
Social dimensions of time

A comparison between chronologies adopted in the literature, in the Museums and in the handbooks of History

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“CHRONOLOGY IS THE EYE OF HISTORY”

This phrase, by one of our most influential patriot of the XIX century, Carlo Cattaneo, was utilized as a quotation at the beginning of his book on Italian Early Bronze Age (Peroni 1971) by Renato Peroni (the choice is also a tribute to him, this year being that of his retirement).

Cattaneo used it in a booklet (*L'insurrezione di Milano del 1848*) where he carefully reconstructed the 1848 riots in Mailand, in open polemic towards many “romantic” historians that according to him didn't give the right weight to the exact sequence of the events.

Also in our work we tend to ignore that the chronological sequences we discuss in our congresses are destined also to a number of texts “consumed” every day by a big number of persons in the schools or in the museums.

In this paper I try to analyze the Italian situation, with the help of three types of indicators:

- 1) school handbooks;
- 2) historical atlases;
- 3) museum panels and/or websites.

SCHOOL HANDBOOKS

In the Italian school, there are three cycles of education for a comparison between the Italian, English, German and French systems of education see ill.1:

- 1) the “scuola elementare” (age 6-11);

- 2) the “scuola media” (age 11-14);
- 3) the “scuola superiore” (age 14-19).

Everyone is obliged to follow the first two cycles, while in the third one it's possible to choice between a humanistic school (“liceo classico”), a more scientific oriented one (“liceo scientifico”) and a sort of professional school (“istituti tecnici”).

Here we'll see the texts utilized in the second cycle; for the third cycle, only the texts studied in the “licei classici”.

I'll begin with a sample of five handbooks utilized in the first year of the “scuola media” (ill.2).

At least in two cases (Stumpo, Tonelli 2004 and Paolucci, Signorini 2006) a common chronology between Europe and Near East is proposed; where the chronology is rightly divided (Near East, Europe, Italy) for the Near East only in one book (Gentile, Ronga 2001, 2004) a Copper Age is indicated, in the other two (Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004 and Leone 2004) an Iron Age.

As a matter of fact, generally the time span of Copper, Bronze and Iron Age are rarely indicated for the Near East, where sociocultural events (as the emergence of early states) are regarded as more significative); at the same time we must note how very rarely the entire length of Iron Age is indicated (normally we have only the beginning).

Not by chance the book written before – Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004 (1999); the year in bracket, in the tables, is always that of the first edition – contains the most strange periodizations and/or chronologies of the Italian prehistory:

	Italy	UK (England and Wales)	Germany	France
19				
18	Scuole Superiori (Licei)	Secondary School Further Education	Gymnasium Oberstufe	Lycée général et technologique
17				
16				
15		Upper Secondary School		
14	Scuole Media	Lower Secondary School	Realschulen und Gymnasium	Collège
13				
12				
11				
10				

Source : www.euridyce.com

◀ 1. Cycles of education in Italy, France, Germany and UK (drawing Olga Colazingari).

▼ 2. Chronology in five handbooks utilized in the first year of the "scuola media" (drawing Olga Colazingari).

	Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004 (1999)			Stumpo, Tonelli 2004 (2000)	Gentile, Ronga 2001-2004		Paolucci, Signorini 2006 (2002)		Leone 2004				
	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY		NEAR EAST	EUROPE			NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY		
9000													
8000	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC ITALY	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC		
7000													
6000													
5000													
4000													
3000				COPPER AGE	COPPER AGE	COPPER AGE	COPPER AGE						
2000	EARLY STATES	COPPER AGE BRONZE AGE		BRONZE AGE	EARLY STATES	BRONZE AGE *	BRONZE AGE		EARLY STATES	?	COPPER AGE		
1000	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	TERREMARE APPENNINE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE ITALY	IRON AGE EUROPE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE		
			VILLANOVANS										**
0			ETRUSCANS										

* Terremare = between 1500 and 1200 B.C.

