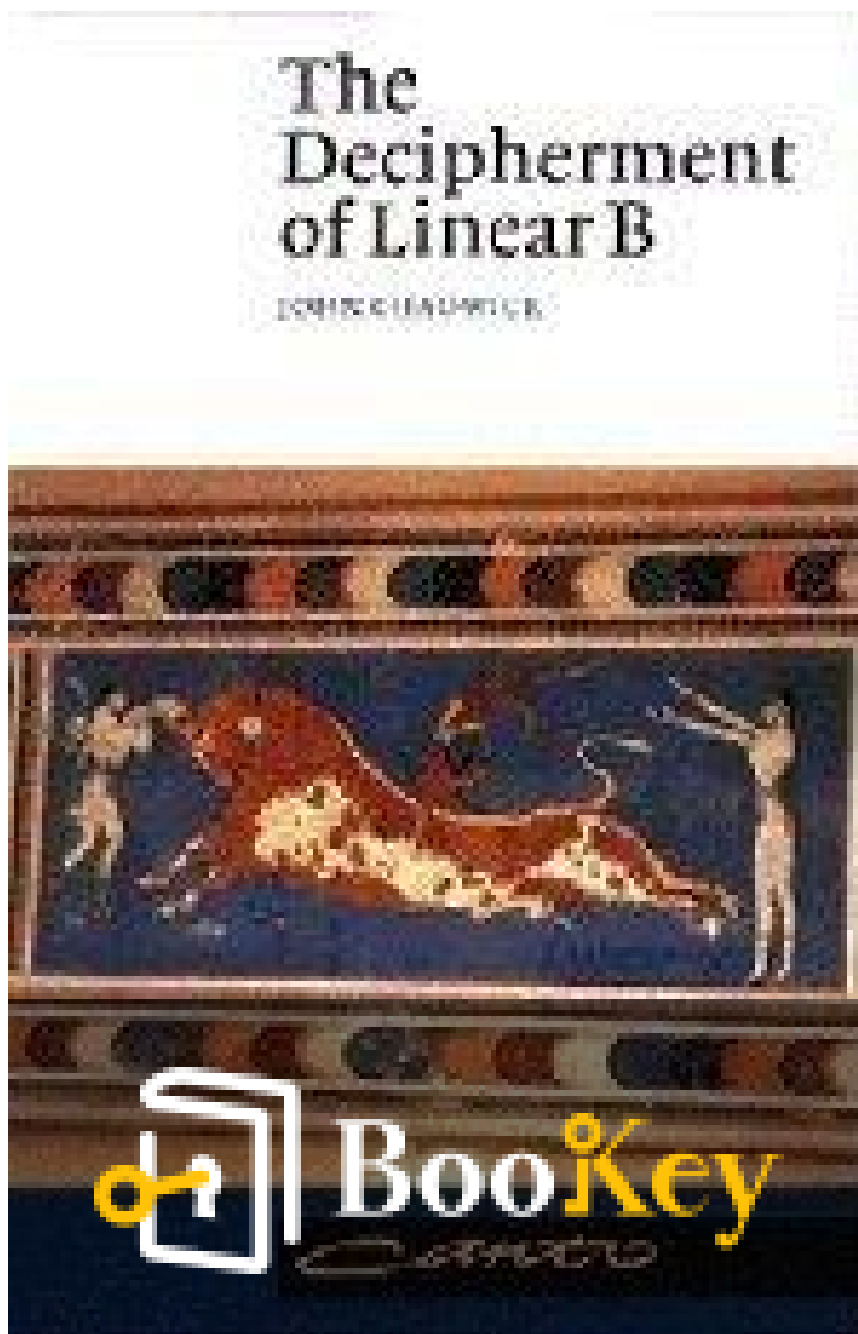


The Decipherment Of Linear B PDF (Limited Copy)

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The Decipherment Of Linear B Summary

Unlocking the Secrets of Mycenaean Script

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About the book

In "The Decipherment of Linear B," John Chadwick presents a captivating exploration of one of history's most enigmatic writing systems, illuminating the groundbreaking efforts that unveiled the mysteries of ancient Mycenaean civilization. Through meticulous research and a blend of linguistic insight and archaeological context, Chadwick recounts how the relentless pursuits of scholars, notably Michael Ventris, transformed what was once thought to be an indecipherable script into a window on a lost world, shedding light on the cultural, economic, and social intricacies of early Greek society. As he unravels the complexities of Linear B, readers are invited to delve into the thrill of intellectual discovery and the profound implications these findings hold for our understanding of history, ultimately transforming the way we view the evolution of human communication. This compelling narrative not only brings to life the challenges and triumphs of decipherment but also emphasizes the enduring significance of language in connecting past and present.

