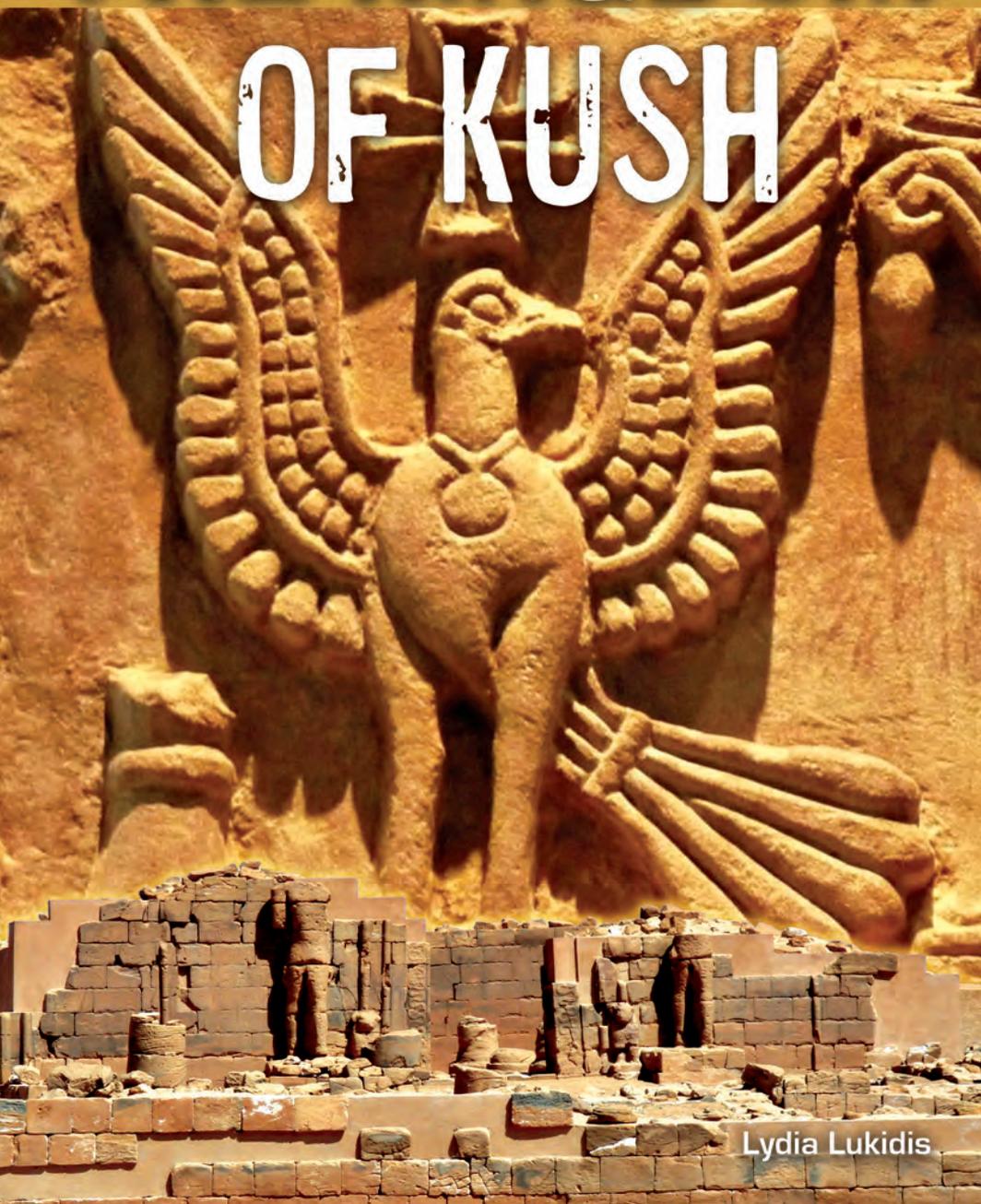
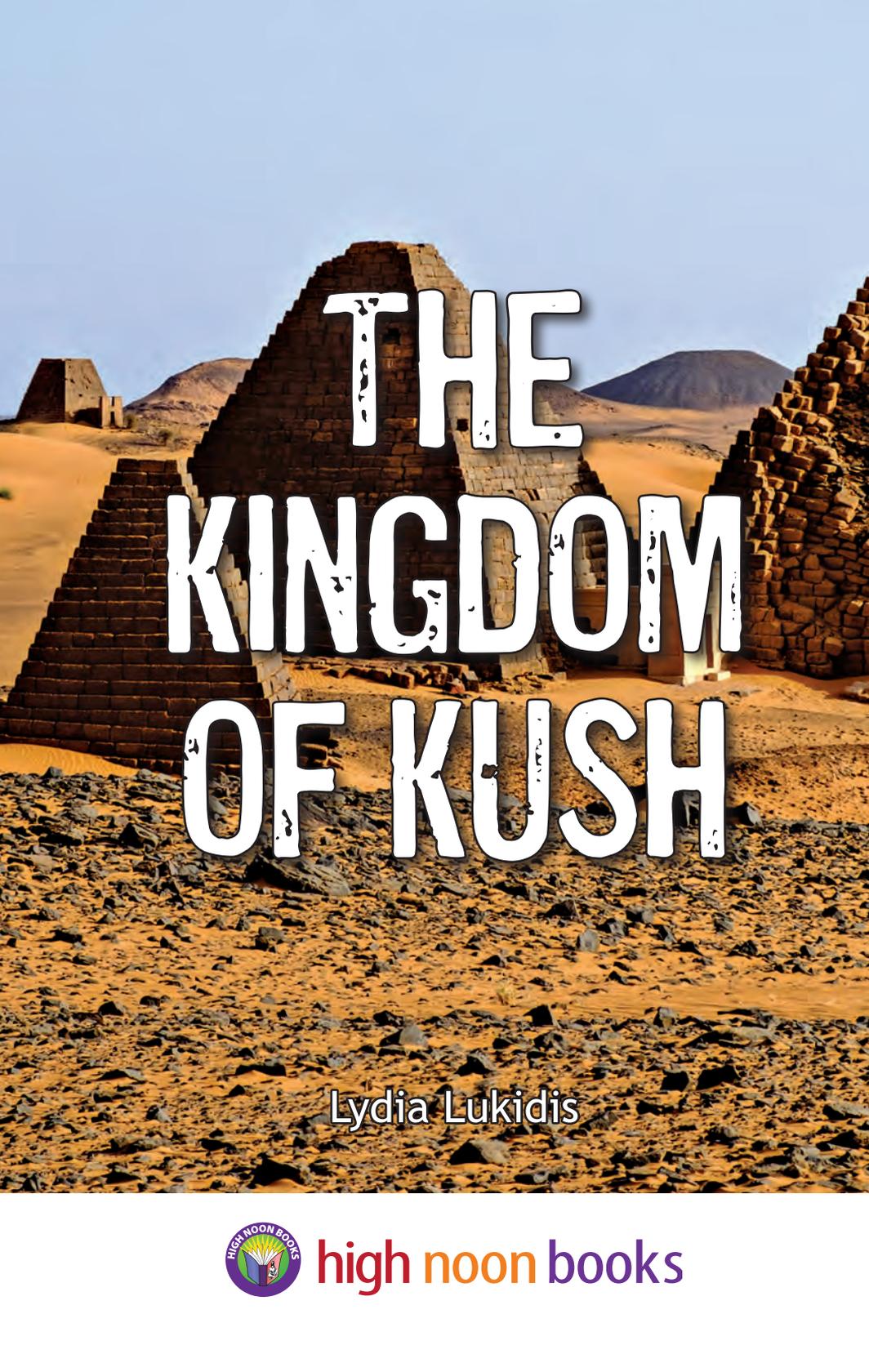


