

The “short” history of Greece...

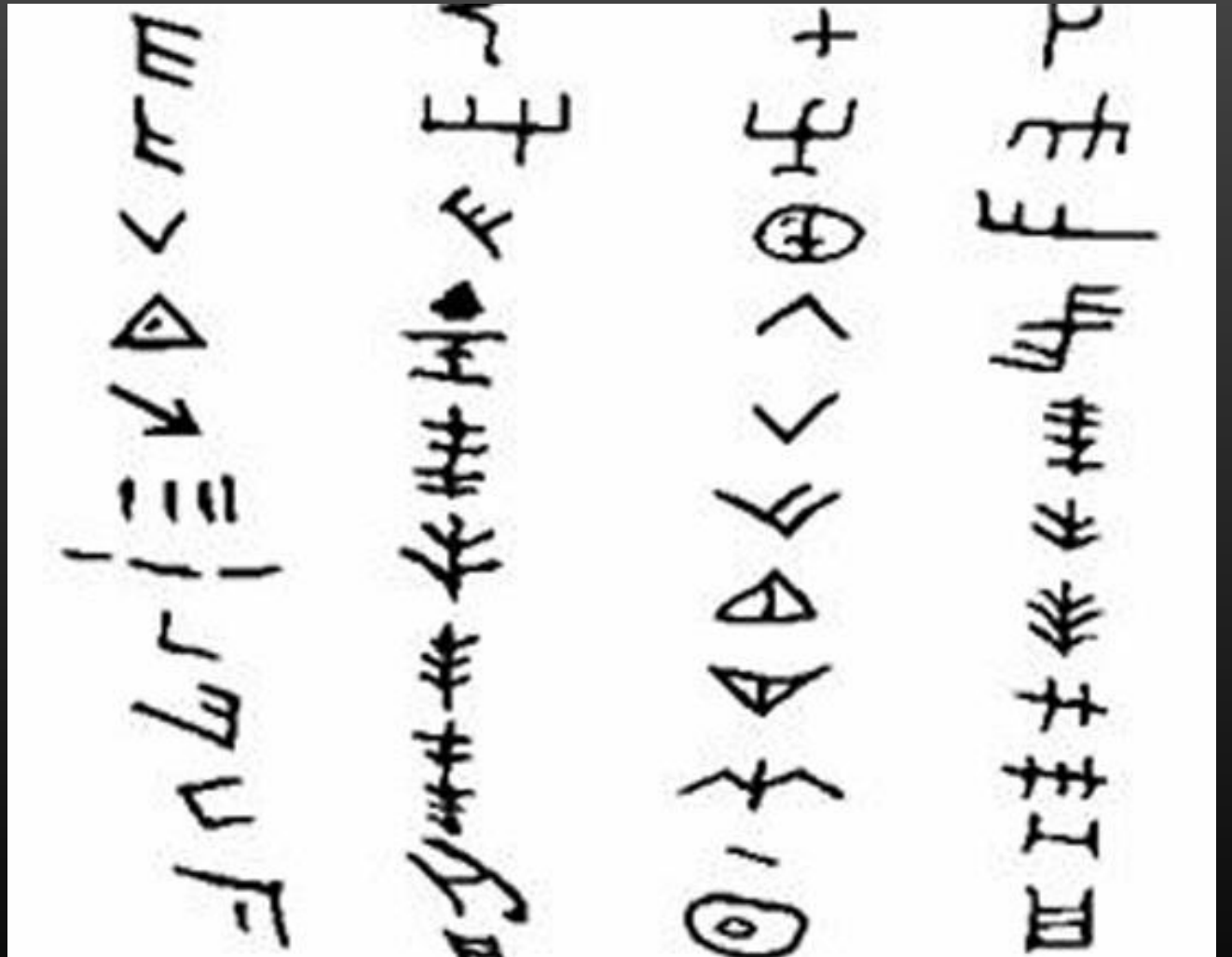


Based on archaeological evidence we estimate that human presence on Greek land dates back 100.000years.



