

# The Trojan War

- The Trojan War- the war between the Greeks and Trojans- is one of the most famous of all Greek legends.
- Today, we most associate the story of the Trojan War with the poem's of Homer, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



# The Trojan War

- But the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* say little about the majority of the Trojan War saga:
  - The *Iliad's* theme is the “rage of Achilles;” - it only deals with the final weeks of the war
  - The *Odyssey's* theme is the voyage of Odysseus (Ulysses) home to Ithaca after the Trojan War
- Much of the other legends surrounding the Trojan War come from other sources.

# The Trojan War

- The Legendary Story of the Trojan War:
  - The gods and goddesses are all gathered for the wedding of Peleus and Thetis (Thetis was the mother of Achilles)



# The Trojan War

- The Goddess of Discord, Eris, bitter that she alone was not invited, wished to stir up trouble and threw an apple into the ceremony with the label, “To the fairest.”



# The Trojan War

- Jupiter, not wanting to anger any goddess very wisely refused to make the decision about who will be awarded the apple.



# The Trojan War



- Jupiter assigned Paris, a Trojan Prince, to make the decision about which goddess will receive the apple.

# The Trojan War

- Each goddess then bribes Paris:

**Juno (Queen of the Gods)**

*Offers Paris power.*

**Athena (Goddess of Wisdom)**

*Offers Paris wisdom and respect.*

**Venus (Goddess of Love)**

*Offers Paris the most beautiful woman in the world.*

# The Trojan War

- Paris chose the most beautiful woman in the world.
- It was agreed that the most beautiful woman in the world was Helen of Sparta.





# The Trojan War

- At one time, every Greek prince desired to marry Helen. Her father, King Tyndareus, was afraid to pick one to be her husband because he was afraid a war would occur.
- He thus made them take an oath that they would all protect the husband of Helen.

# The Trojan War

- He finally chose Menelaus, the brother of Agamemnon (King of Mycenae), to be the husband of Helen. He also made Menelaus the king of Sparta.



# The Trojan War

- Paris was thus taken to the home of Menelaus, where he was welcomed.
- However, when Menelaus went off to Crete, Paris left with Helen.
- All the major warriors of Greece were thus obligated to go to war.

# The Trojan War



- Some tried to avoid it:

Odysseus (Ulysses) – tried to pretend he was insane (he began sowing his fields with salt; Palamedes exposed his trick)

# The Trojan War

- Achilles – his mother, Thetis, tried to keep him from going by disguising him as a girl- but Odysseus exposed the trick. (The prophet Calchas had predicted Troy would not fall unless Achilles was in the fight).



# The Trojan War

- The King of Paphos, Cinyras, weaseled his way out of his promise of 50 ships: he sent one real one, then 49 toy ships.

# The Trojan War

- The leader of the expedition was King Agamemnon of Mycenae, at the time the most powerful city state of Greece.
- Agamemnon had offended Diana, who withheld favorable winds: in order to gain favorable winds, Agamemnon had to sacrifice his own daughter, Iphigenia.

# The Trojan War

- The war lasted 10 long years; in the *Iliad*, Homer tells of the last weeks of the war.
- Achilles had refused to fight because Agamemnon had stolen one of his “prizes” of war, the girl Briseis.



# The Trojan War



- Achilles only returned to the fight after his dear friend Patroclus was slain by the great Trojan warrior, Hector (Paris's brother).

# The Trojan Horse

- The war finally ended after the Greeks successfully used the trick of the Trojan horse.



# Was There Really a Homer?

- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a controversy began to arise about the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*: some began to argue that Homer wasn't a real figure who wrote both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
- It was becoming clearer that the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were originally oral poems: they were recited by bards over and over again for centuries.

# Was There a Homer?

- This was clear because the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were filled with “stock phrases” that would have served to aid the bard’s memory.
- Most people began to believe that perhaps Homer was the greatest of these “bards:” but he didn’t really write either poem.

# Was There a Homer?

- However, a man by the name of Milman Perry began to study some societies in Yugoslavia in the 1930s that still recited oral poetry.



