

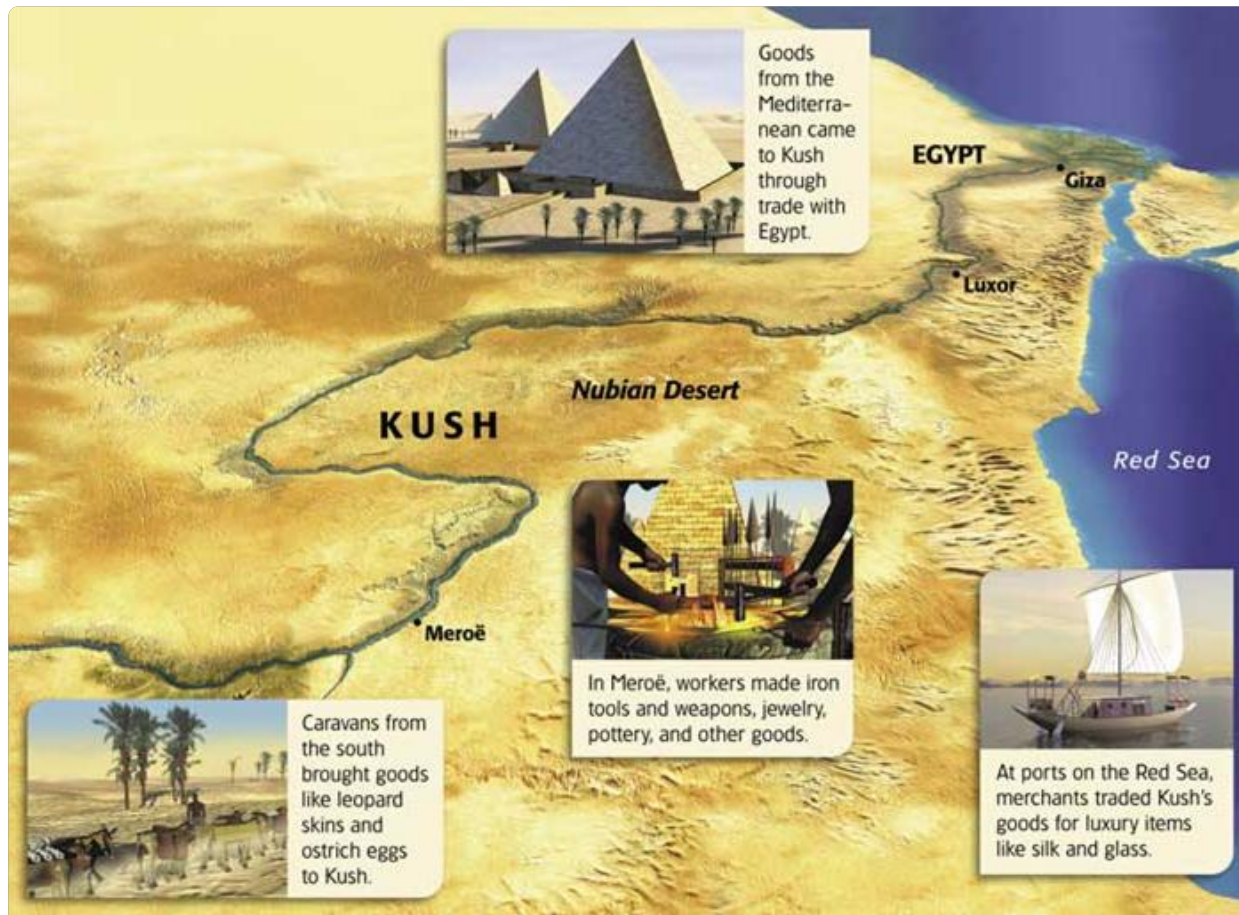


## Later Kush

Kush's crafts-people made iron spearheads and gold jewelry like you see here.

- After they lost control of Egypt and were pushed back to Nubia, the people of Kush devoted themselves to increasing agriculture and trade, hoping to make their country rich again.
- The economic center of Kush during this period was Meroë (MER-oh-wee).
  - Large deposits of gold could be found nearby, as could forests of ebony and other wood.
  - In this rich location the Kushites developed Africa's first iron industry. Iron ore and wood for furnaces were easily available, so the iron industry grew quickly.

