

A Study Of The Remains Of Mycenaean Roads And Stations Of Bronze-Age Greece

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GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING PRACTICE IN THE MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION (1600-1100 BC)

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Στην εργασία αυτή γίνεται μια παρουσίαση των Μυκηναϊκών έργων πολιτικού μηχανικού με έμφαση στη γεωτεχνική μηχανική. Αρχαιολογικά ευρήματα και αρχαία κείμενα χρησιμοποιούνται σε αυτή τη διερεύνηση. Από τη διερεύνηση αυτή καθίσταται προφανές ότι οι Μυκηναϊκοί μηχανικοί ήταν ικανοί κατασκευαστές με εκτεταμένη εμπειρία σε γεωτεχνικές κατασκευές που περιλαμβάνουν τείχη, δρόμους, γέφυρες, αναχώματα καθώς και υπόγειες κατασκευές και σήραγγες. Η μέθοδος κατασκευής αυτών των έργων είναι σε μεγάλο βαθμό άγνωστη, αλλά η λεπτομερής μελέτη των αρχαιολογικών ευρημάτων μπορεί να αποδώσει χρήσιμες πληροφορίες για τις κατασκευαστικές συνήθειες αυτού του πολιτισμού.

This paper provides an overview of the Mycenaean civil engineering projects with emphasis in geotechnical engineering. Archaeological findings and literature resources are used in this study. While there are difficulties in this approach, it becomes evident that the Mycenaean engineers were competent builders with extensive experience in geotechnical construction that included fortifications, roads, bridges, embankments as well as underground construction and tunnels. The method of construction for most of these projects is largely unknown but detailed study of the remains could yield useful information on the construction practices of this civilization.

Introduction

The majority of texts on the history of science and engineering (de Camp, 1966, Hodges, 1992) tend to ignore the engineering achievements of the Mycenaean civilization. Typically, the achievements of the Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations are presented and the discussion continues to classical Greece and the Roman Empire. However, the Mycenaean, whose civilization flourished from about 1600 BC to 1100 BC in Greece, are responsible for many engineering achievements most of which still have not been studied adequately.

This paper provides an overview of the remains of some of the Mycenaean projects and the engineering construction practices that today are part of the civil engineering profession and specifically of the geotechnical engineering field.

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