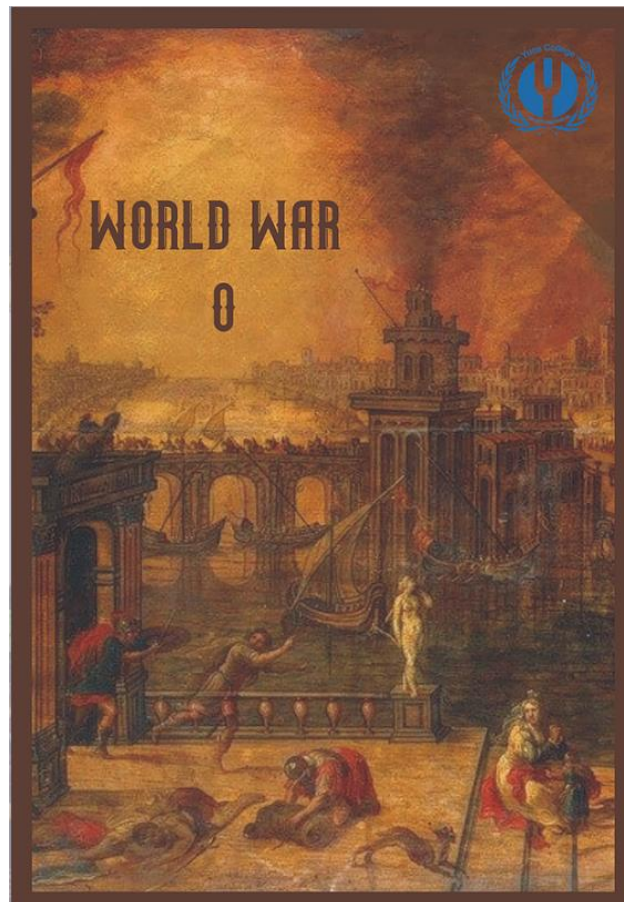


YCMUN '19

World War 0: Collapse of The Bronze Age

Study Guide



Letter From The Secretary General

Principled Attendants and Associate Advisors,

I would like to begin by welcoming you all to the fifth annual session of YCMUN. After attending many conferences and developing a new perspective upon global issues, it is my sheer honor to represent Yüce College as the Secretary-General of YCMUN'19. We are proud to host fellow participants in the capital city of Turkey, Ankara.

I cannot stress enough, the hard work put in by the members of both the academic and organization team. Throughout the process of making this conference happen, I have gotten to know many people that I can proudly call family. Personally, I see Model United Nations conferences as not only to improve academic success but also as way to gather under one roof with others to create sincerity. The MUN conferences that I have attended have truly shown me how a person that you have met for the first time in your life can become someone that is sincere by the end of the conference. Developing new friendships and gaining people that are sincere to you is a factor that I would be honored to reflect upon participants.

We believe the conference my team and I have taken upon ourselves to organize, is bound to host newcomers to the MUN community. I also personally believe that this conference can be a well-taken opportunity to develop your MUN career while you also have the greatest four days of your life. Even if you are a first-timer or a highly experienced participant, I guarantee that you feel at home throughout the duration of YCMUN'19. I am pleased to invite you all to our conference to become members of our family!

Sincere Regards,

Ulaş Güler

Secretary General

Letter From Under Secretary General

Esteemed Participants,

My name is Arda Güler and I am more than honored to serve as the Under Secretary General of this committee. I would like to thank our Secretary General Ulaş Güler for this opportunity.

As you know the committee is a historical committee which makes it a flexible committee about the topic. And a little issue I would like to address before I describe the committee is that the study guide for this committee will not be enough just by itself because the topic, debate or issue in the committee will continuously change in the guidance of the crisis' or the new information which will be given directly or indirectly to the participants by the chairboard of the committee.

Collapse of The Bronze Age is not a historical event but a historical period. This is because its duration (it was way longer than an event). Collapse of The Bronze Age can be simplified as (but not enough) the clashes between the "Sea Peoples" and the "Great Powers" of the time. The "Great Powers" are the ones that developed and represented the technology. And the "Sea Peoples" are the ones who represented invasion and underdevelopment (if only we simplify).

