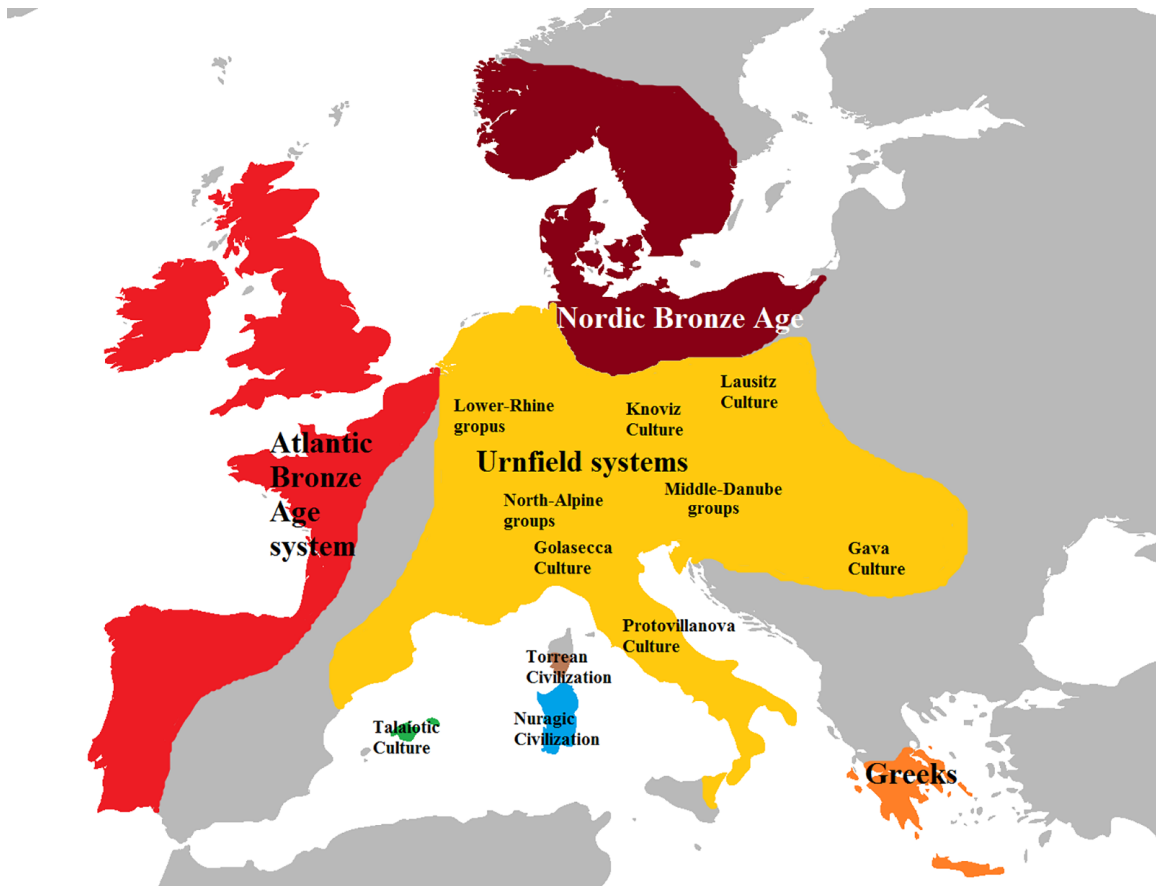


## Early Celtic Culture

The La Tene Celts of the classical period developed their culture from two earlier cultures: the Urnfield and the Hallstatt.

### Urnfield Culture

- The Urnfield culture (1300 BC - 750 BC) was a late Bronze Age culture of central Europe. The name comes from the custom of cremating the dead and placing their ashes in urns (vases) which were then buried in the middle of the fields.
- The early Celtic peoples of the Urnfield culture first lived in an area of Europe covering from Hungary to northern Italy.

