

# Ancient Nubia & Kingdom of Kush Civilizations

"The Land of Bow"

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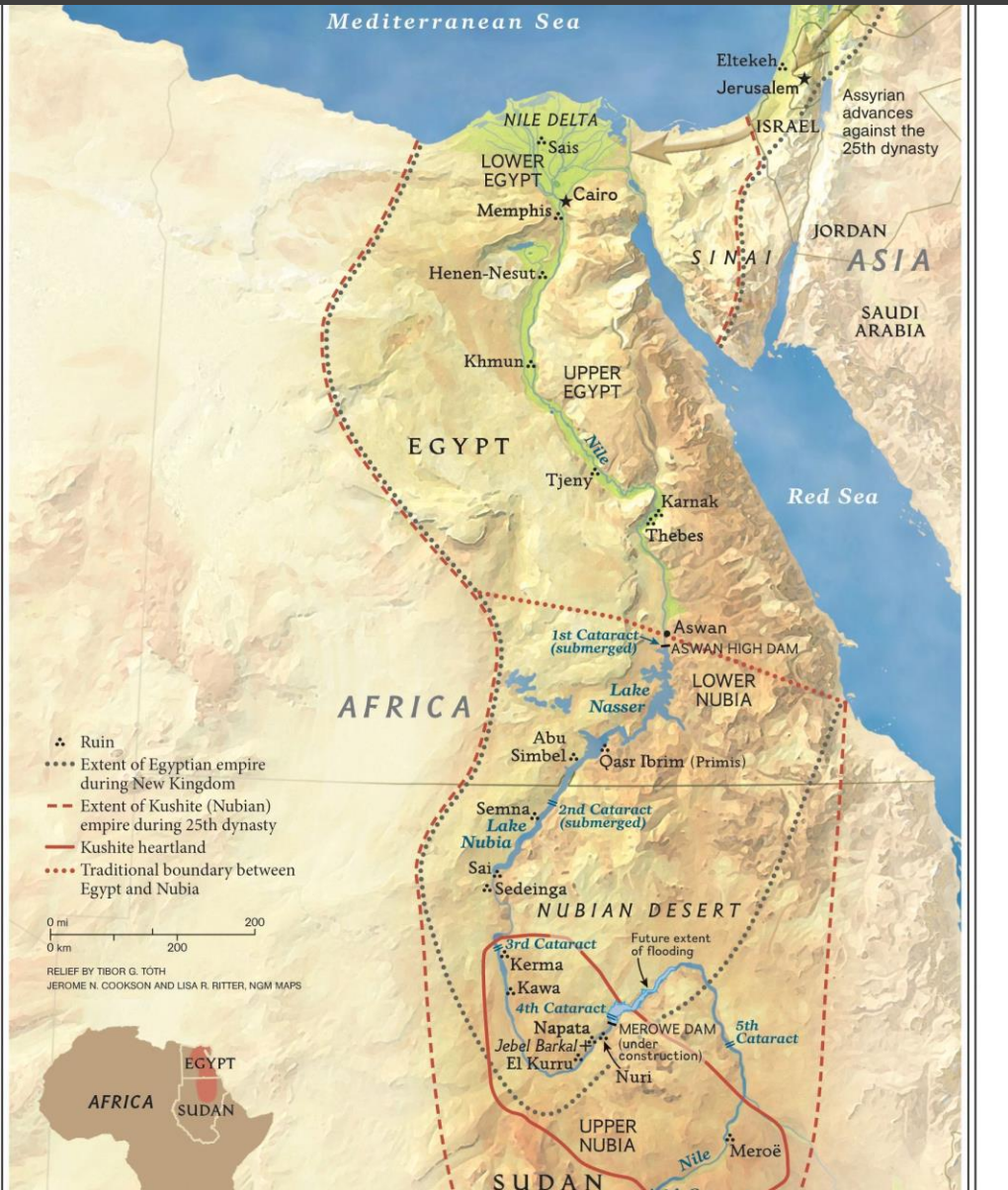
## Introducing the Ancient Nubia & Kingdom of Kush

For starters, There's no difference between Nubia and Kush but their names. By 900's B.C, when it conquered Egypt, it was known as Nubia, although both Nubia and Kush refer to the same place.



