

Destruction and Its Impact on Ancient Societies at the End of the Bronze Age

Destruction and Its Impact on Ancient Societies at the End of the Bronze Age

Jesse Millek



Destruction and Its Impact on Ancient Societies at the End of the Bronze Age

Copyright © 2023 by Lockwood Press

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by means of any information storage or retrieval system, except as may be expressly permitted by the 1976 Copyright Act or in writing from the publisher. Requests for permission should be addressed in writing to Lockwood Press, PO Box 1080, Columbus, GA 31901 USA, admin@lockwoodpress.com.

ISBN: 978-1-948488-83-9

Cover design by Susanne Wilhelm

Cover image: Akrotiri. Jan M, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Millek, Jesse, author.

Title: Destruction and its impact on ancient societies at the end of the Bronze Age / Jesse Millek.

Description: Columbus, Georgia: Lockwood Press, 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022045705 (print) | LCCN 2022045706 (ebook) | ISBN 9781948488839 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781948488846 (pdf) | ISBN 9781957454016 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Bronze age–Mediterranean Region. | Natural disasters–Mediterranean Region–History–To 476. | Mediterranean Region–History–To 476. | Archaeology and natural disasters.

Classification: LCC GN778.25 .M55 2022 (print) | LCC GN778.25 (ebook) | DDC 937–dc23/eng/20221201

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022045705

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022045706

Contents

List of Figures	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Acknowledgments	xiii
Chapter 1: Destruction and the End of the Bronze Age	1
Chapter 2: The Archaeology of Destruction: Denoting, Describing, and Classifying	23
Chapter 3: The Destruction That Wasn't	53
Chapter 4: Destruction in Mycenean Greece and the Wider Aegean World	131
Chapter 5: Destruction in Anatolia and the Fall of the Hittite Empire	171
Chapter 6: Cyprus and the Absence of Destruction at the End of the Late Bronze Age	199
Chapter 7: The Levant: A Mixed Bag of Destruction	219
Chapter 8: Destruction and 1200 BCE: Overview and Impact on Mediterranean Societies	271
Appendix: Overview of Destruction ca. 1200 BCE	289
References	303
Index	381

Figures

Fig. 1.1. Comparative chronology chart of regions in the Eastern Mediter-	
ranean.	2
Fig. 1.2. Map after Drews's 1993 map of the "Catastrophe" ca. 1200 BCE.	
(For sites in italics destruction was assumed probable but not certain.)	5
Fig. 3.1. Misdated destructions in the Eastern Mediterranean excluding	
the southern Levant.	57
Fig. 3.2. Misdated destructions in the southern Levant.	66
Fig. 3.3. Assumed destructions in the Eastern Mediterranean excluding	
the southern Levant.	75
Fig. 3.4. Assumed destructions in the southern Levant.	94
Fig. 3.5. False Citations in the Eastern Mediterranean excluding the south-	
ern Levant.	106
Fig. 3.6. False Citations in the southern Levant.	121
Fig. 4.1. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE on mainland	
Greece (Kastanas not pictured).	132
Fig. 4.2. Plan of the central enclosure at Gla. Iakovidis 2001, 23 fig. 7.	
Courtesy of the Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens.	139
Fig. 4.3. Plan of the Melathron with traces of fire. Iakovidis 2001, 41 fig.	
15. Courtesy of the Library of the Archaeological Society at Athens.	141
Fig. 4.4. Plan of Tiryns. Courtesy of Joseph Maran.	155
Fig. 4.5. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE on Crete.	161
Fig. 5.1. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE in Anatolia.	172
Fig. 5.2. Plan of the central temple district noting which buildings were	
burnt and which were abandoned. For unmarked buildings, the situa-	
tion is not clear. From Seeher 2001, 629 Abb 1. Courtesy of Jürgen	
Seeher.	178
Fig. 6.1. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE on Cyprus.	200
Fig. 6.2. Modified plan of Enkomi Area III Level IIB detailing where pos-	
sible traces of destruction were uncovered. Dikaios 1969, pl. 252.	202

