

SILVIA LURAGHI, GUGLIELMO INGLESE

Hittite

Introduction – Part 1: Language, speakers and sources

Roadmap

- Hittite, Anatolian and Indo-European
- Periodization
- Main Sources

The Anatolian languages

- Separate branch of the Indo-European language family, possibly the first to split off;
- Routinely divided into languages attested in the 2nd millennium BC and languages attested in the 1st millennium BC.

2nd millennium BC

Hittite

Palaic

Cuneiform Luwian

1st millennium BC

Hieroglyphic

Luwian

Lydian

Carian

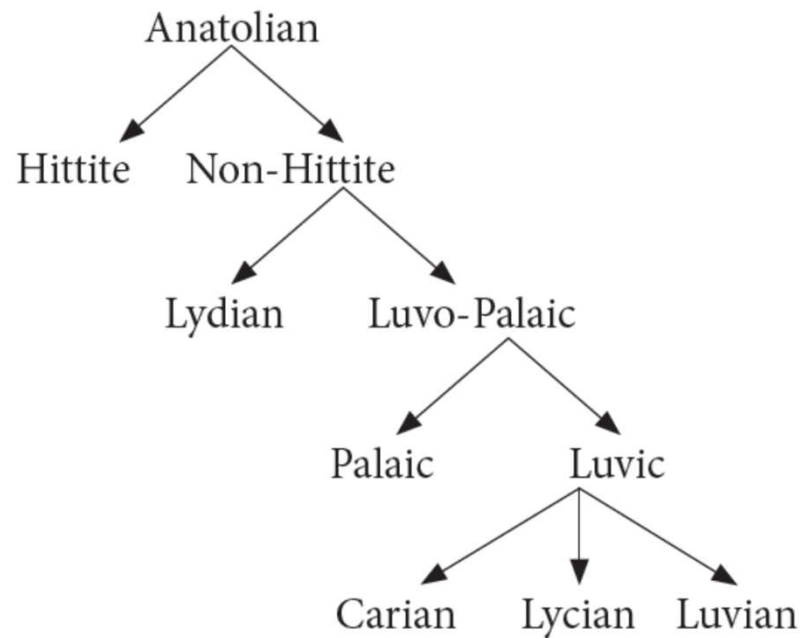
Lycian

Milyan ('Lycian
B')

