

# The Hurrian Presence in the Afrin Valley: A Synthesis of Archaeological and Textual Evidence Prior to 2010

## Introduction

### Framing the Subject

The Hurrians represent one of the most significant yet enigmatic civilizations of the Ancient Near East. Flourishing for over two millennia, from the late third to the end of the second millennium BCE, their cultural and political influence extended across a vast territory encompassing northern Mesopotamia, southeastern Anatolia, and northern Syria.<sup>1</sup> They were pivotal actors in the complex geopolitical landscape of the Bronze Age, forming the demographic and cultural bedrock of the powerful Mitanni kingdom and profoundly influencing the religion and mythology of their neighbors, most notably the Hittites.<sup>1</sup> The primary and most consistent identifying feature of the Hurrians across this wide expanse of time and geography is their language, a member of the non-Semitic, non-Indo-European Hurro-Urartian language family, which underscores their distinct cultural identity in a region dominated by other linguistic groups.<sup>2</sup>

### The Research Problem

This report undertakes a comprehensive and exhaustive examination of the Hurrian presence and influence within the specific geographical area of the modern Afrin district in northwestern Syria. The central challenge of this inquiry is to construct a nuanced historical narrative from a body of evidence that is often indirect and fragmentary. A critical and defining parameter of this study is its strict adherence to the corpus of archaeological data, textual interpretations, and scholarly literature available **prior to the year 2010**. This temporal constraint necessitates a careful reconstruction of the state of knowledge at that time, deliberately excluding more recent discoveries, events, and reinterpretations.

## Methodological Challenges

Direct archaeological or textual evidence explicitly stating "the Hurrians of Afrin" is, based on the pre-2010 record, non-existent. Consequently, this analysis must adopt a multi-disciplinary and concentric methodology to build its case through reasoned inference. The approach proceeds through several analytical layers:

1. First, it establishes the broad cultural, linguistic, and political context of the Hurrian world to provide a necessary baseline.
2. Second, it defines the hegemonic boundaries of the Hurrian-dominated Mitanni kingdom, assessing its control over northern Syria.
3. Third, it analyzes the material culture and architectural traditions of specific archaeological sites located within the Afrin valley, principally the temple complex at Ain Dara and the city of Cyrrhus (Nebi Huri), for relevant cultural markers.
4. Fourth, it utilizes the rich textual and archaeological data from proximate and well-documented sites, particularly Alalakh (Tell Atchana), as a proxy to make reasoned inferences about the demographic and cultural conditions within the Afrin region.
5. Finally, it critically evaluates modern assertions, especially those found in non-academic sources that attempt to draw direct lines between ancient peoples and contemporary ethnic identities, ensuring a rigorous separation between the historical-archaeological record and modern political discourse.<sup>7</sup>

By integrating these disparate threads of evidence, this report aims to present a scholarly and meticulously sourced assessment of the Hurrian chapter in the long and layered history of the Afrin valley.

## I. The Hurrian World: A Synoptic Overview (c. 2500–1000 BCE)

To understand the potential Hurrian presence in a specific locale like the Afrin valley, it is imperative to first establish a comprehensive understanding of the Hurrian civilization at large. This chapter provides a synoptic overview of their origins, language, political history—most notably the rise of the Mitanni kingdom—and the unique social fabric revealed through textual archives, all based on the state of scholarship before 2010.

### 1.1. Origins, Language, and Cultural Identity

The Hurrians first appear in the historical record as a distinct cultural and linguistic group in the latter half of the third millennium BCE. Pre-2010 scholarship generally situated their original habitat in the mountainous regions of the Zagros and Taurus ranges, particularly the

area east of the Tigris River and around Lake Van.<sup>2</sup> From this highland core, they began a gradual expansion into the plains of Upper Mesopotamia and northern Syria, a process that was underway by the Akkadian period (c. 2334-2190 BCE) and continued for centuries.<sup>2</sup> The single most defining characteristic of the Hurrians is their language. It is the primary marker used by scholars to trace their presence and influence. Hurrian belongs to the Hurro-Urartian language family, a linguistic isolate with no demonstrable genetic relationship to the major language families of the Ancient Near East, the Semitic (e.g., Akkadian, Amorite) and Indo-European (e.g., Hittite, Luwian) families.<sup>2</sup> This linguistic uniqueness points to a separate origin and a distinct cultural tradition. The earliest known inscriptions in the Hurrian language were discovered at the site of Urkesh (modern Tell Mozan) in the Khabur triangle of northeastern Syria, a city that flourished as a major Hurrian religious and political center in the third millennium BCE.<sup>2</sup> The expansion of Hurrian city-states was periodically contested by regional powers; the annals of the Akkadian Empire, for instance, record campaigns by rulers like Sargon the Great and Naram-Sin against northern polities that were likely Hurrian.<sup>2</sup> Despite their eventual political assimilation, the Hurrians left a profound and lasting cultural legacy. Their pantheon, religious rituals, and mythological narratives were extensively adopted and adapted by their neighbors. The Hittites, in particular, integrated a vast number of Hurrian deities into their state religion, to the extent that the Hittite pantheon became heavily "Hurrianized".<sup>4</sup> Hittite scribes in the capital of Hattusa meticulously copied and translated Hurrian myths, such as the *Kumarbi Cycle*, which details a succession of divine kingship. These myths, preserved through Hittite transmission, contain themes and motifs that scholars have identified as potential precursors to elements found in later Urartian religion and even in the epic poetry of Archaic Greece, such as Hesiod's *Theogony*.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2. The Mitanni Kingdom: A Hurrian Superstate in the Late Bronze Age

The political apogee of the Hurrians was achieved with the rise of the Mitanni kingdom around 1550 BCE.<sup>1</sup> This powerful state emerged in the political vacuum created in northern Mesopotamia and Syria following the destructive campaigns of the Old Hittite Kingdom, which had weakened the previously dominant Amorite kingdom of Yamhad (Aleppo).<sup>16</sup> Mitanni was, in essence, a Hurrian superstate. Its population was predominantly Hurrian, its culture was Hurrian, and its administrative language was Hurrian.<sup>2</sup> The kingdom was structured as a confederation of vassal states, each ruled by local kings bound by treaty to the Great King of Mitanni.<sup>16</sup> The capital city, Waššukanni, has not been definitively located by archaeologists, but textual evidence places it in the fertile Khabur River region of northeastern Syria.<sup>15</sup> A unique and extensively discussed feature of the Mitanni state was the nature of its ruling class. While the kingdom was culturally Hurrian, the elite was composed of a warrior aristocracy known as the *maryannu* (a term for chariot warriors), who bore distinctly Indo-Aryan, rather than Hurrian, personal names.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, in international treaties, such

as the famous one between the Mitanni king Shattiwaza and the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I, the Mitanni rulers invoked a quartet of deities whose names have clear parallels in the Vedic pantheon of ancient India: Mitra, Varuna, Indra, and the Nasatya (the divine twins, equivalent to the Ashvins).<sup>4</sup> This has led to the widely accepted theory that a small, elite group of Indo-Aryans migrated into the Hurrian homeland and established themselves as the ruling dynasty, bringing with them specialized military technology, particularly the light, spoked-wheel war chariot, and their own religious traditions.<sup>4</sup> However, this Indo-Aryan element appears to have been largely absorbed into the dominant Hurrian culture. The language of the Mitanni court, as evidenced by the longest of the Amarna Letters sent by King Tushratta to the Egyptian Pharaoh, was Hurrian, not an Indo-Aryan language.<sup>6</sup> The state is therefore best understood as having a Hurrian body with an Indo-Aryan head. As a major regional power, Mitanni engaged in diplomacy and conflict with the other members of the Late Bronze Age "Great Powers Club," namely Egypt, Hatti, and Babylonia.<sup>19</sup> Its initial expansion into Syria brought it into direct competition with the Egyptian New Kingdom, but relations were later stabilized through diplomatic marriages.<sup>16</sup> The kingdom's ultimate demise was brought about by a combination of internal succession disputes and external pressure from two rising powers. To the east, the resurgent Middle Assyrian kingdom under Ashur-uballit I began to annex Mitanni territories.<sup>19</sup> The final blow came from the west, where the Hittite king Suppiluliuma I (r. c. 1344-1322 BCE) launched a devastating campaign that shattered the Mitanni state, sacking Waššukanni and reducing the kingdom to a Hittite vassal state known as Hanigalbat. Within a century, this remnant state was fully absorbed by the Assyrians.<sup>9</sup>

### 1.3. Society and Law in Hurrian Contexts: The Nuzi Tablets

While royal annals and diplomatic letters provide a top-down view of the Hurrian world, an unparalleled glimpse into the bottom-up social and legal fabric of a Hurrian community comes from the archives discovered at Nuzi. Located at modern Yorghana Tepe in northeastern Iraq, Nuzi was a provincial city within the Hurrian-inhabited kingdom of Arrapha, which was under the political influence of the Mitanni empire.<sup>21</sup> The thousands of cuneiform tablets unearthed there, dating to the 15th-14th centuries BCE, consist primarily of private legal and administrative documents, such as marriage contracts, adoption records, wills, and litigation records.<sup>23</sup>

Pre-2010 scholarship placed considerable emphasis on the remarkable parallels between the social and legal customs documented in the Nuzi tablets and the patriarchal narratives of the Book of Genesis. These parallels were seen as strong evidence for the historical authenticity of the Genesis accounts, suggesting they reflected the cultural milieu of the second millennium BCE.<sup>22</sup> Key customs highlighted in this comparative analysis include:

- **Adoption for Inheritance:** The Nuzi archives contain numerous tablets recording the adoption of an individual, often a trusted servant, by a childless couple. The adopted son was obligated to care for his adoptive parents in their old age and perform the

necessary funerary rites, and in return, he would become their legal heir. This practice provides a compelling cultural context for Abraham's lament in Genesis 15:2 that, being childless, his servant Eliezer of Damascus stood to be his heir.<sup>22</sup>

- **Surrogacy through Handmaidens:** Nuzi marriage contracts sometimes stipulated that if a wife proved to be barren, she was obligated to provide her husband with one of her handmaidens to bear children on her behalf. The children born of this union would be considered the legal offspring of the primary wife. This custom directly mirrors the narrative of Sarah giving her Egyptian handmaiden, Hagar, to Abraham to produce an heir.<sup>22</sup>
- **The Significance of Household Gods:** The Nuzi texts revealed that the possession of the family's household gods (*ilāni*), often small figurines, was legally tied to the right of inheritance. In some cases, holding these gods could serve as a title deed to the family property. This legal precedent shed considerable light on the otherwise obscure story in Genesis 31, where Rachel steals the *teraphim* (household gods) of her father, Laban. Her act was not simple theft but a strategic attempt to secure the primary inheritance rights for her husband, Jacob. This, in turn, explains the intensity of Laban's pursuit and his insistence on establishing a legal boundary between them.<sup>22</sup>
- **Wife-Sistership Status:** A particularly distinctive Hurrian custom revealed at Nuzi was the practice of "sistership" contracts. A woman, in addition to her marriage contract, could be legally adopted by her husband as his "sister." This dual status afforded the wife a superior social standing and greater legal protection than that of a wife alone. This practice offered a plausible cultural explanation for the episodes in Genesis where both Abraham and Isaac identify their wives as their "sisters" to foreign kings. Rather than being a simple deception, it may have reflected their actual legal status within a cultural framework where such a relationship was understood and valued.<sup>24</sup>

Although Nuzi is located in modern Iraq, far to the east of the Afrin region, its archives are invaluable for this study. As a city integrated into the broader Hurrian cultural sphere under the Mitanni empire, the social and legal norms it documents were likely not isolated phenomena. They reflect widespread Hurrian traditions. Given that the Mitanni kingdom also controlled northern Syria, it is a strong and reasonable inference that the Hurrian-influenced populations in regions like the Afrin valley would have shared a similar socio-legal framework. The Nuzi tablets thus provide a crucial bridge from the high-level politics of kings and empires to the textured reality of daily life, allowing for a more complete reconstruction of the society that inhabited the Afrin region during the Late Bronze Age.

## II. Mitanni Hegemony and the Political Landscape of Northern Syria

Having established the broader context of the Hurrian world, the analysis now narrows to the specific political situation in northern Syria during the Late Bronze Age (c. 1600-1200 BCE).

The evidence from this period strongly indicates that the Afrin valley, by virtue of its strategic geography and its location within the documented sphere of Mitanni imperial control, was unequivocally part of the Hurrian-Mitanni political and cultural world. This conclusion is built upon textual evidence defining the empire's reach, diplomatic correspondence confirming its status, and detailed case studies from nearby sites that serve as reliable proxies for the region.

## **2.1. Mapping the Mitanni Sphere of Influence**

The Mitanni kingdom, at the zenith of its power in the 15th and 14th centuries BCE, was one of the great empires of the Near East. Textual sources from across the region, including Hittite, Egyptian, and Assyrian records, allow for a reasonably clear reconstruction of its territorial extent. The empire's heartland was in the Khabur River valley in Upper Mesopotamia, but its influence radiated outwards to create a vast sphere of control.<sup>9</sup> At its peak, this sphere stretched from the Zagros Mountains and the city of Nuzi (near modern Kirkuk) in the east, across northern Mesopotamia, and westward to the Mediterranean Sea.<sup>19</sup>

Crucially for this study, Mitanni's hegemony extended over most of northern Syria. The kingdom controlled the vital trade routes running down the Euphrates to Mari and up to Carchemish, as well as the headwaters of the Tigris at Nineveh.<sup>19</sup> Numerous key Syrian city-states are documented as being vassals within the Mitanni confederation, including Aleppo (the former capital of the powerful Amorite kingdom of Yamhad), Alalakh in the Amuq plain, Carchemish on the Euphrates, Ebla, and Qatna further south.<sup>16</sup> This network of allied and subject states gave Mitanni firm control over the strategic and agricultural heartland of Syria.

This political reality is vividly confirmed by the Amarna Letters, the diplomatic archive discovered in Egypt dating to the reigns of Pharaohs Amenhotep III and Akhenaten (c. 14th century BCE). These letters show the Mitanni king, particularly Tushratta, corresponding with the Egyptian court as an equal, a "brother" in the parlance of great power diplomacy.<sup>30</sup> The correspondence discusses the exchange of lavish gifts, requests for Egyptian gold, and, most importantly, the arrangement of royal marriages to cement their political alliance against the rising power of the Hittites.<sup>18</sup> These letters firmly place Mitanni in the "Great Powers Club" and underscore its role as the dominant political entity in northern Syria during this period.<sup>20</sup>

Given this documented sphere of influence, the Afrin valley's position becomes clear. It is situated directly between the major centers of Aleppo to the southeast and the Amuq Plain (with its capital Alalakh) to the southwest, both of which were core territories of the Mitanni state.<sup>19</sup> The valley also forms a natural and strategic corridor leading from the Syrian plains towards the passes of the Amanus Mountains and into Anatolia—the Hittite heartland. For a power like Mitanni, whose primary geopolitical rival was the Hittite Empire, controlling this corridor would have been a military and economic necessity, not a matter of choice.

Therefore, the Afrin valley cannot be viewed as a peripheral or uncontrolled borderland. It was an integral part of the Mitanni kingdom's Syrian territories, essential for both the economic

integration of the region and its defense against Hittite encroachment.

## **2.2. A Case Study in Hurrian Presence: The Alalakh Tablets**

The most detailed and compelling evidence for the nature of Hurrian society in northern Syria during the Mitanni period comes from the archaeological site of Alalakh (modern Tell Atchana), located in the Amuq Plain just southwest of the Afrin region.<sup>33</sup> The archives discovered at Alalakh, particularly from Levels VII and IV, provide an intimate view of a Syrian city-state under Mitanni rule and serve as an invaluable proxy for understanding the contemporaneous situation in the adjacent Afrin valley.

The political subordination of Alalakh to Mitanni is explicitly stated in the famous inscription on the statue of King Idrimi, a local ruler of Alalakh in the 15th century BCE. In his autobiographical text, Idrimi recounts how he gained the throne of Alalakh and explicitly names the Mitanni Great King Barattarna as his overlord, to whom he swore an oath of vassalage.<sup>34</sup> This textual evidence provides a clear political anchor, confirming that Alalakh was part of the Mitanni imperial system.

The Alalakh tablets reveal much more than just political allegiance; they provide a window into the demographic and linguistic composition of the city's population. A key finding from the analysis of these tablets is the high prevalence of personal names that are linguistically Hurrian.<sup>14</sup> These names are found across all levels of society, from the royal family and elite administrators to commoners, indicating that the Hurrian presence was not limited to a small, foreign ruling class but constituted a significant and integrated part of the general population. Perhaps the most powerful indicator of a deep-rooted Hurrian cultural presence is the linguistic evidence from the tablets themselves. While the administrative language of Alalakh was Akkadian, the lingua franca of the era, the texts are replete with features that show heavy interference from a spoken Hurrian substrate. This linguistic hybrid is known to scholars as "Hurro-Akkadian".<sup>36</sup> It is characterized by the incorporation of Hurrian vocabulary, the use of Hurrian grammatical suffixes on Akkadian words, and syntactical structures that follow Hurrian rather than Akkadian conventions. This phenomenon strongly suggests that the scribes who wrote the tablets, and likely a large portion of the populace, were native Hurrian speakers who were using Akkadian as a formal, learned language for official records. The Hurrian language was their vernacular, and its patterns bled through into their formal writing. The situation documented at Alalakh—a mixed population of Hurrian and local Semitic (Amorite) peoples, speaking Hurrian as a common vernacular, and living under the political umbrella of the Mitanni empire—can be reliably extrapolated to the neighboring Afrin valley. There are no significant geographical barriers or known political divisions between the Amuq Plain and the Afrin valley that would suggest a radically different demographic or linguistic environment during the Late Bronze Age. The people inhabiting the Afrin region during the period of Mitanni hegemony were almost certainly a similar blend of Hurrian and Amorite groups, sharing the same language, culture, and political fate as their neighbors in Alalakh.

### 2.3. The Hittite Conquest and its Implications

The era of Mitanni dominance in northern Syria came to a decisive end around 1350 BCE with the military campaigns of the formidable Hittite king Suppiluliuma I. In a series of brilliant strategic moves, Suppiluliuma shattered the Mitanni army, captured its key Syrian territories, and fundamentally redrew the political map of the Near East.<sup>16</sup> He conquered the great city of Aleppo and the strategic fortress of Carchemish on the Euphrates, installing his own sons as viceroys to govern these new Hittite provinces.<sup>38</sup>

This political upheaval, however, does not appear to have been accompanied by a mass displacement or replacement of the local population. The existing demographic fabric of northern Syria, including the Afrin valley, remained largely intact. The same mix of Hurrian and Semitic peoples who had lived under Mitanni rule now found themselves subjects of the Hittite Empire. This transition from Mitanni to Hittite suzerainty marks a pivotal moment in the region's cultural history. It initiated a long period of intense cultural interaction and syncretism, which gave rise to the distinctive "Syro-Hittite" civilization that would characterize northern Syria and southeastern Anatolia for the next several centuries, through the end of the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age. The Hurrian element was not erased; rather, it became a foundational component of this new, hybrid culture under Hittite political administration.

