



## Egypt

- **Upper Nile** (south)  
narrow valley
- **Fayum**, lake and marshy region
- **Lower Nile** (north)  
delta region
- **gradual desertification**, current  
pattern established by 2900 B. C.



agriculture dominated by annual floods coincide with the rising of the star Sirius (Sothis), **flooding 3 - 4 months** between August and November



- irrigation using the **shaduf** water lift
- cyclical renewal became an important aspect of Egyptian world view

# REGIONALIZATION ERA - Pre-Dynastic or Proto-Dynastic

## Upper/Middle Egypt

**Badarian**



**Naqada I**

**Naqada II**

**Naqada III**



**Lower Egypt**

**Early Fayum** 5200 BC

**Merimda** 4800 BC

**El Omari** 4300 BC

**4100 to 3800 BC**



**Ma' adi**

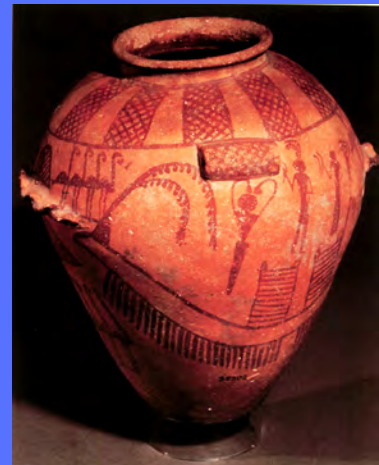
**3800 BC**

**3600 BC**

**Buto**

**3200 BC**

**3300 BC**



## Preconditions met

1. Diverse agricultural and pastoral adaptations to the Delta and the upper Nile regions

2. expanded trade networks linking resource areas to settlements, Nile served as main conduit of North-South trade, caravan routes to the Red Sea via the **Wadi Hammamat**, links to **Ethiopia, Sinai, Palestine and Mediterranean**



3. Technology of the **shaduf and flood irrigation, walled settlements, specialized crafts** to produce symbolic objects for use in rituals and to include with the dead  
- establishment of regional ritual and trade centers

4. **differential access** to resources is easy to maintain due to the limited amount of good agricultural land and the distribution of resources, **gods controlled the floods and the harvest, leaders** or chiefs were either the direct emissaries of the gods or represented the actual god in human flesh

**South to north developmental process and sequence**

- is this indeed the case or are we missing the data from the Delta?

– what role did contact with West Asia or Nubia have in the formation of the state?

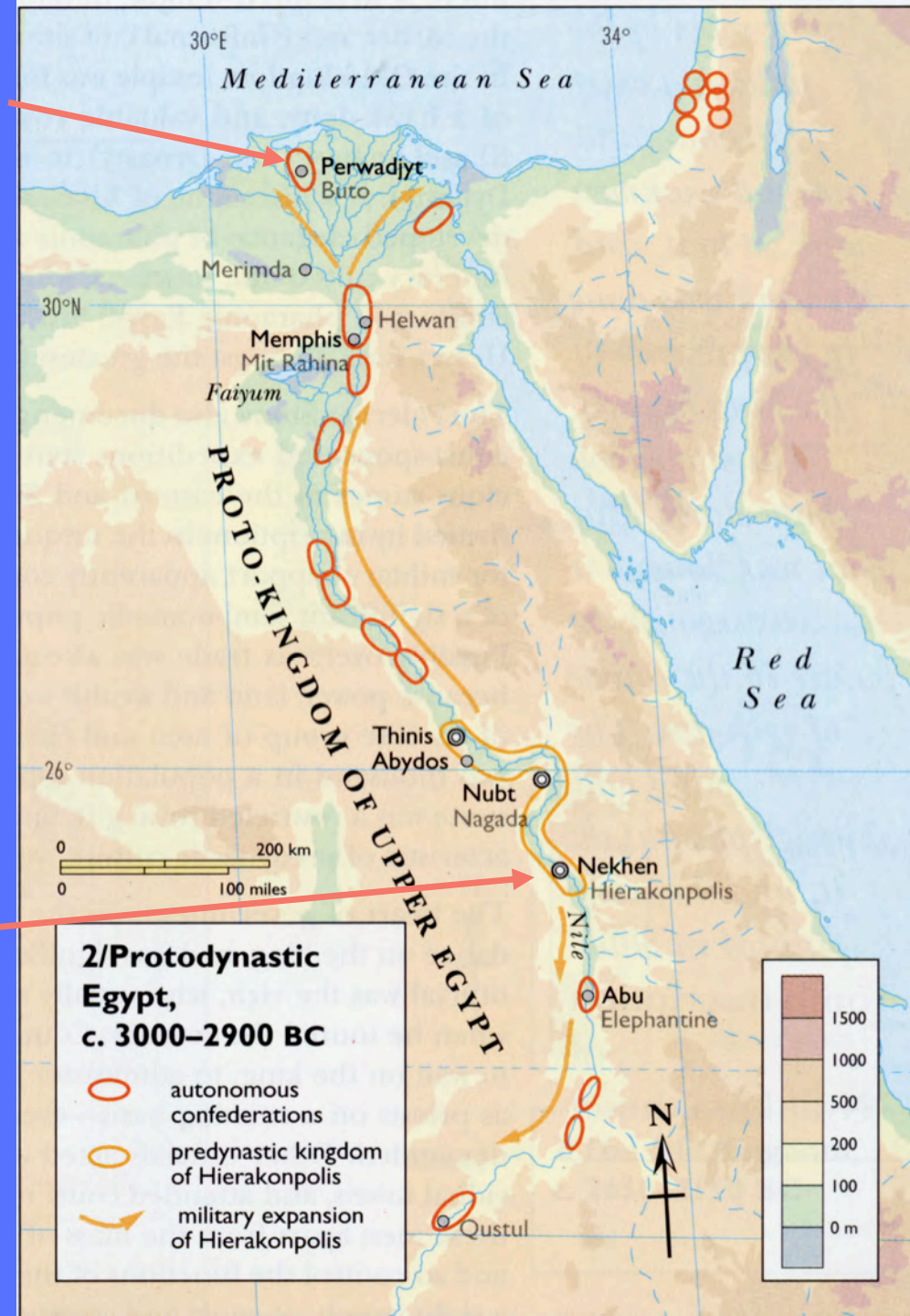
**Buto**

## INTEGRATION ERA

Protodynastic Period (Late Naqada II through First Dynasty) 3200 - 2950 B. C.

