

# ANCIENT EGYPT

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# REMINDER

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- ✘ Game choice due today; taken:
  - + Scrabble
  - + Snakes & Ladders
  - + Tripoley
  - + Go
  - + Monopoly
- ✘ For ideas email me, otherwise will assign game by end of the week

# ANCIENT EGYPT, AGAIN

# ANCIENT EGYPT?

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What comes to mind?

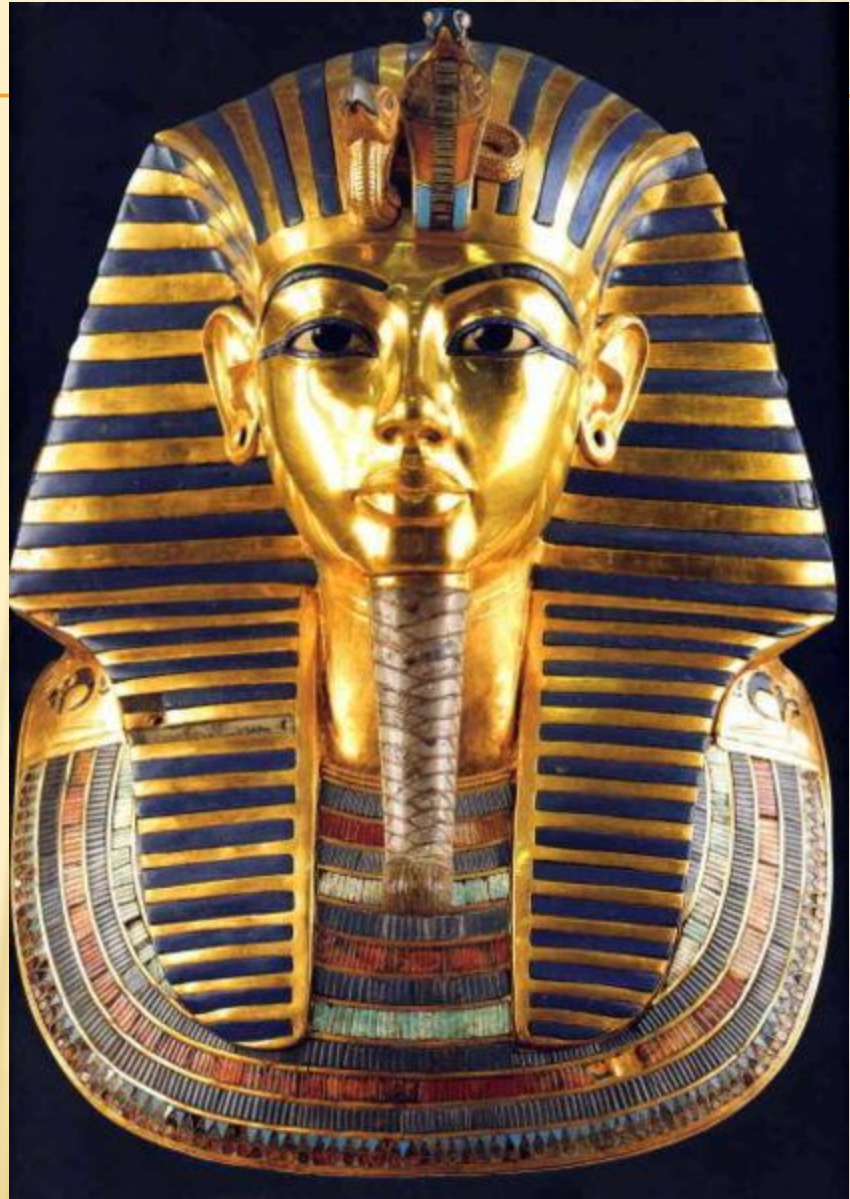


# PLACES



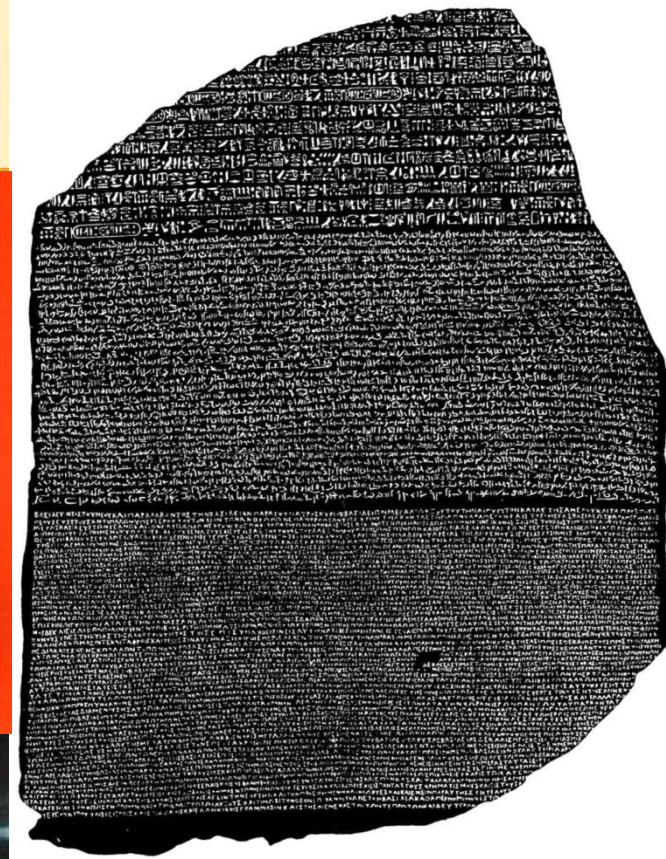
# NAMES

- ✘ Nefertiti,
- ✘ Cleopatra,
- ✘ Ramses,
- ✘ Tutankhamun,
- ✘ Akhenaten





# THINGS



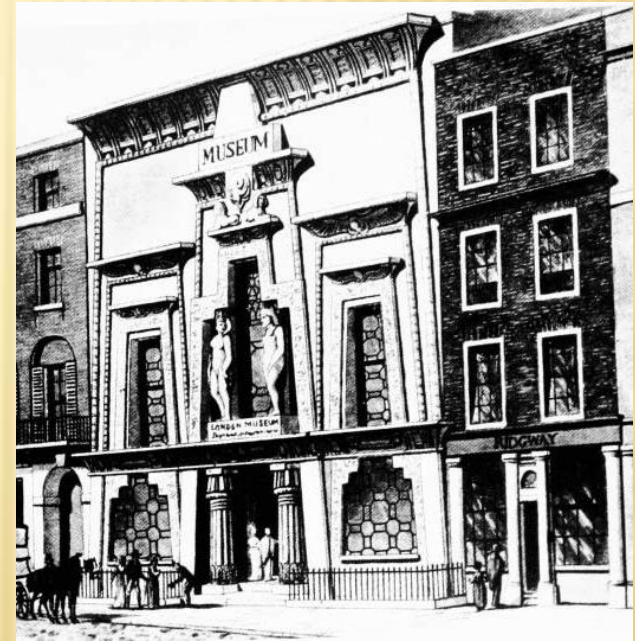
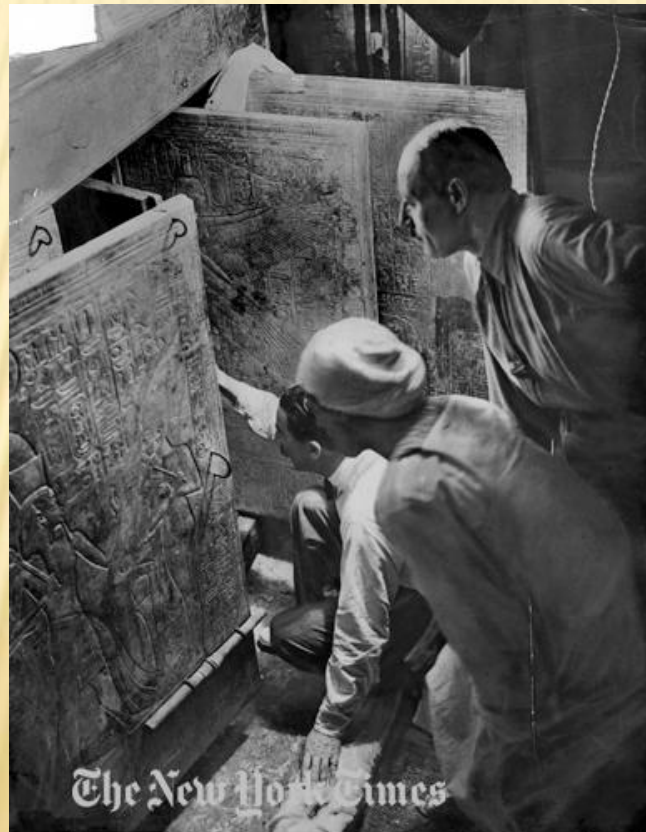
# THE MUMMY





