

Council of Suppiluliuma I, 1330 BCE (AD HOC)

MUNUC 34



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CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

I'd like to officially welcome you all to the Council of Suppiluliuma I, my name is Ritik Shah, and I will be your chair for this year's conference! If you're reading this then that means you are on the Ad-Hoc and what follows will be a key description of our committee.

A bit about myself: I'm a fourth year at the University of Chicago majoring in Biological Sciences, and I'm originally from the Jersey Shore. In previous years I have been a chair for Japan 1960 and a crisis director for Timor Leste 2002. Besides MUNUC, I am also the Director General of our college conference, ChoMUN, and I compete on our travelling team. Outside of MUN, my main interests boil down to basketball, rap music, and Avatar the Last Airbender, but I also find time for working out, throwing frisbee, and watching movies (and sometimes school).

As you will soon find out, this committee is unique in many aspects. With regards to the time period, we understand that the committee is much older than most MUNUC committees so we encourage you to make the most of the background guide as it is the most accurate source of information for committee. If you need to do more research, I would recommend checking out our citations as those will also be reliable sources of information.

In terms of the structure of committee, it will be elaborated on more throughout the background guide. As a brief note, the goal of this weekend is to learn about the nature of leadership and learn about the consequences of decisions as a leader. Furthermore it will push the boundaries of what is an empire and what's not, so keep that question in mind while participating in committee. Of course, like every other committee, the most important thing we look for is respect during conference. Inflammatory or derogatory comments whether directed at another person or not will not be tolerated. We do not anticipate this being a problem on this committee and hope that you all engage in debate with respect.

With that being said, Vikrant, Miller, and I are super excited to be running this committee and we cannot wait to see you all in committee!

Best of luck,

Ritik Shah ritik@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Hey delegates!

Welcome to the Ad Hoc! My name is Vikrant Magadi, and I'll be serving as your Crisis Director.

A little bit about myself - I'm a third-year at UChicago studying Molecular Engineering, although I've yet to discover how exactly to engineer molecules. Outside of MUNUC, I'm one of the Vice Presidents of our traveling MUN team and the CD of the UNSC for ChoMUN, our college conference. In the rare moments that I'm not LARPing or supervising other people LARPing, you can find me singing with UChicago's South Asian acapella group or cheering for the Washington Nationals.

This committee will be a unique experience for you, both in terms of its subject matter and its structure. Your ability to think on your feet will be key in this committee. As the scope of the committee expands, we hope to see you thinking bigger and bigger with your crisis arcs. While we have a rough roadmap for how the weekend will go, we're more than happy to make changes based on the actions delegates are taking in their arcs. That said, we still want MUNUC to be a positive learning experience for all delegates, so if at any point you're confused about where the committee is or what you should be doing, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Ritik, or your AC.

As with every committee, please be respectful of your fellow delegates. MUN can get intense and competitive, but that's not a reason to ignore basic courtesy and kindness. We also expect that you are respectful of the historical situation. Although practices such as slavery were commonplace in this time period, we'll still be applying modern standards for what's acceptable and what's not in committee. Again, feel free to ask us for clarification about this.

All that said, Ritik, Miller, and I are really looking forward to running this committee. Feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime. See you (very) soon!

Best,

Vikrant Magadi

vikrantmagadi@uchicago.edu

TOPIC: HITTITE EMPIRE, CIRCA 1358 BC

History of the Problem

Anatolian Geography and Origin of Early Settlers

Anatolia is a peninsula that marks the western-most part of Asia and is roughly equivalent to Asia Minor, or the modern-day Asian part of the Republic of Turkey. Its boundaries are the Black Sea to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Aegean Sea to the west. It occupies one of the world's most prominent crossroads, a strait connecting Mesopotamia to the Mediterranean basin, and was therefore the site of migrations, battles, and trade across millennia.¹ The region saw immense cultural diversity and geopolitical and commercial development in the era of the Kingdom of the Hittites alone.

Prior to the Kingdom of the Hittites in the Bronze Age, there were early settlers in Anatolia that also had organized societies, writing, art, and culture. There are three prominent Indo-European groups that settled in Anatolia during the third millennium BCE: the Luwians, the Nesites, and the Palaians.² There is also evidence of immigrants to the region from Russia that would have spoken Indo-European languages. It is unclear when these groups settled in Anatolia, but they generally took root in areas with concentrated resources. The Hattians were a separate group that was indigenous to Anatolia and therefore predated all of the Indo-European groups.³ It is likely that all of these groups engaged with Assyrian merchants in trading colonies, which set up infrastructure for empire-scale trade centuries later.⁴ Early Anatolia was composed of several different ethnic groups, and began forming societies built around trading with neighboring regions.

When discussing the Kingdom of the Hittites and the region of Anatolia, it's important to keep in mind the organization of the Kingdom. Hatti is another name for the Kingdom of the Hittites. Their

¹ Merriam, Gordon P. "The Regional Geography of Anatolia." *Economic Geography* 2, no. 1 (1926): 86–107. <https://doi.org/10.2307/140225>.

² Bryce, Trevor. *The Kingdom of the Hittites*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1999.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

capital was called Hattuša, and it was located in the central region of Anatolia. The kings of the Hittite empire controlled a number of vassal states.⁵ At the height of Hittite political and military power, the vassal states spanned from the coast of the Aegean Sea on the west to the Euphrates river in the east. The region occupied by the Hittites is often referred to as the Hittite Homeland; within the homeland, people lived in cities, towns, or cultural centers and had regional governors who acted on behalf of the king.⁶ The king had the power to call citizens into battle or collect taxes, but there were levels of regional rulers through which messages needed to be relayed. The hierarchical structure allowed for some central power over the entire Hittite region, but most people felt strongest loyalties to their local government as opposed to the king. Therefore, the classifying the Hittites as an “empire” is not as clear cut as it may seem.⁷

According to archaeological evidence in Anatolia, the Kingdom of the Hittites was not united under a single ethnic group or language. By tracing the roots of the names of Hittite royalty, it has become evident that there was no ethnic group which held power exclusively.⁸ In terms of linguistic geography, there were a few different operable languages in the Hittite Kingdom. ‘Hittite Hieroglyphics’ were introduced at some point during the beginning of the Hittite empire, and were utilized primarily for religious texts.⁹ Both Nesite (also known as Hittite) and Luwian were widely spoken languages, the former for governmental matters and some vernacular, and the latter as vernacular in western and southeastern Anatolia.¹⁰ In terms of writing, the Hittite language was written primarily using Cuneiform which was developed by the Sumerians. Luwian was often written using Hieroglyphic Luwian.

