

National Migration at Sea and Reconstruction of Mediterranean Civilization

Zhang Deyu

School of History, Classics & Archaeology, College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, William Robertson Wing Central Campus, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, United Kingdom

Keywords: maritime ethnic migration, mediterranean civilization

Abstract: The great migration of nationalities at sea swept the Mediterranean world around the 12th century BC, resulting in the decline and collapse of the ancient civilizations and countries in the Mediterranean. The nationalities at sea are from various parts of the Mediterranean, and their ethnic composition and ethnic characteristics are diverse and complex. The great migration of nationalities at sea disrupted the development of Mediterranean civilization, injected new vitality into the ancient body of Mediterranean civilization, and to a large extent, re-established Mediterranean civilization.

1. Introduction: Armed Migration of Ethnic Groups at Sea

A severe agricultural failure occurred in the northern and eastern Mediterranean around the 12th century BC, and some unidentified ethnic groups migrated to the sea world. The wave swept across Asia Minor Peninsula, Syria, Palestine, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece Peninsula, and northern Italy Peninsula. According to Egyptian literature, this migrating group was referred to as a "sea nation" by modern scholars.[1] Some ethnic groups have invaded the Mediterranean world before, but the purpose of these ethnic groups' invasion is to plunder wealth, while the invasion of maritime ethnic groups is to seek a new living place and emigrate to the Mediterranean region by force. The armed invasion of the Mediterranean world by maritime peoples lasted many years, according to Egyptian literature, but there were two large-scale invasions. The first was around 1207 BC, and the second was around 1176 BC. The first invasion was much smaller in scale than the second invasion, which changed the political landscape of the entire Mediterranean world.[2]

Some ethnic groups from the north invaded the Greek Peninsula, the Italian Peninsula, Sardinia, and Sicily prior to the large-scale invasion. These local ethnic migrations foreshadowed the entire sea ethnic migration. Foreign invaders destroyed the Mycenae civilization in the Greek Peninsula around 1230 BC. The majority of palaces and cities were destroyed, and the majority of cities on mainland Greece and some islands were abandoned. Although academic circles disagree on the reasons, most scholars believe that the Mycenae civilization was destroyed by the new nation that entered Greece. Academic circles have traditionally attributed it to the invasion of the sea nation. A nation arrived on the Italian peninsula and settled in the Tiber and Yanu rivers. [3] It gradually created a new civilization on the basis of absorbing Greek civilization, which was second only to the later Roman civilization in brilliance. These maritime peoples migrated to Sardinia, Sicily, northern Italy, and parts of Greece and Crete.

2. Ethnic composition and sources of maritime nationalities

There are few records of maritime nationalities in ancient documents, and the inscriptions left behind are vague, which makes it very difficult to find out the origin and national identity of maritime nationalities. In recent years, archaeology has provided some evidence for this purpose. Some scholars have made some explanations on the origin of the nationalities on the sea with the help of the similarities of unearthed objects and portraits of people on the implements. However, the age of the nationalities on the sea mentioned in the literature is inconsistent with the age of similar objects found in archaeology, thus causing a chronology problem.[4] Therefore, even with the help of archaeological achievements, it is difficult to piece together a perfect picture about the nations at sea.

Academic circles generally believe that the maritime nationalities are not a single nationality, but several nationalities after studying information about them.

The entry for "maritime peoples" in the British Encyclopedia is as follows: "Maritime peoples are a group of aggressive sailors. they are ethnic groups of unknown origin." Various theories suggest that they are Bronze Age Greeks, Tyrrhenians, Anatolians, Sardinians, Sicilians, and others. According to the records of the battles between Mellenputa and Ramses III and the maritime nationalities, the maritime nationalities mentioned include: Ekwesh, Teresh, Luka, Sherden, Shekelesh, Peleset, Tjekker.[5]

Peresant people generally recognize it as Philistines. ¹However, three theories exist regarding the origins of this nation: Anatolian, Crete, and Cyprus. According to Egyptian documents and the Bible, some scholars believe the Peresant people originated in the west of Asia-Pacific. Furthermore, some scholars use etymology, toponymy, archaeology, and other findings to investigate whether the Peresant originated in Crete; some scholars believe that the architectural styles of Cyprus and Palestine are similar, and it is possible that the Peresant originated in Cyprus. Based on the above three perspectives, we believe the Peresants arrived in the Palestinian area via Crete and Cyprus during their north-south migration.[6]

The Lu people recognize it as a Lycian in western Anatolia. Garrett's literature mentions sending troops to the Ruka people's coast to block the passage from the Aegean Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, implying that the Ruka people live in the small sub-West Bank near the middle sea. The Ruka is referred to as a "sea man" in some Hittite documents. The Ruka attacked Alacia, according to Amarna's letters and Hittite documents. According to this, the author believes that the Ruka people are most likely a seafaring people. Based on the preceding two points, the author believes that the Ruka people are a maritime nation who live in Asia's West Bank near the Mediterranean Sea.

