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Troy, or Tro in ancient Greek, Tria in Latin, and known to the Hittites as Wilusa, is one of the most iconic cities in history. Immortalized as the setting of Homers Iliad, it has captured the imagination of generations as a site of heroic battles, divine intervention, and enduring myths.Situated in present-day Hisarlık, near Tevfikye in Turkey, Troys history spans thousands of years, with layers of settlements that speak to its evolving significance.Below World History Edu provides comprehensive exploration of the history and major facts about the ancient city of Troy, capturing its essence across mythology, archaeology, and its lasting legacy.Image: Ruined walls of TroyOrigins and Early SettlementTroy was first established around 3600 BC, during the Early Bronze Age. Initially a modest settlement, it quickly grew in complexity. By 3000 BC, the city was fortified with walls, indicating its importance and the need for defense in a region susceptible to conflicts.Its position near the Dardanelles Straitlinking the Aegean Sea to the Sea of Marmaraoffered strategic advantages for trade and military activity, making it a hub for interaction between Anatolia and the Aegean world.The Nine Layers of TroyTroys history is preserved in its archaeological layers, each representing a city built upon the ruins of its predecessor. These layers, labeled Troy I to Troy IX, provide a glimpse into different periods of settlement, destruction, and rebuilding.Troy I (2920±250 BC): The earliest layer reveals a small fortified settlement with simple structures.Troy II (2550±200 BC): Noted for its wealth, monumental gates, and stone-built fortifications, Troy II signifies a period of prosperity. Evidence of advanced craftsmanship, including metalworking, was discovered here.Troy III (2300±750 BC): These layers show a decline in architectural complexity, suggesting reduced prominence.Troy VI (1750±300 BC): Associated with the Late Bronze Age, Troy VI is characterized by its large, well-planned fortifications and towers. It represents the height of Troys influence as Wilusa, a vassal city of the Hittite Empire.Troy VII (1300±50 BC): This layer shows evidence of destruction, likely due to conflict or a natural disaster. Some scholars associate this period with the Trojan War.Troy VIII (700±85 BC): Rebuilt during the Greek period, Troy VIII became a center of religious and mythological significance.Troy IX (85 BCAD 500): Under Roman rule, Troy became a prosperous city, revered as a historical and mythological pilgrimage site.The Trojan War and MythologyThe mythological fame of Troy is largely tied to the Trojan War, chronicled in Homers Iliad. According to legend, the war began when Paris, a prince of Troy, abducted Helen, the wife of Spartan king Menelaus. This act sparked a Greek expedition, led by Agamemnon, to besiege Troy. The war, lasting a decade, culminated in the citys fall through the ruse of the Trojan Horsea hollow wooden structure that concealed Greek soldiers.While the Iliad is a work of fiction, it may be based on a historical conflict. Archaeological evidence at Troy VII suggests the city experienced a violent destruction around 1180 BC, consistent with the period of the Late Bronze Age. However, no definitive proof ties this event to the events described in Homers epic.Troy in Hittite RecordsThe city of Troy appears in Hittite texts under the name Wilusa. During the Late Bronze Age, it was part of a network of vassal states allied with the Hittite Empire. The Treaty of Alaksandru, a Hittite document, mentions Wilusa, indicating its significance in the political landscape of Anatolia. Its strategic location near the Dardanelles likely made it a vital point for trade and military movements.Archaeological RediscoveryThe rediscovery of Troy began in the 19th century with Frank Calvert, an amateur archaeologist who identified the mound at Hisarlık as the possible site of Troy. In 1871, Heinrich Schliemann, a German archaeologist, began extensive excavations. Schliemanns dramatic announcements, including the discovery of what he called the Treasure of Priam, brought global attention to Troy.However, Schliemanns methods were controversial, as they caused significant damage to the site. Modern archaeologists criticize his excavation techniques for being overly destructive and for mixing artifacts from different layers.Later excavations, led by Wilhelm Dörpfeld, Carl Blegen, and more recently by Turkish archaeologists, refined our understanding of the site. These efforts revealed the complexities of Troys history, confirming the existence of nine distinct layers and uncovering evidence of advanced urban planning and fortifications.Image: Schliemanns Trench is a 17-meter excavation at Hisarlık, Turkey.Significant Archaeological FindsThe Walls of Troy VI: Massive stone fortifications with towers, indicating a wealthy and well-defended city.Artifacts of Troy II: Gold and silver