

THE HITTITE CORRIDOR

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In 1940 Albrecht Goetze was able to show that the important country of Kizzuwatna was situated in south-western Anatolia. Its western part included classical Cilicia; after establishing the relative position of Kizzuwatna Goetze pointed to a series of geographical names coinciding with those in antiquity or modern ones such as *Tarša* -Tarsos and *Ataniya* -Adana.

The border-description of the treaty between Suppiluliuma and the king of Kizzuwatna¹ starts from the sea. It mentions *Lamiya*, *Aruna* and *Saliya* on the Hittite side before reaching the river *Samri*, identified by Goetze as the Seyhan (classical Saros). Consequently, the Hittite districts mentioned before the *Samri* are to be situated to the west of Kizzuwatna.

The district of *Saliya* is also mentioned on the Hittite side in the two border-descriptions of the vassal-kingdom of Tarhuntassa, in which *Saliya* appears before *Sarantuwa*. In KBo IV 10, the only text of the two available to Goetze, the extent of Tarhuntassa from the direction of *Sarantuwa* is described, somewhat enigmatically, as "as far as one can throw a spear". However, since the discovery of the Bronze Tablet it is known that the sea, i.e. the Mediterranean, was intended. The sea-coast of Tarhuntassa run as far west as the hostile city of *Parha* across the river *Kastaraya*. These two have been identified by Otten, on excellent grounds, as classical Perge and the river Kestros respectively.

There is little information on the status of Kizzuwatna after Suppiluliuma, but it was still recognized in 1274 by Ramses II as a Hittite vassal-state. One may infer from this that Kizzuwatna, whether a vassal-kingdom or a province, had some form of tax-regulation of its own when the treaty with Tarhuntassa was drawn up. This would explain the interest of the Hittites in a corridor between Tarhuntassa and Kizzuwatna, providing them with a short route from *Bor/Tuwanuwa* through the Cilician Gates

¹ KBo I 5 IV 40-51, see Goetze 1940: 50-51.

to *Saliya* and the sea². If this route favoured Hittite commercial enterprise (and after the conquest of Syria there hardly could have been a military need for it), we may expect the corridor to lead to a major sea-port, the only plausible candidate for which is the important city of *Ura*, which was in direct contact with Ugarit. If so, the Mediterranean end of the corridor run from *Sarantuwa* in the west via *Ura* to *Lamiya*. At present, there are two alternative identifications of *Ura*:

A) Classical Olba, a trading-center with a theocratical government in Roman times. Olba is not situated on the coast itself, but other classical sites such as Korasion or Korykos may have served as its sea-port after the Bronze Age³. In this identification the district of *Lamiya* gave its name to the modern river Lamas (classical Lamos), which served as a border in Byzantine times. On the other hand Olba is perhaps too far from the southern end of the Gates. Furthermore, most of the low-lying area east of the Gök Sü (Kalykadnos) is, in this view, taken away from Tarhuntassa, a country which, according to KBo IV 10, could "feed all of Hatti". The remaining part of Tarhuntassa south of the Taurus-range seems to be too small for this.

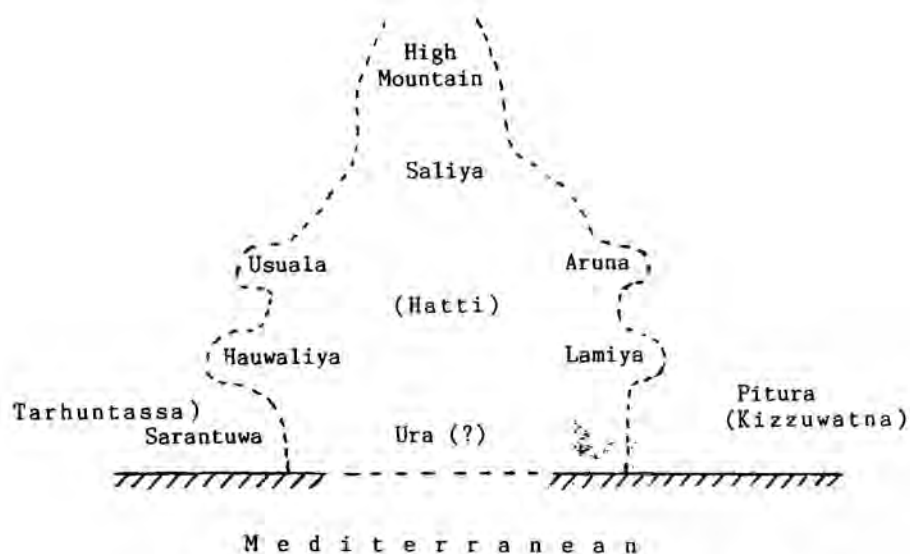
B) A site more to the east, e.g. Mersin (Yümük Tepe) or Kazanlı, abandoning the *Lamiya*-identification. Mersin had two Hittite layers, the second of which is dated by the building-style of its fortress in the reign of Tuthaliya IV. However, both are rather close to Tarsos and may have been part of (Hitticized) Kizzuwatna.

LITERATURE

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² Unlike Goetze, I will situate *Saliya* at the southern end of the Gates, the more so because the district south of it is called *Aruna*, to be translated as "sea(-land)". Perhaps the enigmatic "High Mountain" north of *Saliya* is the Hittite name for the Gates.

³ The main settlement may have been transferred from the coast to the interior in the Dark Ages.



Map I. Relative position of the Hittite corridor in southeast Anatolia.