

Turcology:
How did Turkey
become Turkish?
(not as simple as it
seems)

OLLI Living History of Turkey,
Class 2

Photo: Hittite monument installed
1978, Ankara

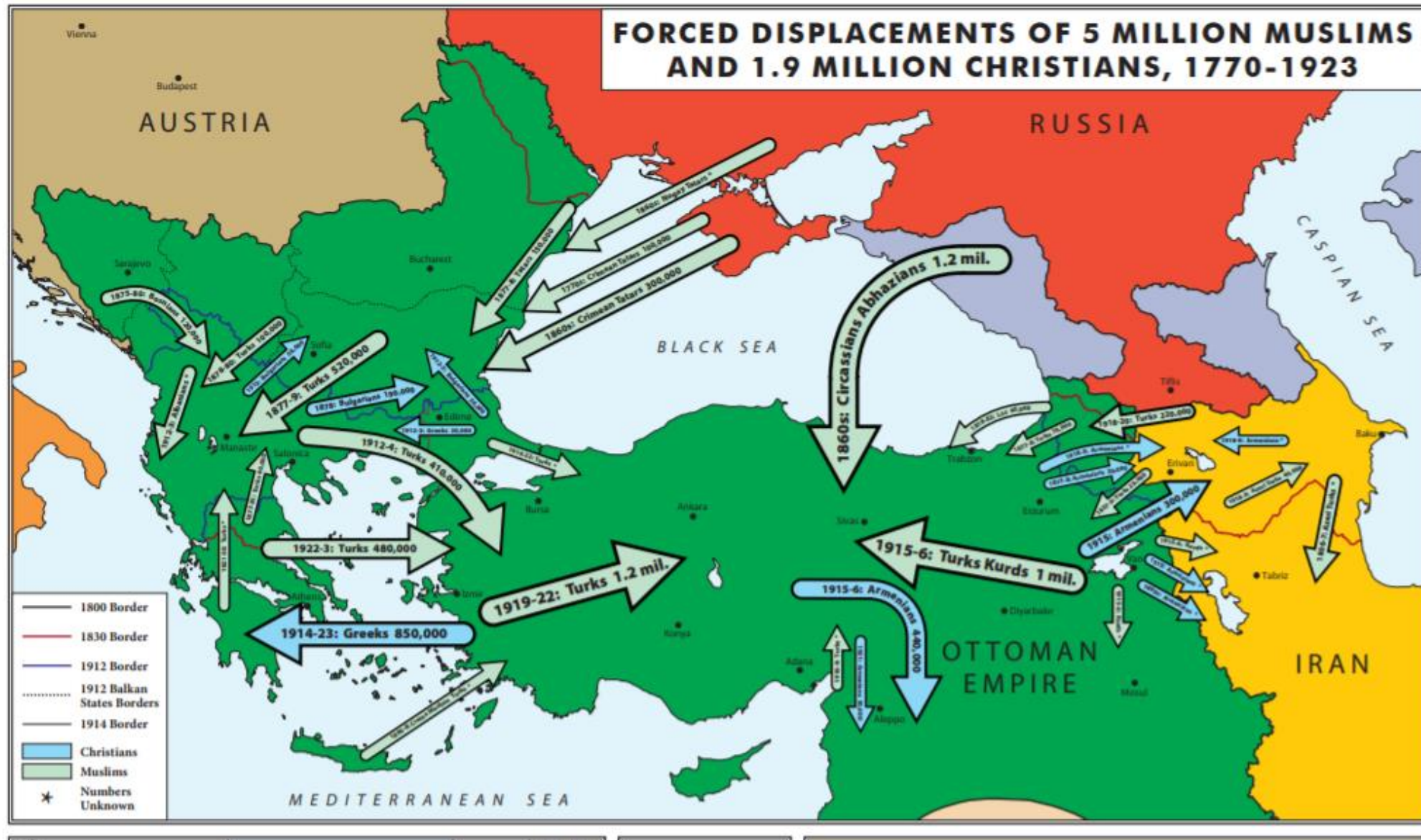


Last class: 19th c. crisis in Ottoman Empire

- 1800 Napoleon in Egypt reveals Ottoman Weakness
- 1820s Greek Independence War wins US and British support
- 1820s missionaries contribute to negative views of Ottoman Culture
- 1848-70s European revolutionary and nationalist ideas spread to Ottoman world
- British, Austro-Hungarian and Russian Empires nibbling at Ottoman land
- Refugee crisis as Muslims from lost areas seek refuge in remaining Ottoman Lands.

Response from Istanbul? Legal, educational, social and military modernization 1830-70s. Intense debates over the future. How will they survive? What kind of community will they be? Ottoman? Islamic? Turkic?

Muslim refugees from lands lost to the Ottoman empire flooded into Anatolia in the 1800s. The trauma of seeing Muslim refugees certainly shaped the later experience in expelling/eliminating Greeks and Armenians from the territory in 1915 and 1923.



<https://www.tc-america.org/issues-information/forced-migration-and-mortality-64.htm> Curious group authored this map – politically they feel Europe and the US see only the Christian experience shown on the map, not the muslim experience as refugees earlier.

DAILY SABAH

The Ottoman Empire: A shelter for all kinds of refugees

BY EKREM BUĞRA EKINCI | MAY 16, 2015 - 12:00 AM GMT+3 |



2015 newspaper article linking Erdogan's policy on Syrian refugees to Ottoman tradition of providing refuge.