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About the author

John Chadwick was a distinguished British philologist and classicist, renowned for his groundbreaking work in the decipherment of Linear B, an ancient script used by the Mycenaean civilization. Born in 1920, Chadwick made significant contributions to the field of linguistics and archaeology, particularly through his collaboration with Michael Ventris, with whom he successfully unveiled the mysteries of Linear B in the early 1950s. His scholarly rigor and dedication to understanding ancient languages not only advanced academic discourse but also sparked broader interest in the history and culture of the Aegean Bronze Age. In addition to his pivotal role in deciphering Linear B, Chadwick authored several influential texts on Greek and its scripts, cementing his legacy as a leading figure in classical studies.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1.MICHAEL VENTRIS

In the narrative of uncovering hidden knowledge, the story of Michael Ventris stands out prominently, embodying the relentless human desire to unveil mysteries that challenge both curiosity and intellect. Ventris's journey into the realm of ancient scripts began at a young age, initially sparked during a 1936 visit to an exhibition at Burlington House in London, where he listened to the fascinating accounts of Sir Arthur Evans regarding the ancient Minoan civilization and its cryptic writing from Crete. Captivated by the allure of the undeciphered Cretan script, this fourteen-year-old boy, already enamored with languages and scripts, vowed to solve the enigma that had eluded many experts for decades.

Born on July 12, 1922, into a well-to-do English family, Ventris was nurtured in an environment rich with artistic influence, thanks in part to his mother—a talented and cultured woman of Polish descent. His early education was unconventional and international, beginning in Switzerland, where he learned French, German, and Swiss-German, rapidly proving his linguistic aptitude. This passion for languages persisted throughout his life, and after World War II, he became proficient in Swedish, demonstrating his remarkable ability to absorb and communicate in new languages with ease.

His academic journey took a turn as he pursued architecture, leading him to the Architectural Association School in London. Ventris's studies were

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interrupted by the war, during which he served as a navigator in the Royal Air Force, displaying an affinity for navigation that he deemed more engaging than mere flying. After the war, he resumed his architectural studies and graduated with honors, eventually entering a prestigious position within the Ministry of Education.

Despite a promising future in architecture, Ventris's enduring fascination with Minoan scripts led him back to the challenge he first embraced as a child. Through dedicated research and a remarkable ability to visualize complex patterns, he claimed to have deciphered the Linear B script by 1952, a breakthrough that reshaped our understanding of Mycenaean civilization and established him as a leading figure in the field of archaeology.

Tragically, Ventris's life was abruptly cut short on September 6, 1956, in a car accident that claimed him unexpectedly. His untimely death left a profound void in the academic community and among those who knew him personally. Ventris was not only recognized for his monumental intellectual achievements but also remembered for his personal qualities: charm, modesty, and an unwavering commitment to collaboration and inquiry.

His accomplishments were not merely a product of brilliance; they were grounded in his meticulous nature, extraordinary concentration, and the unique perspective shaped by his architectural training. He possessed an

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uncanny ability to discern order within chaos, which allowed him to navigate the labyrinthine complexities of ancient scripts. This distinctive insight into the patterns and structures beneath the surface of seemingly random signs became the cornerstone of his decipherment processes, and it remains a hallmark of exceptional intellectual achievement.