- integration of the south and north through military conflict, around 3200 BC,

- **King Narmer** of **Hierakonpolis** or of a mythical king called **Menes (Aha)** -First Dynasty



White crown  
Upper Egypt



Red crown (blood crown)  
Lower Egypt



**King Narmer** with crown of Upper Egypt, killing marsh dwellers, with the help of **Horus**

**Buto**



Depictions of Delta forts being destroyed, but no forts have ever been found



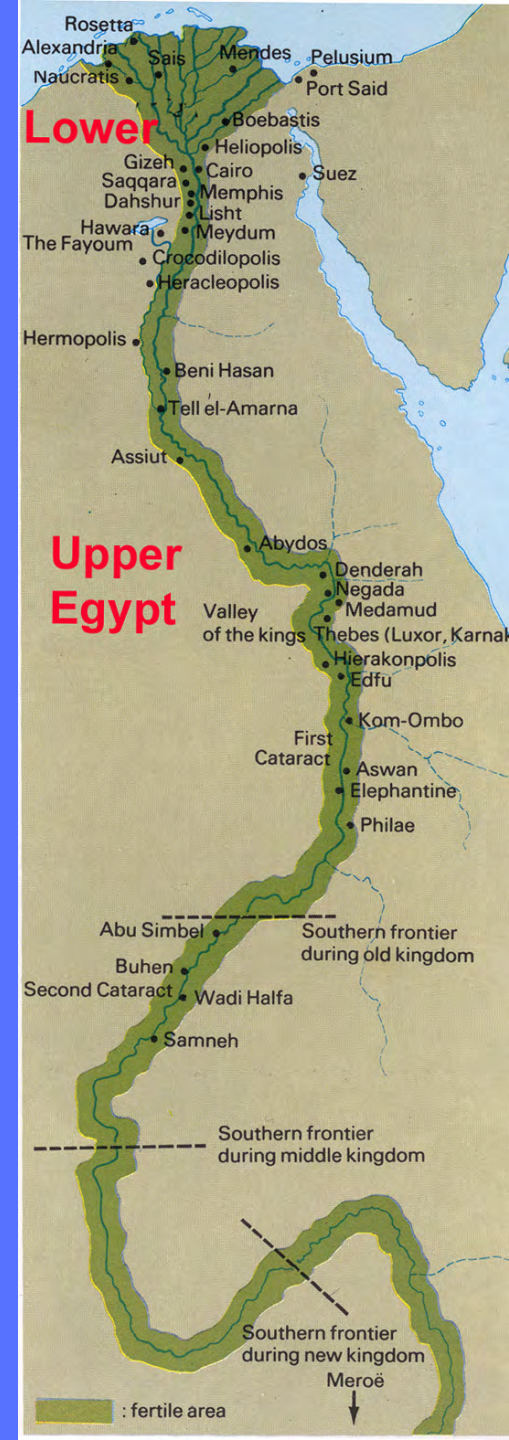


# Early Dynastic Period

(Dynasty 1-2) 3050 - 2695 B. C.

- multiple **city states** and eventually a **territorial state**:

**King**, supported by Set, Horus and priests and military, writing develops, mud-brick mastaba tombs

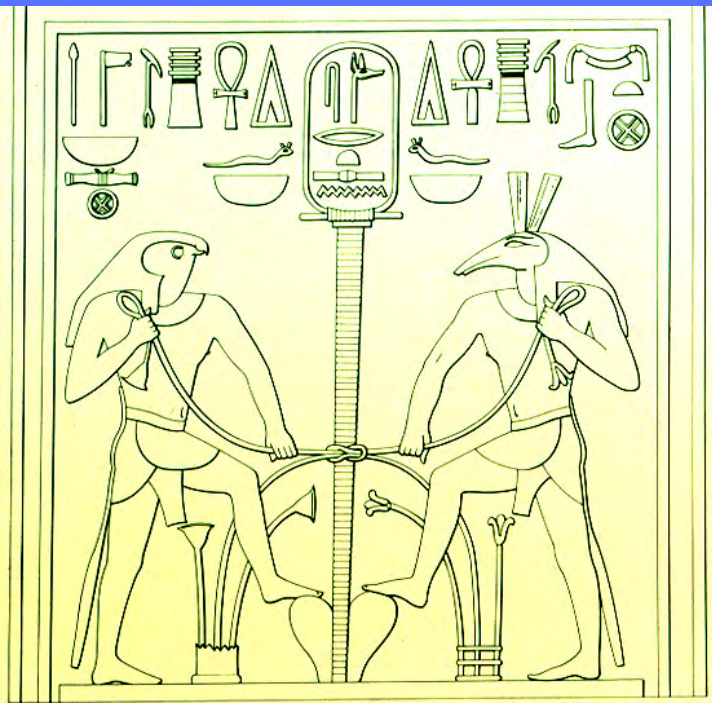




**Horus** = Re = Ra (Sun God) dominant deity, unification under a shared ideology

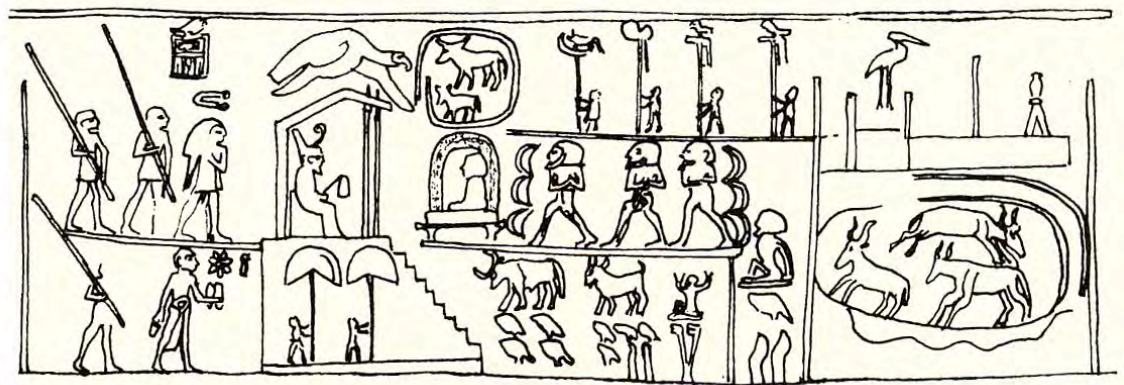
**Horus** = King in life

**Osiris** = King in after life



Political order and stability achieved through the balance of power of Horus and Set

**State = God King**  
who in turn is  
supported by  
officials and  
priests, military  
and below them  
the agriculturalist



**Social order** reinforced by military and  
ritual coercion (**ma' at** = right thing, truth  
and justice) which are in turn supported  
by religion, monuments, writing, etc.

