

greek

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Kaplan, P. (2018) observes that Greece is located in southern Europe, and it borders the Ionian Sea and Mediterranean Sea; Greece is a peninsular country with about 3000 islands. It has a total area of 50 949 square miles, with internal lakes covering 1310 km². It has the most extensive coastline that measures 13676 km. It borders Albania, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, and Turkey. Eighty-three percent of the country is mainland, while 17 percent are islands. The topography of the land is covered by mountains and has an elevation of 2637 meters. Mount Olympus is the highest in Greece and the seven seventh highest mountain in Europe. The number of islands is 1200 to 6000. There are variations in the sizes and climatic conditions of the islands. The largest island is Crete, followed by Euboea. We have islands in Aegean and Ionian islands that are grouped into seven. The land in Greece is fertile where they practice arable farming where permanent crops are 8 percent while other crops take 92 percent. 15550 km² of the land is irrigated. The climate ranges from semi-desert to cold climate mountain forests. The country is faced with calamities such as floods, drought, and world fires.

Clogg, R. (2021) argues that the history of Greece involves modern Greece and the Greek people. The history of Greece is elastic and is divided into several categories. Mesolithic Greece involved a long period of the slow development of primitive human proto communities. In Neolithic Greece, this period involved establishing agricultural societies in 7000 BC but later ended in 3100 BC. This period marked the early history of Greece because it formed the basis for the early bronze civilization; in this period, communities became organized and established an essential art. In Mesolithic Greece, the period was an experience in Paleolithic, and some part in the middle stone age before Neolithic emerged. The places that experienced this period were located near the coast. The most popular sites of Mesolithic sites in Greece were the Franchthi cave and theopetra. The country also experienced a shift from Neolithic to Bronze Age;

agriculturalists entered the Greek peninsula from Anatolia through the Aegean Sea. A characteristic of the Neolithic sites was that they were agricultural-based economies. A Greek-speaking language known to speak Mycenaean arrived when the company was experiencing the Neolithic period.

Greece underwent civilization that was marked by Cycladic civilization and Minoan civilization. Cycladic society was marked by their schematic flat female idols carved from white marble before the Minoan culture, and this civilization was experienced in the south. The Minoan culture was characterized by modern appellation, which included a written system recorded on Linear A script and Cretan hieroglyphics. Individuals with Minoan culture were primarily involved in trading activities along the Mediterranean region. Some of the problems that faced Minoan civilization were volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. The Hellenic period was established in the Greek mainland after the end of the Stone Age period. The communities in that period needed more time to change their stone tools with metal tools. Early Bronze Age settlement developed more in Tiryns culture.

Mycenaean civilization emerged after the transformation of Helladic culture under influences from Minoan Crete. A warrior aristocracy led Mycenaean civilization; as the society expanded its power, it encountered Minoan civilization that forced Mycenaean to adopt Linear A script. Mycenaean buried people they valued in beehives in their culture, put them on gold masks and kept them in a specific sitting position. After the collapse of the Mycenaean civilization, Greece went to the Dark Age that was experienced by a decline in population and literacy. Ancient Greece refers to the history of Greece before the invasion of the Roman Empire. The old Greek period was marked when the Olympic games in 776 BC. Ancient Greece is seen to be the foundation of western civilization. The culture of the Greeks was influential in Roman

Empire that later led to influence in Europe. In the archaic period, the Greek people adopted the Phoenician alphabet to create the Greek alphabet. In this period, they developed written records, and they were subdivided into small self-governing communities.

In classical Greece was divided into political units known as polis that were later transformed into city-states. In this era, some cities' governments were dependent on other state cities. During the Persian war, Greece moved as an alliance due to the subdivided states. Persian war was necessary for shaping classical Greece; cities of Ionia revolted against Persian Empire. After the Persians had overrun northern and central Greece, the towns combined efforts and subdued the Persians through a naval attack. To remain defensive against the Persians, the cities formed a league that contributed soldiers and ship; this leads to the emergence of the Delian League that was later renamed the Athenian empire. Peloponnesian war emerged as a result of conflicts between Corcyra and epidemics. Roman Greece resulted from the conquest of roman against Greece due to the weak military of the Greek people. Romans divided the country into four small republics that resulted in Macedonia becoming a province that had Thessalonica as its capital. Romans left local administration to natives without abolishing traditional political patterns. The importance of the roman invasion marked the incorporation of economic and judicial mechanisms applied in the states and involved the Mediterranean region.

