

Ships in cult and war: the Late Bronze Age Aegean and the Sea Peoples



Knossos

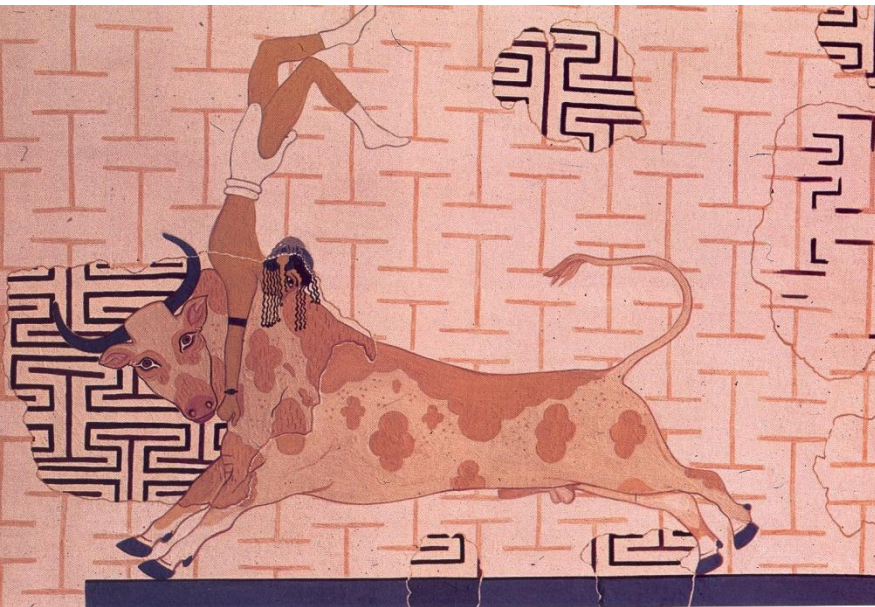
Ugarit

Mari archives of Zimri-Lim: A Caphtorite (Cretan) arrives to Ugarit to purchase tin (ca. 1770 BCE):
(the transaction was mediated by a translator)

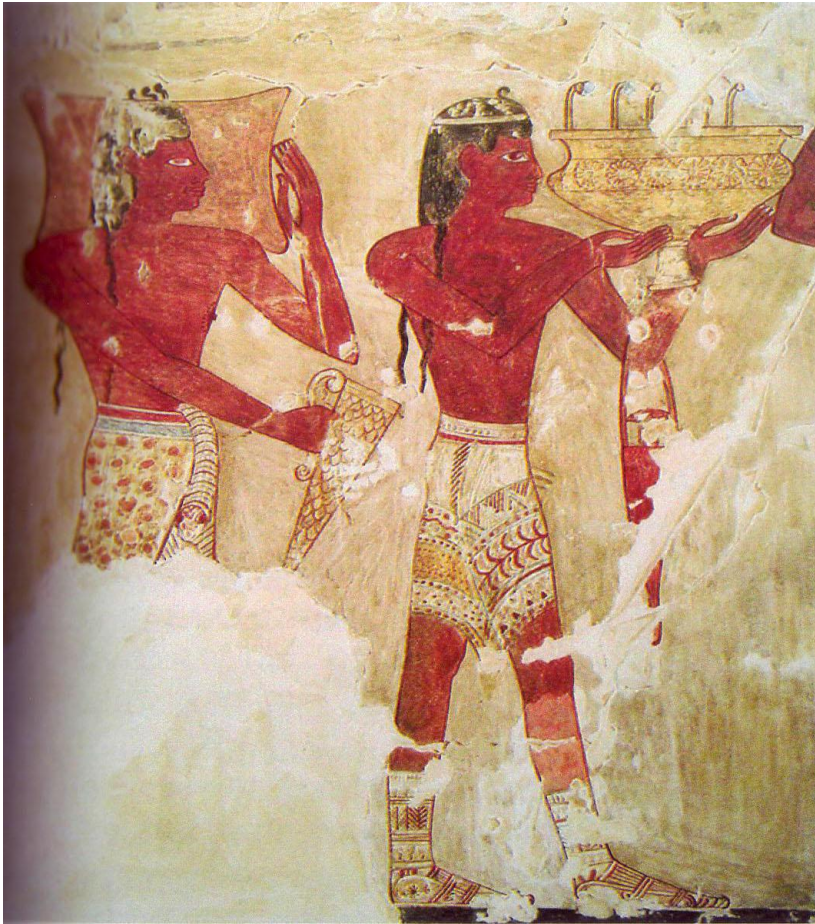




Minoan inspired fresco from
Tell el-Dab^{ca}/Avaris, Egypt—
Early 18th Dynasty
ca. 1550-1500 B.C.

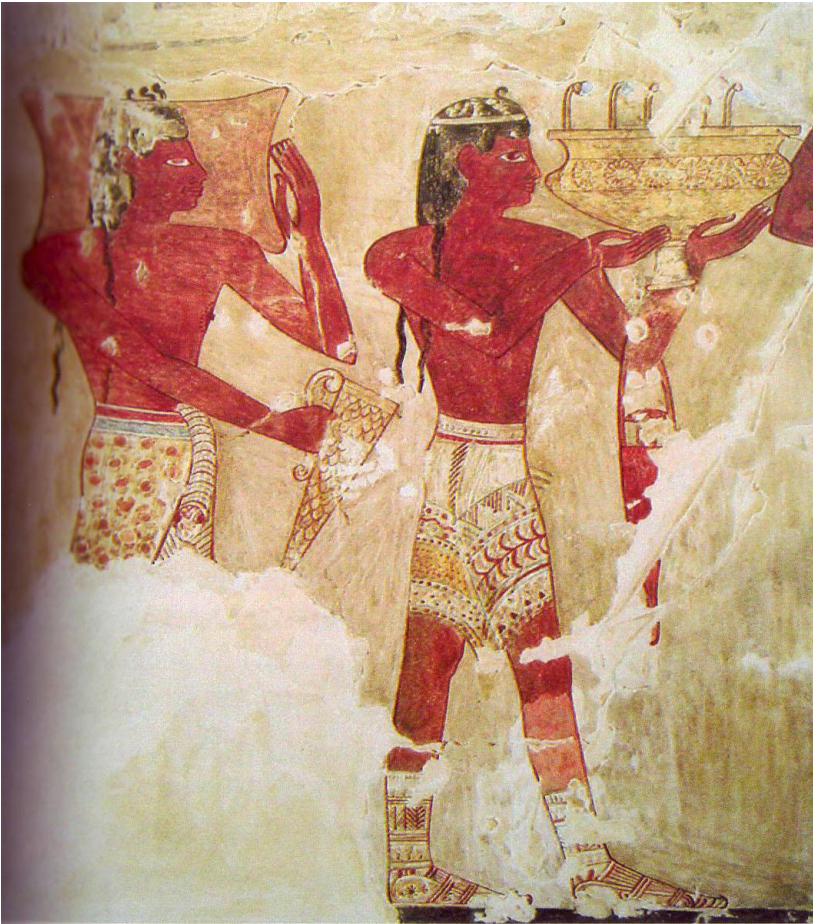


Minoan inspired frescoes and painted plaster floors decorating palace walls and floors
across the eastern Mediterranean



Keftiu (Minoan) emissaries represented in the tomb of Rekhmire
offering gifts—(Thebes, Egypt)
--18th Dynasty—Thutmose III-Amenhotep II—ca. 1479-1401 B.C.

