

ANCIENT EGYPT CHRONOLOGY

A Comprehensive Historical Overview

EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD

Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt under King Narmer/Menes.

Key Highlights: Foundation of Memphis, Hieroglyphic script development.

OLD KINGDOM

The "Age of the Pyramids" and the peak of royal absolutism.

Key Highlights: Djoser's Step Pyramid, Great Pyramids of Giza, Sphinx.

FIRST INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Political chaos, famine, and decentralized rule among local nomarchs.

MIDDLE KINGDOM

A golden age of literature and art; reunified by Mentuhotep II.

Key Highlights: Expansion into Nubia, Co-regency system.

SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Invasion and rule of the Hyksos (foreign kings) in the Delta region.

NEW KINGDOM

The "Egyptian Empire" - most prosperous time and peak of military power.

Key Highlights: Hatshepsut, Akhenaten, Tutankhamun, Ramesses II.

THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

Fractured rule by Libyan and Nubian (Kushite) dynasties.

LATE PERIOD

Brief periods of independence alternating with Persian conquest.

PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

Rule by the successors of Alexander the Great; Hellenistic influence.

Key Highlights: Library of Alexandria, Rosetta Stone, Cleopatra VII.

ROMAN & BYZANTINE PERIOD

Egypt becomes a province of Rome; rise of Christianity.