Fertility of land and people was a royal concern - Ramses II, collecting semen from the fertility god Min-Amun, Luxor



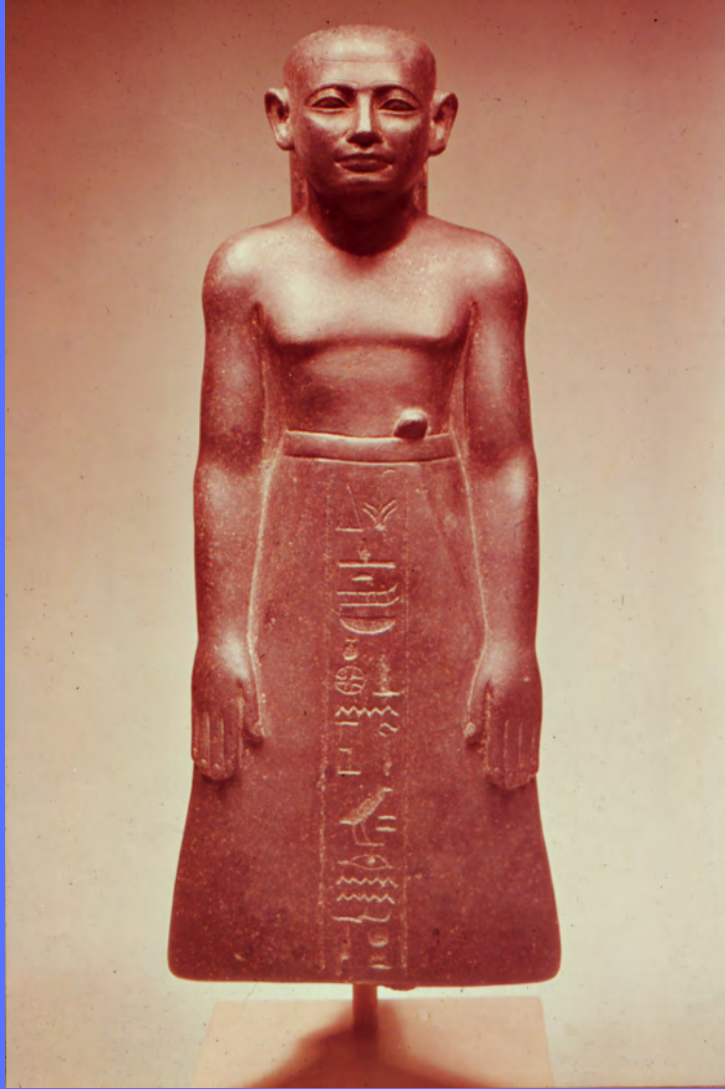
## Creation

### Sexuality

- no term for sexuality
- sexual and religious/ritual were united and the normal ordinary way of life



