

RHODES ISLAND COLONIES

Ahmed Ali Akoul

College of Education for Human Sciences, University of Babylon
ioyrt345@gmail.com

Prof. Ahmed Naje sabee AL.Hussainy

College of Arts, University of Baghdad
art.ahmed.naje@uobabylon.edu.iq

Abstract:

The island of Rhodes is one of the most important Greek islands located in the eastern Aegean Sea, 10 miles from the coast of Asia Minor, and the largest island in the Dodecanese archipelago. It is geographically and culturally linked to the Greek mainland. Like many other islands and cities in ancient times, the island of Rhodes participated in the great colonial expansion of the ancient era. The so-called Second Colonialism spread Greek trade and culture throughout the Mediterranean world by creating new, independent city-states and thus exporting Greek civilization to distant places such as modern Spain, France, Italy and other places. The early colonial activity of Rhodes is evidence of its maritime experience from an early age. A harbinger of her later mastery of the seas.

Keywords: Rhodes Island, colonies, expansion, seas.

Introduction:

There are many motives and influences that prompted people to migrate from their places of residence to other places, whether inside or outside Greece, and for which special entities began to be established in some places, including the island of Rhodes. When looking at Greece, we find a large population density that prompted them to establish population entities in the Mediterranean basin. Its islands and other places are driven by several factors, foremost of which is the political factor, as we find that Greece, from its very beginning, was characterized by conflict among itself, in addition to the fact that in the thirteenth, twelfth, and eleventh centuries BC, Greece was exposed to violent and destructive disturbances in which the Mycenaean civilization deteriorated and pushed These disturbances prevent the population from crossing to the Mediterranean islands and settling there.ⁱ

The island of Rhodes, in its early times, was in line with the rest of the regions of Greece, and it was subject to the first colonization, represented by the Greek expansion on the mainland and the Aegean regions. These population movements occurred during the legendary generations, shortly before the Trojan War, and reached its peak during the tenth and ninth centuriesⁱⁱ.

Rhodes received its share of the Greek expansion when the Dorians settled on its lands, and this periodic settlement led Rhodes to participate in the great colonial expansion in the so-called second colonization that began in the eighth century. They practiced trade, which contributed to spreading Greek culture throughout the Mediterranean world through the establishment of...

New independent city-states began to export the main unit of Greek civilization to distant places. The periodic settlement on the island of Rhodes and its early colonial activity are evidence of its maritime experience and a harbinger of its mastery of the seas at a later time.ⁱⁱⁱ

It began to establish many distant commercial institutions on the coast of Asia Minor and many colonies during the seventh century BC.^{iv} Their ships made long voyages and crossed the Mediterranean from Asia to Africa and from Phoenicia to Spain, as the Rhodians were an intelligent and active people, addicted to trade and strong with their own resources, to obtain a monopoly on trade in the Mediterranean and maintain it for a long period.^v

The fruits of this trade began to be reaped by the Rhodians, as they annexed many of the neighboring islands into their possession, which were considered their lands from an early time. Moreover, they began to establish many distant colonies in the Mediterranean Sea and other distant places, which are as follows:^{vi}

1- A generation.Gila. 689 BC.

Southern Sicily attracted the Rhodian Greek settlers, and the place was chosen with special care to establish the Gela colony, as it has fertile soil, sea and river, as it is located south of the southern coast of Sicily in the area between Camarina and Akragas^(vii).

Strabo did not give us precise details about this colony other than saying, “As far as I know, Hemera, Gela, and some other places are no longer inhabited.”^(viii) As for Thucydides (Thucydides gives more precise details about the origins of this colony, as he says that Antivimos from Rhodes and Antivimos from Crete went out to establish it in the year 689 BC. Rhodes was considered the mother city of this colony and that it was Rhodian periodic and was given this name in honor of To the nearby Gila River. Moreover, Thucydides believes that there were two founding members of the colony of Gila, the Rhodians and the Cretans, but Rhodes was always first thanks to its leader Antivimos. Also, the first temple of the city is called (Lindino), the name of one of the Rhodian cities that introduced Of which a portion of the first Rhodesian immigrants^(ix).

