



Ancient Egypt

An Introduction

This book provides an introduction to one of the greatest civilisations of all time – ancient Egypt. Beginning with a geographical overview that explains the development of Egyptian belief systems as well as Egypt's subsequent political development, the book examines Egyptological methodology; the history of the discipline of Egyptology; and Egyptian religion, social organization, urban and rural life, and funerary beliefs. It also discusses how people of all ranks lived in ancient Egypt. Lavishly illustrated, with many photographs of rarely seen sites, this volume is suitable for use in introductory-level courses on ancient Egypt. It offers a variety of student-friendly features, including a glossary, a bibliography, and a list of sources for those who wish to pursue their interest in ancient Egypt.

Salima Ikram is professor of Egyptology at the American University in Cairo. An archaeologist of ancient Egypt, she is the author of several scholarly and popular books, including, most recently, *Death and Burial in Ancient Egypt*, *Divine Creatures: Animal Mummies in Ancient Egypt*, and, with A. M. Dodson, *The Tomb in Ancient Egypt* and *The Mummy in Ancient Egypt*.

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Agricultural and taxation scenes from the tomb of Nefer at Saqqara. Photo Salima Ikram.

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*To Barbara Mertz for feeding the heart, mind, imagination, soul, and stomach,
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to Aidan Dodson for his constant friendship and support, even at 3:21 AM*

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Preface

The civilisation of ancient Egypt is one of the most compelling in this world and has attracted attention, both popular and scholarly, throughout the ages. Perhaps this is due to its awesome monumental architecture, its beautiful tomb paintings, or its beliefs in the continuity of life after death that resulted in the invention of mummification. Many specialist books have been written about different aspects of Egypt and its culture, but few books furnish a broad overview that makes all aspects of Egyptian civilisation accessible at a fundamental level. This book aims to provide readers with an introduction to ancient Egypt, setting the stage for their further study and investigation. It starts by introducing the reader to the geography and geology of the country and explaining how these have influenced Egypt's culture and history, and then it proceeds to chronicle the history of Egyptology and the methodologies employed by scholars to unravel Egypt's past. Subsequent chapters cover Egyptian religion, history, and social organization; the daily lives of Egypt's inhabitants; and, finally, Egyptian funerary customs. A chronology, glossary, list of Egyptological resources, and select bibliography provide further tools for an understanding and exploration of ancient Egypt. I hope that this book will give its readers a basic knowledge of one of the world's most fascinating cultures and will lead them to read more widely and deeply on the subject.

Cairo, Luxor, and New York

Chronology

<i>Horus or Throne Name</i>	<i>Personal Name</i>	<i>Regnal Dates</i>
PREDYNASTIC PERIOD (5000–3050 BC)		
Badarian Culture		5000–4000
Naqada I (Amratian) Culture		4000–3500
Naqada II (Gerzian) Culture		3500–3150
Naqada III Culture/Dynasty 0		3150–3050
EARLY DYNASTIC/ARCHAIC PERIOD (3050–2663; DYNASTIES 1–2)		
<i>Dynasty 1</i>		
Horus Narmer		
Horus Aha		3050–
Horus Djer	Itit	
Horus Djet	Iti	
Horus Den	Semti	
Horus Adjib	Merpibia	
Horus Semerkhet	Irinetjer	
Horus Qaa	Qebh	–2813
<i>Dynasty 2</i>		
Horus Hetepsekhemwy	Baunetjer	2813–
Horus Nebre	Kakau	
Horus Ninetjer	Ninetjer	
?	Weneg	
?	Sened	
Horus Sekhemib/ Seth Peribsen	Perenmaat	–2709

