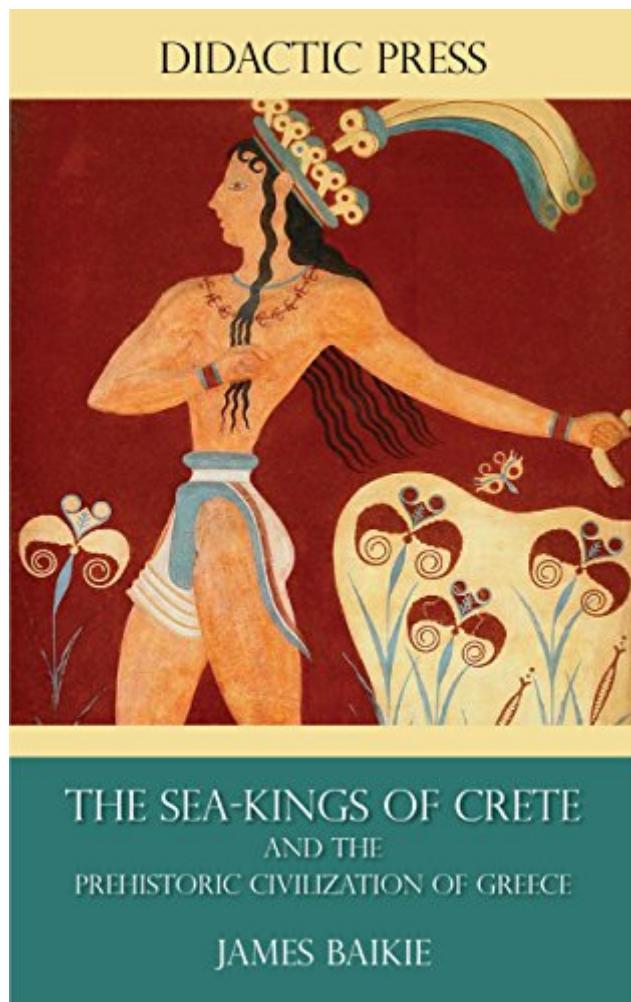


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The Sea-Kings Of Crete And The Prehistoric Civilization Of Greece (Illustrated)



Synopsis

The resurrection of the prehistoric age of Greece, and the disclosure of the astonishing standard of civilization which had been attained on the mainland and in the isles of the Aegean at a period at least 2,000 years earlier than that at which Greek history, as hitherto understood, begins, may be reckoned as among the most interesting results of modern research into the relics of the life of past ages. The present generation has witnessed remarkable discoveries in Mesopotamia and in Egypt, but neither Niffur nor Abydos disclosed a world so entirely new and unexpected as that which has been revealed by the work of Schliemann and his successors at Troy, Mycenae, and Tiryns, and by that of Evans and the other explorers—Italian, British, and American—in Crete. The Mesopotamian and Egyptian discoveries traced back a little farther streams which had already been followed far up their course; those of Schliemann and Evans revealed the reality of one which, so to speak, had hitherto been believed to flow only through the dreamland of legend. It was obvious that mighty men must have existed before Agamemnon, but what manner of men they were, and in what manner of world they lived, were matters absolutely unknown, and, to all appearance, likely to remain so. An abundant wealth of legend told of great Kings and heroes, of stately palaces, and mighty armies, and powerful fleets, and the whole material of an advanced civilization. But the legends were manifestly largely imaginative—deities and demi-gods, men and fabulous monsters, were mingled in them on the same plane—and it seemed impossible that we should ever get back to the solid ground, if solid ground had ever existed, on which these ancient stories first rested...

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Customer Reviews

This really should be a primer for those students in high school who wish to become historians or at the very least history majors in college. While discussing the history of prehistoric Europe or the Mediterranean basin it does take the reader away from the ancient Egypt classical Tigris and Euphrates orientation and brings to life a whole new way of looking at the cultural development of that region. Dated though some of the factual information is, the concept of prehistory in Europe is one that is still ignored in education today. Aside from the fact that it is a pleasantly accessible book, it is in its own way rather revolutionary.

Good but quite dated. I bought it because I thought it had been updated but not so.

This book was written before linear B was identified as a form of Greek. The book is dated but that is what makes it interesting and is very educational in the sense you can see where the interpretation of the existing facts led to correct files and where they mislead. It has a wealth of knowledge about the first excavations. A useful read for someone familiar with the current state of Minoan history.

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