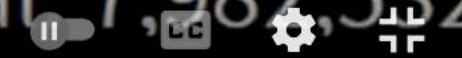
(picture of Muslim refugees arriving from Russia, c. 1900.

Religions in Turkey {Anatolia}, Ottoman Empire from 1AD-1900AD | Turkish Religious History |



1611
Total: 7,982,532

Historically the Ottoman Empire had always had a large Christian population. Christians and Jews governed as millets, autonomous communities.



Religions in Turkey {Anatolia}, Ottoman Empire from 1AD-1900AD | Turkish Religious History |



Islam



6,171,064

Christians



3,388,788

Jews



205,606

Hellenism



102,100

Ath./not relig.



99,113

Ashurism



80,398

Parsi



13,991

Bahai



2735

Hindus



1986

Buddhist



10

Jains



0

Others



0

Sikhs



0



1883

With the loss of Greece (1829) and the Muslim immigration from the Balkans and Crimea, the population becomes more Muslim.

Total: 10,065,791

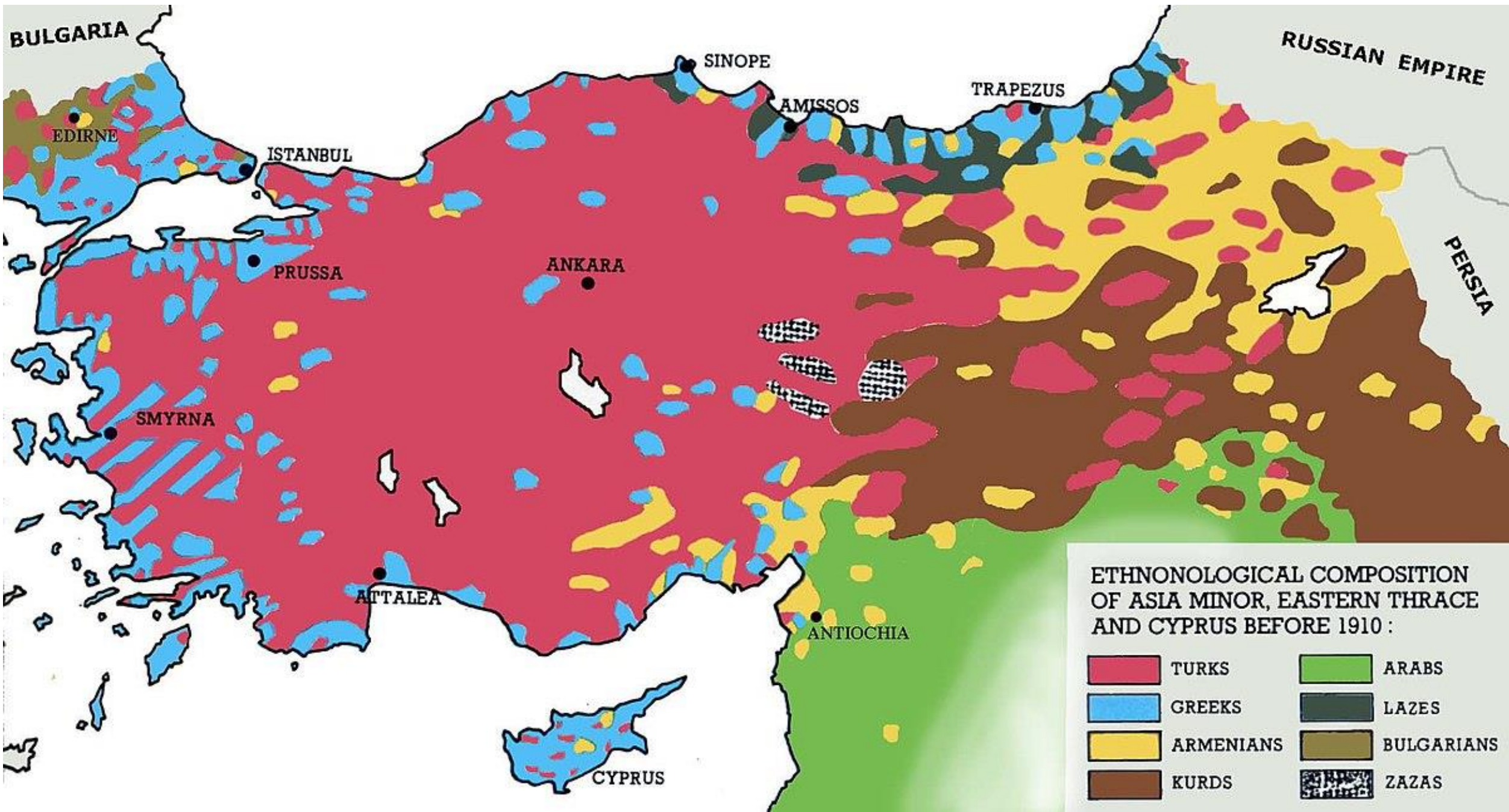


19th c. Rise of “Nationalism” (the idea that there were “natural” human communities that deserved to have their own sovereign states) a problem for multi-ethnic empires.

For the Ottomans, citizens of many nationalities, religions, and languages were seen as capable of being part of the Ottoman community – even serving in high government offices.

But the new vision of nationalism (ethnic) saw identities as if they were biologically determined. 19th c. nationalism glorified the idea of a mystical national homeland creating a unique population...

