# Ancient Kush by Ferhana C. **Final Exam Presentation AFN 121** Prof. Alapo Spring 2021

# Introduction Ancient Kush civilization

My presentation is about the ancient kush civilization. I'm going to talk about their history and develop and the ancient kingdom of kush. I'll try my best to give a detailed and understandable presentation.

#### The Ancient Kush Civilization

Ancient civilizations detail the cultural and political history of Africa. For centuries, African has been regarded as the cradle of humanity because of the unique geographical, cultural and political interactions. Its recognition as the cradle of humanity stems from early archaeological findings of early hominids, which later moved and spread to other parts of the world. Published studies understand African civilization a s one of the earliest and fundamental establishments in the historical development of the globe.

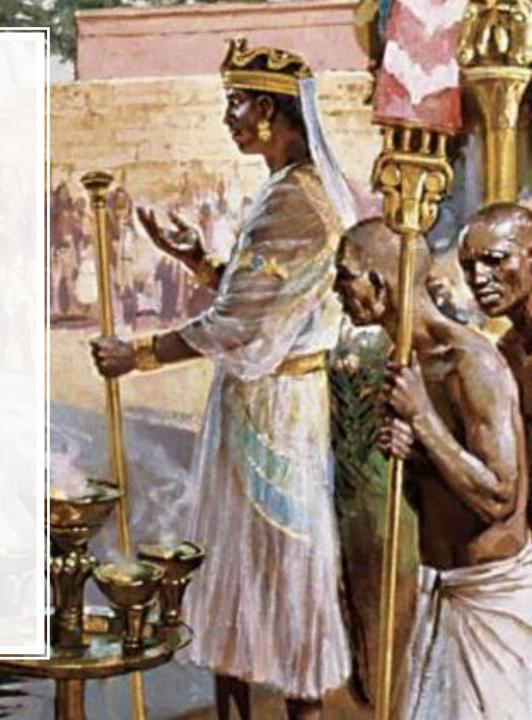


# The Ancient kingdom of kush

The Kingdom of Kush is one of the ancient African kingdoms to have ever existed. The kingdom is often referred to as Nubia and had close ties with ancient Egypt. The Kingdom of Kush probably preserves the indigenous name of a territory in the upper Nubian Nile valley. The founding of the kingdom is estimated to be around 1070 BCE (Mark). Its formation came at a time when the Egyptian pharaonic kingdom was declining. At about 1069 BCE, the new Kingdom of Egypt was in its final stages of decline, but at the same time, the Kushite citystate of Napata was in its early stages of development (Mark). Kushitesin the Egyptian kingdom were not worried about incursions into Egypt because of the nation's declining influence in the northern African region. With the complete decline of Egypt, the Khushite city state of Napata founded the Kingdom of Kush that replaced the pharaonic authorities. At the time of the historical happenings, Khushite kings became the new kings of Egypt, a political undertaking that would shape the cultural and political history of Northern Africa.

#### **Ancient Kush Government**

The political structure and governance systems of the Kingdom of Kush was also unique in the sense that it allowed women to lead. Across most civilizations in the African continent, Europe and Asia, top leadership ranks were reserved for men with women confined within the domestic realms. Most regimes recognized women as weak and inexperienced in leading. Unlike such governance systems, the Kingdom of Kush entrusted women with leadership positions and encouraged them to assume top leadership ranks as queens. The undertaking was unique because it contradicted the common ideology in the leadership structuring in ancient societies. In the ancient Nubian government, the majority of the rulers were queens with few kings. Some of the known queens during the 25th dynasty include Queen Kasaqa, Queen Pebatjma, Queen Qalhata, Queen Tabiry and Queen Mediken, among other queens. The uniqueness of the Kingdom of Kush governance structures is based on allowing women to lead and assume decisive leadership ranks in the kingdom.

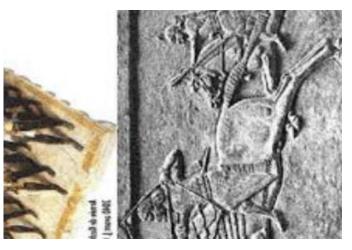




### **Ancient Kush resources**

Kush civilization denotes the existence and use of one of the most precious natural resources in the ancient world, iron. The history of Africa and the world is founded on the presence and exploration of iron. The discovery and use of iron termed the Iron Age is fundamental in understanding the agricultural and military revolution of the world. When the Kingdom of Kush existed, exploration of iron became a vital part of the economic development of the kingdom and the larger Northern Africa. In most of Africa, iron tools replaced stone tools. Associating the Kingdom of Kush with Iron Age reveals the possible transitions in the technological development of tools and their subsequent effects on the culture and political changes of Northern Africa.





#### **Ancient Kush Arts**

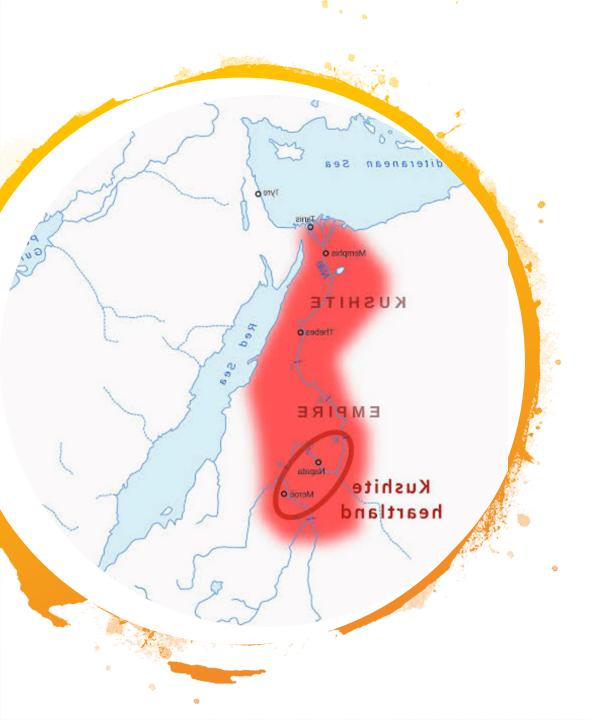
The leadership structure and the governance system were unique artwork within the Kingdom of Kush. Artistic technology and items reveal the uniqueness of cultures and the possible exchange of techniques from one region to another. Across historical periods, creative technology and artworks have been used to construct the history of independence and engagement among communities. However, for the Nubian Kingdom of Kush, its unique artwork and technology construct an ancient culture based on the development of exemplary artifacts and their particular spread to other parts of the world. The art and architecture of the Kushites reveal a sophisticated society of innovative artisans and constant assimilation of new artistic techniques from other lands such as Egypt. Art production in the Kingdom of Kush and other parts of the world happened from the 9<sup>th</sup> century BC to the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD (Kemezis). At the time, kings and queens, for the case of the kingdom and emperors for empires in the Asian continent, controlled most art production. However, in the Kingdom of Kush, the authorities were never involved in the control of art production.



#### **Ancient Kush Artifacts**

The most significant artifact of Meroitic culture are probably its pyramids like Egyptian pyramids, the pyramids at Meroë are tombs. More than a dozen Kushite kings, queens, and other nobles are interred with pyramids. (Although unlike Egyptian pyramids, Meroitic pyramids do not hold the tomb itself.





## Ancient Kush Development

It was first established around 1070 BCE when it gained its independence from Egypt. It quickly became a major power in Northeast Africa. In 727 BCE, Kush took control of Egypt and ruled until the Assyrians arrived. The empire began to weaken after Rome conquered Egypt and eventually collapsed sometime in the 300s CE.