During their coming and settling in Gila, these Dorians from the Rhodians and Cretans entered into conflict with the local tribes of the Sicans (Cycans)^(x) They expelled them from their lands and replaced them.^(xi)

The goal of Rhodes and Crete was to establish a generation in Sicily (Sicily) In addition to the periodic expansion on the western coast, it is the establishment of a purely commercial outlet through which the foreign economic policy guarantees the achievement of material gains for all of the two founding cities. The Gela colony was able to achieve the goal for which it was established, and it became a settlement with its economic activity based on agriculture and trade until the Carthaginians took control. It was established in 405 BC, and thus it became a political and commercial extension of the island of Rhodes^(xii).

2- arrogant colony (Agrigento)580 BC

Agrigante (in Greek Akragas)Caracoles, and the Cretans of Gela Rhodians are considered to be the ones who founded this city after their arrival to Sicily about one hundred and eight years under the leadership of Aristonoos and Pystolos.^(xiii) And he called it Akragas (Acragols)

named after the river next to it, from which it took its name, and it also adopted the laws that prevailed in the periodic colony of Gela ^(xiv).

This colony was founded in 580 BC.)^{xv}It is located about 64 km west of the Gela colony. This area was inhabited by local Sican tribes, but the Rhodian and Cretan Greeks expelled them and replaced them ^(xvi).

The participation of two leaders in founding Gela and the repetition of this process in founding the new colony could explain the possibility that they received direct support from new Greek immigrants from Rhodes and Crete, but without the possibility of the two leaders coming from there ^(xvii).

When looking at the course of events during the Greek migration to the island of Sicily, we find that it was not a search for places for settlement and agriculture in the lands that they controlled as a result of this migration, but rather for commercial competition as well, and this is one of the factors that prompted Rhodes to establish this colony, even if it was a secondary factor in establishing this colony. City^(xviii).

Akragas continued its political and economic prosperity throughout its historical stages until it was captured by the Carthaginians in 406 BC. It remained in flux until it fell under Roman rule in the Second Punic War in 210 BC. ^(xix).

3- Parthenope Parthenop 650 BC

Greek colonization in Italy began early, as it began in the eighth century and then expanded during the seventh and sixth centuries. They settled on the eastern and southern shores of Sicily, and their colonies extended along the Italian coast, and under their rule these colonies became at the height of their prosperity and prosperity.^{xx}

At their hands, many colonies were established, including Parthnob (The ancient Parthenop is located on the slopes of the pizzofalcone hill extending above the island of Megaride in the Gulf of Naples.^{xxi}

Archaeological research has indicated that the colony of Parthenope, during the history of its founding, went through two migration phases. The first is the ancient city of Parthenope, which it is likely that the sailors of Rhodes founded it in their early eras in southern Italy in 650 BC. ^(xxii)One researcher said that Parthnob was co-founded by Kumai (Cumai), and Rhodes between 675-650 BC ^(xxiii).

The second stage is the city of Naples (Naples, which was founded by Cumai, and according to archaeological evidence, the colony dates back to the fifth century BC, when the city's currency was discovered around the year 470-460 BC. Ancient Parthenope remained prosperous and coexisted side by side with... The newer colony of Naples until it was overwhelmed by it in the fifth century BC and annexed it ^(xxiv).

4- Rhoda.Rhoda

The colony of Rhoda is one of the oldest Greek colonies that was founded by the Rhodian sailors ^(xxv)(800 BC)^{xxvi}It is located on the northern end of the Gulf of Roses on the Iberian Peninsula ^(xxvii)At the southern foot of the Pyrenees ^(xxviii), which represents the entrance to the Iberian Peninsula and thus has become a vital point from a strategic standpoint ^(xxix).

The colony of Roda generated great controversy among researchers about its early origins, and even the archaeological record of the colony is very ambiguous, and this position has not been resolved yet, and two groups with different opinions have emerged about the origins of this colony ^(xxx).