The region of Anatolia contained various metals and minerals. For the Hittite Kingdom, it was economically advantageous to control the sources and markets of metals.¹¹ The most mineral-rich areas were located in the northern and eastern sections of the region. These areas supplied Anatolia and parts of Mesopotamia with copper, silver, iron, zinc, and lead. However, mineral-rich regions

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Macqueen, James G.. *The Hittites and Their Contemporaries in Asia Minor*. Singapore: Thames and Hudson, 1996.

¹⁰ Bryce, Trevor. *The Kingdom of the Hittites*. United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1999.

¹¹ Yakar, Jak. “Hittite Involvement in Western Anatolia.” *Anatolian Studies* 26 (1976): 117–28.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/3642720>.

were difficult, or even impossible, to control for the Hittites.¹² Thus, the kingdom turned to areas west of the central plateau for alternative mineral fields and supply centers. Further, although Anatolia was rich in copper, it was poor in tin. Tin, especially in conjunction with copper, was useful for making weapons and tools. This led to a need for trade across regions. Prior to the Hittite empire, there were long-standing, peaceful relationships between the peoples of Anatolia and Assyrian merchants who would provide tin in exchange for other metals and goods.¹³ Strategic trade alliances were an essential part of local and empire-wide rule.

Old Assyrian Trading Colony Period

In the early second millennium BC (during the Middle Bronze Age), the Hittite people were divided into city-states and became involved in a larger trading network with the Assyrians. Much of this trade took place between two main hubs: Kaneš in Central Anatolia and the Assyrian capital of Ashur. Aside from these two hubs, the network extended all the way from the Aegean Sea to the Mesopotamian Empire in the fertile crescent. The network relied on donkey caravan trade between the Anatolian and Assyrian sides. The trade points on the Assyrian side exported wool and tin to Anatolia in exchange for copper, silver, and gold. The Hittites would often use the tin to make bronze.¹⁴

The Hittite city of Kaneš served as the main hub on the Anatolian side of the trade network. Nations and city-states all across the middle east would send merchants to Kaneš to stay there temporarily as representatives and orchestrators of trade. The city consisted of the Höyük region which was the central mound with religious centers and royal housing while the surrounding region was known as the Kārum. The Kārum contained housing for foreign merchants and trade centers where much of the exchange in Kaneš took place. Aside from Kaneš, there were many other city-state-like communities with their own vague regions of influence. At the time the Hittites were divided into

¹²Ibid

¹³ Macqueen, James G.. *The Hittites and Their Contemporaries in Asia Minor*. Singapore: Thames and Hudson, 1996.

¹⁴ Bryce, Trevor. "Anatolia in the Assyrian Colony Period." Essay. In *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, 21–40. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

many different kingdoms occupying that land rather than a collective nation. For the most part, these kingdoms lived in harmony, which provided stable trade partners for the Assyrians.¹⁵

It was also at this time that the people of Hatti (the collective region occupied by the Hittites at any given time) began using cuneiform as a writing system and silver shekels as a currency of exchange. Alongside written cuneiform, cylinder seals were also used to imprint hieroglyphs on clay, acting as a sort of brand/signature for the holder of the seal.¹⁶ All of this



served to certify and authenticate exchanges going on throughout the trade network. Furthermore, the writing system allowed for tracking of more intricate financial transactions including loaning and credit systems. The advanced financial system also allowed the the Hittites to place tolls along certain trade routes as well as taxes on goods. Because of the expensive nature of trading, some merchants would try to smuggle and work secretly through towns that charged tolls or even take more difficult or obscure routes that had no tolls.¹⁷

The trade network and all that it brought led to a higher consciousness of territories in the region. Whereas previously local kings would simply rule a vague region, now kings had to keep track of what areas were under their jurisdiction. This was because it became the responsibility of the king to charge tolls and keep paths clear if certain trade routes fell in their region of control. This territorial

¹⁵ Derckson, Jan Gerrick. "The Assyrian Colony at Kanesh." Essay. In Hattuša-Bogazköy. Das Hethiterreich Im Spannungsfeld Des Alten Orients, edited by Gernot Wilhelm, 109–24. Würzburg: Internationales Colloquium der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft, 2008.

¹⁶ Gorelick, Leonard, and A John Gwinett. "The Ancient Near Eastern Cylinder Seal as Social Emblem and Status Symbol ." Journal of Near Eastern Studies 49, no. 1 (1990): 45–56.
https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/373418?casa_token=FiVMLJ1YxPgAAAAA:VFZcNWMmZCXROYW4TgfKFoKQKhXa54rldgplWwbC9lhgBVqUAQsPttt5T5H5DJ7etovIO686vkES.

¹⁷ Javierfv1212 . *Hittite Kingdom*. March 19, 2010. *Wikimedia*.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hittite_Kingdom.png.

nature eventually resulted in border disputes and also required careful cooperation between Hittite kingdoms in order to make sure that the entire trade network operated smoothly.

Eventually, sometime between 1800 and 1700 BC, the Old Assyrian Trading Colony Period ended as the trading network collapsed for unknown reasons. For about a century, the Hittite kingdoms survived but there were no longer records about any continuing trade. Eventually, some of these kingdoms began merging as a result of conquest.

