

The Galatas Survey

Socio-Economic and Political Development
of a Contested Territory in Central Crete during the
Neolithic to Ottoman Periods

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by

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List of Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this volume:

ARS	African Red-Slip Ware	h	hour
BSJ	bridge-spouted jar	ha	hectare(s)
ca.	circa	Hag.	Hagia
cf.	compare	HMGS	Hellenic Military Geographical Service
cm	centimeter(s)	ht	height
cwt.	hundredweight (100 lbs.)	IGME	Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration
DEM	digital elevation model	kg	kilogram(s)
diam.	diameter	km	kilometer(s)
d./r.	died/ruled	L.	length
EBA	Early Bronze Age	LM	Late Minoan
EIA	Early Iron Age	LN	Late Neolithic
elev.	elevation	LR	Late Roman
EM	Early Minoan	m	meter(s)
EN	Early Neolithic	m asl	meters above sea level
ER	Early Roman	max.	maximum
ESA	Eastern Sigillata A	MJ	megajule
ESB	Eastern Sigillata B	MM	Middle Minoan
FN	Final Neolithic	mm	millimeter(s)
g	gram(s)	mono	monochrome
GIS	geographic information system	NP	Neopalatial
GBP	Great Britain pound		
GPS	global positioning system		

PP	Protopalatial	St.	Saint
PreP	Prepalatial	SUNY	State University of New York
PRS	Phocaeen Red Slip ware	w.	width
RUSLE	Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation	wt.	weight
SS cup	straight-sided cup	yr	year

Chronology

Dates are based on: Miller 1921; Sugar 1977; Maltezou 1988; Warren and Hankey 1989; Coleman 1992a, 1992b; Alcock 1993; Detorakis 1994; Greene 2000; Tomkins 2007; and Warren 2010.

4000–3500 B.C. Final Neolithic	1570/1540–1490/1450 B.C. Late Minoan II	A.D. 1–300 Early Roman
3500–2900 B.C. Early Minoan I	1490/1450–1375/1350 B.C. Late Minoan IIIA	A.D. 300–ca. 700 Late Roman
2900–2200 B.C. Early Minoan II	1375/1360–1220/1200 B.C. Late Minoan IIIB	ca. A.D. 700–ca. 827 First Byzantine
2200–2100 B.C. Early Minoan III	1220/1200–1000 B.C. Late Minoan IIIC	ca. A.D. 827–961 Andalusian Muslims
2100–1900 B.C. Middle Minoan IA	1000–600 B.C. Protogeometric– Orientalizing	A.D. 961–1204 Second Byzantine
1900–1850 B.C. Middle Minoan IB	600–480 B.C. Archaic	A.D. 1204–1669 Venetian
1850–1800/1775 B.C. Middle Minoan II	480–323 B.C. Classical	A.D. 1669–1898 Ottoman
1800/1775–1725/1700 B.C. Middle Minoan III	323 B.C.–A.D. 1 Hellenistic	
1725/1700–1570/1540 B.C. Late Minoan I		

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Introduction

In her study, *The Historiography of Landscape Research on Crete* (2008), Marina Gkiasta listed some 20 survey projects carried out in Crete over the last 80 years. These surveys fall into two basic categories: (1) urban centers and their immediate catchments (e.g., Moody 1987a; Hayden 2005); and (2) remote rural areas (e.g., Blackman and Branigan 1977; Watrous 1982). This study of the Galatas area is different. It focuses on an area located between two powerful rival centers, Knossos/Herakleion and Kastelli/Lyttos, which brought this area under their control at various times in history. As such, the study is able to document in detail the changing local socioeconomic and political conditions in this territory as it came under the direct control of states elsewhere in Crete and overseas.

This volume explores the results of the American archaeological survey (2005–2007) carried out around the area of Galatas in Central Crete (Fig. 1), as requested by Georgos Rethemiotakis, the Director of Excavations at Galatas. It traces the socioeconomic and political development of the Galatas area and its relations with other areas of Crete during the Neolithic–Ottoman periods. Our archaeological survey was focused on a central site, Galatiani Kephala (44; for the register of sites, see App. A), and its topographic catchment, similar to other smaller surveys, such as the Kavousi, (Haggis 2005) and Pseira surveys (Betancourt, Davaras, and Hope Simpson, eds., 2004, 2005). The survey zone (Fig. 2) was circumscribed by a 5 km radius around the Minoan palace at Galatiani Kephala (44), which is the geographical area bounded by the villages of Alagni, Astritsi, Sambas, Apostoli, Thrapsano, Arkalochori, and Hagia Semni in North-Central Crete (see Ch. 2). Our work is not a regional survey, as, for example, the surveys of the western Mesara (Watrous, Hadzi-Vallianou, and Blitzer 2004) or of Sphakia (Nixon et al.

1994). A more inclusive regional survey has, in fact, already been done for our area by Nikos Panagiotakis (2003), whose survey included the entire eparchy of the Pediada. Our study also differs from that of Panagiotakis in its intensive fieldwork methodology (see Ch. 1) and thematic focus, mentioned above.

Chapters 1 to 4 introduce the reader to the Galatas Survey Project and its region. Chapter 1 records the earlier archaeological research in the area, the goals of the project, the annual progress (2005–2007) of the fieldwork, the survey techniques, and the subsequent study of the finds in 2008–2009. Chapter 2 explores the topography of the survey area. Chapter 3 presents a scientific study of the geology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, and soil erosion of the Galatas area. Based on ethnographic interviews, Chapter 4 describes the pre-industrial life of the area.

Chapters 5 to 10 examine the prehistoric settlement of our region. Chapter 5 discusses the Neolithic settlement in the area. Chapter 6 presents the Prepalatial (PreP) settlement data and the social and political organization of the survey zone. Chapter 7 discusses the Protopalatial (PP) data through the growing issue of social complexity. In Chapter 8, Rethemiotakis presents the archaeological results of his excavations (1992–present) at the site of Galatiani Kephala (44). Chapter 9 analyzes the Neopalatial (NP) settlement data and the issue of state formation. Chapter 10 documents the local collapse and retraction of Late Minoan (LM) III settlements.

Chapters 11 to 14 tackle the historical settlement and society of the Galatas area. Chapter 11 analyzes the changes in settlement pattern, site continuity, and size during the Early Iron Age (EIA) to the Classical period. Chapter 12 presents and interprets the evidence for the reduced Hellenistic settlement in the survey zone. Chapter 13 then discusses relations between Rome and Crete, problems associated with dating Roman ceramics, the local Early–Late Roman settlement data, and the socioeconomic status of the Galatas area in the Roman period. Chapter 14 encompasses several centuries of history and is divided into three chronological sections that explore the Byzantine (ca. A.D. 700–1204), Venetian (A.D. 1204–1669), and Ottoman (A.D. 1669–1898) periods. Each section within this chapter begins with a historical background of the Galatas area (including, when able, ecclesiastical history, local population, land use, and economy), followed by a presentation of our survey archaeological data. As we know much more about these time periods from historical accounts, the information as a whole provides us with a much more complete picture of our area leading into the modern period.

The appendices provide much further information about our survey. Appendix A presents the register of sites that includes descriptions of our individual sites and summarizes their size, chronology, and finds. Appendices B–H provide details about pottery, lithics, and other finds collected by the survey. And finally, Appendix I considers survey and historical evidence that points to an earlier date for the beginning of Thrapsano pottery production than has heretofore been recognized.