# Geography Location

- The Kingdom of Kush was located in Northeast Africa just south of Ancient Egypt. The main cities of Kush were situated along the Nile River, the White Nile River, and the Blue Nile River. Today, the land of Kush is the country of Sudan ("The Kingdoms of Kush".)
- The Kingdom of Kush controlled 1 to 4 cataracts, although there were 6 cataracts along the Nile. Cataracts (a waterfall) of the Nile River prevented Nubians from traveling by their water resource instead they used their land for trading. ("The Kingdoms of Kush".)
- Strategic location for all kingdoms nearby, simply for communication and trade routes ("The Kingdoms of Kush".)





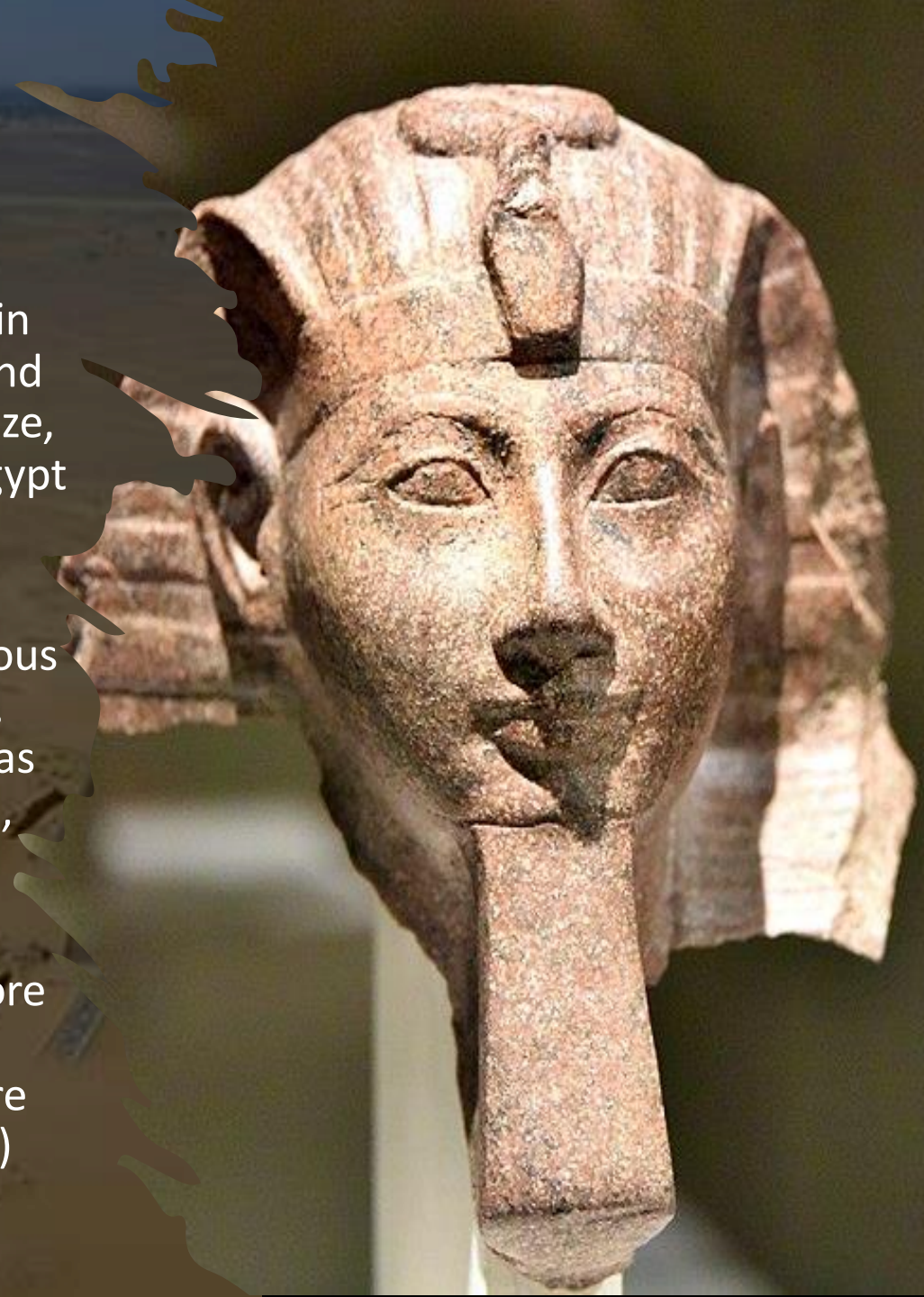
# The Rise/Development

- First established around 1069 BCE and 350 CE when it gained its independence from Egypt. Quickly gaining its power in Northeast Africa due to the New Kingdom of Egypt declining in c. 1069 BCE, The Kingdom of Kush was able to flourish. Powerful trading center in the modern day boarder of Egypt and Sudan in northeast Kush took control of Egypt and dominated until the Assyrians arrived.



# Kerma, Napata, Meroe

- **Kerma** : The kingdom of Kerma was the first capital and located in Upper Nubia. Has a massive temple still intact to this very day and became a wealthy city due to the Nubian's harvesting gold, bronze, and ivory .the City of Kerma was conquered and destroyed by Egypt as well during The New Kingdom era. (Boyce)
