account of the historical detective work that is beginning to

shed light on Dark Age Greece.