Mapping of Etruscan Cities, Roads, and Landscapes

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Introduction

This project is based on mapping the cities, roads, and landscapes of the Etruscan civilization. This civilization was the Etruscan civilization of ancient Italy covering a territory that eventually was taken over by the Romans. The Etruscan landscape served as a base for later Roman societies, making that one of the reasons why this topic was chosen. It is one that is not well known but serves an interesting purpose. Our purpose is to take what could be already known or unknown and create a map that represents the Etruscan civilization to the best of our ability. According to Mark Cartwright of the World History Encyclopedia states that "The culture was renowned in antiquity for its rich mineral resources and as a major Mediterranean trading power. Much of its culture and even history was either obliterated or assimilated into that of its conqueror, Rome." This creates importance behind mapping this civilization because of how lost their history was, and how important the Etruscans were during their reign.

Method

We first need to research if there was anything similar to our topic done. If not, we must start from scratch using different databases and similar mapping to those already published
If there is, borrow research and references they used to create a map to our liking. Secondly, we need to find data that represents the progression of Etruscan civilization. If not, we could possibly use early Roman landscapes to map the end of the Etruscan era landscapes.

Research Objective

Mapping Etruscan roads, cities, and landscapes allow historians and researchers to have an idea of how the Etruscans lived, traveled, etc.

Abstract

The purpose of this project is to map the Etruscan civilizations cities, roads, and landscapes. Research could be the hardest or easiest part of this project; This is due to the limited history the Etruscans have, and if prior research on this topic has been done. Since the Etruscan civilization was later taken over by Roman societies, this database could provide early Roman rule and be the start of the Etruscan map. After, research has been done, using ARCGIS we will map out or representation of Etruscan cities, roads, and landscapes.

Conclusion

Although there are not many surviving sources pertaining to the Etruscan roads as well as the cities and physical landscape, there are sources that can be found from the time after Etruria became part of Rome. Most importantly, are the maps of Roman roads that still stand today in some places. By mapping Roman roads across the boundary of Etruria, we found that they connected the Etruscan cities, as well as minor settlements, and Rome itself in an elaborate network. The fact that the Roman roads connect through the existing cities of Etruria implies that the Etruscans already had a developed road network that the Romans saw no need to replace. In conducting this research, we had limited access to primary and secondary sources from the time of the Etruscans, and thus had to assume a correlation between the intersecting of Roman roads from later sources with Etruscan cities. This method could possibly yield more results if there were more primary and secondary sources from the time of the Etruscans.