Ankh, symbol of life and fertility

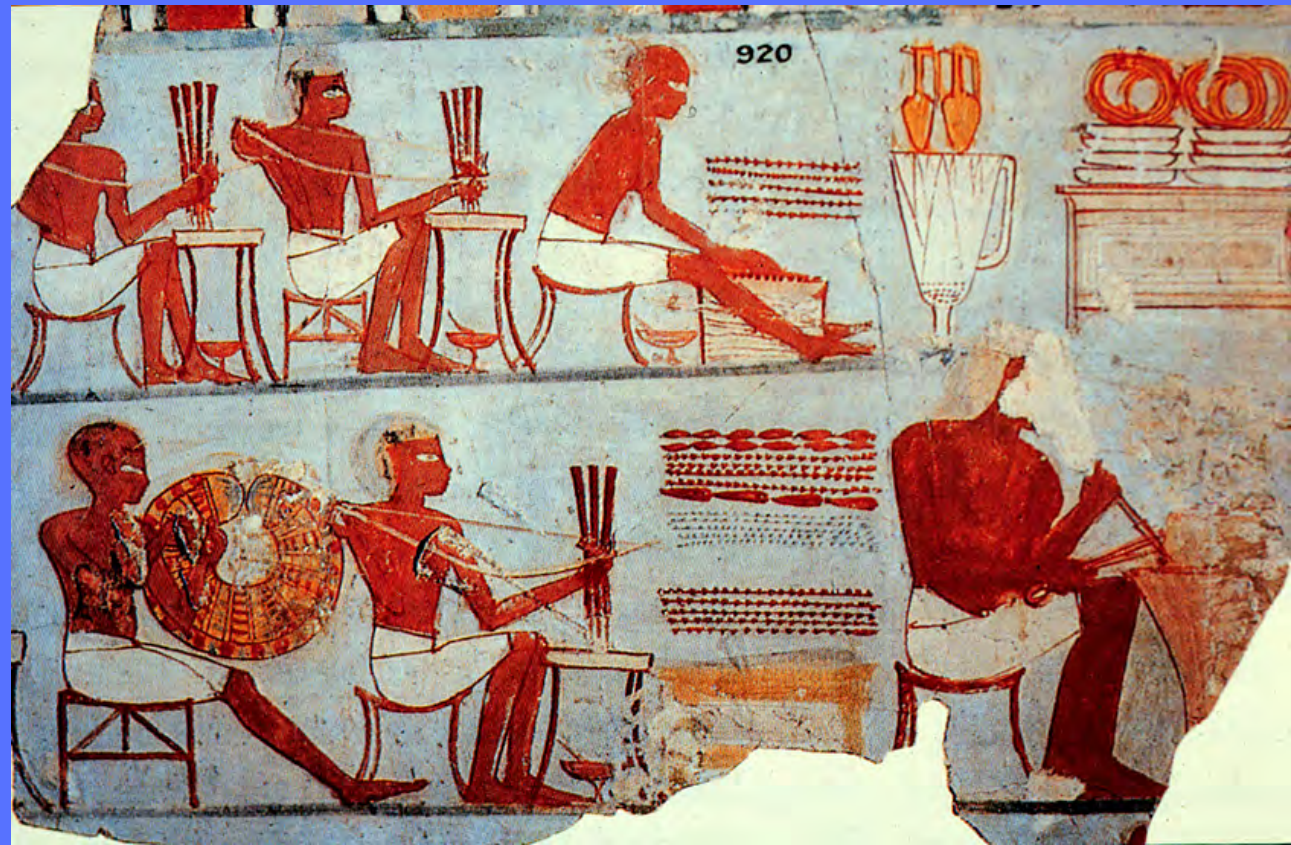


**Priests controlled rituals** and along with **scribes** were essential for legitimizing the role of the king. Some priests married, others were celibate, some were eunuchs.

**Order** of Egyptian society is known only from the elite perspective

**Legitimation** of rulers and gods, great wealth was spent on religion which was used to legitimate the rulers

Bead  
makers  
prepare  
ornaments  
of the king  
in the  
afterlife



## Military Organization

- infantry - both regulars and elite forces
- horse drawn **chariots** introduced by the Hyksos, Asiatic (Palestinian) nomadic conquerors in the 13th Dynasty



- **navy** – used both river boats and sea going vessels to transport troops and supplies and also in battle



## Weapons

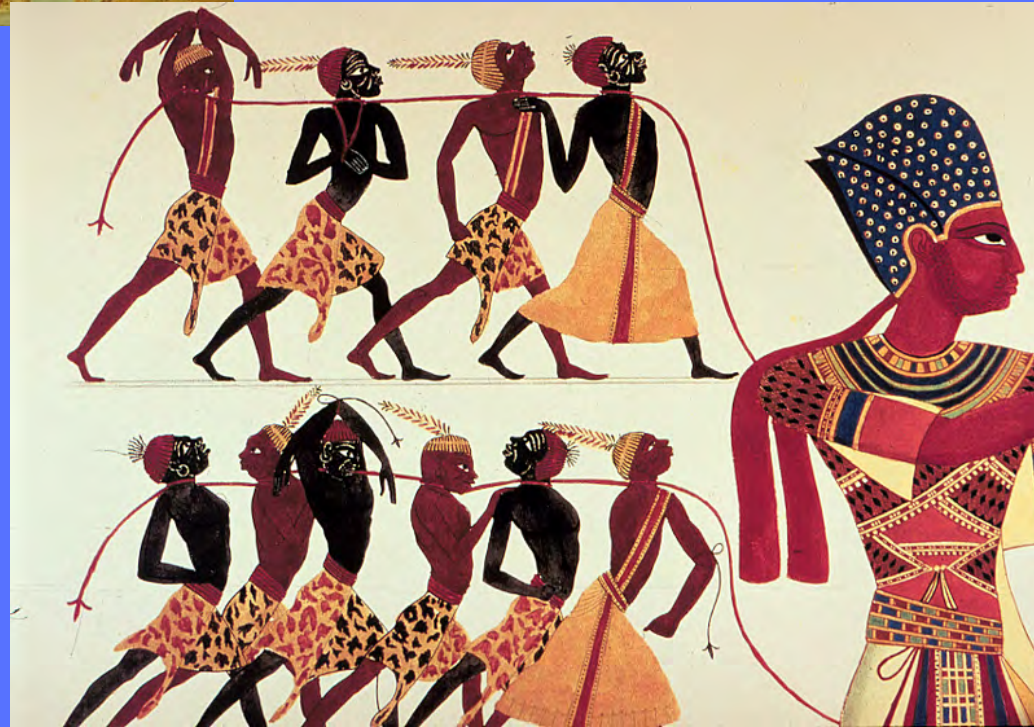
- throw stick, mace, axe, sword, dagger, javelin,
- bow ( simple and composite) and arrows (obsidian, copper/ bronze tips)
- slings



Military composed of special forces recruited from different conquered regions - **Nubian Archers** and **Egyptian regulars**, armed with spears and oxhide shields



Captives from surrounding  
countries, Arabia, Nubia,  
Libya, Assyria, Persia



30 Dynasties have been identified, most of these were controlled by Egyptians, Kings were the primary leaders,



Ramses II, ruled 66 years, 1279-1213, 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, head of colossal statue recently discovered in northeastern Cairo.



**Ramses III**, in victory dress, presenting offerings, 20th dynasty, 1186-1155 BC



but at least **4 queens** have been identified (**all took on a male role**)

**Queen Hatshepsut** with beard and male headdress and her Funerary Temple, ruled 20 years, 15<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, 1507-1458 BC





1353-1338 B. C.  
Amenhotep IV –  
revives worship of  
**Re = Aten**  
- renames himself  
**Akhenaten**, his  
queen was **Nefertiti**

- he takes on role of  
both mother and  
father of the land  
and is often  
depicted in an  
**androgynous** form