The Old Kingdom

Early Hittite tablets tell of a ruler known as Labarna. Labarna likely originated from the city of Kussara and was in control of several different small towns like many other rulers at the time. However, several written documents describe Labarna's conquests in the mid 16th century BC. Not much is known about the nature of Labarna's rule, however it is almost certain that he was the grandfather of Hattusili I, who was his successor.¹⁸

Upon becoming king in 1650 BC, Hattusili I continued the reign of land from Kussara. After a few years, Hattusili I relocated to Hattusa which would end up being the capital of the Hittite Kingdom for centuries to come. The change was a controversial decision as it moved the base of operations further from controlled territories in northern Syria and closer to the ill-defined border in the north. Despite this, Hattusa was located upon a hill and had walls surrounding it, making it a much more defensible city. Early in his reign, Hattusili I launched successful campaigns against Zalpa and Sanahuitta but pillaged and destroyed the cities rather than integrating them into his dominion. This also occurred later with areas in northern Syria and Arzawa to the west. In sum, Hattusili I's reign consisted of significant military success throughout the region, even extending into Mesopotamia drawing comparisons to Sargon of Akkad. Despite this, due to the destructive nature of his conquests, there were many rebellions and he did not expand overall control of the Hittites. Some argue that his conquests were necessary in order to establish his image as a King since his predecessor Labarna also had a series of military conquests. As his reign approached its end, Hattusili had to deal with the question of succession. There was no set method of succession so

¹⁸ Bryce, Trevor. "The Foundations of the Kingdom: The Reigns of Labarna and Hattusili I" Essay. In *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, 61–96. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Hattusili simply picked his nephew to be his successor. However, after public uproar and rebellious acts by his sons, Hattusili picked his grandson, Mursili I to be his successor.¹⁹

Mursili I completed what his grandfather could not. During his reign, he conquered Aleppo and even pushed further toward Babylon which likely ended the Hammurabic Dynasty. However, the outcome of this conquest was somewhat unclear. The region of Mesopotamia was too remote from the Hittite capital to be controlled and ended up falling under the rule of the Kassite Dynasty instead. Despite these doubts, he did put Aleppo under the control of the Hittite Kingdom, signalling a shift from the pillaging days of the Kingdom. Mursili returned to Hattusa in triumph, but within a few years he was assassinated by his brother-in-law, Hantili.²⁰

The instance of bloodshed in the family put Hantili on the throne but there was more to come. Not much is known about Hantili's long reign besides consistent skirmishes with the neighboring Hurrians. Hantili's successor ended up being Zidanta who was his son-in-law and co-conspirer in murdering Mursili. Zidanta's reign was not nearly as long as Hantili's as he was murdered by his own son Ammuna. Ammuna then took the throne. During his reign, the kingdom began to collapse as he lost control of regions in Syria to the Hurrians. Ammuna ended up dying of natural causes leaving the Kingdom in an unstable condition.²¹²²

Following Ammuna's death, his sons and various other members of the family were murdered by agents of Huzziya who would end up claiming the throne. However, one of Ammuna's sons, Telipinu still survived. Huzziya had plotted to kill Telipinu but Telipinu had learned of the plot in time to act. Telipinu took his loyal subjects and claimed the throne himself, casting Huzziya and his five brothers into exile. Telipinu demanded that the bloodshed end and wanted to set a precedent for no more murderous plots take the throne — he spared Huzziya's life.²³

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Bryce, Trevor. "The Struggles for the Royal Succession: From Mursili I to Muwattali I" Essay. In *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, 96–121. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

²¹ Ibid

²² Beckman, G. (2008). *The Ancient Near East: Historical sources in translation*. In 1223167380 909776295 M. W. Chavalas (Author), *The Ancient Near East: Historical sources in translation* (pp. 219-222). Carlton: Blackwell.

²³ Bryce, Trevor. "The Struggles for the Royal Succession: From Mursili I to Muwattali I" Essay. In *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, 96–121. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Telipinu took it upon himself to recover the Hittite Kingdom's lost territories. He succeeded in taking back many of the territories but the Kingdom of Kuzziwadna stayed independent under the control of Isputahsu. Telipinu took a different approach than many of his predecessors and decided to draft up a peace treaty with the Kingdom. Telipinu tried to establish a Hittite Kingdom that did not rely on military conquest, thus changing the hostility associated with the position of the Hittite King. Despite this, there were still threats to the Kingdom as the eastern neighboring Mitanni empire was growing. The Egyptians were also increasing conquests into Syria. However, at the time of Telipinu's reign these never manifested into serious issues.²⁴

At the time of Telipinu's death he had no male successor and a massive power vacuum existed. Eventually through more familial bloodshed, a man named Muwatalli I took the throne. However, his reign did not last very long as he was assassinated, eventually putting Tudhaliya I on the throne.²⁵

The New Kingdom

The Middle Kingdom was a time when the Hittites were in decline, constantly battling with coastal forces, and also struggling to maintain control of the Anatolian peninsula. The New Kingdom promised a new age for the Hittites. As with many eras of Hittite history, the New Kingdom began with a rebellion in which Tudhaliya I took power following the assassination of Muwatalli. Scholars notably disagree about how many successors Tudhaliya I actually had - the evidence is unclear about whether Tudhaliya had a son or simply reigned himself for many years. For this reason, we will refer to Tudhaliya as Tudhaliya I/II to capture this ambiguity. Tudhaliya I/II quickly began expanding his empire with a conquest of Assuwa in the west. However, this proved to be a long-term mistake, as the flux of troops to the west spread Tudhaliya's armies in the East too thin. As a result, several of the Hittites' enemies were able to gain power unchecked. Most concerning, the kingdom of Mittani reasserted its control over northern Syria, cementing its influence with an alliance with Egypt.

Following the death of Tudhaliya I/II and his co-regent, Arnuwanda, Tudhaliya III ascended to the throne. Tudhaliya III quickly lost large sections of the Hittite Empire, not to outside invaders but to enemies within Anatolia. The Kaska people swept through much of the Hittite Empire, forcing the

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

king and his loyal allies back to the city of Samuha. From this base, Tudhaliya III launched a massive reconquest campaign, beating back the Kaska people and reclaiming much – but not all – of the Hittites' former territory. Suppiluliuma first appears in the historical record as a prominent general in his father's army and a key contributor to the Hittite reconquest. However, following Tudhaliya III's death, Suppiluliuma was not granted the throne. Instead, Tudhaliya III handed the reins to his other son, known as Tudhaliya the Younger.