- **Napata** : Founded by Thutmose III in the 15th century BC and became a significant location for trading purposes and the religious center for many Kushites and the Egyptians for over 1,000 years. Ceremonies and rituals honoring the Egyptian sun-god, Amun was held at the sacred mountain that was home to a small mountain, which was also known as the "holy mountain". (Mark)
- **Meroe** : The empire covered most of Nubia and stretched into central Africa, which became vital for civilization. It also was a core for ironworking, Due to the major hub for iron production along with a busy trading center; the development and use of iron were responsible for the success, growth, and wealth of Meroe (Mark)





# Weapons

- Iron production and trading supported the Kush empire and its great trading base. The people of Kush used dotted trees to fire the heating system they used to produce iron.
- The Kushites used iron to make the most vital tools, including weapons; iron weapons such as **swords, spears, and armor**. The Kushites' primary weapon was these massive bows and arrows. ("Units of History: Nubian Archers - Longbowmen of Africa DOCUMENTARY" 7:10-10:28)
- They were also known as the "Ta-Seti," meaning "Land of the Bow" The Kushites also made self-bows made from one single piece of wood measuring from 1.5 to 2 meters in length, which is comparable to a traditional English longbow. ("Units of History: Nubian Archers - Longbowmen of Africa DOCUMENTARY" 7:10-10:28)
- Composite bows are mostly short and although it's size, pretty mighty. However, the Nubian composite longbow consists of both features, including reflexed tips. This made their longbows increasingly powerful. ("Units of History: Nubian Archers - Longbowmen of Africa DOCUMENTARY" 7:10-10:28)





