

THE LAND AND CITY OF TARHUNTAŞA GEODETIC RESEARCHES AROUND IT

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ABSTRACT:

The Hittite Civilization has an important place in the Anatolian Civilization. The Hittites are known as the first Indo-European society, which have founded a state. Tarhuntaşsa region was under the hegemony of the Hittites, and this region is very important for the history of the Hittites. We have tried in our studies to localize the region and the center city of it, which is Tarhuntaşsa. These works have caused to new discussion about this problem.

We have done surveys in this area in many years and think that our evaluations can enlighten some of the problems about the localization. Our researches lead to that in 1994 an important monument and site dating to the aforementioned period were discovered at Hatip village in Meram-Konya. The results of these studies are important both for regional history and for the history of Anatolia. The outcomes are dated to the end of the Hittite Empire period. The findings show that the Hittites, with the weakening of the center in the Central Anatolia, tried to "survive" in the south towards to the Taurus Mountains.

We discovered at here a new king who was not mentioned in any Hittite sources before. This king's name was Kurunta and with his emergence, new points of view about the monuments in the region have appeared. Therefore other monuments which are located in the same region and have some connection with the Hatip monument as Eflatun Pınar, Fasıllar and Köylütolu dating to the Empire period and Kızıldağ-Karadağ Hartapus monuments dating to the Late Hittite period and İvriz, Silifke Keben, Aksaray Burunkaya and Keşlik monuments which are later than the Late Hittite period, have to be considered again.

Our project in 2007 is to do systematic works in Hatip site which we think is the ancient Tarhuntaşsa. We will start with geodetic work and continue by laying grids in the Hatip site.

In 1994, we discovered a Hittite monument and the foundation traces of an unknown fortress on the mound where the monument took place here previously and ceramic fragments. Based on the statements we stated above, we propose that this fortress can be Tarhuntaşsa, the capital city of the Hittites for a short period (Fig. 1-3).



Fig. 1. Second Millenium B.C. of South Turkey

The Hatip rock in which the Kurunta monument positioned is situated in the south of Hatip (Fig. 3). There was a spring bed in the north foot of this rock. This spring bed, vitalized to Hatip and its surroundings was one of the spring among all of the water sources which irrigated Konya Plain once upon a time. Hatip mound (Hoyuk) settlement, north of Hatip village (Fig. 2) was also one of the distinguished places which was irrigated by this spring. We found out cultural traces reflects prehistorical periods from Neolithic period and historical

periods by the surveys carried out in Hatip (1996). On the other hand Karahöyük- Konya settlement, an important place of early II. Millennium (dating to the Assyrian Merchant Colony period) is situated 6 km of this place (Alp, 1972).

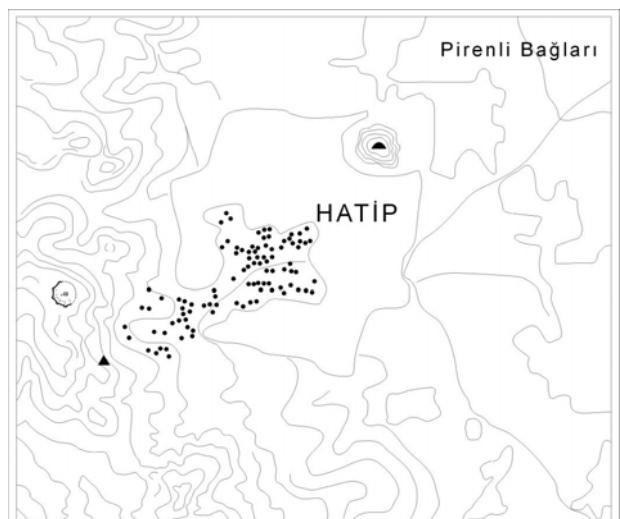


Fig. 2. Topografic Map of Hatip

Today a great part of the Hatip spring is inside the Konya water-system. The rest of the water is used for breeding fish by the fish breeding farm established in 1996 (Fig. 3). Some of vineyards and orchards are watered by this spring.