A horizontal strip of ancient Egyptian wall painting at the top of the image. It depicts a procession of figures, including a king in a chariot on the left, followed by several attendants, and a queen on the right wearing a yellow and white dress with a blue collar. The figures are rendered in the traditional Egyptian style with black skin and white clothing.

THE KINGDOM OF KUSH



Lydia Lukidis



THE KINGDOM OF KUSH

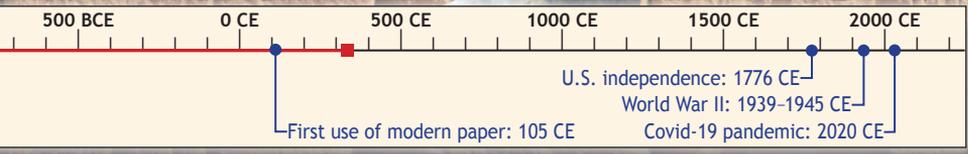
Lydia Lukidis



high noon books

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CHAPTER 1

DIGGING FOR SECRETS

Sometime before 2450 BCE, a group of people settled in northeast Africa. At first, they lived in a village of about 2,000 people. They quickly grew in number and became very powerful.

That **civilization** (sih•vih•lih•ZAY•shun) was the Kingdom of Kush. A civilization is an advanced stage of a culture's development.





These pyramids, in present-day Sudan, are remains from the Kingdom of Kush.

How do we know about civilizations that disappeared centuries ago?