** Middle Bronze Age = 1700/1600-1350/1300 B.C., Terremare = from 1650 B.C., Nuragic civilization = from 2000 B.C.

- a, "Mesolithic and Neolithic Italy" datable between 5000 and 1500 B.C.;
- b, Terramare and Apennine cultures datable between 1500 and 1000 B.C.

A more correct chronology is instead proposed for Villanovan culture (1000-700 B.C.). Almost ironically, this is the only textbook with a chapter on absolute chronology methods (e.g., ¹⁴C).

It's possible to find some mistakes also in the textbooks by Stumpo, Tonelli 2004 (2000): so, for example, in the chapter on Italy we can read that Terramare, Nuraghi and dolmen (!) around 1000 B.C. were "underdeveloped", while Villanovans, Golasecca and Nuragic people (unfortunately in the same period!) were "advanced".

In the Gentile/Ronga handbook (2001, 2004) it's possible to appreciate the idea of a gradual expansion of Neolithic from Near East to Mediterranean and Central/Northern Europe; here the Terramare are quite correctly dated between 1500 and 1200 B.C.

The Paolucci, Signorini 2006 (2002) handbook is very well provided with specific files and a generally good chronology for prehistoric monuments; here it's also possible to find a quite correct chronology for Iron Age Italy (1000-700 B.C.) and Europe (1000-200/100 B.C.).

Even better structured is the most recent handbook (Leone 2004), where is correctly indicated a sort of "decalage" between Mediterranean and Central/Northern Europe and between southern and northern Italy. In this case it's very strange to detect a sort of "hiatus" between Neolithic and (a too low) Copper Age in Europe.

A very good chronology is given for Italy, with Middle Bronze Age between 1700/1600 and 1350/1300 B.C. (Terramare beginning in 1650 B.C., Nuraghi in 2000 B.C.); it's a pity that same pages after the author writes that in the more underdeveloped Italian regions the Bronze Age ends only in 500 B.C. (!)

Speaking about the single periods, here and in general in all the handbooks and historical atlases, the Near Eastern Neolithic never begins before 8000 B.C., except for Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004, the only I've seen with 9000 B.C. as the beginning date for the Eastern Neolithic. European Neolithic generally begins between 8000 and 7000 B.C. (again, except for Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004 where a lower beginning at 6000 B.C. is proposed). A general agreement exists in the handbooks that have separate chronologies between Near East and Italy for the end of the period around 3000 B.C.

Also for the European and Italian Copper Age the handbooks weaver between a high chronology (4000-3000 B.C.) and a lower one (3000-2000 B.C.); the same thing can be said for the Bronze Age (3500-1500 or 2000-1000 B.C.), with the more recently written handbook (Leone 2004) proposing an almost correct chronology (2500/2000 - 900/700 B.C.).

In Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004 and Leone 2004 it's possible to find the shareable proposal to date the beginning of Iron Age in Near East at 1500 B.C.; The beginning of the same period in Europe is often dated around 1000 B.C., except for Leone 2004 (900-700 B.C.).

Apart from chronology, another interesting point of view in the critical judgement of handbooks and historical atlases is the way they deal with some crucial historical problem. I choose, as an example, the well known question of the origin of the Etruscans.

For three of these handbooks (Gentile, Ronga 2001, 2004; Bonifazi, Della Monica 2004; Stumpo, Tonelli 2004) the Etruscan come from Asia Minor or people and language constitute "a mystery". Fortunately, in the two most recently written handbooks (Leone 2004; Paolucci, Signorini 2006) the question is well posed, correctly considering the Etruscan civilization as a prosecution of the Villanovan culture.

Passing to the texts utilized in the "licei" (ill. 3), we must first of all note that from here onwards the chronologies of Near East, Europe and Italy are rigorously separated.