Pisidian

Sidetic

The Anatolian languages

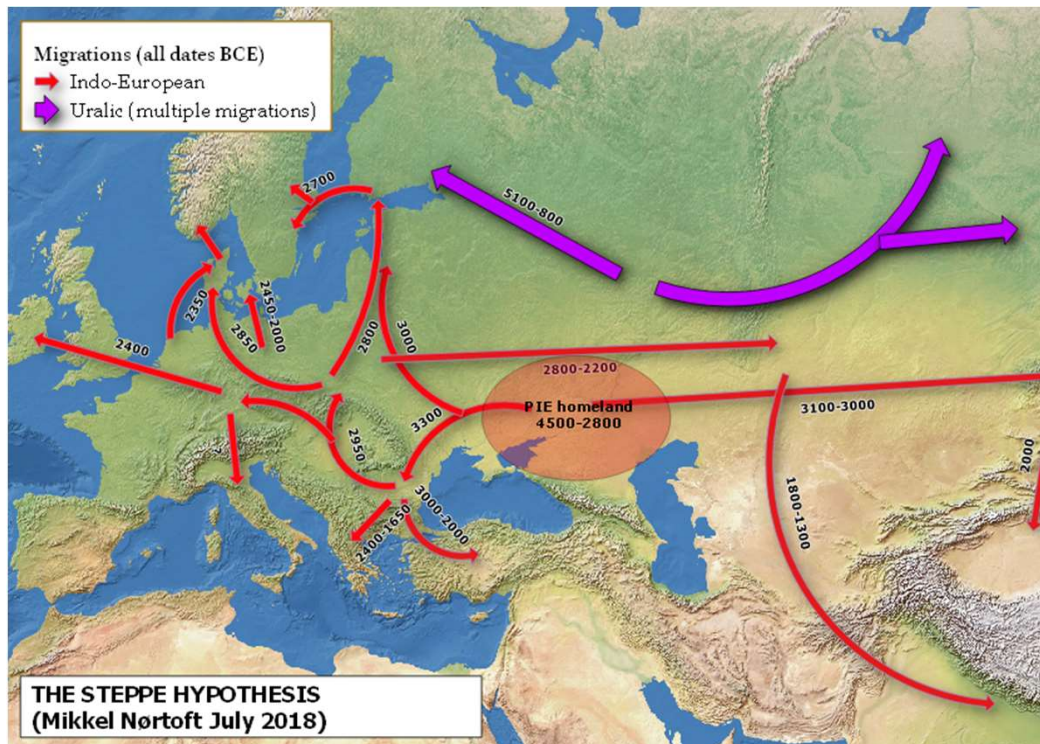


From Yakubovich 2009: 6

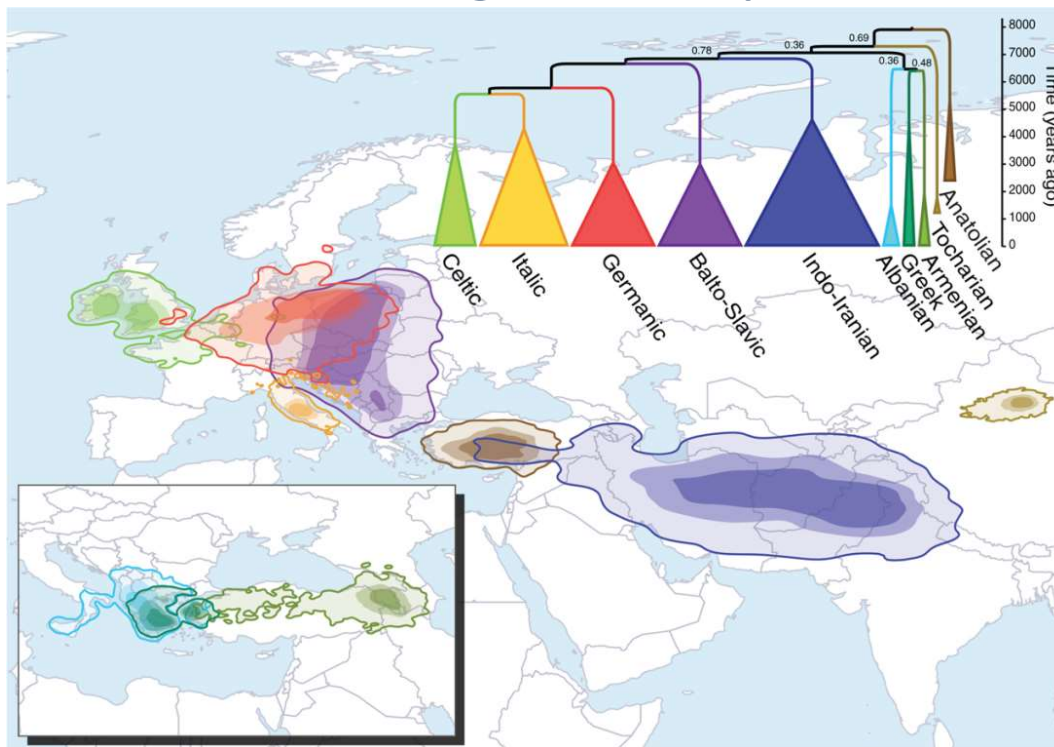
Origin of the Anatolian people

- Two hypotheses regarding the homeland of the Indo-Europeans:
 - External Origin (traditional hypothesis with several variants)
 - Inner Anatolian Origin (Renfrew 1989; Gray, Atkinson et al. 2013)