Greek colonies

Also, the oldest known concise piece of writing in Europe was found in Greece, Kastoria, and is estimated to date from 7.254 years ago.



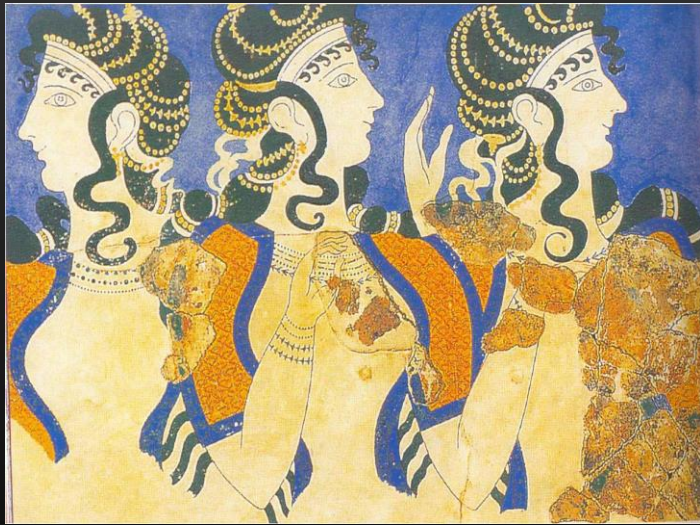
Cycladic civilization

One of the oldest European civilizations arose on the islands of Cyclades spanning the period of 3000-2000 BC. The Cycladic ships dominated the Aegean sea carrying goods as well as ideas , religious beliefs and technical knowledge between the peoples of Near East and Europe.



Minoan civilization

During the 3rd and 2nd millenniums BC there was high economic, social and artistic growth in Crete. The culture was named Minoan after the mythical king Minos, by archaeologist Arthur Evans who excavated the site of Knossos.



Μινωίτισσες



Πρίγκηπας των κρίνων



Ταυροκαθάψια

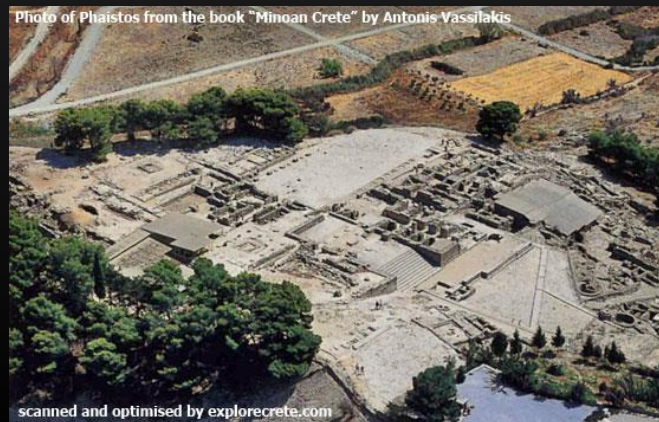
So far there are four known Minoan palaces in Knossos, Phaistos, Malia and Zakros.



Knossos



Faistos Disk



Zakros

Mycenaean civilization

In the late Bronze Age (1600-1120 BC) flourished the Mycenaean civilization in the central and south parts of Greece. It lasted for almost 500 years. It took its name by the major centre Mycenae which is even present in Homer's epics, referred to as «πολύχρυσος Μυκῆνη» (having great amounts of gold). Clay plaques found in Mycenaean palaces are written in Linear B, the first writing system of Greece.