Sincerely with honour for those who fight for the mankind. If you have any questions regarding the study guide or the committee you can contact me via this email address: ardamat5@gmail.com

Sincere Regards,

Arda Güler

Introduction:

The Bronze Age was the third phase in the development of material culture among the ancient people following the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) and Neolithic (New Stone Age) periods. In Europe, Asia and Middle East, The Bronze Age began before 3000 B.C. During the Bronze Age, many great civilizations reigned. Some of them were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Hittites, and Mycanaea. The usage of bronze came with better weapons and better tools for agriculture. According to the historians the collapse of the Bronze Age took place in abruptly 1200 B.C. The Eastern Mediterranean was being invaded wave after wave. In the Aegean, Dorian Invasion brought the end of the Mycanean civilization. Then the Near East was invaded by the “Sea Peoples” which led to a greater destruction. Many cities were abandoned or destroyed. Great civilizations of the Bronze Age dissappered suddenly. Also a great war took place during the collapse of the Bronze Age, a war that destroyed Ilion, the famous “Trojan War”. It was a catastrophic event during the time because Ilion (Troy) was highly populated and developed. This historical event was a great war but it was only a small incident compared to the collapse of the Bronze Age.

Developments in the Bronze Age:

The most important development in the Bronze Age is absolutely the usage of Bronze. The bronze was used to make weapons and tools. Some weapons that are invented during the Bronze Age are: the sickle sword of the Sumerians, the socketed axe, the Carp’s Tongue sword and chariots. The Wheel was invented in the Bronze Age for the first time and also bronze plow was first used in the Bronze Age.



Carp’s Tongue sword

Map of the Bronze Age Containing Civilization Borders



The Civilizations in the Committee:

Assyria: Assyria was a region located in the ancient Near East. The middle kingdom of Assyria was present during the 1200 B.C. During the time period of 1300 and 1200 B.C. They conquered the major strongholds of the Hittites and drove them out. They also completed the destruction of Mitanni and absorbed the Mitanni culture. Assyrians defeated the Hittites at the Battle of Nihriya in 1245 B.C. This effectively ended the Hittite power in the region and began the decline of their civilization. When Babylon made incursions into Assyrian territory Tukulti-Ninurta, they punished the city severely by sacking it, plundering the sacred temples, and carrying the king and a portion of the populace back to Assyria as slaves. With the plundered wealth they renovated the king's palace. The king's desecration of the temples in the Babylon was seen as offense against the gods (Assyrians and Babylonians share the same religion) and the king's sons and court officials rebelled against him for putting his hand on the goods of the gods. He was assassinated by one of his sons in his palace. Following the death of the king the Assyrian Empire fell into a period of stasis in which they neither expanded nor declined.

Babylon: Among all the cities in the ancient Near East, Most of the time Babylon was the primary city in Mesopotamia. The Dynasty of Babylon between 1530 B.C. to 1159 B.C. was the Kassite Dynasty. Babylon reached the apex of its power during the Kassite Dynasty. But almost as quickly as it rose to prominence under the Kassite Dynasty it collapsed under successive waves of invaders. Elam and Assyria took part in ravaging the Babylon and carrying away their precious statue of the god Marduk on more than one occasion, which

vanquished the Kassites from the region and relegated Babylon to hundreds of years of Assyrian rule. As the Kassites pursued a policy of cultural continuity in Babylon, they embarked on an aggressive campaign of conquest throughout the rest of Mesopotamia. The Kassites actively consolidated their control of Mesopotamia through a combination of alliances, threats, and outright conquest if the first two methods were ineffective. The conquest of the Babylonia region was complete by 1460 B.C. From 1340-1230 BC most of Kassite Babylon's major interactions were with the Hittites (Hatti), Assyrians, and Hurrians (Mitanni). The relationships between these great powers would ebb and flow, with enemies quickly turning to friends and vice versa. As the Bronze Age drew to a close in the late thirteenth century B.C. (The Collapse of The Bronze Age) Kassite Babylon faced enemies on multiple sides. Just to Babylon's east was the Kingdom of Elam, knowing that the Elamites would be difficult to counter militarily, especially with the threat of the Assyrians in the north, the Kassite kings began marrying Elamite princesses in the early thirteenth century BC. The diplomatic marriages, though, were not enough to stop the covetous desires of the Elamites, or other groups of peoples. Babylon's inland location prevented it from being overwhelmed by the "Sea Peoples", but it was not enough to stop over wandering bands of bellicose peoples who were similarly traversing the Near East at the end of the Bronze Age. Waves of Aramaean raiders attacked Babylonia, inflicting heavy damage on the city in the twelfth century BC, softening it for the Assyrians and Elamites.