# EGYPTOMANIA

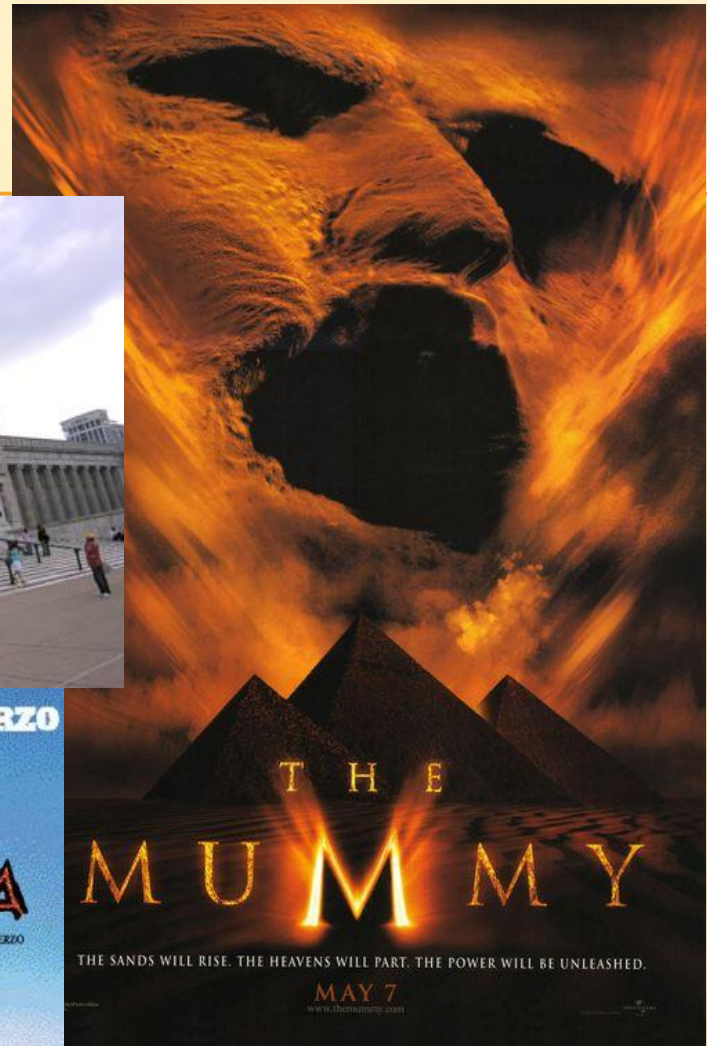
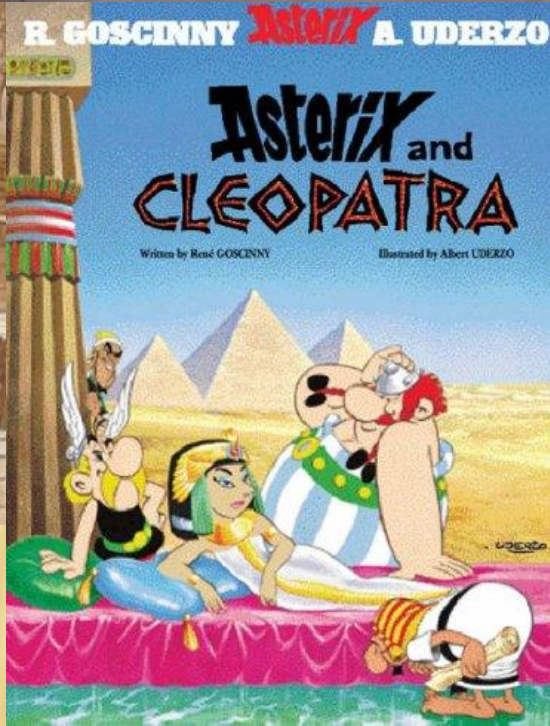
- ✘ Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign (1798-1801)
- ✘ Howard Carter (1922)