## III. Archaeological Echoes: Investigating the Material Record in the Afrin Region

While textual evidence establishes the high probability of a Hurrian presence in the Afrin valley during the Late Bronze Age, the archaeological record within the valley itself provides the physical, material dimension of this history. An examination of the major excavated sites, based on reports and analyses available before 2010, reveals a complex picture of cultural continuity and transformation. The monumental architecture at Ain Dara, in particular, suggests the persistence of traditions rooted in the preceding Hurrian-Mitanni era, even as the region was integrated into new political and cultural spheres.

To provide a clear chronological context for this analysis, the following table aligns the major historical periods and events with the occupational phases of the key archaeological sites in the Afrin region.

**Table 1: Chronological Framework of Hurrian History and Key Sites in the Afrin Region**

Period	Date Range (BCE)	Major Hurrian/Mitanni Events	Afrin Region - Ain Dara Site	Afrin Region - Cyrrhus (Nebi Huri) Site	Controlling Power in N. Syria	Relevant Sources
Middle Bronze	2000-1600	Hurrian expansion	Early settlement	Not attested	Amorite Kingdoms	<sup>14</sup>



		into N. Syria	(pre-temple)		(Yamhad)	
<b>Late Bronze I</b>	1600-1400	Mitanni Kingdom founded (c. 1550)	Early settlement (pre-temple)	Not attested	<b>Mitanni Kingdom</b>	<sup>1</sup>
<b>Late Bronze IIA</b>	1400-1300	Mitanni at height (Amarna Period)	Early settlement (pre-temple)	Not attested	<b>Mitanni Kingdom</b>	<sup>30</sup>
<b>Late Bronze IIB</b>	1300-1200	Mitanni falls to Hittites (c. 1350)	<b>Temple Phase I Founded (c. 1300)</b>	Not attested	<b>Hittite Empire</b>	<sup>38</sup>
<b>Iron I</b>	1200-900	Hurrians assimilated	<b>Temple Phase II (c. 1000-900)</b>	Not attested	Neo-Hittite/Assyrian States	<sup>38</sup>
<b>Iron II</b>	900-539	Urartu flourishes (related lang.)	<b>Temple Phase III (c. 900-740)</b>	Not attested	Neo-Hittite/Assyrian Empire	<sup>39</sup>
<b>Hellenistic</b>	330-64		Site abandoned/in decline	<b>Founded c. 300 BCE</b>	Seleucid Empire	<sup>41</sup>
<b>Roman</b>	64 BCE - 330 CE		Site abandoned	Military Base / Prosperous City	Roman Empire	<sup>40</sup>

This table visually demonstrates the crucial chronological overlaps and disjunctions. The founding of the Ain Dara temple around 1300 BCE occurs shortly after the Hittite conquest of the region from Mitanni, placing its construction firmly in an era of Hittite political control over a population that was still culturally and demographically Hurrianized. Conversely, the table highlights the thousand-year gap between the end of the Hurrian era and the founding of Cyrrhus, making a direct cultural link between the two highly improbable.

### 3.1. The Ain Dara Temple Complex

The most significant archaeological site in the Afrin valley for the period in question is the temple complex at Tell Ain Dara. Located approximately 5 kilometers south of the modern city of Afrin, it commands a strategic position overlooking the Afrin River valley.<sup>38</sup> Excavations conducted primarily by the Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities & Museums, notably

under the direction of Ali Abu Assaf in the 1980s, established a chronology for the temple spanning from its foundation around 1300 BCE to its final phases around 740 BCE.<sup>38</sup> Throughout pre-2010 scholarship, the temple is consistently identified with the "Syro-Hittite" or "Neo-Hittite" cultures that dominated northern Syria during the Iron Age, the period of the temple's greatest prominence.<sup>38</sup> Its iconography, featuring monumental basalt orthostats carved with reliefs of lions and sphinxes, aligns with the broader artistic traditions of these Iron Age kingdoms.<sup>38</sup> However, a crucial architectural clue points to deeper cultural roots. Some pre-2010 scholarly sources, particularly those cited in local Syrian archaeological literature, identify the temple's ground plan as belonging to the

*Hilani* style.<sup>45</sup> The

*Hilani*, or *bīt-ḥilāni* as it is known from Assyrian texts, is a distinctive palatial and temple architectural form characterized by a columned portico entrance leading to a main hall.<sup>48</sup> This architectural style is specifically associated with the traditions of northern Syria and is believed by some scholars to have Hurrian-Mitanni origins, prevalent in the region from 1200 to 700 BCE.<sup>45</sup> The presence of this architectural form at Ain Dara thus represents a potential material link to the cultural traditions of the preceding Late Bronze Age.

The temple's foundation date of c. 1300 BCE is particularly significant. As the chronological table above illustrates, this places its construction shortly after the Hittite empire wrested control of northern Syria from the Mitanni kingdom. The temple was therefore built by a local population that, as established from the evidence at Alalakh, was significantly Hurrian in its demographic composition and cultural orientation. While living under a new Hittite political reality, their cultural and architectural grammar would have been profoundly shaped by the preceding centuries of Hurrian-Mitanni tradition. The identification of the temple's plan as a *Hilani*, a style associated with this very tradition, suggests that the monument is not a purely "Hittite" imperial import. Rather, it should be seen as a local Syro-Anatolian expression—a fusion of the new political order with the deep-rooted cultural substrate of the region's Hurrian and Amorite inhabitants. The Ain Dara temple can thus be interpreted as an architectural fossil of the cultural transition from the Mitanni to the Hittite era in northern Syria, a monumentalization of inherited traditions.

### 3.2. The Enigma of Cyrrhus (Nebi Huri)

The second major archaeological site in the Afrin region is Cyrrhus, known today as Nebi Huri, located in the northeastern part of the district.<sup>11</sup> In stark contrast to Ain Dara, the history of Cyrrhus is well-documented, and based on all available pre-2010 archaeological and textual evidence, it has no connection to the Bronze Age Hurrians.

Historical and archaeological investigations have unequivocally established Cyrrhus as a Hellenistic city, founded around 300 BCE by Seleucus I Nicator, one of the generals of Alexander the Great.<sup>41</sup> It flourished as a strategic military base for the Roman Empire, serving as the headquarters for the Tenth Legion Fretensis during campaigns against Armenia.<sup>41</sup> During the Byzantine period, it was renamed Hagiopolis ("City of Saints") and became a major

Christian pilgrimage destination.<sup>41</sup> The extensive ruins at the site, which include a large Roman theater, a hexagonal tower tomb, and two Roman bridges that remain in use, all date to these later periods.<sup>41</sup>

Despite this clear historical record, several local histories and non-academic sources have attempted to link the site's modern Arabic name, *Nebi Huri* ("Prophet Huri"), to the ancient Hurrians.<sup>7</sup> These theories propose, without archaeological support, that the name is a distant echo of the Hurrian people, or perhaps a corruption of the name of the Zoroastrian god Ahura Mazda, or even a reference to the biblical figure Uriah the Hittite.<sup>7</sup>

A critical assessment based on the pre-2010 scholarly record shows these claims to be untenable. There is no archaeological evidence for a Bronze Age or Iron Age settlement at the site of Cyrrhus. The name *Nebi Huri* is demonstrably of much later origin, linked to the tomb of a Muslim saint, which was established in the 14th century CE inside the pre-existing Roman-era mausoleum.<sup>41</sup> The attempt to connect this name to the ancient Hurrians represents a classic example of folk etymology, where a modern toponym is reinterpreted to create a link to a distant, prestigious past. Such identity construction is a common phenomenon in regions with deep and complex histories, but it is not supported by the scientific evidence. An expert report must clearly state that the chronological gap of nearly a millennium between the disappearance of the Hurrians and the founding of Cyrrhus, combined with the complete lack of supporting material evidence, invalidates any claim of a direct connection.

### **3.3. The Afrin Stele: A Link to Iron Age Religion**

While direct Hurrian settlement evidence is elusive, a smaller but significant artifact provides a clear link to the persistence of Hurrian cultural influence in the Afrin region long after the Hurrians themselves had assimilated. This artifact is the Afrin Stele, a fragment of a Luwian stone monument dating to the 9th or 8th century BCE, discovered in a field northwest of the city of Afrin.<sup>40</sup>

The surviving portion of the stele bears a relief carving of a figure wearing a short, fringed kilt. This specific attire is iconographically associated with the great storm god Teshub.<sup>40</sup> Teshub was the head of the Hurrian pantheon, a central figure in their religion and mythology.<sup>50</sup> His cult was so powerful that it was widely adopted by the Hittites, who came to venerate him as one of the most important deities in their own state pantheon.

The discovery of a depiction of Teshub on a stele inscribed in Luwian—an Anatolian Indo-European language spoken by many of the populations of the Neo-Hittite kingdoms—in the heart of the Afrin region during the Iron Age is highly significant. It demonstrates the remarkable endurance and syncretism of Hurrian religious traditions. Centuries after the collapse of the Mitanni kingdom and the disappearance of Hurrian as a major spoken language, the chief god of the Hurrian pantheon was still being venerated by the new peoples and political entities of the region. The Afrin Stele is a local testament to this process of cultural fusion, showing that the legacy of the Hurrians was not erased but was instead woven

deeply into the religious and cultural fabric of the successor Neo-Hittite and Aramean states that governed the land.

## **IV. The Lingering Legacy: Language, Culture, and Assimilation**

The final dimension of the Hurrian presence in the Afrin region is not found in monumental stones but in the intangible yet powerful evidence of language and culture. The Hurrians, after their political eclipse, did not simply vanish. Their language left a distinct impression on the administrative texts of the region, their cultural practices were absorbed by their neighbors, and their gods were integrated into new pantheons. This chapter traces the evidence for this lingering legacy and the ultimate process of assimilation that saw the Hurrians merge into the broader cultural milieu of the ancient Near East.

