

repeated fable of the gigantic ants, is situated within a more southern latitude of 35° or 37° . This region must, according to one of two combinations, be situated either in the Thibetian highlands east of the Bolor chain, between the Himalaya and Kuen-lun, west of Iskardo, or north of the latter mountain chain toward the desert of Gobi, which has likewise been described as an auriferous district by the accurate Chinese observer and traveler Hiuen-thsang, who lived at the beginning of the seventh century of our era. How much more accessible must the gold of the Arimaspes and Massagetæ have been to the traders in the Milesian colonies on the northern shores of the Euxine! I have alluded to these sources of wealth for the purpose of not omitting to mention a fact which may be regarded as an important and still active result of the opening of the Euxine, and of the first advance of the Greeks toward the East.

The great event of the Doric migrations, and of the return of the Heraclidæ into Peloponnesus, which was productive of such important changes, falls about one hundred and fifty years after the demi-mythical expedition of the Argonauts, which is synonymous with the opening of the Euxine to Greek navigation and commercial intercourse. This navigation simultaneously gave occasion to the founding of new states and new governments, and to the establishment of a colonial system designating an important period in the life of the Hellenic races, and it has further been most influential in extending the sphere of cosmical views, based upon intellectual culture. Europe and Asia thus owed their more intimate connection to the establishment of the colonies, which formed a continuous chain from Sinope (Dioscurias) and the Tauric Panticapæum to Saguntum and Cyrene, the latter of which was founded by the inhabitants of the rainless island of Thera.

No nation of antiquity possessed more numerous, and, on the whole, more powerful colonial cities than the Greeks. It must, however, be remembered, that a period of four hundred or five hundred years intervened between the establishment of the most ancient Æolian colonies, among which Mytilene and Smyrna were pre-eminently distinguished, and the foundation of Syracuse, Croton, and Cyrene. The Indians and Malayans made only weak attempts to found colonies on the eastern coast of Africa, in Zokotora (Dioscorides), and in the South Asiatic Archipelago. Among the Phœnicians a highly-developed nation, the ants bring together heaps of shining grains of hyalite, which I was able to collect out of their hillocks.