

# **Kingdom of Kush - 0 A.D. Mod - Specification**

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This is the development specification for the Kushite Mod. The Kushite Mod adds the Kushite civilization to the real time strategy game 0 A.D..

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# 1 Units, Buildings and Technology Tree

Buildings:

- Temple
- Civic Center
- Storage Depot → TODO Research & Sketch
- House
- Blacksmith → TODO Sketch
- Fields
- Farm
- Stable
- Marketplace → TODO Sketch
- Trader (land)
- Fishing Boat → TODO Research (papyrus or wooden?) & Sketch
- Light Warship
- Medium Warship
- Dock
- Diplomacy Center → TODO Research (where/how did they hire mercenaries?)
- Garrison/Barrack → TODO Research (how did they look like?)
- Fortress
- Tower
- Wall
- Wonder

#### Units:

- Woman worker → TODO Research (how did they look like? Avoid racial bias)
- Basic infantry/cavalry workers → TODO Research (how did they look like?)
- Chariots
- Beja Swordsman (mercenaries)
- Beja Camel Warrior (mercenaries)
- Siege Weapons
  - Battering Ram
  - Siege Tower
- Elite Units
  - Nubian Bowmen
  - TODO other elite units
- Heros → TODO Research (Important Queens/Kings, Priests etc.)

#### Special Technologies:

- Iron production bonus
- Cattle bonus

#### Agriculture:

- Wheat fields
- Animals
  - Sanga Cattle
  - Goat

#### Special Features:

- Nubian Bowmen shoot poisoned arrows

## **1.1 Buildings**

### **1.1.1 Temple**

### **1.1.2 Civic Center**

### **1.1.3 Storage Depot**

### **1.1.4 House**

## **1.2 Units**

### **1.2.1 Chariot**

## **1.3 Common Misconception**

### **1.3.1 War Elephants**

Short answer: no, they did not use them.

TODO Long answer

### **1.3.2 Nubia And Related Terms**

Nubia and related terms: The term is quite confusing at times because it refers to many possible things: 1) A geographical area generally identified as the area between the 1st and the 6th cataracts. 2) Nubian people, who descend from the Noba, 4th century Nomadic settlers on the Nile between the 1st and 3d cataract. 3) Nuba people, a distinct collection of Southern Sudanic tribes, mainly in Kordofan. 4) Nubian languages, refers a Nilo-Saharan language group, spoken by the descendants of the Noba, as well as Nuba people.

The Kushites pose a serious question mark here, because Kushites don't seem to be Nubian at all. They didn't speak a Nubian language, they spoke Meroitic (neither Nilo-Saharan, nor Cushitic). Nubian, in ancient Egypt, seems to refer mostly to the people directly to the south of them, and those people formed a buffer between the Egyptians and "the wretched Kush". Kushites often warred against, and subjugated the people of Lower nubia. An additional point is that Kushite territory stretched far beyond Nubia. Some of it's most important cities weren't in Nubia at all, but to the south of it. Meroe itself lies between the last two cataracts.

## **1.4 Weaknesses and Strengths**

All this reading has made a few things clear to me. The Kushites had particular strengths and weaknesses relevant to the game-play of OAD.

#### Weakness:

- Weak armor: Basic units barely used armor. Special units, champions and heroes have (quality) quilted cotton and scale armor, but they should be relatively expensive.
- Weak navy. Apparently no real seafaring capability (which means they'd be a weak choice for an island map). But they did have boats, and transport of troops, and basic naval defense is a definite yes. Weak boats can be compensated with garrisons of archers, firing volleys of flaming arrows (fig. 7a).
- Weak siege equipment: Only cursory mention of siege equipment and tactics, which include ladders, ship-masts, sapping attacks on walls, but also siege towers and battering rams.

#### Strength:

- Infantry should have a speed bonus, because low armor makes them faster (and cheaper)
- Their cavalry should be particularly strong and fast. Highly desired by the Egyptians and Assyrians, the specific breed of Kushite horses was large, fast and strong. I believe it is the ancestor to the rare Dongola, or Dongolawi horse, an important breed throughout the greater Sudan in later times (disregard Wikipedia on this one. Their page dismisses the Sudanic origin of this breed, apparently based on the axiom that horses were introduced to Sudan in much later times. By now we know they were being bred by the 2nd millennium BCE, but this isn't common knowledge I guess. In addition, the page fails to distinguish, or even identify the unique physical features of this breed. The author seems to be conflating barb and Arab horses with older African breeds).
- Fast chariots (drawn by two horses), shooting accurate volleys of arrows. Perfect for hit and run tactics.
- Large-scale food production, due to irrigation and cattle herding. Allows recruiting many, fast and cheap units early in the game, ideal for early raiding.
- Strong buildings and defenses. Thick walls of cut stone, dry-stone or fired brick. Mud-brick foundations provide a certain plasticity, which in turn ensures the stability of larger structures.
- Strong weapons. Early iron (steel) production gives them strong swords, spears and arrow tips. Maybe they should have a weak defense, but a strong attack.
- They were world renowned for their archery skills for several millennia. They should be the most accurate archers in the game. Even in later times, Heliodorus of Emesa mentions their "unerring skill in hitting their target, their adversaries'

eyes". This was repeated by the invading Arabs of the Rashidun Caliphate, who called them "pupil smiters", and were forced to retreat from Sudan with many eyes lost (battle of Dongola).



