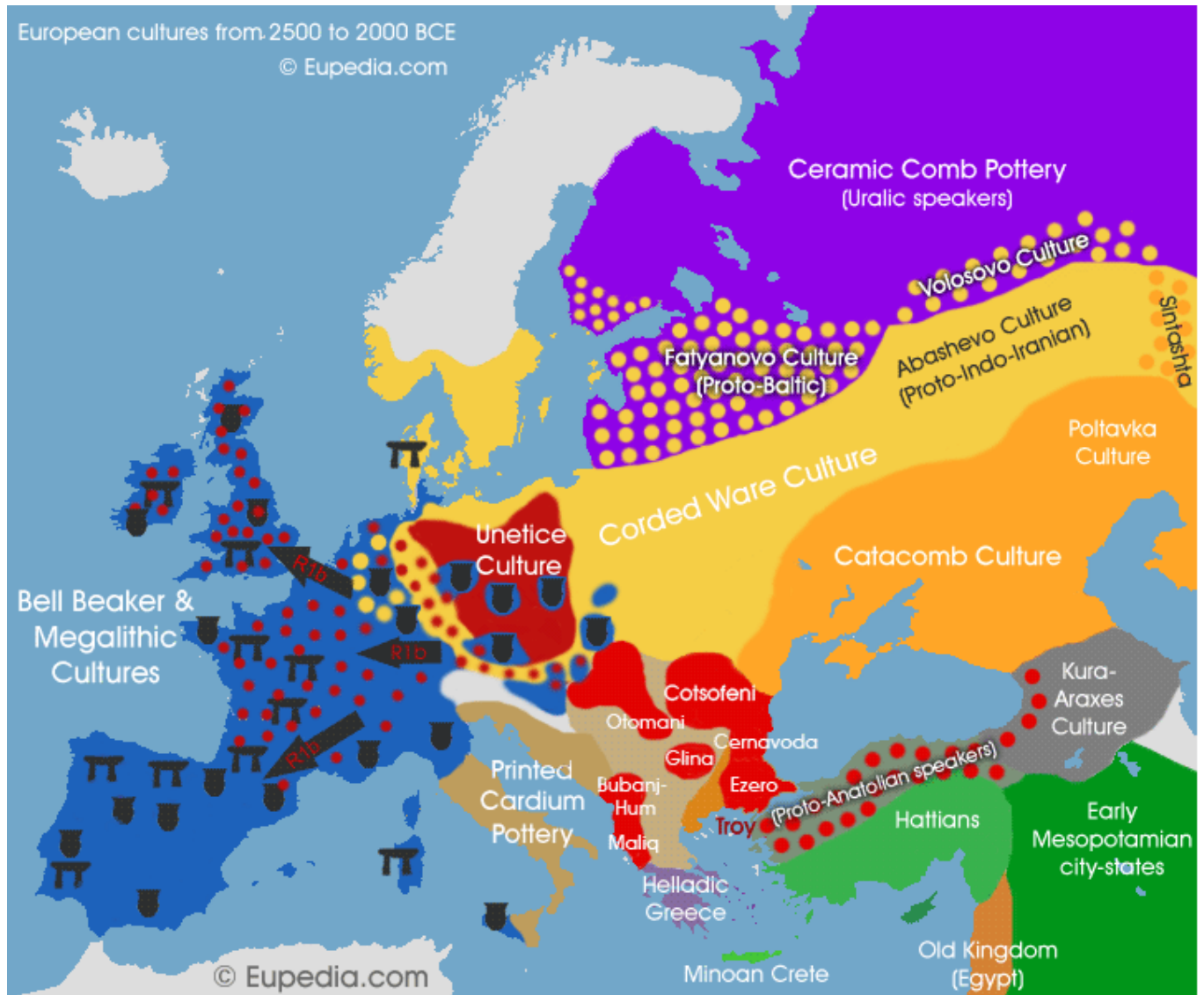


## Evolution of the Celts



### Unetice Predecessors of Celts 2500-2000 BCE

#### Cultural Characteristics:

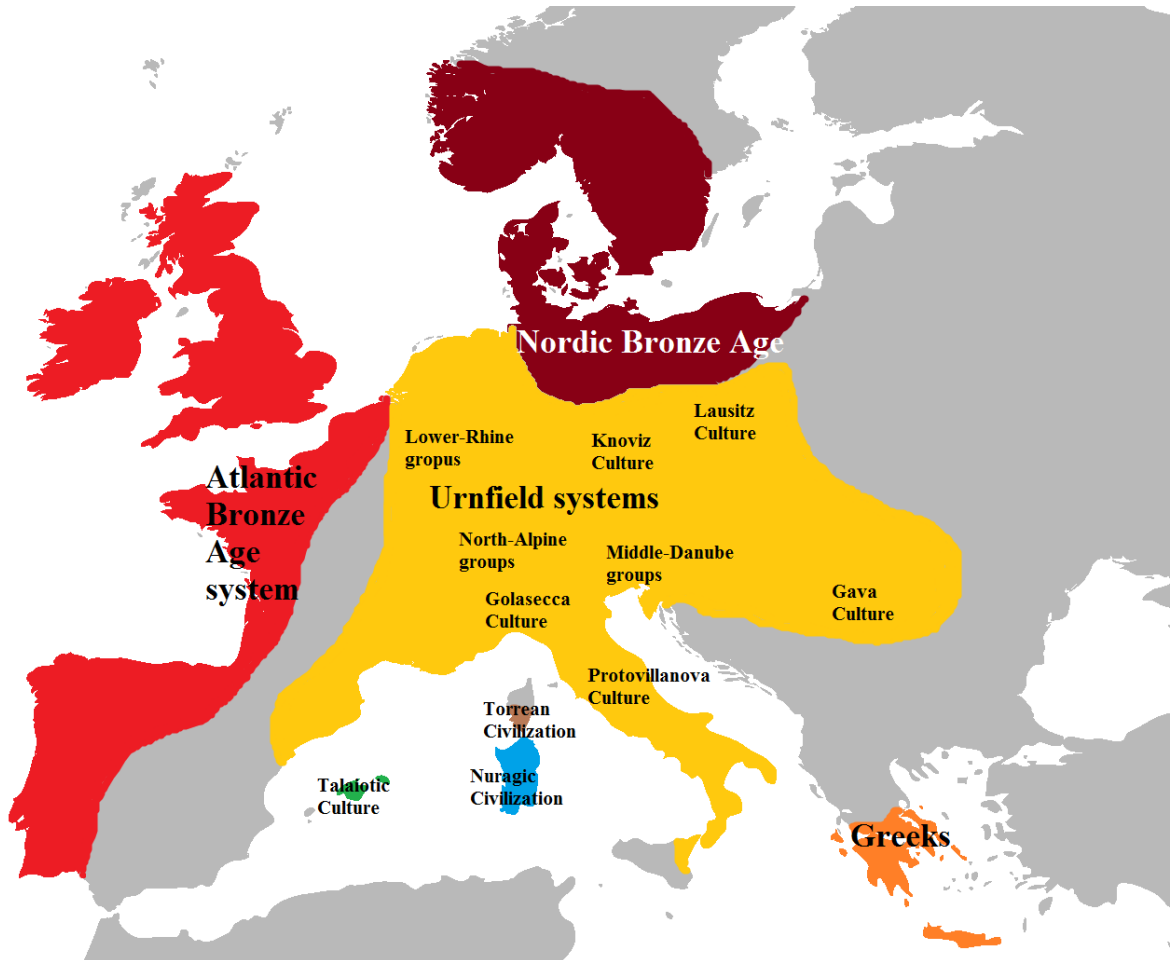
- Associated with the diffusion of Proto-Germanic and Proto-Celto-Italic speakers.
- Emergence of chiefdoms. Long-distance trade in bronze, amber, faience and gold prestige goods.
- Widespread use of bronze. Gold, copper and bronze objects include torcs, flat axes, halberds, flat triangular daggers, bracelets with spiral-ends, disk- and paddle-headed pins and curl rings.
- Coarse pottery typically decorated with twisted cord impressions, and sometimes with other types of impressions or incisions.
- The dead were inhumed in flat graves or in barrows/tumuli for richer burials. Corpses were accompanied by ceramic vessels, jewelry, personal items made of bronze or bone, and occasionally flint tools. Coffins were sometimes used.