treasures, including jewelry, tools, and weapons, showcasing the citys prosperity.Evidence of Destruction: Burnt remains in Troy VII suggest the city faced violent destruction, possibly aligning with the myth of the Trojan War.Greek and Roman Ruins: Temples, theaters, and other structures from the later periods reveal Troys continued importance in antiquity.Troys Role in Greek and Roman CultureGreek Period (Troy VIII)During the Greek period, Troy became a center for pilgrimage and mythological reverence. The Greeks believed Troy was the site of their ancestors heroism, linking it to the legacy of the Trojan War.A depiction of a scene from the Trojan War.Roman Period (Troy IX)Under Roman rule, Troy flourished as a tourist destination and religious center. Roman emperors, including Augustus, sought to associate themselves with Troys legendary past. The Romans claimed descent from Aeneas, a Trojan hero who, according to Virgils Aeneid, fled Troy and founded Rome.READ MORE: Most Famous Heroes and Heroines in Greek MythologyUNESCO World Heritage SiteIn 1998, Troy was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognizing its importance as a cultural and historical landmark. The site now attracts visitors worldwide, offering insights into millennia of human history.Unanswered Questions About TroyDespite extensive research, many mysteries remain:The Trojan Wars Reality: Did a conflict resembling the Trojan War actually occur? While evidence of destruction exists, its exact cause is uncertain.Myth vs. History: How much of Homers Iliad reflects historical events, and how much is literary embellishment?Wilusas Identity: Was Wilusa definitively Troy, and what was its role in the Hittite geopolitical sphere?Legacy of TroyTroy represents the intersection of mythology, history, and archaeology. Its enduring allure lies in its dual identity as both a historical city and the backdrop for one of the greatest stories ever told. The sites layered ruins and cultural resonance continue to inspire scholars, writers, and visitors. Troys legacy is also evident in modern interpretations, from literature and film to academic studies. As a symbol of human ambition, resilience, and the complexities of history, Troy remains one of the most fascinating and enigmatic cities of the ancient world. Where is Troy located?Troy, also known as (Tro) in Greek and Tria in Latin, is an ancient city situated in present-day Hisarlık, near Tevfikye in Turkey. It holds legendary status as the setting of Homers Iliad and has been a focal point of archaeological and literary inquiry.When was Troy first settled, and how did it develop?Troy was first settled around 3600 BC as a modest community. By 3000 BC, it had developed into a fortified city. Over the course of four millennia, it underwent cycles of destruction and rebuilding, resulting in nine distinct archaeological layers.What are the nine layers of Troy, and how are they identified?The nine layers of Troy represent cities built upon the ruins of their predecessors and are labeled with Roman numerals from Troy I to Troy IX. Each layer corresponds to a different phase in the citys history, reflecting changes in architecture, culture, and society.What is notable about Troy II?Troy II is notable for its affluence and monumental architecture, showcasing evidence of wealth and advanced construction techniques. This period highlights the citys growing prominence in the region.What were Troys role during the Late Bronze Age?During the Late Bronze Age, Troy was known as Wilusa, as referenced in Hittite texts. It was a vassal of the Hittite Empire, strategically important due to its location near trade routes and the Dardanelles Strait.How did Troy function in its later stages (Troy VIII and IX)?In its later stages, during Troy VIII and IX, the city became part of the Greek and Roman worlds. It served as a religious center and tourist destination, revered for its association with the Trojan War myths.What myth is Troy most famous for, and what does it involve?Troy is most famous as the setting of the Trojan War, as depicted in Homers Iliad. The myth involves the abduction of Helen, the wife of Spartan king Menelaus, by Paris, a Trojan prince, leading to a Greek siege of the Trojan Horse and its eventual destruction with the help of the Trojan Horse. There is evidence supporting the historical basis of the Trojan War.While archaeological evidence suggests that Troy experienced a violent destruction around 1180 BC, definitive evidence linking this to the Trojan War as described in Homers Iliad is lacking. The Iliad may reflect a distant memory of Bronze Age conflicts.Image: A map (of Greece) showing the location of Troy. Who rediscovered Troy, and when did the excavations begin?Troy was rediscovered in the 19th century by Frank Calvert and later excavated extensively by Heinrich Schliemann beginning in 1871. Schliemanns work brought global attention to the site.What criticisms are associated with Heinrich