The Hittites are now in an unprecedented position, with Tudhaliya the Younger on the throne and growing prominence of Tudhaliya III's other son, Suppiluliuma. Suppiluliuma was a general under his father's guidance, and is eager to guide the Hittites into a new age. Suppiluliuma is certain that through a balanced combination of diplomacy and conquest, the Hittites might form an empire that rivals the likes of Egypt and Assyria. However, Suppiluliuma is not currently in line to inherit the throne. With his trusted advisors, Suppiluliuma hopes to become king, and then transform his dominion well beyond the city-state of Samuha.

Statement of the Problem

Ruling of Samuha

In addition to being a powerful city-state and Suppiluliuma's current base of operations, Samuha is also an important religious center for the Hittite people. The original patron god of the city was thought to be a female deity named Abara, although the most prominently worshipped god is currently Ishtar. Several figures and shrines to Ishtar are scattered throughout the city. Samuha also served as a military base and informal capital for Suppiluliuma's father, Tudhaliya III, when he fought against the Kaskans.

Samuha is similar to the many other city-states in the ancient world. A city-state has a city, which can be interpreted as the political and administrative center of a highly populated area. These city-states also can generate local customs, cultures, religions, and even languages. When a city-state is relatively prosperous, the city-state's population grows, driving a need for expansion. If there are other city-states nearby, then this expansion can manifest in two major ways: trade and conquest. Trade is a more diplomatic manifestation of expansion. With trade, city-states can sell their abundant goods in exchange for foreign luxuries. Furthermore, trade can reach civilizations well beyond a city-state's borders. For example, while Anatolia is rich in copper, silver, and iron, there are opportunities to trade textiles and jewelry from Mesopotamia, tin from Iran and Europe, and olive oil from Cyprus.²⁶

On the other hand, a city-state can expand through conquest. A city-state can vassalize another city-state, where the vassal still maintains some independence, but will help its superior by paying taxes or tributes and by providing military units. A city-state can also annex another city-state. An annexed city-state has little autonomy, as its superior has unrestricted access to all of the city-state's resources. However, an annexed city-state can foment unrest, and possibly revolt, if its superior does not adequately care for its citizens.

²⁶ "The Hittites: Civilization and Empire." TimeMaps, May 11, 2021. <https://www.timemaps.com/civilizations/the-hittites/#:-:text=The%20Hittites%20engaged%20in%20a, and%20olive%20oil%20from%20Cyprus.>

Regardless of which expansion path Samuha chooses, the advisors of Suppiluliuma must be wary of rivalry and overextension. Historic enemies and rivals will see any increase in Samuha's power as a threat to their sovereignty. Keeping this in mind, Samuha must amass defensive military forces or draft comprehensive peace treaties, to ward off the dangers of rivalry. On the other hand, Samuha could face perilous overextension if it expands too quickly or if it conquers culturally-different city-states. Any expansion comes with administrative costs; a growing government needs more soldiers, farmers, tax collectors, merchants, and more. If Samuha fails to increase its government capacity, while also taking on vast swaths of new territory, then its rule is threatened. Inhabitants of the territories will view the ruler as inefficient, and will likely be noncompliant with taxes and military support, or will attempt to revolt. Furthermore, enemies will see overextension as a weakness, and will use this as an opportunity to attack. While Suppiluliuma believes there are many benefits to expansion, he is also worried about the potential tolls of rapid growth.

Hittite Religion and Social Life

Hittite religion and social life are inherently connected, since so much of the cultural customs are grounded in religion. When it comes to defining the Hittite religion, there is no set standard; the Hittites have certain gods they prayed to, but there was no limit on how many. A few of the key gods include Arinnitti, the sun goddess and Taru, the weather god. As the Hittites' region of influence grows, rather than forcing their religion on subjects, they adopt the gods from local religions. Therefore, as the Hittites gain more territory, there are more gods added to the fray.

All of this means that there is no true unifying religion and conquered city-states would often practice their own variant of the general Hittite religion. Overall, there is also a sense of sacred kingship, which means that the Hittites regard their kings as sort of gods themselves. This also means that the princes and rulers of individual city-states end up being strongly worshipped by their people. This is one of the reasons for strong allegiance toward local rulers in vassal-states.

Rivalling Tribes/Nations

Although the Kingdom of the Hittites had benefits from being a crossroads of culture and trade, it had the consequences of bringing hostility and rivaling tribes to the region. Anatolia was open to

land attacks from Assyria and the larger Mesopotamian region as a whole, and was vulnerable to sea attacks on its northern, western, and southern coasts. Furthermore, the interests of different states in the Hatti were not always aligned due to differences in resources and local government. Thus, there were occasional issues that arose from regions within Anatolia.

One region of the Hittite empire that proved especially problematic for central rule was the Arzawa.²⁷ This area was located in the southwestern corner of Anatolia, and was particularly strong in local loyalty. Documents describing royal Hittite campaigns against Arzawa reveal the importance of controlling the area for trade with and security from Egypt.²⁸ The Millawanda, Wilusa, and Ahhiyawa were all southwest of the Hittite capital and were in brief conflict or disconnection from the kingdom due to Arzawa interference in their regions.²⁹

The north of Anatolia was a hostile area, due to groups of Kaška and Azzi peoples, who had never actively cooperated with the Great King or the Hittite regional government.³⁰ These tribes did not have extensive resources or military organization, but the threat of attack from within the region was looming. To the east, the Mitanni continuously encroached on Hittite territory, at certain points even seizing the copper deposits at Ergani Maden in Işuwa near the upper Euphrates.³¹ The Mitanni was a relatively new empire that had been created when the Hurrians, an ethnic group led by an Indo-European aristocracy, moved south and west from the Zagros mountains.³² Their state was therefore located in Assyria, but immediately next to the Hittite Empire, and they often tried to push into its borders. Tribes that showed interest in occupying the resource-rich areas of the Hittite Empire were seen as an especially pressing threat and required frequent defense from the kingdom's mercenaries.³³

²⁷ Macqueen, James G.. *The Hittites and Their Contemporaries in Asia Minor*. Singapore: Thames and Hudson, 1996.