Agamemnon Mask



Gate of lions



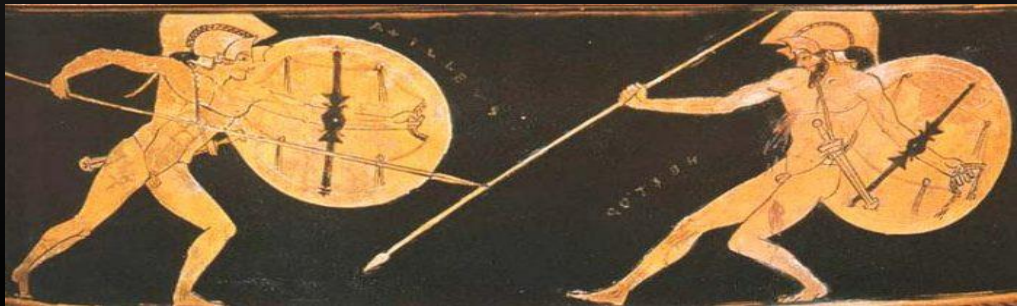
Linear B

Geometric period

Around 12th century BC the Mycenaean civilization declines and fully extinguishes by 11th century. What followed is a period known as Geometric period because of the decorations on vases, and it is when Homer, the poet of Iliad and Odyssey, lived.



Homer



In the beginning of 5th century the allied city-states (Athens and Sparta) defeated the massive Persian forces which repeatedly attacked Greece, saving the whole European continent of Persian conquest.



Leonidas



Persians archers

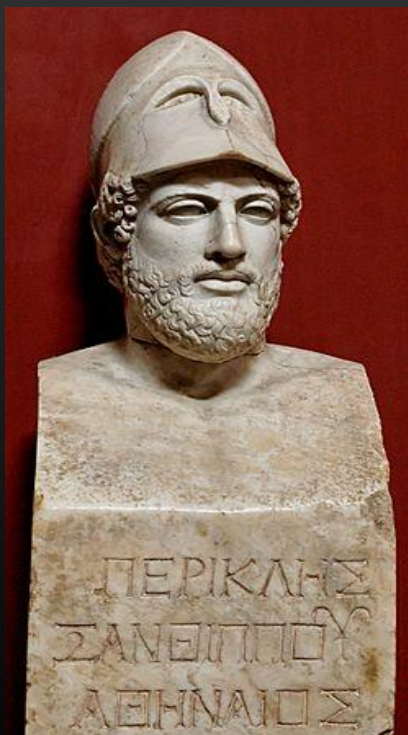
Classic period

After the end of the wars Athens came out as the undisputed economic, trade and cultural centre of the Greek world.

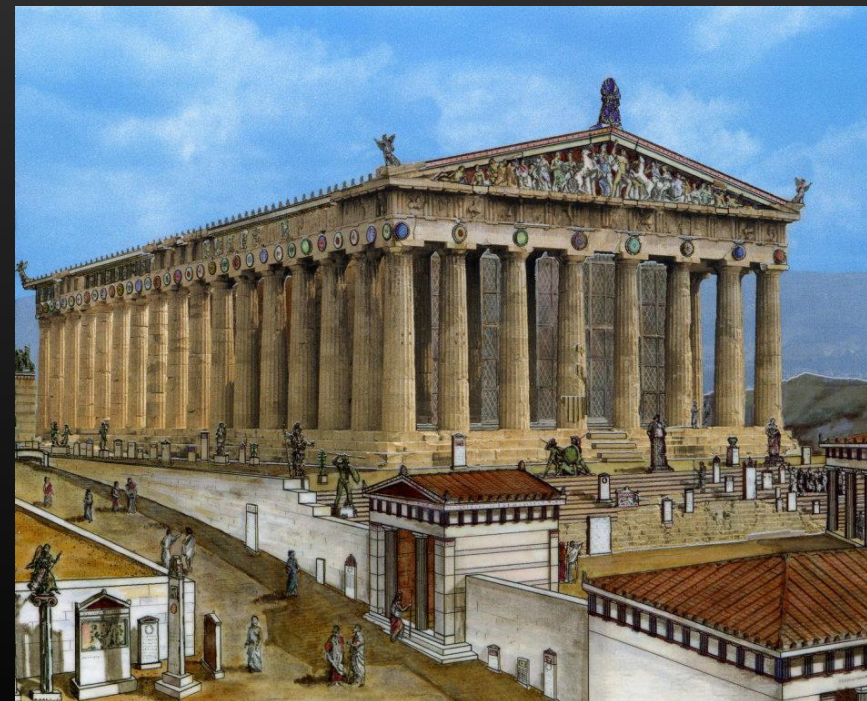
Leader of Athens was Pericles, the founder of Democracy and creator of the renowned structures of the Acropolis citadel of Athens. For this reason 5th century B.C. was called the “Golden Age of Pericles”



