

The Collapse of the Late Bronze Age and the Need for More Interdisciplinary Examinations of Climate Change in Antiquity

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During the past two decades, more scientific data regarding the 3.2ka BP event in the Aegean and Near East has appeared than in any other decade to date. The data have been retrieved by a number of different scholars, working either individually or in teams in a number of different areas in the Aegean and Eastern Mediterranean. Their research has involved investigating ancient pollen in Syria, Israel, Egypt, and Cyprus; isotopic signatures and other indicators from lake sediments in Turkey, Syria, and possibly Iran; oxygen isotope studies from stalagmites and mineral deposits within caves in Greece and Israel; and other relevant studies. And yet, with a few significant exceptions, these scientists are not working together with archaeologists. At the same time, it seems apparent, at least judging from the lack of citations, that archaeologists in general are not reading the journals in which those relevant articles are published, such as Quaternary Science Reviews, Geomorphology, and Journal of Quaternary Science, and are thus unaware of these new developments which will be of significant impact and use to their own research. This situation must change and the various groups must begin working together more towards a common goal of determining evidence for climate change in antiquity and the impact that it had on human history during the Holocene, including what happened 3200 years ago.