### Tumulus Predecessors of Celts 2000-1500 BCE

#### Cultural Characteristics:

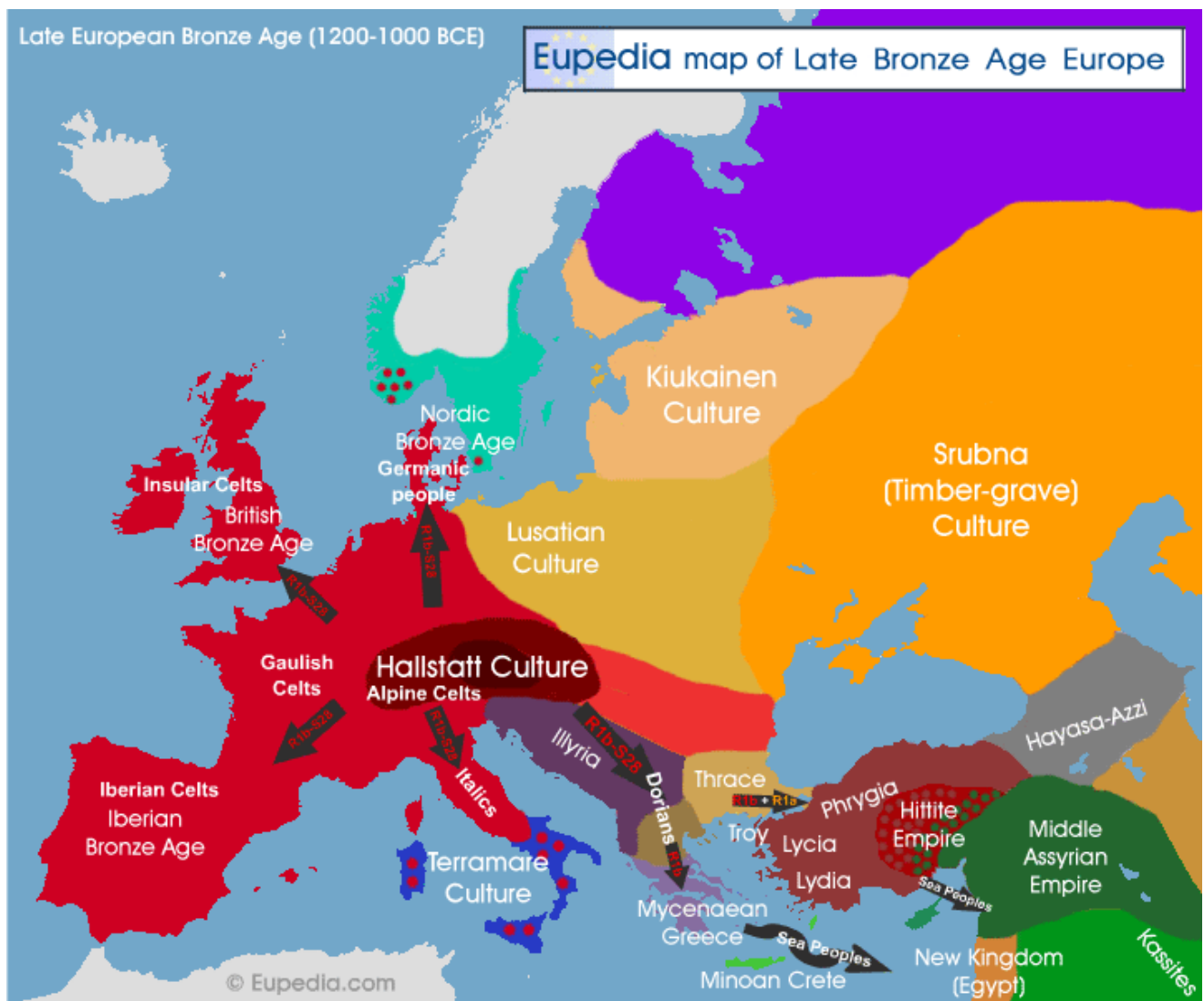
- Middle Bronze Age culture of central Danube region in Czechoslovakia, Austria, and Bavaria.
- Concentrated in Bavaria, Württemberg, and the area previously occupied by the Unetice culture.
- Distribution extended into north Germany and west as far as Alsace.
- The introduction of urnfield (cremation & burial in clay urns) burial, ended Tumulus
- Defined mainly by the dominant burial rite beneath burial mound,
- Continued earlier trends in ceramics and metalwork, though more elaborate in form and decoration.