Athens



Pericles



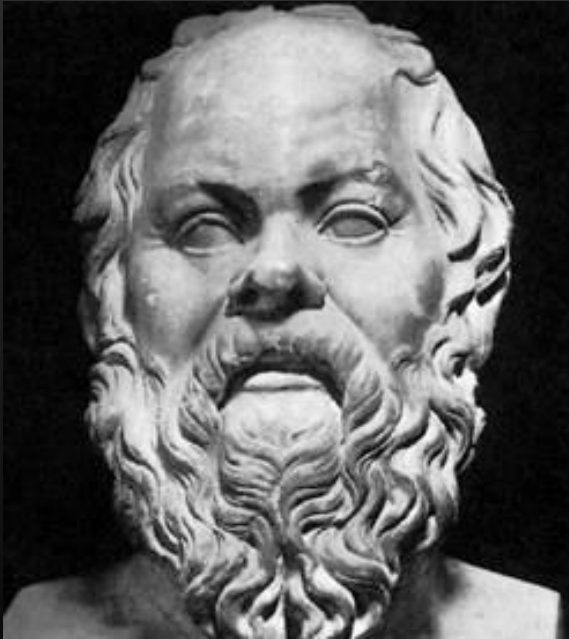
Parthenon

Democracy promoted the development of art and science.

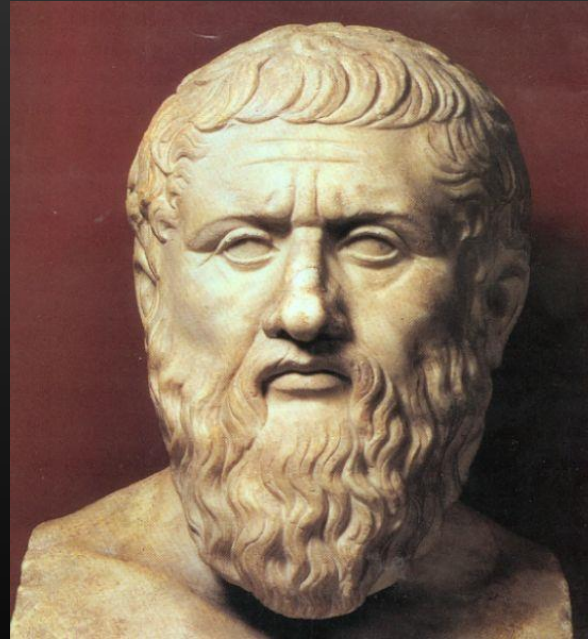
Political philosophy studied political theory and practice. (Socrates, Plato, Aristotle)

New genres of writing appear: Biography and Historiography (Thucydides, Herodotus)