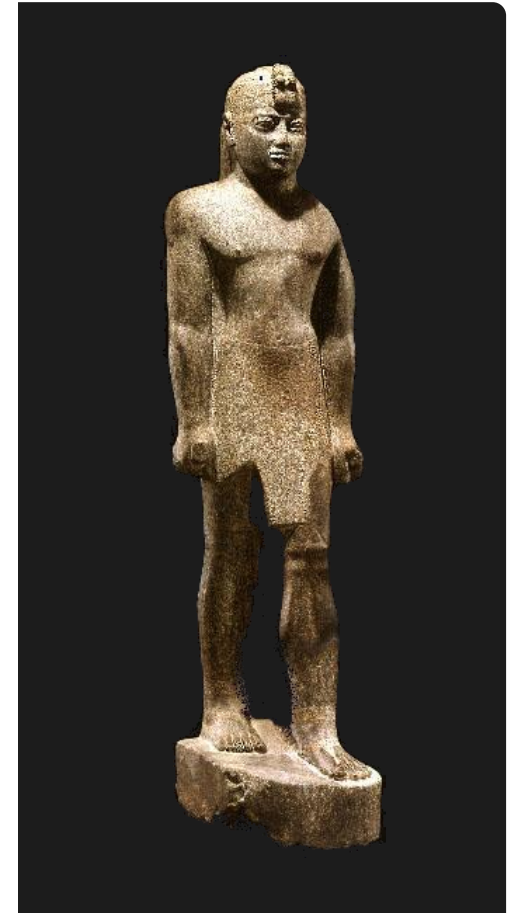
## **Kush's Economy Grows**



Ancient Kush was at the center of a large trading network with connections to Europe, Africa, and Asia. Kush's location and production of iron goods helped make it a rich trading center.

## Kush's Trade Network

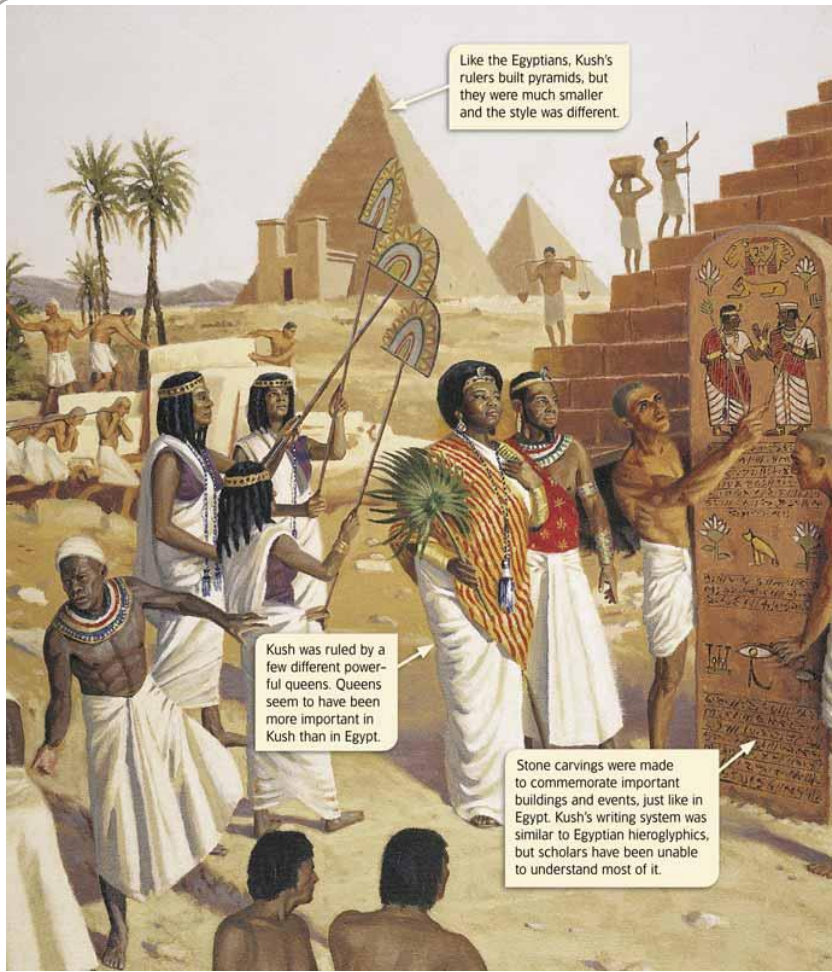
- ❖ In time, Meroë became the center of a large **trade network**.
- ❖ The Kushites sent goods down the Nile to Egypt.
- ❖ From there, Egyptian and Greek **merchants** shipped goods to ports on the Mediterranean and Red seas, and to southern Africa. These goods may have eventually reached India and perhaps China.
  - ❖ Kush's **exports** included gold, pottery, iron tools, ivory, leopard skins, ostrich feathers, elephants, and slaves.
  - ❖ **Imports** included fine jewelry and luxury items from Egypt, Asia, and lands along the Mediterranean.