### **4.1. The Hurrian Linguistic Substrate in Syria**

Perhaps the most conclusive, albeit indirect, evidence for a widespread Hurrian-speaking population across northern Syria comes from the field of historical linguistics. Pre-2010 studies of cuneiform archives from major Syrian sites of the second millennium BCE—including Alalakh, Ugarit, and Emar—firmly established the existence of a scribal phenomenon known as "Hurro-Akkadian".<sup>6</sup>

Akkadian, a Semitic language, served as the international lingua franca for diplomacy and administration throughout this period. However, in the archives of northern Syria, the written Akkadian is heavily influenced by the underlying grammatical structure, syntax, and vocabulary of the Hurrian language.<sup>36</sup> This is not a case of simple borrowing of loanwords. Instead, it reflects a deep linguistic interference, where the fundamental patterns of a speaker's native tongue (Hurrian) manifest in their use of a learned, secondary language (Akkadian). This phenomenon strongly implies that the scribes responsible for these texts, and by extension a significant portion of the population they served, were native Hurrian speakers. Hurrian was their vernacular, the language of daily life, and its influence was so pervasive that it shaped the very structure of their formal administrative writing. This linguistic substrate is a powerful testament to a deeply rooted Hurrian demographic presence across northern Syria, including, by logical extension, the Afrin valley.

### **4.2. Onomastics and Toponyms: Tracing Names**

The study of names—both of people (onomastics) and places (toponymy)—can provide valuable clues to the historical demographics of a region. As previously discussed, the high

frequency of Hurrian personal names, particularly those incorporating the names of Hurrian deities (theophoric names), in the Alalakh tablets is a key data point supporting a significant Hurrian population in the vicinity of Afrin during the Late Bronze Age.<sup>14</sup>

The evidence from place names, however, is more tenuous and requires significant scholarly caution. Outside of the speculative and archaeologically unsupported case of Nebi Huri, there is little to no evidence from the pre-2010 record of securely identified Hurrian toponyms within the Afrin valley itself. Place names can be notoriously difficult to interpret, as they can be borrowed, translated, or altered over millennia, making their use as standalone historical evidence problematic without corroborating archaeological or textual data.

### **4.3. The Process of Cultural Assimilation**

By the end of the Bronze Age, around 1200 BCE, the Hurrians cease to appear in the historical record as a distinct political or ethnic group.<sup>1</sup> The collapse of the great empires, the incursions of the Sea Peoples, and the rise of new political entities like the Aramean kingdoms and the Neo-Assyrian Empire created a new geopolitical landscape. In this new world, the Hurrians were gradually and completely absorbed into the larger populations of the states they inhabited—Hittite, Assyrian, and later, Urartian and Aramean.

Their legacy, however, was not erased. It survived through a process of cultural syncretism, whereby their most potent cultural elements were adopted and perpetuated by their successors. The most enduring of these elements was their religion. The great gods of the Hurrian pantheon, such as the storm god Teshub, his consort Hepat, and their son Sharruma, were integrated into the state religions of the Hittites and the Luwian-speaking Neo-Hittite kingdoms.<sup>2</sup> The Hurrian myths surrounding these deities, particularly the epic *Kumarbi Cycle*, were preserved in Hittite archives and continued to influence religious thought in the region for centuries.<sup>2</sup> The Afrin Stele, with its depiction of the Hurrian god Teshub, stands as a local monument to this very process. It shows that the cultural DNA of the Hurrians persisted in the religious life of the Iron Age, long after the Hurrians themselves had ceased to exist as a separate people. Their ultimate fate was not annihilation, but assimilation and transformation, becoming a foundational, though often invisible, layer in the rich cultural stratigraphy of the ancient Near East.

## **Conclusion: A Nuanced Assessment of the Hurrians in Afrin**

The historical investigation into the Hurrian presence in the Afrin valley, based strictly on the evidence and scholarly interpretations available prior to 2010, yields a conclusion that is nuanced, inferential, yet compelling. While direct, unambiguous evidence—a text or inscription explicitly naming "the Hurrians of Afrin"—remains elusive in the pre-2010 record, a concentric

analysis of the available political, linguistic, and archaeological data allows for a series of well-supported conclusions about the nature and extent of their presence and influence. The evidence can be summarized and weighed as follows:

- **During the Late Bronze Age (c. 1600-1200 BCE):** It can be concluded with a high degree of confidence that the Afrin valley was an integral part of the political and cultural sphere of the Hurrian-dominated Mitanni kingdom (c. 1550-1350 BCE) and, subsequently, the Hittite Empire that conquered and absorbed it. The valley's strategic location between the confirmed Mitanni centers of Aleppo and Alalakh makes its inclusion within the empire's domain a geopolitical necessity. Based on the strong proxy evidence from the nearby and culturally contiguous site of Alalakh, the population of the Afrin valley during this period was likely a mixture of Hurrian and local Semitic (Amorite) peoples. The vernacular language would have been predominantly Hurrian, a fact reflected in the "Hurro-Akkadian" linguistic substrate found in regional administrative texts. The social and legal customs of this population would have closely resembled the distinctive practices documented in the Nuzi tablets, including traditions of adoption, surrogacy, and the legal significance of household gods.
- **During the Iron Age (c. 1200-700 BCE):** The Hurrian element in the Afrin valley did not vanish but was instead assimilated into the new Syro-Hittite and Aramean cultural landscape that emerged after the Bronze Age collapse. The monumental temple at Ain Dara, founded at the very beginning of this period (c. 1300 BCE), stands as a testament to this era of cultural fusion. Its architecture, potentially reflecting the Hurrian-Mitanni *Hilani* tradition, and its iconography are the products of a local population descended from the Hurrian-Amorite inhabitants of the Late Bronze Age, now living under new political masters. The persistence of Hurrian religious traditions is further confirmed by the 9th-8th century BCE Afrin Stele, which depicts the chief Hurrian deity, the storm god Teshub, demonstrating his continued veneration centuries after the Hurrians had ceased to exist as a distinct political entity.
- **Regarding Speculative Claims:** The assertion, found in some local histories, that the site of Cyrrhus (Nebi Huri) has a connection to the ancient Hurrians is to be dismissed as unsubstantiated by the pre-2010 archaeological and textual record. The evidence points unequivocally to a Hellenistic founding, nearly a millennium after the end of the Hurrian era, and the name "Huri" is demonstrably linked to a much later Islamic saint.

In final assessment, the story of the Hurrians in the Afrin valley is not one of an isolated enclave but is inseparable from the broader ethnic, linguistic, and political tapestry of northern Syria during the second and early first millennia BCE. Their presence was defined first by political dominance as part of the Mitanni empire, followed by a long period of cultural fusion and eventual assimilation under the Hittites and their Iron Age successors. While their distinct identity faded over time, their legacy endured, embedded in the architecture, religion, and cultural substrate of the region for centuries to follow.

## Works Cited

1. <sup>1</sup>: World History Encyclopedia. "Timeline of the Hurrian Civilization."  
*worldhistory.org*.
2. <sup>9</sup>: Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Hurrian."  
*britannica.com*.
3. <sup>2</sup>: World History Encyclopedia. "Hurrians."  
*worldhistory.org*.
4. <sup>15</sup>: Wikipedia. "Mitanni."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
5. <sup>16</sup>: EBSCO. "Mitanni Kingdom."  
*ebsco.com*.
6. <sup>18</sup>: EBSCO. "Mitanni."  
*ebsco.com*.
7. <sup>52</sup>: Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
8. <sup>53</sup>: The Kurdish Project. "Afrin Syria."  
*thekurdishproject.org*.
9. <sup>40</sup>: Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
10. <sup>38</sup>: Wikipedia. "Ain Dara (archaeological site)."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
11. <sup>54</sup>: Kurdistan 24. "Archaeology."  
*kurdistan24.net*.
12. <sup>44</sup>: Cambridge University Press. "The Lion Statue of Ain Dara: Revealing the Fate of an Icon of Syrian Archaeology Looted During the Conflict."  
*cambridge.org*.
13. <sup>41</sup>: Syria Photo Guide. "al-Nabi Houri النبي هوري."  
*syriaphotoguide.com*.
14. <sup>7</sup>: Kurdshop. "Nabi Huri Castle is one of the symbols of Kurdish history and civilization."  
*kurdshop.net*.
15. <sup>42</sup>: Vici.org. "Cyrrhus (Κύρρος)."  
*vici.org*.
16. <sup>49</sup>: Livius.org. "Cyrrhus."  
*livius.org*.
17. <sup>47</sup>: Biblical Archaeology Society. "Special Report: Current Status of Tell Ain Dara Temple."  
*biblicalarchaeology.org*.
18. <sup>55</sup>: Kurdistan 24. "Ain Dara temple targeted by Turkish strikes."  
*kurdistan24.net*.
19. <sup>39</sup>: Livius.org. "Ain Dara."  
*livius.org*.
20. <sup>3</sup>: CNR.it. "The Corpus of texts in the Hurrian language."

