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History of the Middle East and the Aegean Region C. 1800-1380 B.C.

Edited by I. E. S. Edwards, C. J. Gadd, N. G. L. Hammond and E. Sollberger

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THE
CAMBRIDGE
ANCIENT HISTORY

THIRD EDITION

VOLUME II

PART 1

HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND
THE AEGEAN REGION *c.* 1800-1380 B.C.

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PREFACE

THE second volume of this History begins with events which occurred at a time when the Amorite dynasties in Western Asia were vying with each other for supremacy, making and breaking alliances but nevertheless maintaining the great Sumero-Akkadian culture which they had inherited from the conquered populations. It was the era of the Western Semites and, in particular, of the most outstanding of the Semitic dynasties, that of Hammurabi, the 'lawgiver'. The Semites were, however, not destined to remain in control for long. Foreigners from the north-east, the Kassites, soon took possession of Babylonia and held it under their sway for five centuries, thereby establishing the longest dynastic succession in the history of the land. Meanwhile, in Anatolia, the rise of the Hittites marked the beginning of the first Indo-European empire which was eventually to deal a death blow to Amorite rule in Babylonia.

Disturbances in Western Asia soon began to affect life in the Nile Valley. Asiatic elements moved southwards until they occupied most of the Delta and penetrated into Middle and Upper Egypt, asserting their authority as they went. Manetho called these Asiatic settlers the Hyksos, and he claimed that they achieved their domination 'without a battle'. While there is nothing in contemporary evidence to suggest that they established their position by any other way than by a process of gradual infiltration, they were certainly helped by the possession of superior weapons, notably the horse-drawn chariot, and by Egypt's political and military weakness at the time. Like other invaders, both before and after them, they soon adopted Egyptian customs, but they were never accepted by the populace and were always regarded as foreigners. Their expulsion, after about 150 years, led to the rise of a succession of warrior kings, the Eighteenth Dynasty, who extended their realm to the banks of the Euphrates in the north-east and far into the Sudan in the south. The fruits of their conquests swelled the treasuries of the pharaohs and their temples for two centuries and raised the standard of life, at least for the upper classes, to its highest level of prosperity. Under Amenophis III, however, stagnation set in, notwithstanding outward appearances to the contrary, and his reign, the last period of Egyptian history described in the present part, marks the end of an epoch.

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PREFACE

Within the Aegean region the outstanding civilization of this age was that of Minoan Crete. Its most striking monuments are the great palaces at Cnossus, Mallia and Phaestus, and we learn much of the society and life of the times from the scenes which are so beautifully portrayed on frescoes, gems, sealings and metal objects. Meanwhile on the Greek mainland the Middle Bronze Age began with invasions by people who spoke an Indo-European language which was the remote ancestor of the Greek of the Homeric epics; it ended with the rise of Mycenaean civilization which owed much to the influence of Minoan Crete but finally overthrew the rulers of the island. One of the inventions of Minoan civilization was a linear script, and the Mycenaean conquerors of Crete used a successor to this script which has been deciphered and provides us with the earliest texts in the Greek language.

A number of the contributors to this Part have taken advantage of the invitation of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press to include in their chapters information which was not available when the chapters were first published as fascicles. No doubt the number would have been larger if Professor Gadd, whose death was mentioned in the Preface to Volume 1, Part 2, and Dr W. C. Hayes had lived until this volume was prepared for the printer. Professor Gadd had begun to gather notes for his chapter on 'Hammurabi and the End of his Dynasty' but his work was only in its initial stage and the Editors decided to leave the text unchanged, apart from making small adjustments necessary for the present publication.

In the Preface to Volume 1, Part 1 an explanation was given of the code used in the footnotes for references to the bibliographies; the same system has been adopted in this Part. References are also given in the footnotes to plates which will be published as a separate volume after the completion of Volume 2, Part 2. In accordance with the intention expressed in the fascicles, sketch maps have been inserted in the text of this edition. Also included here, but not in the fascicles, are text-figures for Chapters III and XI, plans of palaces in Chapter XII, and a genealogical table of Hittite kings, descendants of Tudkhaliash II, in Chapter xv.

Two chapters have been translated by Mr C. E. N. Childs, formerly Assistant Keeper in the Department of Printed Books, British Museum, Chapter I from French and Chapter VII from German. Chapter IV (*b*) and Chapter XII have been translated from German by Mr W. J. Dale, Headmaster of Tettenhall College.

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Although, with one exception, all the chapters relating to Western Asia had already been published as fascicles before the death of Professor Gadd, the preparation of a large part of the present volume for the printer involved extra editorial work which required special knowledge of that field. The Syndics of the Press therefore accepted a request from the two surviving Editors and appointed Dr E. Sollberger as an additional Editor.

Professor Sterling Dow wishes to express his gratitude to Mr John Chadwick for his generous help and advice in the writing of Chapter XIII (*a*); he is also indebted to W. E. McLeod for data about potters' marks from Lerna, and to J. L. Caskey, the excavator, for permission to publish them. Dr R. H. Dyson is indebted to the following scholars for allowing him to include in Chapter XVI some of the results of their excavations and archaeological surveys before they were published: C. A. Burney (northern Azarbāyjān), C. Goff (eastern and southern Luristān, Tepe Bābā Jān, near Nūrābād in Luristān), L. Levine (Kurdistān), J. Meldgaard (western Luristān), O. W. Muscarella (Dinkha Tepe), D. Stronach (Gurgan and Hamadān region, Yarim Tepe), H. Thrane (western Luristān), M. van Loon (Schmidt data on Kamtarlan, Chigha Sabz, Surkh Dom), and T. C. Young, Jr. (southern Azarbāyjān, Kurdistān, north-eastern Luristān, Godin Tepe).

The Editors have continued to receive from the Staff of the Cambridge University Press the utmost help and they wish to record their appreciation both of their friendly cooperation and of their skill and care in the production of this book.

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N.G.L.H.
E.S.