Schliemanns excavation methods?Schliemanns excavation methods were often destructive and criticized by modern archaeologists. Despite this, he uncovered significant findings, including what he believed to be the treasure of Priam.What notable features were discovered in Troy VI?Troy VI, corresponding to the Late Bronze Age, features sophisticated fortifications, including massive walls and towers. These align with descriptions of a wealthy and well-defended city, similar to Homers portrayal in the Iliad.How did Troy influence Greek and Roman culture?In antiquity, Troy symbolized heroism and tragedy. Roman emperors, including Augustus, claimed descent from Aeneas, a Trojan hero. Troy became a center for pilgrimage and mythological reverence, celebrated in works like Virgils Aeneid.When was Troy designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site?Troy was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998, recognizing its cultural and historical significance.What draws modern visitors to Troy?Modern visitors are drawn to Troy for its archaeological significance, connection to ancient myths, and tangible links to millennia of human history. Its layers offer a glimpse into early Bronze Age civilization and classical antiquity. Troy is the name of the Bronze Age city attacked in the Trojan War, a popular story in the mythology of ancient Greece, and the name given to the archaeological site in the north-west of Asia Minor (now Turkey) which has revealed a large and prosperous city occupied over millennia. There has been much scholarly debate as to whether mythical Troy actually existed and if so whether the archaeological site was the same city; however, it is now almost universally accepted that the archaeological excavations have revealed the city of Homers Iliad. Other names for Troy include Hisarlık (Turkish), Ilios (Homeric), Iliou (Greek) and Ilium (Roman). The archaeological site of Troy is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Troy in myth Troy is the setting for Homer's Iliad in which he recounts the final year of the Trojan War sometime in the 13th century BCE. The war was in fact a ten-year siege of the city by a coalition of Greek forces led by King Agamemnon of Mycenae. The purpose of the expedition was to reclaim Helen, wife of Menelaus, king of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon. Helen was abducted by the Trojan prince Paris and taken as his prize for choosing Aphrodite as the most beautiful goddess in a competition with Athena and Hera. The Trojan War is also told in other sources such as the Epic Cycle poems (of which only fragments survive) and is also briefly mentioned in Homer's Odyssey. Troy and the Trojan War later became a staple myth of Classical Greek and Roman literature. In the Iliad, Homer describes Troy as 'well-founded', 'strong-built' & 'well-walled', 'strong-built' & 'well-walled', 'strong-built' and 'well-walled'; there are also several references to fine battlements, towers and 'high' and 'steep' walls. The walls must have been unusually strong in order to withstand a ten-year siege and in fact, Troy fell through the trickery of the Trojan horse ruse rather than any defensive failing. Indeed, in Greek mythology the walls were so impressive that they were said to have been built by Poseidon and Apollo who after an act of impiety were compelled by Zeus to serve the Trojan king Laomedon for one year. However, the fortifications did not help the king when Hercules sacked the city with an expedition of only six ships. The sacking was Hercules' revenge for not being paid for his services to the king when he killed the sea-serpent sent by Poseidon. This episode was traditionally placed one generation before the Trojan War as the only male survivor was Laomedon's youngest son Priam, the Trojan king in the later conflict. Black-figured amphora (wine-jar) signed by Exekias as potter and attributed to him as painter Troy in Archaeology Inhabited from the Early Bronze Age (3000 BCE) through to the 12th century CE the archaeological site which is now called Troy is 5 km from the coast but was once next to the sea. The site was situated in a bay created by the mouth of the river Skamanda and occupied a strategically important position between Aegean and Eastern civilizations by controlling the principal point of access to the Black Sea. Anatolia and the Balkans from both directions by land and sea. In particular, the difficulty in finding favourable winds to enter the Dardanelles may well have resulted in ancient sailing vessels standing by near Troy. Consequently, the site became the most important Bronze Age city in the North Aegean, reaching the height of its prosperity in the middle Bronze Age, contemporary with the Mycenaean civilization on the Greek mainland and the Hittite empire to the East. Troy was first excavated by Frank Calvert in 1863 CE and visited by Heinrich Schliemann who continued excavations from 1870 CE until his death in 1890 