**Amenhotep IV – Path to Power**

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using the information provided below, fill out the worksheet about Amenhotep IV’s influential figures in his path to power.

**1. Amenhotep III (His Father):**

- Amenhotep III, Akhenaten’s father, was one of Egypt's most powerful and prosperous pharaohs. His reign was marked by unprecedented wealth, artistic flourishing, and stability, which laid a strong foundation for his son. The strong economy and well-established administrative systems under Amenhotep III provided Akhenaten with the resources to implement his radical reforms.

**2. Queen Tiye (His Mother):**

- Queen Tiye was a highly influential figure in both Amenhotep III's and Akhenaten's reigns. She was known for her intelligence, political acumen, and strong personality. Her influence in the court and her connections with foreign powers helped to consolidate Akhenaten's position. Tiye's support was crucial in legitimizing Akhenaten’s early rule, especially during the transition period.

**3. Nefertiti (His Wife):**

- Nefertiti played a significant role in Akhenaten's religious and political life. She was not only his consort but also a co-regent, which is evident from numerous depictions showing her in positions of power, performing religious rituals, and sometimes being shown at the same scale as Akhenaten, indicating her significant status. Her support and active participation in the worship of Aten helped solidify the new religious order.

**4. Ay (His Grandfather or Great-Uncle):**

- Ay, who later became pharaoh after Tutankhamun, was a key advisor and possibly a relative of Akhenaten. He held important positions such as Vizier and played a significant role in the administration. Ay's experience and support would have been valuable in the early years of Akhenaten’s reign, particularly in managing the state affairs during the transition to the new religious practices.

**5. Tuthmosis (His Brother or Half-Brother):**

- Tuthmosis was the original crown prince and the eldest son of Amenhotep III and Queen Tiye. His death, which occurred before he could ascend to the throne, cleared the way for Akhenaten to become the heir. Although Tuthmosis's role was indirect, his death significantly influenced the line of succession, bringing Akhenaten to power.

**6. High Priests of Amun:**

- The powerful priesthood of Amun was initially supportive but later became one of the main opponents of Akhenaten’s religious reforms. Their initial support or at least neutrality helped Akhenaten ascend the throne without significant opposition. However, as Akhenaten moved to establish Atenism and diminish the power of the Amun priesthood, their opposition became more pronounced.

**7. Mahu (Chief of Police in Akhetaten):**

- Mahu was the chief of police in Akhetaten, the new capital city established by Akhenaten. His role in maintaining order and enforcing the new religious practices was crucial. By securing the new city and ensuring compliance with Akhenaten's reforms, Mahu helped sustain the pharaoh’s radical changes.

**8. Foreign Influences and Alliances:**

- During Akhenaten's reign, Egypt maintained diplomatic relations with various foreign powers, including Mitanni, Hatti, and Babylon. These alliances and the corresponding political stability helped Akhenaten focus on his domestic religious reforms without significant external threats. Diplomatic correspondence, such as the Amarna Letters, provides insight into these relationships.

These figures and factors collectively contributed to Akhenaten’s rise to power and his ability to implement and sustain his unprecedented religious and cultural changes.

Influential Figures – Amenhotep IV

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| Key Person/Group | Who were they? | Influence on Amenhotep IV |
| Amenhotep III |  |  |
| Queen Tiye |  |  |
| Nefertiti |  |  |
| Ay |  |  |
| Tuthmosis |  |  |
| High Priests of Amun |  |  |
| Mahu |  |  |
| Foreign Influences/Alliances |  |  |