In the Cantarella, Guidorizzi handbook (1998) we can appreciate the idea of different beginnings of Neolithic in different parts of Italy. The Sicilian culture of Castelluccio is rightly dated between 1700 and 1500 B.C., while notwithstanding a correct statement of the beginning of the nuragic civilization in II millennium B.C., in other parts of the text the first nuraghi are dated to the XI century B.C.

Again we find a correct idea of diverse beginnings of Neolithic in Europe; for Italy a beginning of Iron Age between 900 and 700 B.C. is proposed.

The De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006 (2003) handbook is the only one in which it's possible to catch a division in periods of Near Eastern chronology and a very up-to-date chronology for the beginning of European and Italian copper age (4000/3500 B.C.).

Comparing the three handbooks, it's possible to see that:

- The spread of megaliths is correctly dated between 4000 and 2000 B.C. (Cartiglia 2003) or,

	Cantarella, Guidorizzi 2005 (1998)			Cartiglia 2003			Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006 (2003)		
	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY
8000									
7000	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC				NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC
6000	FIRST METAL OBJECTS								
5000				NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC			
4000							FIRST METAL OBJECTS		
	•	FIRST METAL OBJECTS			FIRST METAL OBJECTS *	COPPER AGE	COPPER AGE	**	
3000							EARLY STATES •	COPPER AGE	
			FIRST METAL OBJECTS		COPPER AGE				
2000	EARLY STATES	BRONZE AGE	BRONZE AGE	EARLY STATES	•	BRONZE AGE	BRONZE AGE	BRONZE AGE	
					BRONZE AGE				BRONZE AGE
1000							FIRST IRON OBJECTS		
		IRON AGE	IRON AGE		IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE
0									

* Spread of megaliths between 4000 and 2000 B.C.

** Spread of megaliths between 5000 and 2000 B.C.

• Introduction of the wheel

3. Chronology in three handbooks utilized in the first year of the "liceo classico" (drawing Olga Colazingari).

better, between 5000 and 2000 B.C. (De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006).

- The introduction of the wheel is quite correctly dated at 3500 B.C. (Cantarella, Guidorizzi 1998) or at the second half of fourth millennium B.C.; the introduction of wheel and chariot are dated, for Europe, at 2500 B.C. in the handbook by Cartiglia (2003).
- The first metal objects are dated for Near East at 6000 B.C. (Cantarella, Guidorizzi 1998); even lower is the date proposed in De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006 (4500 B.C.); a low chronology (4000 B.C.) is proposed also for the first metal objects of Europe (Cantarella, Guidorizzi 1998 and Cartiglia 2003).
- Introduction of the first iron objects in the Near East around 1200 B.C. is the equally low date proposed in De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006.

Speaking about the single periods, it's surprising the proposal to give the same date (8000 B.C.) for the beginning of the Neolithic in Near East and Europe (Cantarella, Guidorizzi 1998) or even for

Near East, Europe and Italy (De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006). Still different is the chronology proposed by Cartiglia (2003), with the beginning of Neolithic in 6000 B.C. in the Near East and Italy and (almost correctly) between 5500 and 3000 in the rest of Europe.

Where a "Copper Age" is foreseen there is again a weaving between a high chronology for Italy (Cartiglia 2003, 4000-2500 B.C.) or Near East and Europe (De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006, 4000/3500-3000 B.C.) and a lower one for Europe (Cartiglia 2003, 3000-2000 B.C.).

We find the same variability for the beginning date of the European Bronze Age, from the (too high) date of 3000 B.C. (De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006) to the "décalage" between 3000 and 2500 B.C. (Cantarella, Guidorizzi 1998), to the date of 2000 B.C. (Cartiglia 2003); for Italy it's possible to detect a date higher than the rest of Europe (2500 B.C., Cartiglia 2003) and, on the contrary, a lower one (2000 B.C., De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006).