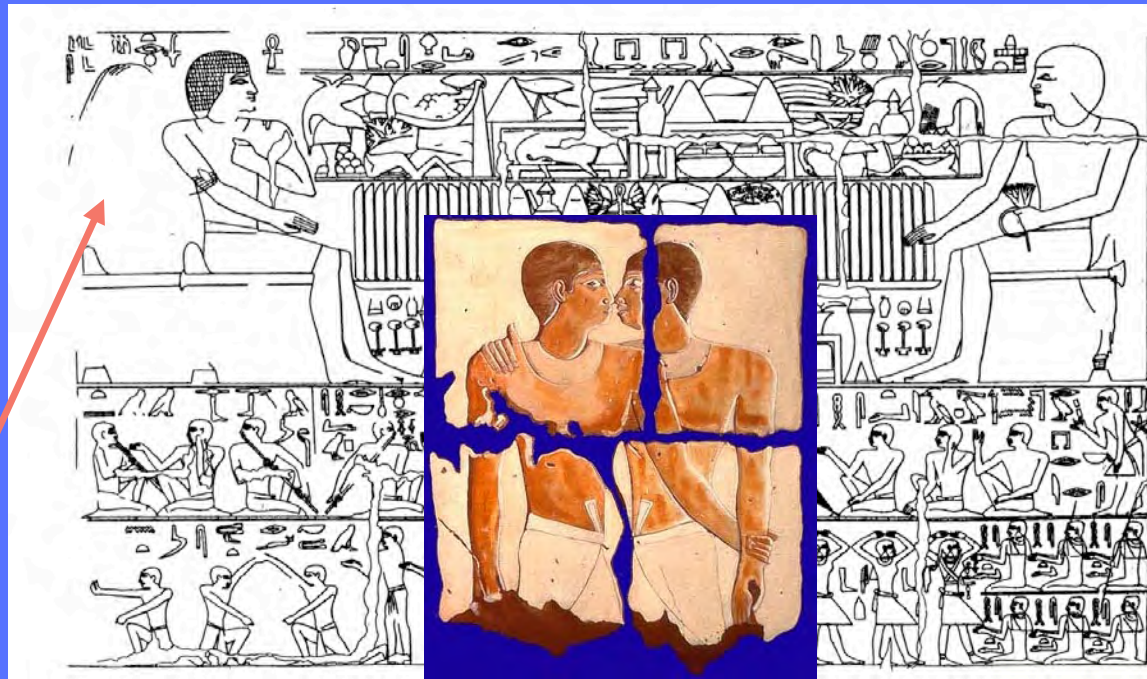


## Heterosexual Norms-

ideal male and female associated as couples, or as families surrounded by children - a deceased man, receiving gifts from family members

## Homosexual Exceptions

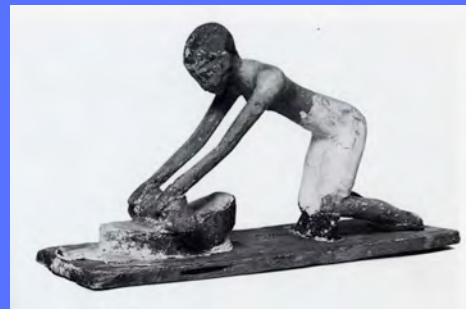
Niankhkhnum and Khnumhotep – Overseer of King's Manicurists, two “brothers or twins” buried together, banquet scene with the wife rubbed out





**Men in Art** - youthful or middle aged successful bureaucrats, royalty depicted as eternally youthful and virile

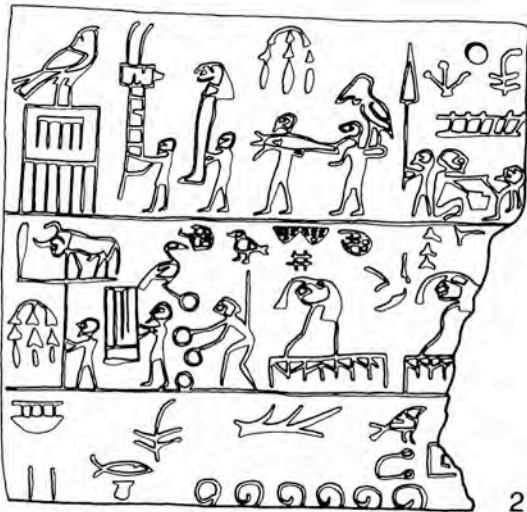
**Women in Art**– eternally youthful, small breasts, thin waist, full hips, often depicted nude or partially clothed or with diaphanous clothes



**Women grinding grain**

Earliest form of royal tomb  
is the **mastaba** - 3200 to  
2686 BC

- tomb U with wine jars from  
Delta - ruler unknown



Possible evidence for human  
sacrifice along with burial  
of valuable offerings for the afterlife

Earliest writing - 3200 BC ? - ivory tags in Tomb U identifying ritual offerings from different regions of Egypt – **administrative** but also **ritual** in nature due to burial in a royal tomb



Western Mountains  
(grh- darkness  
djw- mountains )



Eastern Mountains  
(akh- lightness  
djw- mountains )



BUBASTIS

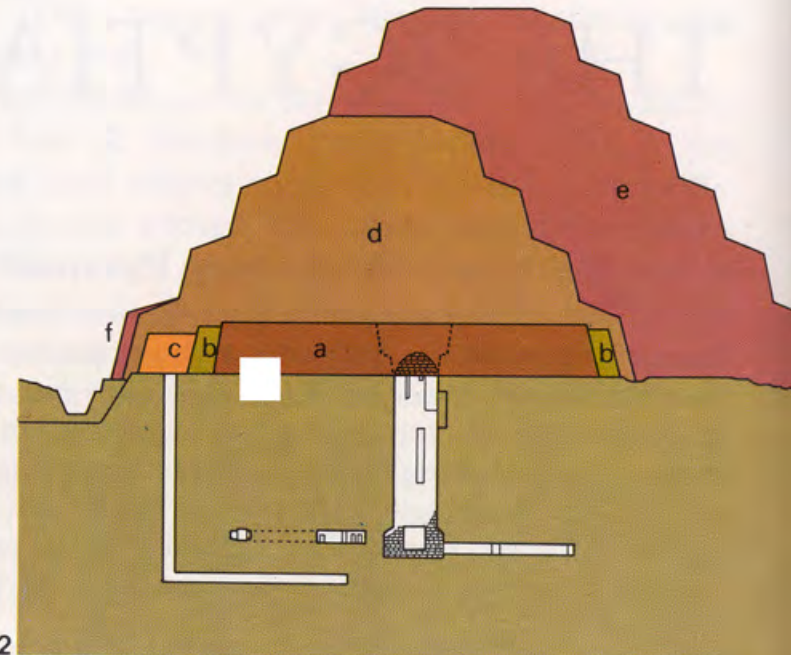
1st dynasty  
Ivory tag of King Den killing  
Asiatic captive,