The first opinion represented by a number of researchers, and they give their evidence, is that Rhoda is a colony founded by Rhoda sailors in Iberia for commercial and political considerations.^{xxx1} And this team relies, in its opinion, on what Strabo stated in his book, which believes that the Rhodians before the start of the Olympic Games, that is, before the year 776 BC, sailed to Iberia and founded the Rhodians ^(xxxii).

There is a group of researchers who refute the first opinion and deny that Roda was founded by Rhodian sailors. They believe that it was founded by the Phocians. This group relies in its opinion on the results produced by archaeological excavations that did not exceed the fifth or sixth century BC.^{xxxiii} They believe that during the sixth century, Greek immigration began to flow into the Iberian Peninsula in a large way, and the colony of Ambourne was established by the Phocians, and that Rhoda was a town belonging to it ^(xxxiv).

Based on the above and with the lack of material evidence, the study favors the first opinion, which holds that the Rodians arrived in the Iberian Peninsula during the period of their early maritime prosperity in 800 BC. There are some reasons that made the study go in this direction, the most important of which are: the excavations in Roda. It is incomplete and its results do not extend beyond the fifth or sixth century.^{xxxv} Because archaeological research acknowledges the difficulty of accessing layers of ancient settlements and determining the presence of pre-Greek settlements, which suggests the presence of Rhodian Greeks before the Phocians ^(xxxvi) Moreover, Gelder presents another piece of evidence and believes that the name is the Hellenistic form of the name of a local place that he believes was originally a Rhodian institution ^(xxxvii) It is worth noting that the island of Rhodes also established the Phaselis colony in Asia Minor at the beginning of the seventh century BC on the southern shore of the Pamphylian Gulf on a peninsula and separated from Lycia by Mount Tahtal and the Climax Mountains. During that period, settlers colonized the Rhodians, and the Phaselis colony is located on the sea route from the Aegean Sea. To Cyprus, Egypt, and the Levant, and this strategic location allowed it to participate in commercial activities in the eastern Mediterranean. It is perhaps likely that Rhodes's actual control over Phaselis extended from 188 BC until 167 BC (38).

Results:

- 1- Since the early eighth century BC, the island of Rhodes has been able to work on establishing many colonies in many places and became the mother sponsor of those colonies, some of which developed into colonies capable of establishing more sub-colonies and supervising their establishment.
- 2- Through the establishment of these early colonies, the island of Rhodes was able to master the seas and work in trade early, which brought wealth and luxury to it.

Footnotes

-
- (i) Robert J. Litman, *The Greek Experience, Colonization Movement and Social Conflict (800-400 BC)*, Trans.: Munira Karwan, (Supreme Council of Culture, 2000), pp. 39, 40, 41.
- (2) Jacques Vanschoonwinkel, *Greek Migrations to Aegean Anatolia in the Early Dark Age*, from a book *Göçler: Tsatskhladze, Greek Colonisation An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1*, (Netherlands, Boston, 2006), Pp115.134.
- (3) Charles River, *Ancient Greece's Most Important Islands*, Pp82.83.
- (4) Nicholas Salmon, *The Culture Of Connectivity On Archaic And Classical Rhodes*, Unpublished doctoral thesis, (University Of London, Birkbeck, 2019), Pp44.45.
- Biliotti and Cottret, *L'île De Rhodes*, Pp19.20. (v)
- Gelder, *Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier*, Pp65.66. (6)
- (vii) Shorouk Samir Heikal, *Greek settlements on the island of Sicily (735-367 BC)*, unpublished master's thesis, (Martyr Hama Lakhdar University - El Oued, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of Humanities, 2018-2019), p. 110. 111.
- (viii) *Geography*, vol. 1, p. 301. 302.
- (9) Thucydides, *History Of The Peloponnesian War*, Translated Rex Warner, P230.
- (x) The Sicans: One of the oldest peoples and tribes inhabiting the island of Sicily. They came from the Iberian Peninsula and settled in Sicily since the second millennium BC.
- Al-Zahra Ahfouda and Siham Al-Abed, *The Greek Colonies on the Island of Sicily (735 BC - 212 BC)*, unpublished master's thesis, (Martyr Hama Lakhdar University in Taloudi, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, 2018-2019), p. 12.
- (xi) Messi Abdel Haq, *Greek settlement in southern Italy and Sicily between the eighth and sixth centuries BC*, unpublished master's thesis, (University of Algiers, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, 2006), p. 119.
- (xii) Heikal, *Greek Settlements on the Island of Sicily*, pp. 110.111.
- (13) Francesca Scalisi, *Le Strutture Difensive Delle Colonie Greche Di Sicilia*, (Palermo, 2010), P139.
- Thucydides, *History Of The Peloponnesian War*, P230. (xiv)
- (15) Olivia E. Hayden, *Urban Planning In The Greek Colonies In Sicily And Magna Graecia (8-6 Centuries B. C.)*, (University of Tufts, department of classics 2013), P58.
- (xvi) Muftah Muhammad Saad al-Burki, *The Greek-Carthaginian conflict from the sixth century until the middle of the third century BC and its impact on the political, economic, social and religious life in Carthage*, (Benghazi: General Council of Culture, 2008), p. 118.
- (xvii) Messi Abdel Haq, *Greek settlement in southern Italy and Sicily*, p. 125.
- (xviii) Al-Burki, *The Greek-Carthaginian Conflict*, p. 118.
- (19) Francesca Scalisi, *Le Strutture Difensive Delle Colonie Greche Di Sicilia*, P139.
- (20) Arthur Edward Romilly, *A History Of Rome To 565 A.D.*, (New York, 1921), Pp 21.22.