	De Agostini 2004/2005			Zanichelli 2006		
	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY	NEAR EAST	EUROPE	ITALY
8000	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC * FIRST METAL OBJECTS	NEOLITHIC
7000						
6000						
5000	COPPER AGE	NEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	EARLY STATES	BRONZE AGE	EARLY BRONZE AGE
4000						
3000	BRONZE AGE	* COPPER AGE EARLY BRONZE AGE MIDDLE BRONZE AGE LATE BRONZE AGE	BRONZE AGE	EARLY STATES	BRONZE AGE	MIDDLE BRONZE AGE
2000						
1000						
0	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	IRON AGE	EARLY IRON AGE	EARLY IRON AGE
0						

* First megaliths

4. Historical atlases: chronology of Italy, Europe and the Near East between VIII and II millennium B.C. (drawing Olga Colazingari).

Except for the handbook of Cartiglia (2003), that proposes 900/700 B.C., it's widely accepted the idea of a beginning of the Iron Age around 1000 B.C.

A correct review of the different points of view on the Etruscans is included in the handbook by Cantarella and Guidorizzi (1998), while in De Corradi, Giardina, Gregori 2006 we find the rather discomfoting statement that today, among the scholars, the idea of an immigration for the East is prevailing (!). The question is very correctly posed only in the Cartiglia handbook (2003), where it's possible to read that "the transition from the Villanovan to the Etruscan civilization it's only a leap forward that happened around the VIII century B.C., marked by the adoption of the writing systems and a widespread Recent Bronze Agenization".

HISTORICAL ATLASES (ill. 4)

Only in one of the two best Italian historical atlases (De Agostini 2004 ; 2005) it's possible to grasp a detailed (and quite correct) Near Eastern detailed chronology.

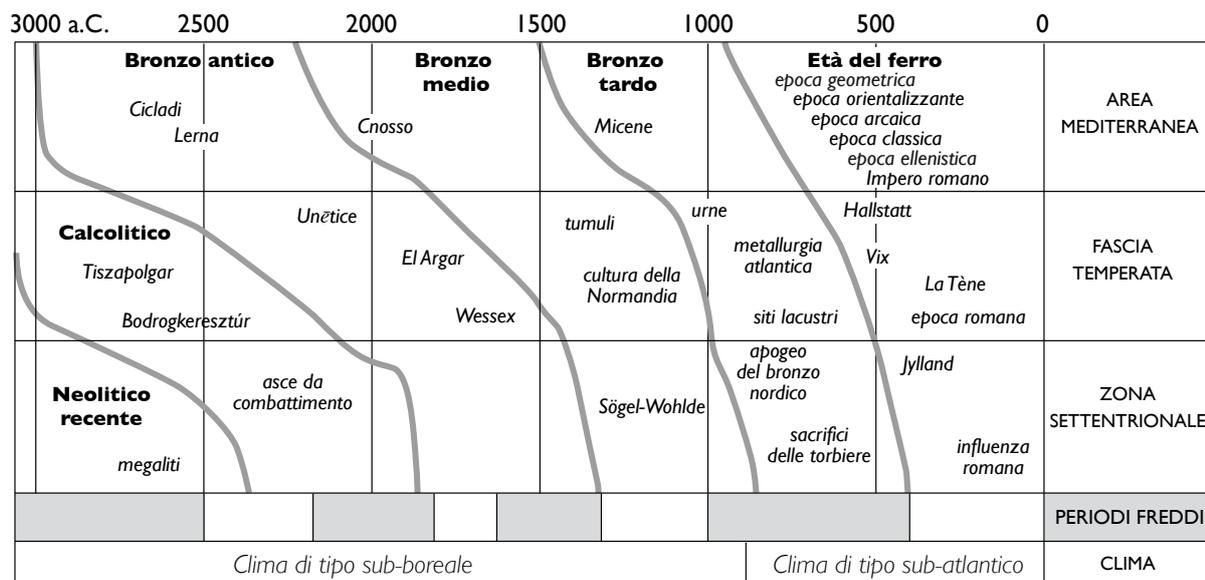
Moreover, in the 2005 edition (p. 3) we find a very useful synoptic table of chronologies in different parts of middle, temperate and northern Europe between Early and Late Bronze Age (ill. 5).

