



# **EGYPTIAN HISTORY: FROM NARMER TO CLEOPATRA**

**Art History**

**Chapter 3**



# FOUNDATIONS OF THE PHARAOHS:

- **Egyptology = the study of Egyptian history**
  - A “fluid science”
  - constantly changing because of new discoveries
  - alter our understanding of the history of Ancient Egypt along with its chronology!
- **Egyptian history**
  - divided into 9 categories or kingdoms and 31 dynasties numbered from Dynasty 0 to Dynasty 30.

# CURRENT KNOWLEDGE

- Based on the writings of the Greco-Egyptian historian Manetho:
  - Divided Egyptian history into dynasties.
  - We **do not** have any of Manetho's original texts!
- **How do we know so much?**  
Manetho is quoted by:
  - Josephus
  - Sextus Julius Africanus
  - Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea
  - George the Monk
- These quotes range from the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE to almost 500 CE



# OTHER SOURCES OF KNOWLEDGE

- **The Palermo Stone**
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Dynasty black basalt stone tablet that is inscribed on both sides and records the last pre-dynastic kings.
- **The Royal List of Abydos**
  - Hall of the Records at the Temple of Abydos.
  - Seti I and his son Ramesses II are worshipping the names of 76 ancestors (Hatshepsut and Akhenaten are omitted).
- **The Abydos King List**
  - Duplicate list of the Royal List
- **The Royal List of Karnak**
  - kings from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediate period.
- **The Royal List of Saqqara**
  - Represented the kings from the 1<sup>st</sup> dynasty to Ramesses II.
- **The Royal Canon of Turin**
  - Originally listed over 300 kings of Egypt...because of damage over time...we are now piecing together one of the most important puzzles!



# PRE-DYNASTIC PERIOD: DYNASTY 0:

- **The latest identified dynastic period**
  - (Most history texts do not count this Dynasty because it is so new!)
- **Made up of 14 “predecessor kings” that were identified in excavations at Abydos.**
  - Historians question if these “kings” or “proto-kings” were combined to create Osiris the king of the dead.
  - These kings were buried at Abydos.
  - This find contrasts the historical belief that Menes (Narmer) was the first “pharaoh” because he unified the Upper and Lower regions.
  - Some Egyptologists will place Narmer as the last king in dynasty 0 or the 1<sup>st</sup> king in Dynasty 1.

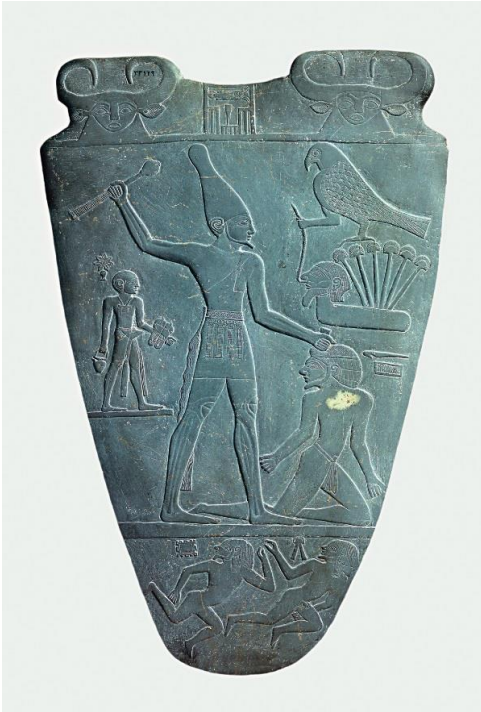
# UNIFICATION OF UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT

- **Archaeologists are now leaning to the unification process taking more than 100 years.**
  - Pottery remains indicate that trade between upper and lower Egypt began long before unification.
  - Texts found at Abydos also identify the use of written language almost 60 years before the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty.
  - Mythology or Cosmology was also practiced before the 1<sup>st</sup> Dynasty.
- **Ancient Egyptian texts also describe the creations and always have a Pharaoh present...even before there was one king!**



# ARCHAIC PERIOD: DYNASTIES I & II

MANETHO  
IDENTIFIES  
EGYPTIAN HISTORY  
AS BEGINNING  
WITH THE  
UNIFICATION OF  
UPPER AND LOWER  
EGYPT.



# OLD KINGDOM: DYNASTIES III-VI

- **The age of the pyramid builders.**
- **Most of the royal pyramid complexes and private mastaba tombs of the Memphite necropolis were built.**
- **Consolidation of the government took place**
- **Efficient administration systems developed**
- **Pharaohs were thought to be divine (incarnation of Horus and son of Re.**
- **Technological advancements:**
  - Building
  - Hieroglyphic writings
  - Advanced pyramid construction



## **INTERMEDIATE PERIOD 1: DYNASTIES VII-XI**

- 140 years of chaos after the death of Pepi II.
- Constant change of leadership.