In the Ottoman period, there was continuous territory expansion from Anatolian to southeastern Europe; the political, social, and economic institutions were merged with those from Byzantium and the Turkish Empire and were transformed into new forms of modern time. The ottomans fought against the collapsing Christian Byzantine state, which had originated from the entry of the kayi tribe through Anatolia, where they established themselves in Iran and Mesopotamia, where they overran Byzantium and occupied central and eastern Anatolia.

From a sociological perspective, the Greeks considered religion an essential tool to their culture; Greek Orthodox Church dominated the religion where 90 percent were orthodox followers. Other more minor religions in Greece were Islam, Catholicism, and Hinduism. Religion in Greece was identified as one of the fundamental phenomena where they placed their nationality through Christianity (Persson, 2021). Protestantism was practiced by the Greek evangelical church and free evangelical church. The country had one of the largest denominations with many followers of the Orthodox Church, followed by Russia. Other minor denominations included Seventh-day Adventist and Jehovah's Witness. There were still individuals who never belonged to any religion; they were known as atheists. Music in Greece was creative due to assimilating the eastern culture of Asia and the western culture of Europe. The music had started long during antiquity where poetry, dancing, and music were inseparable and were made during important occasions. After the evolution of the Byzantine Empire, the music adapted the pastoral approach. The music changed later when Nikolaos mantzaros and Spyros Samaras were composed.

Greece composed various music types that included folk songs known as Dimotiko Tragoudi, and they originated from ancient Greek poetry and music. This genre is divided into two musical movements, akritic, created to express the life and struggles that the frontier guards went through while serving Byzantine Empire. Klephtic emerged at the beginning of the Greek revolution, which marked the end of the Byzantine period, and the genre has second voices that are rhythmical; they mainly loved songs, wedding songs, songs of freedom, songs of sorrows, and songs of exile. The musical instruments used were lira, laouto, gaida, zournas, dachares, and violi. Kantad music originated from Kefalonia Island, which involved romantic serenade music and male voices accompanied by guitar. The kantada was influenced by Italian music and Greece culture.

Nisiotika were popular in Greece islands where each island had its way of performing it. Instruments that were mainly used were lira, clarinet, guitar and high-pitched women accompanied them. Rebetiko music originated decades which was a Turkish style in which refugees from Asia spread. The Greek population rejected the refugees, which prompted them to sing songs that showed their environmental conditions such as poverty, pain, prison, police oppression, and drug addiction. The popularity of the music grew in the 1950s despite challenges that it faced of rejection because the Greeks considered it as music from the outcast. The instruments used in this song were the baglama, bouzouki, and guitar. People who mostly played these songs were Markos vamvakaris and Marika ninou. The popularity of rebetiko declined due to the influence of new rock music from Western Europe. In the late 20th century, rebetiko was incorporated with rock music that blends exciting music Anderson, (2019).

The islands developed distinct dancing styles, and pontic dance is considered to be very fast. In the Greek world, they adopted Pan-Hellenic dances which included ballos and hasapiko (Georgoula, & Terkenli, 2018). The dances were social functions that brought together the community. They used criteria of age when selecting dancers to perform in a particular event. In ancient Greek, dance was considered a ritual; the dances were primarily conducted in marriage, death, and entertainment. Dances were critical in educating children about their social norms and morals. In military training, dance was crucial; this served as mediators between gods and humans. Dances in ancient Greek included cordax and carpet. The modern dances are different because they are fast in pace and jumpy. They have Mytilene and ballaristos. From the analysis of dance music and instruments, there is an interrelation with the cultural aspects of Greek people.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

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