# POPULAR CULTURE

Joann SEAR & Emmanuel GUIBER

The Professor's Daughter





# MODERN EYES





# PYRAMIDOLOGY, VON DANIKEN, ETC.



**TELL IT HOW IT REALLY WAS**

# EGYPTIAN HISTORY, ROUGH OUTLINE

- ✘ Prehistory (700,000-3,000 BC)
- ✘ Pharaonic/Dynastic Period
  - + Early dynastic Period (3000-2686)
  - + Old Kingdom (2686-2181)
  - + First Intermediate Period (2181-2055)
  - + Middle Kingdom (2055-1650)
  - + Second Intermediate Period (1650-1550)
  - + New Kingdom (1550-1069)
  - + Third Intermediate Period (1069-664)
  - + Late Period (664-332)
- ✘ Ptolemaic (330-30BC)
- ✘ Roman (30BC-311AD)





# PREHISTORY

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# NILE VALLEY-TODAY



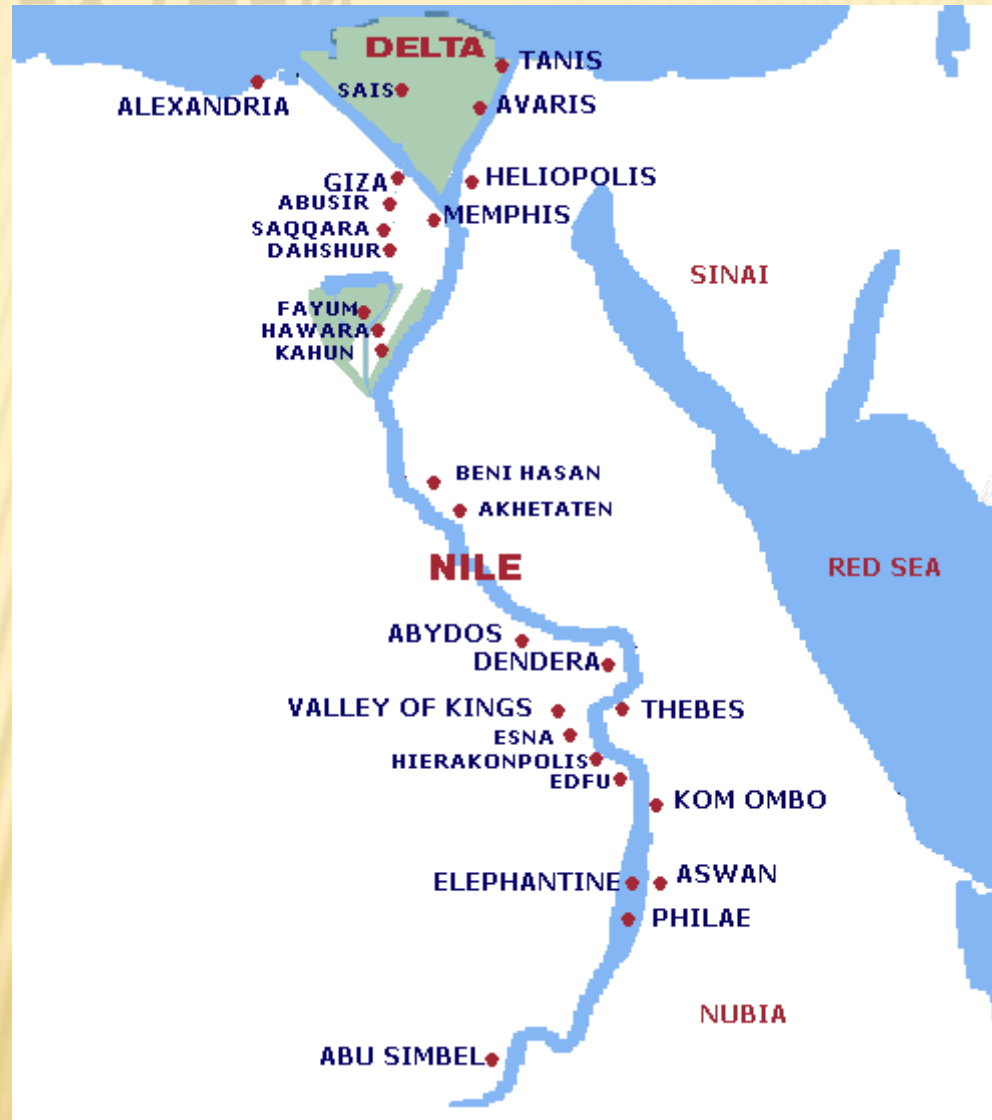
# EGYPT

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- × "The gift of the Nile"
  - + Herodotus
- × What was this gift?
  - + water
  - + silt
- × The other gift of geography
  - + isolation



