

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN ECONOMY

This book is the first economic history of ancient Egypt covering the entire pharaonic period, 3000–30 BCE, and employing a New Institutional Economics approach. It argues that the ancient Egyptian state encouraged an increasingly widespread and sophisticated use of writing through time, primarily in order to better document and more efficiently exact taxes for redistribution. The increased use of writing, however, also resulted in increased documentation and enforcement of private property titles and transfers, gradually lowering their transaction costs relative to redistribution. The book also argues that the increasing use of silver as a unified measure of value, medium of exchange, and store of wealth also lowered transaction costs for high value exchanges. The increasing use of silver in turn allowed the state to exact transfer taxes in silver, and provided it with an economic incentive to further document and enforce private property titles and transfers.

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3000–30 BCE

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Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago



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ABBREVIATIONS

ÄA	Ägyptologische Abhandlungen
ÄAT	Ägypten und Altes Testament
<i>AfP</i>	<i>Archiv für Papyrusforschung</i>
ASAE	<i>Annales du Service des antiquités de l'Égypte</i>
ASP	American Studies in Papyrology
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BASP	<i>Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists</i>
BdÉ	Bibliothèque d'Étude
BIFAO	<i>Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale</i>
<i>CdÉ</i>	<i>Chronique d'Égypte</i>
CNI	Carsten Niebuhr Institute Publications
CRIPEL	<i>Cahier de recherches de l'Institut de papyrologie et d'égyptologie de Lille</i>
EES	Egypt Exploration Society
EU	Egyptologische Uitgaven
<i>EVO</i>	<i>Egitto e Vicino Oriente</i>
<i>Enchoria</i>	<i>Enchoria, Zeitschrift für Demotistik und Koptologie</i>
GM	<i>Göttinger Miszellen</i>
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik
HÄB	Hildesheimer Ägyptologische Beiträge
IBAES	Internet-Beiträge zur Ägyptologie und Sudanarchäologie
IFAO	Institut français d'archéologie orientale
<i>JARCE</i>	<i>Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt</i>
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i>
<i>JESHO</i>	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>
<i>JJP</i>	<i>Journal of Juristic Papyrology</i>
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
MDAIK	<i>Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts, Abteilung Kairo</i>
MIFAO	Mémoires publiés par les membres de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale
NINO	Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications

OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
PLB	Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava
<i>RdÉ</i>	<i>Revue d'égyptologie</i>
SAK	<i>Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur</i>
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
<i>WZKM</i>	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
<i>ZÄS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i>
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>