

Minor, near the shores of the Hellespont, was the Asian centre of this Ægean civilization. At first a mere trading village, by 2500 B.C. Troy had become a rich and sumptuous capital, scarcely inferior to its great rival Cnossus, the capital of Crete. In another thousand years

still rude barbarians. In wave after wave they swept down into the peninsula of Greece and across the Ægean. The proud kingdoms of Mycenæ and Troy and Cnossus were so completely overwhelmed that their memory survived only in confused traditions.

HOW CIVILIZATION REACHED EUROPE IN THE LONG AGO



In Europe, civilization dawned in the three cities of Mycenæ, Argos and Tiryns, on the mainland of Greece. But this civilization began in the island of Crete, which in turn owed the beginning of its development in the arts and industries to Egypt and Asia. From Crete the light spread not only to Greece, but was carried by the Cretan sea kings to Sicily and Italy on the west, and to Troy on the north. We are apt to think of Troy as only an imaginary place, but several thousand years ago it had paved streets, formidable stone walls, and elaborate buildings.

Troy had spread its power over its neighbours and had become the mistress of a considerable kingdom (see Troy).

But by the time the use of iron had become common in the Ægean (about 1000 B.C.), the widespread Ægean civilization had received its death blow at the hands of the Indo-European invaders from the north. These peoples we know as the Greeks. At that time they were

The palaces and vases and weapons and paintings of this pre-Greek epoch lay silted over beneath the sands of the ages. It was not until Heinrich Schliemann in 1870 began to dig down through the deposits that hid the buried city of Troy, that the story of Ægean civilization began dimly to be suspected (see Schliemann, Heinrich).

A half-century of patient labour with pick and shovel gradually revealed to us one of the

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