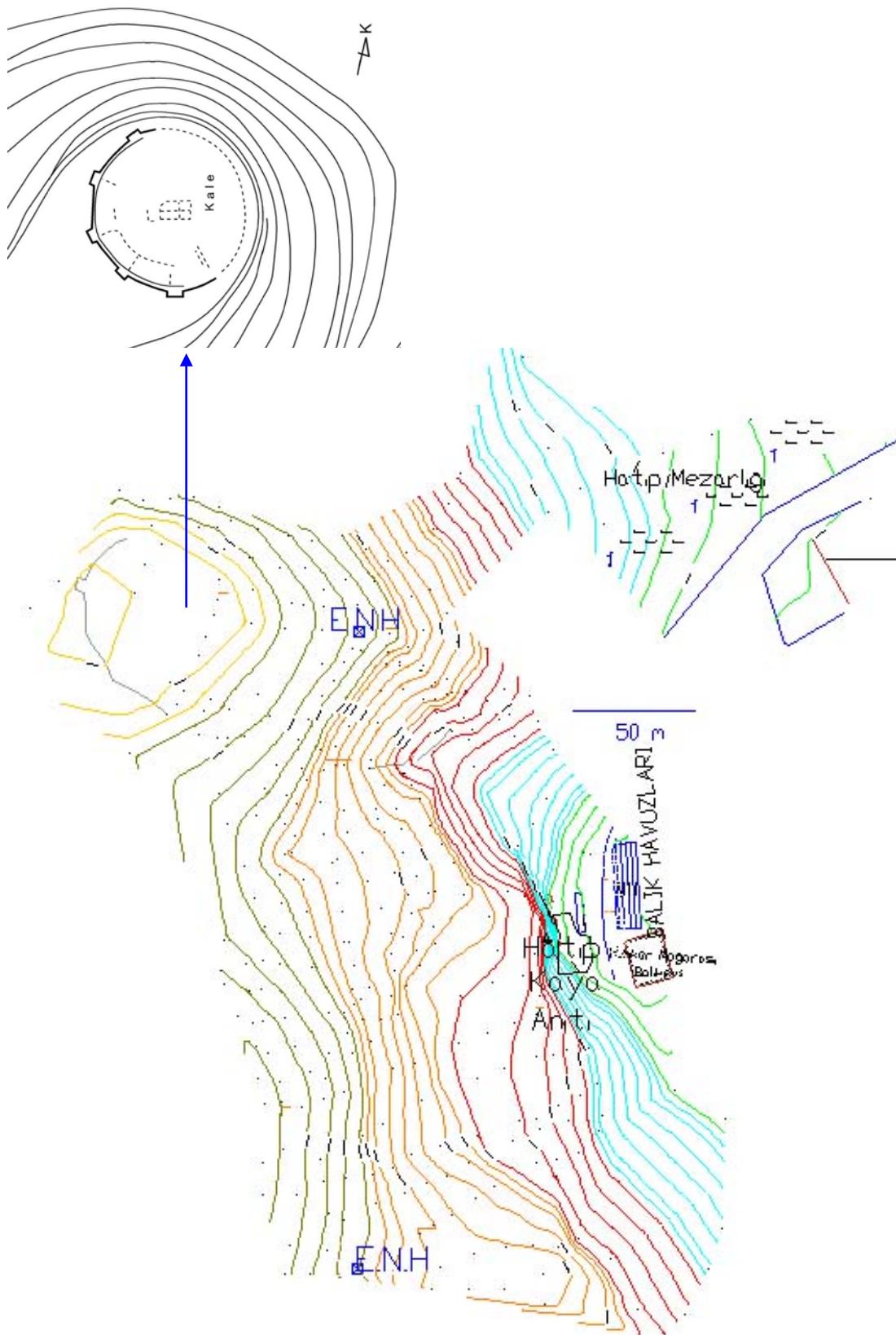


Fig. 3. Geodetic Map of Hatip

The Hittites had added a new sacred water/spring monument in Hatip as they used to do in many Anatolian cities, particularly in Konya and its surroundings. In 1994, we discovered an inscription in the north direction of this rock, 90 vertical degree and 10 m. height. This inscription belonged to a Hittite Great King monument. Unfortunately the remnant of the inscription was covered by the moss and difficult to read. In 1996, after climbing with a rope with the help of mountaineers, we cleaned the inscription then eventually deduced that it was Kurunta. Thereafter we read this as “Son of the Great Brave King Muwattali, Brave King Kurunta” (Bahar 1996a, Bahar 1996b, Dincol 1996) (Fig. 4-5).



Fig. 4. Hatip-Kurunta Monument



Fig. 5. Hatip-Kurunta Monument

As it is known, Kurunta is mentioned as the King of Tarhuntaša in the Bronze Tablette dug up in Boğazköy in 1986, furthermore the king made an agreement with the Hittite Great king Tuthalia IV (Otten, 1988). Tuthalia IV gave some rights to Kurunta regarding some lands and privileges in addition to the lands inherited from his father Hattušili III. But it was stated that there was no sovereignty right for Kurunta over Hattusha. Despite all of the warnings stated in the agreement, Kurunta insisted that He was the Great Hittite King. This information not only enlighten the hidden parts of the history but also present the new unknown processes.

As it is clear because of the worries stem from the attacks of the Kaška and Arzawa, Muwattali moved its capital to the Tarhuntaša, a fortified city in the south before the Kadesh War (Fig. 1). End of the Kadesh War, Urhi-Tešub (Muršili III), son of Muwattali ascended to the throne. After a while, Urhi-Tešub moved the capital city back to Hattusha again. In lieu of

Urhi-Teşub (III. Muršili), his uncle Hattusili III ascend to the throne after removing his nephew from his position. Hattusili signed a treaty with an another nephew; Ulmi-Teshub and left the Tarhuntaša region to him (Gurney, 1988) (Fig. 1). We think that Ulmi-Teşub and Kurunta are the same persons since Urhi Teshub/Mursili III names are used for one person. So Kurunta might have had two names. Also we can observe that Tuthalia IV attributed to the lands inherited from his father and also implied that there was an agreement made with the same person in Bronze Tablette IV (Otten, 1988).

We concluded that Kurunta reigned in this region during his father, Muwattali's period. There was an information regarding Kurunta's rebellion against Tuthalia and occupation of on the Hatip inscription Boğazköy.

Besides the importance of its water sources, Hatip is situated in a strategical point which controls the Konya plain. It is possible to observe the 60-70 km distant area with the naked eye on a clear weather. This time frame provides the chance of preparation for the people against enemy attacks.

On the other hand this place connected Konya plain with Seydişehir and Beyşehir vicinity as it does today and the important roads started from here. Especially this route was very important for the Hittite's transportation through the direction of south and south-west Anatolian. It is obviously shown the domination of the Hittite by observing the monuments of Beyşehir-Fasıllar and Eflatunpınar, Kadınhanı Köylütolu, İlgin Yalbur, Emircazi and Kızıldağ and other Hittite settlements in this area. Hatip, situated among these monuments' connection point, has got a geopolitical advantage.

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