**King Dzoser (Djoser), minister Imhotep, 2750 B. C. Step Pyramid, built at Saqqara, Lower Egypt**

- his mother was a princess from the north and his father was from the south
- he was buried in the land of his mother -



1

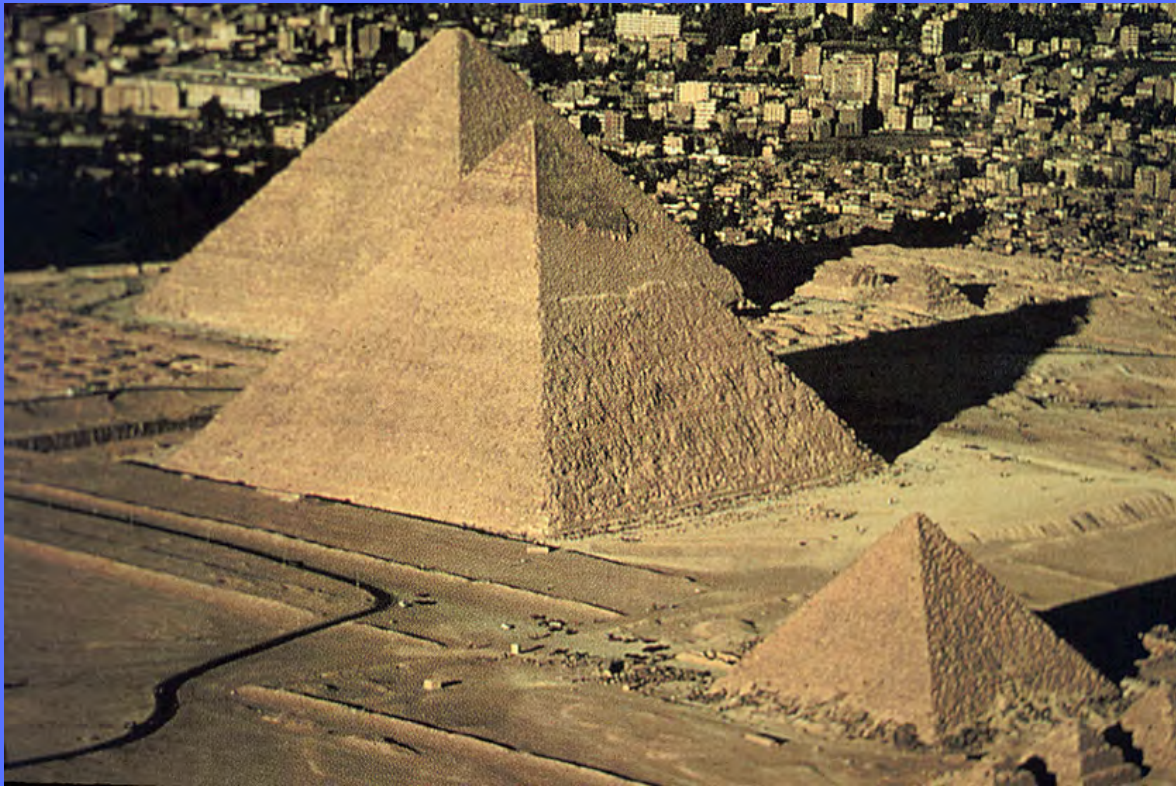


2

2580 B. C. Great Pyramid of Giza for Kufu (Cheops)

2560 B. C. Sphinx later claimed by Kaphre;

2480 B. C. **end pyramid building after 330 years**

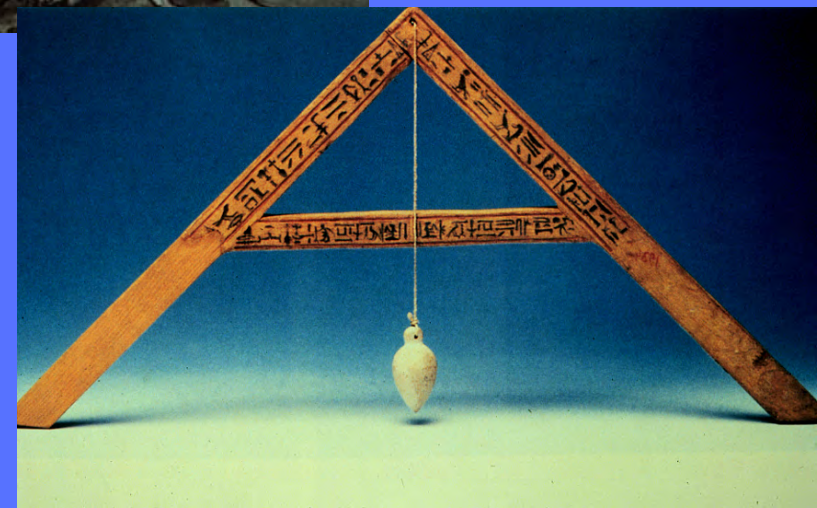


**Muography** –  
used to find new  
voids in the  
massive stone  
structure. Not  
clear what they  
are for.

Pyramid = symbol of the primeval hill that rose from the waters at creation, symbol of Re the sun god of Heliopolis, Lower Egypt



Pyramid building techniques involved simple tools and complex concepts of engineering

