

assembled by a (Hittite?) scribe who used older invocations to Ištar in a ritual dedicated to Pirinkir, knowing quite well that the latter was in any case an aspect of the Mesopotamian goddess. That the reworking of one or more texts in a final product was not a mechanical action but a careful intervention with the entire text is demonstrated by several examples in Hittite literature (see now Metcalf 2015).

Beside this, it should be noted that the Akkadian invocations are always spoken (*mēma-*) by the priest, as are the utterances in Hittite, with the exception of two invocations (§10, §14). These are sung (*išhamai-*) by a singer (^{LJ}NAR, not in the index), who does not otherwise play any role in the text (and is rarely mentioned at all in the rituals; see Goetze 1964: 95). We could compare his presence here to that in the Hattic ritual CTH 733, where he invokes the gods (the verb in this case is *mald-*, restricted only to the Hattic parts; Torri 2009: 215).

The words of the singer in CTH 718 are in both cases accompanied by a waving of the *lueššar*-element by the priest (Görke 2010: 206–7). The first is a plea with a number of rhythmic repetitions and assonances, and is the longest direct speech in Akkadian of the whole ritual. In comparison, the spells spoken by the priest are rather short and repetitive.

In conclusion, Gary Beckman presents a concise, accurate edition of the *babilili* ritual, leaving open the possibility of several further studies on the topic. In comparison with many editions of ritual texts, Beckman proceeds on firm ground, producing a publication that recalls the editing style of Heinrich Otten, to whose memory this book is dedicated.

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The Reign of Tudhaliya II and Šuppiliuma I: The Contribution of the Hittite Documentation to a Reconstruction of the Amarna Age. By BOAZ STAVI. *Texte der Hethiter*, vol. 31. Heidelberg: UNIVERSITÄTSVERLAG WINTER, 2015. Pp. xviii + 236. €45 (paper).

Boaz Stavi’s new book, which is based on his doctoral dissertation from Tel Aviv University, is an insightfully combined study of the Hittite sources and the Amarna archive in an attempt to bring

clarification to the historical events of Anatolia and Syria and establish a better synchronization between the Hittite and Egyptian chronologies.

While “Amarna Age” as a term more specifically refers to the latter half of the Eighteenth Dynasty in Egypt, in a wider sense it also applies to the entire Near East during the mid-fourteenth century BCE on account of the cache of diplomatic correspondence known as the Amarna letters, which reveals invaluable information about international relations among the great powers of the period. The Amarna letters and the period in general have been subject to numerous studies, one of the goals of which was to establish an accurate synchronization in Near Eastern chronology. Stavi’s work offers a view into the period from the less-studied Hittite side with a reevaluation of the available documents, bringing alternative interpretations to the discussion with the help of new sources recovered in recent years.

The book is organized into three chapters. The introductory chapter is a discussion of two main sources, the Deeds of Šuppiluliuma (DŠ) and the Amarna letters. About the former the author primarily highlights its fragmentary nature and difficulties associated with the arrangement of the order of fragments. In the lengthier discussion of the Amarna letters, the focus is mainly on identifying the corresponding pharaohs and determining the time frame of the archive, for which he suggests an approximately twenty-five-year period, starting from around the thirtieth year of Amenhotep III until the latest years of Akhenaten’s seventeen-year reign, thus ending the archive about five years before the city of Akhetaten was permanently abandoned.

For his purposes, Stavi divides the letters of the archive into three chronological groups: Time Frames I, II, and III, to which he frequently refers in the later chapters while trying to establish synchronization of chronologies. The two events dividing these time frames are Akhenaten’s accession and the conquest of Šumur by Aziru of Amurru, which is dated to around the tenth year of Akhenaten. A four-year sub-period at the end of Time Frame III is identified as the Late Amarna Subset, the opening of which is marked by the (second) Hittite attack in northern Syria.

The other two chapters of the book are a source-by-source treatment of the historical events surrounding the Hittite kings Tudhaliya II and Šuppiluliuma I, with a particular focus on their activities in Syria. In the second chapter, starting with a summary treatment of the reigns of Tudhaliya I and Arnuwanda I, Stavi tries to set an order to historical events leading to the Hittite involvement in Kizzuwatna and Syria. The evaluation of the reign of Tudhaliya II/III is essentially the same as in his article published in *Eothen* 19 (2013): 133–63. The two major phases of this period are the so-called “Concentric Attack,” during which Hatti is under attack from multiple directions and comes near collapse, and the recovery phase when Tudhaliya II leads a successful counter-offensive on all fronts. Contrary to the general opinion which attributes much of the success of the recovery phase to Šuppiluliuma I, Stavi gives more credit to Tudhaliya II by assigning the counter-offensive to his reign.