Egypt: The ancient civilization of Egypt was a great civilization which had lived more than 4000 years. The New Kingdom (a period) of Egypt was present between 1567 B.C. and 1085 B.C. this time interval has the collapse of the Bronze Age in it. All of the New Kingdom rulers were laid to rest in deep, rock cut tombs (not pyramids) in the Valley of the Kings. Egyptian records are our main resources about the "Sea Peoples" (most of the time). An early reference dates to the 13th century B.C. the reigning Egyptian Pharaoh was Merenptah. On his reign Egypt had reached the coast of North Africa between Cyrenaica and Mersa Matruh, which in Late Bronze Age was seasonally occupied by the foreign seafarers (soon to be called Sea Peoples). In this area the "Sea Peoples" joined the Libyan tribes and with a force of some 6,000 men marched on Egypt. When Merenptah confronted them and, in a battle that lasted for six hours, managed to defeat them. The rest of Merenptah's reign was peaceful. An even more detailed account comes courtesy of Ramses III, who fought a series of cataclysmic battles against the Sea Peoples around 1170 B.C. An inscription in Ramses' mortuary temple at Medinet Habu describes the Sea Peoples as having moved south through the eastern Mediterranean, laying waste to cities in Turkey, Syria, Cyprus and the Levant. "They desolated its people," it reads, "and its land was like that which has never come into being." Ramses' records describe the Sea Peoples as consisting of a confederation of tribes including the Sherden, Peleset, Denyen, Shekelesh and others. Ramesses III, the second king of the Egyptian 20th Dynasty, who reigned for most of the first half of the 12th century BCE, was forced to deal with a later wave of invasions of the Sea Peoples—the best-recorded of these in his eighth year. This was recorded in two long inscriptions from his Medinet Habu mortuary temple, which are physically separate and somewhat different from one another. The inscriptions of Ramesses III at his Medinet Habu mortuary temple in Thebes record three victorious campaigns against the Sea Peoples considered bona fide, in Years 5, 8 and 12, as well as three considered spurious, against the Nubians and Libyans in Year 5 and the Libyans with Asiatics in Year 11. During Year 8 some Hittites were operating with the Sea Peoples. The inner west wall of the

second court describes the invasion of Year 5. Only the Peleset and Tjeker are mentioned, but the list is lost in a lacuna. The attack was two-pronged, one by sea and one by land; that is, the Sea Peoples divided their forces. Ramsesses was waiting in the Nile mouths and trapped the enemy fleet there. The land forces were defeated separately. The Sea Peoples did not learn any lessons from this defeat, as they repeated their mistake in Year 8 with a similar result. The campaign is recorded more extensively on the inner northwest panel of the first court. These examples show us that Egypt was one of the most raided civilizations (by the “Sea Peoples”).

