

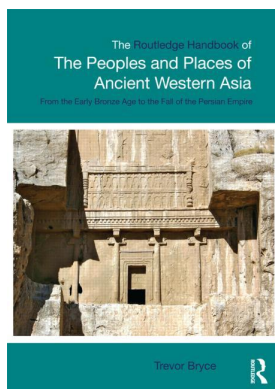
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## **The Routledge Handbook of the Peoples and Places of Ancient Western Asia**

### **The Near East from the Early Bronze Age to the Fall of the Persian Empire**

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**W**

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## W

**Wadi Tharthar** (map 10) A natural depression cutting into the plateau of the Jazira on a north–south course between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, originating to the south-east of the Jebel Sinjar and terminating at its southern end in a salty marsh, Lake Tharthar. The Wadi is attested in the last recorded campaign of the Assyrian king Tukulti-Ninurta II (885). After departing with his army from Ashur, Tukulti-Ninurta marched westwards to the Wadi across the desert, then travelled south along its banks for four days. After pitching camp at its mouth on the evening of the fourth day, he headed east to the Tigris r., where he attacked the settlements of the Aramaean-occupied land of Utu before moving south along the river to Dur-Kurigalzu (\**RIMA* 2: 173).

**Wahsusana** Middle Bronze Age kingdom (called a *mātum* in Assyrian texts) in southeastern Anatolia, to the west of the kingdom of Burushattum/Purushanda, and perhaps in the region of mod. Niğde. An Assyrian *kārum* (merchant-colony) was located there. Political unrest in Wahsusana (as well as in neighbouring Burushattum) at the end of the first phase of the Assyrian Colony period (second half of C19) forced an Assyrian merchant Idi-Ishtar to postpone a visit to the kingdom where he was to arrange for the dispatch of a consignment of copper held in storage there. Perhaps the unsettled conditions to which he refers in a letter to one of his merchant colleagues led to the decline and disappearance of Wahsusana as an important commercial centre and political power in the region. There is no further mention of it in the second and last phase of the Colony period, and it may have become part of the territory of Burushattum/Purushanda.

\*Larsen (1976: 249), \*Bryce (2005: 24–6, 33).

**Wallarimma** Late Bronze Age western Anatolian country lying in or near the Lukka Lands. It was one of the countries captured by the renegade Hittite vassal Madduwatta during his campaigns in western Anatolia (early C14) (\**HDT* 158).

**Walma** Late Bronze Age country in southwestern Anatolia. Its northern limit is generally located near Classical Holmi southeast of mod. Afyon (Melchert, 2003: 37 map). It is uncertain how far south the country extended. (For various proposals regarding its location, see *RGTC* 6: 473, and Melchert, 2003: 6). The Hittite king Mursili II (1321–1295) reports that early in his campaign against the Arzawa lands (1319–1318), he fought a battle on the Astarpa r. in Walma with Piyama-Kurunta, son of the Arzawan king Uhhaziti (\**AM* 50–1, \**CS* II: 85, \*Bryce, 2005: 194). After defeating Piyama-Kurunta's forces, he invaded Uhhaziti's kingdom and occupied his chief city, Apasa. The Astarpa r. has been identified with both the mod. Akar Çay (inland Classical Cayster) and the upper course of the Maeander. It subsequently formed part of the boundary of the Arzawan state of Mira-Kuwaliya. Walma is mentioned in the

fragmentary Annals of Mursili's son and third successor Hattusili III (1267–1237) as one of the lands adjoining the Hulaya River Land (q.v.) repeatedly invaded by an enemy (\*Gurney, 1997: 131). Hattusili again mentions it as bordering upon this land in a treaty he drew up with Ulmi-Teshub, probably his nephew Kurunta (\*HDT 110). Hattusili's son and successor Tudhaliya IV refers to it as a border city on the frontier with the kingdom of Tarhuntassa, which then incorporated the Hulaya River Land (\*HDT 115, \*CS II: 101).

**Warahshe** see Marhashi.

**Warsiyalla** Late Bronze Age city in western Anatolia. The Hittite king Muwattalli II (1295–1272) referred to it as a possible base for a Hittite campaign in the region (\*HDT 90).

