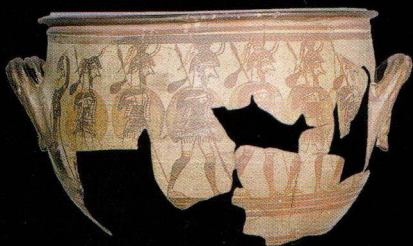


MYCENAEANS INVADE

After the Thera eruption, the Minoans seem to have reoccupied their palaces for a time - until, around 1350BC, when most of the palaces and villas were destroyed for good, this time by fire. We don't know what caused this, but it is likely that Crete was invaded by Mycenaeans from mainland Greece, who overthrew the Minoans and took control of the island, destroying the Minoan civilization in the process.



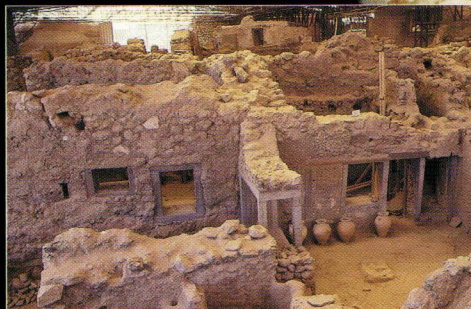
Mycenaean pot, discovered on the Greek mainland, showing a military scene

THE END OF KNOSSOS

Knossos became the focus of Mycenaean society on Crete, but around 1100BC it was burned down and never rebuilt. No one knows what caused the fire, but it could have been the result of a violent confrontation between Mycenaeans and Minoans, or between different Mycenaean groups.

AKROTIRI

In the 1960s, Greek archaeologists Spyridon Marinatos and Christos Doumas started excavations on Thera. They unearthed the remains of a Minoan village at Akrotiri, which had been completely buried in volcanic ash. Houses, frescoes and pottery were all preserved, revealing in great detail how Minoan people lived their lives.

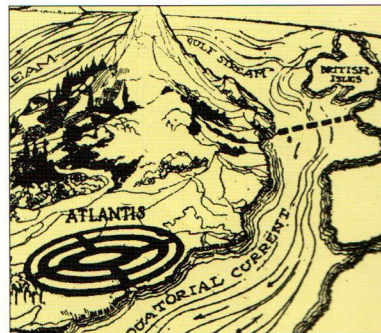


Minoan houses in Akrotiri on the island of Thera

A fresco showing blue monkeys, from a house in Akrotiri

THE LEGEND OF ATLANTIS

According to the Greek philosopher Plato, there was a once thriving civilization on an island named Atlantis, which had sunk beneath the ocean without trace. Over the centuries, many people have been captivated by the legend - with some suggesting that the eruption and the departure of the Minoans might be the source of the story.



17th century map, based on Plato's story, showing Atlantis in the Atlantic Ocean, between Europe and North America