These different linguistic and ethnic populations were intermingled across Europe and Asia, and separating them would entail a century of ethnic violence.



BULGARIA

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

EDIRNE

ISTANBUL

SINOPE

AMISSOS

TRAPEZUS

PRUSSA

ANKARA

PERSIA

SMYRNA

ATTALEA

ANTIOCHIA

CYPRUS

The Ottomans not the only land Empire struggling with nationalist movements.

Ironically, Austr-Hungary and the Russian Empire were both encouraging nationalist movements in their near abroads for their own reasons, as if nationalist ideas would never come home.



Dominant debate within 19th c. reform movements in the Ottoman Empire: Which identity will unite the community?

- Ottoman identity? Strengthen identity as a multi-cultural, multi-confessional community. Popular in the military and administrative (But a losing battle in the new world of nation-states).
- Islamic identity? A binding force for the many different kinds of Muslims.... Popular in the Ulema, the courts, the religious orders...
- Turkish identity? Young Ottomans abroad exposed to European nationalist movements and start thinking about the Ottoman Empire in ethnic terms.

“Turcology” Study of the origins and movements of the Turkish nomadic tribes, their language and culture.

The field emerges in 1850s Hungary as Hungarian intellectuals recalling a past that keeps them out of Austrian and Pan-Slavic narratives.

Figure 1. Great Oguz Göçü



Source. <http://www.tarihsinifi.com/6432/orta-asya-türk-göçlerinin-sebepleri-ve-sonuçları-2.html>

