Physical Geography

Rugged Mountains
granite

timber
copper
silver
iron
glasslands
grazing
horses
barley and
grapes
harsh
winters
limited
campaign
season

Natural Resources of Anatolia: CU, FE, AG

The Hittites (1900-1200)

Indo-European people
- migrated from the N. shore of the Black Sea ~3500
1900 established in Anatolia
1500 society developed Feudal society
- placing ethnic Hatti over local population
- order based on land holdings (fiefdoms)
- council of powerful families
"Great Family" held highest offices
- military command based on blood-kin
- officer corps, professional army
expanded as Hittites expanded into Syria and Upper Euphrates
Capital at Hattusas

The Hittites, Kassites and Hurrians
## Hittite Chronology

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### Hittite: Indo-European

The language is attested in cuneiform, in records from as early as the 20th century BCE down to the 12th century BCE.

Thousands of tablets found at Bogazköy

![Attested Hittite Cities](image-url)
The Hittite Old Kingdom

- **Labarna I** (1680-1650 BCE)
  - "the powerful"
  - conquered the core of Hittite territory
  - early history remains obscure
  - constant war with the Arzawa in the west

- **Hattusili I** (1650-1620 BCE)
  - son of Labarna
  - successful general
  - Record of his military exploits
    - *Annals of Hattusili*
    - *Palace Chronicles*
    - *Edict of Telipinu*

- **Mursili I** (1620-1590 BCE)
  - grandson of Hattusili
  - campaigned against Halap, the Hurrians Syria and Babylon
    - sacked Babylon (1595 BCE)
  - upon his victorious return to Hattusha, was killed by brother-in-law
    - cup bearer who marries Mursili's sister

Babylon (1595 BCE)
Edict of Telipinu

§8 When Muršili became king in Ḫattuša, his sons, his brothers, his in-laws, his relatives, and his troops were united, too. He held the enemy lands in subjugation by (his) might. He overwhelmed the lands and he made them borders of the sea.

§9 He went to Ḫalpa, he destroyed Ḫalpa, and he brought civilian captives of Ḫalpa and its goods to Ḫattuša. Later he went to Babylon, he destroyed Babylon, he repulsed the Hurrians, and he kept the civilian captives of Babylon and its goods in Ḫattuša.

Palace coup and civil war

• §10 Ḫantili was a cup-bearer and he had Ḫarapšili, [sister] of Muršili, as (his) wife.
• §11 Zidanta, [some court official] had [*name of wife missing], the daughter of Ḫantili, for (his) wife, and he joined up with Ḫantili and they did an evil deed - they killed Muršili, they shed blood!
• §18 When Ḫantili [became] an old man and was about to become a god, Zidanta killed [Pišeni], son of Ḫantili, along with his children, [and] he killed his foremost servants.
• §19 And Zidanta became king. The gods sought (justice for) the blood of Pišeni. The gods made [Ammuna, his] begotten (son), into his enemy, and he killed Zidanta, his father.

Edict of Telipinu

§20 And Ammunna became king. The gods sought [justice for] the blood of Zidanta, his father, and in his hand [they did] not [make] him, or the grain, or […] or the wine, or the cattle or sheep [prosper].

27 Blood[shed] of the whole royal family has become common! Ištapariya, the queen, died. Later it came to be that Ammunna, the prince, died. The Men of the Gods keep saying, "Blood[shed] has now become common in Ḫattuša!" I, Telipinu, called an assembly in Ḫattuša. From this moment on let no one in Ḫattuša do evil to a son of the (royal) family and draw a dagger against him!

§28 Let a prince - a son - of the first rank only be installed as king! If a prince of the first rank does not exist, (then) let he who is a son of second rank become king. But if there is no prince, no male issue, (then) let them take antijant-husband for she who is a first rank daughter, and let him become king.
**Social Organization**

**Feudal**

- 2 classes of fief holders
  - liegeman
  - “man of the weapon”
- received land for service but reverted back to king after death
- constant family struggles for authority

**Statue of a god (or deified king?)**

North Syria, 17th century BCE
Cleveland Museum of Art, 1971.45

**Hittite Cult Statue Worship**

- Cult statue was the central focus of Hittite temple worship

**Hittite Temple Inventory**

- One statue of wood, of a woman seated, veiled, of one dekan, its head inlaid with gold.
  - The body and the throne [are] inlaid with tin.
- Two wooden sheep covered with tin are seated beneath the goddess, to the right and left.
- One eagle inlaid with tin, two copper scepters, two cups of bronze. Utensils of the goddess are present.
- She has a new temple; she has a priest; the groom [is] a holdover.
- And the war god (ZABABA) is present in the form of “a statue (of) silver
  - [represented as] a man [standing]:
  - In his right hand he holds a mace, in his left [hand] he holds a shield.
- Beneath him [stands] a lion in a base inlaid in silver.

