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THE NILE

Mobility and Management

Judith Bunbury University of Cambridge Reim Rowe Independent Scholar



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Abstract: The ancient Egyptian kingdoms, at their greatest extent, stretched more than 2,000 kilometres along the Nile and passed through diverse habitats. In the north, the Nile traversed the Mediterranean coast and the Delta while further south a thread of cultivation along the Nile Valley passed through the vast desert of the Sahara. As global climate and landscapes changed and evolved, the habitable parts of the kingdoms shifted. Modern studies suggest that episodes of desertification and greening swept across Egypt over periods of 1,000 years. Rather than isolated events, the changes in Egypt are presented in context, often as responses to global occurrences, characterised by a constant shift of events, so although broadly historic, this narrative follows a series of habitats as they change and evolve through time.

Supplementary video available at www.cambridge.org/bunburyrowe Keywords: Nile, ancient Egypt, river, migration, hydraulic-engineering

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Humans and Climate Change	1
3	The Early Holocene Climate Seesaw	9
4	The Old Kingdom	19
5	The First Intermediate Period	20
6	The Delta	23
7	Memphis and the Head of the Delta	30
8	Islands in the Nile	31
9	Renewed Strength in the South	45
10	High Tides of Empire	53
11	Coptic-Islamic Times	60
	Bibliography	65

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