In the Zanichelli Atlas (2006) we find again the correct idea of a "décalage" in the European Neolithic and Bronze Age chronology (in Italy only for the Bronze Age). Here we have also correct dates for Italian Early, Middle and Late Bronze Age (in the De Agostini Atlas only Early and Late Bronze Age).

The spread of the first megaliths is in 3500 for De Agostini (2005), in 4500 (more correctly) for Zanichelli (2006); the same atlas gives the date of 4500 B.C. for the first European metal objects.

Substantially correct is the indication of a difference for the Neolithic beginning date in the Near East (8000 B.C.) and in Europe (VI millennium B.C.); too low the date of 5000 B.C. the De Agostini (2005, 2006) date for the Italian Neolithic.

The proposed chronology for Copper Age in the Near East (5000-3500 B.C.) and in Europe (3500/3000-2500/2000 B.C.) of the De Agostini atlas (2005, 2006) seems acceptable.



5. Synoptic table published in the De Agostini 2006 historical Atlas.

Also the timespan of European Bronze Age (3500/2500-700 B.C. for De Agostini 2005; 2000-750 B.C. for Zanichelli 2006) and, specially for Italian Bronze Age (2000-1000 B.C. for De Agostini 2005, 2500/2000-1000 for Zanichelli 2006) seems well comparable in the two atlases.

Two chronologies are proposed for the Italian Early Iron Age, an higher (1100-700 B.C., De Agostini 2004) and a lower (900-700 B.C., Zanichelli 2006) one. Also the proposed beginning of Near East Iron Age at 1400 B.C. (De Agostini 2005) seems to be correct.

It's possible to detect in these two atlases a substantially better level compared with the school handbooks chronologies.

Again, one of the atlases (De Agostini 2004) gives the two different points of view on the "origin" of the Etruscans, the other (Zanichelli 2006) correctly individuates a sort of continuity between Villanovans and Etruscans.

MUSEUMS

As a good introduction to the rather complex problem of more or less updated chronologies in the museums, I can speak about a personal experience.

In 1993, working with the people involved in the excavations performed on the site of the archaic city of Cures, in Sabine (Guidi 2004), I made a chronological "timeline" for the civic museum of

Fara Sabina (ill. 6). Unfortunately, the museum was opened only in 2001, so the panel reflects a partly low chronology (copper age beginning in 3000 B.C. or iron age beginning in 900 B.C.) that actually I don't follow anymore.

To evaluate the chronologies used in the museums I tried to see two main data: the year of the last arrangement of the exhibitions and the timelines that it's possible to find in the websites.

Of the seven museums here considered, Lipari is the oldest one (exhibition organized by Luigi Bernabò Brea and Madeleine Cavalier in 1975), also if the website (www.isoleeolie.com/lipari/museo-lipari/Museo-Lipari) is constantly updated.

Here the Neolithic is dated between V and IV millennium B.C. (ancient phase V millennium, middle phase end of V millennium, late phase IV millennium B.C.), the Copper Age in the III millennium B.C. (ancient phase first centuries of III millennium, middle phase around 2500 B.C. late phase last centuries of III millennium B.C.), the Bronze Age in the II millennium B.C. (Early Bronze Age 2000-1500 B.C. / Middle Bronze Age 1500-1250 B.C. / Late Bronze Age 1250-900 B.C.).

In the Finale Ligure Museum (1986), it's possible to note some differences between the timeline in the website (www.museoarcheofinale.it) and the accurate chronology reported in the depliant I could personally get in September, in the Museum.