- (21) Luca Cerchiai And Others, *The Greek Cities Of Magna Graecia And Sicily*, (United States of America, Getty Publications, 2004), P38.
- (22) Gohn Boardman, *The Greeks Overseas Their Early Colonies And Trade*, (London, 1980), p192.
- (23) Jacques vanschoonwinkel, *Mycenaean expansion, from a book, Gochar. Tsetskhladze, Greek Colonisation An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1*, (Boston, 2006), P72.
- Luca Cerchiai And Others, *The Greek Cities Of Magna Graecia*, P35.(24)
- Zervos, *Rhodes Capitale Du Canèse*, P129. (25)
- (26) Stone Chen, *Phantoms Of The Sea: Phokaian Colonies Of The Far Western Mediterranean*, Unpublished doctoral thesis, (University of Waterloo, master of art, 2022), P13.
- (27) Marta Santos Retolaza, *The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula: Colonial Establishments And Rhythms Of Trade With Iberian Societies*, (Catalan, 2014), P8.
- Gelder, *Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier*, P69. (28)
- (29) Adolfo J. Domínguez Monedero, *Los Primeros Griegos En La Península Ibérica (S. IX-VI AC): Mitos, Probabilidades, Certezas*, From A Book, Mari Paz De Hoz, *El Oriente Griego En La Peninsula Iberica Epigrafia E Historia*, (Madrid, 2013), Pp12.13.
- (30) Stone Chen, *Phantoms Of The Sea: Phokaian Colonies*, P13.
- (31) Gelder, *Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier*, p69. Zervos, *Rhodes Capitale Du Canèse*, P129. Biliotti And Cottret, *L'il De Rhodes*,. P20.
- (^{xxxii}) Strabo, *Geography*, vol. 1, pp. 184.183.
- (33) Adolfo J. Dominguez, *Greeks In The Iberian Peninsula*, From A Book, Gochar. Tsetskhladze, *Greek Colonisation An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1*, (Boston, 2006), P431. Marta Santos Retolaza *The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula*, P8.
- Marta Santos Retolaza, *The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula*, Pp2.3.8. (34) Gelder, *Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier*, p69.
- Gohn Boardman, *The Greeks Overseas Their Early Colonies*, P217. (35)
- (36) Stone Chen, *The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula*, p13.
- (37) Gelder, *Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier*, p69.
- (38) Irod Malkin, *a small Greek world network in the ancient Mediterranean*, (Oxford, 2011), pp. 65-77.

