

The book's subdivisions of sections are effective, and the contributors have generally stuck to the appropriate themes. If read together, the various chapters offer much to consider by way of future questions in this same vein of research. Notably, however, neither Gyucha nor other contributors offer any form of concluding remarks that draw out specific results of the comparison supposedly undertaken in the book. This is a challenging task without the geographic and temporal breadth represented here, but even a set of honed questions and future directions would have been constructive.

The breadth of the volume's contributions make it a welcome alternative to regional studies on this topic, although the contributions are limited to Central and Western Europe and North America. Notably, several chapters offer a solid overview of scholarship on aggregation in their specific regions or periods, and so the book serves as a nice introduction for other specialists or students. It is a valuable contribution for anyone interested in these thematic questions and an excellent starting point for forays into new comparanda.

The Collapse of the Mycenaean Economy: Imports, Trade, and Institutions, 1300–700 BCE. SARAH C. MURRAY. 2017. Cambridge University Press, New York. xiv + 354 pp. \$130.00 (hardcover), ISBN 978-1-10718-637-8. \$104.00 (e-book), ISBN 978-1-316-95309-9.

Reviewed by Joanne M. A. Murphy, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

This volume takes a refreshing approach to the question of the significant changes in trade that occurred on mainland Greece and Crete during the transition between the Late Bronze Age (LBA; 1300–1100 BC) and the Early Iron Age (EIA; 1100–700 BC). Although Sarah C. Murray acknowledges that imports, collapse, and the transition between the LBA and the EIA have featured prominently in recent debates, she stresses that this book is as much about the process of interpreting the data as it is about these themes. By meeting her goal of immersing the datasets in larger-scale conversations and interrogating them in a novel way, she creates a new model for trade and the role of imports during the transition between the LBA and the EIA in Greece and Crete.

Contrary to commonly received ideas, Murray argues that imports as finished products did not play a significant role in trade or the creation of status during the LBA. Instead, trade was driven by

commodities. She further argues that although all the data point to a large decrease in the number of imported objects in Greece at the end of the thirteenth century BC and an increase again in the eighth century BC, this was due to a decrease in population in Greece rather than to a disruption in trade routes or to a close tie between these imports and the creation of status at LBA palaces.

The volume is divided into six main chapters that present and analyze the data. These are preceded by an introduction and succeeded by a conclusion. The introduction clearly lays out the author's approach and argument and contextualizes the book in related debates. The clarity of the introduction, and the book as a whole, makes it broadly accessible to a wider audience beyond experts and specialists in Aegean archaeology. Chapter 1 examines the textual evidence from Greece, Egypt, and the Near East during the LBA and the EIA. She concludes that although the textual evidence gives us glimpses of long-distance trade that connects with various debates and issues, it is unhelpful for explaining the change in import numbers between the LBA and the EIA. Chapter 2 presents the imports in Greece during the periods in question and assesses them quantitatively and qualitatively. Murray argues that the number of imports decreases significantly after the thirteenth century BC, and that there is a distinct change in the type of imports, their depositional contexts, and their cultural meaning between the LBA and the EIA. Chapter 3 focuses on analyzing the patterns derived from the archaeological evidence, questioning their reliability, and highlighting problems with them and their wide acceptance by scholars. Murray concludes that a reductionist approach that solely examines imports as finished products is flawed, and that to understand trade and the role of imports, we need also to explore the differences in the reasons for trade. She suggests that LBA trade was driven by commodities and not finished products. Chapter 4 tests the validity of her observations and conclusions by focusing on bronze as an example of commodity exchange, and it summarizes the evidence of Greek exports around the Mediterranean. Murray concludes that the acquisition of raw materials rather than finished products drove LBA trade. Chapter 5 presents the lynchpin of Murray's argument. She scrutinizes the demographic evidence for the period, showing that population decreased precipitously at the end of the thirteenth century BC and did not increase again until the eighth century BC. By combining demographic data with numbers of imports, Murray argues that the number of imports per capita did not change between the thirteenth and the eighth centuries BC. She continues this line of reasoning to contend

that Greece was not cut off from the rest of the Mediterranean, as has been suggested, but that the decrease in population led to a correlating decrease in buying power and demand for objects. Chapter 6 fleshes out Murray's conclusions from the earlier chapters, presents her synthetic view of trade during the LBA and EIA, and summarizes her three main conclusions: (1) Mycenaean palatial elite members were not reliant on imports to create or legitimize their status, (2) Greece was not isolated during the period of transition from the LBA to the EIA, and (3) the trading model that emerged in the eighth century BC was extremely different from that of the LBA in scale and structure. Murray outlines these points in her brief conclusion.