Ultimately, Michael Ventris's legacy transcends his groundbreaking work in deciphering Linear B; it highlights the enduring power of curiosity, dedication, and the pursuit of knowledge, serving as an inspiration to both future generations of scholars and anyone captivated by the mysteries of the past.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The enduring power of curiosity and dedication in the pursuit of knowledge

Critical Interpretation: Just like Michael Ventris, you too have an insatiable curiosity lurking within you—a desire to unravel the mysteries that life presents, whether they manifest in your personal relationships, career aspirations, or the world around you. Ventris’s story inspires you to view every challenge as an opportunity to dig deeper and learn more. Imagine the excitement of immersing yourself in a complex problem, using your unique perspective to uncover hidden patterns and connections. When you approach life with the same unwavering dedication to understanding, your possibilities expand exponentially. Embrace your curiosity as a driving force; it not only fuels your intellectual growth but also enriches your everyday experiences, urging you to continue exploring, questioning, and ultimately discovering new facets of existence you never thought were possible.

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Chapter 2 Summary: 2.THE MINOAN SCRIPTS

In the annals of Greek history, the year 776 B.C. is frequently regarded as a pivotal moment, often linked to the commencement of the Olympic Games. This era also signifies the advent of the Phoenician alphabet in Greece, a transformative development that marked the transition from a prehistoric existence to a literate society capable of documenting its history. However, this does not imply that Greek culture or civilization began at that point; rather, there existed a complex societal framework well before this date, characterized by the linguistic and cultural attributes that defined the Greeks as such.

The journey to uncover early Greek history is fraught with challenges, mainly due to the scarcity of reliable evidence. The first avenue for exploration lies in the oral traditions and legends that persisted into the literate period. Greeks of the classical age recounted tales of a heroic age, populated by demigods and epic battles, such as those fought in the famous wars against Thebes and Troy. These sagas provided a narrative backdrop for two foundational works of literature: the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, believed to have been solidified in their current forms by the end of the eighth century B.C. Significantly, this was not merely a singular creation of Homer, but rather the culmination of a long-standing oral tradition, where poets, or bards, recited epic tales by improvising upon established themes, making it difficult to extract factual history from these narratives.

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The second approach to uncovering Greek pre-history is through archaeology, greatly advanced by figures like Heinrich Schliemann, who, inspired by the works of Homer, devoted his resources to excavating sites mentioned in the ancient texts. Notably, his excavation of Mycenae in 1876 revealed substantial wealth and artistry that validated the legendary accounts of a rich civilization. This period, known as the Mycenaean age, is categorized into three phases of the Bronze Age: Early, Middle, and Late Bronze Age, with a notable flourishing of civilization in Crete during the Middle Bronze era.

The scholarly efforts of Arthur Evans shed further light on the economic structures of Mycenaean kingdoms, leading him to hypothesize the existence of a writing system that facilitated administrative tasks. As he pursued evidence of prehistoric writing, he identified a set of engraved gems displaying a script unlike any previously recognized, rooted in Crete. This ultimately drove Evans to conduct excavations at Knossos, where he not only discovered writing on clay tablets but also postulated the existence of a complex Minoan civilization, richer and older than the Mycenaean culture.

While the scripts discovered initially proved elusive in their decipherment, the pursuit of understanding continued with a notable artifact—the Phaistos Disk. This unique clay disk, remarkable for its method of inscription using engraved punches, eludes complete comprehension despite persistent

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scholarly attempts.

The spread of Minoan scripts extends further, leading to discoveries of related scripts across regions such as Cyprus, where a related script—Cypro-Minoan—emerged. This script suggests an evolution of Minoan writing, influenced by the regional adoption of clay as a primary medium, resulting in distinct adaptations. Continuous archaeological work in these areas is anticipated to reveal further insights into these ancient forms of communication.

Moreover, the classical Cypriot script, which later emerged and was deciphered in the late nineteenth century, shares a lineage with Linear B, hinting at a deeper connection between the writing systems of the region. As scholars endeavor to unravel these historical layers, the ongoing discovery and interpretation of ancient scripts remain critical in piecing together the complex tapestry of Minoan civilization and its subsequent impact on Greek history.

In conclusion, understanding the Minoan scripts and their relationship to early Greek civilization involves navigating various existing narratives—oral histories, archaeological findings, and the study of ancient writing systems. Each contributes to a deeper appreciation of Greece's formative eras, intertwining mythology, fact, and the evolution of communication in shaping the landscape of what we define as early Greek

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Chapter 3: 3.HOPES AND FAILURES

In Chapter 3 of "The Decipherment of Linear B" by John Chadwick, the author explores the challenges and failures associated with deciphering the Linear B script, emphasizing the significance of adequate material for any successful attempts. The chapter begins by asserting that the availability and nature of the evidence are crucial in understanding an ancient writing system. Specifically, in the absence of bilingual inscriptions to act as cribs, the task becomes more daunting, necessitating copious amounts of text for analysis.