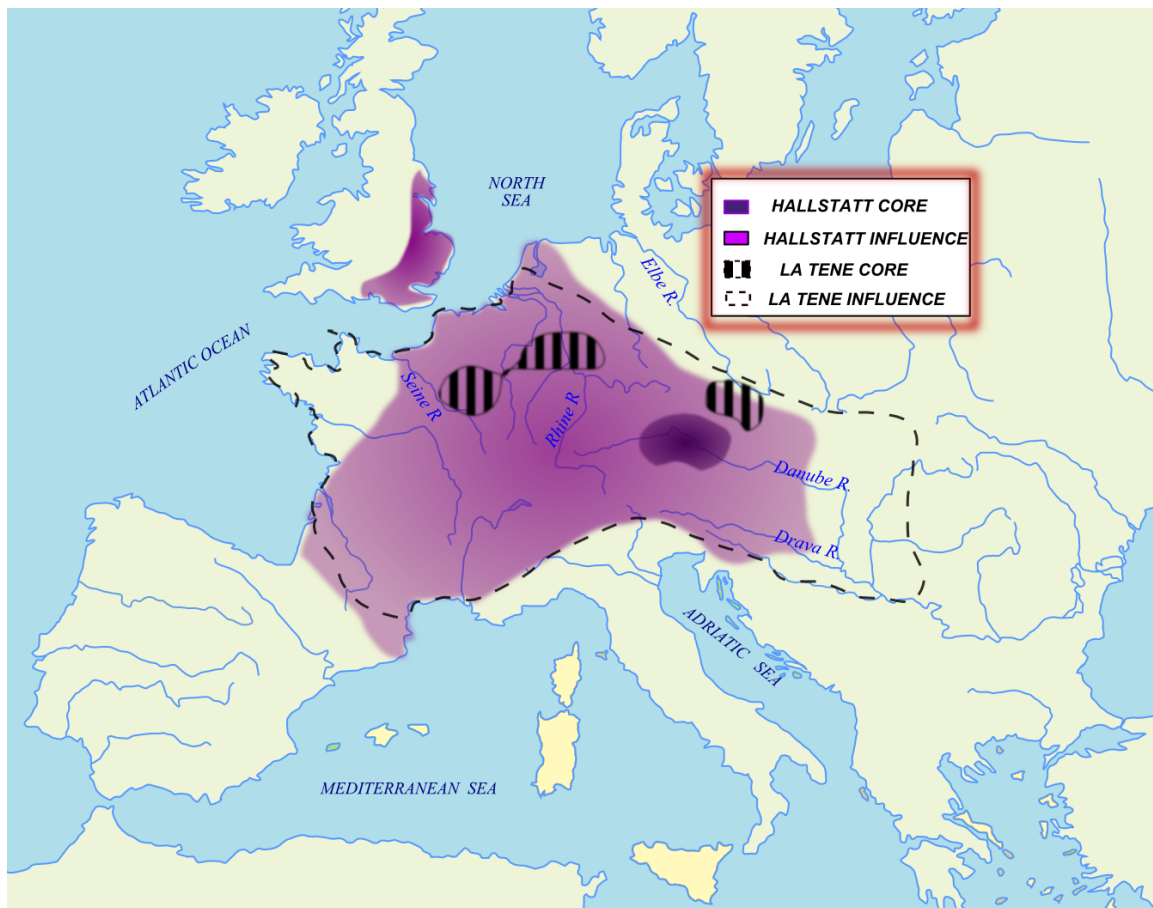


- Some graves contain a combination of tumulus-culture ceramics and Urnfield swords or Tumulus culture carved ceramics together with early Urnfield types. This demonstrates a considerable ritual continuity.

- In the earliest phases of the Urnfield period, man-shaped graves were dug, sometimes provided with a stone lined floor, in which the cremated remains of the deceased were spread. Many scholars contemplate that this may have marked a crucial shift in people's beliefs or myths about life and the afterlife.

