The Greeks were the second Mediterranean society to undertake widespread colonization, after the Phoenicians.

- Relative late-comers to the Aegean World; a high culture existed in the region several thousand years before their arrival.

Major periods of Aegean history:

- (1) Minoan (3500-1500 B.C.)
- (2) Mycenaean (1500-1200/1000 B.C.)
- (3) Hellenic (1000-338 B.C.)
- (4) Hellenistic (336-30 B.C.)

**Minoan**: non-Greek high culture which flourished before the arrival of the Greeks; it was centered on the island of Crete.

**Mycenaean**: the first high culture established by the earliest Greeks to arrive, known as the Achaeans, who replaced the Minoans.

**Hellenic**: also known as the Classical Period, this was the highpoint of Greek civilization, when cultural production was centered first in Ionia, and later in Athens.

**Hellenistic**: the period from the Macedonian conquest of Greece by Philip of Macedon and his son, Alexander the Great, until the takeover of the entire eastern Mediterranean world by Rome.

**Aegean World**: region surrounding the Aegean Sea, composed of:

- (1) Aegean Sea
- (2) Greek peninsula (mainland Greece)
- (3) Greek islands
- (4) Crete (major island forming the southern boundary of this region)
- (5) Ionia (coast of Asia Minor named for one of the Greek tribes)
- (6) Thrace (north coast of the Aegean Sea)

**King Minos**: Figure in Greek Mythology from whom the name Minoan is derived.

**Thalossocracy**: sea-borne society (literally, "government based on the sea")

The Aegean World gave rise to the first high culture on the European continent. Its location on the southeastern tip of Europe placed it closest to the older civilized areas - Egypt and the Fertile Crescent - and therefore
more easily influenced by the process of cultural diffusion, the spread of culture from one society to another.

Pathways of cultural diffusion:

• (1) North by sea from the Nile delta
• (2) Northwest from the coast of Phoenicia
• (3) West from the coast of Asia Minor

The Greek invasion of the Aegean World was one part of the vast Indo-European Migration, one of the greatest movements of people (German: volkerwanderung) in the period of recorded history.

**Indo-Europeans (also known as Indo-Aryans):** members of a vast language group. Like semitic speakers, they too spoke languages which were probably descended from a single mother tongue. It is thought that they originally inhabited the great grasslands north of the Black and the Caspian Seas, living as pastoral nomads, tending their vast flocks of animals.

**Indo-European Migration:** Starting around 2500 BCE, these people began to move out in all directions, probably as a result of population pressures. As they moved apart, what had originally been a common language, evolved into a number of new, but related languages. In the east, one wing of this migration pushed its way into northern India. A number of modern Indian languages are descended from the Sanskrit which they spoke. Farther west, several groups, known as the Medes and Persians, took over the Iranian Plateau, (which derives its name from these "Aryans"). Others such as the Hittites entered the Near East and Asia Minor, where they challenged semitic-speaking societies. Meanwhile, other Indo-European groups pushed farther to the west, including the Greeks, the Romans, the Celts, the Germans, and the Slavs. In the last few centuries before Christ, these Indo-Europeans overran and absorbed the primitive inhabitants of Europe; and, as a result, almost all European languages today are Indo-European. (The only exceptions are Basque, Finnish, and Hungarian.) The Indo-European Migrations, which lasted for centuries, constitute one of the key themes in western history.
Environmental factors (geography, topography, climate) encouraging a sea-faring lifestyle:

- The Aegean World encourages maritime activity.
- The sea is relatively sheltered.
- Numerous islands mean that nowhere is the sailor far from land. Throughout much of the region, there is an indented coastline, with fingers of the sea reaching far inland.
- Almost anywhere one lives in the Aegean world, one is close to the sea.
- There are numerous good harbors.
- In ancient times, the Aegean was rich in fish and timber. At the same time, the region is extremely mountainous; often, mountains run right down to the sea.
- Although there are fertile valleys and even several large plains which are good for agriculture, much of the land is simply too mountainous to grow food.
- The combination of these factors has always forced an expanding population to look to the surrounding sea for its livelihood.
- Greeks became merchants, fishermen, and colonizers.