1. The methods for decipherment vary, with two principal approaches outlined: methodological analysis and guesswork. Methodical analysis relies heavily on internal framework and detailed examination, while guesswork often leads to arbitrary and unvalidated conclusions. Although intelligent guesses can occasionally yield correct results, they demand verification against unprocessed material to ascertain their accuracy.

2. Chadwick notes that prior efforts at decipherment were characterized by a

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Chapter 4 Summary: 4.BIRTH OF A THEORY

In Chapter 4 of "The Decipherment Of Linear B," John Chadwick explores the evolving understanding of Linear B, particularly post-World War II, when scholars resumed efforts to decipher this long-elusive script. The chapter begins by establishing the complexity of the challenge posed by Linear B, likening it to cryptography, yet emphasizing significant distinctions. Where a code is intentionally opaque, an unreadable script results from historical accident. Understanding the language behind the script can be known, as in cases of bilingual texts like the Rosetta Stone, but with Linear B, scholars initially faced the daunting reality of both an unknown script and language.

1. The Challenge of Decipherment: Early decipherment efforts benefited from recognized principles employed in cryptography, where patterns in coded texts can lead to breakthroughs in comprehension. However, the fundamental obstacle for Linear B was the absence of bilingual texts, compelling researchers to innovate and search exhaustively for recurring signs and patterns within the script itself, without waiting for external documents.

2. Systems of Writing: Chadwick outlines three primary systems of writing: ideographic, syllabic, and alphabetic. Ideographic writing, exemplified by Chinese characters, uses pictograms to denote whole words,



resulting in an extensive inventory of signs needed for effective communication. Syllabic systems represent sounds through a limited number of signs for entire syllables, while alphabetic systems use symbols for individual phonetic sounds. Given the count of approximately eighty-nine signs in Linear B, scholars deduce it to be a syllabic script, moving beyond the complexities of ideography yet lacking the simplicity of an alphabet.

3. Numerical and Commodity Systems: The establishment of numerical systems and measurements became a priority in decoding the Linear B texts. Early work categorized numerals derived from a decimal system and highlighted how different signs related to various quantities and weights of commodities, further aiding the understanding of the script's practical applications in record-keeping.

As researchers delved deeper, Michael Ventris played a pivotal role in proposing that the language underlying Linear B could indeed be Greek, despite initial resistance from experts in the field. Ventris's exploration of inflectional patterns within the inscriptions revealed parallels to both Greek and Etruscan, gradually leading him to hypothesize about place names and their grammatical forms. Notably, his recognition of patterns in place names, such as deriving Amnisos (a port on Crete) and connecting that to the records in the tablets, hinted significantly at a Greek linguistic foundation for Linear B.

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4. Place Names and the Greek Hypothesis: Ventris formulated that recurring word groups in the inscriptions functioned as names for towns and localities, based on their fixed order and association with commodities. This led to the identification that certain terms were adjectival forms related to these place names, thereby signaling the potential that the language recorded was indeed Greek, flouted earlier by many due to preconceived notions about Minoan civilization.

5. Phonetic Revelations: Ventris's meticulous work allowed for initial phonetic values to be assigned to signs within the script, adding key insights into the sounds that accompanied particular symbols. His cautious integration of Etruscan parallels and recognition of suffixes broadening over time eliminated earlier assumptions and enabled a fresh lens through which to view the inscriptions.

