For more than three hundred years, from about 1500 BC-1200 BC, the Mediterranean region played host to a complex international world in which Egyptians, Mycenaean, Minoans, Hittites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Cypriots, and Canaanites all interacted, creating a cosmopolitan and globalized world-system such as has only rarely been seen before the current day. When the end came, after centuries of cultural and technological evolution, the civilized and international world of the Mediterranean regions came to a dramatic halt in a vast area stretching from Greece and Italy in the west to Egypt, Canaan, and Mesopotamia in the east. Large empires and small kingdoms, that had taken centuries to evolve, collapsed rapidly. This talk explores a complex of human and natural events that coalesced to create a “perfect storm” that brought the age to an end and ushered in the world’s first recorded Dark Ages.