- cnr.it.*
21. <sup>56</sup>: Sarel Tours. "Urkish."  
*sareltours.com.*
  22. <sup>4</sup>: Indroyc.com. "Vedic Influence in Ancient Middle East: Hurrians to Mitanni."  
*indroyc.com.*
  23. <sup>21</sup>: Tripod. "Hurrian Kingdom of Mitanni."  
*ancientneareast.tripod.com.*
  24. <sup>13</sup>: Archaeology.org. "New discoveries in Syria suggest a little-known people fueled the rise of civilization."  
*archive.archaeology.org.*
  25. <sup>5</sup>: Urkesh.org. "Hurrians."  
*urkesh.org.*
  26. <sup>19</sup>: Nutter's World. "The Collapse of the Bronze Age Kingdom of Mitanni."  
*nuttersworld.com.*
  27. <sup>57</sup>: The Wild Hunt. "Mitanni city emerges from the Mosul reservoir."  
*wildhunt.org.*
  28. <sup>17</sup>: Reddit. "Why didn't Indo-Aryan Mitanni persist in Syria?"  
[reddit.com/r/AskHistorians](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians).
  29. <sup>58</sup>: Shiler.info. "الحوريون "من العصر البرونزي إلى العصر الحديدي".  
*shiler.info.*
  30. <sup>8</sup>: Wikipedia (Arabic). "كرد."  
*ar.wikipedia.org.*
  31. <sup>10</sup>: Tirej Afrin. "الحوريون تاريخهم وحضارتهم".  
*tirejafrin.com.*
  32. <sup>59</sup>: Hawar News Agency. "عفرين... مدينة تلاحم الأديان السماوية عبر التاريخ".  
*hawarnews.com.*
  33. <sup>60</sup>: ANF Arabic. "لمحة صغيرة عن عفرين قبل احتلالها من قبل تركيا".  
*anfarabic.com.*
  34. <sup>61</sup>: ANF Arabic. "عفرين التاريخ والحضارة ومقاومة العصر".  
*anfarabic.com.*
  35. <sup>62</sup>: Al Masra. "منطقة النبي هوري.. كنز أثري مهدد بالاندثار".  
*almasra.iq.*
  36. <sup>11</sup>: Tirej Afrin. "أثار النبي هوري".  
*tirejafrin.com.*
  37. <sup>63</sup>: Wikipedia (Arabic). "جامع النبي هوري".  
*ar.wikipedia.org.*
  38. <sup>45</sup>: Wikipedia (Arabic). "(عين دارة (موقع أثري)".  
*ar.wikipedia.org.*
  39. <sup>64</sup>: Syria Photo Guide. "عين دارة".  
*syriaphotoguide.com.*
  40. <sup>65</sup>: Come to Syria. "عين دارا".



- cometosyria.com*.
41. <sup>38</sup>: Wikipedia. "Ain Dara (archaeological site)."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
  42. <sup>66</sup>: Austriaca. "The Iron Age I in the Amuq."  
*austriaca.at*.
  43. <sup>67</sup>: University of Chicago Press. "Networks of Specialized Knowledge."  
*journals.uchicago.edu*.
  44. <sup>68</sup>: North Lebanon Archaeological Project. "Archaeological Heritage Crimes in Occupied Afrin."  
*nlka.net*.
  45. <sup>16</sup>: EBSCO. "Mitanni Kingdom."  
*ebsco.com*.
  46. <sup>29</sup>: Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Mitanni."  
*britannica.com*.
  47. <sup>20</sup>: World History Encyclopedia. "Mitanni."  
*worldhistory.org*.
  48. <sup>69</sup>: Wikipedia. "Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
  49. <sup>70</sup>: Unglue.it. "The Emergence of the Mittani State."  
[unglueit-files.s3.amazonaws.com](https://unglueit-files.s3.amazonaws.com).
  50. <sup>71</sup>: ResearchGate. "Hazor - A Syrian City-State in Mitanni's Orbit?"  
*researchgate.net*.
  51. <sup>72</sup>: University of Liverpool Repository. "Temples in Antis in the Levant from the Early Bronze Age to the Iron Age."  
*livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk*.
  52. <sup>73</sup>: ResearchGate. "Karkemish: New Discoveries in the Last Hittite Capital."  
*researchgate.net*.
  53. <sup>43</sup>: World Monuments Fund. "Cyrrhus-Nebi Houri."  
*wmf.org*.
  54. <sup>74</sup>: Dokumen.pub. "The Monuments of Syria: A Guide."  
*dokumen.pub*.
  55. <sup>75</sup>: Dokumen.pub. "A Companion to the Hellenistic and Roman Near East."  
*dokumen.pub*.
  56. <sup>76</sup>: ResearchGate. "City Of Prophets, Companions Of Prophet Mohammed And Saints: Diyarbakir."  
*researchgate.net*.
  57. <sup>36</sup>: University of Barcelona. "A Re-evaluation of the Hurro-Akkadian in the Syrian milieu."  
*ub.edu*.
  58. <sup>15</sup>: Wikipedia. "Mitanni."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
  59. <sup>6</sup>: Wikipedia. "Hurrian language."

- en.wikipedia.org*.
- 60.<sup>12</sup>: ResearchGate. "Hurrian."  
*researchgate.net*.
- 61.<sup>77</sup>: Google Books. "The Hurrians."  
[books.google.com](https://books.google.com).
- 62.<sup>78</sup>: AbeBooks. "The Hurrians (Ancient Near East Series)."  
*abebooks.com*.
- 63.<sup>79</sup>: AbeBooks. "The Hurrians (Ancient Near East)."  
*abebooks.com*.
- 64.<sup>80</sup>: Internet Archive. "The Hurrians : Gernot Wilhelm."  
*archive.org*.
- 65.<sup>81</sup>: Ghent University Library. "Geschichte und Kultur der Urartäer / Mirjo Salvini."  
*lib.ugent.be*.
- 66.<sup>82</sup>: AbeBooks. "Book search results for Mirjo Salvini."  
*abebooks.com*.
- 67.<sup>83</sup>: Archaeopress. "Over the Mountains and Far Away: Studies in Near Eastern history and archaeology."  
*archaeopress.com*.
- 68.<sup>84</sup>: ResearchGate. "The Phenomenon of Residential Cities and City Foundations in the Ancient Near East."  
*researchgate.net*.
- 69.<sup>30</sup>: The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "The Amarna Letters."  
*metmuseum.org*.
- 70.<sup>18</sup>: EBSCO. "Mitanni."  
*ebsco.com*.
- 71.<sup>31</sup>: Wikipedia. "Amarna letters."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
- 72.<sup>32</sup>: University of Chicago, ISAC. "Mitanni Letter."  
*isac.uchicago.edu*.
- 73.<sup>14</sup>: Wikipedia. "Hurrians."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
- 74.<sup>85</sup>: University of Chicago Press. "Book Reviews: The Alalakh Tablets."  
*journals.uchicago.edu*.
- 75.<sup>33</sup>: Turkish Archaeological News. "Alalakh."  
*turkisharchaeonews.net*.
- 76.<sup>34</sup>: Wikipedia. "Alalakh."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
- 77.<sup>22</sup>: Answers in Genesis. "ANE Tablets Discovered at Nuzi."  
*answersingenesis.org*.
- 78.<sup>86</sup>: Nerd in the Word. "Nuzi Tablets."  
[index.nerdintheword.com](https://index.nerdintheword.com).

79. <sup>23</sup>: Wikipedia. "Nuzi texts."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
80. <sup>28</sup>: Biblical Archaeology Society. "The Nuzi Tablets."  
*biblicalarchaeology.org*.
81. <sup>87</sup>: Goodreads. "Gernot Wilhelm's Books."  
*goodreads.com*.
82. <sup>12</sup>: ResearchGate. "Hurrian."  
*researchgate.net*.
83. <sup>88</sup>: Goodreads. "The Hurrians by Gernot Wilhelm."  
*goodreads.com*.
84. <sup>89</sup>: Scribd. "The West Hurrian Pantheon and Its Background."  
*scribd.com*.
85. <sup>90</sup>: University of Chicago Press. "Review of 'Studien zu den hurritischen Texten aus Nuzi'."  
*journals.uchicago.edu*.
86. <sup>91</sup>: Oxford Bibliographies. "Nuzi."  
*oxfordbibliographies.com*.
87. <sup>92</sup>: Journal of Hebrew Scriptures. "Review of 'Akten des IV. Internationalen Kongresses für Hethitologie'."  
*jhsonline.org*.
88. <sup>6</sup>: Wikipedia. "Hurrian language."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
89. <sup>93</sup>: OAPEN Library. "Hurrian Onomastics in the Hittite Kingdom."  
*library.oapen.org*.
90. <sup>94</sup>: Wikipedia. "Šimige."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
91. <sup>50</sup>: Wikipedia. "Teshub."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
92. <sup>95</sup>: Cairn.info. "The Hurrian Rituals from Mari."  
*shs.cairn.info*.
93. <sup>48</sup>: University of Toronto. "Communicating Power in the Bīt-Ḫilāni Palace."  
*sites.utoronto.ca*.
94. <sup>96</sup>: ResearchGate. "Monuments and Memory: Architecture and Visual Culture in Ancient Anatolian History."  
*researchgate.net*.
95. <sup>97</sup>: University of Chicago Press. "The Podium in the Area M Sanctuary at Hazor."  
*journals.uchicago.edu*.
96. <sup>71</sup>: ResearchGate. "Hazor – A Syrian City-State in Mitanni's Orbit?"  
*researchgate.net*.
97. <sup>98</sup>: National Center for Biotechnology Information. "Ancient DNA and stable isotopes."  
*pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov*.