Hittites: The Hittites occupied the ancient region of Anatolia (also known as Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey) prior to 1700 B.C. , developed a culture apparently from the indigenous Hatti (and possibly the Hurrian) people, and expanded their territories into an empire which rivaled, and threatened, the established nation of Egypt. The Hittite control of the region is divided into two periods. The first period is called “The Old Kingdom” (1700-1500 B.C.) and the second period is called “The New Kingdom”, also known as the Hittite Empire (1400-1200 B.C.). The Hittite Empire reached its peak between under the reign of King Suppiluliuma I (c.1344-1322 B.C.) and his son Mursilli II (c.1321-1295 B.C.) after which it declined and, after repeated attacks by the Sea Peoples it struggled. Before that the Hittites were very powerful. On his reign Suppiluliuma I had conquered the region of Syria and made clear his support for a rival to the throne of Mitanni; Egypt, fearing the strength of the Hittite army, then withdrew their backing of Tushratta. Under the reign of Akhenaten, Suppiluliuma I continued to expand his empire by taking kingdoms and vassal states from Egypt, such as Byblos, with little effort. Following Akhenaten’s death, his son Tutankhamun took the throne of Egypt and sent the general Horemheb against the Hittites to try to halt their ascent; these campaigns, however, were largely unsuccessful because the Hittite army had grown stronger as the Egyptian army had declined. Suppiluliuma I died in the plague which spread across the region in 1322 B.C. and then he was succeeded by his son Arnuwanda II who also died from plague and was succeeded by his younger brother Mursilli II. Arnuwanda II had been personally groomed for the throne by Suppiluliuma I, whereas Mursilli II had little experience and was regarded as no more than a child. Mursilli II had learned more from his father than anyone thought and quickly set about conquering tribes which had long proved a problem. He first secured the borders of the Hittite Empire and then expanded them. After a reign of 25 years, he died and left the throne to his son Muwatalli II (1295-1272 B.C.), most famous for facing Ramesses the Great of Egypt’s 19th dynasty at the Battle of Kadesh. Muwatalli II was succeeded by his son Mursilli III, who reigned for only five years, and was succeeded by Muwatalli II’s brother, Hatusilli III, best known for his participation in the world’s first peace treaty, The Treaty of Kadesh, between the Hittites and the Egyptians in 1258 B.C. In 1237 B.C. , Hatusilli III died and rule passed to his son Tudhaliya IV. At this time the Assyrians were growing in power and, in 1230 B.C. , challenged the sovereignty of the Hittites for control of the region formerly belonging to the Mitanni. At the Battle of Nihriya, in c. 1245 B.C. , the forces of Tudhaliya IV were defeated by the Assyrian army and this begins the decline of the Hittite Empire. The last king of the Hittite Empire was Suppiluliuma II, famous for his part in the first naval battle in recorded history in 1210 B.C. , in which the Hittite fleet was victorious over the Cypriots. Still, the victory was the exception, rather than the rule, of Suppiluliuma II’s reign, and the growing might of the Assyrians, combined with repeated raids by the Sea Peoples chipped away at the stability of the empire until it broke apart. Hattusa was sacked by the Kaskas in 1190 B.C. and burned.

Mycenaea: The Mycenaean civilization flourished in the late Bronze Age, from the 15th to the 13th century BCE and extended its influence not only throughout the Peloponnese in Greece but also across the Aegean, in particular, on Crete and the Cycladic islands. The Mycenaeans participated on the Greek side during the Trojan War. King Agamemnon of Mycenaea was the brother of Helen of Troy's husband Menelaus. King Agamemnon led an expedition of Achaean troops to Troy (Ilion) and besieged the city for ten years. When they managed to conquer the city, The Greeks slaughtered the residents of Troy which led to the destruction of Troy.

The "Sea Peoples": (All of the civilizations present in the committee matrix except Egypt, Hittites, Assyria, Babylon and Mycenaea will be considered as "Sea Peoples" although some of them are not linked to the "Sea Peoples")

The term "Sea Peoples" is a modern name given to various seaborne and land invaders, raiders and a loose confederation of clans who troubled the lands of the Near East and Egypt during the final period of the Bronze Age. The Sea Peoples were a confederacy of naval raiders who harried the coastal towns and cities of the Mediterranean region between c. 1276-1178 B.C. , concentrating their efforts especially on raiding. The nationality of the Sea Peoples remains a mystery as the existing records of their activities are mainly Egyptian sources who only describe them in terms of battle such as the record from the Stele at Tanis which reads, in part, "They came from the sea in their war ships and none could stand against them." . They are held responsible for the destruction of old powers such as the Hittite empire. the last recorded raid of the Sea Peoples occurred in 1175 B.C. , during the reign of Ramesses III. The Egyptian army drove the invaders back to the sea and destroyed their fleet from the banks of the Nile during the Battle of the Delta. Ramesses triumphantly recorded that "their hearts and their souls are finished unto all eternity" and indeed, the Sea Peoples appear to have vanished from history from that point on.