File:Turkic Languages distribution map.png

from Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository

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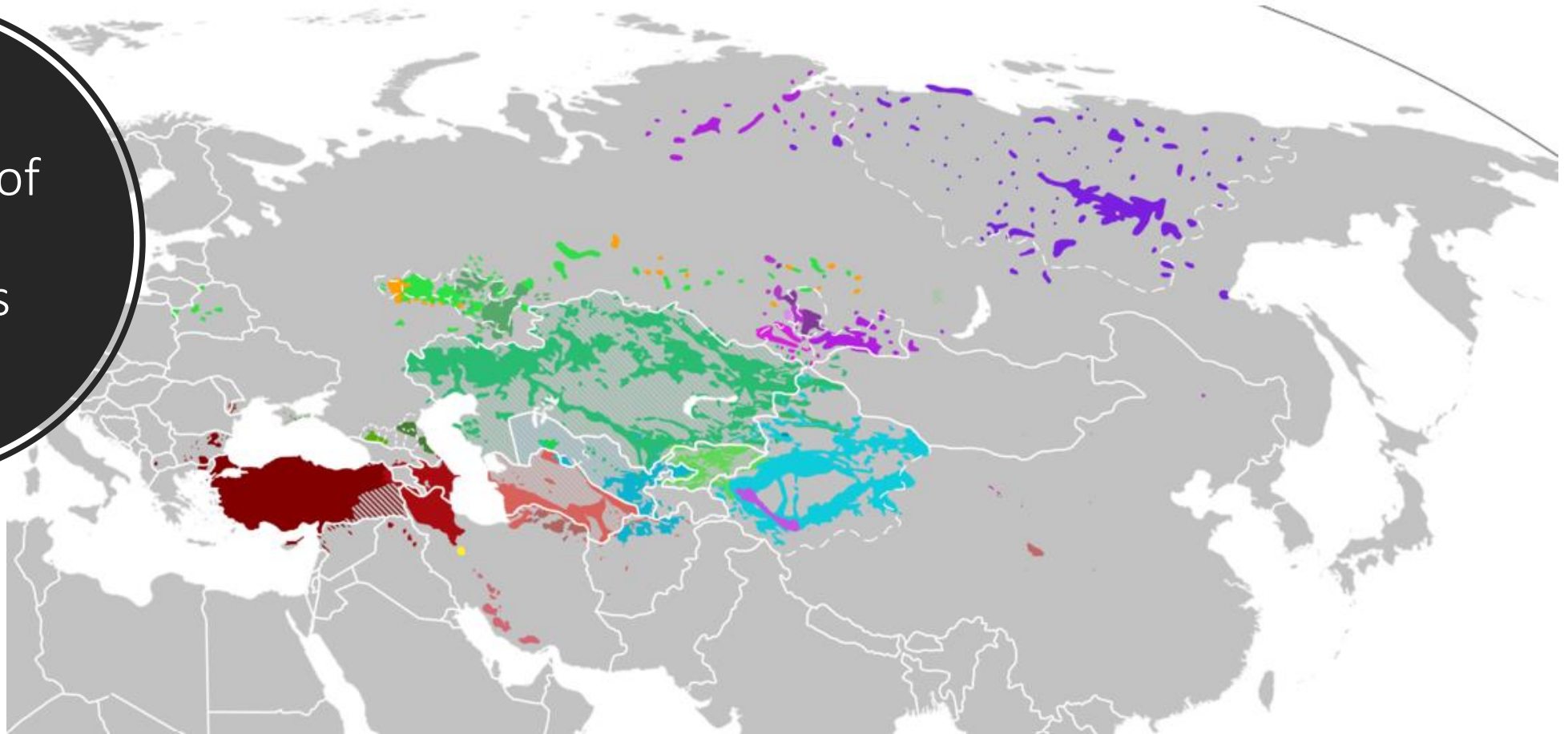