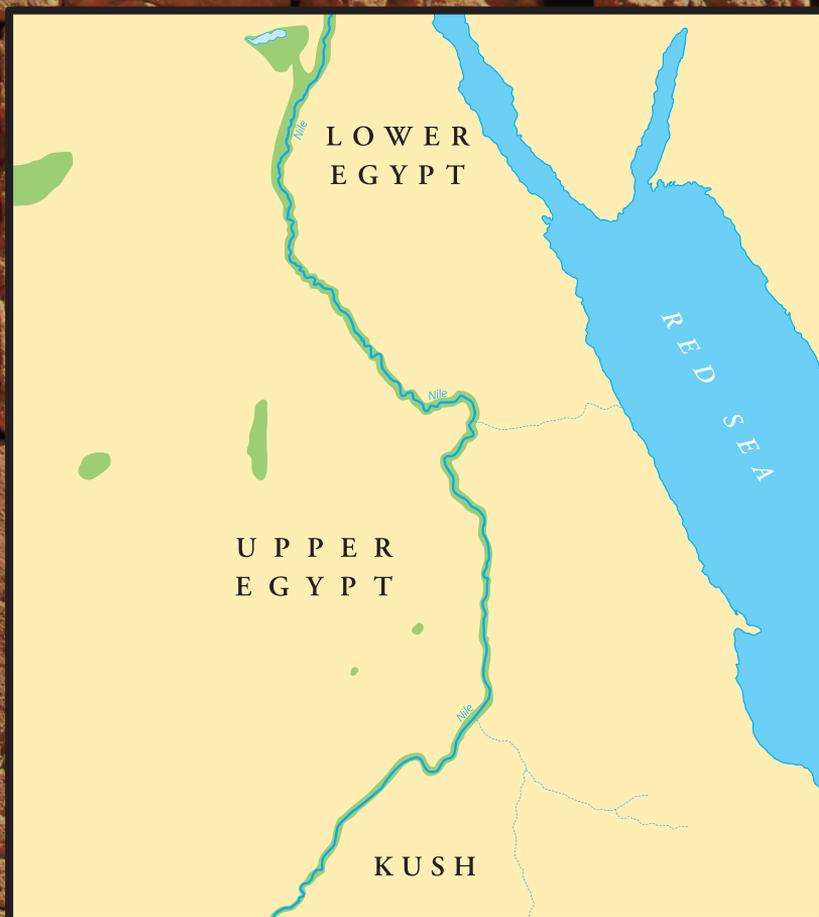
Archaeologists (ar•kee•AH•luh•jists) learn about people who lived long ago. Archaeologists study the remains left from past human life, such as buildings, tools, and pots.

In 1907, archaeologists began to **excavate** (EK•skuh•vayt) land in northern Africa. To excavate is to dig into the earth. Sometimes, old objects or human remains are buried there. They can help explain the past.



An archaeologist excavates ancient items.

The archaeologists found statues, palaces, and things from daily life. These helped them understand how the Kush lived.



Kush, at the bottom of the map, was to the south of ancient Egypt.

Archaeologists also learned about Kush from records of ancient Egypt. The Egyptians lived north of Kush. They were in contact with the Kush and wrote of them using their hieroglyphics (hye•ruh•GLIH•fiks). Hieroglyphics were pictures and symbols that made up the Egyptians' system of writing.



This Egyptian painting of the Kush has hieroglyphics to the left.



Archaeologist Charles Bonnet discovered these Kush figures.