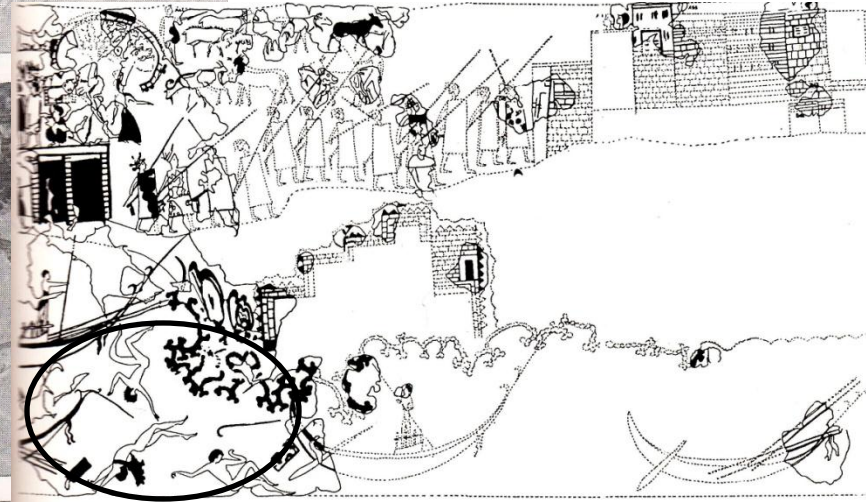
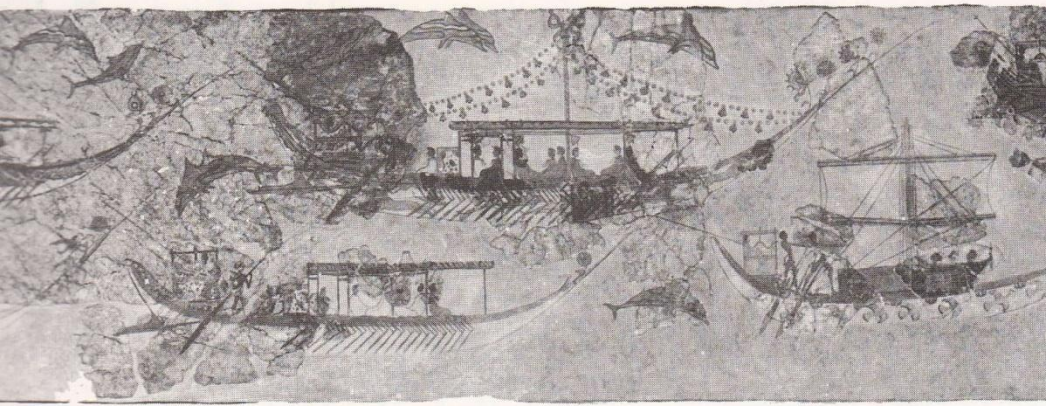
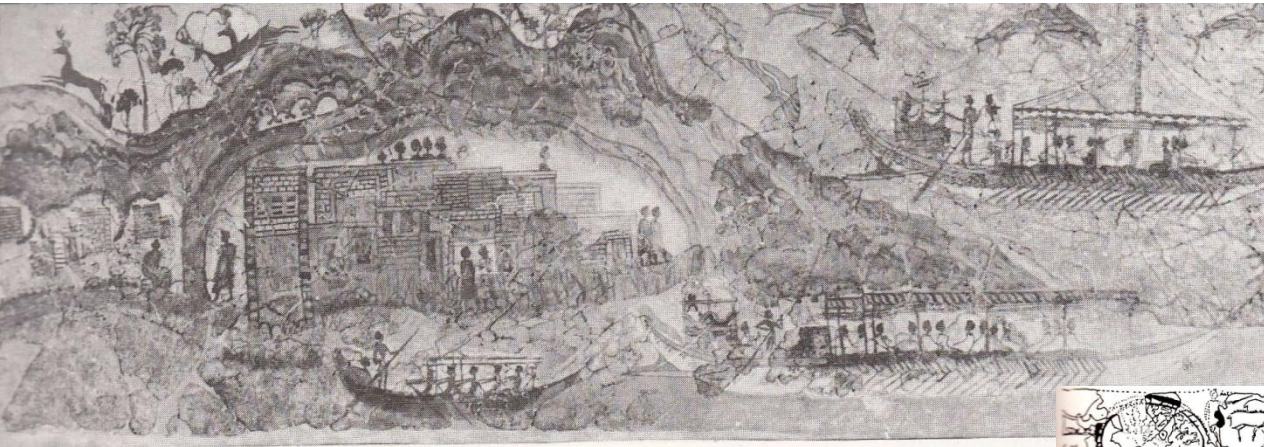
OK, but what do we know about their ships?



The preservation of Thera and the Thera frescoes in a volcanic eruption (ca. 1550 BCE)

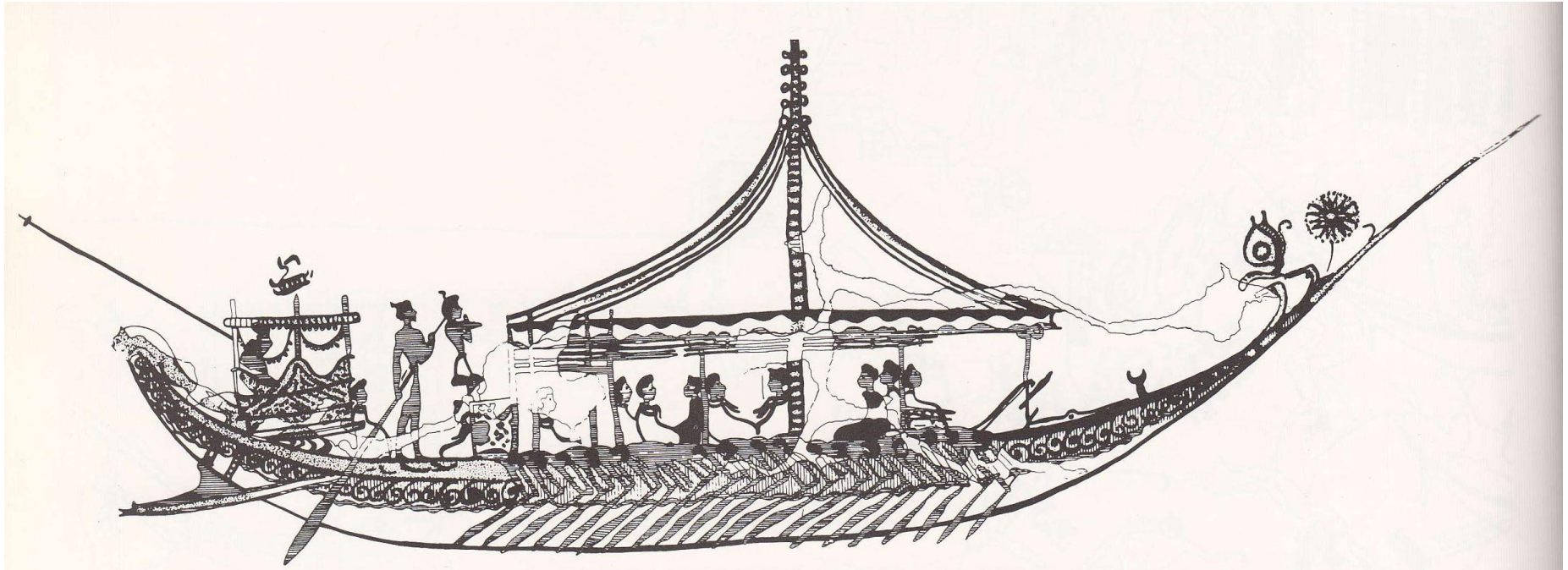


The ship procession from the Miniature Freeze as part of a very complex cultic scene

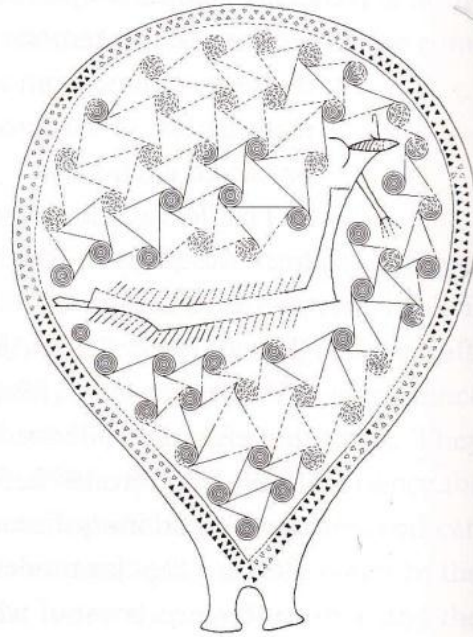
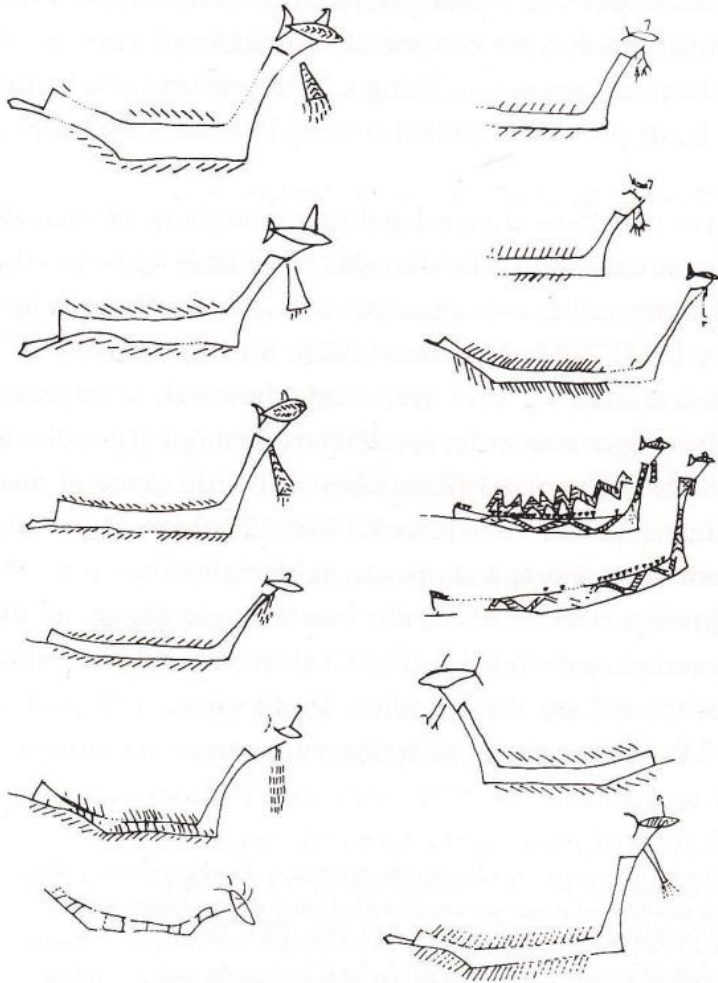


...including human sacrifice?