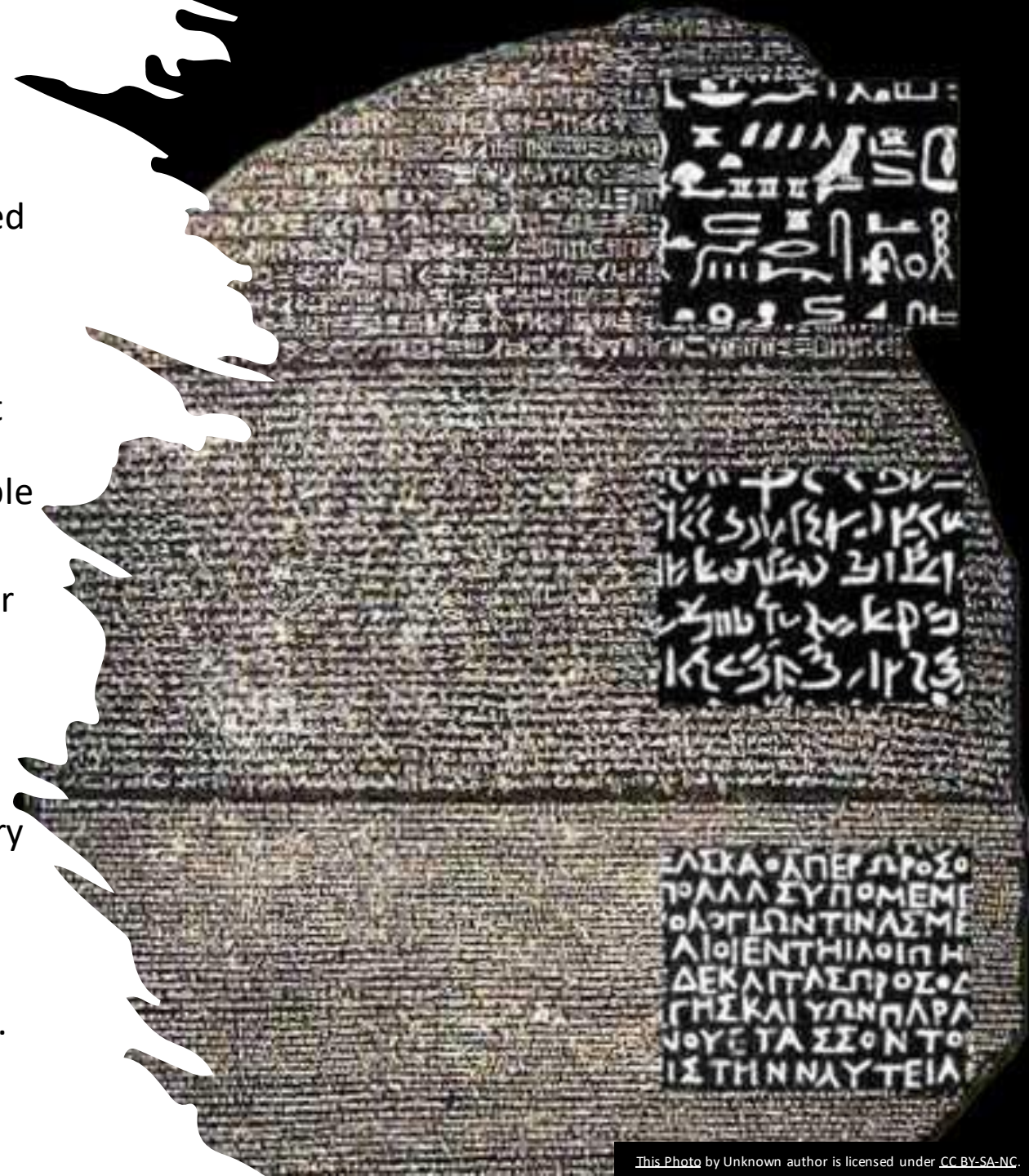
## The Language No One Could Read

- The Nubians developed their own writing system. The writing system for the Meroitic language of Nubia appeared around the 2nd century B.C. Meroitic script Meroitic Hieroglyphics derived from Egyptian hieroglyphs. Which, Meroitic is a second language created outside of the hieroglyphs. (Anoba, Ibrahim.)
- Although, Ancient Nubians adopted the Egyptian technique of writing, they were able to construct a writing system way more advance using a 23 symbol alphabet consisted of a **combination of hieroglyphic signs and** cursive writing, including accompanied by vowel sounds (Anoba, Ibrahim.)
- They initially had no way of recording the Meroitic language. Then, not long after the rise of Meroe, they did (Anoba Ibrahim )