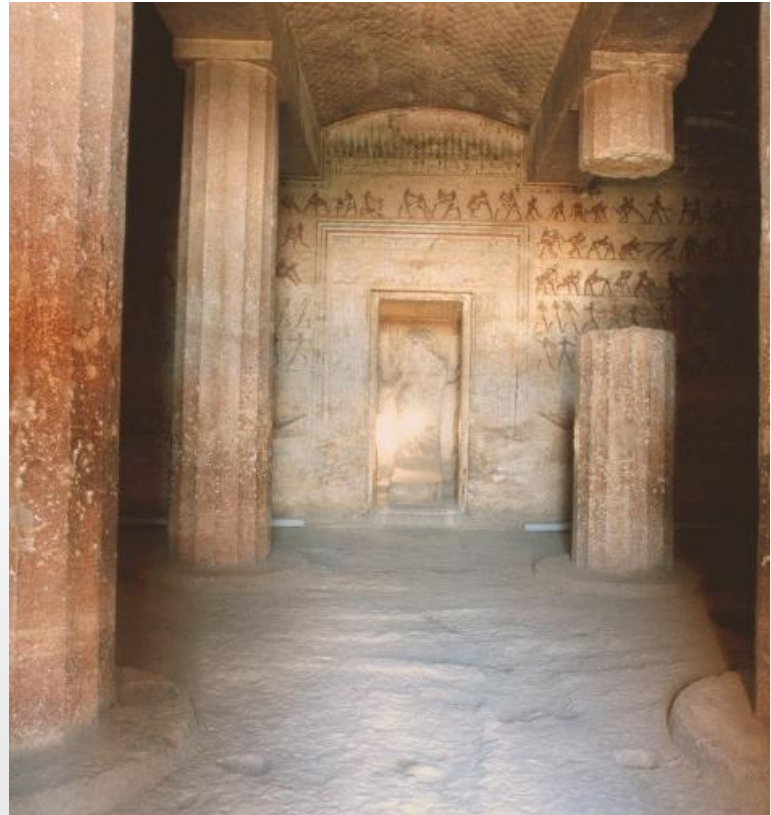
## MIDDLE KINGDOM: DYNASTY XII

- **Solid government**
- **Increased prosperity and unification**
- **Growth of political boundaries.**



## **INTERMEDIATE PERIOD 2: DYNASTIES XIII-XVII**

- **In come the Hyksos, a Semitic group that invaded in around 1720 BC.**
- **Ruled Egypt's northern Delta area.**
- **Ahmose I Removed the Hyksos and established the New Kingdom.**





# **NEW KINGDOM: DYNASTIES XVIII-XX**

- **The most well-known pharaohs of all Ancient Egyptian rulers:**
  - **Hatshepsut (the female pharaoh)**
  - **Akhenaten the heretic**
  - **Tutankhamun the boy-king**
  - **Ay (married Tut's widow ... possibility he killed Tut!)**
  - **Seti I**
  - **Rameses II (the Great)**
  - **Rameses III (ruled 31 years) last great Egyptian Pharaoh**
  - **Rameses XI (28 year rule)**
    - **Priests owned all temples, 90% of all ships, 80% of all factories (Priests ruled economically!)**



# LATE PERIOD: DYNASTIES XXI- XXVI

- ▶ **Broken into 4 clear phases:**
- ▶ **The Saite Dynasty**
  - ▶ Psamtek I established a new reign and removed the Assyrians by 656 BC.
- ▶ **The First Persian Dynasty**
  - ▶ Cambyses
  - ▶ Darius I
  - ▶ Xerxes
  - ▶ Artaxerxes
- ▶ **A Period of Independence**
  - ▶ Dominated by two major issues: instability within Egypt and aggressive Persian power abroad.
- ▶ **The Second Persian Occupation**
  - ▶ Artaxerxes II plundered the temples and destroyed the defenses of major cities.
  - ▶ Alexander the Great defeated the Persians



**AKHENATEN,  
NEFERTITI &  
DAUGHTERS**



# PTOLEMAIC PERIOD: GREEK DYNASTY



- **Also includes the Macedonian Period**
  - Alexander the Great
  - Philip Arrhidaeus
  - Alexander IV
- **Ptolemy I Soter I founded the Ptolemaic line.**
  - Took the throne after the death of Alexander IV.
  - Known as Ptolemy of Lagos
  - Ptolemaic rule will come to an end with Cleopatra VII who was married to Ptolemy XII (her brother)
    - Affair with Emperor Augustus of Rome and Mark Antony.