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<i>Dynasty 2 (continued)</i>		
?	Neferkasokar	2709–2701
?	?	2701–2690
Horus and Seth		
Khasekhemwy	Nebwyhetepimyef	2690–2663
OLD KINGDOM (2663–2160; DYNASTIES 3–8)		
<i>Dynasty 3</i>		
Horus Sanakht	Nebka	2663–2654
Horus Netjerykhet	Djoser	2654–2635
Horus Sekhemkhet	Djoser-ti	2635–2629
Horus Khaba	Teti?	2629–2623
Nebkare	Seth?ka	2623–2621
Horus Qahedjet?	Huni	2621–2597
<i>Dynasty 4</i>		
Horus Nebmaat	Senefru	2597–2547
Horus Medjedu	Khufu	2547–2524
Horus Kheper	Djedefre	2524–2516
Horus Userib	Khafre	2516–2493
Horus Kakheth	Menkaure	2493–2475
Horus Shepseskhet	Shepseskaf	2475–2471
<i>Dynasty 5</i>		
Horus Irimaat	Userkaf	2471–2464
Horus Nebkhau	Sahure	2464–2452
Neferirkare	Kakai	2452–2442
Shepseskare	Isi	2442–2435
Horus Neferkhau	Neferefre	2435–2432
Niuserre	Ini	2432–2421
Menkauhor	Ikauhor	2421–2413
Djedkare	Isesi	2413–2385
Horus Wadjtowy	Unas	2385–2355
<i>Dynasty 6</i>		
Horus Sehetepawy	Teti	2355–2343
Nefersahor/Meryre	Pepy I	2343–2297

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<i>Dynasty 6 (continued)</i>		
Merenre	Nemtyemsaf I	2297–2290
Neferkare	Pepy II	2290–2196
Merenre?	Nemtyemsaf II	2196–2195
<i>Dynasty 7/8</i>		
Netjerkare	?	2195–
Menkare	Nitokris	
Neferkare	?	
Neferkare	Neby	
Djedkare	Shemay	
Neferkare	Khendu	
Merenhor	?	
Nikare	?	
Neferkare	Tereru	
Neferkahor	?	
Neferkare	Pepysonbe	
Neferkamin	Anu	
Qakare	Ibi	
Neferkaure	?	
Neferkauhor	Khuihapy	
Neferirkare	?	–2160
FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (2160–2066; DYNASTIES 9–MID-11)		
<i>Dynasties 9/10 (Herakleopolitan)</i>		
Meryibre	Akhtoy I	2160–
Neferkare	?	
Wahkare	Akhtoy II	
?	Senenen ...	
Neferkare	Akhtoy III	
Mery...	Akhtoy IV	
(Various)	(Various)	
?	Meryhathor	
Nebkaure	Akhtoy V	
Merykare	?	
?	?	–2040

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FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (2160–2066; DYNASTIES 9–MID-11) (CONTINUED)		
<i>Dynasty 11a (Theban)</i>		
Horus Tepyā	Mentuhotep I	2160–
Horus Sehertawy	Inyotef I	–2123
Horus Wahankh	Inyotef II	2123–2074
Horus Nakhtnebtpefer	Inyotef III	2074–2066
MIDDLE KINGDOM (2066–1650; DYNASTIES MID-11–14)		
<i>Dynasty 11b</i>		
Nebhepetre	Mentuhotep II	2066–2014
Sankhkare	Mentuhotep III	2014–2001
Nebtawyre	Mentuhotep IV	2001–1994
<i>Dynasty 12</i>		
Sehetepibre	Amenemhat I	1994–1964
Kheperkare	Senusert I	1974–1929
Nubkhaure	Amenemhat II	1932–1896
Khakheperre	Senusert II	1900–1880
Khakaure	Senusert III	1881–1840
Nimaatre	Amenemhat III	1842–1794
Maekherure	Amenemhat IV	1798–1785
Sobkkare	Sobekneferu	1785–1781
<i>Dynasty 13</i>		
Khutawire	Wegaf	1781–
Sekhemkare	Sonbef	
Nerikare	? Amenemhat V	
Sehetepibre	Qemau	
Sankhibre	Amenemhat VI	
Smenkare	Nebnuni	
Hetepibre	Hornedjhiryotef-sa-Qemau	
Swadjkare	?	
Nedjemibre	?	
Khaankhre	Sobkhotep I	
?	Renisonbe	
Auibre	Hor	
Sedjefakare	Kay-Amenemhat VII	
Sekhemre-khutawi	Amenemhat VIII-Sobkhotep II	

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Dynasty 13 (continued)

