Civilizations of the Eastern Mediterranean

- Olive oil, stoneware, pottery, gemstones, and metal jewelry was traded
- Had to construct ships, since they couldn't trade by land
  - Trade ships had sails, and warships protected trading fleets
- Founded trading colonies in the Aegean Sea, and had a monopoly from 2000-1400 BCE
- Had a writing system on clay with pointed styluses
  - First writing, Linear A, still undeciphered, but mostly was used for inventory lists
- Differences from Near Eastern civilizations include
  - Low key religion with no powerful gods worshipped in temples
    - No names of deities or priestly classes
    - Deposited cult objects in small shrines and caves in the countryside
    - Religion was personal and natural
  - Very nonviolent nature
  - Very little people shown in artwork
    - Famous bull leaping scene depicted in paintings
  - Had a very unassuming government
    - No all powerful kings who built monuments for themselves
    - The "throne room" was just a small chamber with a stone chair
    - Difficult to find any artistic depictions of Minoan rulers
- Later legend included the militaristic King Minos, his wife, the Minotaur, and Daedalus
- Around 1400 BCE several Minoan cities were destroyed
  - Speculation about a volcanic eruption, but the reason is still unknown

The Mycenaean Civilization of Greece

- Around 1400 BCE, a new and different writing system called Linear B was used
  - Suggests that it was invading Greeks who destroyed the Minoans
- The Greeks who destroyed the Minoans arose during the beginning of the Bronze Age
  - The Mycenaeans created the first European civilization by interacting with Minoan traders and assimilating into Minoan culture
- Similarities with the Minoans include...
  - Cultivated grapes and olives, and had similar pottery manufacturing
  - Had a similar artwork, stressing geometric, vegetal, and animal motifs
  - Copied aspects of Minoan religion, administrative, and economic practices
  - Also used palaces for accumulation, storage, and distribution of resources
  - Revised the writing system, and eventually created an accounting system by which all of the resources, expenditure, and income were calculated yearly
- Differences from the Minoans include...
  - Built on defensive hills and surrounded by massive Cyclopean walls
    - Later Greeks believed that the walls were built by the Cyclops