This volume masterfully deals with complex issues and large volumes of data. Not only does this book add a much-needed update to the discussion of trade and society during this important transitional period, but it will change the ways in which scholars address the issues of this period.

Societies in Transition in Early Greece: An Archaeological History. ALEX R. KNODELL. 2021. University of California Press, Berkeley. xv + 363 pp. \$34.95 (paperback), ISBN 978-0-520-38053-0. \$0.00 (open access e-book), ISBN 978-0-520-38054-7, <https://luminosa.org/site/books/m/10.1525/luminos.101/>.

Reviewed by Christopher Witmore, Texas Tech University

Alex Knodell has delivered an inspiring, sophisticated, and scrupulously researched study of central Greece, set within a comparative context of the evolution of complex societies across multiple scales. That this book seeks to take part in a wider dialogue regarding the transformation and emergence of complex societies is only part of why it should appeal to readers of *American Antiquity*; its more subtle importance lies in the model it offers for future “archaeological historical” syntheses of macroregions, whether in the Mediterranean, Mesoamerica, or the Mississippian Southeast. The fact that this open access book rises to meet the terms of its convictions empirically, conceptually, and visually (with a rich suite of informative, full-color maps) makes it stand out for this reader, as it surely will for many other archaeologists.

One may glean something of the book's key concepts from its title—*Societies in Transition in Early Greece*. For Knodell, “societies” capture a diverse and changing array of human aggregates. Of importance here is the notion of “community.” What this term arguably loses in range and elasticity it

gains in forcing archaeologists to think with the things that remain of past societies as ingredients within assemblages consisting of more than single sites and without the conceptual baggage that accompanies top-down considerations of “states.” Importantly, by juxtaposing diverse social configurations in different regions, Knodell avoids wrapping everything around a minuscule minority as the engine of change. “Transition” evokes the book's long-term perspective on the formation of—and metamorphoses within and between—societies over a 700-year swath of pre- and protohistory (ca. 1400–700 BC). Although “Early Greece” refers predominantly to the macroregion of central Greece—Thessaly to Attica, Phokis to Euboea—the book also has much to say about early Greece at large and within the Mediterranean as a whole. Overall, this synthesis takes the form of “an archaeological history”—the subtitle—which plays out in the book's structure and focus, given its concern with key “social” changes from a landscape perspective.

The book unfolds over the course of six chapters sandwiched between an introduction and conclusion where the author's aims and objectives are clearly stated. Chapter 2 sets out the key concepts of landscape, interaction, and complexity. Chapter 3 confronts hegemony in the Late Bronze Age through a comparison of archaeological remains from different regions. Although it adds to the consensus that Mycenaean palaces were independent, centralized regional polities, Knodell suggests that they are of limited territorial scope without sufficient time to form stable institutions. The chapter, therefore, explores a range of sociopolitical formations and opens a window into the diversity of political landscapes in the Mycenaean world. Chapter 4 pushes back against notions of collapse and pervasive degradation in the Postpalatial Bronze Age (ca. 1200–1050 BC). Over the course of roughly six generations, central Greece witnessed the reorganization of settlement, with a shift in orientation from agrarian plains to the sea, and with the rejection of palatial systems and the reconstitution of political authority, which took on diverse forms, including attributes more local than regional and more informal than institutional. Chapter 5 takes readers into the transformation of village societies in the prehistoric Iron Age (ca. 1050–800 BC), with shifts in settlement locations, a general decline in architectural scale and settlement size, and changes in burial practices that reveal a fascinating picture of regional diversity. Chapter 6 addresses the eighth century BC, during which increasing site numbers contribute to intensifying interaction, competition, mediation, and territorial articulation. The emergent world of increasingly routinized mobility is aptly tied to longstanding networks centered on Euboea. Overall,