The chapter concludes with Ventris confronting inconsistencies within emerging evidence, acknowledging the limitations and potential pitfalls of his findings while concurrently experiencing triumph as the script began to yield to scrutiny. Slowly, as the research advanced, it became clear that the language underpinning these inscriptions, however mangled, was undeniably Greek. The chapter encapsulates the dynamic process of decipherment, characterized by tentative hypotheses, gradual understanding, and an ever-evolving grasp of the complexities inherent in ancient scripts.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Persistence in Problem-Solving

Critical Interpretation: Just as Michael Ventris's relentless pursuit of understanding the complexities of Linear B ultimately led to groundbreaking discoveries about its connection to the Greek language, you too can take inspiration from his journey. When faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges in your own life—whether personal, academic, or professional—remind yourself of the importance of persistence. Just because an answer is not immediately clear does not mean that it is unattainable. Embrace the process of discovery, and like Ventris, allow yourself to adapt and innovate as you search for solutions. Every step taken in the face of ambiguity can lead to clarity and understanding, propelling you closer to your goals.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5.GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In Chapter 5 of "The Decipherment of Linear B" by John Chadwick, the intricate process of breaking the Linear B script is detailed through a combination of deduction, experimentation, and gradual understanding. The chapter emphasizes the scientific nature of cryptography, wherein hypotheses are continuously tested and refined until a breakthrough is achieved—one that reveals coherent patterns from obscured symbols.

1. The narrative begins by likening the decipherment process to a chain reaction; once a critical threshold is crossed, insights proliferate. By June 1952, Michael Ventris, an architect turned philologist, felt he had reached such a pivotal moment with Linear B. Although initial Greek word suggestions were scant and lacked convincing consistency, his further analyses yielded an increasing number of recognizable words. Through transcribing and identifying patterns, he began to understand the spelling conventions better.
2. Ventris capitalized on a BBC invitation to present his findings, framing his discourse around the historical context of the Linear B script followed by his decipherment approach. He boldly suggested that the tablets of Knossos and Pylos contained written Greek—albeit an ancient, archaic version. By making this assertion, several puzzling aspects of the script found rational

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explanations, leading him to cite four Greek terms that fit his interpretation. He maintained intellectual caution by admitting that despite achieving clearer readings, many tablets remained difficult to interpret fully, indicating further work was necessary.

3. Our author, who was initially skeptical of Ventris' findings, recognized similarities to his own understanding of Mycenaean Greek. Despite ordinary doubts that arose from past failures in interpretation, there was something compelling in Ventris' examples. The chapter explores the back-and-forth communications between Ventris and several scholars, including John Myres, revealing the evolving nature of their collaboration. Myres, although skeptical, provided early insights and facilitated communications between them.

4. Chadwick recounts his meticulous work to verify Ventris' claims, quickly yielding a list of plausible Greek words that aligned with Ventris' interpretations. Their correspondence blossomed into a partnership grounded in mutual respect and academic curiosity. Ventris expressed his earnest need for collaborative support, indicating a shared sentiment in the daunting task of making sense of the incomplete material.

5. Throughout their collaboration, both scholars faced moments of doubt and concern regarding their conclusions, particularly about discrepancies between Mycenaean and classical Greek. Nevertheless, their continued

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exchange of ideas proved fruitful, leading to a growing vocabulary of reconstructed Greek words derived from the script. Ventris established a foundational 'Experimental Vocabulary' of 553 entries, which, while containing some errors, provided a framework upon which further understanding could be built.

The chapter illustrates the painstaking, yet exhilarating journey of deciphering an ancient script, showcasing the importance of collaboration, rigorous testing of ideas, and the gradual emergence of clarity from uncertainty. The narrative culminates in a sense of optimism, as Ventris and Chadwick acknowledge the challenges ahead, but remain resolute in their conviction regarding the path they have set out on together.

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Chapter 6: 6.THE DECIPHERMENT AND THE CRITICS

In May 1953, a pivotal moment in the field of Linear B decipherment occurred when Michael Ventris contacted John Chadwick to share the excitement stemming from a letter by Professor Blegen. After discovering additional tablets at Pylos, Blegen utilized Ventris' experimental syllabary to analyze their contents, particularly highlighting a noteworthy tablet (P641) that focused on various types of pots. The initial findings indicated a remarkable correlation between the specific terms for vessels and their respective handles in the Greek language, demonstrating that Linear B was indeed intelligible and supported the decipherment efforts of Ventris.

1. The analysis of tablet P641 unveiled various terms: **ti-ri-po** for 'tripod', **di-pa** for 'vessel', and different epithets indicating size and handle count.

