

ANCIENT EGYPT CHRONOLOGY

A Reference Timeline of Major Periods

c. 3100 - 2686 BC

Early Dynastic Period

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by Menes/Narmer. Capital established at Memphis.

c. 2686 - 2181 BC

Old Kingdom

The "Age of the Pyramids." Construction of the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx.

c. 2181 - 2055 BC

First Intermediate Period

Political chaos and decentralized rule following the collapse of the Old Kingdom.

c. 2055 - 1650 BC

Middle Kingdom

A golden age of literature and art. Reunification under Mentuhotep II.

c. 1650 - 1550 BC

Second Intermediate Period

Hyksos invasion and rule in the North. Use of horse-drawn chariots introduced.

c. 1550 - 1069 BC

New Kingdom

The Egyptian Empire. Reign of Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, and Ramesses II.

c. 1069 - 664 BC

Third Intermediate Period

Fragmented rule by Libyan and Nubian (Kushite) pharaohs.

c. 664 - 332 BC

Late Period

Final eras of native Egyptian rule interspersed with Persian conquests.

332 - 30 BC

Ptolemaic Period

Conquest by Alexander the Great. Greek rule ending with the death of Cleopatra VII.