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Bryce, Trevor (2011): "The Late Bronze Age in the West and the Aegean." In: *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia 10,000-323 B.C.E.* Sharon R. Steadman & Gregory McMahon (eds.), Oxford University Press, New York, 363-375.

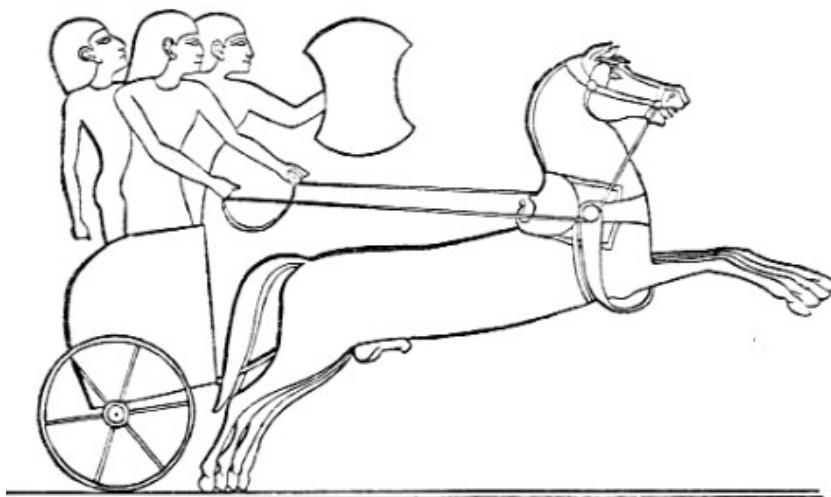
³¹ Ibid

³² Santosuosso, Antonio. "Kadesh Revisited: Reconstructing the Battle Between the Egyptians and the Hittites." *The Journal of Military History* 60, no. 3 (1996): 423-44. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2944519>.

³³ Merriam, Gordon P. "The Regional Geography of Anatolia." *Economic Geography* 2, no. 1 (1926): 86-107. <https://doi.org/10.2307/140225>.

Egypt was one of the prominent rivals at the time of the Hittites. Both large empires, there was often a threat of conflict in the areas of modern-day Syria that lied between them. At the height of Hittite power, the empire had the backing of many vassal states. The strength of such a huge army at that time stood in opposition to the Egyptian forces, which were also large and under the united control of the Pharaoh. The land of Canaan was important to both empires, which left conflict looming in the near future. This tension culminated in the Battle of Kadesh in about 1300 B.C.E., which involved thousands of troops and likely over 5,000 chariots.³⁴ After years of fighting in which one side could never decisively prevail, the Egyptian and Hittite leaders signed a treaty that established borders and allowed the two empires to move forward in their autonomous regions.³⁵

Although the Hittites had productive and peaceful trade with the Assyrians for much of their rule, trade disputes were always possible. At times these played out on smaller scales with just a handful of merchants and individual states in the empire; however, larger problems arose when trade routes were blocked or no longer serving one of the parties' needs.³⁶



Meanwhile, naval hostilities in the larger Mediterranean-Mesopotamian region were an increasing threat. The Mycenaeans had gained control of maritime trade from Minoan Crete centuries earlier, but this control began to involve maritime attacks, as well.³⁷ Coupled with the Mycenaean involvement in the region, there were occasional attacks from the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.³⁸ Vast amounts of destruction was seen on coastal cities, and military movements advanced further

³⁴ Santosuosso, Antonio. "Kadesh Revisited: Reconstructing the Battle Between the Egyptians and the Hittites." *The Journal of Military History* 60, no. 3 (1996): 423–44. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2944519>.

³⁵ Merriam, Gordon P. "The Regional Geography of Anatolia." *Economic Geography* 2, no. 1 (1926): 86–107. <https://doi.org/10.2307/140225>.

³⁶ Volz, Paul. *Hittite Chariot*. n.d. *Wikipedia*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hittites#/media/File:Hittite_Chariot.jpg.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

inward into Cyprus, Syria, and Palestine, as well. These activities were substantial threats to the Hittite Empire.³⁹

Evidently, the Hittite Empire had to contend with rivaling tribes and factions on all sides, especially toward the end of their rule. It was difficult for the Great King to prioritize which groups his forces would engage with, and that decision could be made based on geopolitical threats, economic incentives, or the decisions of individual states. Military strategy was a key component of keeping the empire alive and what led to its eventual end.

Managing New Territories

Managing territories in the Hittite Kingdom has always been an ill-defined task. Early kings would often raid neighboring regions and claim dominance over them. This method was often ineffective as it left the people of those neighboring regions angry and primed for retaliation. By stealing their resources it also took away the value of even keeping territories as subsidiary kingdoms. Eventually Hittite kings began having more peace treaties with nations. These peace treaties functioned as agreements of diplomatic cooperation, a much more cohesive model than destruction and assumed control. The current method of territorial management has to do mostly with presumed city states and vassal states.

There are plenty of city-states which are simply presumed to be a part of the central Hittite Kingdom. This includes city-states like Tarḫuntašša, Kaneš, Karkemish, and others that are closer to the capital of Hattusa. These city-states are often under the control of people close to the King and are known as Viceroys. The Viceroys usually report directly to the King and are in charge of operations in their respective city-states. These presumed city-states usually follow the general religion of the Kingdom and although the people feel a strong sense of allegiance to their city-state they still feel a part of the larger Hittite Kingdom.