Here the Neolithic is comprised between 8000/6000 and 3400 B.C., the Copper Age between

3400 and 2300 B.C. the Bronze Age between 2300 and 1000 B.C, the Iron Age between 1000 and 200 B.C. (the date of Liguria's Roman conquest)

At Syracuse, where the new museum was opened in 1986 (exhibition also in this case organized by Bernabò Brea and Cavalier), with a website of six years ago (www.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/dirbenicult/musei/musei2/ibleo.htm), the chronology obviously follows the Lipari one; Iron Age is dated between 900 and 700 B.C.

The Museum created around the famous Similaun Man at Bolzano in 1998 (website created in 2001; (www.archaeologiemuseum.it/f01_ice_it.htm) has an higher chronology, with Neolithic between 5000 and 3500 B.C., Copper Age 3500-2200 B.C., Bronze Age 2200-1000 B.C., Iron Age 1000-15 B.C. (again, the date of the definitive Roman conquest of the region).

A different chronology characterizes the Desenzano Museum (www.onde.net/desenzano/citta/museo/index.htm - last update 2005), created in 1990. Here the Neolithic is dated between 4500 and 3000 B.C. (ancient phase 4500-4000, middle and

late phase 4000-3000 B.C.), Copper Age between 3000 and 2200 B.C., Bronze Age between 2200 and 900 B.C. (Early Bronze Age 2200-1600 / Middle Bronze Age 1600-1300 / Recent Bronze Age 1300-1200/1150 / Final Bronze Age 1200/1150.

The present exhibition in the Pigorini National Museum, in Rome, was organized in 1994 (www.pigorini.arti.beniculturali.it/Percorsi_espositivi/Preistoria/Villaggio-citta/villaggio-citta.html; also in this case the website is constantly updated). The Neolithic is dated between 7000 and 3000 B.C., Copper Age between 3000 and 2000 B.C., Bronze Age between 2000 and 900 B.C., Iron Age between 900 and 700 B.C.

At Ragusa, also if the Museum was made in the Fifties, the present exhibition was made in 2005. The website, updated in 2005, is the official Sicily Region site (ww.regione.sicilia.it/beniculturali/dirbenicult/musei/musei2/ibleo.htm). The chronology here outlined is quite obscure; to understand better the situation I had to phone to the Director, Dr. Di Stefano, who kindly sent me the chronology utilized in the panels: Neolithic dated between 5500 and 3500 B.C., Copper Age between 3500 and 2000 B.C., Bronze Age between 2000 and 1200 (but he do prefer a date around 1000 B.C.), Iron Age between 1200/1000 and 700 B.C.

With regard to museum chronologies, it's possible to single out two main trends:

- A low chronology (Neolithic 7000/5000-3000 B.C. / Copper Age 3000-2000 B.C. / Bronze Age 2000-900 B.C. / Iron Age 900-700 B.C.), typical of the exhibitions arranged between 1975 and 1993, the big and well known Rome, Syracuse and Lipari museums and the more local collections of Desenzano and Fara Sabina (characterized by a more correct chronology of the beginning of the Bronze Age, between 2300 and 2200 B.C.).
- A high chronology (Neolithic 6000/5000-3500/3400 B.C. / Copper Age 3500/3400-2300/2200 B.C. / Bronze Age 2300/2200-1000 B.C. / Iron Age 1000-121/15 B.C.), not by chance typical of the (often local) museums with exhibitions arranged between 1986 and 2005, like Finale Ligure and Bolzano, with the almost significative variant of Ragusa (Copper Age between 3500 and 2000 B.C., Bronze Age between 2000 and 1200/1000 B.C., Iron Age between 1200/1000 and 700 B.C.).

It's then possible to think that the most recent handbooks, atlases and museums give us a more correct chronology? Unfortunately, if we compare

6000	
Neolitico	
3000	
Eneolitico (età del Rame)	
2300	
E t à d e l B r o n z o	Antica
	Media
	Recente Finale 900
Prima età del Ferro	
Orientalizzante	

6. Chronological "timeline" for the civic museum of Fara Sabina, by A. Guidi (1993).

A) Leone 2004

Neolithic 8000/6000-3000 B.C.
 Copper Age 3000-2300/2200 B.C.
 Bronze Age 2300/2200-950 B.C.
 Iron Age 950-... B.C.