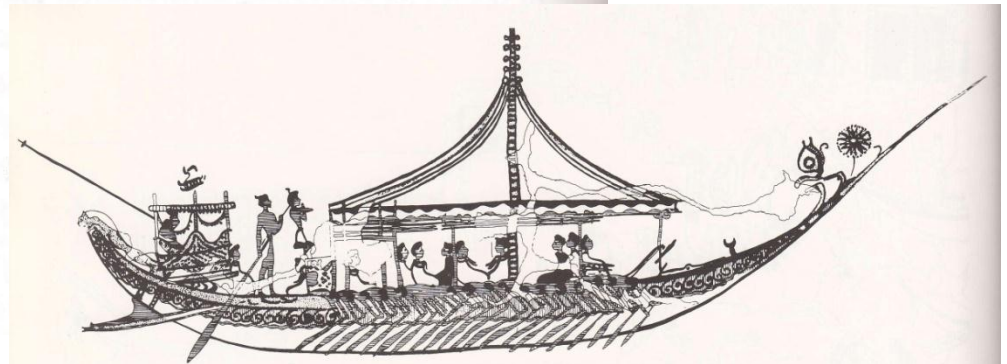
What are some of the cultic elements in the use of this ship?



Are there 1000 year old archaisms in the Thera cult scene?

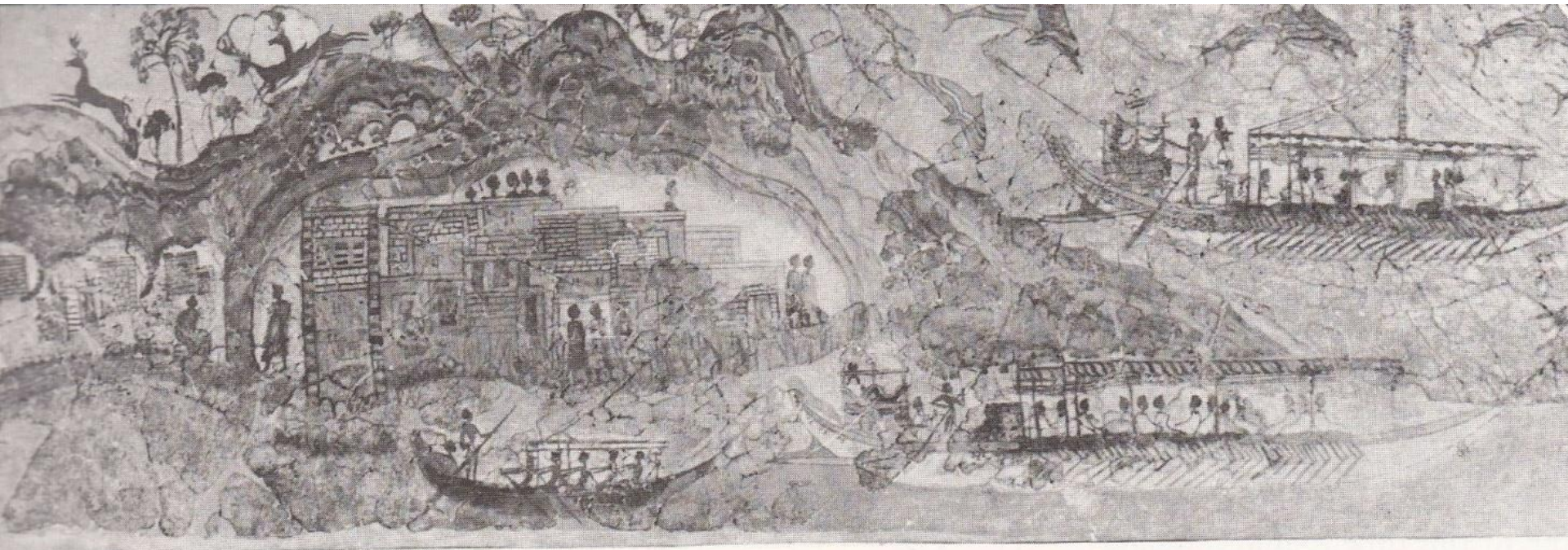


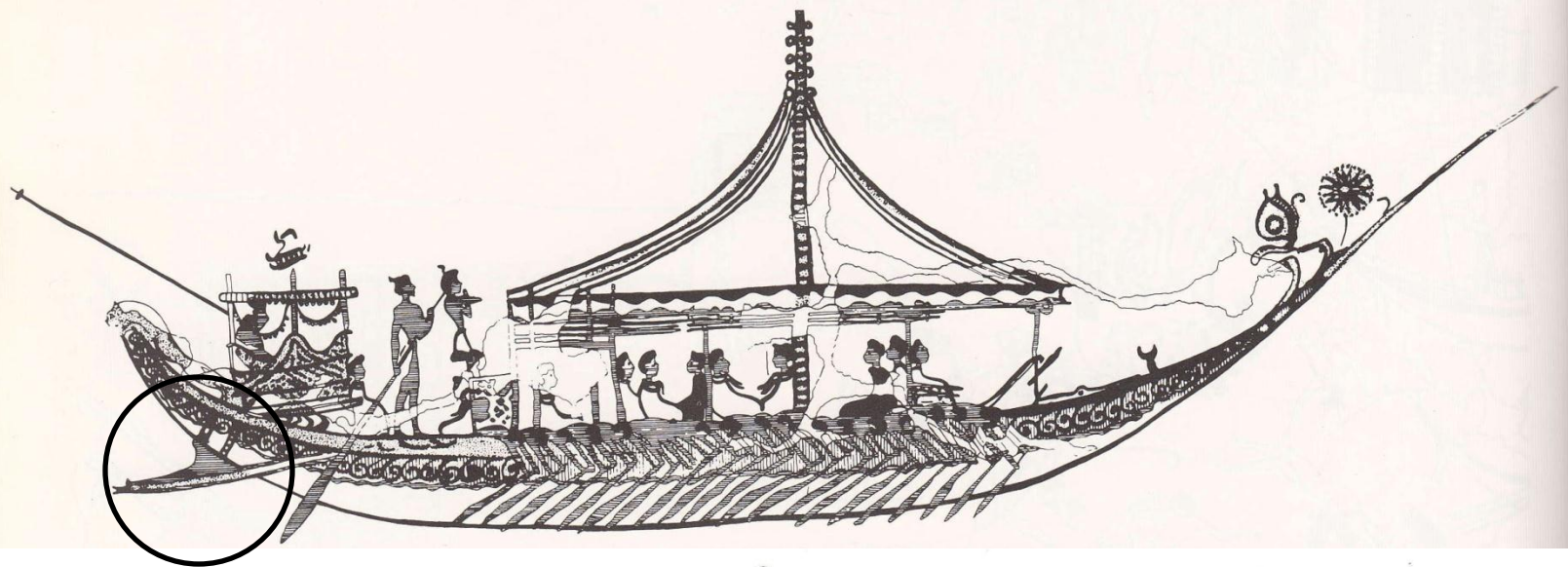
Cycladic long boats,
ca. 2500 BCE



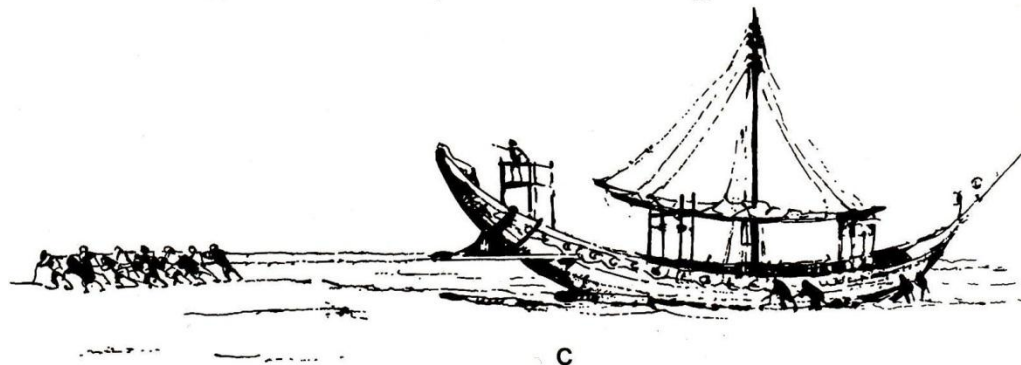
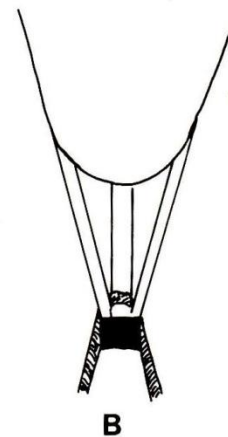
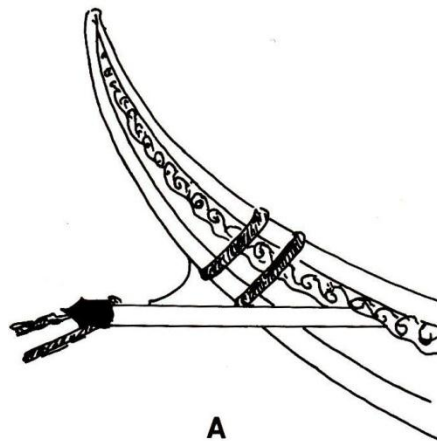
Thera, ca. 1550 BCE