## **2 Art and Design**

### **2.1 Color Palette**

### **2.2 Textures**

# 3 Miscellaneous

## 3.1 Licenses

- Code: GPL v2
- Documentation: GPL v2 (excluding images)
- Images: Creative Commons
- 3D-Models?
- Sound?

## 4 The Kingdom of Kush: A proper introduction

*“Oh Great God, swift one. Who comes to him who calls. Watch my sister for me, the woman born in the same womb as me. Do for her as I have done for you. Spontaneous miracles that cannot be denied. Elevate her children and make them prosper, even as you did for me.”*

-From Taharqa's prayer to Amun, at his temple in Kawa-



Figure 4.1: Taharqa, pharaoh of the 25th dynasty and father of the later Meroe period, at the temple of Amun in Napata. The holy mountain Jebel (Gebel) Barkal is in the background.

Often misunderstood, and even more often overlooked, Kush was a major center of power in the ancient world. Its deserts and its armies were the southern frontier for many

classical civilizations. Its gold and ivory were prized throughout the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Its trade routes connected Africa to the rest of the world and its mercenaries served as far as Greece. It's rulers, many of them powerful queens, known as Kandakes, ruled in the style of the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom. City builders, administrators, craftsmen and artists, ironworkers, priests, warriors, farmers, cattle herders and horse breeders. Builders of pyramids. The bowmen of Nubia. Who were these Kushites, and why would they be such an invaluable addition to 0 A.D.?



Figure 4.2: Some of the Iconic Nubian pyramids, at Meroe. Between the 8th Century BCE and 350 A.D., 255 pyramids were built by the Kushites, at El Kurru, Napata, Meroe and Nuri.

Because the Kushites have not yet been properly introduced, I will attempt to provide you with a thorough, yet concise, illustrated analysis of Kushitic history, outlining their origin and environment, culture and religion, architecture, economy and military. As well as contextualizing them in a broader Mediterranean and Middle Eastern world, around the time frame of 0 A.D., including the prolonged wars they waged against several civilizations already featured in the game. Because of the lack of credible and historically accurate representations of these people in popular culture, I have spent some time, gathering a rich collection of historically accurate and relevant images, focused on important archaeological sites, and accurate reconstructions of houses, monuments, cities and the people and attire of various classes and backgrounds within Kush. If any attempt is made to represent “The Kingdom of Kush” in 0 A.D., the images provided in this introduction can provide the backbone for models of buildings and units, as they represent some of the most historically accurate images available on this civilization.





Figure 4.3: King Tanyidamani and Apedemak, the god of war and fertility, on a votive plaque from the Naqa kiosk.

## 4.1 Identifying Kush

Kushites are known and referred to by a number of names, sometimes confusing the casual reader trying to find out more about these people. The following names are used interchangeably: “Kush”, or “The kingdom of Kush”, “The Kushitic empire”, “Napatans”, “Meroites”, “The Meroitic Empire” or more commonly, but less precisely, “Nubia”, or “the Nubians”. Egypt’s fearsome southern neighbor. This is Herodotus’ Aethiopia (Ethiopia). It must not be confused with the modern day country of Ethiopia, which lies to the south of ancient Kush. Neither should they be confused with the “Kushans” of Bactria and India. The Kingdom of Kush was centered in modern day Sudan. More specifically on the Butana step, a vast, semi-arid, seasonal savannah, flanked by the Nile and the Blue Nile to the West, and the Atbarah River to the East. There, people took advantage of seasonal rainfalls to engage in large-scale agro-pastoralism. Mainly cattle herding and the cultivation of barley, wheat, sorghum and millet, along with cash crops like cotton and dates. In 450BCE Herodotus correctly identified the

capital as Meroe, an ancient site that was used for royal burials as early as 890BCE. Situated between the 5th and the 6th cataract on the Nile, Herodotus called it a “great city... said to be the capital of the other Ethiopians”.



2. The Meroitic kingdom. After P. L. Shinnie, *Meroë: A Civilization of the Sudan* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1967), p. 17, fig. 2.

Figure 4.4: A map of Lower, Upper and South Nubia, in modern day Sudan. The core of Kushite influence stretched about a thousand km, from the first cataract around Maharraga (traditionally the Roman frontier), to Jebel Moya.