English Abstract

This thesis evaluates the political composition of Greece during the Late Bronze Age. Hittite texts indicate that during the 13th century a Great King of a land Ahhiyawa resided somewhere in the Aegean. By implication, this land should have been of substantial territorial size. Other contemporary sources, however, do not refer to this entity. The Linear B texts, for example, seem to suggest that the palatial centres of Mycenaean Greece exercised only regional rule. At first glance archaeology does neither contradict nor support either view. The discrepancies between the various sources will be examined in order to locate Ahhiyawa, to establish its territorial extent, its political composition, and its place in the Late Bronze Age world of Great Kings.