The different kinds of propulsion in the Thera ship procession

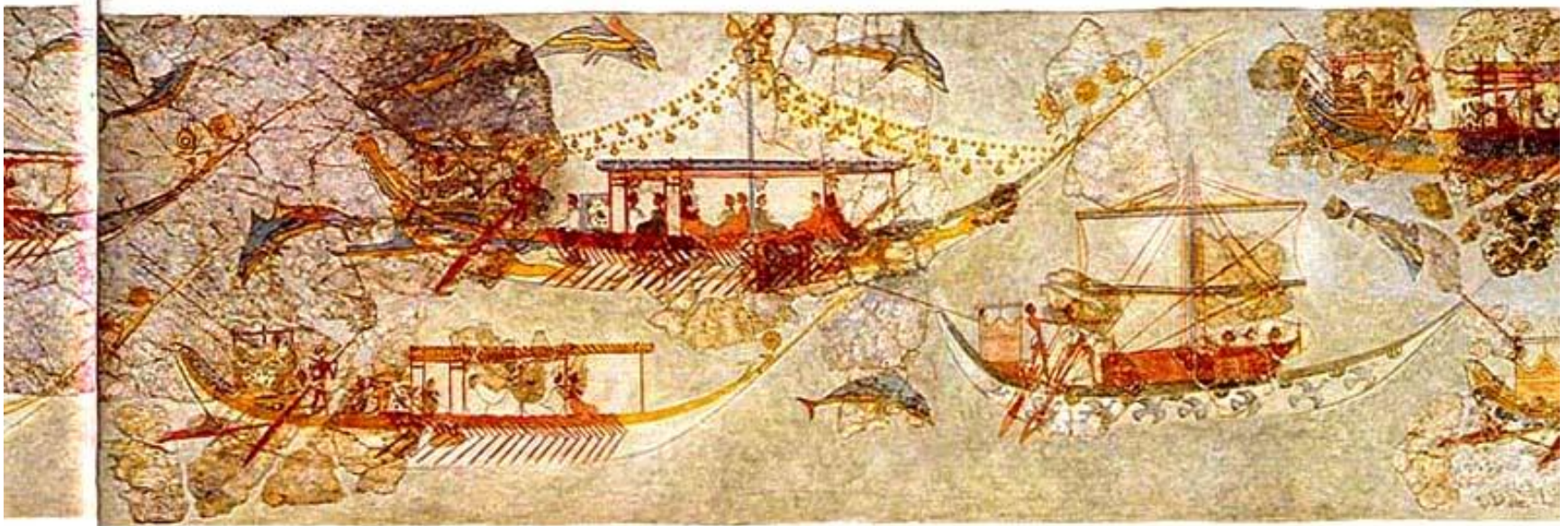




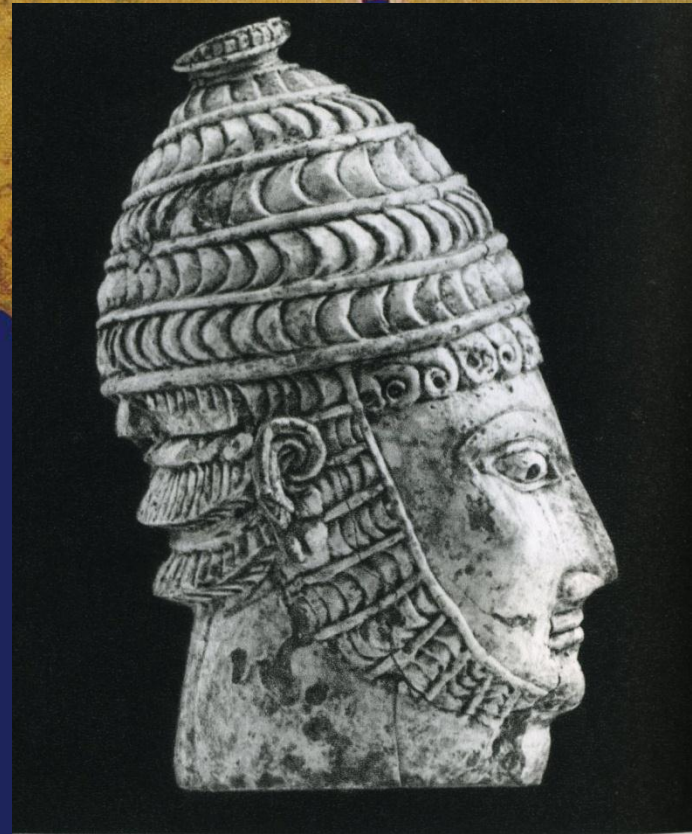
An unusual detail



In the end, how does the Thera ship procession inform Minoan seafaring (in the wider Mediterranean?)



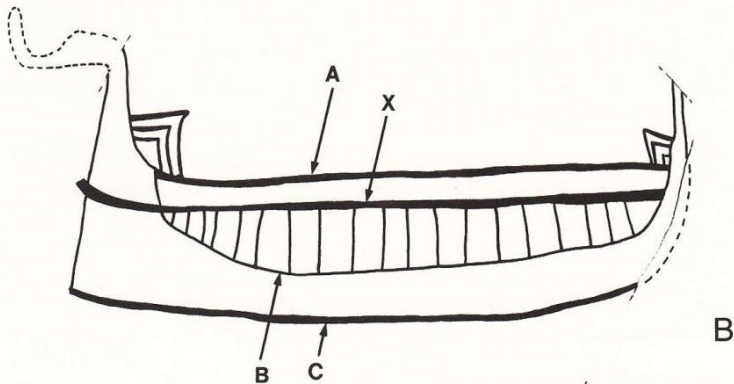
Crisis in the Aegean and the ascendancy of Greek mainland polities and culture (enter the Mycenaeans—ca. 1390 BCE)



A humbler representation of Aegean culture in the Mediterranean:
distribution of exported Aegean ceramics (1400-1200 BCE)



Representations and text records of ships from the Mycenaean Aegean



The 'Kynos ship' on painted pottery
(ca. 1200 BCE)

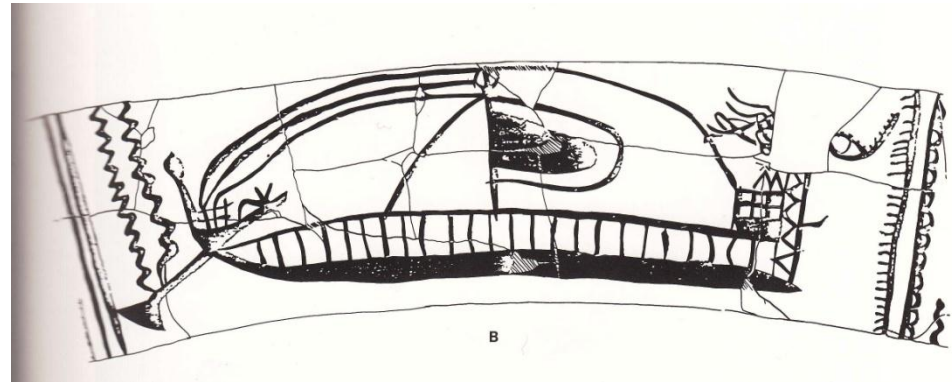


Linear B tablet from the Kingdom of Pylos,
calling up rowers

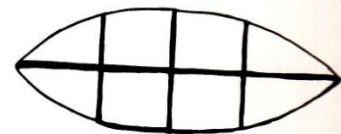
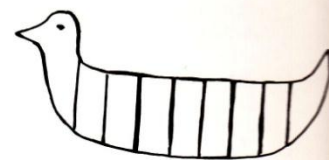
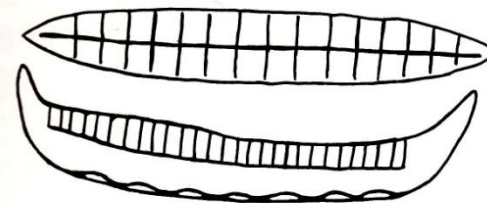
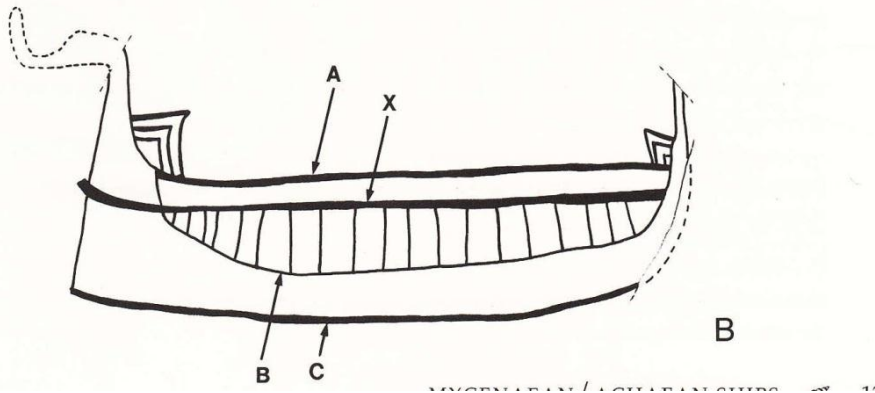
The 'horizontal ladder' motif is a recurring them in Mycenaean ship imagery