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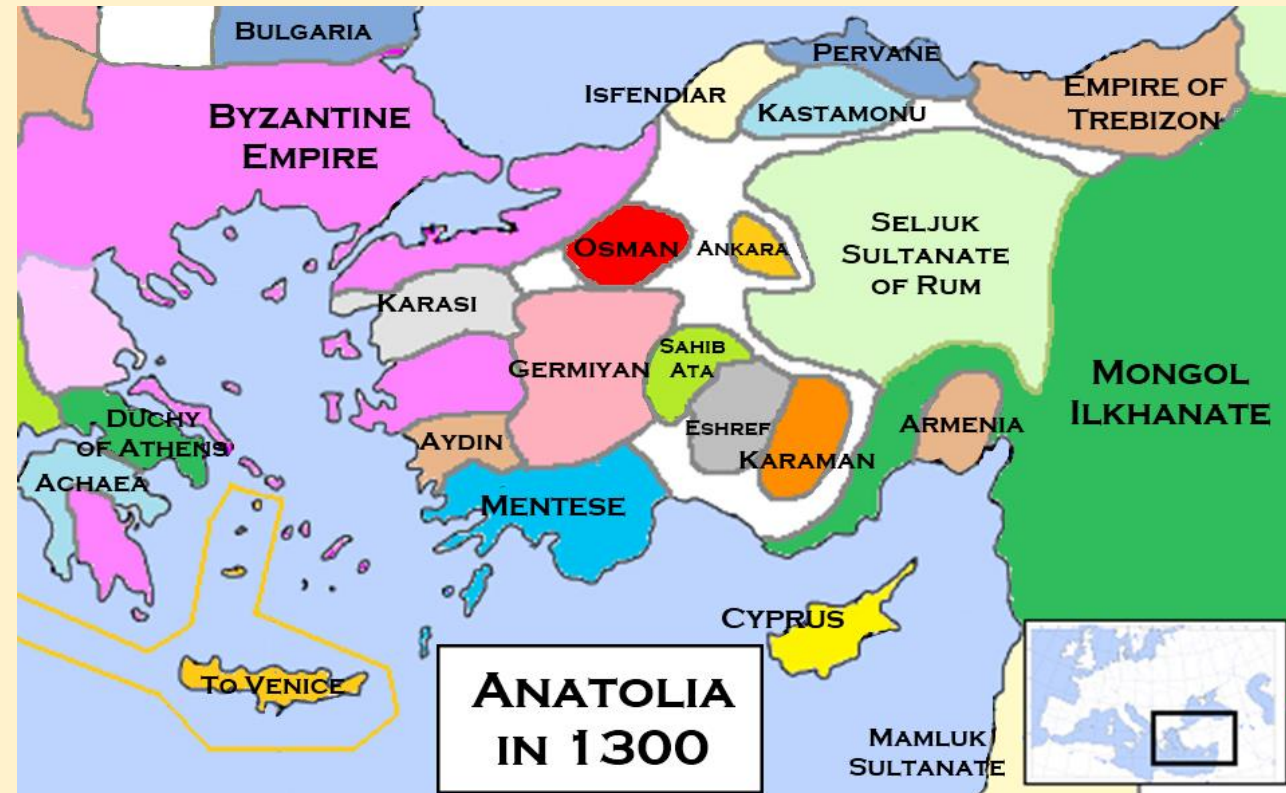
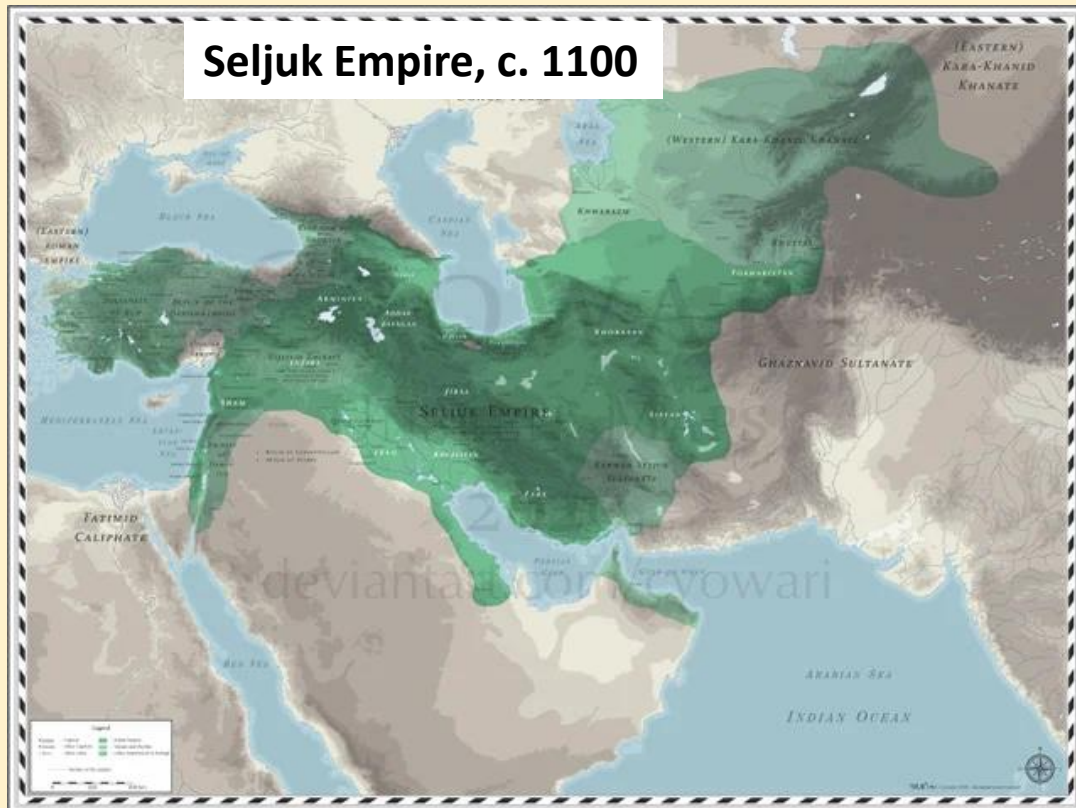
[Metadata](#)

2009 map of
Turkic
languages



When did the Turkic tribes come to Anatolia?

