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As confirmed by archaeological findings, the Hittites were a group of people who emerged during the Agrarian Era. The Indo-European people group became one of the most powerful communities in the Middle East at the time (Encyclopedia Britannica). They were a warring people, which is what drove them to conquer much of the region around them. For generations they maintain power through what seemed to be an efficient socioeconomic system, that is until their own conquest and fall. The way that the Hittites structured their state was similar to others of that time. However, the king held more of an all-encompassing role.

The king was held in high esteem as a hereditary power, who was understood to have been upheld by the gods. Although there is little known about Hittite religion and spirituality, we can conclude that their religious understandings were the foundations of the socioeconomic system; much of their perspective on political figures stemmed from their religious values. For example, the king and queen were seen as the highest authority and functioned as the caretakers and servants of the deities: they served as a reflection of the divine and the people's bridge to the gods (Bonatz).

By way of their unearthed records, it is known that the Hittite king was the people's "chief ruler, military leader, and supreme judge...", in addition to being a conduit of divine power (Encyclopedia Britannica). Other members of society such as warriors, scribes, and

commoners all functioned in their roles but nothing came close to the power of the king. Royal power was passed down hereditarily and among elite, royal family members gender was not much of a distinctual factor. Each member of society functioned accordingly, but there was an inarguable position for hereditary status at the top of the pyramid. The elites would have been other politicians and government officials who worked alongside the royals. Toward the bottom of the pyramid were the commoners who honed in on the skills of metallurgy, which the Hittites are well known for.

Our society today is certainly top-heavy with the power of politicians, but not for the same reasons as the Hittites. I think that Hittite culture would be more comparable to social classes in a country belonging to a monarchy rather than the United States. I also believe that the Hittite ideal of indifference toward women in high political power is not tightly held in the United States. Again, I find their system more comparable to that of Great Britain or a similar monarch-style government.

Works Cited

Bonatz, Dominik. "The Divine Image of the King: Religious Representation of Political Power in the Hittite Empire." *Representations of Political Power: Case Histories from Times of Change and Dissolving Order in the Ancient Near East*, edited by Marlies Heinz and Marian H. Feldman, Penn State University Press, 2007, pp. 111–36. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.5325/j.ctv1bxh1g0.11>. Accessed 7 Feb. 2023.

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