# Was There a Homer?



- He found that one of these modern bards, Avdo Mededovic, was a true genius: he had memorized 58 epic poems, totaling some 80,000 lines.

# Was There a Homer?

- Perry discovered that Mededovic didn't really "memorize" these poems word for word; he memorized the story and added to it with his list of stock phrases and formulas.

# Was There a Homer?

- Perry's studies proved that it was possible for one poet to create two poems of the length of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
- Many scholars now think a single Homer may have dictated his versions of both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.



# Was there Really a Trojan War?

- At the same time questions arose about the identity of Homer, many people began to question the Trojan war as well.

# Was There Really a Trojan War?



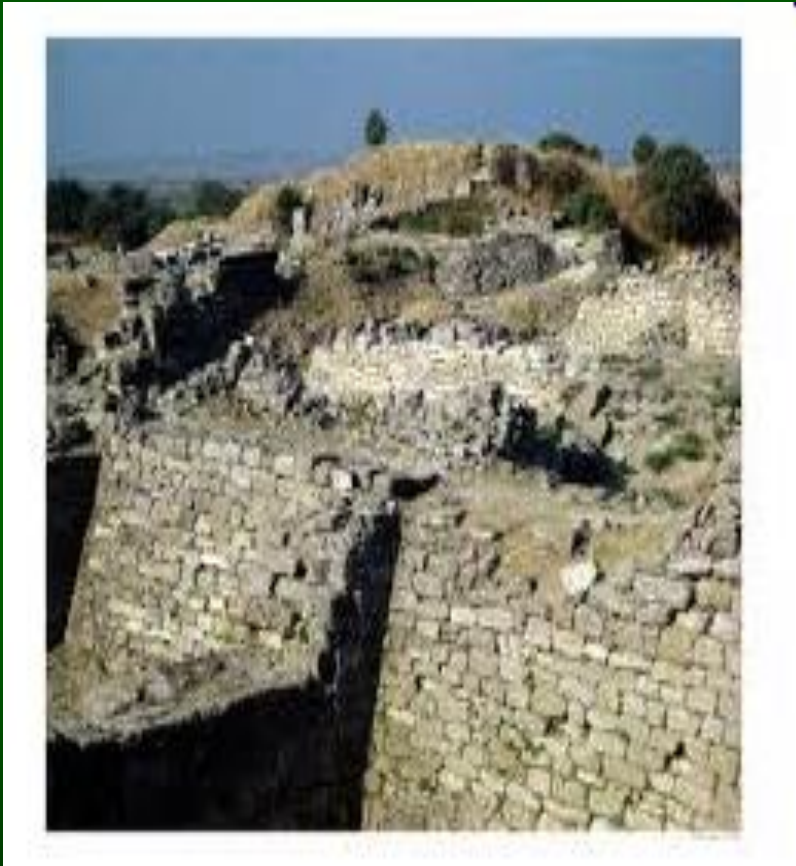
- Heinrich von Schliemann, a wealthy German businessman, was bothered by this because he had developed a love of Homer as a boy.

# Was there really a Trojan War?

- Schliemann, using only the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as his guide, went to modern day Turkey to try to find ancient Troy.
- Schliemann determined that modern day Hisarlik was Homer's Troy- he began to dig there.



# Was There Really a Trojan War?



- He not only found ancient Troy: but many layers of ancient Troy.

# Was there really a Trojan War?

- Schliemann found evidence that some of these layers were destroyed by assault; he also dug all the way to the bottom where he found gold jewelry and valuables which he dubbed the “treasures of Priam.”



# Was There Really a Trojan War?

- Schliemann announced to the world that he had in fact found Homer's Troy; he also discovered the site of Mycenae in Greece; home of Agamemnon.



# Was There a Trojan War?

- There were a number of problems, however, with Schliemann's findings:
  - Schliemann was not a trained archaeologist; he was also often a liar and a cheat
  - Schliemann also dug right past what is the most likely candidate to be the Troy of the Trojan War; the level of Troy he identified was actually much older

# Was There a Trojan War?

- Two other puzzles remained about Schliemann's Troy:
  1. It was too small to have been a potential rival for the Greeks
  2. It was 4 miles from the sea; in the *Iliad* the Greek ships are docked just outside of Troy



# Was There a Trojan War?



- Excavations continued in the 1930s under Carl Blegen of the University of Cincinnati

# Was There a Trojan War?

- Answers to the two puzzles noted above would be provided by Manfred Korfmann, who resumed archaeological excavations at Troy in 1988.