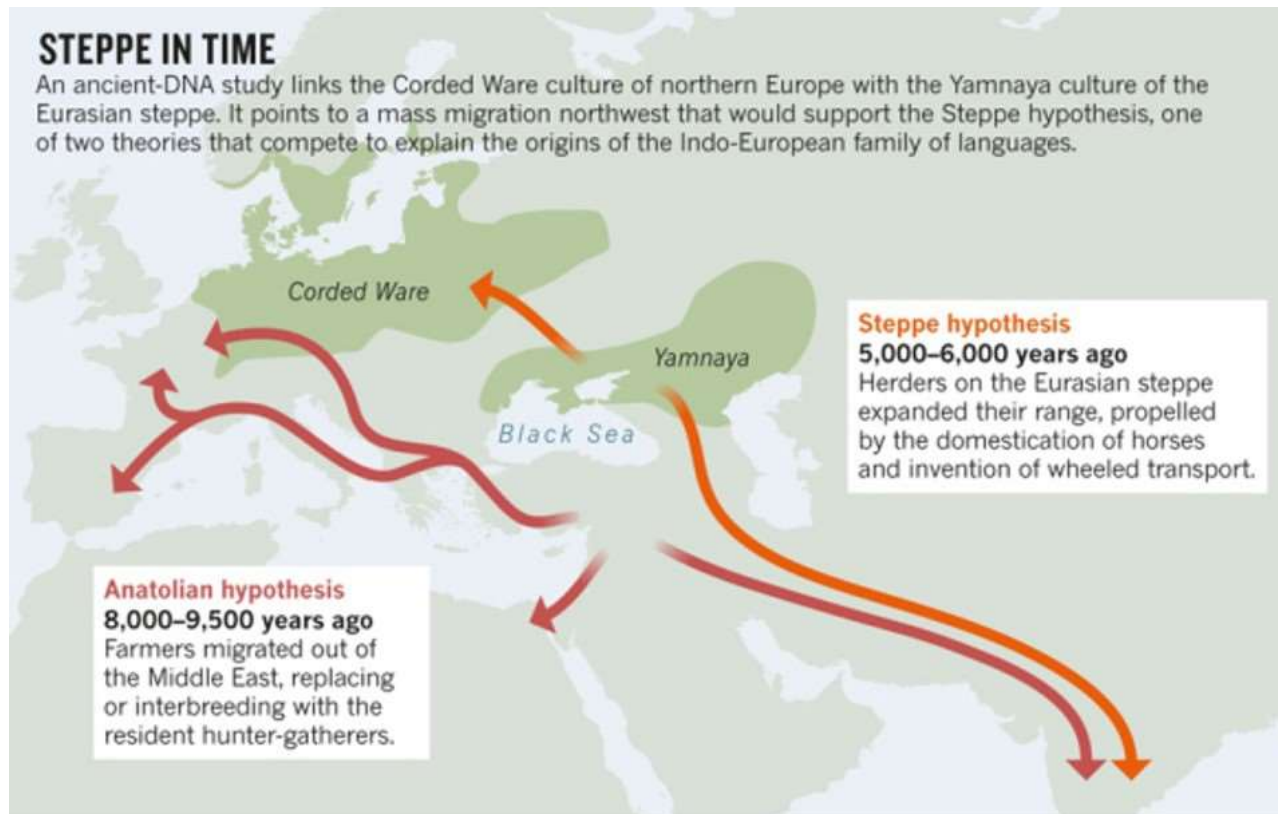
External origin (Pontic steppes)



Inner Anatolian origin: the spread of IE languages



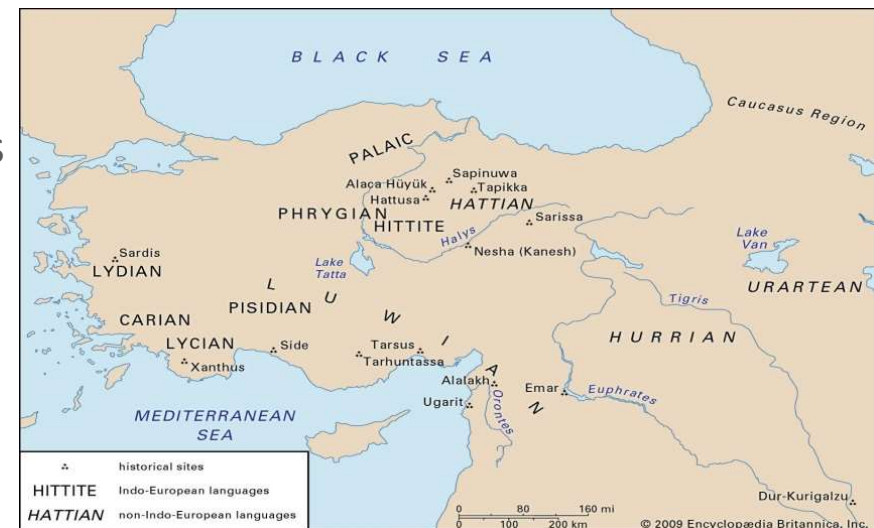
from Gray, Atkinson et al. 2013



from Haak *et al.* (2015)

Hittite: when and where?