The use of the syllabary demonstrated an astonishing degree of consistency and agreement with known Greek lexicon, leading to a strong conviction that the decipherment was accurate. Although some phrases remain contentious, Blegen's analyses underscored the clarity of certain terms.

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Chapter 7 Summary: 7.LIFE IN MYCENAEAN GREECE

In this chapter, John Chadwick provides a detailed exploration of the Mycenaean civilization, drawing insights primarily from the fragmentary tablets written in Linear B. This examination not only illuminates aspects of daily life in Mycenaean Greece but also addresses the broader historical and cultural context of the era.

1. The civilization of Mycenaeans is firmly established as Greek. Despite initial skepticism from scholars regarding their origins, the evidence within the tablets, which include personal names common among the Greeks, ultimately affirms their Greek identity. Critics who argue for foreign domination are countered by the linguistic proofs embedded in the texts, reinforcing that the Mycenaeans were predominantly Greek, integrating a diverse array of personal names and cultural influences over centuries.
2. The intricacies of Mycenaean society demonstrated a structured military and administrative organization. Detailed records reveal military preparations against impending threats, highlighting the presence of a well-organized army and naval units. Tablets indicate troop movements and coastal defenses, suggesting a society vigilant of invasion, as exemplified by references to rowers and military units known as "o-ka." This organized military system, combined with evidence of armaments and chariots,



illuminates the strategic priorities of the Mycenaean rulers.

3. Chadwick discusses the collapse of Mycenaean civilization, speculating that invasions from the Dorian Greeks were significant, though historical data remains ambiguous. The destruction of palaces, such as those at Knossos and Pylos, often accompanied by fires, left behind artifacts, including tablets that survived due to these catastrophic events, providing a lens into the civilization's final days.

4. The economic structure appears complex, devoid of coinage and reliant on the trade of goods. Tribute and assessments of commodities reveal a system of exchanges rooted in agricultural produce, sheep farming, and local crafts. This economy suggests that Mycenaean society was not only concerned with internal stability but also incorporated external trade networks.

5. The social hierarchy included a monarchy with bureaucratic elements, as evidenced by titles like "wanax" for king and "Lawagetas" for the military commander. This structured governance provided stability and order, as reflected in the tablets, which document land ownership, contributions, and the tasks undertaken by various societal classes, including artisans, farmers, and slaves.

6. Religious practices were integral to daily life, as demonstrated by tablets recording offerings to deities who closely resemble figures in later classical

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mythology. The factors contributing to religious life, including the offerings to gods like Poseidon and Zeus, indicate a deeply spiritual society where rituals played an essential role.

7. The chapter touches upon literacy within the Mycenaean context, suggesting that while writing was predominantly a tool for administrative purposes, some knowledge of writing extended beyond palace walls. Nevertheless, the literacy rate was likely low outside of bureaucratic elites, as evidenced by the absence of personal inscriptions beyond documentary records.

8. Lastly, Chadwick reflects on the implications of the Linear B tablets for understanding later Greek literature, particularly the Homeric epics. While the tablets offer connections to Mycenaean life, they also illustrate discrepancies in terms of social structure and terminology that suggest a significant evolution in Greek culture over time.

Chadwick's examination concludes with the acknowledgment that while our understanding of Mycenaean Greece through these tablets is incomplete and sometimes conjectural, it offers substantial insights into the lives of its people, fundamentally affirming their identity as Greek and contributing richly to the historical narrative leading into classical antiquity.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: The importance of identity and cultural roots.

Critical Interpretation: As you delve into the essence of Mycenaean civilization, you begin to appreciate the depth of your own identity, shaped by a kaleidoscope of cultural influences just as the Mycenaeans wove their identity through diverse threads. This understanding inspires you to honor your heritage, recognizing that your existence is built on the foundations of those who came before you. It encourages you to embrace your roots, to reflect on how personal and collective histories intertwine, urging you to create a legacy that resonates with the values and traditions that define you. In doing so, you are invited to explore how your unique story contributes to the larger narrative of humanity, just as the Linear B tablets illuminate the Mycenaean past.