Four phases of Greek colonization:
1. Achaean takeover of Crete and other islands formerly occupied by the Minoans
2. Ionian and Dorian movement onto the islands and the coast of Asia Minor (Ionia)
3. The Age of Colonization (c. 800-500 BCE)
4. Eastward expansion by Alexander the Great and his successors

**Trojan War (c. 1200?):** Conflict between Achaean Greeks and people living in the city of Troy on the coast of Asia Minor. Earliest major sources for the event are works of epic poetry collectively known as the Homeric Cycle, which were committed to writing many centuries later. Archaeology conducted at Troy since the 1870s to an extent supports the Greek epics. If indeed, there was a Trojan War, then it was part of the Achaean colonial expansion.
After the settlement of Ionia, the colonizing movement had slowed for a time. However, the Greek population continued to expand, and by around 800 BCE, it had once again outstripped the agricultural productivity of the Aegean World. At this point, the Greeks moved beyond the Aegean, into the larger Mediterranean world (3rd part of colonization). They used colonization as a safety valve against the problems of hunger, misery, and class conflict brought on by overpopulation.

In the early part of the Hellenic Period, Ionia led Greece economically as well as culturally. It was this region which sent out the first Greek colonies beyond the Aegean. Only later did mainland cities like Corinth become involved. Some colonies were founded by cities that themselves had begun life as colonies (eg. Syracuse).

Neither Athens nor Sparta, the two leading city states of ancient Greece, played a major role in establishing colonies. Athens later established a colonial empire by seizing control of places. Sparta turned her excess population against her neighbors.

Leading colonizing cities:
(1) Miletus (Ionia)
(2) Corinth (Greek mainland)
(3) Syracuse (Sicily)

Metropolis: literally "a mother city"; one that had "given birth to" colonies.
Oecist: A leading citizen of the metropolis who took the initiative in forming the colony.

Greek colonies became independent city states as soon as they were founded. They were not ruled by the mother city. The modern pattern of colonization, where the colonizing power retains political control over the colony, comes from the Romans, not the Greeks.

- Colonists felt an attachment, cultural and sentimental, not political. They were different than others we were familiar with. Did not believe in long distance-government.

Major areas of Greek colonization (800-500 BCE):
(1) Aegean region (Ionia and Thrace)
(2) Black Sea (Pontus)
(3) Southern Italy and Sicily (Magna Graecia)

- most important cultural
The Greeks established colonies in agriculturally rich areas in order to secure food supplies for Greece. Especially important in this respect were the colonies north of the Black Sea which tapped the great grain growing region of southeastern Europe.

Greek colonies became links in a widespread trading network that was also a critical source of cultural contact with other people around the Mediterranean. A major result was the spread of Greek culture.

Magna Graecia: literally "Greater Greece"; Greek colonies of southern Italy that were closely tied to the Greek homeland. The region provided Rome's first major contact with Greek culture.

- Natural extension of Greece itself
- Still bundle the two together when regarding Greco-roman culture

Major factors which helped make possible Greek colonization:

1. Surplus population
2. Ships
3. Export products
4. Military force

**Galley:** the typical Mediterranean ship from ancient times until the later Middle Ages. It was powered by a combination of oars and sails.

**Trireme:** one upped the Phoenicians bireme. Invented by the Greeks, this improved galley had three decks of rowers, rather than the two (bireme) which were then standard. The trireme became one of the finest ships produced by the ancient world. Its development gave the Greeks an advantage over the Phoenicians whose naval superiority had been based on the bireme.

**Mediterranean Triad:** the three crops on which Mediterranean culture was based for thousands of years:

1. Grain
2. Grapes
3. Olives

The Greeks did not produce enough grain to feed themselves; consequently, this became their major imported this critical food element. On the other