VIII FIGURES

Fig. 6.3. Modified plan of Enkomi Area I Level IIB detailing where possible traces of destruction were uncovered. Dikaios 1969, pl. 272.	203
Fig. 7.1. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE in the northern Levant.	220
Fig. 7.2. Plan of the <i>Ville Sud</i> noting where weapons were uncovered.	220
Courtesy of Olivier Callot.	222
Fig. 7.3. Plan of Tell Afis Area E4 Phase Vb. Courtesy of Fabrizio Venturi.	228
Fig. 7.4. Map of sites with a destruction event ca. 1200 BCE in the south-	
ern Levant.	232
Fig. 7.5. Tel Mor, Strata VIII–VII. Courtesy of Tristen Barako.	242
Tables	

Table 4.1. We apons of war uncovered in the destruction of Midea. $\,$

151

Abbreviations

General

LC Late Cypriot
LH Late Helladic
LM Late Minoan

Bibliographic

AA Archäologischer Anzeiger

AAA Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology AAAS Annales archéologiques arabes syriennes

AASOR Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research

ÄAT
 Ägypten und Altes Testament
 ABRL
 Anchor Bible Reference Library
 ABS
 Archaeology and Biblical Studies
 ABSA
 Annual of the British School at Athens

ADAJ Annual of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan
ADOG Abhandlungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
ADPV Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins
AeL Ägypten und Levante/Egypt and the Levant

AfO Archiv für Orientforschung

AfOB Archiv für Orientforschung, Beiheft

AHL Archaeology and History in the Lebanon

AJA American Journal of Archaeology

AJASup American Journal of Archaeology Supplement

AJSL American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures

AmJT American Journal of Theology

AnAnt Anatolia Antiqua

ANESSup Ancient Near Eastern Studies Supplement

AnSt Anatolian Studies

AOAT Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AoF Altorientalische Forschungen
ArchDelt Archaeologikon Deltion
ArRep Archaeological Reports

ASORAR American Schools of Oriental Research Archaeological Re-

ports

AuOrSup Aula Orientalis Supplementa

AW Antike Welt

BA Biblical Archaeologist

BAAL Bulletin d'archéologie et d'architecture libanaises

BaM Baghdader Mitteilungen
BAR Biblical Archaeology Report

BARIS British Archaeological Reports International Series

BArte Bollettino d'Arte

BASOR Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (from

2020 Bulletin of ASOR)

BCAW Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World

BCH Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique

BCHSup Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique Supplément

BICS Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies

BZAW Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

CA Current Anthropology
CAH Cambridge Ancient History

CCEM Contributions to the Chronology of the Eastern Mediterra-

nean

CHANE Culture and History of the Ancient Near East

COS Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger Jr., eds. *The Context*

of Scripture. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997-2016.

CRAI Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Inscriptions et

Belles-Lettres

DamM Damaszener Mitteilungen

DMOA Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui

EAEHL Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land.

Edited by Michael Avi-Yonah. 4 vols. London: Oxford Univer-

sity Press, 1975-1978.

ESI Excavations and Survey in Israel

HANEM History of the Ancient Near East, Monographs

IAAR Israel Antiquities Authority Reports

IEJ Israel Exploration Journal

JArSJournal of Archaeological ScienceJCSJournal of Cuneiform StudiesJHSJournal of Hellenic StudiesJNESJournal of Near Eastern Studies

JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series

KUB Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi

MDOG Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft

MRS Mission de Ras Shamra

NABU Nouvelles Assyriologiques Breves et Utilitaires

NEA Near Eastern Archaeology

NEAEHL Stern, Ephraim, ed. The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological

Excavations in the Holy Land. 5 vols. Jerusalem: Israel Explora-

tion Society, 1993, 2008.

