

Ancient Egypt : Pre-Dynastic to Ptolemaic

Geography of Ancient Egypt

- Upper Egypt (south)
- Lower Egypt (north)
- First Settlement just north of first Cataract

Pre-dynastic Period

- Agriculture revolution (5000 BCE), Allowed for permanent settlements and the establishment of complex societies. Also population booms
- Irrigation to fully utilize Nile in as many places as possible
- Establishment of provincial government system (Nomes, ruled by Nomarchs)
- Establishment of common culture, Similar religious structure, language, WRITING

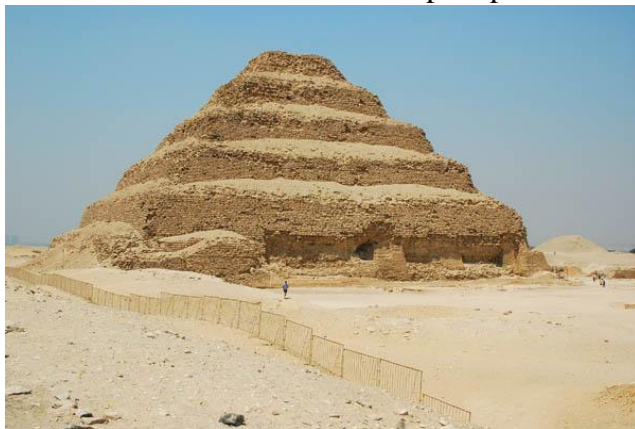


Archaic Period

- Menes, Aha, Narmar unifies Nomes under one central government with capital in Memphis
- Establishes Pharaoh (divine right)
- Origins of the tomb building (at Abydos)

Old Kingdom

- Creation of highly complex social structure. Pharaoh at top, slaves at bottom.
- Pyramid Builders. Great Pyramids built in succession Khufu, Khafre + Sphinx, and Menkaure
- Creation of more complex political structure with Viziers



Zoser's Tomb



Khufu's Tomb 1

Era of Unrest or First Intermediate Period

- Expanding independence of Nomes led to the decentralization and collapse of central government

Middle Kingdom

- Reunification under Amunemhet I
- Established new capital just south of Memphis
- Capital would be moved many times in this period
- Divination of Kingship dispelled, Pharaoh becomes more concerned with need to satisfy people

- No longer are his words taken as will of the gods, he must convince people to do things now (in best interest)
- Important Political Changes
 - Capital changes to signal era and split with “old glory”
 - Nomes granted autonomy within Pharaonic system
 - Establishment of a coregency system (Pharaoh names and trains successor) meant for smoother transitions from one reign to next
- More aggressive trade in south,
- More Egyptian influence into Palestine

Egyptian Women

- Primarily attached to household duties
- Could not hold office, attend school, or join bureaucracy
- Could own land, sue for divorce, had equal legal protection in theory



Second Intermediate period

- Kingdom Split (weak rulers, mostly unknown why)
- Lower Egypt comes under rule of Hyksos
- Established capitol at Avaris
- Introduction of Chariots, Bronze Weaponry, Composite Bows
- Copying of ancient texts onto papyrus for preservation

New Kingdom

- Hyksos expelled by Kamose, finished by Ahmose
- Kingdom reunited under Ahmose I
- Height of Egyptian, Political, Economic and Military Power
- Expanded to Euphrates (Iraq) in North and all 1300 miles south (Khartoum, Sudan)
- Characterized by tomb builders in Valley of the Kings
- Ramses II (the Great)
 - Great victory over Hittities at Kadesh
 - Rock cut temple at Abu Simbel
 - Signed treaty with Hittites to form alliance to take on any threats from Palestine
 - Had around 100 children
- Dynasties broke down with corruption, civil disobedience, foreign incursions, famine, and finally a breakup of the empire

Third Intermediate period

- Civil war had left the kingdom divided and weakened
- Civil war and no clear central government

Late Kingdom

- Many regions were able to break away (Aksum) and form their own kingdoms
- Parts of Egyptian kingdom were consumed
- Egypt was completely taken over many times
- Had three final Egyptian dynasties

Ptolemaic Period

- Conquered by Alexander the Great
- After the death of Alexander, Region was given to General Ptolemy
- New architecture seen in Great Library and Great Lighthouse
- Decedents reigned until defeat to Roman forces under Octavian