# The Rosetta Stone

- Fortunately, the discovery of the *Rosetta stone* was the key tool to deciphering hieroglyphics (Everything you ever wanted to..)
- In July 1799, the stone was found in the city of Rosetta (modern el Rashid) by French soldiers during Napoleon's invasion of Egypt although, it was found damaged being that both the top and the bottom were missing; causing the passages to be incomplete. The artifact was built into a temple wall in the city of Rosetta. (Everything you ever wanted to..)
- Without the Rosetta Stone, there would still be a difficulty for scholars to try to understand Egyptian hieroglyphic and only a few terms can be read so therefore they're can be a-lot of signifying information untold in the these writings. (Everything you ever wanted to..)
- The Meroitic language became extinct around the 4th century CE and was replaced with much simpler and convenient writing styles. (Everything you ever wanted to..)
- The Rosetta Stone features writing in three different scripts: **ancient Greek, Demotic, and Egyptian hieroglyphics**. All three texts are translations of the same message. (Everything you ever wanted to..)



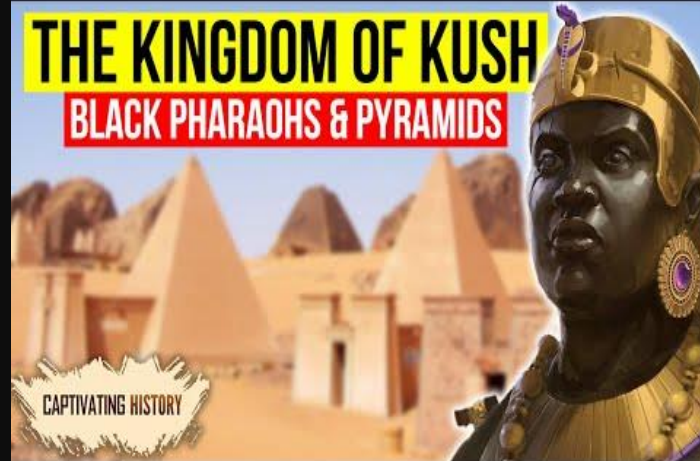


## More Interesting Facts

- One of the most famous leaders of Kush was King Piye who conquered Egypt and became pharaoh of Egypt. ("Kingdom of Kush" ducksters)
- Most of the people of Kush were farmers. Their primary crops were wheat and barley. They also grew cotton to make clothing. ("Kingdom of Kush" ducksters)
- The pyramids of Kush tended to be smaller than the pyramids of Egypt. The burial chambers were located below the pyramids. Many of these pyramids were built near the city of Meroe and can still be seen today. ("Kingdom of Kush" ducksters)
- The priests were so powerful they could decide when it was time for the king to die. ("Kingdom of Kush" ducksters)
- People didn't live very long in Kush. The average person was expected to live only 20 to 25 years. ("Kingdom of Kush" ducksters)

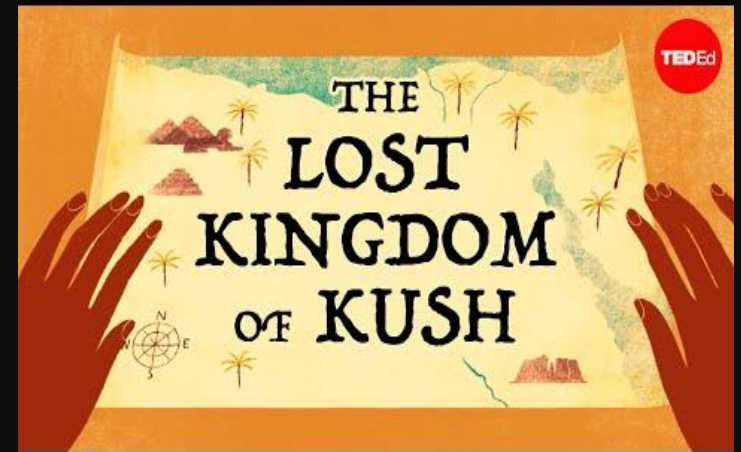


## Videos on The Kingdom of Kush



("The Kingdom of Kush Explained in 10 Minutes" 8:20-10:43)

("What happened to the lost Kingdom of Kush? - Geoff Emberling" 0:00-4:34)





# Reference Page

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HOPE YOU ALL ENJOYED MY  
PRESENTATION.  
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!