Userkare/Nikhanimaatre	Khendjer	
Smenkhkare	Imyromesha	
Sehotepkare	Inyotef IV	
Sekhemre-swadjetawi	Sobkhotep III	
Khasekhemre	Neferhotep I	
?	Sihathor	
Khaneferre	Sobkhotep IV	
Khahetepre	Sobkhotep V	
Wahibre	Iaib	
Merneferre	Ay	
Merhetepre	Sobkhotep VI	
Mersekhemre	Neferhotep	
Merkaure	Sobkhotep VII	
Djedneferre	Dedumose	
Seheqaenre	Sankhptahi	
Swahenre	Senebmiu	–1650

Dynasty 14

Unclear; possibly located in the Delta and precursor of Hyksos

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (1650–1549; DYNASTIES 15–17)

Dynasty 15 (Hyksos)

Maaibre	Sheshi	1650–
Meruserre	Yakobher	
Seuserenre	Khyan	
Nebkhepeshre/ Aqenenre/Auserre	Apophis	1585–1545
?	Khamudy	1545–1535

Dynasty 16

?

Dynasty 17 (Theban)

Sekhemre-wakhau	Rahotep	1650–
Sekhemre-smentawi	Djehuty	
Sankhenre	Mentuhotep VII	
Swedjenre	Nebiriau I	

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SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (1650–1549; DYNASTIES 15–17)		
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Sekhemre-shedtawi	Sobkemsaf I	
Sekhemre-wepmaat	Inyotef V	
Nubkheperre	Inyotef VI	
Sekhemre-heruhirmaat	Inyotef VII	
Sekhemre-wadjkhau	Sobkemsaf II	
Senakhtenre	Taa I	–1558
Seqenenre	Taa II	1558–1553
Wadjkheperre	Kamose	1553–1549
NEW KINGDOM (1549–1069; DYNASTIES 18–20)		
<i>Dynasty 18</i>		
Nebpehtire	Ahmose	1549–1524
Djeserkare	Amenhotep I	1524–1503
Akheperkare	Thutmose I	1503–1491
Akheperenre	Thutmose II	1491–1479
Menkheper(en)re	Thutmose III	1479–1424
Maatkare	Hatshepsut	1472–1457
Akheperure	Amenhotep II	1424–1398
Menkheperure	Thutmose IV	1398–1388
Nebmaatre	Amenhotep III	1388–1348
Neferkheperure-waenre	Amenhotep IV/ Akhenaten	1352–1335
Ankhkheperure	Smenkhkare	1339
Neferneferuaten		1338–1332
Nebkheperre	Tutankhamun	1335–1325
Kheperkheperure	Ay	1333–1328
Djeserkheperure-setpenre	Horemheb	1328–1298
<i>Dynasty 19</i>		
Menpehtire	Ramesses I	1298–1296
Menmaatre	Seti I	1296–1279
Usermaatre-setpenre	Ramesses II	1279–1212
Banenre	Merenptah	1212–1201
Userkheperure	Seti II	1201–1195

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<i>Dynasty 19 (continued)</i>		
Menmire-setpenre	Amenmesse	1200–1196
Sekhaenre/Akheperre	Siptah	1195–1189
Sitre-merenamun	Tawosret	1189–1187
<i>Dynasty 20</i>		
Userkhaure	Sethnakhte	1187–1185
Usermaatre-meryamun	Ramesses III	1185–1153
User/Heqamaatre-setpenamun	Ramesses IV	1153–1146
Usermaatre-sekheperenre	Ramesses V/ Amenhirkopshef I	1146–1141
Nebmaatre-meryamun	Ramesses VI/ Amenhirkopshef II	1141–1133
Usermaatre-setpenre- meryamun	Ramesses VII/ Itamun	1133–1125
Usermaatre-akhenamun	Ramesses VIII/ Sethhirkopshef	1125–1123
Neferkare-setpenre	Ramesses IX/ Khaemwaset I	1123–1104
Khepermaatre-setpenre	Ramesses X/ Amenhirkopshef III	1104–1094
Menmaatre-setpenptah	Ramesses XI/ Khaemwaset II	1094–1064
Hemnetjertepyenamun	Herihor	1075–1069
THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD (1064–656; DYNASTIES 21–25)		
<i>Dynasty 21</i>		
Hedjkheperre-setpenre	Smendes	1064–1038
Neferkare-heqawaset	Amenemnesu	1038–1034
Kheperkhare-setpenamun	Pinudjem I	1049–1026
Akheperre-setpenamun	Psusennes I	1034–981
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Amenemopet	984–974
Akheperre-setpenre	Osokhor	974–968
Netjerkheperre-meryamun	Siamun	968–948
Tyetskheperure-setpenre	Psusennes II	945–940

