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Research and Writing Assignment 1- The Hittite Kingdom

The Hittites were the first Indo-European chariot warriors to move into Asia Minor and established a kingdom around 1750 BCE. This government was also the first constitutional monarchy of this time. Regarding hierarchy structure, the Hittites had a monarchy where one person, the Great King, ruled over the people and was at the top of the class along with his family. Then came nobles, priests, and warriors. After the people of importance in their society, metal workers, skilled traders, and merchants (anyone of valuable work) came next in the pyramid of social class. After them came farmers and then “unskilled workers” like slaves.

Surprisingly, I found many similarities between the Hittite Empire and the Shang Dynasty. Warrior elites in the Hittite kingdom held the same importance as priestly and scribble elites, running the administrative systems. Kings were considered military commanders, the highest religious official, and had the final say in political disputes (*Hittite Political Structure, Laws & Economy*). These rulers were also war leaders, and as before, they would maintain divinely inspired order. Like the Hittite Empire, the rulers of the Shang Dynasty were highly backed up by their warriors and military, which

intimidated many of the surrounding regions. Similarly, the ruler of both societies served as the head of both religious and political affairs.

According to Study.com's history course on the Hittite political structure, laws, and economy, the Hittites were unique in many ways. Compared to other civilizations, the Hittites had the earliest known constitutional monarchy. The website also states that other officials controlled different levels of government independently from the king. This way of governing was very unique for this time, as many rulers were controlling and didn't allow for much help from other people. These roles created a bureaucracy, as each level of rule had different tasks to help the king. What I found most interesting in my research of the Hittite government is that some of these positions under the king were so powerful that foreign leaders would discuss political issues directly with the lower government officials rather than with the king (*Hittite Political Structure, Laws & Economy*).

Work Cited

“Hittite Political Structure, Laws & Economy.” *Study.com* |
<https://study.com/learn/lesson/hittite-political-structure-laws-economy.html>.