1. Nomadic Tribes arriving 900s, soon adopt Islam
2. Seljuks c. 1000-1200s first Turkish Empire in Anatolia, but their culture strongly influenced by Persia and Islam
3. In the wake of the Mongol invasions that broke up Seljuk power, Turkic leader Osman creates Ottoman Empire in the 1300s. Incorporates much from Byzantine and Seljuk worlds.





1402 a bad year for the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid, whose empire is destroyed by imprisoned by Mongol-Turk Timur.

After much carnage, Timur's rule collapses.

(Chlebowski, 1878)

The Turkish identity not a “natural” or popular choice in the 1800s for Turkish intellectuals

- The Turks were hardly the original population – the Turkish “homeland” would have been Central Asia, not Anatolia
- “Turk” in 1800s used to refer to a country person, not a compliment in Ottoman times. Only Europeans use it as an insult, but Ottoman intellectuals have similar negative view of Turkic culture.
- But in the late 1800s, some Young Ottomans create a new image of “the Turk”. Use of common Turkish in poems, late 19th c. (previously Ottoman court Turkish heavily influenced by Persian and Arabic.) Grammars, (sometimes written by European scholars) appear. Hungarian scholars on Turcology being read.
- “Turkish Hearth” Clubs forming in Empire 1900s
- “Pan Turanism” spurs contact across the region, similar to Pan Arabism or Pan-Slavism.

The Organization of Turkic States,
established 2009



Erdogan was presented with a map of the “Turkic world”:
it included 20 regions of Russia

17.11.2021 alex World News



Russian territories from the North Caucasus to Yakutia are marked on it.



TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

ABOUT US ▾ NEWS ▾ ANNOUNCES MEMBERS ▾ TÜBA AWARDS ▾ ACTIVITY

TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES > ACTIVITY & PROJECTS > ACADEMY PROJECTS > [RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM FOR TURKOLOGY STUDIES](#)

Research Grant Program for Turkology Studies



TÜBA has started the Turkology Research Grant Program. The scope of the topics announced within the scope of the program is for researchers working abroad, T.C. Turkologists who are not citizens will be provided with travel, accommodation and financial support for their research in Turkey. Turkologists, who are not Turkish citizen, working abroad will be provided with travel, accommodation and financial support for their research in Turkey within the scope of the topics announced within the scope of the program.

The research topics for 2021 are determined as the life,

Turkology
still a thing:
2021 grant
program.



Ataturk and Turcology

Personal opinion here: I think European histories of Ataturk overemphasize his cultural policies as attempting to reorient Turkey towards Europe (banning the fez, changing the alphabet, secularizing the state). But Ataturk not slavishly following Europe but creating a new identity for Turkey that is separate from the Ottoman, but also separate from Europe. You can see that in his policies to nurture a Turkish identity linked to Anatolian civilization. (left: Kars monument showing Ataturk watching Caucus dancers)

Ataturk's vision of the new Turkey included museums that celebrated Anatolian civilization. An ethnographic museum to celebrate folk art and culture, and a State Art and Sculpture Museum.



State Art and Sculpture Museum, Ankara, Turkey.

The entry way to the State Art museum had a surprise for me up the stairs.



Art and Sculpture Museum showing interior views and chateau or palace



Vereschagin's *Tomb of Timur*, 1878.
Displayed prominently in the National
Art and Sculpture Museum.

This was the first encounter I had with Timur (Tamerlane) in Turkey and it would not be the last. It puzzled me because Timur in most histories is a specter of violence and destruction, causing the deaths of 17 million (5% of the world population at the time).

Ok, he was a patron of the arts, and fought the crusaders at Izmir, but he also captured the Ottoman Sultan (1402) and held him until his death, and broke up the Empire. Lucky for the Ottomans Timur did not leave behind a strong state and over the next decades reemerged.

He was a Turkic leader, but not really your poster child for a national heritage.

The painting was probably a gift from the Soviet ambassador.



Vereschagen. *Doors of Timur*. 1872

Vereschagin was known for his Central Asian motifs. He went out to participate in the Russian-Ottoman wars as an official artist (was also a soldier and wounded), but his art became increasingly focused on highlighting the exotic color of the region. He also became highly critical of all War and rejected the easy patriotic art his bosses wanted.



One of Vereschagin's most famous pieces was originally titled "The Triumph of Tamerlane." He later decided not to link it to a specific era, dedicating it to "all great conquerors — past, present, and future."

A little heavy on the irony, but this would have been the Timur/Tamerlane I would have expected in the State museum, not the romantic view.

The Apotheosis of War, 1871.



Timur also appeared in this recently installed lineup of regional leaders in Kars. The final bust is Ataturk.

