TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword .............................................................................................................. VII
List of Abbreviations ............................................................................................ IX

I. THE AEGEAN CULTURES
AND CIVILIZATIONS IN THE BRONZE AGE

THE AEGEAN WORLD IN THE THIRD AND SECOND MILLENNIA BC.
THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS ................................................................. 3

PART 1
THE AEGEAN WORLD ON THE THRESHOLD OF CIVILIZATION
(THE EARLY BRONZE PERIOD) ................................................................. 7

PART 2
THE MINOAN CIVILIZATION IN THE MIDDLE AND LATE
BRONZE AGE ............................................................................................ 76

Chapter 1 Palaces and “towns” in Minoan Crete .............................................. 76
1. The period of the “Old Palaces” ............................................................... 76
2. The period of the “New Palaces” .............................................................. 84

Chapter 2 Crete and the Aegean insular world in the mid-2nd millennium BC
The issue of the Minoan thalassocracy ...................................................... 112

Chapter 3 Archaic characteristics in Minoan civilization ............................. 130
1. “Minoan matriarchy” (the social role of men and women in the
communal life of Minoan Crete) ............................................................... 130
2. Society and personhood in Cretan art. The issue of the depictions
of the king and the recording of historical events .................................. 142

PART 3
RELIGION AND ART IN MINOAN CRETE ............................................. 155

Chapter 1 Preliminary comments on the nature of Minoan religion .............. 155
Chapter 2 The central figures of the Minoan pantheon: the Great Goddesses
and their companions .............................................................................. 183

Appendix to chapter 2. The Minoan “Genii” ................................................... 229

Chapter 3 The Minoan cult of the Bull in the context of the Cretan cycle of
myths ........................................................................................................... 235
Appendix to chapter 3. The Minoan divine bull and the Greek Dionysos 253

Chapter 4  Labyrinth and Elysium. Death and afterlife in the religion of Minoan Crete 255

Appendix to chapter 4. The Dactyloi and Talos 332

Chapter 5  Ecstatic art 339

PART 4  THE AEGEAN WORLD IN THE 2nd MILLENNIUM BC. BASIC TENDENCIES OF HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT 362

Chapter 1  The Minoan civilization among other civilizations of the ancient world. Origins and decline 362

Chapter 2  The Mycenaean finale of the Bronze Age 379

II. GREECE DURING THE DARK AGES

Chapter 1  The first phase of the Dark Ages. Tribal migrations and the problem of cultural continuity 415

Chapter 2  The middle phase of the Dark Ages. The beginning of the Early Iron Age, the “Ionian colonization” and the birth of Greek art 442

Chapter 3  The final phase of the Dark Ages and the beginning of the Archaic epoch. The problem of the “Greek Renaissance” 473

Conclusion 503

Appendix. Alternate version of the conclusion 507

Bibliography 513

List of illustrations 535

Indices

Sources 541

Mythology 542

Archaeological remains 545