CE; in particular, he attacked the conspicuous 20 m high artificial mound which had been left untouched since antiquity. Initial finds by Schliemann of gold and silver jewellery and vessels seemed to vindicate his belief that the site was actually the Troy of Homer. However, these have now been found to more than a thousand years before a probable date for the Trojan War and indicated that the history of the site was much more complex than previously considered. Indeed, perhaps unwittingly, Schliemann would add 2000 years to Western history, which had previously gone back only as far as the first Olympiad of 776 BCE. Map of the World of the Iliad, c. 1200 BCE The excavations continued throughout the 20th century CE and continue to the present day and they have revealed nine different cities and no less than 46 levels of inhabitation at the site. These have been labelled Troy I to Troy IX after Schliemann's (and his successor Dörpfeld's) original classification. This has since been slightly adjusted to incorporate radio-carbon dating results from the early 21st century CE. Troy I (c. 3000-2550 BCE) was a small village settlement surrounded by stone walls. Pottery and metal finds match those on Lesbos and Lemnos in the Aegean and in northern Anatolia. Troy II (c. 2550-2300 BCE) displays larger buildings (40 m long), mud-brick and stone fortifications with monumental gates. Schliemann's 'treasure' finds - objects in gold, silver, electrum, bronze, carnelian and lapis lazuli - most likely come from this period. This 'treasure' includes 60 earrings, six bracelets, two magnificent diadems and 8750 rings, all in solid gold. Once again, finds of foreign materials suggest trade with Asia. Map of the Trojan Plain, c. 1200 BCE Troy III - Troy V (c. 2300-1750 BCE) is the most difficult period to reconstruct as the layers were hastily removed in early excavations in order to reach the lower levels. Generally speaking, the period seems a less prosperous one but foreign contact is further evidenced by the presence of Anatolian influenced dome ovens and Minoan pottery. The archaeological site of Troy has impressive fortification walls 5 m thick & up to 8 m high constructed from large limestone blocks. Troy VI (c. 1750-1300 BCE) is the period most visible today at the site and is the most likely candidate for the besieged city of Homer's Trojan War. Impressive fortification walls 5 m thick and up to 8 m high constructed from large limestone blocks and including several towers (with the rectangular plan as in Hittite fortifications) demonstrate the prosperity but also a concern for defence during this period. The walls would have once been topped by a mud brick and wood superstructure and with closely fitting stonework sloping inwards; as the walls rise they certainly fit the Homeric description of 'strong-built Troy'. In addition, sections of the walls are slightly offset every 10 m or so in order to curve around the site without the necessity for corners (a weak point in wall defence). This feature is unique to Troy and displays an independence from both Mycenaean and Hittite influence. The walls included five gateways allowing entrance to the inner city composed of large structures, once of two stories and with central courts and colonnaded halls similar to those of contemporary Mycenaean cities such as Myrns, Pylos and Mycenae itself. Outside the fortified citadel the lower town covers an impressive 270,000 square metres protected by an encircling rock-cut ditch. The size of the site is now much bigger than first thought when Schliemann excavated and suggests a population of as high as 10,000, much more in keeping with Homer's grand city-state. Finds at the site point to the existence of a thriving wool industry and the first use of horses, recalling Homer's oft-used epithet 'horse-taming Trojans'. Pottery very similar to that on the Greek mainland has been discovered, principally the Grey Minyan ware which imitates metal vessels. There are also imported ceramics from Crete, Cyprus and the Levant. In marked contrast to Mycenaean palaces, there is no evidence of sculpture or fresco-painted walls. Troy VI was partially destroyed but the exact cause is not known beyond some evidence of fire. Intriguingly, bronze arrow heads, spear tips and sling shots have been found on the site and even some embedded in the fortification walls, suggesting some sort of conflict. The dates of these (c. 1250 BCE) and the site destruction correlate with Herodotus' dates for the Trojan War. Conflicts over the centuries between Mycenaean and Hittites are more than probable and may well have been the origin of the epic Trojan War in Greek mythology. There is very little evidence of any large-scale war but the possibility of smaller conflicts is evidenced in Hittite texts where 'Ahiyawa' is recognised as referring to Mycenaean Greeks and 'Wilusa' as the region of which Ilios was the capital. These documents tell of local unrest and Mycenaean support