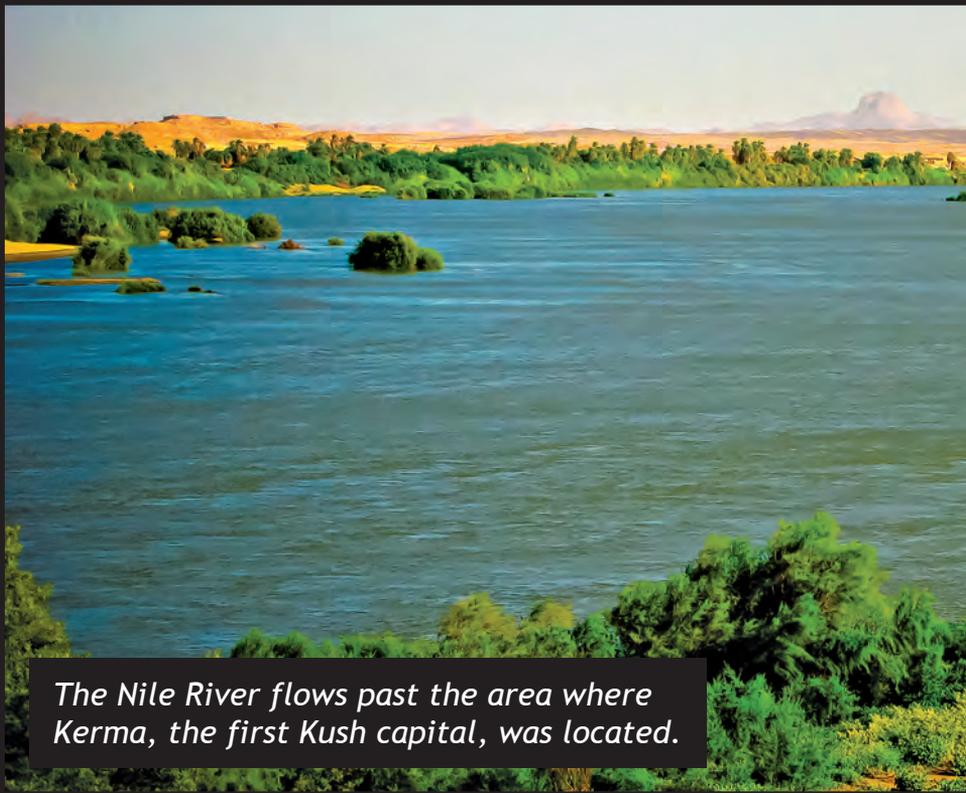
KUSH FACT

Swiss archaeologist Charles Bonnet spent 44 years excavating in northern Africa. He discovered the earliest Kush capital. Claude Rilly, a French archaeologist, also made important discoveries. From 2009 to 2012, he dug up 35 Kush pyramids that had been covered by sand.

CHAPTER 2

A KINGDOM RISES

The Kush lived in northeast Africa. That area used to be called Nubia (NOO•bee•uh). Today, the area is in northern Sudan and southern Egypt.



The Nile River flows past the area where Kerma, the first Kush capital, was located.

The Kush civilization was powerful during three different periods. Each period had its own capital city. All three Kush capitals stood along the Nile River.



The first people of Kush built a city called Kerma. This was their capital around 2450 BCE. At that time, the Egyptians controlled the area.

In 1069 BCE, Egyptian power began to decline (dih•KLYNE). To decline means to weaken.



This building at Kerma was made of mud bricks. Its function is still unknown.



These pillars from the Temple of Amun in Napata still stand today.

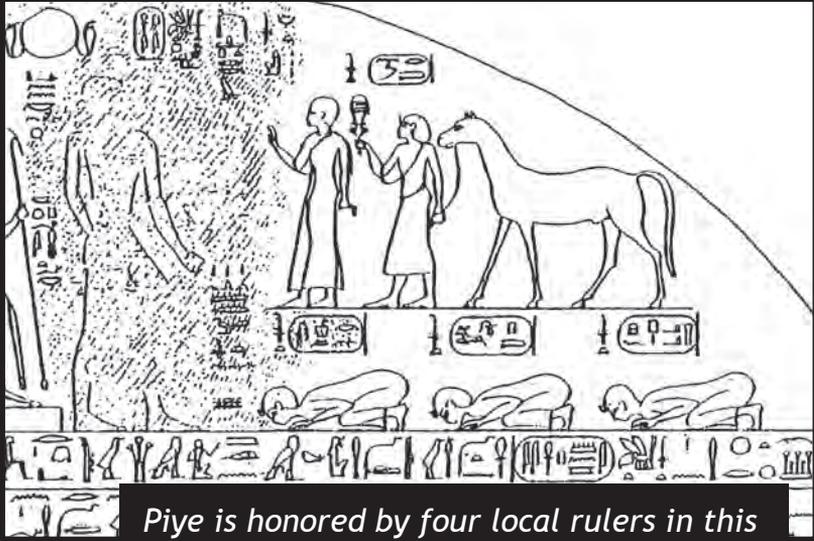
As a result, the Kush became more independent. Their city of Napata (nuh•PAH•tah) grew stronger. They decided to make it their next capital.

At that time, Kush became stronger than Egypt. The Kush civilization became a kingdom.

In the mid-eighth century BCE, a man named Piye (PEE•uh) became king. He helped the Kingdom of Kush flourish (FLUR•ish). To flourish means to grow and become successful.



This painting shows people bowing before Piye.



Piye is honored by four local rulers in this drawing made from a Kush rock carving.

As king, Piye invaded Egypt. After this, he controlled Egypt and became the first pharaoh (FAYR•oh) who was not Egyptian. The pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt. Kush became even stronger.

KUSH FACT

When Piye became pharaoh, his rule began the 25th Dynasty (DYE•nuh•stee) of Egypt. A dynasty is a family that rules over a region for a long period of time. This period lasted around 100 years. During this era, all the pharaohs that controlled Egypt were Kush.

Later, after an invasion in the mid-seventh century, the Kush lost control of Egypt. Then, in 590 BCE, an Egyptian pharaoh attacked and destroyed Napata. The Kush were forced out of their second capital.

The Kush fled south to Meroe (MER•uh•wee), and they made it their new capital. This was the last era of the Kingdom of Kush.





Meroe was the last capital of the Kingdom of Kush.