

Chapter 17



Diplomacy and the Great Powers

Tadu-Heba and Amenhotep III

Setting: 1350 BCE, Thebes, Egypt

Tadu-Heba on her way to marry Egypt's aging king Amenhotep III. Traveled from Syria along with servants and gifts (chariots, weapons made of gold, horses, suits of armor, etc) Gifts for the bride: her rich dowry from her “doting” father. Egypt celebrates this marriage. Promised peace between land of Mittani (kingdom of Northern Mesopotamia)

New life for Tadu-Heba; different customs, different language (she spoke Hurrian). Marriages between countries/regions were common during this time. Kings had many wives, couldn't always keep track of them

Egypt, Mittani, Babylon, Hatti, Alashiya (Cyprus) = all at peace with one another After centuries of fighting, form the “Great Kings”. Egypt richest of 5 powers

Called one another “brother” signifying kinship/friendly bond between powers

Mittani

Mittani: empire began around 1500 BCE in Northern Mesopotamia, spoke different languages but used Akkadian as official language. Akkadian becomes official language of diplomacy

Mittani enemies with Hittites; both wanted to control port on Mediterranean Sea. 15th century BCE = Egypt and Hittites fight Mittani; 14th century BCE = borders between the great powers become settled. 5 “Brother Kings” enjoy era of prosperity and friendship

14th century BCE = known as International Age of ancient Near Eastern history

Wealth of information: kings wrote to one another using cuneiform script on baked clay tablets



International Age comes to an end

Destruction of the ancient city of Ugarit

Location: Along northern part of Mediterranean Sea

1185 BCE = Ugarit's king, Ammurapi, sees warships in harbor

Warships land, Ugarit unable to defend itself, Ugarit's residents flee, invaders burn city. Hittites capital of Hattusa was also burned and abandoned around the same time

Who were these invaders?. Refugees from another part of the Mediterranean Sea?

Called the “Sea People” by the Egyptians (attacked Egypt around the same time)

Aftermath

1100 BCE: Near East a changed place

Kingdoms of Mittani, Hatti, Alashiya = gone

Egypt struggling to stay in one piece

Babylon in decline

no trade