Vassal states are indicated via inscribed vassal contracts. These contracts are often drafted after the Hittite army has conquered a certain territory or the city-state has been offered such a deal by

³⁹ Yasur-Landau, Assaf (2010): "Levant." In: The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean. Eric H. Cline (ed.), Oxford University Press, Oxford, 832-848.

members of the Hittite government. The vassal contract consists of some sort of equivalent exchange between the Hittite Kingdom and the vassal state. For example, the vassal state of Ugarit pays tributes of gold and silver to the Kingdom in exchange for protection provided by the Kingdom's army. Such vassal states are located throughout Anatolia and Syria but do not have the same level of allegiance to the Kingdom as the established city-states. They still contribute to the territory "controlled" by the Hittites but people of such vassal states usually have their own gods and stronger support for local rulers.⁴⁰

There are also many cities which simply exist on their own (not under control of any of the ruling Kingdoms) and engage in local trade. These cities (like Troy) interact with the Hittite Kingdom via trade and sometimes get involved in skirmishes but there is no organization hierarchy they are part of. These cities often have political and religious influence from the Hittites especially if they are closer to the central Anatolian region.

The question of how to move forward with managing territories is up in the air. Some say that the Hittites should directly conquer and enshrine more people into the Hittite Kingdom culture via propaganda. Others believe that it is ok to continue with the vassal-state structure. Nevertheless, the ill-defined nature of territorial organization has led to the question of what type of civilization the Hittite Kingdom is. Is it an expanding empire with strong borders or is it more like a loose collection of city-states that sometimes raids outside regions?⁴¹ It is up to the members of the city-states and the Hittite King to determine how the Hittites will be defined moving forward.

⁴⁰ Magnetti, D. L. (1978). The function of the oath in the ancient near eastern international treaty. *American Journal of International Law*, 72(4), 815-829. doi:10.2307/2199778

⁴¹ Glatz, Claudia. "Empire as Network: Spheres of Material Interaction in Late Bronze Age Anatolia." *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* 28, no. 2 (2009): 127–41. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaa.2008.10.003>.

Character Biographies

1. Head Farmer: Karuwa

The production of food is one of the most crucial components to any society and is one of the leading market in the Hittite economy. Karuwa worked tirelessly on his forty acre farm to produce the main crops of the regions: emmer, wheat, and barley. He was always inventive, and shared ideas regarding irrigation and soil enrichment. By the age of twenty-two, he was married with five children. His daughters and sons helped him produce even more on his farm, and even built a shed to house dozens of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and water-buffalo. Karuwa traded his commodities and his secrets to success, in exchange for delicacies such as honey. Suppiluliuma noticed the efficiency of Karuwa and his family, and then promoted him to Head Farmer. In this role, Karuwa is responsible for the development of farms and manages agrarian workers. Karuwa has a variety of tools at his disposal (figuratively and literally), including agricultural technology research, farm inspections, and of course, his trusty farm. As Suppiluliuma's political ambitions grow, Karuwa must find new and creative ways to make sure all the inhabitants of the empire are well-fed. After all, a hungry citizen is an unhappy citizen.

2. Head Merchant: Nadin-Qulali (from ashur)

Nadin-Qulali grew up as a part of one of the few remaining merchant families in Ashur. Ashur has always been known as a trade hub but recently, Nadin-Qulali's family came under hard times, and could no longer support him and all nine of his siblings. For that reason, Nadin-Qulali and several of his other siblings dispersed throughout the land to start new lives. Nadin-Qulali went to Kaneš where he had distant relatives and stayed there, continuing to help out merchants in the area. Eventually, with enough money, he moved to a small village between Samuha and Kaneš where he set up a trading outpost as a rest spot for travelling merchants. He saw potential in Samuha and decided to move there permanently, while still overseeing the trade outpost. With the trade outpost under his control and decades of experience in eastern trade, Nadin-Qulali became the most influential merchant in Samuha, often bringing in valuable goods from around the world. Now he works with Suppiluliuma to source rare materials and goods to make sure that Samuha as a whole can prosper.

3. Head Artisan: Nuwanza

Nuwanza was tragically orphaned at a young age, and was adopted by her aunt. Together, they traveled in a trade caravan around Anatolia, but also Mesopotamia and even Egypt. This cultural exposure at a young age helped Nuwanza become fluent in a variety of languages. Nuwanza learned stone cutting and wood carving with the children of the Egyptian Pharaoh. As her aunt facilitated trade with artisans around the world, Nuwanza picked up on different art practices and also learned to read and write. When she eventually set up a shop in Samuha, Nuwanza combined all her skills and became a well-respected cuneiform expert. Suppiluliuma recruited her as head artisan, mostly because of her ability to produce beautiful tablets for peace treaties, literature, and history documentation. Nuwanza is well-connected and very crafty. She can potentially use her position to create counterfeit cuneiform tablets to forge fabricated claims. Regardless of her methods, Nuwanza hopes to bring about a new age of artistic excellence and literacy, for all peoples and cultures.

4. Head Architect: Lakan

Lakan combines practicality and passion in his work. As Head Architect, he has employed logic and creativity in designing massive protective walls to fulfill the task of defending Hittite cities from attack. He is regularly consulted on matters of conquest and defense, given his expertise and interest in these topics, and has a close relationship with several soldiers. Nonetheless, Lakan also maintains that establishing Hittite culture is an important secondary goal in his work. He incorporates large animal statues, usually depicting a lion or sphinx, into the entrance gates of the city walls. Moreover, he has undertaken the construction of several temples, which are the sites of foundational religious rituals and contain Hittite art. Having mastered the art of cyclopean masonry, an architecture form in which stones are held together without an adhesive, Lakan is characterized by balance, both in his professional and personal lives. As the region contains plentiful natural resources for building, the scope of possible architectural projects will only be bound by Lakan's imagination.

5. *Head Soldier: Akuwa*

A military man through and through, Akuwa grew up in a family where army service was more or less an expectation for every child. When growing up, he became well trained in the usual Hittite weapons: the spear, the axe, and the sickle sword. However, Akuwa would often hunt for geese with a bow and arrow, where he showed true skill. After an outstanding tenure as an archer in his local army, Akuwa was fast tracked to the position of Head Soldier in Suppiluliuma's army. As the first action in this command role, Akuwa set up a caravan and toured all settlements and cities in Anatolia. Akuwa understood the importance of terrain in any battle, and was prepared to defend or attack on any front. The units under his command were trained in a variety of formations and combat styles. Suppiluliuma's army, led by Akuwa, was also supported by allies and vassals around the region. The only weakness of Akuwa is his fear of horses, which may prove to be a problem, given the prominence of horse-drawn chariots among the Hittite military. Nevertheless, Akuwa hopes to conquer this fear, just as he hopes to conquer nearby resource-rich territories. In order to advance the prominence of Suppiluliuma's reign, Akuwa hopes to train an army in endurance, mobility, and strategy.