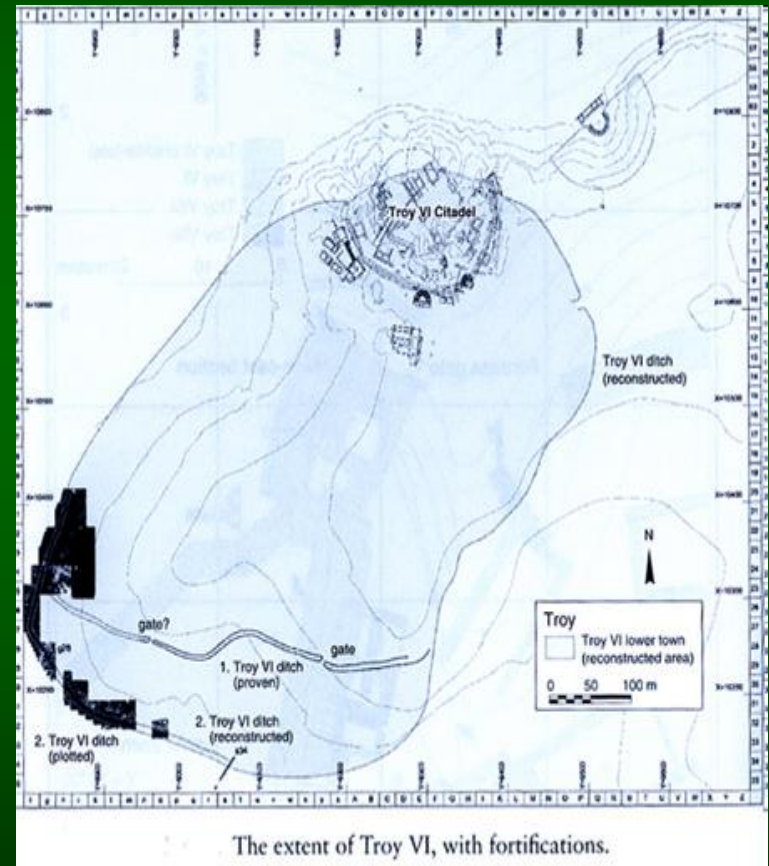


# Was There a Trojan War?

- By the 1980s, archaeology had become much more of a science and technology improved. Answers to the two puzzles about Schliemann's findings were provided:

# Was There a Trojan War?

1. Research using a “magnometer” (which can identify what is below the earth’s surface) discovered walls outside of Schliemann’s original Troy which proved the city was 10 times larger than originally thought



# Was There a Trojan War?

2. Studies by scientists show that the bay outside of Troy was once much larger and came nearer to Troy; over the years the land has expanded outwards



# Was There a Trojan War?

- In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, texts written by a people known as the Hittites have been deciphered: these also may offer support that the Trojan War was a real event.



# Was There a Trojan War?

- They speak of a conflict between a people referred to as the “*Ahhiyawa*” (which is very similar to a term Homer uses for the Greeks, the “*Achaean*”) and a kingdom called “*Wilusa*” (which is similar to the Greek word “*Wilios*”, the older form of the Greek word “*Ilios*” which was one of the Greek names for Troy).

# Was There a Trojan War?

- The Hittite texts also mention a king of Wilusa named “*Alaksandu*.” This is very similar to the name “*Alexander*”- Alexander was an alternative name the Greeks used for the Trojan prince Paris.



# Was There a Trojan War?

- The Hittite texts also refer to war in personal terms: for example, someone's honor was harmed, so a war began.
- Most historians, therefore, now think there was a Trojan war (or wars) which more than likely was fought over trade/control of the seas (but it is not impossible that it was over an abducted woman).