Painted onto a larnax (sarcophagus)

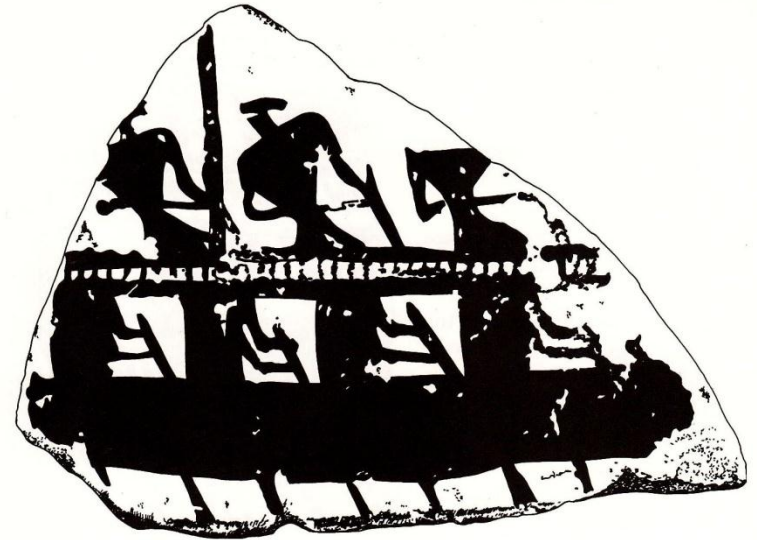


Painted onto pottery

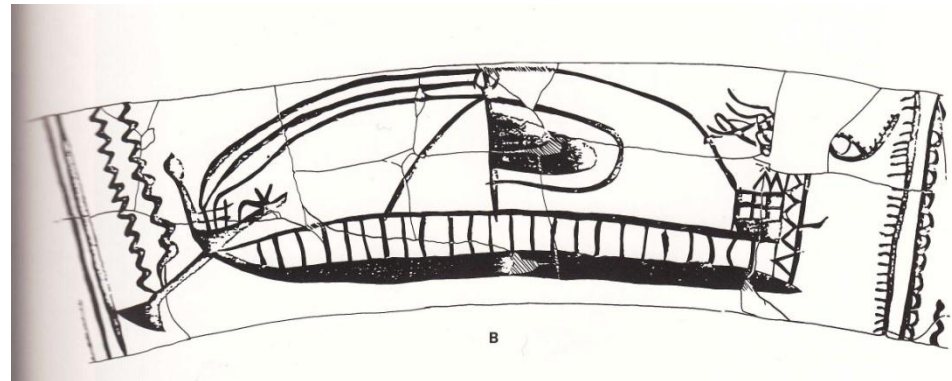
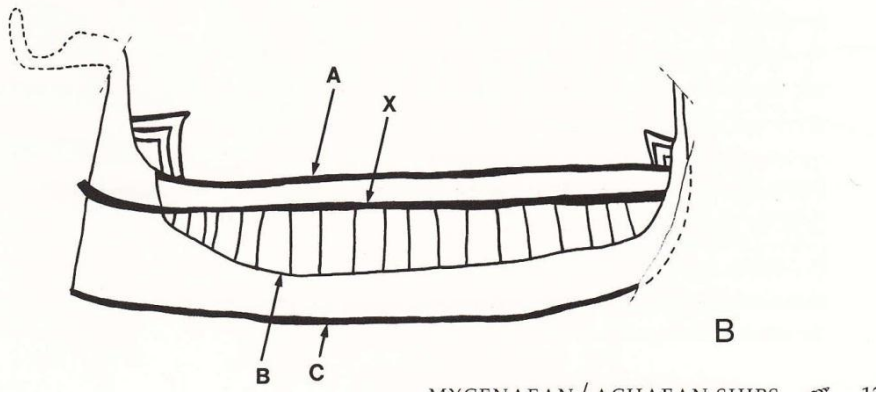


Terracotta ship models

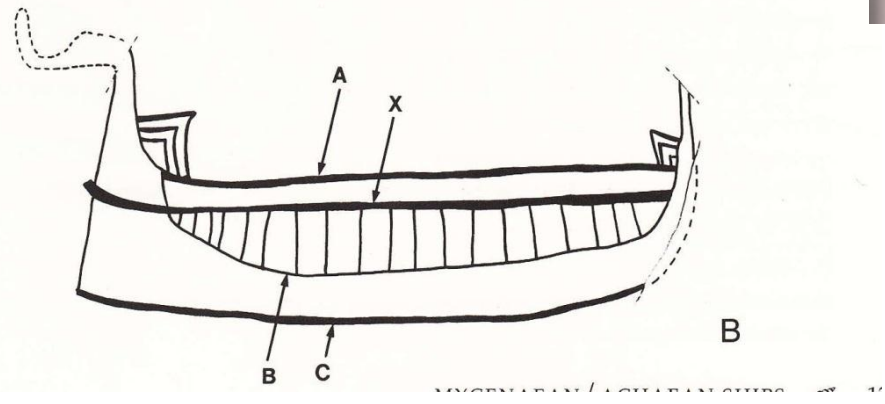
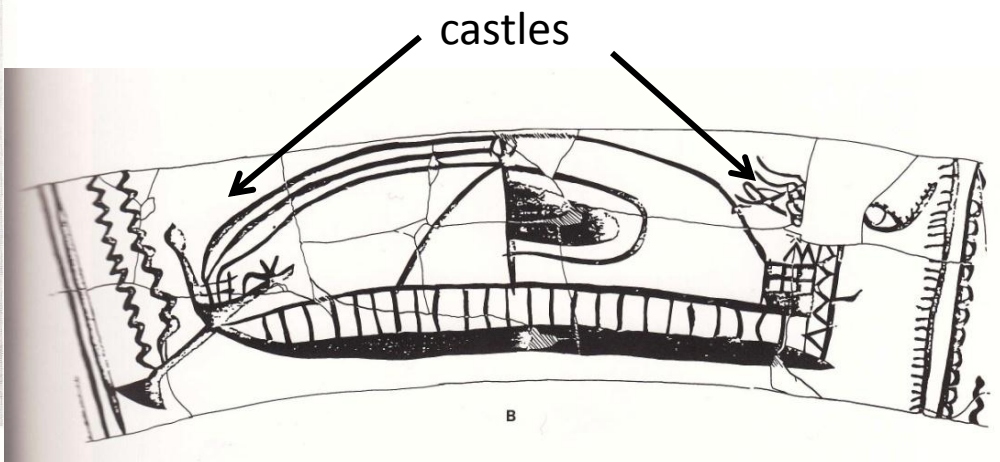
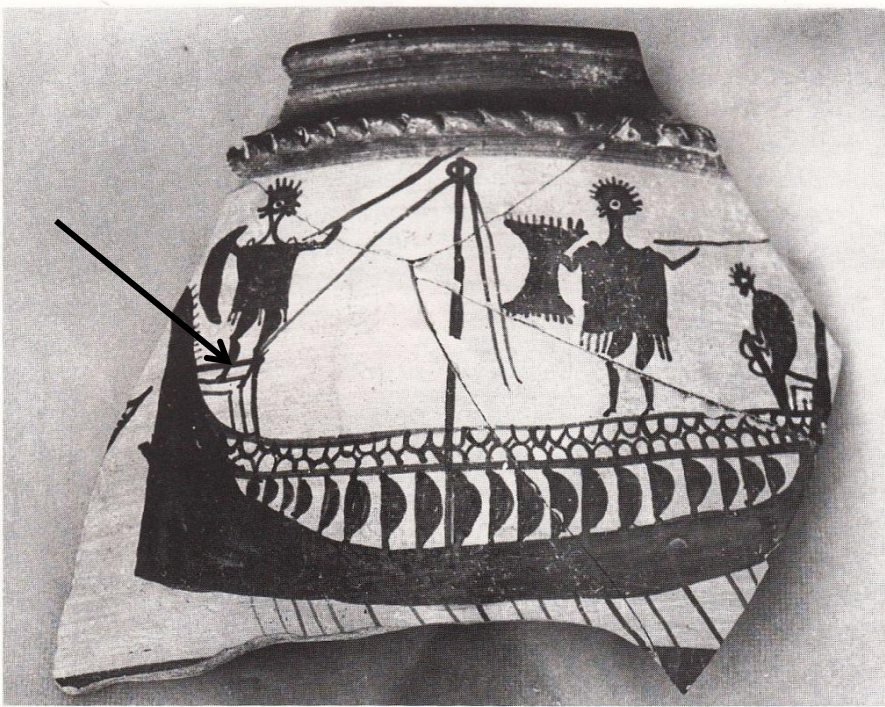
The horizontal ladder motif = a rower's gallery
ladder rungs = stanchions