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Chapter 8 Summary: 8.PROSPECTS

In Chapter 8 of "The Decipherment of Linear B," John Chadwick reflects on the future prospects following the successful decipherment of the Linear B script, accomplished by Michael Ventris. While the decipherment was a monumental achievement, Chadwick emphasizes that a significant amount of work lies ahead for scholars and researchers. The focus is not just on Linear B but also on other unknown scripts of the Aegean world, particularly Linear A and Cypro-Minoan.

1. Future Research Directions: The decipherment of Linear B has energized the study of Linear A and Cypro-Minoan. Linear A, presumed to be closely related to Linear B, may share phonetic values, providing an initial framework for analysis. Scholars must analyze texts meticulously, deducing meanings and constructing a grid to validate values from Linear B. However, the limited availability of material presents challenges, and scholars await further discoveries that might lead to a successful decipherment.

2. Challenges in Decipherment: The close but elusive relationship between Linear A and B precludes quick conclusions, and claims linking Linear A to known languages like Akkadian are considered premature. Similarly, Cypro-Minoan remains poorly understood due to the limited number of tablets and unknown sign repertory. The study is complicated by



varying scripts, necessitating a broader understanding of historical contexts and languages.

3. Progress in Linear B: Despite challenges, progress has been made in interpreting Linear B. Scholars have uncovered meanings for certain ideograms and better understood weights and measures. Ongoing analyses of the Mycenaean economy, focusing on complete series of tablets rather than individual ones, are yielding valuable insights into the cultural and economic contexts of the time. Comparisons with similar documents from the Near East are expected to enrich understanding.

4. The Importance of New Discoveries: The chapter underscores the necessity of finding new texts, as further discoveries are crucial for advancing the understanding of Linear B and its context. Recent excavation updates indicate that more tablets may exist, particularly at sites like Mycenae and Pylos, while new archaeological efforts are recommended for under-explored areas, such as Thebes and Sparta. The complex nature of excavation adds to the challenge, given practical and financial limitations.

5. Cultural Significance: Chadwick contextualizes the significance of understanding Mycenaean culture within the broader framework of European civilization. The roots of European art and thought trace back to Greek traditions, signifying a deep intellectual debt that necessitates ongoing scholarly inquiry into early Greek civilization.

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Chadwick concludes by paying homage to Michael Ventris, whose innovative spirit continues to inspire those who pursue further exploration of these ancient scripts. As the academic community builds upon Ventris's legacy, the anticipation for new discoveries and the quest for knowledge about the Mycenaean period remains paramount.

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Chapter 9: POSTSCRIPT 1967

In this Postscript, the author reflects on the developments regarding the decipherment of Linear B since the book's original publication in December 1957. Despite facing criticism, the center of the argument revolves around the validity of the decipherment itself and its implications for the understanding of Mycenaean Greek.

1. The ongoing debates surrounding Linear B began as soon as the decipherment was proposed, with skeptics challenging the notion that Linear B could contain Greek. These critiques focused on scholars who were entrenched in their views, leading to a clarifying dialogue that, in some cases, has helped reveal inconsistencies in past interpretations.

2. New discoveries have emerged, enriching the context of Linear B. Excavations at Mycenae unearthed fragments of tablets just as a road project began, suggesting a rich administrative presence linked to palace officials rather than mere merchants. Among these fragments was a nearly complete tablet listing personal names, some verifiable as Greek, indicating a direct

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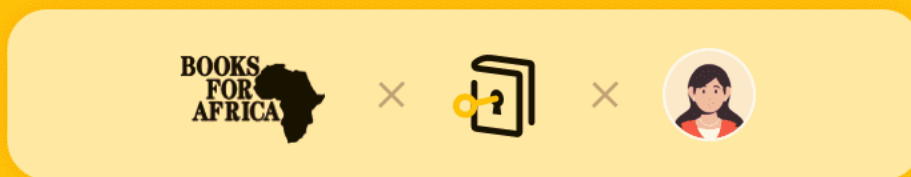
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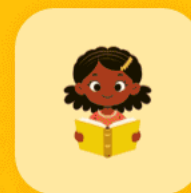
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Chapter 10 Summary: APPENDIX - MYCENAEAN TABLETS IN TRANSCRIPTION

In this appendix, John Chadwick presents a collection of Mycenaean tablets that exemplify the nature of these historical documents, illustrating their content through Roman transcription of Linear B. The ideograms are explicitly represented by English words in small capitals, such as M A N. Detailed interpretations are cataloged in "Documents in Mycenaean Greek," referenced alongside each tablet number, with PY indicating Pylos and KN indicating Knossos.