List of sources

- (1) Robert J. Litman, *The Greek Experience, Colonization Movement and Social Conflict (800-400 BC)*, Trans.: Munira Karwan, (Supreme Council of Culture, 2000), pp. 39.41.
- (2) Shorouk Samir Heikal, *Greek settlements on the island of Sicily (735 - 367 BC)*, unpublished master's thesis, (Martyr Hama Lakhdar University - El Oued, Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Department of Humanities, 2018-2019)
- (3) Strabo, *Geography*, vol. 1,

-
- (4) Al-Zahra Ahfouda and Siham Al-Abed, The Greek Colonies on the Island of Sicily (735 BC - 212 BC), unpublished master's thesis, (Martyr Hama Lakhdar University in Taloudi, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, 2018-2019)
- (5) Masa'i Abdel Haq, Greek settlement in southern Italy and Sicily between the eighth and sixth centuries BC, unpublished master's thesis, (University of Algiers, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of History, 2006)
- (6) Muftah Muhammad Saad al-Burki, The Greek-Carthaginian conflict from the sixth century until the middle of the third century BC and its impact on the political, economic, social and religious life in Carthage, (Benghazi: General Council of Culture, 2008).
- (7) Jacques Vanschoonwinkel, Greek migrations to Aegean Anatolia in the early dark age, from a book Gochar. Tsetsckhladze, Greek Colonisation: An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1, (Netherlands, Boston, 2006).
- (8) Charles River, Ancient Greece's Most Important Islands.
- (9) Nicholas Salmon, The Culture Of Connectivity On Archaic And Classical Rhodes, Unpublished doctoral thesis, (University Of London, birkbeck, 2019)
- Biliotti and Cottret, L'il De Rhodes. (10)
- Gelder, Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier. (11)
- (12) Thucydides, History Of The Peloponnesien War, Translated Rax Warner.
- (13) Francesca Scalisi, Le Strutture Difensive Delle Colonie Greche Di Sicilia, (Palermo, 2010).
- (14) Olivia E. Hayden, Urban Planning In The Greek Colonies In Sicily And Magna Graecia (8-6 Centuries B. c), (University of Tufts, department of classics 2013),.
- (15) Arthur Edward Romilly, A History Of Rome To 565 A.D, (New York, 1921).
- (16) Luca Cerchiali And Others, The Greek Cities Of Magna Graecia And Sicily, (United States of America, Getty Publications, 2004).
- (17) Gohn Boardman, The Greeks Overseas Their Early Colonies And Trade, (London, 1980).
- (18) Jacques Vanschoonwinkel, Mycenaean expansion, from a book, Gochar. Tsetsckhladze, Greek Colonization An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1, (Boston, 2006).
- Zervos, Rhodes Capital of Dodécanèse. (19)
- (20) Stone Chen, Phantoms Of The Sea: Phokaian Colonies Of The Far Western Mediterranean, Unpublished doctoral thesis, (University of Waterloo, master of art, 2022).
- (21) Marta Santos Retolaza, The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula: Colonial Establishments And Rhythms Of Trade With Iberian Societies, (Catalan, 2014). . (22)
- (23) Adolfo J. Domínguez Monedero, Los Primeros Griegos En La Península Ibérica (S. IX-VI AC): Mitos, Probabilidades, Certezas, From A Book, Mari Paz De Hoz, El Oriente Griego En La Peninsula Iberica Epigrafía E Historia , (Madrid, 2013).
- (24) Zervos, Rhodes Capitale Du Canèse.
- Biliotti and Cottret, L'il De Rhodes.

(25) Adolfo J. Dominguez, Greeks In The Iberian Peninsula, From A Book, Gochar. Tsetskhladze, Greek Colonisation An Account Of Greek Colonies And Other Settlements Overseas, Vol 1, (Boston, 2006), P431. Marta Santos Retolaza The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula.

Marta Santos Retolaza, The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula. (26)

Gohn Boardman, The Greeks Overseas Their Early Colonies. (27)

(28) Stone Chen, The Greek Presence On The Iberian Peninsula.

Gelder, Geschichte Der Alten Rhodier, P69. (29)

(30) Irod Malkin, a small Greek world network in the ancient Mediterranean, (Oxford, 2011)