

ANCIENT EGYPT TIMELINE

Chronological History of the Nile Civilizations

c. 3100 - 2686 BCE

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt by Menes/Narmer. Establishment of the capital at Memphis.

c. 2686 - 2181 BCE

OLD KINGDOM

The "Age of the Pyramids." Construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Sphinx. High centralization of pharaonic power.

c. 2181 - 2055 BCE

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Political chaos and division. Decentralized rule with rival dynasties in Herakleopolis and Thebes.

c. 2055 - 1650 BCE

MIDDLE KINGDOM

A "Golden Age" of literature and art. Mentuhotep II reunites the country. Expansion of trade and military fortresses.

c. 1650 - 1550 BCE

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Invasion and rule of the Hyksos (foreign kings) in the North. Introduction of the horse and chariot.

c. 1550 - 1069 BCE

NEW KINGDOM

The Egyptian Empire. Reign of famous pharaohs: Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, and Ramesses II.

c. 1069 - 664 BCE

THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Fractured rule under Libyan and Nubian pharaohs. Power struggles between the High Priests of Amun and the throne.

c. 664 - 332 BCE

LATE PERIOD

The final era of native Egyptian rule, interspersed with Persian conquests (Achaemenid Empire).

332 - 30 BCE

GRECO-ROMAN PERIOD

Conquest by Alexander the Great. Rule of the Ptolemaic Dynasty ending with Cleopatra VII and Roman annexation.

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