Chadwick provides a phonetic reconstruction aiming to reflect the pronunciation as it might have sounded to a Mycenaean scribe; however, he acknowledges that much of this assessment is speculative. The text is transcribed into the Roman alphabet, primarily due to the challenges presented by certain sounds that are difficult to depict within the Greek alphabet. He highlights the complexity of conveying the meanings of individual words since many have multiple meanings and forms in classical Greek, making any direct rendering inherently a translation rather than an exact interpretation.

The translations he offers differ slightly from those found in the previously mentioned documents, mainly by omitting indications of uncertainty.

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Chadwick emphasizes that multiple renderings may exist for many phrases, indicating the interpretative nature surrounding these writings.

1. For the first tablet, PY Ae134, the transcription describes Kerowos, presumably a shepherd, located at Asiatia, who oversees Thalamatas' cattle.
2. The second tablet, PY Ad676, notes that at Pylos, there are twenty-two sons of the bath-attendants, specifically highlighting that there are eleven boys.
3. The third tablet, PY Eb297, presents a more complex statement, including mentions of various elements such as deities, possibly linked to agricultural practices or offerings, with the repeated reference to W H E A T.

Through these examples, Chadwick showcases the intricate nature of Mycenaean tablets, reflecting the society, economy, and possibly religious practices of the time, all while navigating the linguistic challenges presented by the format of Linear B. The appendix serves to both illustrate the specific content of these ancient records and reiterate the ongoing efforts to decipher and interpret their meanings accurately.

Tablet Number	Description
PY	Describes Kerowos, a shepherd at Asiatia overseeing Thalamatas' cattle.

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Tablet Number	Description
Ae134	
PY Ad676	Notes twenty-two sons of bath-attendants at Pylos, highlighting eleven boys.
PY Eb297	Complex statement involving deities, linked to agricultural practices or offerings, mentioning W H E A T multiple times.

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Chapter 11 Summary: Chart of eighty-seven Linear B signs

In Chapter 11 of "The Decipherment of Linear B," author John Chadwick reflects on the significant advances made in understanding Linear B, a script used in Mycenaean Greece, primarily for administrative purposes. This chapter is pivotal in comprehending the nature of the script and its contribution to our knowledge of ancient Greek civilizations.

- 1. The Structure of Linear B:** Chadwick discusses a chart that illustrates eighty-seven Linear B signs alongside their numerical equivalents and phonetic values. This crucial visual representation helps elucidate the systematic nature of the script, revealing how different symbols correspond to both sounds and numbers, which is essential for deciphering the language.
- 2. Chadwick's Background:** The author's rich educational background, starting at St Paul's School and continuing at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, underlines his authority on the subject. His collaboration with Michael Ventris, an instrumental figure in the decipherment of Linear B, is emphasized as a key development in the field. Their joint efforts culminated in the publication of "Documents in Mycenaean Greek," which further solidified their findings and insights.
- 3. Academic Contributions:** Beyond his partnerships, Chadwick has



significantly contributed to the academic discourse on Mycenaean Studies through numerous articles and as co-editor of the proceedings of the Cambridge Colloquium. His involvement in these scholarly activities illustrates his commitment to expanding the understanding of Linear B and its implications for ancient Greek culture.

4. Recognition and Impact: His academic achievements, including being made an Honorary Doctor by the University of Athens and being elected a Fellow of the British Academy, underscore his profound impact in the field of classical studies. Such accolades highlight not only his expertise in Mycenaean Greek but also his broader influence on the study of ancient languages and languages' roles in shaping historical narratives.

In conclusion, Chapter 11 serves as a concise yet detailed exploration of the critical developments in understanding Linear B. Through examining the structure of the script, highlighting Chadwick's scholarly journey, and noting his contributions and recognitions, we see how these elements combine to enrich our comprehension of Mycenaean Greece and the evolution of early Greek writing systems. Chadwick's work continues to inspire further research and exploration into this fascinating aspect of ancient history.

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