## Trade

- The most obvious influence on Kush during this period was Egyptian, but many elements of Kushite culture were not borrowed from anywhere else.
- The people of Kush worshipped their own gods and even developed their own written language.

## **Society and Culture**



Like the Egyptians, Kush's rulers built pyramids, but they were much smaller and the style was different.

Kush was ruled by a few different powerful queens. Queens seem to have been more important in Kush than in Egypt.

Stone carvings were made to commemorate important buildings and events, just like in Egypt. Kush's writing system was similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics, but scholars have been unable to understand most of it.

Like the Egyptians, the people of Kush considered their rulers to be gods. Kush's culture was similar to Egypt's, but there were also important differences.

Rulers of Kush: Like the Egyptians, the people of Kush considered their rulers to be gods. Kush's culture was similar to Egypt's, but there were also important differences. There are pyramids in the background. Like the Egyptians, Kush's rulers built pyramids, but they were much smaller and the style was different. There is a group of men who are hauling something in a line together. There are some men walking up stairs carrying goods. There are a group of men standing in front of a wall that has pictures

# Rulers of Kush

❑ Women were expected to be active in their society. Some women rose to positions of great authority, especially in religion.

❑ **Queen Shanakhdakheto** was (shahnahkdah-KEE-toh) the first of several queens who ruled the empire alone, helping to increase Kush's strength and wealth.

Women and Kush

- Historians believe Queen Shanakhdakheto was the first woman to rule Kush. But because we can't understand Meroitic writing, we know very little about Queen Shanakhdakheto.
- Most of what we know about her comes from carvings found in her tomb, one of the largest pyramids at Meroë.
- Based on these carvings, many historians think she probably gained power after her father or husband died.