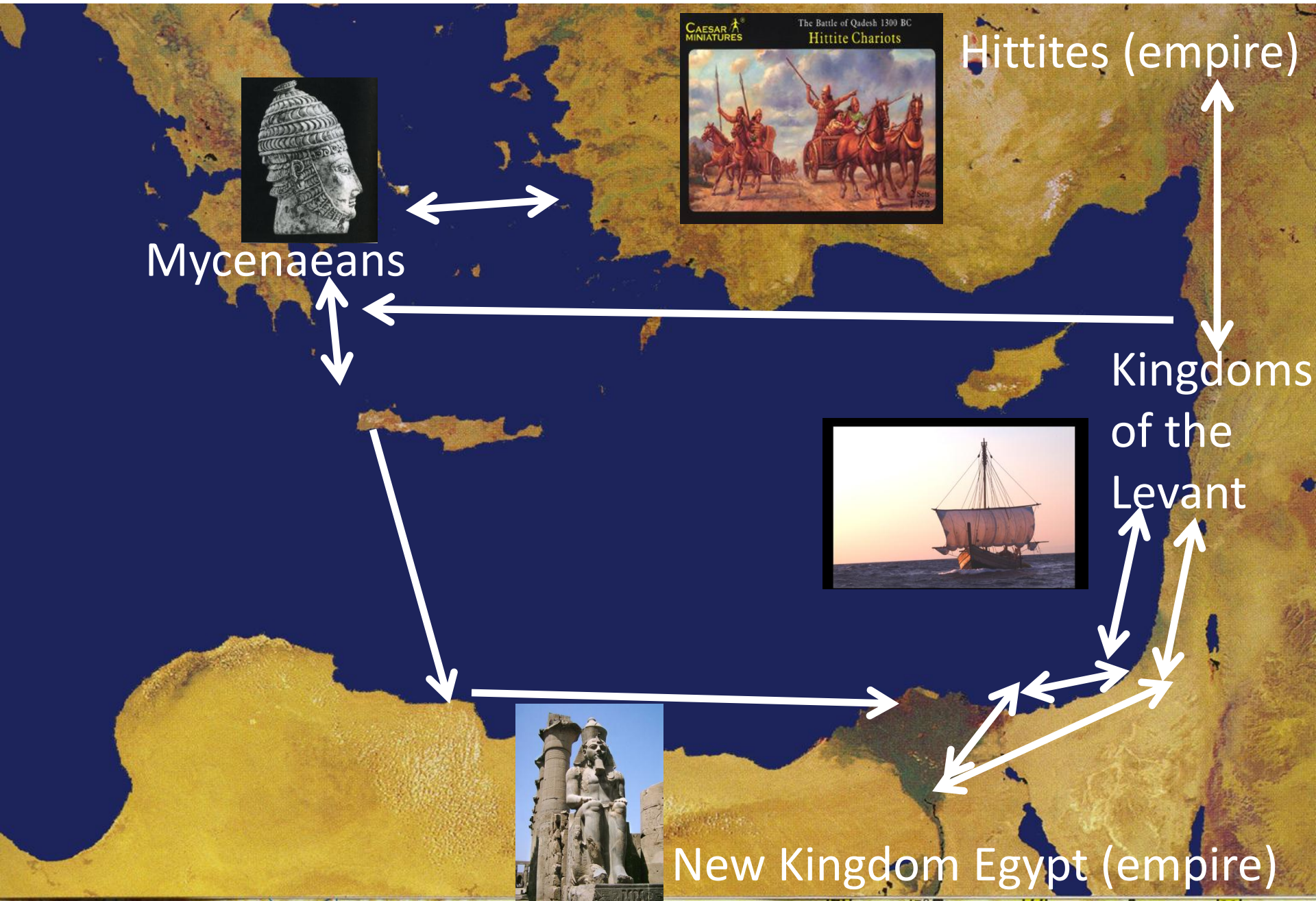
A later representation of a rower's gallery
(pottery from Athens, ca. 700 BCE)



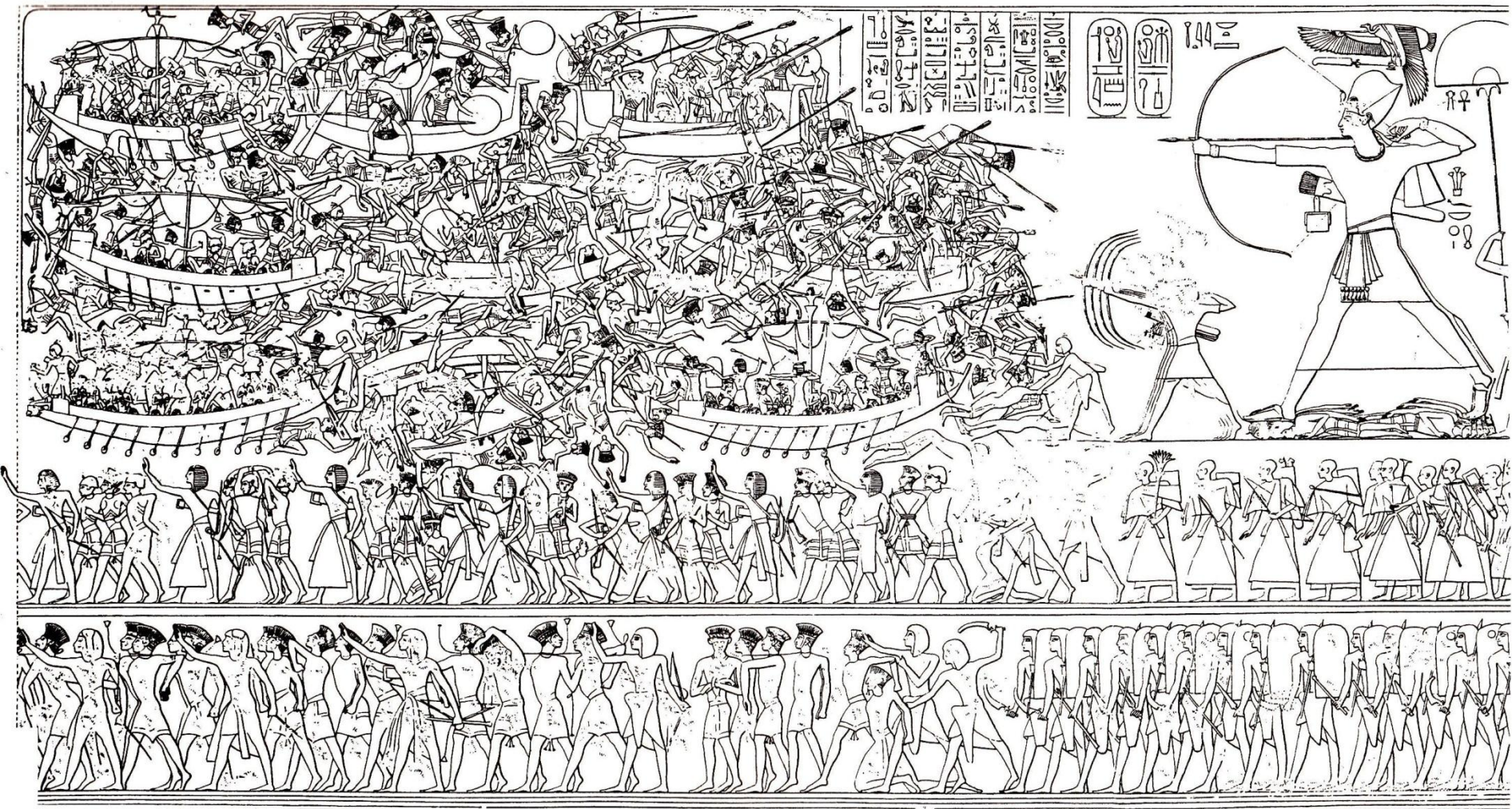
Almost everything we know about Mycenaean seafaring relates to ships of war