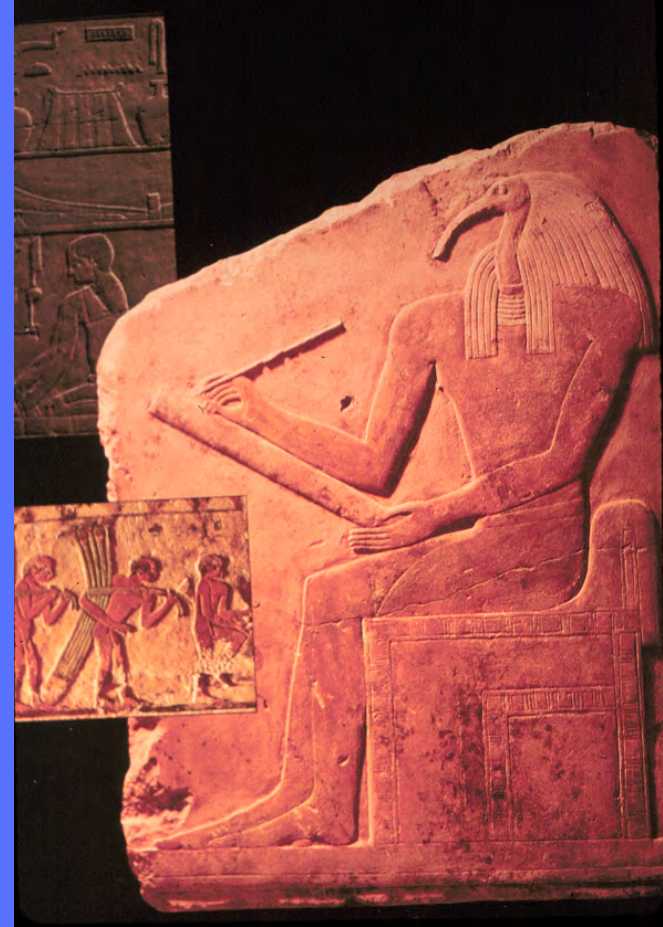


**Hieroglyphs** - Sacred Writing  
pictographic and phonetic, use of  
**Rebus principle**

**Hieratic** - cursive script used by  
priests,

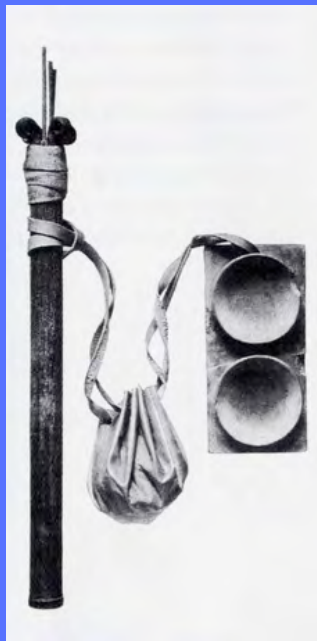
**Demotic** (c 700 BC generally non-  
religious use emerges out of Hieratic)

Egyptian language is Hamito-Semitic



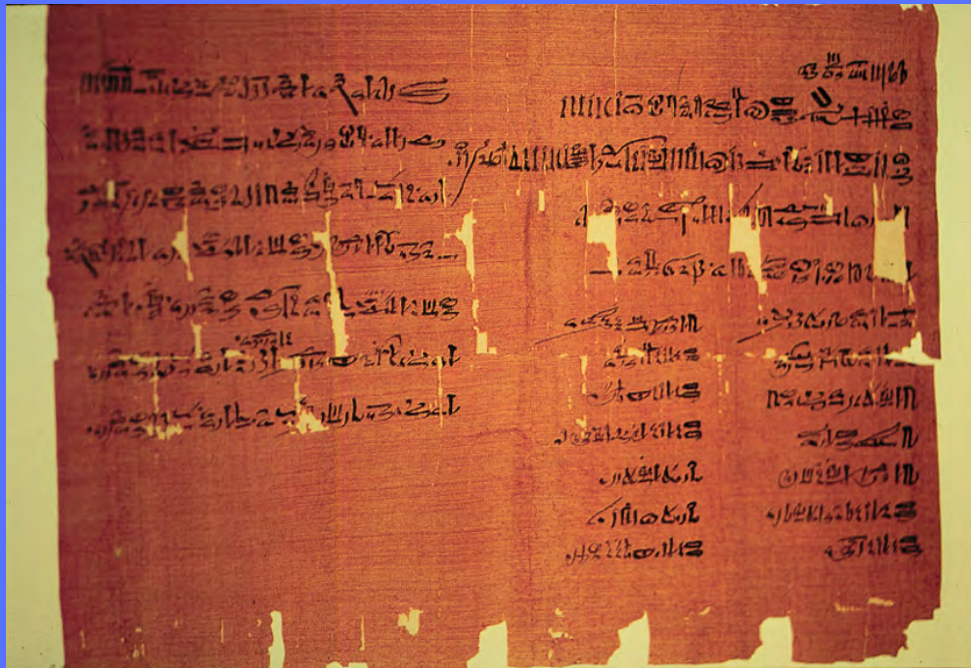
**Toth** (Ibis or Baboon) - moon god,  
messenger of the gods, patron of  
science and literature,  
keeper of records, wisdom, inventions

Writing tools - reed brush and inkpots

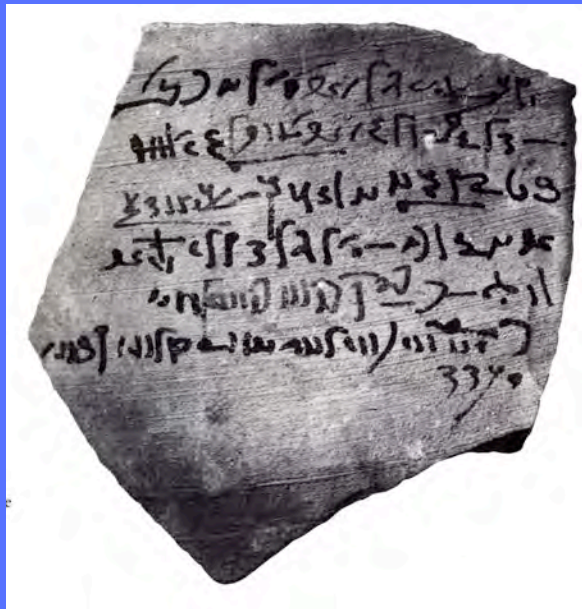


writing used for **magical purposes** and for communicating that the **Pharaoh is the highest authority**, is **god**, should be worshipped, etc.