6. *Viceroy's Head Guard: Hepatasu*

Hepatasu grew up as a close friend of Tudhaliya III and served him well in many conflicts. As Tudhaliya began to have children, he put Hepatasu in charge of protection. Hepatasu also has a small honey farm, and would share this sweet treat with Tudhaliya's family members. Suppiluliuma was always one to get into sticky situations (with the honey but also with juvenile mistakes), so Hepatasu often found himself looking after him. Over the years, Hepatasu has given advice to Suppiluliuma and has stuck by his side as a mentor and a guardian. His close combat skills definitely make him formidable, which adds on to his reputation as an excellent strategist. Hepatasu is now stationed at Samuha with Suppiluliuma where he commands a small group of well trained soldiers to be personal guards for Suppiluliuma and his family.

7. Head Miner: Pikku

Pikku is the head miner in Samuha. Pikku was born in Samuha but went to stay at Kaneš with his uncle at a young age. In Kaneš, Pikku observed his uncle's trade business which had been in the family for generations, but had recently been struggling. The trade involved sending gold and silver from the north and south, to the east for tin and textiles. As mineral shortages became more frequent, Pikku's uncle sent him back to Samuha to start up a mine. Pikku taught himself mining techniques and established a mine in Samuha where he employed local workers. Most of the gold silver found by Pikku is sent to his uncle in Kaneš, however his uncle still struggles with running this business. Therefore, Pikku opened up a mine far in the north in order to help meet demand. With these two mines running Pikku knew how to source any mineral that could be mined in Anatolia. Pikku's minerals and trade often helped craft weapons during war efforts which caught the eye of Suppiluliuma. Since then, Pikku has been working with Suppiluliuma to expand the mining business as well as utilize it to help Samuha prosper.

8. Panku representative: Hapaziti

Hapaziti is a representative of the Panku or the high court of the Hittite Kingdom. Hapaziti grew up as a part of a wealthy family in the small town Sinope outside of the northern reaches of the Kingdom. His family was the informal leader of the town as his father was responsible for overseeing trade and his mother was responsible for all religious duties. Hapaziti would often spend his days fishing in the black sea and helping his father with the trading business. When he got older, Hapaziti took him and his family to Hattusa where he managed caravans that traded to the north to import fish into the Hittite Kingdom. Hapaziti didn't originally consider himself to be Hittite but after years of living in Hattusa his persona shifted. He had a sense of pride for the Hittite Kingdom and wanted to get more involved. Thus, he sought out a position on the Panku and ended up getting it due to his wealth and social status. Now, as a member of a Panku, Hapaziti advises the royal family in times of distress, mostly on matters of regional trade. As of recently he has been working with Suppiluliuma in Samuha and reports to him the discussions of the Panku.

9. *High priest: Anitta*

Anitta is the medium between the earthly and spiritual worlds. In order to ensure good fortune, Hittites look to the guidance of Anitta through ritual. The community's prosperity relies upon earning favor with the gods and goddesses of the elements, and thus Anitta holds a central role in both spiritual and economic affairs. A gifted orator from birth, she captures crowds with her knowledge and conviction; she often leads rituals on important occasions or during hard times. As high priest, she commands a group of scribes who record religious documents; these form an important part of Hittite temple organization, administration and personal accounts. Given the interconnectedness of religion and society, Anitta works closely with individuals in the arts of ritual performance, healing, and divination. Through these connections, Anitta has developed both a passion and skill for the arts and healing; she regularly carves religious stone figures and provides therapy to quarrelling families. A woman of many talents, Anitta is respected for her connection to the gods, her immense knowledge, and her compassion for others, and her word is valued highly among the Hittites.

10. *Archivist of Samuha: Massana*

Massana was always clearly smarter than the rest of the children his age. He learned to write in cuneiform and draw hieroglyphic luwian at a young age and he would make money on the streets by writing things for others around Samuha. Since his father was a merchant, he would often travel to parts of Syria where he learned how to speak Assyrian as well. When he returned to Samuha, he would still write letters to his friends in cities in Syria while taking up a job as a certifier of inscribed trade agreements. Eventually he took on the task of learning how to read Egyptian hieroglyphs. As he engaged in this task he was the assistant to the archivist of Samuha at the time. During this job he learned about Hittite history and took a particular interest in the affairs of the Old Kingdom. After the archivist passed away a few years, Massana took the role of archivist of Samuha. As archivist, Massana organizes the archives and collects royal tablets. He also still helps around town with translations, negotiations, and trade agreements.

11. Representative from Tarḫuntašša: Uppakili

Uppakili was born and raised in Tarḫuntašša and he is proud of it. Uppakili has always felt that he would be fit to rule. In fact, he is technically nobility since he is in some distant way related to the wife of Suppiluliuma. Despite this, Uppakili knew he had an uphill battle. He was the youngest of 9 brothers and his family wasn't even that closely related to King Tudhaliya even though they were wealthy. Knowing that his path to royalty was clouded, Uppakili searched for military glory by becoming a soldier. He spent time refining his military strategy and his wits were good enough to beat opponents even if he was outmatched in numbers. His cunning nature led him to be stationed at Samuha where he would help Suppiluliuma with military strategy all while rallying troops and supplies by coordinating with his home of Tarḫuntašša.