## Urnfield Culture 1300-750 BCE

### Cultural Characteristics:

- Late Bronze Age culture of Europe.
- Called "Urnfield" due to custom of placing the cremated bones of the dead in urns.
- First appeared in east-central Europe and northern Italy; from the 12th century BCE onward.
- Use of urn cemeteries, or urnfields, spread to Ukraine, Sicily, Scandinavia, and across France to the Iberian peninsula.
- Warlike behavior among the culture's members appears to have been intense.
- settlements were normally fortified, and large supplies of beaten-bronze armaments have been found.
- The slashing sword, with flanged grips to protect the handle, was apparently adopted at this time.
- Uniformity of the Urnfield culture and persistence of certain pottery and metal forms had great influence on Early Iron Age.



### Early Celt (Hallstatt) Expansion 1200-1000 BCE

#### Cultural Characteristics:

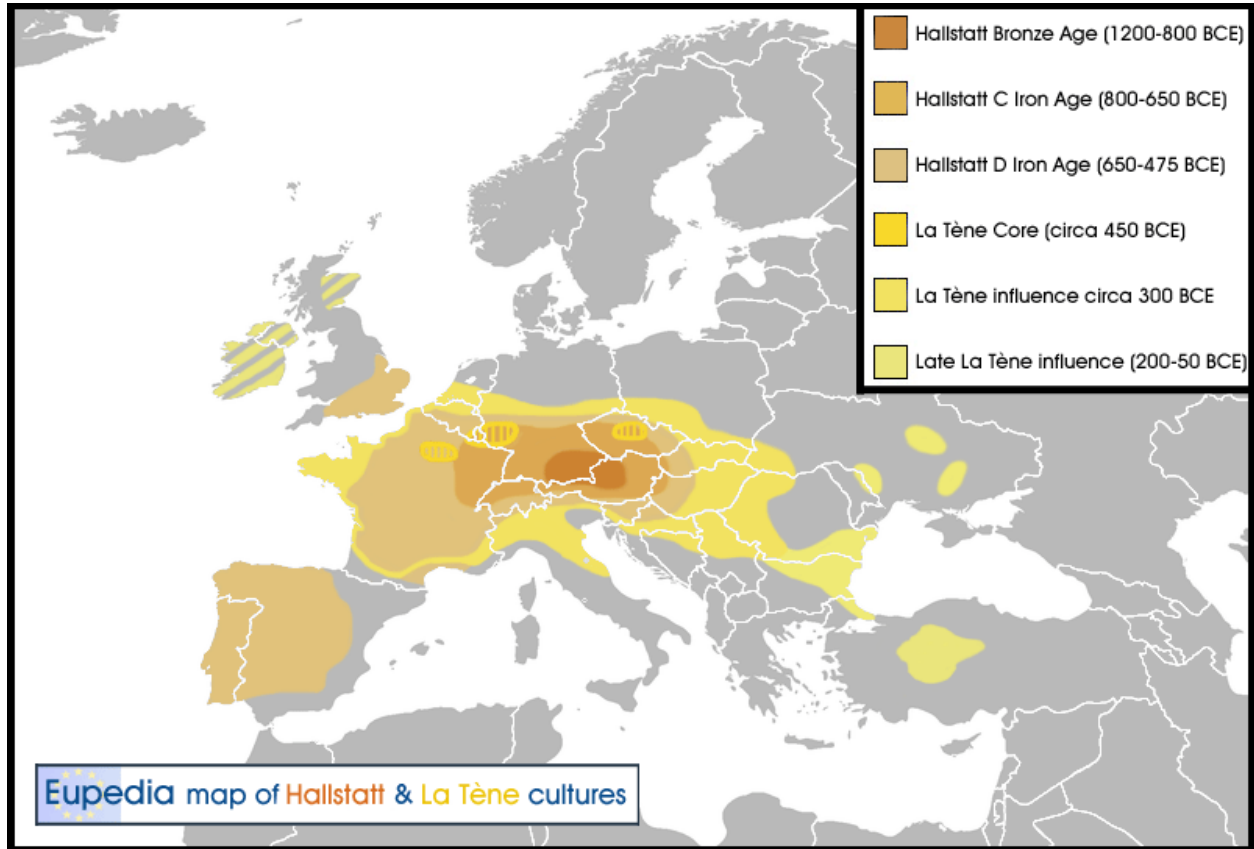
- "Hallstatt" refers to an important central European culture of the early Iron Age of the 1st millennium BCE.
- Centered around Austria and the Upper Danube area.
- Strongly associated with the arrival of Celtic tribes from the steppes of southern Russia.
- Regarded as the first clearly defined Celtic culture.
- Principal early civilization of the region from around 800 BCE until superseded by La Tene culture 500 BCE.