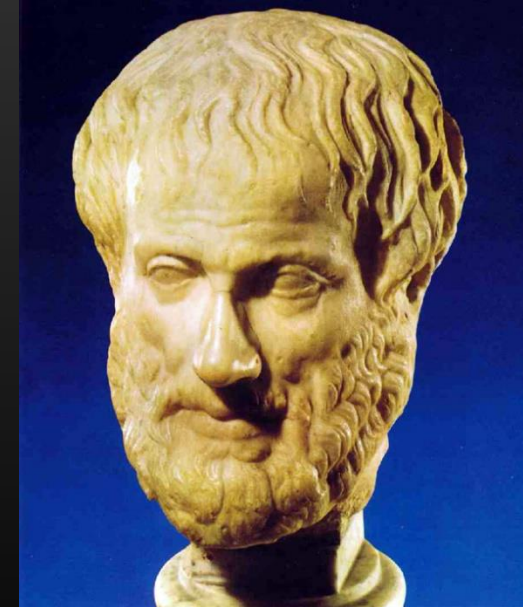
Mathematics and Medicine flourish.



Socrates

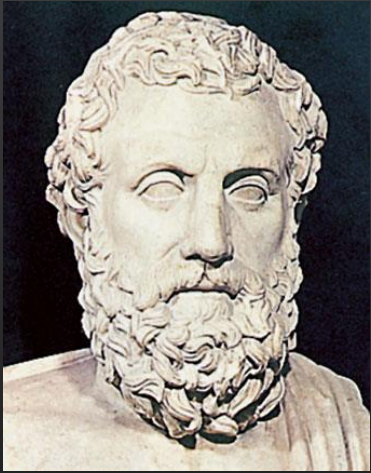


Plato

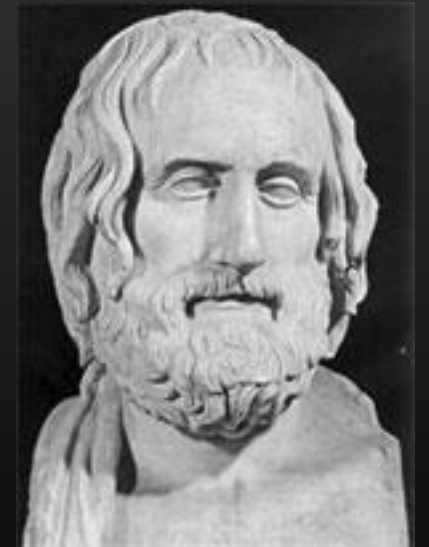


Aristotle

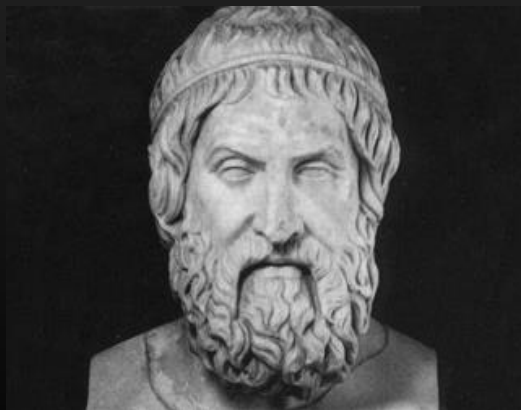
Drama is born: Tragedy and Comedy (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides)
The first theatrical performance of all time is put up on stage!



Aischylos



Euripidis



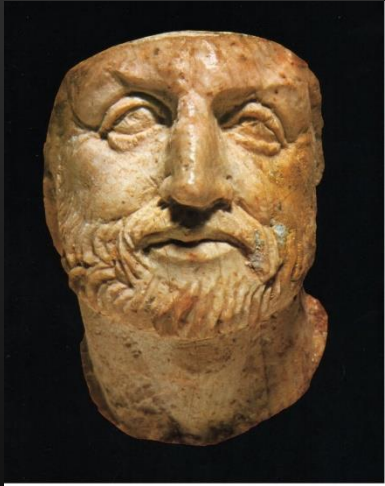
Sofocles



Following a destructive civil war between Athens and Sparta a new power emerges:
Macedon of Philip II.

His son, Alexander the Great (356-323 BC), after forming the League of Corinth, leads a military expedition against the Persians and manages to create an empire the borders of which extend from Thrace to India.