- writing done on all manner of objects, monuments, houses, papyrus (**not on clay tablets** as in Mesopotamia)



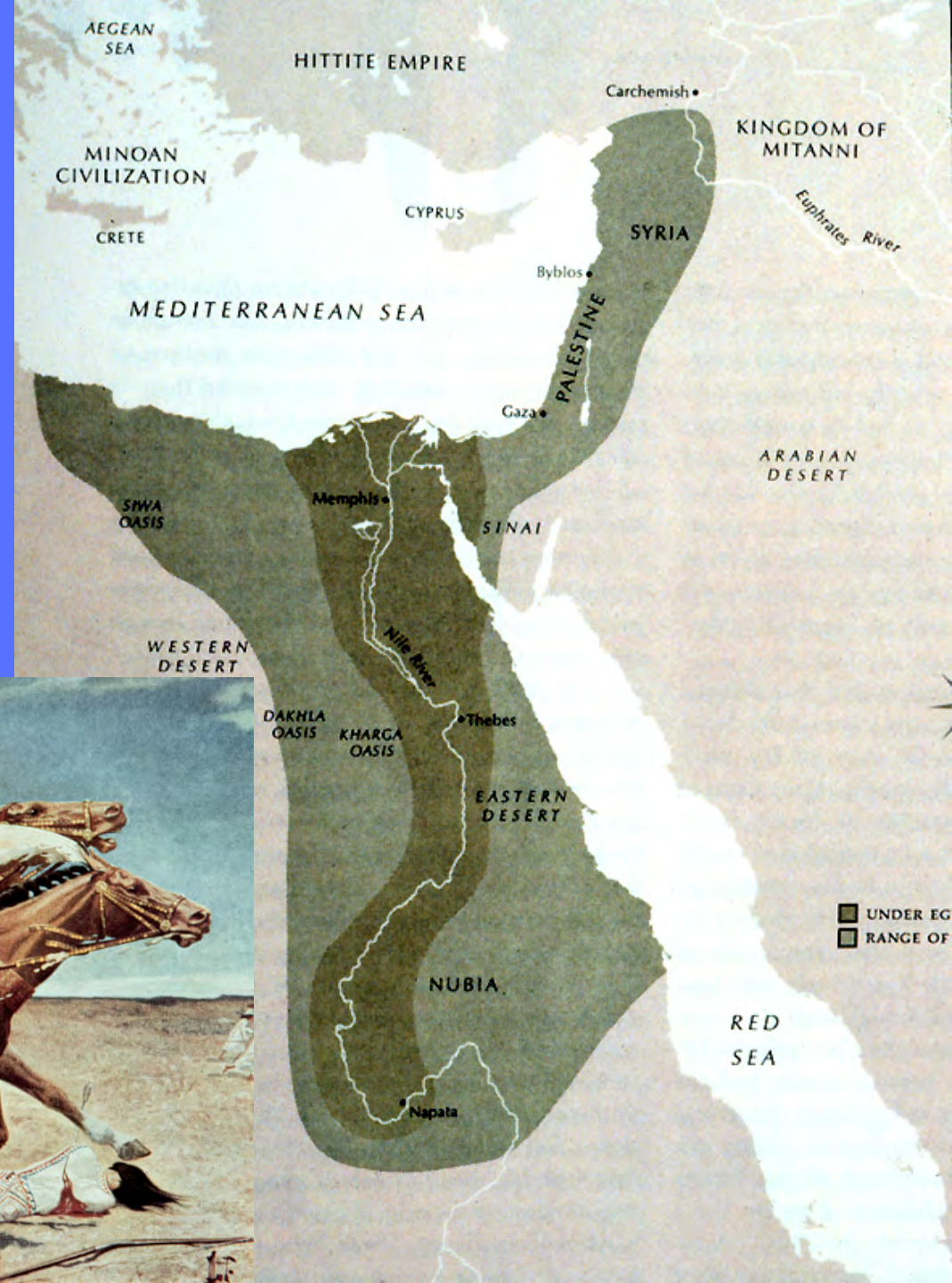
**Rosetta Stone  
found in 1799  
Edict by Ptolemy V,  
(196 BC) written in  
three scripts  
Greek  
Demotic  
Hieroglyphic**



**Demotic ostracon**

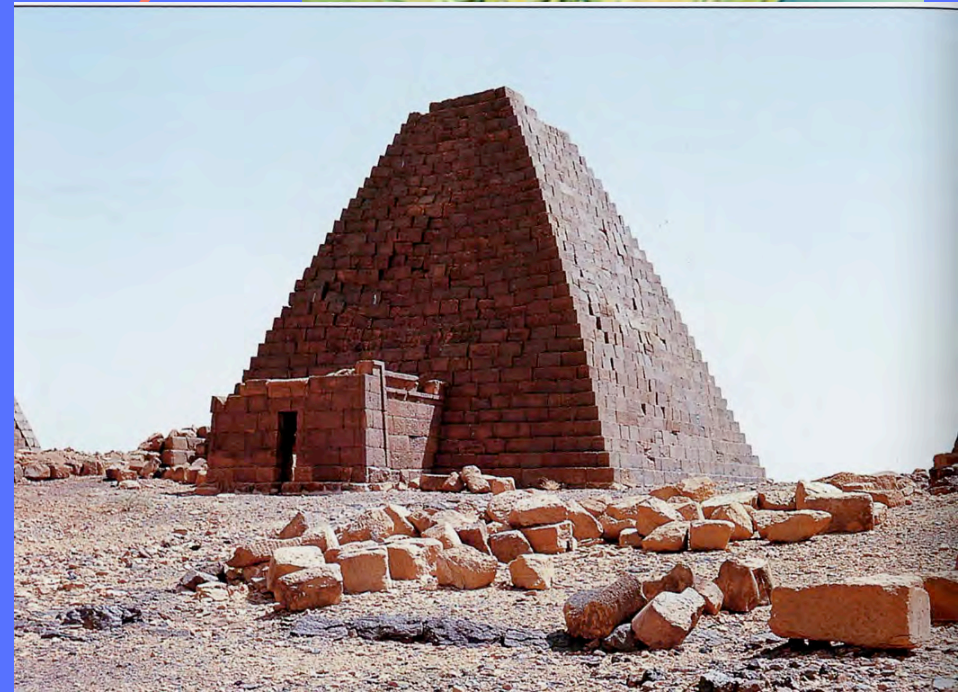


# Maximum extent of Egyptian Imperial expansion



**Meroe**, Royal Capital of Nubia 1000  
BC-700 AD

Nubian kings were buried in small  
**pyramids** at **Kurru**, near **Napatan**





**Alexander the Great,**  
anointed Pharaoh at  
Memphis, 14 Nov. 332  
BC - his son Alex IV also  
depicted as a pharaoh