of local rebellion against Hittite control in the area of Troy and suggest a possible motive for regional rivalry between the two civilizations. Intriguingly, there is also a bronze Mycenaean sword taken as war booty and found in Hattusa, the Hittite capital. Troy VIIa (c. 1300-1180 BCE) and Troy VIIb (c. 1180-950 BCE) both display an increase in the size of the lower town and some reconstruction of the fortifications but also a marked decline in architectural and artistic quality in respect to Troy VI. For example, there is a return to handmade pottery after centuries of wares made on the wheel. Once again, this correlates well with the Greek tradition that following the Trojan War the city was sacked and abandoned, at least for a time. Both Troy VIIa and Troy VIIb were destroyed by fires.2 Troya es el nombre de la ciudad de la Edad de Bronce que fue atacada en la guerra de Troya, una historia popular en la mitología de la antigua Grecia, además del nombre dado al emplazamiento arqueológico en el noroeste de Asia Menor, ahora Turquía, que ha revelado una ciudad grande y prspera que ha estado ocupada durante milenios. Los expertos han debatido durante mucho tiempo si la mitica Troya existió realmente y si, de ser así, el emplazamiento arqueológico es el mismo sitio o no; sin embargo, está ampliamente aceptado universalmente que las excavaciones arqueológicas han sacado a la luz la ciudad de la Ilíada de Homero. Otros nombres con los que se conoce la ciudad son Hisarlık, en turco, Ilios, según Homero, Iliu, en latín. El emplazamiento arqueológico de Troya ha sido declarado por la UNESCO como Patrimonio de la Humanidad. Troya en la mitología Troya es el escenario de la Ilíada de Homero, en la que se cuentan el tino de la guerra de Troya en algún momento del siglo XIII AEC. En realidad, la guerra fue un sitio de diez aos de la ciudad por la coalicin de ejrcitos griegos liderados por el rey Agamenn de Micenas. El propsito de la expedicin era recuperar a Helena, la esposa de Menelao, rey de Esparta y hermano de Agamenn. Helena haba sido secuestrada por el prncipe troiano Paris y llevada como premio por elegir a Afrodita como la diosa ms hermosa en una competicin con Atenea y Hera. Tambin se habla de la guerra de Troya en otras fuentes, tales como los poemas del Ciclo troiano, de los que nos han llegado varios fragmentos, y brevemente en la Odisea de Homero. Troya y ms tarde la guerra se convirtieron en un mito bsico de la literatura griega y romana clsica. EN LA ILIADA, HOMERO DESCRIBE TROYA COMO "BIEN FUNDADA", "FUERTE" Y "DE MURALLAS ROBUSTAS". Homero describe Troya como "bien fundada", "fuerte" y "de murallas robustas"; tambn hay varias referencias a las almenas, las torres y las "altas" y "escarpadas" murallas. Las murallas deban de ser extraordinariamente robustas para haber resistido un asedio de diez aos, y de hecho Troya acab cayendo mediante el engaao del caballo de Troya en vez de cualquier error defensivo. De hecho, en la mitologa griega las murallas eran tan impresionantes que se decan que haban sido construidas por Poseidn y Apolo a los que, tras un acto irreverente, Zeus los oblig a servir al rey troiano Laomedn durante un ao. Sin embargo, las fortificaciones no ayudaron al rey cuando Hrcules saque la ciudad con una expedicin de tan solo seis barcos. El saqueo fue la venganza de Hrcules por no haberle pagado por los servicios prestados al rey cuando mat a la serpiente marina enviada por Poseidn. Este episodio tradicionalmente se sita una generacin antes de la guerra de Troya, ya que el nico superviviente masculino era el hijo menor de Laomedn, Pramo, el rey troiano durante el posterior conflicto. Troya I (c. 3000-2550 AEC) era un pequeo asentamiento rodeado de muros de piedra. Los hallazgos de cerámica y metal coinciden con los de Lesbos y Lemnos en el Egeo y el norte de Anatolia. Troya II (c. 2550-2300 AEC) muestra edificios ms grandes (de 40 metros de largo), fortificaciones de ladrillos de barro y de piedra con puertas monumentales. Los hallazgos del "tesoro" de Schliemann, objetos de oro, plata, electo, bronce, cornalina y lapisluzli, probablemente provienen de este periodo. Este "tesoro" cuenta con 60 pendientes, seis brazaletes, dos magnficas diademas y 8750 anillos, todo de oro macizo. De nuevo, los hallazgos de materiales extranjeros sugieren un comercio con Asia. Troya III - Troya V (c. 2300-1750 AEC) es el periodo ms difcil de reconstruir, ya que estas capas se quitaron apresuradamente en las primeras excavaciones para llegar a los niveles ms bajos. En trminos generales, este periodo parece haber sido menos prspero, pero el contacto con el extranjero es evidente gracias a la presencia de hornos de cplula con influencias de Anatolia y la alfarera minoica. EL EMPLAZAMIENTO ARQUEOLGICO DE TROYA TIENE UNAS IMPRESIONANTES MURALLAS DE 5 METROS DE GROSOR Y HASTA 8 METROS DE ALTURA, CONSTRUIDAS CON GRANDES BLOQUES DE PIEDRA CALIZA. Troya VI (c. 1750-1300 AEC) es el periodo ms visible hoy en da y es la