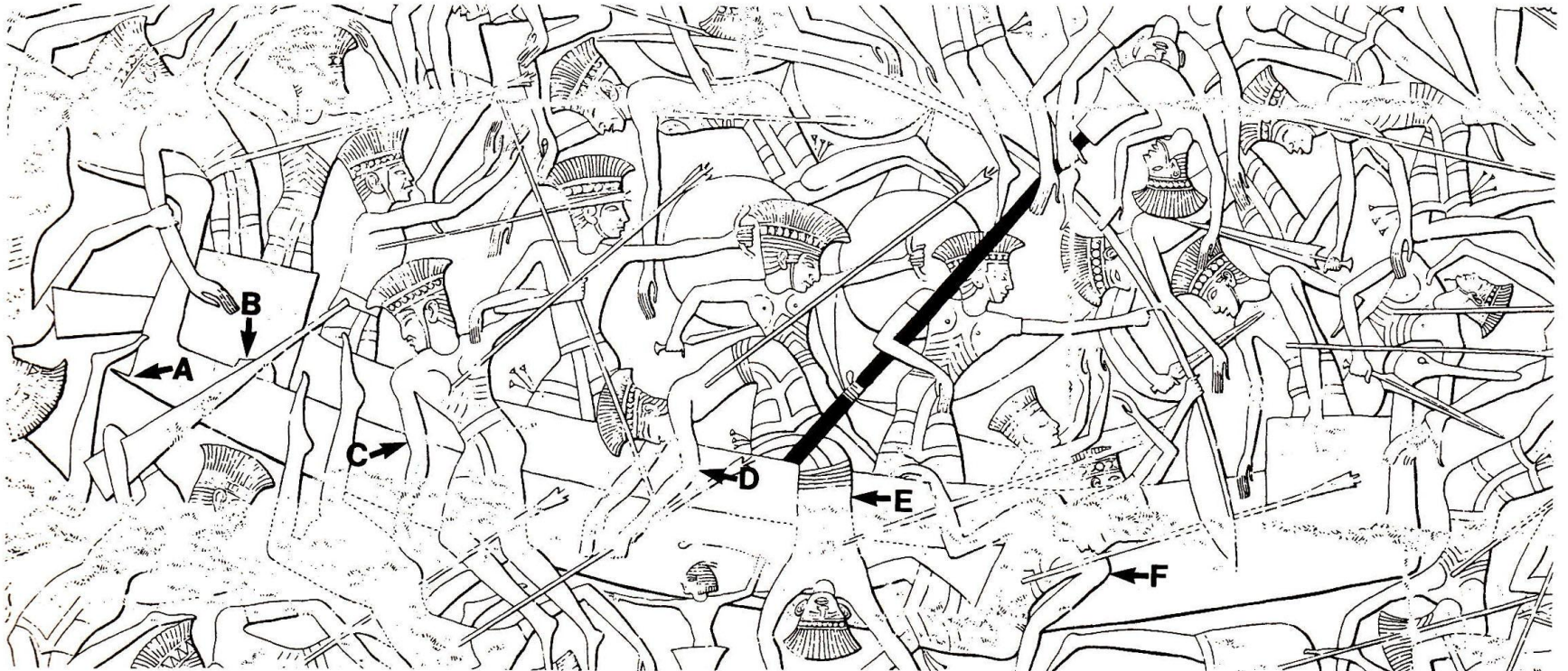
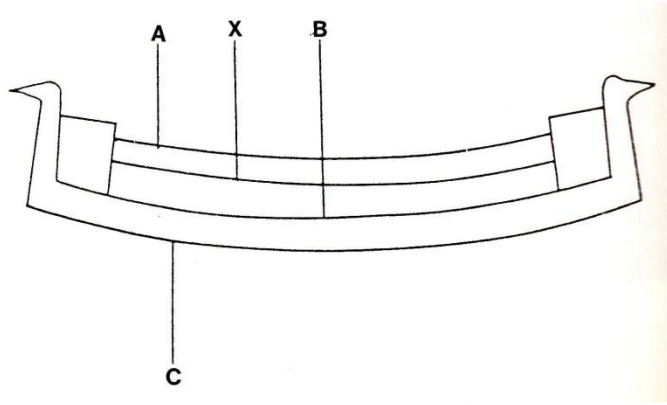
This all comes crashing down ca. 1200 BCE (the end of the Bronze Age)



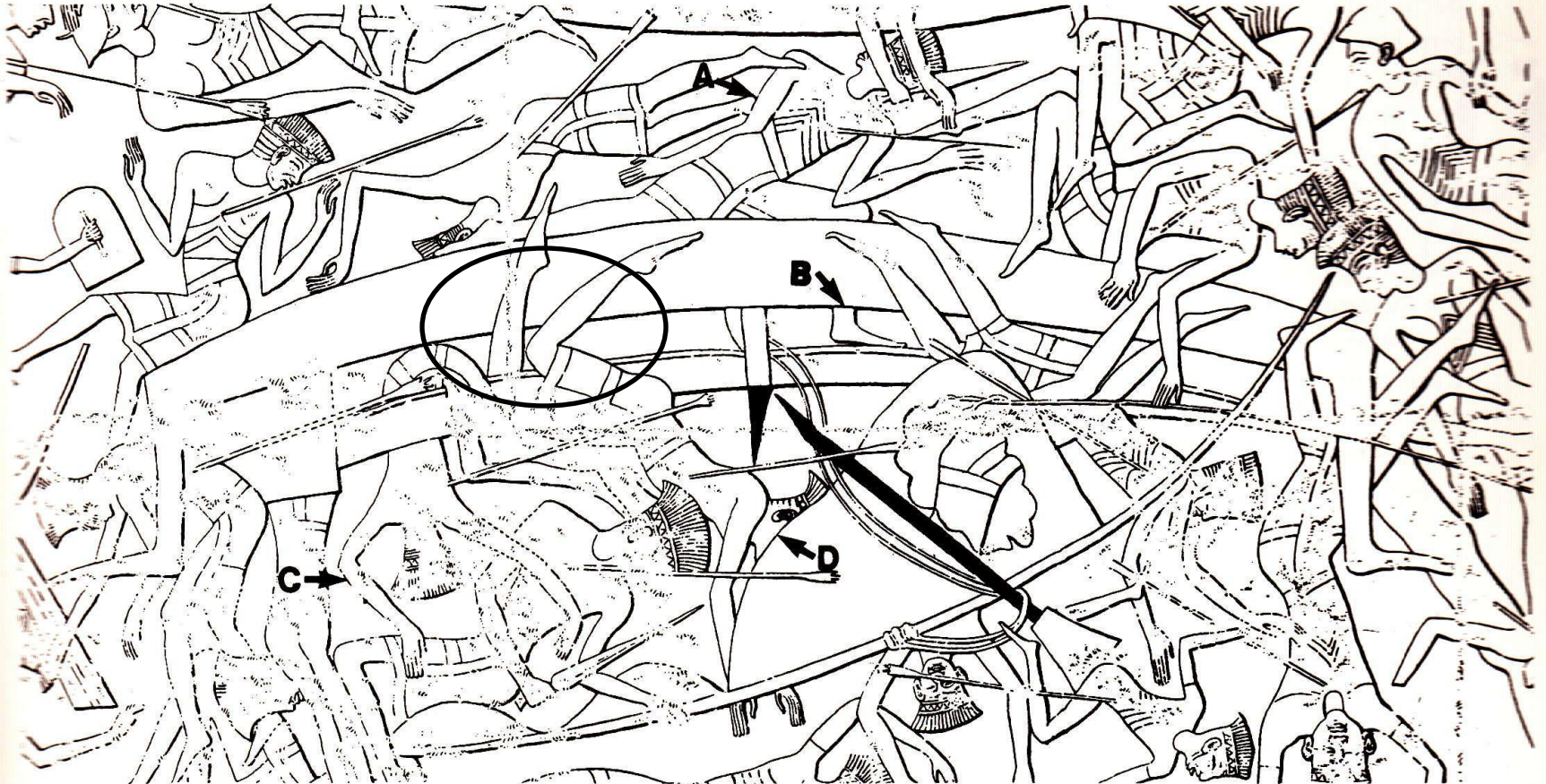
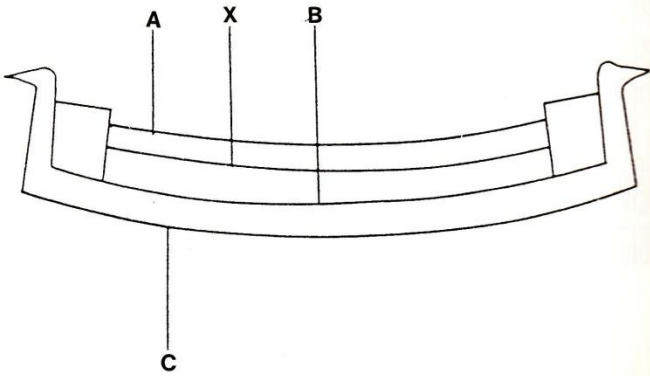
The naval battle between the fleet of Ramesses III and the 'Sea Peoples', represented in the tomb of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu at Thebes in Egypt (ca. 1180 BCE)



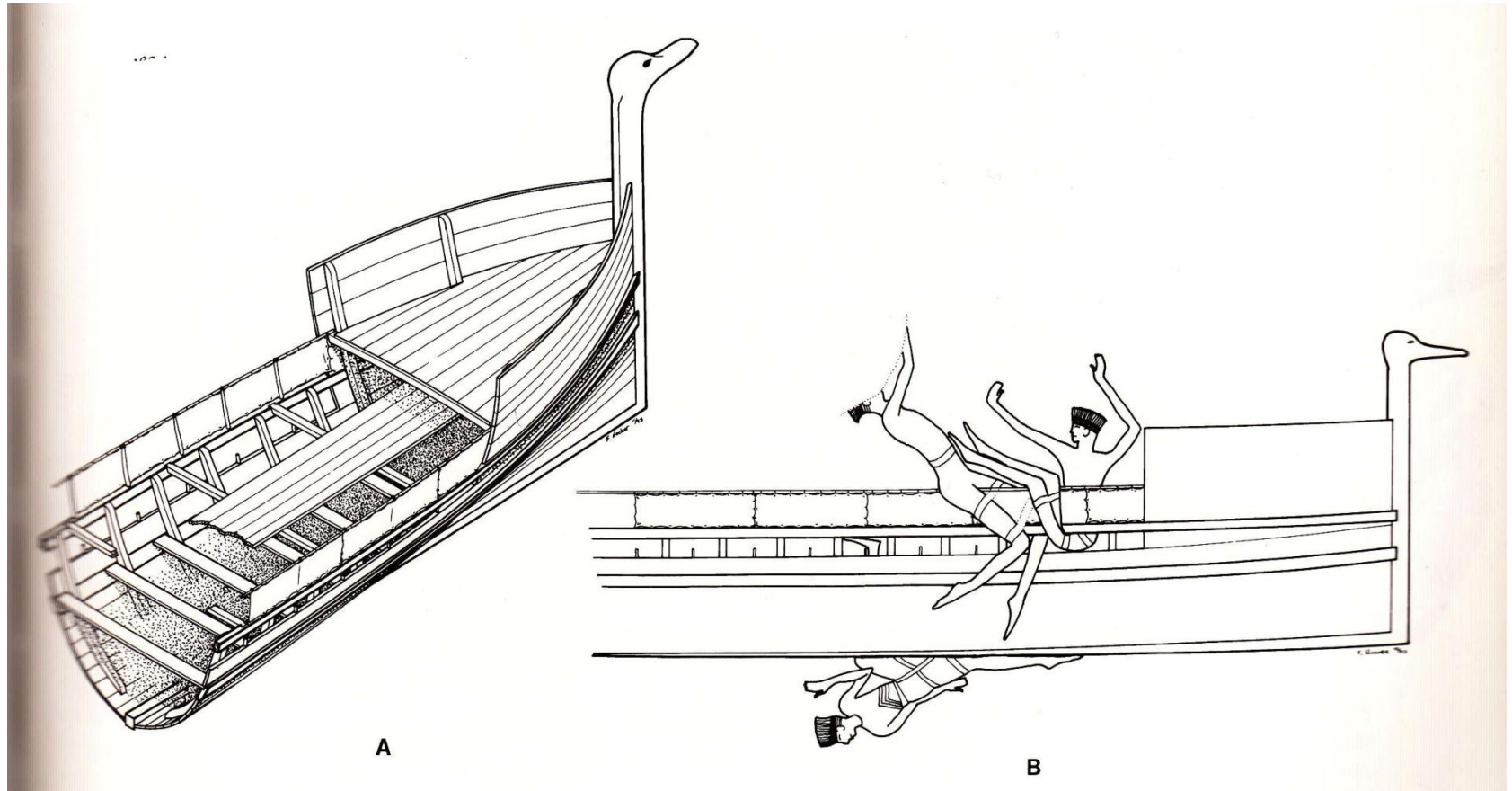
What can we reconstruct from this chaotic scene?