In the next centuries the Greek language and culture were spread to Egypt, Syria and Pergamon. Even after the Roman conquest of Greece the Romans adopted and continued the Greek culture.



Philip II



Alexander the Great

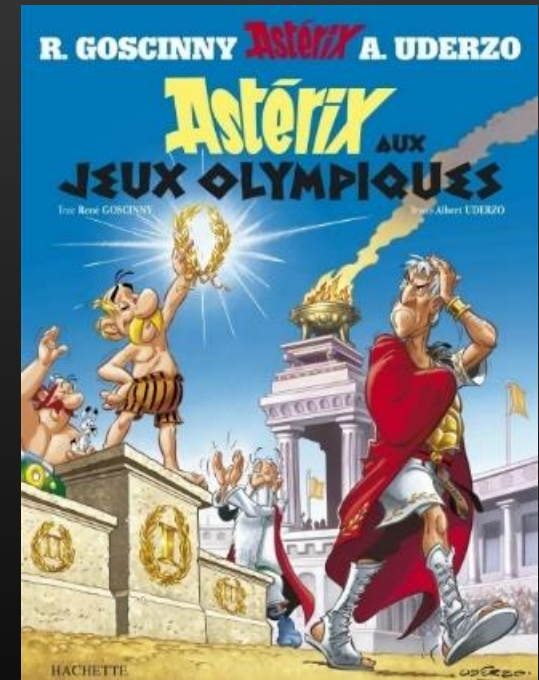
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Library of Alexandria



Romans legionaires



LOL

Byzantine Greece (330 – 1453)

Although Greece was only a Roman province, after the division of the Roman empire the Greek culture remained dominant in the eastern part which later became the Byzantine empire with the great city of Constantinople as its capital.



Saint Sofia



Ioustinianos



Hippodrome

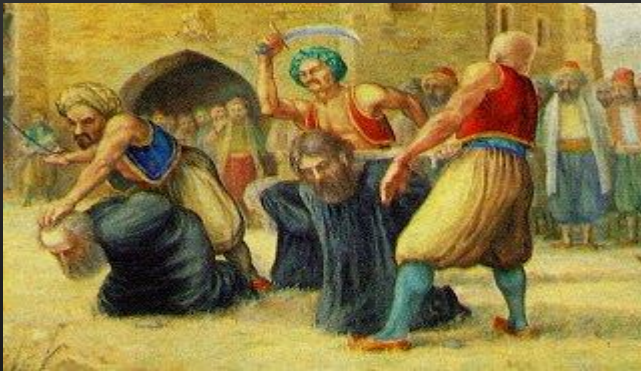
Venetian occupation of Crete/ Cretan Renaissance

After the fall of Constantinople in AD 1204 Crete was offered to the Venetians. The last two centuries of Venetian rule were the hardest. Nevertheless, the Cretan literature flourishes producing worldwide masterpieces of all time: "Erotokritos" by Vitsentzos Kornaros and "Erophile" by Georgios Hortatzis.