candidata ms probable para la ciudad asediada de la guerra de Troya de Homero. Las impresionantes murallas fortificadas de 5 metros de grosor y de hasta 8 metros de altura construidas con grandes bloques de piedra caliza, que tambn tienen varias torres (de planta rectangular como en las fortificaciones hititas) demuestran la prosperidad del lugar, adem s de su preocupacin por la defensa durante ese periodo. En un principio las murallas habran estado recubiertas con una superestructura de ladrillos de barro cocido y madera, y con mampostería inclinada hacia adentro; viendo las murallas actuales, ciertamente encajan con la descripcin de Homero de una "Troya robusta". Además, la muralla se va compensando en secciones cada 10 metros ms o menos para crear una curva alrededor de la ciudad y evitar as las esquinas, que son un punto dbil de las murallas. Esta es una caracterstica nica de Troya y muestra su independencia de las influencias micnica e hitita. En las murallas haba cinco entradas que permitian el paso al centro de la ciudad, que se compona de grandes estructuras, de dos pisos, con patios interiores y salones de columnas parecidos a los de las ciudades micnicas coetneas como Tirinto, Pilos y la propia Micenas. Fuera de la ciudadela fortificada, la ciudad inferior cubre unos impresionantes 270.000 metros cuadrados, protegidos por una zanja circundante excavada en la roca. El tamao del lugar es mucho ms grande actualmente de lo que se pens en un principio cuando Schliemann lo excav y sugiere una poblacin de hasta 10.000 habitantes, mucho ms acorde con la gran ciudad-estado de Homero. Los descubrimientos en el lugar apuntan hacia la existencia de una prspera industria de la lana y el primer uso de caballos, que recuerda el usado epeto de Homero "Trojanos domadores de caballos". Se ha descubierto una cerámica muy parecida a la de la Grecia continental, principalmente la cerámica minia que imita vasos de metal. Tambin hay cerámica importada de Creta, Chipre y el Levante. En marcado contraste con los palacios micnicos, no hay indicios de esculturas o paredes con frescos. Troya VI fue destruida parcialmente, pero se desconoce la causa exacta, ms al del algm indicio de un incendio. Resulta intrigante saber que se han descubierto puntas de flecha de bronce, puntas de lanza y hondas en el lugar e incluso hay algunas incrustadas en las fortificaciones, lo que sugiere algm tipo de conflicto. Las flechas de estos, en torno a 1250 AEC, y la destruccin del lugar se relacionan con las flechas que sugiere Herodoto para la guerra de Troya. Los conflictos a lo largo de los siglos entre los micnicos y los hititas son bastante probables y bien pueden haber sido el origen de la pica guerra de Troya en la mitologa griega. No hay muchos indicios que indiquen una guerra a gran escala, pero la posibilidad de que hubiera conflictos menores es evidente en los textos hititas en los que se reconoce que "Ahiyawa" hace referencia a los griegos micnicos y que "Wilusa" es la regin de la cual Ilios es la capital. Estos documentos hablan de disturbios locales y de una rebelin local contra el control hitita en el rea de Troya, y sugieren un posible motivo para la rivalidad local entre estas dos civilizaciones. Algo interesante es que tambn hay una espada micnica de bronce que se ha llevado como botn de guerra encontrada en Hattusa, la capital hitita. Troya VIIa (c. 1300-1180 AEC) y Troya VIIb (c. 1180-950 AEC) ambas muestran un aumento en el tamao de la ciudad inferior y una cierta reconstruccin de las fortificaciones, pero tambn una marcada disminucin en la calidad arquitectnica y artstica con respecto a Troya VI. Por ejemplo, se produce una vuelta a la cerámica hecha a mano tras siglos de artculos hechos en un torno. De nuevo, esto est bien relacionado con la tradicin griega de que despus de la guerra de Troya la ciudad fue saqueada y abandonada, al menos por un tiempo. Tanto Troya VIIa como Troya VIIb fueron destruidas por incendios. Troy VIII y Troy IX (c. 950 AEC a 550 EC) son los emplazamientos del Ilin griego y el Ilium romano respectivamente. Hay indicios de que la zona estuvo poblada a finales de la Edad Antigua, pero el asentamiento no recuper un nivel de desarrollo significativo hasta el siglo VIII AEC. Sin embargo, la antigua Troya nunca se olvid. Herodoto dice que el rey persa Jerjes sacrific ms de mil buyes en el lugar antes de su invasin de Grecia, y Alejandro Magno tambn visit el lugar antes de su expedicin en la direccin opuesta para conquistar Asia. Un templo drico dedicado a Atenea se construy a principios del siglo III AEC junto con fortificaciones nuevas bajo Lisimaco (c. 301-280 AEC). Los romanos tambn admiraban Troya e incluso se referan a ella como la "sagrada Ilium". De acuerdo con la tradicin romana, el hroe troiano Eneas, hijo de Venus, huy de Troya y se asent en Italia, proporcionando as a los romanos un linaje divino. Julio Csar en 48 AEC y el emperador Augusto (que rein de 27 AEC a 14 EC) reconstruyeron gran parte de la ciudad, y Adriano (que rein 117-138 EC) tambn aadi algunos edificios incluidos un oden, un gimnasio y baos. El emperador Constantino (que rein 324-337 EC) lleg incluso a planear la construccin de su nueva capital en Troya, y se iniciaron algunas obras hasta que se eligi Constantinopla en su lugar. Con el tiempo el lugar fue en declive, probablemente porque el puerto se haba encangado y la que una vez fue la gran ciudad de Troya se acab abandonando, y pasara 1500 aos antes de volver a descubrirse. 