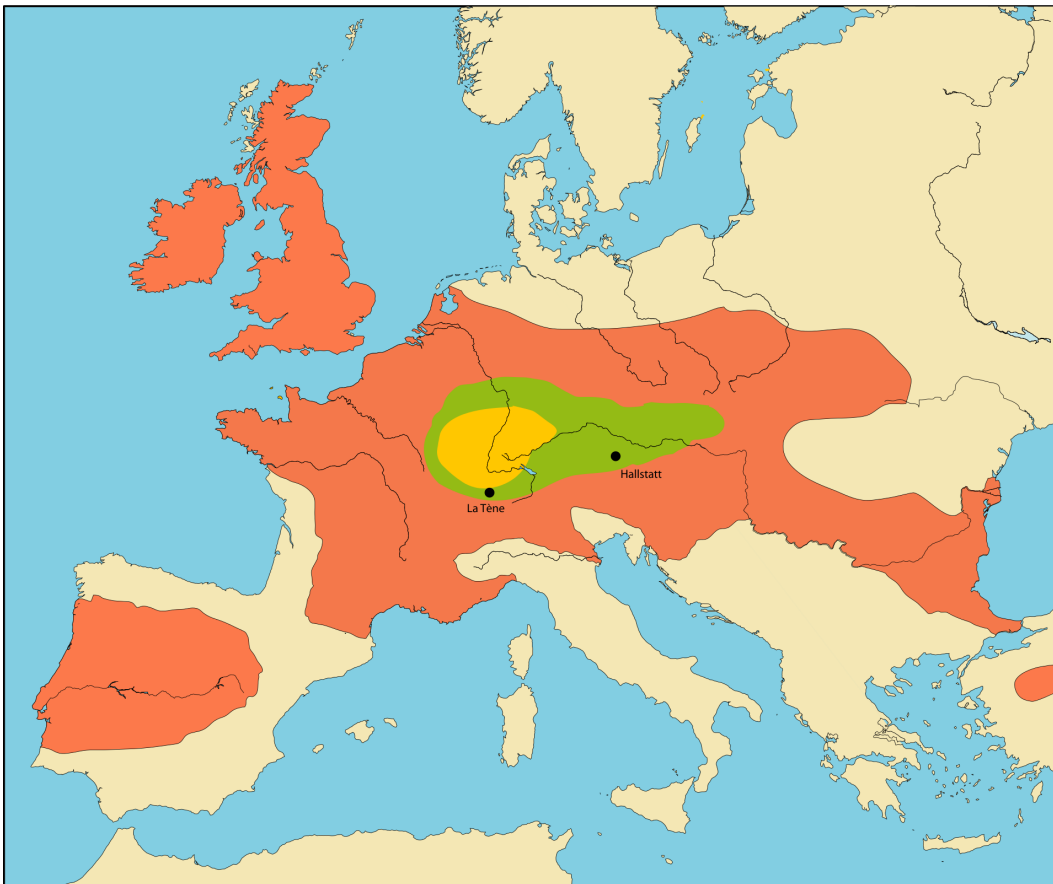


## Hallstatt Culture



- The Hallstatt culture was the dominant central European culture from the 8th to 6th centuries BC, developing out of the Urnfield culture of the 12th century BC and followed in much of central Europe by the La Tene culture.
- It is commonly associated with the Celtic populations in the Western Hallstatt zone with pre-Illyrians in the eastern Hallstatt zone.
- Trade and population movements spread the Hallstatt culture of complications into the western side of Britain. It is plausible that some if not all of this circulation took place in a Celtic-speaking context.
- The material culture of western Hallstatt culture was at a satisfactory level that provided a stable social and economic stability. Resulting in a long-range trade relationship with near settlements. Powerful local chiefdoms emerged which controlled the repositioning and placement of luxury goods from the Mediterranean world that is characteristic of the La Tene culture.

## La Tene Culture



- La Tene culture was a European Iron Age culture named after the archaeological site of La Tene on north side of Switzerland, where a rich cache of artifacts was discovered by an archaeologist Hansil Kopp in 1857.
- Over the duration La Tene culture developed out of the early Iron Age of the Hallstatt culture without any definite cultural break.
- La Tene cultural material appeared over a large area, including parts of Ireland and Great Britain, northern Spain, Burgundy, and Austria. Also revealing a wide network of trade over the country
- In Vix, France, an elite woman of the 6th century BCE was buried with a very large bronze cauldron made in Greece. Exports from La Tene cultural areas to the Mediterranean cultures were based on salt, tin and copper, amber, wool and leather, furs and gold.
- The cultural groups imported much from the Mediterranean, particularly many artworks. La Tene created their own stylistic forms combining elements from Etruscan art with indigenous elements and Celtic symbols from the regions north of the English Channel. Characterized by stylized floral patterns and human and animal heads, the Early Celtic Art appeared in the Rhineland by the early 5th century BC.