**Washaniya** Middle Bronze Age city in southern Anatolia, on a major trade route between Assyria and Burushattum/Purushanda during the Assyrian Colony period (C20–18). It was the seat of a (presumably minor) king (*rubā'um* in the Assyrian texts), who wrote to the Assyrian merchants at nearby Wahsusana, advising them that he had succeeded to his father's throne and wished to renew a treaty with them. A small Assyrian settlement called a *wabartum* was associated with the city.

\*Larsen (1976: 249–50), \*Bryce (2005: 26).

**Washshukkanni (Washshuganni, Washshukanni)** Capital of the Late Bronze Age kingdom of Mitanni. Its location is unknown, though it is perhaps to be identified with mod. Tell Feheriye in the Habur r. triangle, northern Mesopotamia (but see *Feheriye, Tell*). A city called Washshukkanni is attested as belonging to the country of Kizzuwadna in southeastern Anatolia early in C14, when the Hittite throne was occupied by Arnuwanda I (\*HDT 16). Arnuwanda's predecessor and co-regent Tudhaliya I/II claimed to have conquered the land of Hanigalbat (Mitanni) in the course of a campaign against the kingdoms of Aleppo and Hanigalbat (\*Bryce, 2005: 140), and it is just possible that the Hanigalbatean/Mitannian capital Washshukkanni was captured on this campaign and allocated to the territory of Kizzuwadna. More likely, it is to be distinguished from the homonymous Kizzuwadnan city.

If Washshukkanni was in fact captured by Tudhaliya, the Mitanni soon regained it, and it continued to function as Mitanni's royal capital until it was occupied and plundered by the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I c. 1340 in the course of his 'one-year' Syrian campaign (\*DS 84–5, \*HDT 43, \*CS I: 189). The political vacuum left by Suppiluliuma's destruction of the Mitannian kingdom (the last Mitannian stronghold, Carchemish, fell to Suppiluliuma in 1327) was rapidly filled by Assyria. A contest arose between Hatti and Assyria for control over Washshukkanni. Though initially the Hittite viceroy Sharri-Kushuh (Piyassili) succeeded in imposing his authority upon the city (\*HDT 50–1), it soon fell to Assyria and was reduced to Assyrian vassal status. It was one of a number of Mitannian cities which rebelled against Assyrian rule during the reign of Adad-nirari I (1307–1275), but the rebellion was promptly crushed by Adad-nirari and the rebel states were then fully annexed into Assyrian territory (\*RIMA 1: 131, 136).

**Wasuduwanda** Late Bronze Age Hittite city in southern Anatolia, perhaps to be identified with the Iron Age city Ishtuanda (q.v.) attested in Neo-Assyrian texts. A shrine of the goddess Hepat was located there.

*RGTC* 6: 480.

**Wawiyat, Tell el-** ([map 8](#)) Small settlement-mound located in the Lower Galilee region, mod. Israel, 12 km north of Nazareth. Its history of excavation extends from the Middle Bronze to the Iron Age. Excavations were conducted in 1986 and 1987 by B. A. Nakhai, J. P. Dessel, and B. L. Wisthoff for the University of Arizona, in cooperation with the William F. Albright School of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem and the American Schools of Oriental Research. Six levels of occupation were identified. Evidence of human activity in the Middle Bronze Age (Stratum VI; C17–16) was confined to two child jar-burials, and in the Late Bronze Age (Strata V–IV; C15–13) almost entirely to pottery assemblages (with a few meagre architectural remains from Stratum IV). However, the large quantity of imported ceramic ware in this level (C14–13), coming particularly from Cyprus but also from the Aegean world, indicates the settlement's contacts with the world of international trade and its apparent prosperity. The excavators consider it likely that during this period the village served as a way-station supplying food and accommodation to travellers crossing the Lower Galilee.