- Member of the Anatolian branch of the Indo-European language family
- Early 2nd Millennium BC: traces of Hittite names in texts from Assyrian trade colonies (Kaneš, central Anatolia)
- Principal written language of the Hittite Kingdom
 - 17th – 15th centuries BC: Old Kingdom
 - 15th – 14th centuries BC: Middle Kingdom
 - 14th – 12th centuries BC: Empire
- No longer attested after the beginning of the 12th century BC

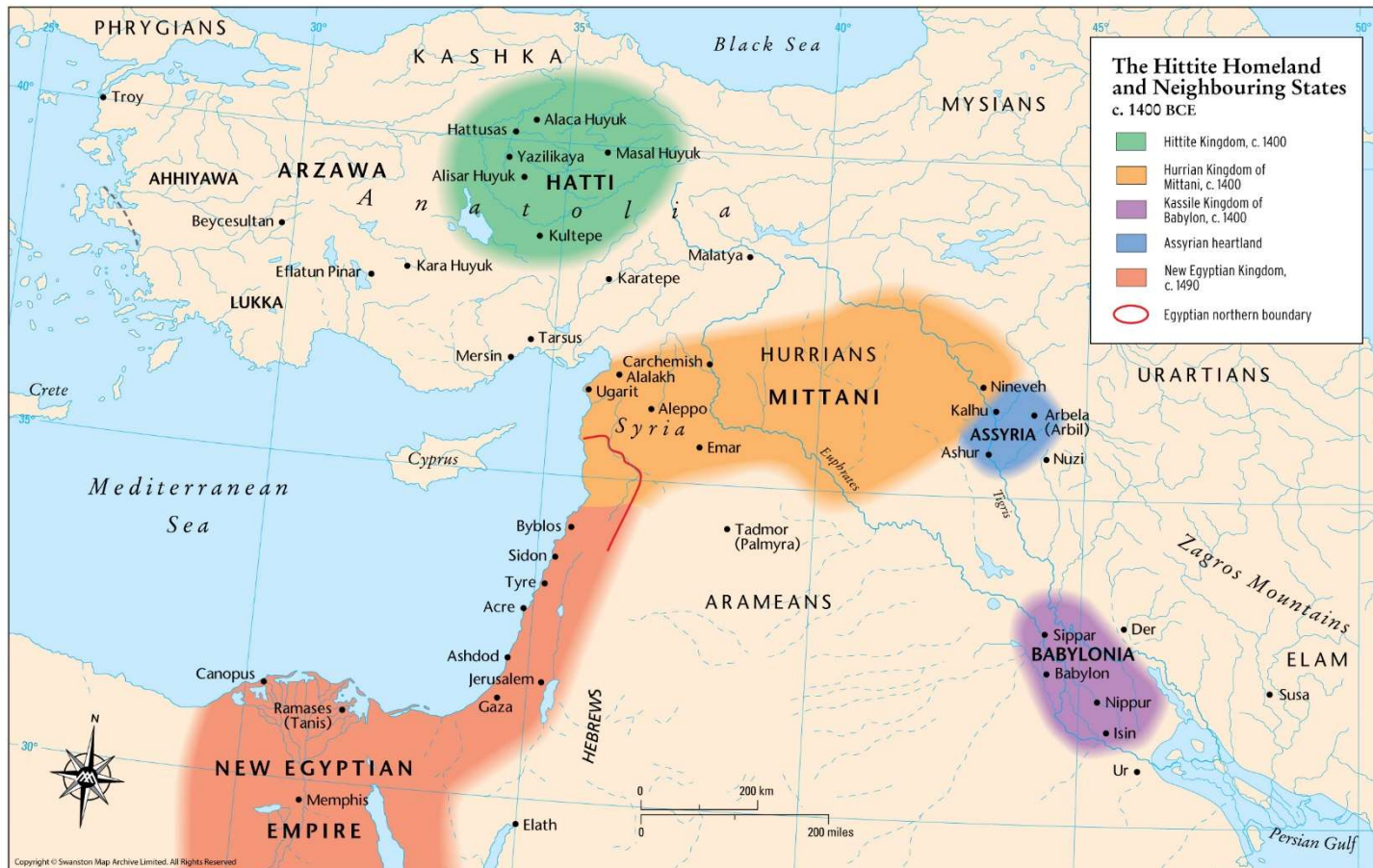


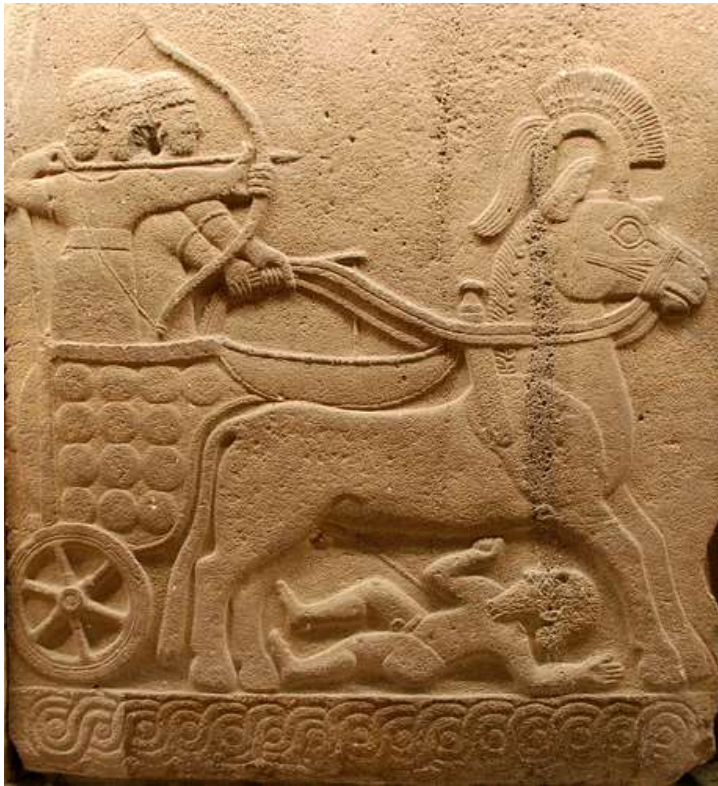
Hittites: who?

- Origin of the name Hittite: *hittî*, *hittîm* in the Bible, in reference to a Canaanite tribe. Later extended by scholars to the kingdom that ruled over Anatolia in the Late Bronze Age.
- The Hittites referred to their country as ‘the country of Hatti’, and to their language as the language of Nesa (Kaneš), or *nešili* (-*ili* is a suffix for manner adverbs that attached to geographic names indicates the language spoken in the region: *luwili* ‘in Luwian’, *palaumnili* ‘in Palaic’, etc.)

Hittite and non-IE neighboring languages

- **Hattian:** spoken in Central Anatolia before the arrival of the Hittites; traces in Hittite texts (*hattili*), influence on the religious sphere;
- **Assyrian:** early contacts with merchant companies (lexical borrowing into Assyrian, *išḫiu(l)lu* ‘contract’ < Hitt. *išḫiul*)
- **Hurrian:** bordering Eastern Anatolia in the transition for Middle Kingdom to the Empire, influence on Hittite religion and literature (translation into Hittite of Hurrian mythological texts, e.g. the Kumarbi Cycle)





- **Warfare:** use of the war chariot, possibly adopted by the neighboring Mitanni kingdom (cf. *Kikkuli* texts)

Language stages

- **Old Hittite (OH)** ca. 1650-1500
- **Middle Hittite (MH)** ca. 1500-1350
- **New Hittite (NH)** ca. 1350-1180
- Several changes at all linguistic levels from OH to NH
 - **Phonology:** OH /i/ > NH /e/ /_n
 - **Morphology:** OH clitic subject plural =e > NH =at/aš
 - **Syntax:** generalization of sentence initial *nu* and loss of OH *ta* and *šu*

Hattusa: the capital city and its archives

- In 1906, Excavations under the direction of Hugo Winckler and Theodore Makridi brought to light the rest of the Hattusa, the capital city of the Hittite Kingdom;
- In the archives of Hattusa, more than 30.000 cuneiform tablets and fragments were found



