

p. 168 Greek tradition placed the Siege of Troy in the year after this defeat of the Sea Raiders by Ramses. The exactness of this date may well be questioned. 1

Footnote 1 Herodotus (ii.145) puts it about 1250, the Marmor Parium 1218-1209. The commonest date is that given by Eratosthenes as 1194-1184.

But it is important to note the historical conditions of the time, and to see that they were not averse to such unique events as the Siege of Troy and the Empire of Agamemnon.

p. 168 The best summary of the times is given by Hesiod, who speaks of an age of heroes which fell between the Age of Bronze - the Mycenaean Age - and the Age of Iron in which he himself lived.

p. 169 The Siege of Thebes seems to have been to mainland poets what the Siege of Troy was to Ionian, the chief event of the heroic age. Hesiod mentions the two side by side. These wars are guaranteed only by poetry, and for sober fact we must go to two different sources, the traditions of genealogies and families, and the local traditions of colonization in certain outlying districts of the Greek world.

p. 170 On this basis we may deduce that the heroic age was thought to have lasted five or six generations, that is for about two hundred years, and to have ended soon after the Siege of Troy with the Return of the Heraclids. It is remarkable that this is almost the same length of time which lapsed between the first mention of the Danuna in the Tel-el-Amarna Letters of 1379, and the collapse of the Sea Raiders before Ramses III in 1194.

p. 172 These traditions agree with the political conditions described in foreign records. They show the Mediterranean world in confusion, rent by intestine wars and the ceaseless effort of races to find new homes. It is not surprising that Greek historians found no difficulty in believing that the Trojan War fell in such a time. The evidence of archaeology is less full and less easy to use. Such a period of movement was not likely to leave memorials, and sites that can definitely be dated in this period are rare. But certain broad features emerge which suit well with what we know of the times from other sources.

p. 179 Agamemnon's kingdom is by no means an impossibility. Perhaps the poet magnified it, but its structure and extent agrees with the political conditions of the time. + 7

p. 183 But it is tempting to connect the siege with the fall of Boghaz Kei in about 1180, almost the traditional date of the Trojan War. The Achaean siege may have been part of a concerted movement against the Hittite Empire which resulted in its overthrow, or it may have been due to the victor's quarrel over the spoils.

p. 184 For the present, perhaps, we may assume that the Trojan War was part of the movement by which the Hittite Empire fell. Such a theory agrees with the geographical conditions of Troy, and finds some support in Greek tradition. Beyond this it is not safe to go.

p.188 "... Achaean was a synonym for Greek, and in this sense Homer uses the word."