The site's first Iron Age (IA) level (Stratum III; late C13–early C12) contain its earliest significant architectural remains, in the form of two large multi-roomed building complexes, with some evidence of continuity in both architectural and ceramic traditions from the preceding Late Bronze Age level. One of these complexes apparently had cultic purposes, the other seems to have been primarily of a domestic nature. The excavators concluded that in its first Iron Age phase, Tell el-Wawiyat was a farming hamlet, with complex economic and social activities. In Stratum II (Iron Age IB; C11), buildings from the previous level were reused, but modified by constructing walls to divide up their formerly spacious rooms. The excavators interpret this as representing an indigent squatters' reuse of the site, perhaps reflecting an Israelite occupation of a previously abandoned village.

Nakhai, Dessel, Wisthoff (*NEAEHL* 4: 1500–1).

**Weshesh** Late Bronze Age population group, listed among the so-called Sea Peoples who attacked the coast of Egypt during Ramesses III's reign (1184–1153) (*\*ARE IV*: §64, *\*ANET* 262, *\*Gertzen*, 2008: 88–9). They may have been of northwestern Anatolian origin, if their name can be linked with Wilusa, a northwestern Anatolian kingdom attested in Hittite texts. But the suggested link is very dubious. In the so-called Papyrus Harris (see glossary), Ramesses records the capture of Weshesh and Shardana groups of Sea Peoples, and their deportation to Egypt (*\*Gertzen*, 2008: 91).

Sandars (1985: 224, index refs).

**Wilusa** ([map 3](#)) Hittite vassal kingdom in northwestern Anatolia, generally considered to be one of the Arzawa Lands (q.v.) (though some scholars dispute this). It first appears in Hittite texts (in the form Wilusiya) as the penultimate name in the list of western Anatolian countries forming the anti-Hittite Assuwan Confederacy (c. 1400; see under **Assuwa**) (*\*Bryce*, 2005: 124–5). The last name in the list is

Taruisa. Subsequently, Wilusa's relations with Hatti appear to have been generally peaceful, and at some undetermined time it became one of Hatti's vassal states. In the early decades of C13 its king, Alaksandu, concluded a (still extant) treaty with his Hittite overlord Muwattalli II (\**HDT* 87–93). To judge from other fragmentary texts, Wilusa may have been occupied by enemy forces on at least one occasion during C13, and/or destabilized by uprisings within its own population (\*Bryce, 2006: 184). It was also the cause of a dispute, perhaps even military conflict, between the kings of Ahhiyawa and Hatti, as recorded in the so-called Tawagalawa letter (see Güterbock, 1986: 37). In the final decades of C13 its last known ruler, Walmu, appears to have been driven from his throne, but was restored to it by the Hittite king Tudhaliya IV (\**HDT* 145).

Most scholars now believe that Wilusa/Wilusiya is the Bronze Age equivalent of Ilios (originally Wilios) in Greek epic tradition, and that the Late Bronze Age settlement at Hisarlık in the Troad was the seat of the kingdom of Wilusa. (In Homer's *Iliad*, the name Ilios is used interchangeably with Troia (Troy), the latter commonly equated by scholars with Taruisa.) Recent studies of the political geography of western Anatolia provide additional support for this view, by strengthening the case for locating Wilusa in the northwest corner of Anatolia.

\*Latacz (2004: esp. 75–100), \*Bryce (2006: 107–12, 117–21, 182–6).

**Wiyawanda** The name of (probably) several cities in Late Bronze Age Anatolia, the most clearly attested of which lay in the southwest, within or near the Lukka Lands, and on the frontier of the Arzawan kingdom of Mira-Kuwaliya (\**HDT* 76). It appears in the so-called Yalburt inscription (q.v.) in the same context as Lukka, among the lands conquered by the Hittite king Tudhaliya IV (1237–1209) (\*Hawkins, 1995: 68–9). It subsequently appears along with Lukka among the lands in southern Anatolia conquered by Tudhaliya's son, Suppiluliuma II (1207–) (\*Hawkins, 1995: 22–3). An identification with the Lycian city of Oenoanda (32 km northwest of mod. Elmalı, [map 15](#)) has been suggested. However, Oenoanda is not attested before the late Hellenistic period, and is probably too far south to be compatible with a location for the Bronze Age Wiyawanda which lay on the border of Mira-Kuwaliya.