B) De Corradi and others 2003

Neolithic 8000-2000 B.C.
 Bronze Age 2000-1000 B.C.
 Iron Age 1000-... B.C.

C) Zanichelli 2006

Neolithic 6000-2500/2000 B.C.
 Bronze Age 2500/2000-1000 B.C.
 Iron Age 1000-700 B.C.

D) Ragusa Museum (2005)

Neolithic 5500-3500 B.C.
 Copper Age 3500-2000 B.C.
 Bronze Age 2000-1200 B.C.
 Iron Age 1200-700 B.C.

7. Comparison of Italian absolute chronologies from 4 different sources (A, B: schoolbooks / C: historical atlas / D: museum).

the dates contained in some of the texts here examined (ill. 7), published between 2003 and 2006, the resulting panorama is rather discouraging:

- 1, the beginning of the Neolithic weavers between a date too high, as 8000 and one too low, 5500 B.C.;
- 2, the Copper Age is absent in two of this books; in the book by Leone it's dated between 3000 and 2300/2200 B.C., in the Ragusa museum between 3500 and 2000 B.C.;
- 3, three different time scales (2300/2200-950 / 2500/2000-1000 / 2000-1200/1000 B.C.) are present for the Bronze Age;
- 4, the beginning of the Iron Age oscillates between 1200, 1000 and 950 B.C.

At the end of this short review on the multiple ways in which pre- and protohistoric chronology is illustrated in the Italian school handbooks, historical atlases and museums, a typical example of the cultural "pluriverse" (for this term, see Tosi 1985-1986) of this country, it would be however interesting to explore the situation in other European countries.

I tried to make a little experiment; being impossible to know the French school handbooks, I surfed on the Internet between the French museum web-sites.

As a result, I obtained four different chronologies:

- Paris, Musée d'Archéologie Nationale, with Neolithic dated between VI and III millennium B.C., the Bronze Age between 2000 and 800/750 B.C., the First Iron Age between 850 and 450 B.C., the Second Iron Age between 450 and 0 B.C. (www.musee-archeologienationale.fr/homes/home_id20392_u112.htm);
- Musée de Strasbourg, with Neolithic spanning between 5500 and 3500 B.C., Bronze Age between 2300 and 750, Iron Age between 750 and 50 B.C. (http://archives.ac-strasbourg.fr/microsites/hist_geo01/Musee-archeo/index.htm);
- Seltz, in Alsace (not far from Strasbourg), where Bronze Age is dated between 1800 and 900 B.C., First Iron Age between 900 and 500 B.C., Second Iron Age between 500 and 0 B.C. (www.seltz.fr/infos_ville/celtes_110.php);
- The Lac de Sanguinet Museum, in Aquitanie, with Neolithic dated between 6200 and 2500 B.C., Copper Age between 2500 and 1800 B.C., Bronze Age between 1800 and 800 B.C., first Iron Age between 800 and 400 B.C., Second Iron Age from 450 onwards (www.musee-de-sanguinet.com/).

Someone probably will think that the problems here outlined will be solved simply with the gradual updating of handbooks or museum panels.

Unfortunately this will happen very slowly; I think it's at least possible to suggest some possible solutions:

- a) in each country we must promote a sort of "lobbying" for a greater participation of prehistorians in school handbooks, historical atlases and in some cases also in archeological parks and museums preparation;
- b) on a bigger level, the creation of a European Archaeological Association Commission that can suggest more general criteria for the pre- and protohistoric chronology in school handbooks, historical atlases, archaeological parks and museums.

It will not be easy, but I think we can avoid, paraphrasing the initial quotation from Cattaneo, to build a chronology that risks to be the "blind" eye of history...

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