98. <sup>35</sup>: Polish Academy of Sciences. "Hurrians and Their Gods in Canaan."  
*journals.pan.pl*.
99. <sup>99</sup>: Tel Aviv University. "Late Bronze Age Alalakh (Tell Atchana)."  
*humanities.m.tau.ac.il*.
100. <sup>100</sup>: bioRxiv. "Ancient DNA from the site of Alalakh."  
*biorxiv.org*.
101. <sup>26</sup>: Bible Gateway. "Nuzi."  
*biblegateway.com*.
102. <sup>27</sup>: The Bible Seminary. "The Nuzi Tablets: Insights on Genesis."  
*thebibleseminary.edu*.
103. <sup>24</sup>: Associates for Biblical Research. "Great Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology: The Nuzi Tablets."  
*biblearchaeology.org*.
104. <sup>25</sup>: Cambridge University Press. "Nuzi: The Nearest Neighbour."  
*cambridge.org*.
105. <sup>101</sup>: Wikipedia. "Evolution of languages."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
106. <sup>37</sup>: CSIC. "Akkadian in Syria and Canaan."  
*digital.csic.es*.
107. <sup>51</sup>: ResearchGate. "Contact Languages of the Ancient Near East."  
*researchgate.net*.
108. <sup>102</sup>: Brill. "Akkadian in Syria and Canaan."  
*brill.com*.
109. <sup>103</sup>: Democratic Kurdish Center of France. "Withering Branch: The Story of Afrin."  
*dckurd.org*.
110. <sup>104</sup>: SciELO México. "The earthquake of 13 August 1822 in northern Syria."  
*scielo.org.mx*.
111. <sup>105</sup>: Wikipedia. "Afrin Canton."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
112. <sup>106</sup>: Cambridge University Press. "Exploring the lower settlements of Iron Age capitals."  
*cambridge.org*.
113. <sup>43</sup>: World Monuments Fund. "Cyrrhus-Nebi Hour." *wmf.org*.
114. <sup>107</sup>: DAI Lens. "Magnetic survey in Artashat-Artaxata."  
*lens.idai.world*.
115. <sup>108</sup>: Brill. "Aleppo and the North."  
*brill.com*.
116. <sup>109</sup>: ITZA. "Columns and Hieroglyphs: 'Magic Spolia' in Medieval Islamic Architecture."  
*itzaarchaeology.com*.
117. <sup>44</sup>: Cambridge University Press. "The Lion Statue of Ain Dara."

- cambridge.org*.
118. <sup>110</sup>: Southern Adventist University. "DigSight Newsletter, Vol. 17."  
*southern.edu*.
119. <sup>46</sup>: University of Tsukuba. "Conservation of the 'Ain Dārā Temple."  
*rcwasia.hass.tsukuba.ac.jp*.
120. <sup>38</sup>: Wikipedia. "Ain Dara (archaeological site)."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
121. <sup>45</sup>: Wikipedia (Arabic). "(عين دارة (موقع أثري)."  
*ar.wikipedia.org*.
122. <sup>40</sup>: Wikipedia. "Afrin, Syria."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
123. <sup>38</sup>: Wikipedia. "Ain Dara (archaeological site)."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
124. <sup>41</sup>: Syria Photo Guide. "al-Nabi Houri النبي هوري."  
*syriaphotoguide.com*.
125. <sup>7</sup>: Kurdshop. "Nabi Huri Castle."  
*kurdshop.net*.
126. <sup>47</sup>: Biblical Archaeology Society. "Special Report: Current Status of Tell Ain Dara Temple."  
*biblicalarchaeology.org*.
127. <sup>3</sup>: CNR.it. "The Corpus of texts in the Hurrian language."  
*cnr.it*.
128. <sup>111</sup>: Tripod. "Hurrian Kingdom of Mitanni."  
*ancientneareast.tripod.com*.
129. <sup>19</sup>: Nutter's World. "The Collapse of the Bronze Age Kingdom of Mitanni."  
*nuttersworld.com*.
130. <sup>10</sup>: Tirej Afrin. "الحوريون في عفرين."  
*tirejafrin.com*.
131. <sup>59</sup>: Hawar News Agency. "تاريخ عفرين القديم."  
*hawarnews.com*.
132. <sup>11</sup>: Tirej Afrin. "موقع النبي هوري الأثري."  
*tirejafrin.com*.
133. <sup>45</sup>: Wikipedia (Arabic). "(عين دارة (موقع أثري)."  
*ar.wikipedia.org*.
134. <sup>36</sup>: University of Barcelona. "A Re-evaluation of the Hurro-Akkadian in the Syrian milieu."  
*ub.edu*.
135. <sup>67</sup>: University of Chicago Press. "Networks of Specialized Knowledge."  
*journals.uchicago.edu*.
136. <sup>80</sup>: Internet Archive. "The Hurrians by Gernot Wilhelm."  
*archive.org*.

137. <sup>30</sup>: The Metropolitan Museum of Art. "The Amarna Letters."  
*metmuseum.org*.
138. <sup>34</sup>: Wikipedia. "Alalakh."  
*en.wikipedia.org*.
139. <sup>28</sup>: Biblical Archaeology Society. "The Nuzi Tablets."  
*biblicalarchaeology.org*.
140. <sup>112</sup>: ResearchGate. "Hazor - A Syrian City-State in Mitanni's Orbit?"  
*researchgate.net*.
141. <sup>36</sup>: University of Barcelona. "A Re-evaluation of the Hurro-Akkadian in the Syrian milieu."  
*ub.edu*.
142. <sup>37</sup>: CSIC. "Akkadian in Syria and Canaan."  
*digital.csic.es*.
143. <sup>48</sup>: University of Toronto. "Communicating Power in the Bīt-Hilāni Palace."  
*sites.utoronto.ca*.
144. <sup>35</sup>: Polish Academy of Sciences. "Hurrians and Their Gods in Canaan."  
*journals.pan.pl*.
145. <sup>26</sup>: Bible Gateway. "Nuzi."  
*biblegateway.com*.
146. <sup>103</sup>: Democratic Kurdish Center of France. "Withering Branch: The Story of Afrin."  
*dckurd.org*.
147. <sup>43</sup>: World Monuments Fund. "Cyrrhus-Nebi Hourī."  
*wmf.org*.
148. <sup>46</sup>: University of Tsukuba. "Conservation of the 'Ain Dārā Temple."  
*rcwasia.hass.tsukuba.ac.jp*.
149. <sup>37</sup>: CSIC. "Akkadian in Syria and Canaan."  
*digital.csic.es*.

## Works cited

1. Hurrians Timeline - World History Encyclopedia, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/timeline/Hurrians/>
2. Hurrians - World History Encyclopedia, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.worldhistory.org/Hurrians/>
3. The Corpus of texts in the Hurrian language | Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.cnr.it/en/focus/025-3/the-corpus-of-texts-in-the-hurrian-language>
4. Vedic Influence in Ancient Middle East: Hurrians to Mitanni - Indrosphere, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://indroyc.com/2025/06/01/vedic-influence-in-ancient-middle-east-hurrians-to-mitanni/>
5. Urkesh and the Hurrians, accessed June 14, 2025,

- <https://urkesh.org/pages/013k.htm>
6. Hurrian language - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurrian\\_language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurrian_language)
  7. The Castle of Nabi Huri - KURDSHOP, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://kurdshop.net/en/history/4674>
  8. کرد - ویکیپدیا, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%AF>
  9. Hurrian | Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Mitanni - Britannica, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hurrian>
  10. تیریج عفرین, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.tirejafrin.com/index.php?page=Adab&category\\_id=294&lang=ar](https://www.tirejafrin.com/index.php?page=Adab&category_id=294&lang=ar)
  11. تیریج عفرین, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.tirejafrin.com/index.php?page=category&category\\_id=89&lang=ar](https://www.tirejafrin.com/index.php?page=category&category_id=89&lang=ar)
  12. Hurrian - ResearchGate, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292336011\\_Hurrian](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292336011_Hurrian)
  13. Who Were the Hurrians? - Archaeology Magazine Archive, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://archive.archaeology.org/0807/abstracts/urkesh.html>
  14. Hurrians - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurrians>
  15. Mitanni - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mitanni>
  16. Mitanni Kingdom | EBSCO Research Starters, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/mitanni-kingdom>
  17. Why didn't Indo-Aryan Mittani persist in Syria? : r/AskHistorians - Reddit, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/vyxs0c/why\\_didnt\\_indoaryan\\_mittani\\_persist\\_in\\_syria/](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskHistorians/comments/vyxs0c/why_didnt_indoaryan_mittani_persist_in_syria/)
  18. Mitanni | EBSCO Research Starters, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/political-science/mitanni>
  19. The Collapse of the Bronze Age Kingdom of Mitanni - Nuttersworld, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://nuttersworld.com/civilisations-that-collapsed/collapse-of-mitanni/>
  20. Mitanni - World History Encyclopedia, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.worldhistory.org/Mitanni/>
  21. The Hurrian Culture (Kingdom Of Mitanni) - Ancient Near East, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://ancientneareast.tripod.com/Hurrian\\_Kingdom\\_of\\_Mitanni.html](https://ancientneareast.tripod.com/Hurrian_Kingdom_of_Mitanni.html)
  22. ANE Tablets Discovered in Nuzi: Close to the Time of Abraham | Answers in Genesis, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/ane-tablets-discovered-nuzi/>
  23. Nuzi texts - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuzi\\_texts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuzi_texts)
  24. Amazing Discoveries in Biblical Archaeology: The Nuzi Tablets, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://biblearchaeology.org/research/patriarchal-era/3492-great-discoveries-in-biblical-archaeology-the-nuzi-tablets>
  25. Nuzi, the Nearest Neighbour (Chapter 7) - Bronze Age Bureaucracy, accessed

June 14, 2025,

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/bronze-age-bureaucracy/nuzi-the-nearest-neighbour/3E2A622AB1116E1692354DE644BB8984>