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Sekhemkheperre-setpenre	Osorkon I	927–892
Heqakheperre-setpenre	Shoshenq II	895–895
Hedjkheprre-setpenre	Takelot I	892–877
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Osorkon II	877–838
Usermaatre-setpenre	Shoshenq III	838–798
Hedjkheperre-setpenre	Shoshenq IV	798–786
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Pimay	786–780
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Hedjkheperre-setpenamun	Harsiese	867–857
Hedjkheperre-setpenre	Takelot II	841–815
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Pedubast I	830–805
?	Iuput I	815–813
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Osorkon III	796–769
Usermaatre	Takelot III	774–759
Usermaatre-setpenamun	Rudamun	759–739
?	Iny	739–734
Neferkare	Peftjauawybast	734–724
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Shetepibenre	Pedubast II	743–733
Akheperre-setpenamun	Osorkon IV	733–715
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Shepsese	Tefnakhte	735–727
Wahkare	Bokkhoris	727–721
<i>Dynasty 25</i>		
Seneferre	Piye	752–721
Neferkare	Shabaka	721–707
Djedkare	Shabataka	707–690
Khunefertumre	Taharqa	690–664
Bakare	Tanutamen	664–656

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<i>Dynasty 26</i>		
Wahibre	Psamtek I	664–610
Wechemibre	Nekho II	610–595
Neferibre	Psamtek II	595–589
Haaibre	Apries	589–570
Khnemibre	Amasis	570–526
Ankhka(en)re	Psamtek III	526–525
<i>Dynasty 27 (Persian)</i>		
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?	Artaxerxes I	465–424
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?	Amyrtaios	404–399
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<i>Dynasty 29</i>		
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Khnemmaatre	Akhoris	393–380
?	Nepherites II	380
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Kheperkare	Nektanebo I	380–362
Irimaatenre	Teos	365–360
Senedjemibre-setpenanhur	Nektanebo II	360–342
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	Okhos	342–338
	Arses	338–336
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Setpenre-meryamun	Ptolemy I Soter	310–282
Userka(en)re-meryamun	Ptolemy II Philadelphos	285–246
Iwaennetjerwysenwy- setpenre-sekhemankhen- amun	Ptolemy III Euergetes I	246–222
Iwaennetjerwymenekhwy- setpenptah-userkare- sekhemankhenamun	Ptolemy IV Philopator	222–205
Iwaennetjerwy-merwyot- setpenptah-userkare- sekhemankhenamun	Ptolemy V Epiphanes	205–180
Iwaennetjerwyperwy- setpenptahkhepri- irimaatamunre	Ptolemy VI Philometor	180–164
Iwaennetjerwyperwy- setpenptah-irimaatre- sekhemankenamun	Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II	170–163
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Iwaenpanetjereintinehem- setpenptah-merymaatenre sekhemankhamun	Ptolemy XII Neos Dionysos	80–58
	Ptolemy XII (again)	55–51
	Kleopatra VI	58–57
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ROMAN PERIOD (30 BC–AD 395)

BYZANTINE PERIOD (395–640)

ARAB PERIOD (640–1517)

OTTOMAN PERIOD (1517–1805)

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A scene from a Ramesside tomb in the Valley of the Kings showing the progress of the sun barque at night. Photo Salima Ikram.



The 5th Dynasty pyramid of Userkaf, with the 3rd Dynasty pyramid of Djoser in the background, at Saqqara. Photo Salima Ikram.



Figure 1. Map of Egypt showing the main sites. Drawing Nicholas Warner.