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The legend of the Trojan War, fought between the Greeks and the people of Troy, is the most notable theme from ancient Greek literature and forms the basis of Homers Iliad. Although the actual nature and size of the historical settlement remain matters of scholarly debate, the ruins of Troy at Hisarlık, Turkey, are a key archaeological site whose many layers illustrate the gradual development of civilization in northwestern Asia Minor. The extensive and complex ruins are open to visitors, and there is a museum on the site. There is much potential for future excavations. The ruins of Troy were enrolled as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1998. Ancient Troy commanded a strategic point at the southern entrance to the Dardanelles (Hellespont), a narrow strait linking the Black Sea with the Aegean Sea via the Sea of Marmara. The city also commanded a land route that ran north along the west Anatolian coast and crossed the narrowest point of the Dardanelles to the European shore. In theory, Troy would have been able to use its site astride these two lines of communication to exact tolls from trading vessels and other travelers using them; the actual extent to which this took place, however, remains unclear. The Troad (Greek: Τροάς, Land of Troy) is the district formed by the northwestern projection of Asia Minor into the Aegean Sea. The present-day ruins of Troy itself occupy the western end of a low descending ridge in the extreme northwest corner of the Troad. Less than 4 miles (6 km) to the west, across the plain of the Scamander River (Kırmıderesi ay), is the Aegean Sea, and toward the north are the narrows of the Dardanelles. HisarlıkAncient ruins at Hisarlık, the site of historical Troy, in Turkey.The approximate location of Troy was well known from references in works by ancient Greek and Latin authors, including Homer, Herodotus, and Strabo. But the exact site of the city remained unidentified until modern times. A large mound, known locally as Hisarlık, had long been understood to hold the ruins of a city named Iliou or Ilium that had flourished in Hellenistic and Roman times. In 1822 Charles Maclaren suggested that this was the site of Homeric Troy, but for the next 50 years his suggestion received little attention from Classical scholars, most of whom regarded the Trojan legend as a mere fictional creation based on myth, not history. Those who did believe in the existence of a real Troy thought it to be at Bunarbashi (Pnarba), a short distance south of Hisarlık. It took Frank Calvert, a scholarly amateur archaeologist, until 1860 to begin exploratory work on Hisarlık. It was he who persuaded the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann to work at Hisarlık, though Schliemann soon took full credit for adopting Maclarens identification and demonstrating to the world that it was correct. (Not until the late 20th century was the full extent of Calverts role widely known.) In seven major and two minor campaigns between 1870 and 1890, Schliemann conducted excavations on a large scale mainly in the central area of the Hisarlık mound, where he exposed the remains of a walled citadel. After Schliemanns death in 1890, the excavations were continued (189394) by his colleague Wilhelm Dörpfeld and later (193238) by an expedition from the University of Cincinnati headed by Carl W. Blegen. After a lapse of some 50 years, excavations resumed (19882005) under the leadership of University of Tbingen archaeologist Manfred Korfmann and continued after his death. Questions of Troys physical size, population, and stature as a trade entrept and regional power became subjects of intense scholarly dispute following the resumption of excavations at Hisarlık in the late 1980s. Although Homeric Troy was described as a wealthy and populous city, by this time some scholars had come to accept the probability of a lesser Troy relatively minor settlement, perhaps a princely seat. Beginning in 1988, Korfmanns team investigated the terrain surrounding the citadel site in search of wider settlement. Korfmanns findings at Hisarlık, drawn from geomagnetic surveying and isolated excavations, led him to conclude in favour of a greater Troy;that is, a settlement of some size and prosperity. His presentation of this perspective in a 2001 exhibition, accompanied by a controversial model reconstruction of the city, sparked especially intense scholarly debate over