

The Phoenicians were a collection of city states that began its power in around 1550 B.C.E. and ended in around 300 BCE. (Department). These city-states were located in an area called the Fertile Crescent. Along with Phoenicia, many other civilizations within the Fertile Crescent had important inventions such as the alphabet, the coin system, chariots, and iron-making. One of the most important inventions of the Phoenicians was shipbuilding (Mark). With being on the coasts, the Phoenicians did not have arable land for agriculture. Because of this, the Phoenicians had to trade for goods. Trading was much easier through the waters, so they began building ships (Department). The development of shipbuilding by the Phoenicians had a significant impact in that it improved trade, which was the basis of Phoenician economy, and further developed travel for the Phoenicians and other civilizations.

The development of shipbuilding by the Phoenicians began around 1550 B.C.E. With the lack of agriculture, the Phoenicians, a civilization of many city-states on the coast, did not have the ability to produce many resources needed for living. This created a need to connect to other civilizations for goods. The Phoenicians, being a maritime culture, did this through shipbuilding. This put the Phoenicians at the center of a flourishing trade network in the ancient world (Carthwright). Because of the need for trade, Shipbuilding was the foundation of the Phoenician society and economy (Quinn). As for shipbuilding itself, the Phoenicians used different styles and techniques for building their ships. The three styles they had were used based on their specialty. One ship style was a warship, another was specifically made for transport and trade, and the final style of ship was a smaller sized ship for transport (Carthwright - The Phoenicians). Along with the different styles of ships, the Phoenicians also had many techniques for building the ships. One main technique they used was a pegged mortise-and-tenon joint system. This system was used to ensure the ship hulls were sturdy. They also invented a braided rig that was used to create tacking against the wind (Scott). The last main technique that the Phoenicians

used for shipbuilding was building around the hull of the ship. This technique allowed the ship to maintain sturdiness throughout building and further through the use of the ships (Knott).

Shipbuilding impacted many aspects of Phoenician society. More specifically, Phoenician shipbuilding improved trade. With shipbuilding, the Phoenicians gained the ability to trade across further distances. This led to the Phoenicians developing trade posts that eventually developed into permanent Phoenician civilizations (Cartwright - Trade). Through trading, the Phoenicians were able to obtain a variety of goods, which were unobtainable due to their geography, from other civilizations. These goods include many agricultural products that the Phoenicians could not grow or obtain due to absent arable land in Phoenicia (Elshiakh and Sander 249-251). Shipbuilding also led to the establishment of trading routes that connected Phoenicia to the trading relationships they had with other ancient civilizations. These long term trading partnerships were created due to the strong connections and great influence that the Phoenicians had over the ancient trade world (Cartwright - Trade). Egypt, another powerful ancient civilization, is one example of a long time trading partner that the Phoenicians had. The Egyptians, along with many other civilizations, were able to use Phoenicians, who also acted as middle-men, to connect trade across the ancient world (Cartwright - Phoenician Colonization). With the web of trade connections created through the Phoenicians and other civilizations, people were able to trade and obtain many specialized goods. Some of these specialized goods were animal products, textiles, glass, and more. This trading system worked due to the difference in the geographical locations and access to resources between civilizations (Sander - 249-251). Further, shipbuilding directly impacted the daily lives of Phoenicians. Daily life in Phoenicia was easier due to their newfound access to resources. These new resources were obtainable through trade networks created through Phoenician shipbuilding (Elshaikh).

Along with immensely impacting trade among the Phoenicians and other civilizations, shipbuilding progressed the way of travel all over the ancient world. Shipbuilding techniques and technology allowed for travel to continuously advance and benefit the ways to travel for the

Phoenicians and other civilizations (Cartwright - The Phoenicians). Though the ships did further advance over time, they were not the only advances in the ways the Phoenicians and other civilizations travelled. The Phoenicians also found new ways to navigate the waters surrounding their homeland. This new knowledge allowed the Phoenicians to extend when they could travel via ship. Without the use of stars to navigate, the Phoenicians only in the daytime near the coast. However, after the discovery of using stars to navigate, the Phoenicians were able to extend when and where they could travel to at night in open waters (Quinn). These advancements made the Phoenicians even stronger in the field of shipbuilding specifically through the use of star navigation (Scott 30). This technology allowed the Phoenicians to extend their trade routes, which were used by many other civilizations, and create more developed stronger connections between civilizations (Elshaikh). Because the Phoenicians had such advanced ships, other civilizations began to use Phoenician ships for travel. Specifically, the ships were used by the Assyrian and Persian royalty to travel. This was due to the advanced technology and styles that the Phoenicians used for building ships (Elshaikh). Furthermore, as the Phoenicians had connections with places such as Cyprus, Spain, and Egypt, and many more ancient civilizations, the benefits of trade and travel through ships led surrounding civilizations to adopt the techniques of shipbuilding from the Phoenicians (Cartwright). While shipbuilding led the Phoenicians to great power in the trading world and further developed ancient and future civilizations, there were some downsides to using ships. One downside was the inability to control who used the trade routes to travel. The Phoenicians, although being the creators of many ancient trade routes, were not the only ones to use them. Often these trade routes were used by pirates. Pirates were and are still known to be negative. This is due to their nature of violence and stealing from helpless or innocent people. (Quinn)

The development of shipbuilding by the Phoenicians had a significant impact in that it improved trade, which was the basis of Phoenician economy, and further developed travel for the Phoenicians and other civilizations. The Phoenicians, from the start of their civilization,

began building and using ships for trade and travel. This was due to the lack of arable land to grow and develop agricultural goods. This transformed the way they lived in many ways including how they obtained goods. The development of shipbuilding also changed many aspects of life for developing and future civilizations. The use of ships allowed for many new ideas and exploration to be explored by people and civilizations far in the future from the ancient maritime civilization, the Phoenicians. Thanks to the Phoenicians and their newfound knowledge of shipbuilding, navigation, and trade in the ancient world, current day societies have developed and benefited immensely. Without this vital invention from the Phoenicians in as far back as 1550 B.C.E., chances are, societies would not be as connected and developed as they are in current day.