Ruled 170 – 150 BC



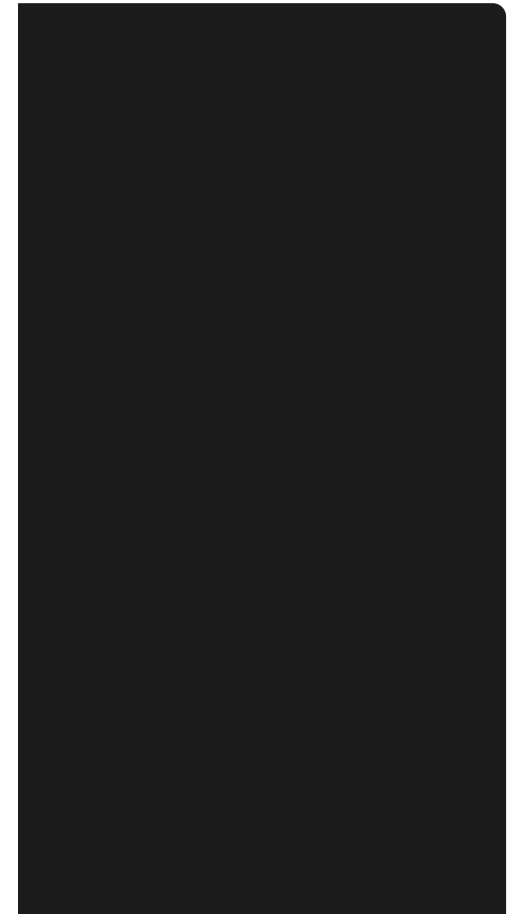
# Queen Shanakhdakheto

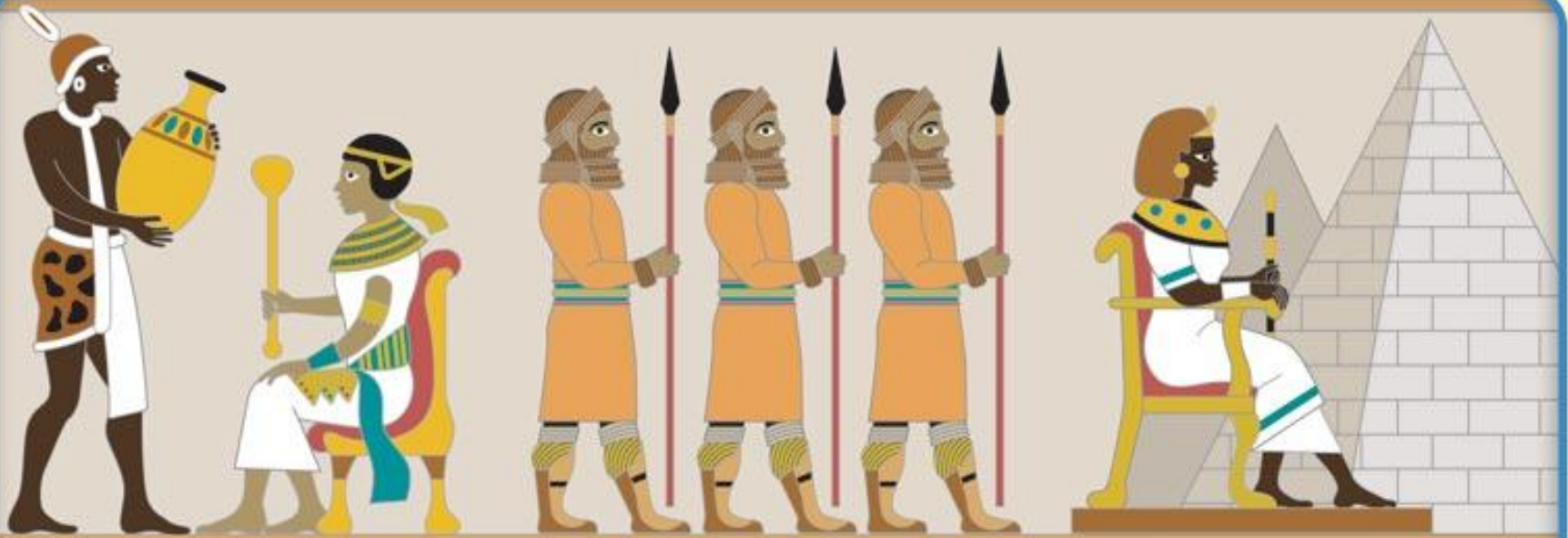
- Kushite civilization reached its height in the first century BC.
- Eventually it fell due to both external and internal factors.
- The stores of iron and other metals dwindled, and the overgrazing of cattle caused a deterioration of farmland.

**Decline**

- ❑ Another powerful trading center, Aksum (AHK-soom), located in modern-day Eritrea, began competing with Kush.
- ❑ Soon trade routes were bypassing Meroë for Aksum.
- ❑ After Aksum had decimated Kush economically, the Aksumite leader **King Ezana** (AY-zah-nah) sent an invading army and conquered the once-powerful Kush.

Defeat





Egypt dominated early Kush and forced the Kushites to pay tribute.

After Kush conquered Egypt, invaders forced the Kushites to move south to their ancient homeland.

Kush developed an advanced civilization that blended Egyptian culture with cultures from other parts of Africa.

## Chapter 5 Summary