

Ancient Egypt: Kush**

- Nubia is the land just south of Egypt
- It was home to one of the first great kingdoms in interior Africa
 - Egyptians called the kingdom Kush
- The land was similar to Egypt with the Nile River and floods
 - Very rich in minerals
 - Gold, copper, and stone
- Around 3500BCE farming villages appeared in Nubia
 - Around 2000BCE, the first kingdom begins in Kush
- The cataracts on the Nile provided protection for Kush
 - These kept them safe from invasion by Egypt
 - The capital city of Kush was Kerma
- Early on, Egypt and Kush were peaceful neighbors
 - They helped each other prosper through trading
 - Kush sent minerals, ebony, and ivory to Egypt
 - Kush continued to grow stronger
- Egypt becomes nervous about Kush's growing strength
 - 1500's BCE Thutmose I conquers Kush
 - Destroys Kerma
- After the conquest, Kushites adopted Egyptian culture
 - Names, religions, language, etc.
- At the end of the Egyptian New Kingdom, Kush becomes independent
 - New capital - Napata
- Kush grows strong once again
- Kashta – King of Kush
 - Conquers Upper Egypt – 751 BCE
- Kashta's son – Piankhi
 - Conquers all of Egypt – 716 BCE
 - Becomes Pharaoh – 25th Dynasty
 - Restores Egypt's culture
- Dynasty lasts 40 years before they are conquered by Assyrians
- Later on, Kush worked to rebuild itself
 - This time, the capital was at Meroe

- Kush learned how to make iron, which made it very powerful
 - Africa's first iron industry
- It helped that Kush had abundant forests for the fires of the forges
- Meroe became the center of a large trade network with many merchants
 - Trade Network – A system of people in different lands who trade goods
 - Merchants - Traders
- Kush had both imports and exports
 - Imports – Items brought in from other regions
 - Exports – Items sent out to other regions
- Exports = Gold, pottery, iron
- Imports = Jewelry and other luxury items
- As merchants traded with other cultures, Kush adopted characteristics of other cultures
 - Egypt had the most influence on Kushite culture
 - People worshipped Egyptian and Kushite gods
 - Kushite rulers were buried in small pyramids
 - And called pharaohs
- Women were expected to be active in society
 - Worked in fields, cooked, cared for the children
- Some Kushite women became powerful
 - Some women actually ruled Kush on their own
- The first woman to rule Kush was Queen Shanakhdakheto
 - She ruled for 20 years
- As time continued, Kush started to decline in power
 - The cattle overgrazed, which destroyed the soil
 - Ironmakers used up the forests near Kush
 - Kush produced fewer goods for trading
 - New trade routes were built that went around Kush
- Eventually Kush was taken over by the kingdom of Aksum
 - King Ezana
- Once Christianity spread into the region, the last influence of Kush disappeared

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