12. Representative from Aleppo: Enlil

Enlil is a representative from the city of Aleppo in northern Syria. Enlil's family is Assyrian but he has lived among both Hittites and Assyrians for years now due to the tumultuous nature of Aleppo. Enlil grew up wanting to be an Artisan like both of his parents but unfortunately he was really bad at pottery and ended up dropping his career path. Instead Enlil would spend his time as a caravan assistant, joining merchants on long trade routes, exploring the far reaches of the known world including parts of the Mitanni empire and even Babylonia under the Kassite dynasty. When he came of age to pick a profession, his caravan was parked at Samuha. His extensive knowledge of the eastern reaches of the Kingdom and beyond caught the eye of Suppiluliuma and Enlil was asked to stay as an advisor to Suppiluliuma. Now Enlil spends his time advising Suppiluliuma about middle-eastern geography and politics while giving reports from Aleppo every so often.

13. Son of Suppiluliuma I: Sarri-Kusuh

Sarri-Kusuh, son of Suppiluliuma is a scholar at heart. He loves learning new things and growing up in royalty means that he has always been able to spend time pursuing what he loves. From a young age, Sarri-Kusuh was particularly interested in learning about medical practices and how to help people who were diseased. He would travel to intellectual hubs in the fertile crescent to learn about the foremost medical practices. While he had no experience in personally performing such rituals

and procedures, he was a patron of the sciences and frequently brought back texts that would be useful around the kingdom. Now, Sarri-Kusuh still keeps in touch with scholars around the world and has several informal groups of scientists who collect reagents and further research in medicine. He knows that by collecting more knowledge in science and medicine, Samuha's population can grow and flourish.

14. Son of Suppiluliuma I: Zannanza

Zannanza, son of Suppiluliuma, is often spending time traveling the world. He is sent on diplomatic missions by his father to negotiate and serve as royal messenger. He has spent extended periods of time in Egypt and Mesopotamia, as well as some stints on the island of Cyprus. In his expeditions he often meets many new people and learns about different cultures, making him well connected throughout Anatolia, and the Fertile Crescent. While Zannanza may not get as much control over royal matters, he definitely still has access to wealth as well as protected caravans for his travels. Zannanza does not believe that conquest is a viable solution for long-term stability and growth. Instead, Zannanza hopes to create diplomatic networks between city-states to foster trade and cultural development.

15. Daughter of Suppiluliuma I: Muwatti

Muwatti has grown up in the royal spotlight, often spending time with previous Hittite queens. She always wanted power, but knew it would be difficult with five brothers. She was publicly exactly what she needed to be: wise, with strong public relations skills. In private, she knew she needed some practical knowledge so she decided to learn how to mix reagents. This skill allowed her to make different dyes and perfumes which she would use to impress those around her. She wanted to prove that just because one is royal, does not mean they are confined to a ritualistic role. Now, she spends her time perfecting her craft and learning from those around her while using her extensive knowledge of Hittite history to give advice to her father. On the side, she also sells some of her dyes and perfumes, earning some wealth through this small business.

16. Son of Suppiluliuma I: Mursili II

Mursili II is the third born son of Suppiluliuma. As a middle child, Mursili regrets never getting the undivided attention of his father in the way his older and younger siblings did. Mursili makes up for it, however, with prodigious athletic and military prowess. At the tender age of 14, Mursili made a clean sweep of an empire-wide athletics competition hosted by his father, winning the archery, chariot racing, and foot racing events. His athletic abilities have also translated to combat training, where he has quickly become a master of the sword, spear, and bow. Such talent has gained him the respect of many men in his father's army, although Mursili still has a few years of maturing to do before he's ready to be a full-blown commander. Mursili resides in Samuha with his father, where he serves as a lieutenant in the army and dominates local athletic tournaments in his free time. Mursili does not believe that large-scale conquest will be sustainable. Instead, he believes Samuha should build a well-trained, defensive army. With this kind of strength, Mursili hopes that other city-states would be eager to forge alliances with Samuha, or will pay Samuha for protective services.

17. Son of Suppiluliuma I: Arnuwanda II

Arnuwanda II is Suppiluliuma's first born son and presumed heir. A natural-born leader and commander, the only thing stopping Arnuwanda from being king one day is whether he wants it. Arnuwanda's official role is as a strategy and intelligence advisor to his father. In particular, Arnuwanda has a keen eye for analyzing and predicting the military movements of his father's enemies, thanks to a network of intelligence agents throughout the empire. Despite being a fierce fighter and shrewd diplomat, Arnuwanda's real passion lies in a far less practical area – music. Arnuwanda is exceptionally skilled at playing the lyre, and reports of the beauty of his tenor voice have reached as far as India. Much to his father's chagrin, Arnuwanda spends the bare minimum of time on his official duties, preferring to spend his off hours sitting in the gardens and composing new songs on lyre.

18. Son of Suppiluliuma I: Telipinu

Named after the Hittite agricultural god, Telipinu could not possibly have less interest in agriculture. As an apprentice in his father's agriculture department, Telipinu dreads the endless discussions over

farmers' wages, seed prices, and threats of crop blights. However, Telipinu has put his talents as an inventor to great use, designing a bronze plow that exponentially decreases the time it takes to plow fields while also resulting in greater crop yield. Telipinu's room in the palace is filled with other ingenious gadgets that he's been tinkering with. Suppiluliuma recognizes his son's intelligence, but hopes it can be applied in more useful areas in the future. Telipinu spends most of his time tinkering in his workshop and reading foreign blueprints, and is eager to bring new inventions to his father.

19. Representative from Kanesh: Pithana

Pithana is the ruler and representative of the city-state of Kanesh, located in central Anatolia. Kanesh is an important merchant colony and a key hub of the Anatolian trade network. Pithana is also king of the nearby city of Kussara, where he began his reign. While Pithana has no direct reason to dislike Suppiluliuma, he is wary of the young prince's ambitions, and wants to ensure that his people and their autonomy is not threatened by Suppiluliuma's growing power.

20. Representative from Alaca: Tiawataura

Alaca is a city in central Anatolia, part of the Hattian network of city states. Alaca is known as a great cultural center, as well as an important site for gold mining and bronze production. The Hatti people are an ancient cultural group, with a distinct language and history from the Hittites. The Hatti and Hittites have clashed in Anatolia several times before, so Tiawataura hopes that Suppiluliuma can forge a better relationship (or at least one that benefits Alaca more) than Tudhaliya has.

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