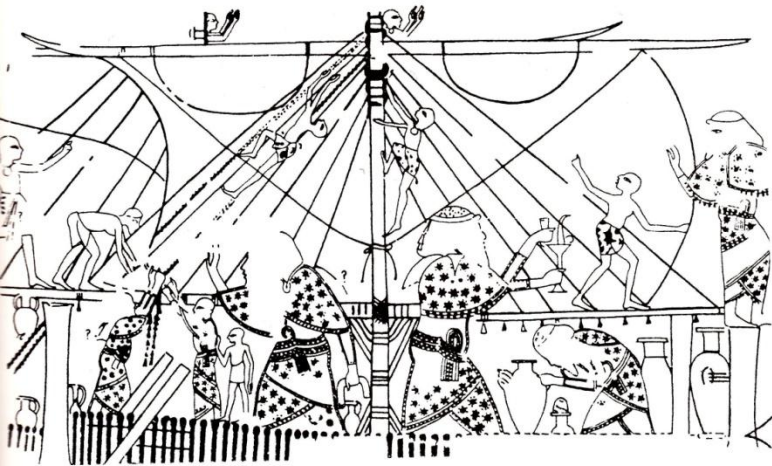
The leg of a Sea Peoples warrior caught in the rower's gallery of the overturned ship



An interpretation of a Sea Peoples' ship



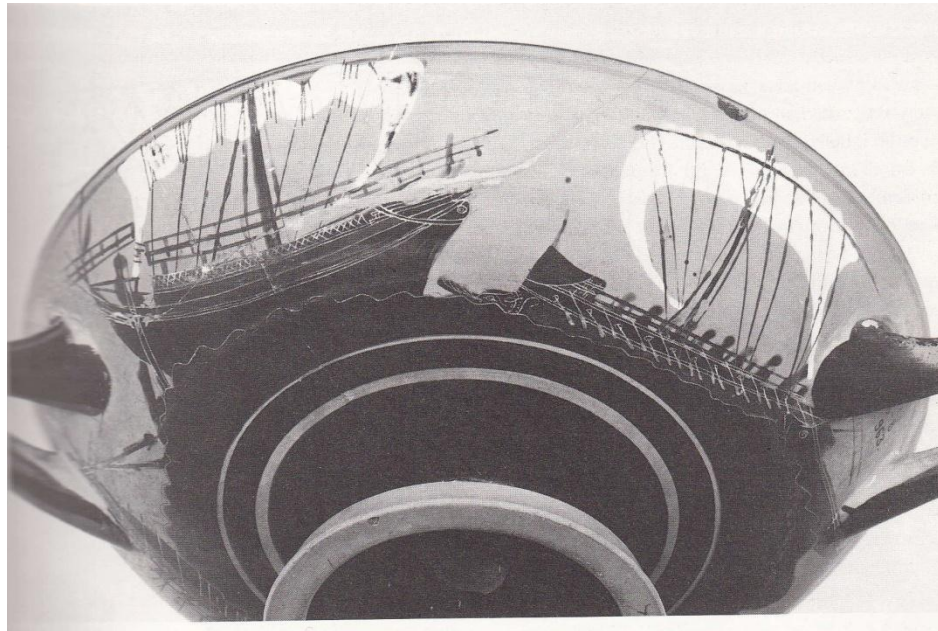
An 'evolutionary' development in sailing technology: the loose-footed (or brailed) sail makes its first appearance in the Medinet Habu reliefs



ca. 1350 BCE

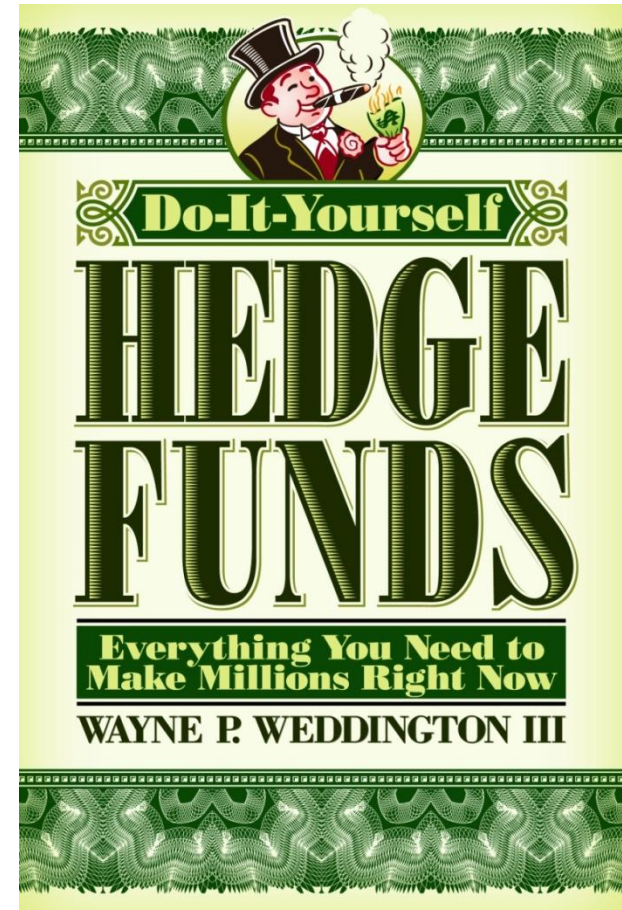
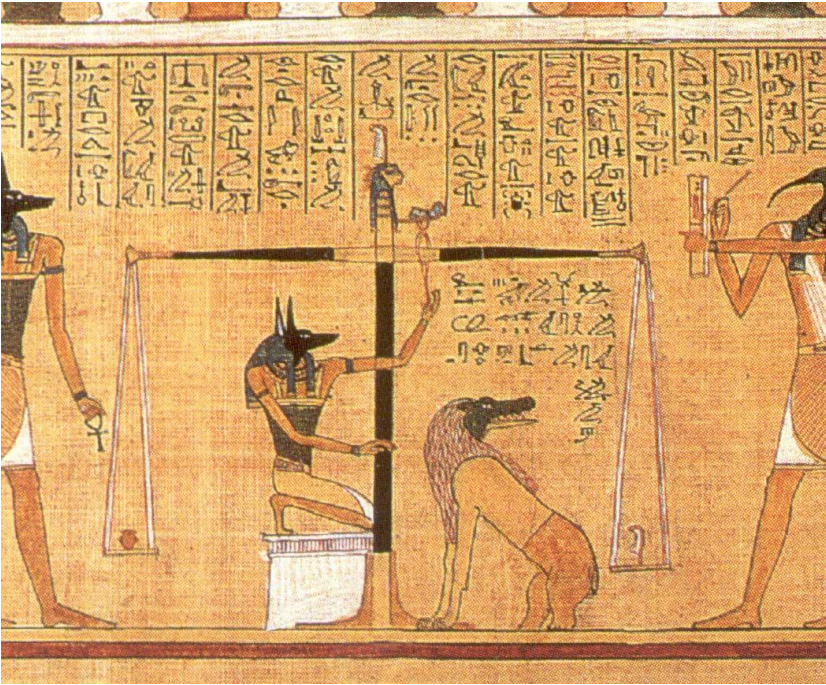


ca. 1200 BCE



ca. 500 BCE

ARCH 1570: COLD HARD CASH: A MATERIALITY OF ANCIENT AND MODERN FINANCE



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