The main support for this suggestion comes from a rearrangement of the early fragments of the DŠ that correspond to the first three tablets of the composition. The prevailing order of these fragments has for the most part been based on the edition of Güterbock in *JCS* 10 (1956), which orders the events as a withdrawal on all fronts, thus presumably conforming to the period of the Concentric Attack. Stavi builds on the existing scholarly criticism and makes a convincing argument to demonstrate that by changing the order of some of the fragments, the early tablets of the composition can be interpreted as a description of the counter-offensive of Tudhaliya II. Maps 3 and 4 in appendix 1 nicely portray the contrast between the former order indicating a withdrawal and the author’s suggestion of an expansion. In addition to Amarna letters EA 31 and 32, which are generally assumed to correspond to the height of the Concentric Attack, the Hittite offensive mentioned in EA 17 is offered as a second chronological anchor between the Amarna archive and the reign of Tudhaliya II, which Stavi associates with Tudhaliya II’s entry into Syria mentioned in Fragment 8 of DŠ.

The last chapter of the book examines the date, length, and extent of Šuppiluliuma I’s two Syrian campaigns and the intermediate period between them, as well as the synchronization of these periods with the Amarna sources. In a lengthy discussion, additional sources like the Šattiwaza treaties, numerous other treaties, letters, and decrees are evaluated in detail. Establishing that the First Syrian Campaign was about a year in length, targeted primarily Mittani and its Syrian vassals, and—with the exception of a clash at Kadeš—avoided conflict with Egypt and its subject areas, Stavi sets several criteria (p. 108) in order to determine whether references in various documents should belong to the First Syrian War.

He then offers a detailed itinerary that indicates the possible route of Šuppiluliuma I's campaign (pp. 109–10). In the Amarna archive, the First Syrian War is matched with Rib-Hadda's report in EA 75, which reports Hatti's invasion of all the lands of Mitta<ni> and chronologically is to be placed in Time Frame I, more specifically within the last two years of Amenhotep III's reign. The Idanda archive from Qatna is associated with the First Syrian War and its immediate aftermath. In Stavi's reconstruction of this period, the Hittites fail to maintain a strong presence in Syria, which allows Mittani a speedy recovery even before the reign of Amenhotep III comes to an end.

Stavi attributes the Second Syrian War of Šuppiluliuma I to the end of the Amarna archive, therefore assigning all of Time Frame II and most of Time Frame III to the intermediate period between the two Syrian wars, which is estimated as around fifteen years in length. Despite being heavily fragmentary, the three to four tablets of DŠ that seem to cover this time indicate a long period of fighting in Anatolia, which must have diverted the attention of the Hittites from Syrian affairs.

While we learn about the Hittite activities during the Second Syrian War from various documents, our primary sources remain the Amarna letters and DŠ. After discussion of all sources, Stavi summarizes Hittite activity in multiple steps based on information mainly from the Amarna letters (pp. 173–74 and in more detail in Table 4). It is estimated that the time period from the Hittite attack on Amqa, which apparently took place while Aziru of Amurru was in Egypt, until the end of the Amarna archive was around four years, referred to as the Late Amarna Subset. Stavi assumes that there was a short gap between the end of the Late Amarna Subset and the Second Syrian War as described in DŠ, and he therefore summarizes the events of DŠ thus (Table 5, p. 175) as a continuation of the events of Late Amarna Subset.

Although the attack on Amqa is also mentioned in DŠ, Stavi suggests that its discussion here might be part of a review and summary of previous events by the scribe (p. 171). He offers a similar explanation for the mention of the death of the Egyptian king Nibhururiya in DŠ shortly after the Hittite attack on Amqa, while there is no indication of the death of a pharaoh in the Amarna letters. Various possibilities are considered for the identity of Nibhururiya, and for his interpretation Stavi finds it more likely that this king was either Akhenaten or Smenkhare. Finally, he identifies the solar omen of Muršili II's tenth year as that of 1312 BCE, dating Šuppiluliuma I's death to approximately 1323, six years after the start of the Second Syrian War.

The scarcity of relevant sources and their fragmentary nature remain a serious handicap and often prevent the author from reaching firm conclusions, yet his in-depth analysis offers us the most plausible scenarios; overall this study is a valuable contribution. Appendix 2 includes tables itemizing the identified events in chronological order according to sources. Due to small page size several of these tables are spread across multiple pages and numerous footnotes, thereby causing a bit of visual discomfort, but these are otherwise useful summaries for keeping track of the suggested order of events and documents. This book does not include any text editions and avoids lengthy quotes. Therefore serious readers will find it useful to have the editions or translations of the main sources at hand.

The Reign of Tudhaliya II and Šuppiluliuma I is a significant study of primary sources not only for Hittite studies, but also for scholars of the ancient Near East who have an interest in the Amarna period chronology.

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Canaanite Scribes in the Amarna Letters. By JUAN-PABLO VITA. *Alter Orient und Altes Testament*, vol. 406. Münster: UGARIT-VERLAG, 2015. Pp. xii + 179, 78 plates. €97.

Vita's book presents his long-time effort to group the Amarna letters (*EA*) from Canaan according to the individual scribes who wrote them. In pursuit of this goal, he relies heavily on petrographic analysis (Goren, Finkelstein, and Na'aman 2004), considerations based on the content of the letters, and various proposals made in the literature with which he has excellent familiarity. Vita's own contribution