

ANCIENT EGYPT

CH 4: Section 5: pp. 107 - 113 in *World History* textbook

ANCIENT KUSH

THE BIG IDEA: The kingdom of Kush, which arose south of Egypt in Nubia, developed an advanced civilization with a large trading network.

THE MAIN IDEAS:

1. The geography of early Nubia helped civilization develop there.
2. Kush and Egypt traded, but they also fought.
3. Later Kush became a trading power with a unique culture.
4. Both internal and external factors led to the decline of Kush.

VOCABULARY:

1. **Piankhi [p. 110]:** son of Kashta, he continued his father's campaign against Egypt. Believed the gods wished him to rule all of Egypt and conquered from Napata to the Nile Delta by his death ca. 716 B.C.
2. **Trade network [p. 111]:** a system of people in different lands who trade goods.
3. **merchants [p. 111]:** traders who carried goods to ports on Mediterranean and Red seas, into southern Africa, and possibly as far as ancient India and China.
4. **exports [p. 111]:** items sent out to other regions
5. **imports [p. 111]:** items brought in from other regions
6. **Queen Shanakhdakheto [p. 113]:** first female ruler of Kush who ruled alone for 20 years.
7. **King Ezana [p. 113]:** King from Aksum, a rival kingdom in modern day Ethiopia/Eritrea, who conquered Kush after destroying its economic center at Meroë.

I. **The Geography of Early Nubia:** a region in southern Egypt. Kush = first kingdom in interior of Africa. Kush = Egyptian name. Influenced by Nile.

a. **The Land of Nubia:** Today = mostly desert. Ancient Nubia = more fertile (Nile flood brought silt). Rich in minerals: gold, copper, stone. More minerals = more wealth.

b. **Early Civilization in Nubia:** Nubians planted during summer and winter.

Crops: wheat, barley, grains. Village → villages → kingdom. Capital: **Kerma**.

Cataracts: natural barrier of protection from Egypt.

Society: grew more complex. Farmers/herders + priests + artisans

- II. Kush and Egypt:** When at peace, Egypt and Kush were prosperous (Ex. Kush supplied laborers (slaves) and raw goods such as ebony, ivory, stone, copper, and gold). When at war, one side profited while the other suffered loss.
- a. **Egypt's Conquest of Kush:** Egypt began to fear Kushite growth, wealth, and military strength. To prevent an attack, Thutmose I sent his army ca. 1500 B.C. and conquered all land north of 5th Cataract. Result: Kush becomes part of Egyptian empire. Destroyed capital at Kerma ☹️ Ramses the Great builds temples on conquered land.
 - b. **Effects of the Conquest:** Kush remains under Egyptian control for 450 years. Egyptians move in and influence Kushite culture (language, clothing, religion).
 - c. **A Change in Power:** New Kingdom of Egypt ending. Kushite leaders regain power. Kush gains independence! 200 years of mystery: what were they doing? No records exist.
 - d. **The Conquest of Egypt:** Ca. 850 B.C., Kush achieved enough military strength to attack Egypt. New capital: Napata on the Nile SE of Kerma. Kush strengthens, Egypt weakens. **King Kashta** attacks Egypt, conquered Upper Egypt, and started working with Lower Egypt. His son, **Pianki**, continued the campaign and conquered cities including Memphis. Success! By his death, Kush controlled Napata to the Delta.
 - e. **The Kushite Dynasty:** Pianki's brother, **Shabaka** declared himself Pharaoh and began the 25th Dynasty of *Egypt*. Shabaka and later rulers attempted to restore Egyptian cultural practices (Ex. pyramids and temples). Egyptian culture thrived!
 - f. **The End of Kushite Rule in Egypt:** Dynasty lasted 40 years until it fell to Assyrians (Mesopotamia) largely because of iron weaponry (iron > bronze and archery). In 10 years, Kushites were pushed south out of Egypt entirely.
- III. Later Kush:** shift back to agriculture and trade.
- a. **Kush's Iron Industry:** Meroë became economic center and new capital. Nearby resources: gold, ebony, wood, and (most importantly) **iron ore**. Kush developed first African iron industry.
 - b. **The Expansion of Trade:** Meroë became center of **trade network**. Kushites sent goods north downriver to Egypt and beyond (Med. Sea). Traded with Egyptian and Greek **merchants**. **Exports:** gold, pottery, iron, slaves, ivory. **Imports:** jewelry and other luxury items.
 - c. **Kushite Culture:** With increased trade, Kushite culture grew more varied.
 - d. Kush ultimately falls to **King Ezana** from **Axum** [modern day **Eritrea**].