The Scheer people were active in the Mediterranean region as early as the reign of Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep III. Amarna's letters have since made reference to this country. However, there is no mention of it in Hittite or Greek literature. The academic community's confirmation of the Sherdan people's origin is primarily based on etymology. Maspalo identified this nation as having originated in Asia and settled in Sardinia. According to Canadian scholar Redford, they are the direct ancestors of Sardonians who settled in the Ionian coast during classical times. There are only a few references to this in Shekris' literature. Only Egyptian and Ugarit documents mention this country. There are still many difficulties in confirming this nation. Redford believes that this nation originated in Pisidia, Sidia; 8 Sandars believes that this nation originated in the southeast of Sicily, which is most likely the Sikels); encountered by the Greeks during the colonial period; Pet-name ruby Brich believes that this nation originated in Anatolia and eventually migrated to Sicily in Italy.

Tanuna Amarna's letters mention "Tanuna country," Hittite literature mentions "Tanuna people," and Greek mythology mentions Tanuna. There are three theories about Danuna's origins and

identity: Silesia, Mycenae, and Canaanite. Although the origins of Danunana are not fully understood in academic circles, according to available data, Danunana should live on an island near Silesia and Canaan.

3. Contribution: Consider the historical impact of ethnic migration at sea.

The large migration of nationalities at sea disrupted the development track of Mediterranean civilization, causing great confusion and having a significant impact on future generations. According to Braudel, "the 12th century BC brought so many disasters that the previous hundreds of years can be described as happy and peaceful." Some argue that the impact of the great migration of nationalities at sea is comparable to the impact of the great migration of Germanic nationalities. As a result, there are compelling reasons to regard the massive migration of nationalities at sea as a sign of the end of Mediterranean civilization.

On the negative side, the large migration of ethnic groups at sea even halted the further development of the Mediterranean civilization. The Hittite Empire was destroyed by a sea invasion, and the Hittites never established their own country. The Hittites were gradually forgotten by history and are only mentioned in the Bible. After being hit by the sea nation, most cities in Syria and Palestine are no longer inhabited; in the Greek peninsula, Mycenaean civilization suffered a heavy blow and gradually disappeared, while newly arrived people abandoned urban life and linearity.

The writing caused a significant regression in Greek civilization; the nation's impact on Egypt at sea is also significant. Egypt has lost all of its territory in the Palestinian territories, and the Egyptian civilization, which was already in decline, has never recovered. In general, the once-brilliant Mediterranean civilization has deteriorated since the baptism of national migration at sea.

On the plus side, the massive sea migration of ethnic groups re-established Mediterranean civilization. In Syria and Palestine, new nations and civilizations have emerged. The Philistines settled in Palestine and established the Palestinian black iron civilization; the Greeks gradually gained a firm foothold through the war with the Philistines and made significant contributions to world spiritual civilization; Phoenicians occupied a dominant position in Lebanon, establishing a Phoenician civilization characterized by commerce and colonization, and contributing a set of letters and characters to the world. Following the exploration of the Greek Peninsula's dark ages, the Greeks began to rise and achieve great achievements in politics, philosophy, art, literature, science, and other fields that we still admire today. The people of Therus established their own civilization on the Italian peninsula by absorbing Greek culture, which was critical to the development of Rome. In a nutshell, it is the great seaborne migration of nationalities that laid the groundwork for the development of the new Mediterranean civilization.

In general, the 12th century BC is a period of transformation, with the great migration of nations at sea acting as the driving force. Despite a great deal of chaos and suffering, history has emerged from chaos to usher in a new era. The 12th century BC pains gave birth to Phoenician civilization, Jewish civilization, and Greek civilization, all of which continue to influence the development of human civilization.

References

- [1] A. J. Spalinger. "War in Ancient Egypt", Oxford: Blackwell Publishing .2005. p.235.
- [2] R. Morkot, "Historical Atlas of Ancient Greece", London: Penguin Books .1996, pp.32 - 33.
- [3] J. H. Breasted, "Ancient Records of Egypt", Chicago, The University of Chicago Press 1906, pp.567 - 617.
- [4] Nougayrol et al. Ugaritica V (Mission de Ras Shamra Tom e XVI), Paris: Imprimerie Nationale. 1968, PP87 - 89..

[5] J.B.Pritchard, *“Ancient Near Eastern Texts”*, Princeton:Princeton University Press.1955, p.362.

[6] H.K Lengel, *“Syria 3000 to 300B.C.Berlin”*, Akademie Verlag 1992, pp.183 - 184.