1920s: New era of Non-Greco-Roman Archaeology in Turkey. Here – Kargamis, Hittite Site in Gaziantep





Museum of
Anatolian
Civilizations,
established at
Ataturk's
suggestion to
house Hittite
finds, opened
1938

Ataturk wanted a space to showcase Hittite works, you can see why.



What is in the Museum?

Gobekli Tepe 9000 bce
Hittites (1200s bce)
Phrygians – Gordium 2300 bce
Lydians 1200 bce
Aechemenids
Urartian Civilization 700 bce



Romans and Greeks are stuck in the Basement...Yes, Turkey has many fabulous museums showcasing Roman and Greek work, but here they are clearly not treated as central to the Anatolian Civilization.

Hittite Empire, 1700-1100 bce



Model of the Hittite City Alacahoyuk and items from a royal grave



Hittite capital,
Hattusha
(only one
part of the
city)





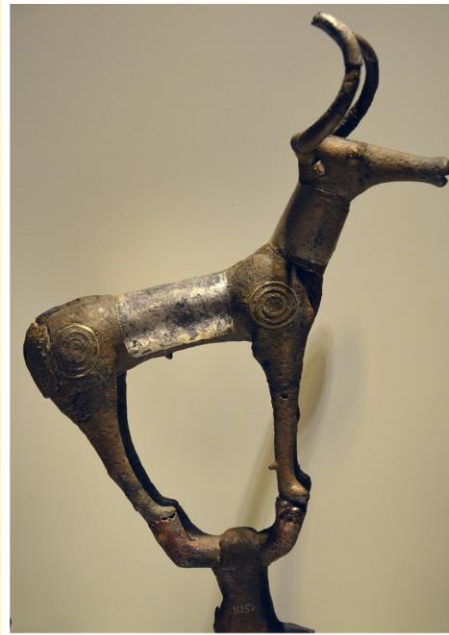
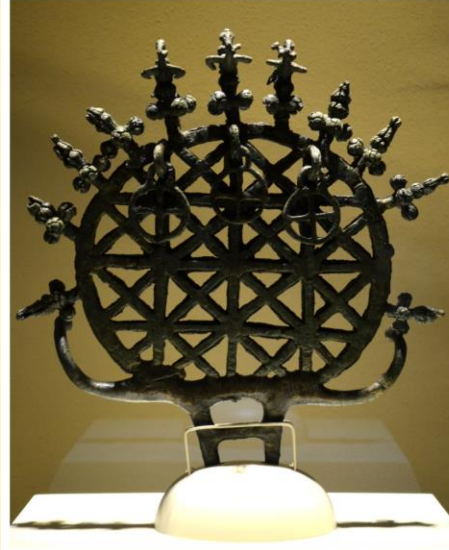
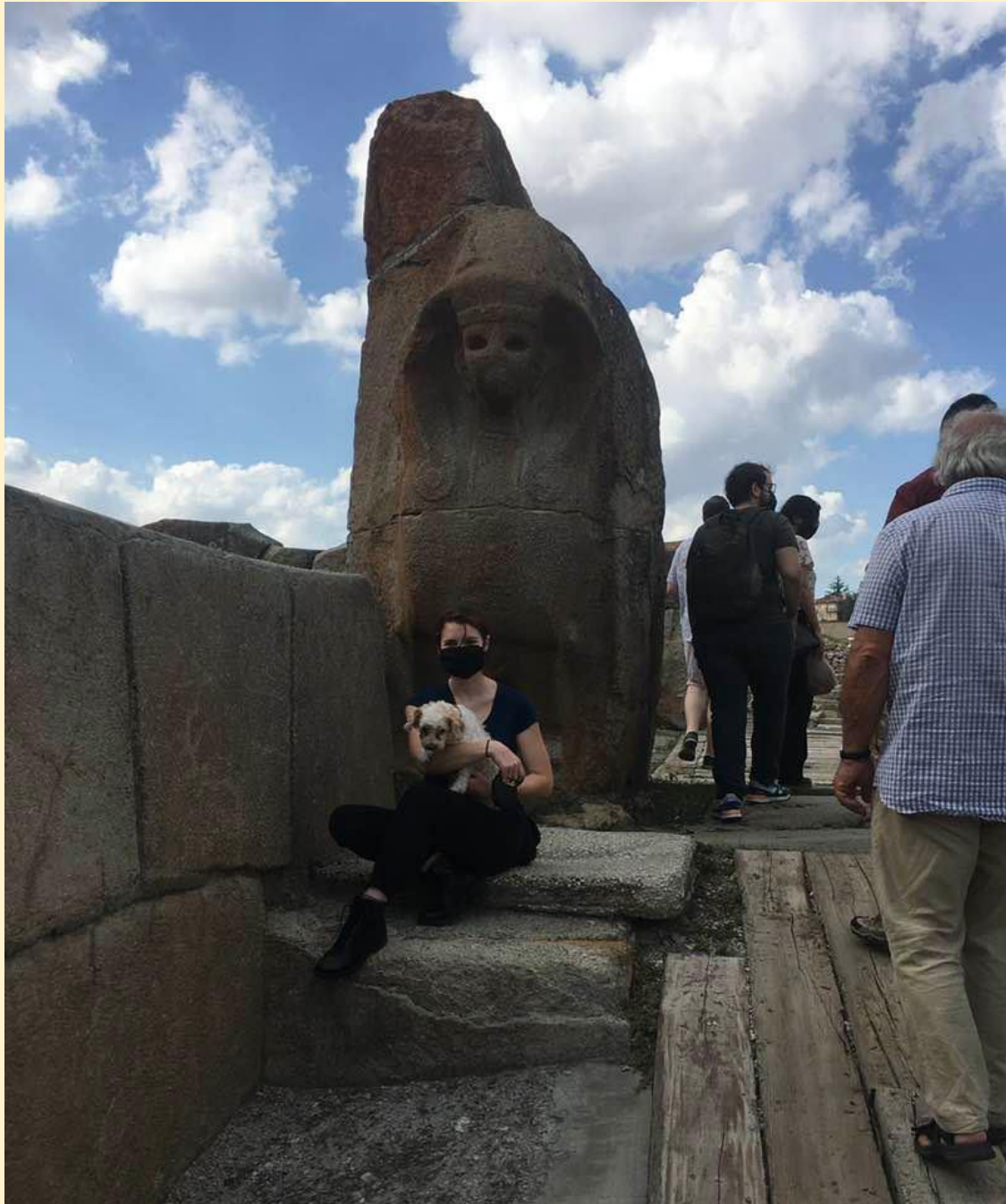
Hattusha, Hittite City