the citys true nature. Before excavations began, the mound rose to a height of 105 feet (32 metres) above the plain. It contained a vast accumulation of debris that was made up of many clearly distinguishable layers. Schliemann and Dörpfeld identified a sequence of nine principal strata, representing nine periods during which houses were built, occupied, and ultimately destroyed. At the end of each period when a settlement was destroyed (usually by fire or earthquake or both), the survivors, rather than clear the wreckage down to the floors, merely leveled it out and then built new houses upon it. The nine major periods of ancient Troy are labeled I to IX, starting from the bottom with the oldest settlement, Troy I. In periods I to VII Troy was a fortified stronghold that served as the capital of the Troad and the residence of a king, his family, officials, advisers, retinue, and slaves. Most of the local population, however, were farmers who lived in unfortified villages nearby and took refuge in the citadel in times of danger. Troy I to V corresponds roughly to the Early Bronze Age (c. 3000 to 1900 BCE). The citadel of Troy I was small, not more than 300 feet (90 metres) in diameter. It was enclosed by a massive wall with gateways and flanking towers and contained perhaps 20 rectangular houses. Troy II was twice as large and had higher, sloping stone walls protecting an acropolis on which stood the kings palace and other princely residences, which were built of brick in a megaron plan. This city came to an end through fire, and Schliemann mistakenly identified it with Homers Troy. In the burnt layers debris were found a trove of gold jewelry and ornaments and gold, silver, copper, bronze, and ceramic vessels that Schliemann named Priams treasure. The burning of Troy II seems to have been followed by an economic decline, each of the citadels of Troy III, IV, and V was fortified and somewhat larger than its predecessor, but the houses inside the walls were much smaller and more closely packed than in Troy II. Troy VI and VII mt be assigned to the Middle and Late Bronze Age (c. 1900 to 1100 BCE). Troy at this time had new and vigorous settlers who introduced domesticated horses to the Aegean area. They further enlarged the city and erected a magnificent circuit of cut limestone walls that were 15 feet (4.5 metres) thick at the base, rose to a height of more than 17 feet (5 metres), and had brick ramparts and watchtowers. Inside the citadel, which was now about 650 feet (200 metres) long and 450 feet (140 metres) wide, great houses were laid out on ascending, concentric terraces. Troy VI was destroyed by a violent earthquake a little after 1300 BCE. Dörpfeld had identified this stage as Homeric Troy, but its apparent destruction by an earthquake does not agree with the realistic account of the sack of Troy in Greek tradition. Moreover, the citys date, as indicated by imported Mycenaean pottery found in the earthquake debris, is too early for the Trojan War. The survivors of the earthquake quickly rebuilt the town, thus inaugurating the short-lived Troy VIIa. The ruins were leveled and covered over by new buildings, which were set close together and filled all available space inside the fortress. Almost every house was provided with one or several huge storage jars that were sunk deep into the ground, with only their mouths above the level of the floor. Troy VIIa probably lasted little more than a generation. The crowding together of houses and the special measures to store up food supplies suggest that preparations had been made to withstand a siege. The town was destroyed in a devastating fire, and remnants of human bones found in some houses and streets strengthen the impression that the town was captured, looted, and burnt by enemies. Based on the evidence of imported Mycenaean pottery, the end of Troy VIIa can be dated to between 1260 and 1240 BCE. The Cincinnati expedition under Blegen concluded that Troy VIIa was very likely the capital of King Priam described in Homers Iliad, which was destroyed by the Greek armies of Agamemnon. The partly rebuilt Troy VIIb shows evidence of new settlers with a lower level of material culture, who vanished altogether by 1100 BCE. For about the next four centuries the site was virtually abandoned. About 700 BCE Greek settlers began to occupy the Troy. Troy was reoccupied and given the Hellenized name of Iliou; this Greek settlement is known as Troy VIII. The Romans sacked Iliou in 85 BCE, but it was partially restored by the Roman general Sulla that same year. This Romanized town, known as Troy IX, received fine public buildings from the emperor Augustus and his immediate successors, who traced their ancestry back to the Trojan Aeneas. After the founding of Constantinople (324 CE), Iliu faded into obscurity. Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQSign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages

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