# NILE VALLEY-THEN



# STABILITY

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- ✘ Maintained cultural and political continuity (more or less) from 3100 BCE to 525 BCE
  - + the same religion
  - + the same art
  - + the same language
- ✘ Think about this!
  - + Let's go back 2600 years from today
  - + more or less the age of Pericles
- ✘ Unique in this extremely long period of relative stability

# CIVILIZATION RULE #1

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- ✘ You must grow more food than you can eat
- ✘ Surplus means
  - + artisans
  - + commerce
  - + taxes
  - + full-time armies



# CIVILIZATION RULE #2

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- ✘ Surplus requires infrastructure
- ✘ In Egypt
  - + irrigation
  - + granaries
  - + land reclamation
  - + port facilities

# CIVILIZATION RULE #3

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- ✘ Infrastructure requires organization
  - + the state
- ✘ In Egypt
  - + theocracy
  - + the ruler (pharaoh) was a god
    - ✘ coronation was ascension to godhood
  - + Semi-Matrilineal succession
    - ✘ Great Royal Wife (relative)

# GEOGRAPHY

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- ✘ East
  - + Arabian desert
- ✘ West
  - + Sahara desert
- ✘ North
  - + "great green"
- ✘ South
  - + mountains
  - + cataracts of the Nile
- ✘ Nile was a natural "highway"
  - + excellent internal mobility
- ✘ Result: Egypt was difficult to invade



# NARMER PALETTE



- ✘ Beginning of dynastic/pharaonic period

# DYNASTIC PERIODS

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- ✘ Early Dynastic (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - + 3100-2686
  - + Upper and lower suddenly (or gradually?) became united
- ✘ Old Kingdom (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
  - + 2686-2181
  - + Pyramids are built
- ✘ Middle Kingdom (11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>)
  - + 1991-1786
  - + Advances in technology and crafts
- ✘ New Kingdom (18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>)
  - + 1567-1085
  - + Colonial expansion and then collapse

# ISOLATION ENDS

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- + Nubians
  - × 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- + Assyrians
  - × 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- + Persians
  - × Darius
  - × 6<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- + Greeks
  - × Alexander the Great
  - × Library of Alexandria
  - × 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE
- + Romans
  - × Antony and Cleopatra
  - × 30 BCE
- + Persians
  - × 616 CE
- + Arabs
  - × 639 CE



# DYNASTIES

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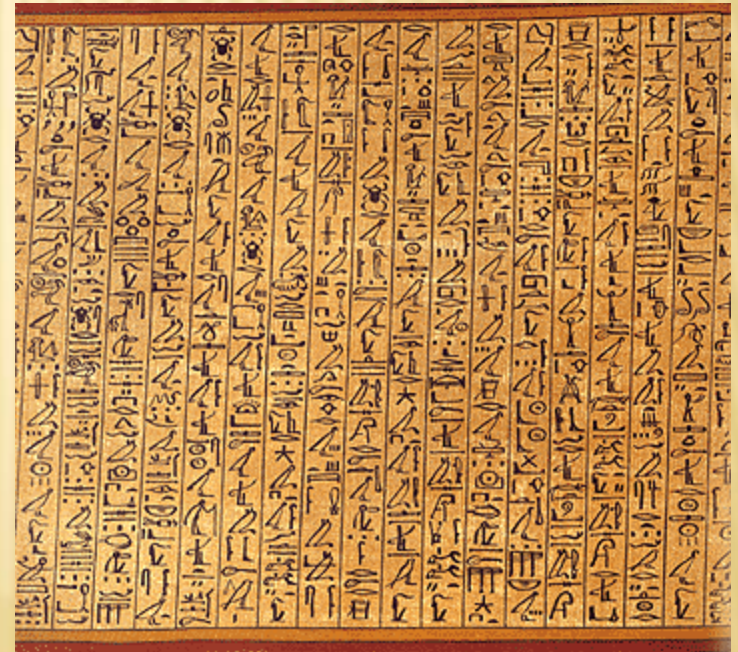
- × King-lists

- + Problems: only survive in fragments, inconsistent with other sources, dynasty 0, dating artifacts

