

The Ancient Hittites – Outline

I. Early history

- a. Little known about them until archaeological discoveries of early 20th century
- b. Migrated to Asia Minor (modern Turkey) from northern Europe circa 3000 BCE

II. First Hittite Empire

- a. 1900 BCE
- b. Empire stretched from Aegean Sea to Euphrates River

III. Second Hittite Empire

- a. 1500-1200 BCE
- b. Included Asia Minor, Palestine, and Syria
- c. Decline and fall
 - i. Continuous warfare with Egypt
 - ii. 1200 BCE – conquered by northern barbarians
 - iii. Eventually absorbed by Assyria

IV. Economy

- a. Link between Mesopotamia and western Asia
- b. Had monopoly on Armenian and European metals for hundreds of years
- c. Developed iron for tools and weapons
- d. Wealth from trade of gold, iron, lead, and silver
- e. Trade shown in numerous excavated clay tablets

V. Government

- a. Ruled by a king
- b. Heavily fortified city walls
- c. Written laws show Babylonian influence

VI. Art

- a. Crude
- b. Stone lions at city entrances
- c. Carvings of animals and warriors

VII. Review questions

- a. Where was the Hittite empire located?
- b. What major contribution did the Hittites make to military warfare and world civilization?
- c. Describe the decline and fall of the Hittite empire.
- d. Describe Hittite art.