Hittite work from Kargamis in
the Museum





My daughter and our dog at Alacahoyuk, Hittite city, and Hittite Bronze work at the museum



Hittite Bronze

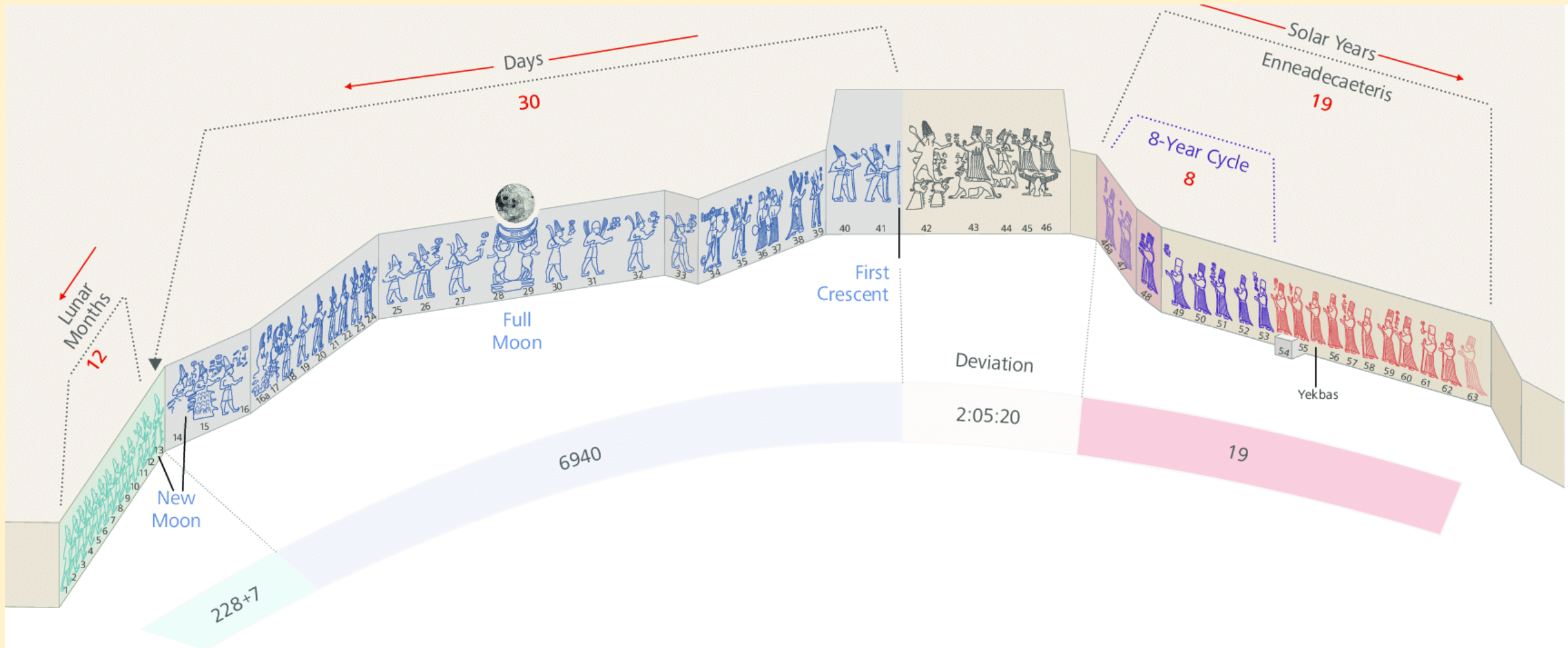




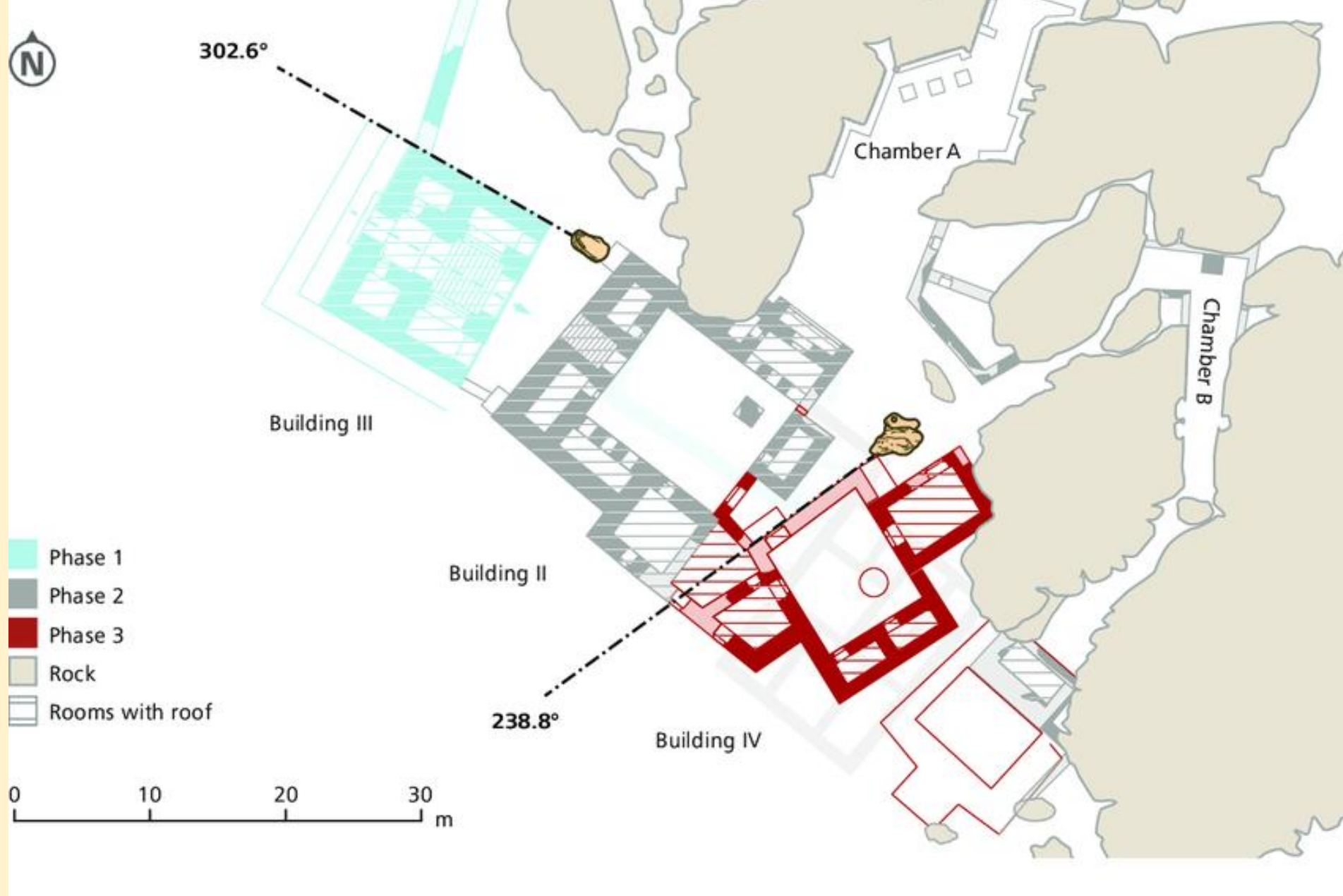
- **Yazilikaya Stone Hittite Sanctuary. Only in 2019 was it studied as a celestial calendar.**

<https://sivilsiyasethareketi.com/haber-icerik-hititlerin-32-yillik-yazilikaya-tapinaginin-sirri-cozuldu-15.html>

Hittite Celestial Carvings at Yazilikaya



I can't quite figure this site out but here is a link below...



https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333898047_Celestial_Aspects_of_Hittite_Religion_An_Investigation_of_the_Rock_Sanctuary_Yazilikaya/download

Gaziantep region: Kargamis, (Hittite)



More from
Hittite
Kargamis

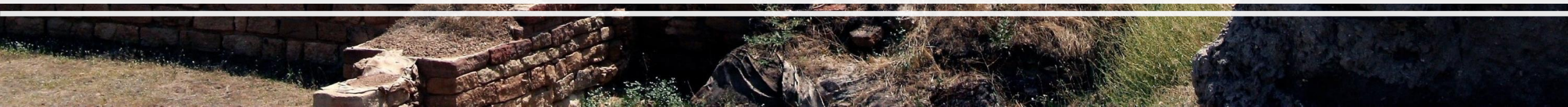


And more...





Gordium, Phrygian Capital. 2000 bce,
King Midas Tumulus and others at back. (dozens in the area)





My daughter and the dog in the tunnel



Wooden
tomb at the
center
(following photos
show items from
the Tomb)





Table, bronze and skull from the Gordion Tomb.





Ivory comb
from Gordium
(2" across)



Ivory furniture
details, Gordium



**Gordium Bronze
Cauldron**

Reading or Viewing Suggestions

- Gobekli Tepe – 7000 years BEFORE the Pyramids!
<https://www.newsweek.com/turkey-archeological-dig-reshaping-human-history-75101>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/gobekli-tepe-the-worlds-first-temple-83613665/>
- Netflix series *The Gift* focused on paranormal happenings at Gobekli Tepe. Turkish production, Sort of spooky but also high schoolish.
- Hittites. 5 minute video (for not very serious people)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bJmbhafz8M>
- The Hittites. for very serious people a 2 hour documentary with real horses.
<https://topdocumentaryfilms.com/hittites/>