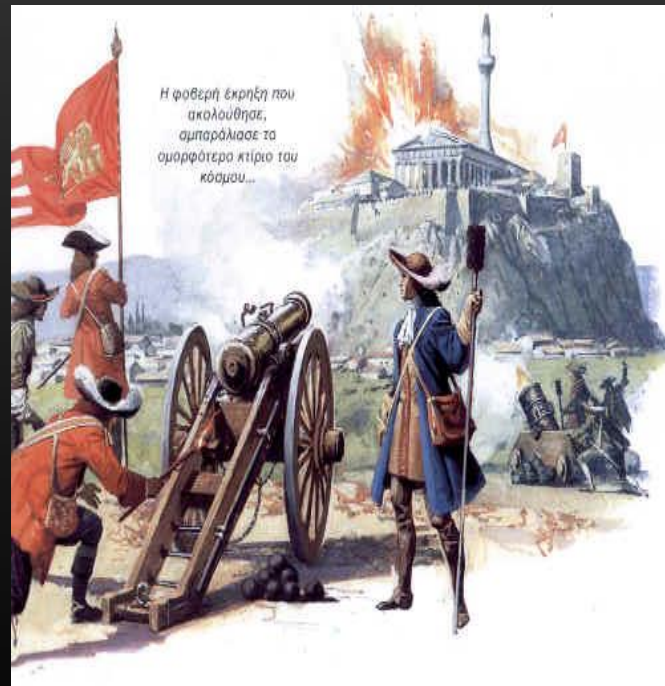


Ottoman Greece (1453-1830)

1453 is the conventional beginning of Ottoman rule in Greece, although there had been Ottoman invasions of parts of Greece, Minor Asia and the South Balkans prior to that date. Despite the 400 years of slavery, the Greek spirit remained intact.



Ottomans torments



Bombardment of Acropolis by Venetians



Lord Elgin steals the marbles of Parthenon...

Revolution of 1821

Several uprisings against Ottoman rule had taken place before the final one of 1821. The motto of the Greek fighters was “Freedom or Death”.



Theodoros Kolokotronis



Mesolagi



The slaughter of Chios

The establishment of the Greek State

In 1830 Greece was recognized as an independent state with Nafplio as the capital city and Ioannis Kapodistrias as the first Head of State.

In 1833 the capital was transferred to Athens.



Nafplio



Ioannis Kapodistrias



Athens 1833

In modern Greek history the country has been through many wars....

Balkan wars 1912-1913



War World I
1917 - 1918



War World II
1940 - 1944



many regimes and dictatorships.....



Dictatorship of Metaxa 1936

Dictatorship (junta) of Colonels 1967 - 1974



national tragedies.....



Destruction of Smyrna 1922



Invasion in Cyprus 1974



and a destructive civil war.....

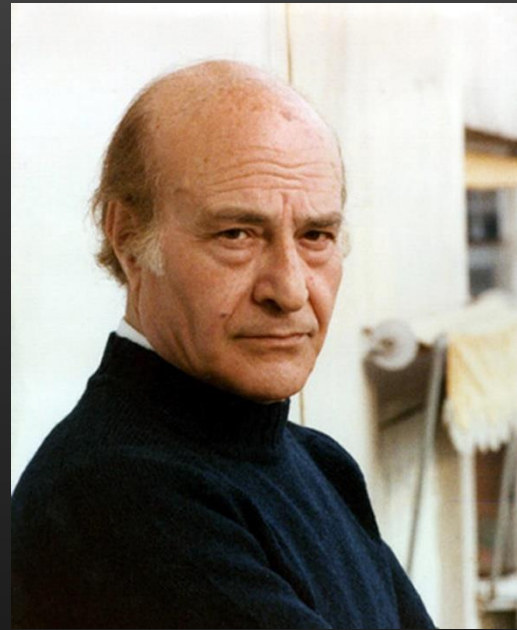


Civil war
1946 - 1949



but it has never stopped producing culture.