26. Nuzi - Encyclopedia of The Bible - Bible Gateway, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Nuzi>
27. The Nuzi Tablets: Insights on Genesis - The Bible Seminary, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.thebibleseminary.edu/post/thenuzitabletsinsightsongenesis>
28. The Nuzi Tablets - Biblical Archaeology Society, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-artifacts/artifacts-and-the-bible/the-nuzi-tablets/>
29. Mitanni | Hittites, Assyrians, Hurrians, & Map - Britannica, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mitanni>
30. The Amarna Letters - The Metropolitan Museum of Art, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.metmuseum.org/essays/the-amarna-letters>
31. Amarna letters - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna\\_letters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amarna_letters)
32. Late Bronze Age Internationalism Mitanni State (1500– 1360 BC), accessed June 14, 2025, <https://isac.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/uploads/shared/docs/Membership/Mitanni%20Letter.pdf>
33. Alalakh | Turkish Archaeological News, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://turkisharchaeonews.net/site/alalakh>
34. Alalakh - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alalakh>
35. EDWARD LIPINSKI - Hurrians and Their Gods in Canaan, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://journals.pan.pl/Content/82350/mainfile.pdf?handler=pdf>
36. Hurro-Akkadian from Late Bronze Age Syria Reconsidered ... - UB, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.ub.edu/ipoa/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20161AuOrOliva.pdf>
37. Chapter 18 Akkadian in Syria and Canaan - Digital CSIC, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://digital.csic.es/bitstream/10261/256002/1/Akkadian%20in%20Syria%20and%20Canaan.pdf>
38. Ain Dara (archaeological site) - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ain\\_Dara\\_\(archaeological\\_site\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ain_Dara_(archaeological_site))
39. Ain Dara - Livius.org, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.livius.org/articles/place/ain-dara/>
40. Afrin, Syria - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,\\_Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,_Syria)
41. al-Nabi Houri النبي هوري - Syria Photo Guide, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://syriaphotoguide.com/al-nabi-houri-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A/>
42. Cyrrus - Vici.org, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://vici.org/vici/10971/>
43. Cyrrhus (Nebi Houri) - World Monuments Fund, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.wmf.org/projects/cyrrhus-nebi-houri>
44. The Lion Statue of Ain Dara: Revealing the Fate of an Icon of Syrian Archaeology Looted During the Conflict | International Journal of Cultural Property -



- Cambridge University Press, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-cultural-property/article/lion-statue-of-ain-dara-revealing-the-fate-of-an-icon-of-syrian-archaeology-looted-during-the-conflict/E5C39A892C631F939AF0684EC91CCCE>
45. ويكيبيديا - عين دارة (موقع أثري) - accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86\\_%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9\\_\(%D9%85%D9%88%D9%82%D8%B9\\_%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D9%8A\)](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86_%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9_(%D9%85%D9%88%D9%82%D8%B9_%D8%A3%D8%AB%D8%B1%D9%8A))
46. Contribution: Idleb Antiquity Center, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://rcwasia.hass.tsukuba.ac.jp/conservation/pub\\_Series\\_Ain%20Dara.pdf](https://rcwasia.hass.tsukuba.ac.jp/conservation/pub_Series_Ain%20Dara.pdf)
47. Special Report: Current Status of the Tell Ain Dara Temple - Biblical ..., accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/special-report-current-status-tell-ain-dara-temple/>
48. Communicating Power in the Bit-Hilāni Palace, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[http://sites.utoronto.ca/tap/assets/osborne-2012\\_basor-communicating-power-in-the-bit-hilani-palace.pdf](http://sites.utoronto.ca/tap/assets/osborne-2012_basor-communicating-power-in-the-bit-hilani-palace.pdf)
49. Cyrrhus - Livius.org, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.livius.org/articles/place/cyrrhus/>
50. Teshub - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teshub>
51. Contact Languages of the Ancient Near East – Three more Case Studies (Ugaritic-Hurrian, Hurro-Akkadian and Canaanite-Akkadian) | Request PDF - ResearchGate, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282305822\\_Contact\\_Languages\\_of\\_the\\_Ancient\\_Near\\_East\\_-\\_Three\\_more\\_Case\\_Studies\\_Ugaritic-Hurrian\\_Hurro-Akkadian\\_and\\_Canaanite-Akkadian](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/282305822_Contact_Languages_of_the_Ancient_Near_East_-_Three_more_Case_Studies_Ugaritic-Hurrian_Hurro-Akkadian_and_Canaanite-Akkadian)
52. en.wikipedia.org, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,\\_Syria#:~:text=With%20the%20drawing%20of%20the.the%20state's%20formation%20in%201961.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin,_Syria#:~:text=With%20the%20drawing%20of%20the.the%20state's%20formation%20in%201961.)
53. Afrin Syria - The Kurdish Project, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://thekurdishproject.org/kurdistan-map/syrian-kurdistan/afrin-syria/>
54. Archaeology - Kurdistan24, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/list/tag/99075/Archaeology?page=2>
55. WATCH: Turkish shelling destroys iconic Iron Age temple in Syrian Kurdistan - Kurdistan24, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.kurdistan24.net/index.php/en/story/374480>
56. Urkish Heritage: A Timeless Blend of Ancient Civilization and Modern Culture - Sar-El Tours, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://sareltours.com/article/urkish>
57. Mitanni City emerges from the Mosul Reservoir - The Wild Hunt, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://wildhunt.org/2022/06/mitanni-city-emerges-from-the-mosul-reservoir.html>
58. 2019 إصدارات - Şilêr - قامشلو - النشر - للطباعة والنشر - دار شلير للنشر والطباعة والنشر, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://shiler.info/?cat=132>
59. عفرين...مدينة تلاحم الأديان السماوية عبر التاريخ - وكالة هوار للأنباء, accessed June 14, 2025,

- <https://hawarnews.com/ar/1521191880129>
60. عفرين: مدينة السلام التي استباحها الاحتلال التركي - ANF, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://anfarabic.com/%D9%83%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86/%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D8%B5%D8%BA%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%B9%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D8%A7-%D9%85%D9%86-%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A%D8%A7-50483>
61. عفرين التاريخ والحضارة ومقاومة العصر - ANF, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://anfarabic.com/lmr-wlhy/fryn-altarykh-walhdart-wmqawmt-alsr-88770>
62. منطقة النبي هوري.. كنز أثري مهدد بالاندثار - المسرى, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://almasra.iq/8827/>
63. جامع النبي هوري - ويكيبيديا, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9\\_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A\\_%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A](https://ar.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D8%AC%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%B9_%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%8A_%D9%87%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A)
64. عين دارا - Syria Photo Guide, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://syriaphotoguide.com/ain-dara-%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A9/>
65. عين دارا | الأماكن الرئيسية في سوريا - Come To Syria, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.cometosyria.com/ar/pages/%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86+%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7+%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7/142/38>
66. The Amuq Region during the Iron Age I-II: Formation, Organisation ..., accessed June 14, 2025, <https://austriaca.at/0xc1aa5572%200x003bca5c.pdf>
67. Networks of Specialized Knowledge: Cult and Its Imagery in Early ..., accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/724782>
68. Archaeological Heritage Crimes in Occupied Afrin - The Kurdish Center for Studies, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://nlka.net/eng/archaeological-heritage-crimes-in-occupied-afrin/>
69. Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic\\_Autonomous\\_Administration\\_of\\_North\\_and\\_East\\_Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Autonomous_Administration_of_North_and_East_Syria)
70. The Archaeology of Political Spaces - AWS, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://unglueit-files.s3.amazonaws.com/ebf/dc87385cb4ff49fa80f74ec312dff1b2.pdf>
71. (PDF) Zarzecki-Peleg, A. and Bonfil, R. 2011. Hazor – A Syrian City-State in Mitanni's Orbit? Ugarit Forschungen 43: 537-567. - ResearchGate, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316212443\\_Zarzecki-Peleg\\_A\\_and\\_Bonfil\\_R\\_2011\\_Hazor\\_-\\_A\\_Syrian\\_City-State\\_in\\_Mitanni's\\_Orbit\\_Ugarit\\_Forschungen\\_43\\_537-567](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316212443_Zarzecki-Peleg_A_and_Bonfil_R_2011_Hazor_-_A_Syrian_City-State_in_Mitanni's_Orbit_Ugarit_Forschungen_43_537-567)
72. temples in antis in the bronze and iron ages of the levant: - an archaeological case study of ritual and religion in the ancient near east - the University of Liverpool Repository, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/2011021/1/TrowReb\\_Apr2015\\_2011021.pdf](https://livrepository.liverpool.ac.uk/2011021/1/TrowReb_Apr2015_2011021.pdf)

