

## MYSTRAS

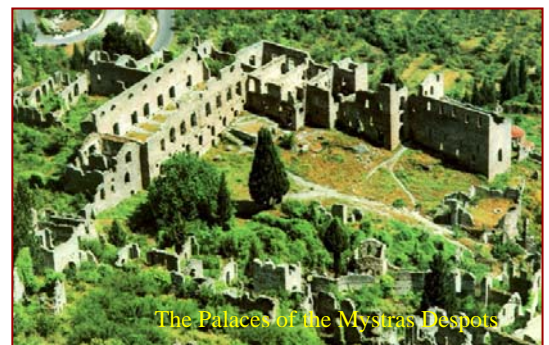
### Engineering geological conditions and problem:

- Mystras occupies a steep foothill on the northern slopes of Mt. Taygetos, 6km. NW of Sparta. The castle on the top of the hill was founded in 1249 by the Frankish leader William II de Villeharduin. After 1262 it came under Byzantine control, and at the middle of the 14th century became the seat of the Despotate of Moreas. In 1448 the last emperor of Byzantium, Constantine XI Palaeologos, was crowned at Mystras. In 1460 the hill was captured by the Turks and in 1464 Sigismondo Malatesta of Rimini managed to capture the city but not the castle. For a short period Mystras came under the control of the Venetians (1687-1715) but was again taken over by the Turks. It was one of the first castles of Greece to be liberated in 1821. The foundation of modern Sparta by king Otto in 1834 marked the end of the old town's life.

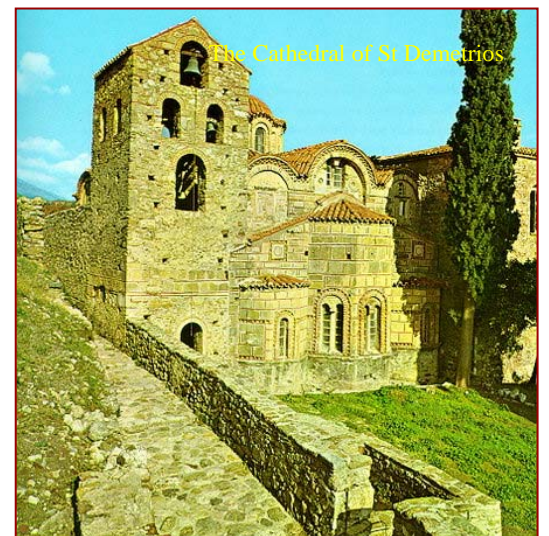
- The engineering geological problem is related to the stability of the slopes, where the castle is built.



The Castle



The Palaces of the Mystras Despots



The Cathedral of St. Demetrios

### Protection measures already have been taken or have to be taken:

For many years, large-scale consolidation and restoration work has been carried out on the religious and secular monuments of the site, by the Committee for the Restoration of the Mystras Monuments and the 5th Ephorate of Byzantine Antiquities. The conservation of the wall paintings of the churches has already been completed and the restoration of the Palaeologan Palace will soon be finished.

### Other information:

The most important monuments of the site are: 1) The castle, 2) the Cathedral of St. Demetrios, 3) the Church of St. Theodore, 4) the Monastery of Our Lady Peribleptos, 5) the Church of Our Lady Evangelistria, 6) the Monastery of Our Lady Pantanassa, 7) the Palaces of the Mystras Despots (Kantakouzenoi and Palaeologoi), 8) the Urban Buildings.

### References on studies already performed:

- 5TH EPHORATE OF BYZANTINE ANTIQUITIES: Reports on archaeological studies and on Restoration activities
- COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MYSTRAS MONUMENTS: Reports on Restoration activities