Ceremonial rhytons in the shape of the Storm God’s bulls, Seri and Ḫurni. From Boğazkale, dated to the 16th century BCE
Hurrians and Mitanni

- Hurrians are an ethnic group attested in the ANE from the 3rd to the 1st millennium BCE
- Reached their greatest geographical extent during the second half of the 2nd millennium BCE they and figured prominently in the history and culture of the Near East.

The Hurrians

- The Hurrians (or Khurrites) were neither Semitics nor Indo-Europeans, but their origins are obscure.
- In Chalcolithic belong to Halaf Culture
- Emerged between 2500-2000 BCE probably from the Caucasus mountains to the north, to occupy the upper Tigris Valley and the upper Euphrates
  - (close to the Assyrians)

Hurrians

- The end of the Akkadian empire enabled them to gain control of regions of northern Mesopotamia towards the end of the third millennium BCE
2300 BCE
- founded the small state (or states) of Urkesh & Nawar, based on the two cities of the same name in northern Mesopotamia

2225 BCE
- The daughter of Naram-Sin, king of Akkad, Tar'Am-Agade, marries a king of Urkesh who might possibly be Tupkish
  - Nawar seems to fall under the control of the Akkadian empire for a period, with the city serving as an administrative center.

1850 BCE
- The new Amorite rulers of Mari subdue Urkesh, making it a vassal state.
  - the locals do not submit easily, and letters sent back to Mari attest to a strong sense of resistance against foreign rule.

1809 BCE
- Urkesh is made a vassal of the kingdom of Upper Mesopotamia,
  - Hurrians also begin migrating west in this period, where they can be found in cities such as Alakhtum

1650 BCE
- Hurrians invade the Old Hittite empire several times, and campaign southwards, perhaps pushing refugees from Syria and the Levant into Egypt
  - refugees possibly form the Hyksos peoples
The Hurrian Empire

1600 BCE an Indo-Aryan Iranian people called the Mitanni established themselves amidst the Hurrians as a warrior class. 

- The two peoples quickly merged together and came to dominate their neighbors. Under their direction the city states formed a confederation known as Mitanni.
- This confederation which opposed the advance of the Egyptian pharaohs of the 18th dynasty.

The Autobiography of Idri-mi of Alalakh

The autobiography of Idri-mi is inscribed on this statue. Idri-mi's life story reads like a great romantic adventure 

- the prince, driven from his home and forced to spend long years in exile, returned victoriously to repossess his homeland and live out a glorious reign

- took possession of Niya, Ama'e, Mukish, and Alalakh

- statue was broken into pieces and "reburied" in a grave as if human

- sacral power for votive statues

Idri-mi of Alalakh

"I had a house built by means of the prisoners, the provisions, riches, possessions and property which I had brought down from the country of the Hittites; I made my throne like the throne of kings, my brothers like brothers of kings, my children like their children, and my guardsmen like their guardsmen. I made the Sutu tribes within my country settle in secure settlements, and those who did not want to live in settlements I made do so."
The Kassites
non-Semitic, non-Indo-European mountain people
1732 BCE
• migrating into Mesopotamia from Zagros
  — mostly being used as farm workers by Babylon
• Akkadians claiming descent from Isin now set up
  their own territory in southern Mesopotamia's
  Sealand region, removing it from the control of
  the Amorites to their north.
• invading army of Kassites is defeated and retreat
  to the kingdom of Mari.

Kassites take over Mesopotamia
1595 The economically
weakened Amorite
Babylonian empire is sacked
by the Hittites and left
leaderless
• allows the Kassites to
  move south from Mari
  and take over
  — A dark age period follows
    and lasts approx two
    centuries
  — Kassites devastate Elam.

Kassite Dynasty (1596-1155 BCE)
• renamed Babylon "Kar-Duniash"
  — rule lasted for 576 years.
• Most divine attributes ascribed to the Semitic
  Amorite kings of Babylonia disappeared at this time
  — title of God was never given to a Kassite sovereign.
• Babylon continued to be the capital of the kingdom
  and the 'holy' city of western Asia, where the priests
  were all-powerful, and the only place where the
  right to inheritance of the short lived old Babylonian
  empire could be conferred.
The partly restored ziggurat of Dur-Kurigalzu