73. (PDF) Marchetti, N. (2015), "Karkemish. New Discoveries in the Last Hittite Capital", in *Current World Archaeology* 70, pp. 18–24. - ResearchGate, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353903177\\_Marchetti\\_N\\_2015\\_Karkemish\\_New\\_Discoveries\\_in\\_the\\_Last\\_Hittite\\_Capital\\_in\\_Current\\_World\\_Archaeology\\_70\\_pp\\_18-24](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/353903177_Marchetti_N_2015_Karkemish_New_Discoveries_in_the_Last_Hittite_Capital_in_Current_World_Archaeology_70_pp_18-24)
74. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide* 9780755612468, 9781850434962, 9781845119478 - DOKUMEN.PUB, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://dokumen.pub/the-monuments-of-syria-a-guide-9780755612468-9781850434962-9781845119478.html>
75. *A Companion to the Hellenistic and Roman Near East* (Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World) [1 ed.] 1444339826, 9781444339826 - DOKUMEN.PUB, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://dokumen.pub/a-companion-to-the-hellenistic-and-roman-near-east-blackwell-companions-to-the-ancient-world-1nbsped-1444339826-9781444339826.html>
76. *CITY OF PROPHETS, COMPANIONS (OF PROPHET MOHAMMED) AND SAINTS DIYARBAKIR* Prof. Dr. Yusuf Kenan HASPOLAT\*\* - ResearchGate, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yusuf-Haspolat/publication/351437811\\_City\\_Of\\_Prophets\\_Companions\\_Of\\_Prophetmohammed\\_And\\_Saints\\_Diyarbakir/links/60a110b5458515c265967380/City-Of-Prophets-Companions-Of-Prophetmohammed-And-Saints-Diyarbakir.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Yusuf-Haspolat/publication/351437811_City_Of_Prophets_Companions_Of_Prophetmohammed_And_Saints_Diyarbakir/links/60a110b5458515c265967380/City-Of-Prophets-Companions-Of-Prophetmohammed-And-Saints-Diyarbakir.pdf)
77. *The Hurrians* - Gernot Wilhelm, Österreichische Akademie Der Wissenschaften - Google Books, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://books.google.com/books/about/The\\_Hurrians.html?id=Dh5zQgAACAAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Hurrians.html?id=Dh5zQgAACAAJ)
78. *The Hurrians* (Ancient Near East Series) - Wilhelm, Gernot: 9780856684425 - AbeBooks, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.abebooks.com/9780856684425/Hurrians-Ancient-Near-East-Series-0856684422/plp>
79. *The Hurrians* (Ancient Near East) - Wilhelm, Gernot: 9780856684890 - AbeBooks, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.abebooks.com/9780856684890/Hurrians-Ancient-Near-East-Wilhelm-0856684899/plp>
80. *The Hurrians* : Gernot Wilhelm; Jenifer Barnes, translator : Free ..., accessed June 14, 2025, <https://archive.org/details/WilhelmHurrians>
81. *Geschichte und Kultur der Urartäer* - Ghent University Library, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://lib.ugent.be/catalog/rug01:001659141>
82. *Salvini Mirjo* - AbeBooks, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/author/salvini-mirjo/>
83. *Over the Mountains and Far Away* - Archaeopress, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/DMS/01395710731745869652C7160519F1A3/9781784919436-sample.pdf>
84. (PDF) *The Phenomenon of Residential Cities and City Foundations in the Ancient Near East. Common Idea or Individual Cases?* - ResearchGate, accessed June 14,

2025,

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369258115\\_The\\_Phenomenon\\_of\\_Residential\\_Cities\\_and\\_City\\_Foundations\\_in\\_the\\_Ancient\\_Near\\_East\\_Common\\_Idea\\_or\\_Individual\\_Cases](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369258115_The_Phenomenon_of_Residential_Cities_and_City_Foundations_in_the_Ancient_Near_East_Common_Idea_or_Individual_Cases)

85. The Alalakh Tablets. By D. J. Wiseman. - The University of Chicago Press: Journals, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.2307/500805>
86. Nuzi Tablets | The Modern Theological Index, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://index.nerdintheword.com/pages/nuzi-tablets/>
87. Gernot Wilhelm (Author of The Hurrians) - Goodreads, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1218768.Gernot\\_Wilhelm](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/1218768.Gernot_Wilhelm)
88. The Hurrians (Ancient Near East Series) by Gernot Wilhelm | Goodreads, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/4182441-the-hurrians>
89. The West Hurrian Pantheon and Its Background | PDF | Religion & Spirituality - Scribd, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.scribd.com/document/609914912/The-West-Hurrian-Pantheon-and-Its-Background>
90. Kleine Beiträge zum Hurritischen, by Gernot Wilhelm, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/710222>
91. Nuzi (Nuzi Tablets) - Biblical Studies - Oxford Bibliographies, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/abstract/document/obo-9780195393361/obo-9780195393361-0014.xml>
92. View of Review of Gernot Wilhelm, ed., Akten des IV. Internationalen Kongresses für Hethitologie. Würzburg, 4.–8. Oktober 1999 | The Journal of Hebrew Scriptures, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://jhsonline.org/index.php/jhs/article/view/5847/4900>
93. Hurrian Theophoric Names in the Documents from the Hittite Kingdom Stefano de Martino - OAPEN Library, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/id/3b56e7af-c51c-4e76-a366-0800431ea3a9/9791221501094-10.pdf>
94. Šimige - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0imige>
95. A Hurrian ritual against toothache: A reanalysis of Mari 5 | Cairn.info, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://shs.cairn.info/journal-revue-d-assyriologie-2018-1-page-31?lang=en>
96. (PDF) Monuments and Memory: Architecture and Visual Culture in Ancient Anatolian History, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259764339\\_Monuments\\_and\\_Memory\\_Architecture\\_and\\_Visual\\_Culture\\_in\\_Ancient\\_Anatolian\\_History](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259764339_Monuments_and_Memory_Architecture_and_Visual_Culture_in_Ancient_Anatolian_History)
97. Toward an Alternative Interpretation of Hazor's Acropolis in the Late Bronze Age - The University of Chicago Press: Journals, accessed June 14, 2025,  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdfplus/10.1086/595989>
98. Human mobility at Tell Atchana (Alalakh), Hatay, Turkey during the 2nd millennium

- BC: Integration of isotopic and genomic evidence - PubMed Central, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8244877/>
99. Late Bronze Age Tell Atchana (Alalakh): Stratigraphy, Chronology, History, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://humanities.m.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities.tau.ac.il/files/media\\_server/all-units/%D7%91%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%A8%20%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%93%D7%A2%D7%99%20%D7%94%D7%99%D7%94%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA/%D7%A2%D7%91%D7%95%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%93%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%98/%D7%A2%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%A8%20%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%90%D7%99%20%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%A7-%20%D7%93%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%98.pdf](https://humanities.m.tau.ac.il/sites/humanities.tau.ac.il/files/media_server/all-units/%D7%91%D7%99%D7%AA%20%D7%A1%D7%A4%D7%A8%20%D7%9C%D7%9E%D7%93%D7%A2%D7%99%20%D7%94%D7%99%D7%94%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA/%D7%A2%D7%91%D7%95%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%93%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%98/%D7%A2%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%A8%20%D7%A1%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%A7%D7%90%D7%99%20%D7%A4%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%A7-%20%D7%93%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%98%D7%95%D7%A8%D7%98.pdf)
100. Human mobility at Tell Atchana (Alalakh) during the 2nd millennium BC: integration of isotopic and genomic evidence | bioRxiv, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.10.23.351882.full>
101. Evolution of languages - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution\\_of\\_languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution_of_languages)
102. Chapter 18 Akkadian in Syria and Canaan in - Brill, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://brill.com/display/book/edcoll/9789004445215/BP000024.xml>
103. Withering Branch\_ The Story of Afrin and its Peoples, Pre & Post ..., accessed June 14, 2025, [https://dckurd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Withering-Branch\\_-The-Story-of-Afrin-and-its-Peoples-Pre-Post-Operation-Olive-Branch-\\_Dominic-Brunaccioni.docx-3.pdf](https://dckurd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Withering-Branch_-The-Story-of-Afrin-and-its-Peoples-Pre-Post-Operation-Olive-Branch-_Dominic-Brunaccioni.docx-3.pdf)
104. The Great 1822 Aleppo Earthquake: New Historical Sources and Strong Ground Motion Simulation - SciELO México, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?script=sci\\_arttext&pid=S0016-71692022000300201](https://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0016-71692022000300201)
105. Afrin Canton - Wikipedia, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin\\_Canton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afrin_Canton)
106. Exploring the lower settlements of Iron Age capitals in Anatolia and Syria | Antiquity, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/exploring-the-lower-settlements-of-iron-age-capitals-in-anatolia-and-syria/EE969C5E60D9772EB23687B81CB97660>
107. Archäologischer Anzeiger - Lens Viewer, accessed June 14, 2025, [https://lens.idai.world/?url=/repository/AA\\_2021\\_1/AA\\_2021\\_1\\_Lichtenberger\\_et-al.xml](https://lens.idai.world/?url=/repository/AA_2021_1/AA_2021_1_Lichtenberger_et-al.xml)
108. Aleppo and the North - Brill, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://brill.com/display/book/9789004334601/BP000007.pdf>
109. COLUMNS AND HIEROGLYPHS: MAGIC "SPOLIA" IN MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE OF NORTHERN SYRIA Author(s): JULIA GONNELLA S - Itza Archaeology, accessed June 14, 2025, <https://www.itzaarchaeology.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Gonnella-2010-Columns-and-Hieroglyphs-%E2%80%9CMagic-Spolia%E2%80%9D-in-Medieval-Isl>

[lamic-Architecture-of-Northern-Syria.pdf](#)

110. NEWSLETTER - Southern Adventist University, accessed June 14, 2025,  
[https://www.southern.edu/administration/archaeology/institute\\_of\\_archaeology/dig\\_sight/DigSight\\_17.pdf](https://www.southern.edu/administration/archaeology/institute_of_archaeology/dig_sight/DigSight_17.pdf)
111. accessed January 1, 1970,  
[https://ancientneareast.tripod.com/Hurrian\\_Kingdom\\_of\\_Mitanni.html](https://ancientneareast.tripod.com/Hurrian_Kingdom_of_Mitanni.html)
112. accessed January 1, 1970,  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316212443\\_Zarzecki-Peleg\\_A\\_and Bonfil\\_R\\_2011\\_Hazor\\_-\\_A\\_Syrian\\_City-State\\_in\\_Mitanni%27s\\_Orbit\\_Ugarit\\_Forschungen\\_43\\_537-567](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316212443_Zarzecki-Peleg_A_and_Bonfil_R_2011_Hazor_-_A_Syrian_City-State_in_Mitanni%27s_Orbit_Ugarit_Forschungen_43_537-567)