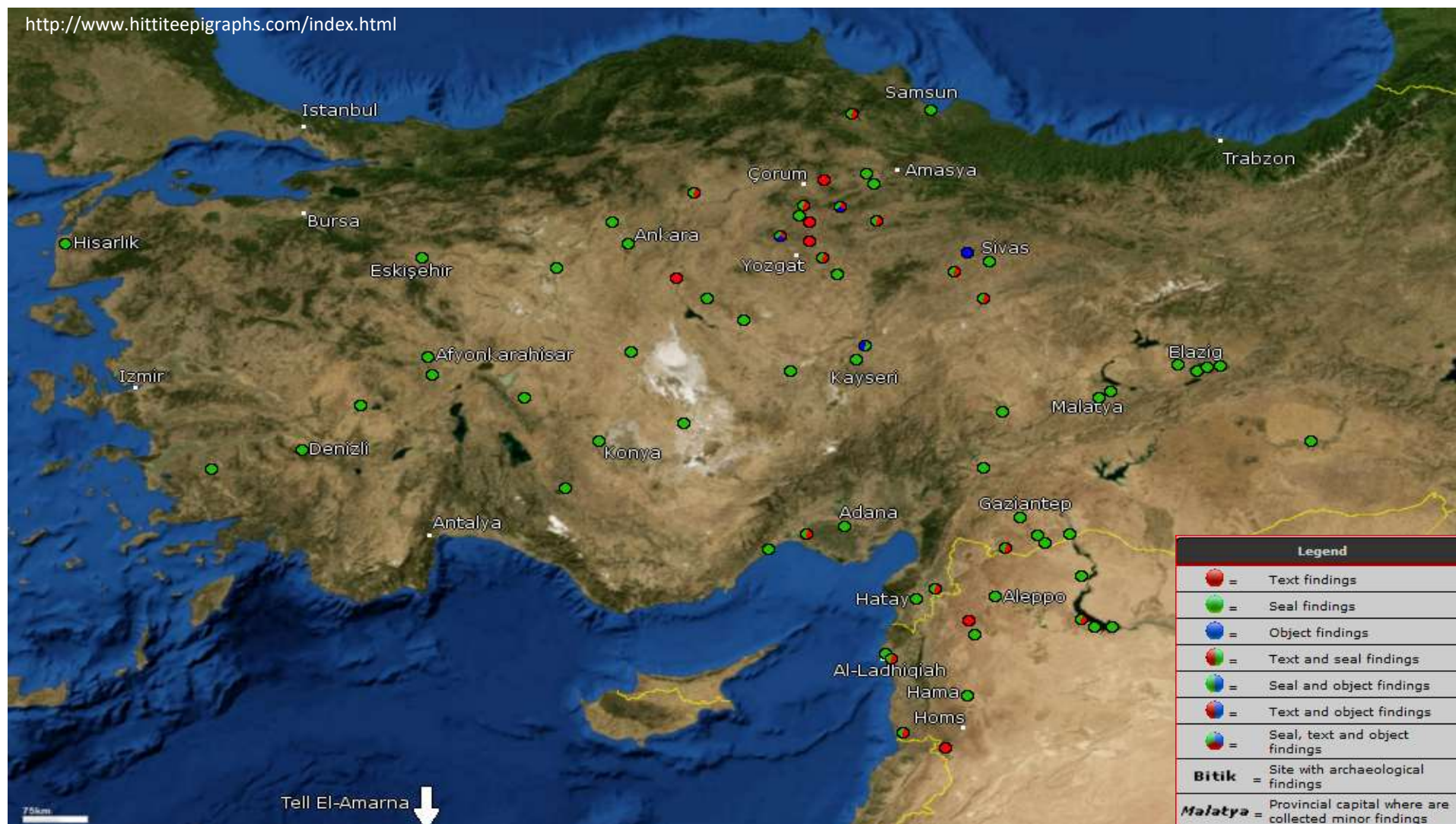
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<http://www.hittitepigraphs.com/index.html>



Main tablet findings

Hittite archives:

- Hattusa (Boğazkale)
- Maşat
- Çorum

Foreign archives:

- Amarna (Egypt)
- Ugarit (Sirya)

Text types according to Laroche (CTH)

- Historical texts: annals, treaties, letters and other (1-220)
- Administrative and technical texts (221-290)
- Laws and other legal texts (291-298)
- Scholarly texts, including vocabularies and translations (299-320)
- Mythological texts (321-370)
- Hymns and prayers (371-389)
- Rituals (390-500)
- Cult inventories (501-530)
- Oracles (531-590)
- Festivals (591-724)
- Texts containing other languages including bilinguals (725-791)
- Sumerian and Akkadian literature (792-819)
- Other (820-1001)

Main text editions

- *Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi* (KUB)
- *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi* (KBo)
- *Istanbul arkeoloji müzelerinde bulunam Boğazköy tabletleri* (IBoT)

Online resources: *Hethitologie Portal Mainz*
<https://www.hethport.uni-wuerzburg.de>

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