



A City-State Ruled by Goats

# AIGAI

*an archaeological guide*

**Yusuf Sezgin**



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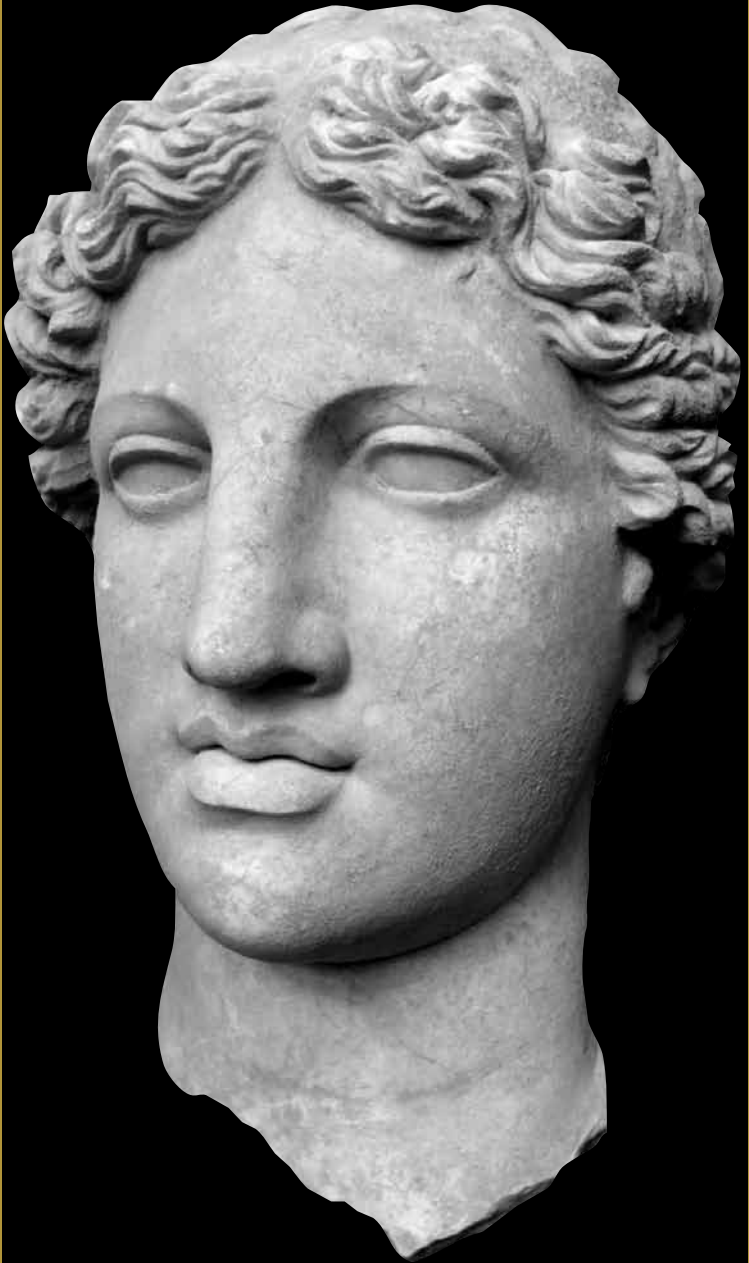
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## Preface

This book you are holding in your hands has been prepared with the aim of presenting the results of the archaeological works carried out in Aigai since 2004 in a holistic, accurate manner and at the same time as concisely as possible. The ruins of the ancient city of Aigai, which only a few people had set foot on until recent years, are attracting more and more attention. The increase in the number of people who want to visit the city meticulously or to access information about the city necessitated such a study. In keeping with its purpose, this book, which is small in volume, is of course the result of the long and painstaking efforts of many people. Experts, students, and workers who have contributed to the studies since 2004, have made a commendable effort to transfer the information about the ancient city, which was established in a difficult geography, to the present day. I would like to express my gratitude to all our former and current team members whose names I cannot hereby mention in full. In addition, I would like to thank the General Directorate of Cultural Heritage and Museums of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, which gives permission and supports the archaeological studies in the city and the Turkish Historical Society, Yunusemre Municipality, Aliağa Municipality, Manisa Governorate, Manisa Celal Bayar University, Ege University, Manisa Metropolitan Municipality and Anemon Tourism for enabling our work with their support.

We hope that this book on Aigai, which still preserves its mysterious atmosphere in the mist and under the trees but also contributes significantly to our knowledge of ancient people, will be useful to you, our esteemed readers...



ÇANAKKALE

YENİŞAKRAN

ALİAĞA

MENEMEN

İZMİR

Şakran Cezaevi

Kapıkaya

Karaahmetli

Seklik

Yuntdağyenice

Yuntdağköşeler

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### AIGAI

*Our archaeological guides are written by well-known archaeologists in the hope that they might evoke the spirit of these sites for anyone interested in the remains of Anatolian civilizations. Illustrated with beautiful photographs, equipped with helpful plans and drawings, they are essential resources for travelers in Turkey.*

Aigai is an ancient city that was founded in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC and lived for about 1000 years. It contains beautiful, magnificent, and technically advanced examples of stone architecture of the Ancient Period. Today, almost untouched, it awaits its visitors on a hill covered with natural vegetation consisting of wild olive trees and oaks.

Archaeological excavations in Aigai, located in the Yunusemre district of Manisa, only 14 kilometers from the Aegean Sea, began quite recently, in 2004. Nevertheless, significant results have already been obtained. Aigai has begun to break free from its loneliness. Some questions about the city have already been answered. However, there are still unanswered questions and many more have emerged. In other words, Aigai is an intriguing city, still untouched and with many secrets. But its also very eager to tell its story. To share the sounds of its streets, the smells of its buildings, the habits of its people, the deeds of the states that ruled, the shadows that have fallen on its walls to us, today's people.

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