NS new series

OBO Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis

OEANE The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East. Edit-

ed by Eric M. Meyers. 5 vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press,

1997.

OIP Oriental Institute Publications
OJA Oxford Journal of Archaeology
OLA Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta

OpAth Opuscula Atheniensia

OpAthRom Opuscula Or Orientalia NS

ORA Orientalische Religionen in der Antike

PAe Probleme der Ägyptologie

ΠΑΕ Praktika tēs en Athēnais Archaiologikēs Hetairias apo ... mechri

PEQ Palestine Exploration Quarterly

pl(s). plate(s)

QDAP Quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine

RA Revue d'Assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale

RAr Revue Archéologique

RB Revue biblique

RDAC Report of the Department of Antiquities, Cyprus

RSFSup Rivista di studi fenici Supplemento

RSO Ras Shamra-Ougarit

SAHL Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant

SAOC Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
SCAn Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology

Sem Semitica

SHAJ Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan
SJOT Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament

SMEA Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici

SMNIA Tel Aviv University Soia and Marco Nadler Institute of Ar-

chaeology Monograph Series

StBoT Studien zu den Boğazköy-Texten

StMed Studia Mediterranea StPhoe Studia Phoenicia

TA Tel Aviv

TAPA Transactions of the American Philosophical Society

TMO Travaux de la Maison de l'Orient

UF Ugarit-Forschungen

WAW Writings of the Ancient World

WAWSup Writings of the Ancient World Supplement Series ZÄS Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde

ZDPV Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

Acknowledgments

For any work of this magnitude, while a single name is attached as author, it simply would not have been possible without the help and contributions of so many unnamed individuals. While I cannot express my gratitude to all of them here, I would like to thank at least some of those who made this work possible and helped see it through to fruition. First and foremost, I thank and am tremendously grateful to my wife Anna. She helped me in every step of this project back when I had begun it as a PhD student, while supporting, encouraging, and keeping me sane through to its end. She has listened to enough talk on destruction that she deserves an honorary degree in archaeology, and it is to her that I dedicate this work, as without her it simply would not have been possible. I would also like to thank my mother, Linda Millek, who helped us out for months during the pandemic taking our two rambunctious boys so that I could have a quiet place to work at home when there were no offices to go to.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to Brian Schmidt of the Department of Middle East Studies at the University of Michigan for acting as my mentor during this project. His advice was invaluable, and I am sure he heard more about destruction ca. 1200 BC than he cared to know. I am also grateful to the department as a whole for hosting me during this time. I would also like to thank Kim Larrow the department's administrative assistant for all of her help in getting me situated, helping me with paperwork, and for all of the tremendous support she gave throughout my time in the department. Since library research was the major component for this work, I would like to say thank you to Evyn Kropf and Zachary Quint, who helped me find a number of volumes or journals that I could not track down myself. Then there are the many people who work in the library system at the University of Michigan and in the interlibrary loan office, who tracked down, scanned, or delivered countless books and articles for me. If it were not for their unseen work and the amount of time they saved me, this project would not have been completed for many more years.

There are also a number of individuals including but not limited to Gary Beckman, Philipp Stockhammer, Marlies Heinz, Hanan Charaf, Artemis Georgiou, Zsolt Simon, Peter James, Joseph Maran, Michael Galaty, and Ido Koch who either read or discussed portions of this book with me and gave their

valuable feedback. I am also extremely grateful to the many people who shared unpublished information with me, answered what must have seemed at times to be inane questions, or who gave me articles, book chapters, dissertations, or even whole books. Without their contributions, many of which are listed as "pers. comm." in the text, this project would not have been possible.

I would like to thank the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation), who funded my project, "Destruction and the End of the Late Bronze Age in the Eastern Mediterranean." Without their support I would not have been able to undertake this project and they were generous enough to extend my fellowship due to the turbulences brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, I would like to thank Billie Jean Collins and Lockwood Press for taking on this project. As always, any errors or omissions in the text are solely my own.