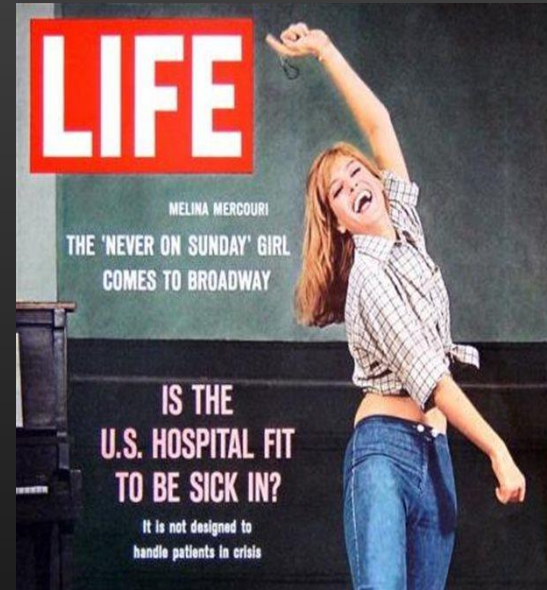
Odysseas Elytis
Nobel prize 1979



George Seferis
Nobel prize 1963



Melina Mercouri
actress



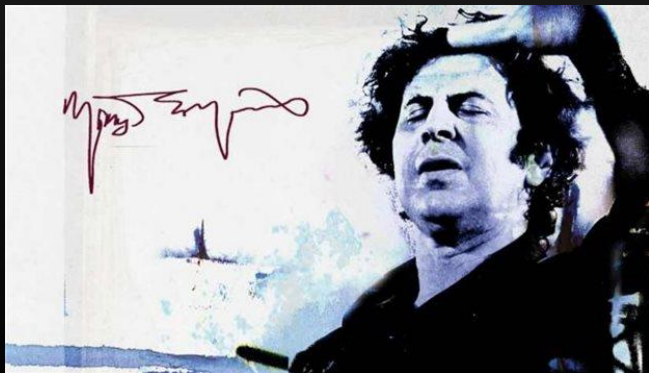
Manos Chatzidakis
composer



Katina Paxinou
actress



Mikis Theodorakis *composer*



Giannis Ritsos *Lenin prize 1977*



Greece became a member of the E U in 1981 and of the Eurozone in 2001.

Some cities are:

Athens



Rhodes



Ermoupolis Syra



Corfu



Thessaloniki



Patras



Crete is the biggest and most populous island of Greece and the fifth biggest in the Mediterranean.

Rethymno



Heraklion



Agios Nikolaos



Chania



Sitia

Sitia is a seaside town of eastern Crete, in the region of Lasithi.

It is identified with the Minoan Eteia, hometown of Myson, a sage of ancient Greece. In mythology, Hercules recruited fighters from this area to lead against the Laestrygones, whom he defeated in central Italy. There he founded New Sitia on the outskirts of Rome.



Vitsentzos Kornaros, the poet of “Erotokritos” was born in a village near Sitia.

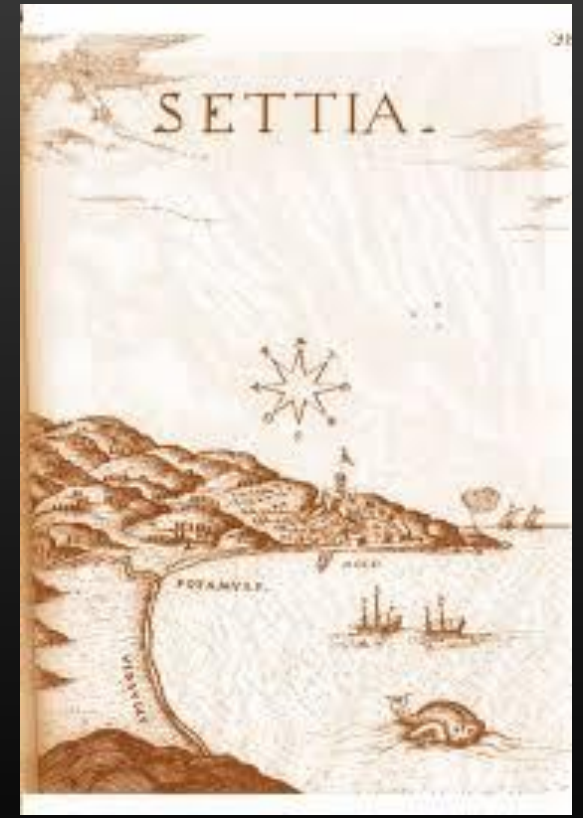
The Venetian fortress Kazarma (casa di arma) is a Medieval structure which was used as a barrack and administrative building.



Erotokritos and Aretousa



Kazarma



General High School of Sitia