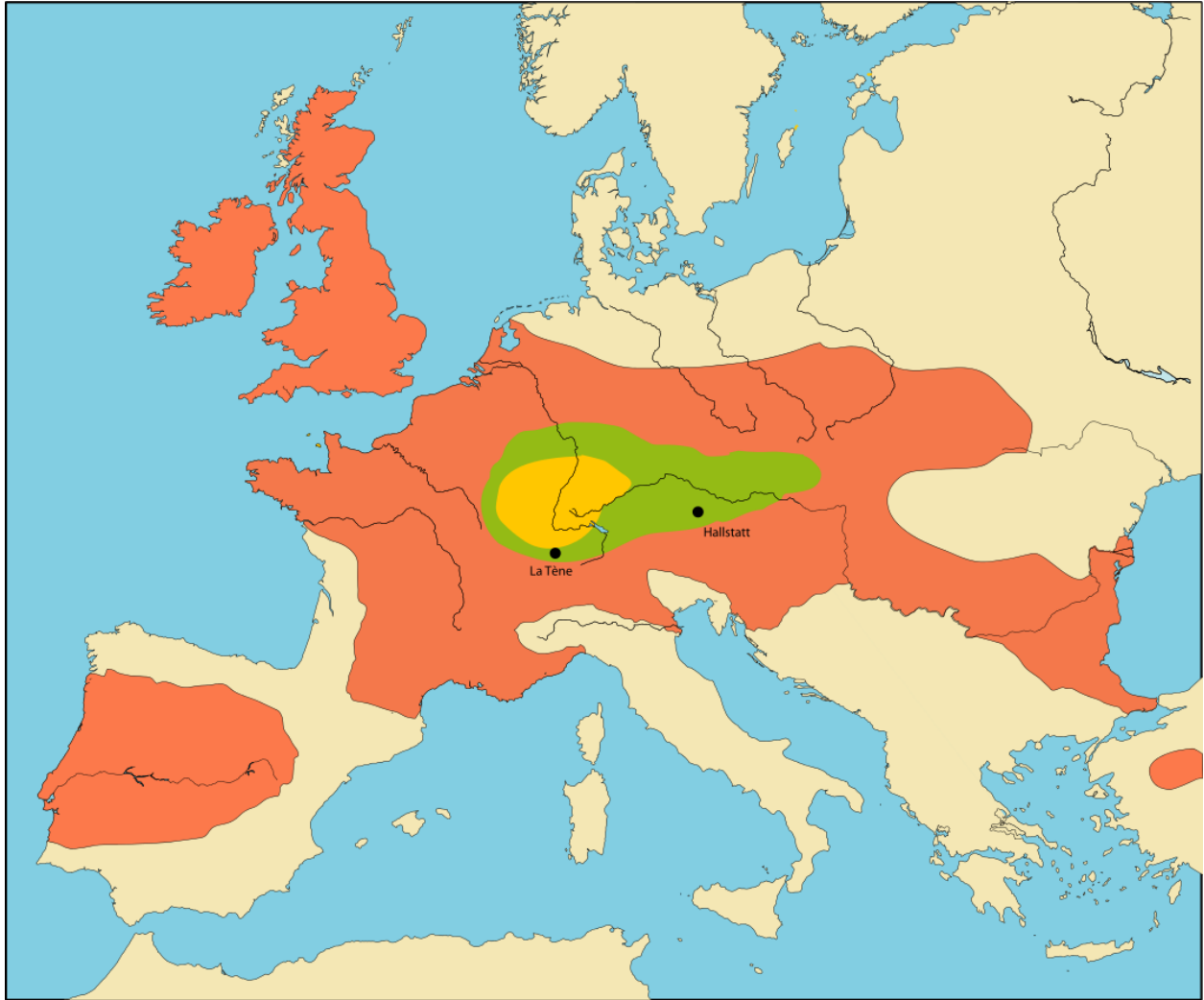
### La Tene (Celtic) Culture 500-50 BCE

#### Cultural Characteristics:

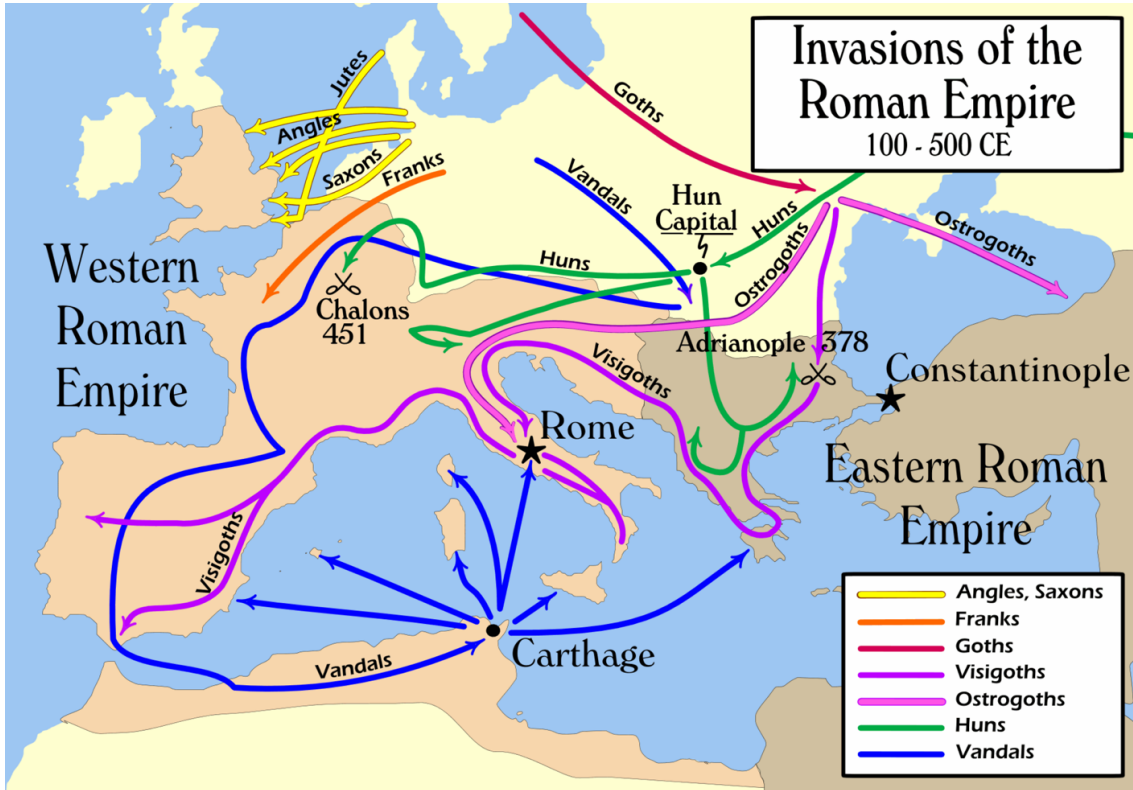
- Settled into river valleys between the mid-Loire valley in France and Bohemia.
- La Tène cultural pattern was significantly different from the earlier Hallstatt elites.
- Like the Hallstatt, elite burials included wheeled vehicles but used two-wheeled chariot.
- Imported wine vessels associated with a La Tène drinking rituals from Mediterranean.
- Combined combining stylistic elements from Etruscan, indigenous elements and Celtic symbols from north of English Channel.
- Stylistic adaptations characterized by stylized floral patterns and human and animal heads.
- Abandoned hill-forts used by the Hallstatt, and lived in small, dispersed self-sufficient settlements.
- Social stratification illustrated in cemeteries practically disappears, especially compared to Hallstatt
- Were more war-like than their Hallstatt precursors.
- Warriors obtained the closest approximation of elite status in La Tene culture through raiding.
- Their burials were marked by weaponry, swords and battle gear.



## Celtic Culture Expansion 1200BCE-50BCE



**Expansion of the Celtic peoples beginning with the core La Tène culture area (from 450 BC, orange), developing over the older Hallstatt culture area (green); maximum distribution around 300 BC (brown)**



**Invasions of Rome 100-500 CE**



**Later Migrations & Conquests – Visigoths (Goths)**