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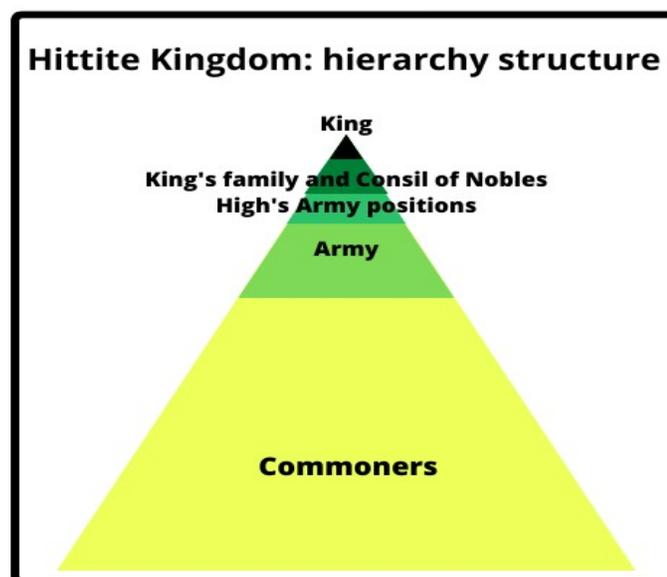
HIS 113: World Civilization I (OA)

February 3, 2023

Hittite Kingdom: hierarchy structure and cultural frame

The Hittite kingdom was a complex hierarchical society with a well-defined structure of power and authority. The hierarchy of the Hittite kingdom resembles other ancient civilizations, such as the Egyptian and Babylonian, in which the king held the highest level of authority and was considered divine. The king was assisted by a council of nobles and a body of administrators who helped him to govern the kingdom. Below the king were members of the royal family, who held important positions within the government and wielded significant influence. The Hittite army was also an important part of the kingdom's hierarchy and its commanders held high positions. This is a common feature of many ancient societies that believed in divine right and the idea that the ruler was chosen by the gods.

(Figure 1)



In terms of culture, the Hittites were polytheistic and had a pantheon of gods and goddesses who were worshiped and revered. Religion played a significant role in Hittite society, and the king was responsible for performing important rituals and religious offerings. The Hittites also believed in ancestor worship and the importance of maintaining good relationships with the spirits of your ancestors. Art, literature, and architecture were also highly prized in Hittite culture, and the kingdom produced many fine works of art and impressive architectural feats. The Hittites were skilled metalworkers and their metal objects such as weapons and jewelry were highly sought after.

However, there are cultural and organizational features that distinguish the Hittite kingdom from other ancient civilizations. One of these characteristics is the importance given to the role of the royal family and the council of nobles in assisting the king in governance. This government structure shared power and responsibility, which was unique in the ancient world, where absolute monarchy was more common.

Additionally, the Hittites were one of the first civilizations to use a written legal code known as the Hittite Laws. This shows a high level of organizational and administrative sophistication and a recognition of the importance of codified laws in maintaining order and stability within the kingdom.

In conclusion, the Hittite kingdom was a highly structured society with a well-defined hierarchy, where religion and culture played an important role. Although the Hittite kingdom's hierarchy resembles that of other ancient civilizations, its unique cultural and organizational characteristics set it apart and demonstrate the high level of sophistication and complexity of Hittite society.

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