- × dynastic separation introduced by Manetho (3<sup>rd</sup> century BC)

# SOURCES

- ✘ Many written sources
- + papyrus scrolls
- ✘ relatively well preserved

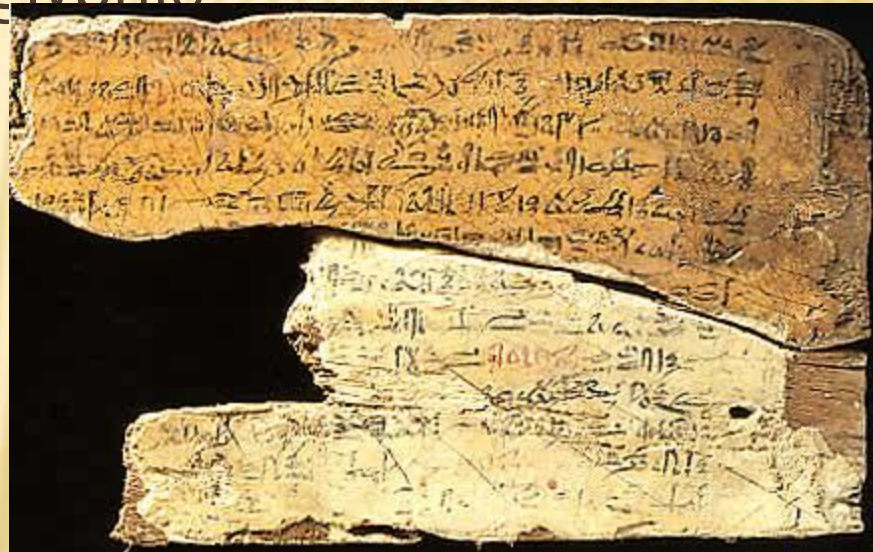




# FORMS OF WRITING

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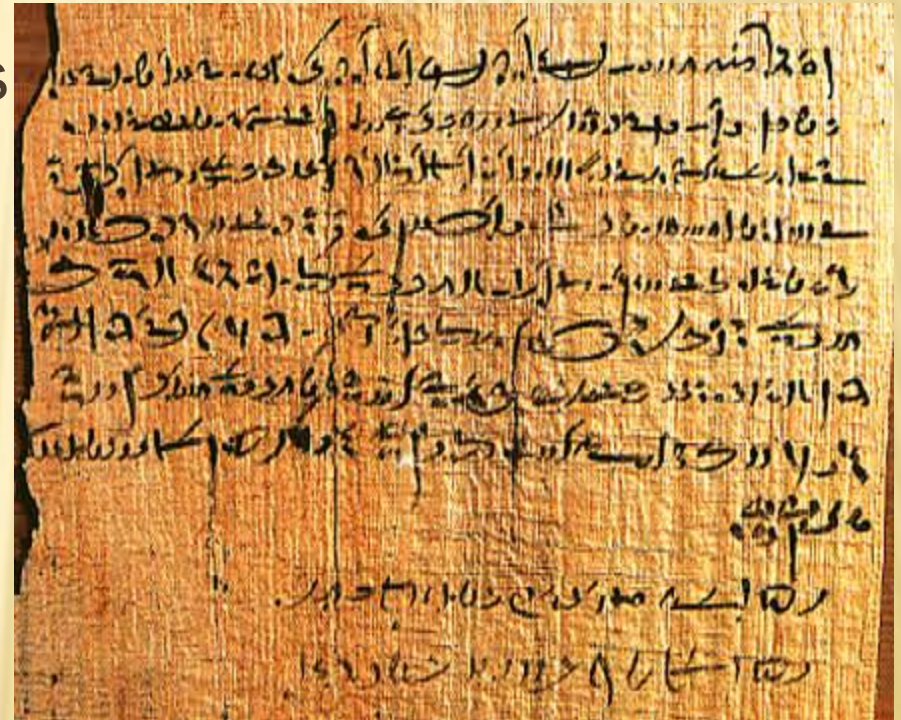
- ✘ Hieroglyphic
  - + "sacred pictures"
- ✘ Hieratic
  - + shorthand for hieroglyphic
  - + easier to write fast





# DEMOTIC

- ✘ Evolved to replace hieratic
  - + except in religious texts





# ROSETTA STONE

+ same inscription in

× hieroglyphic

× demotic

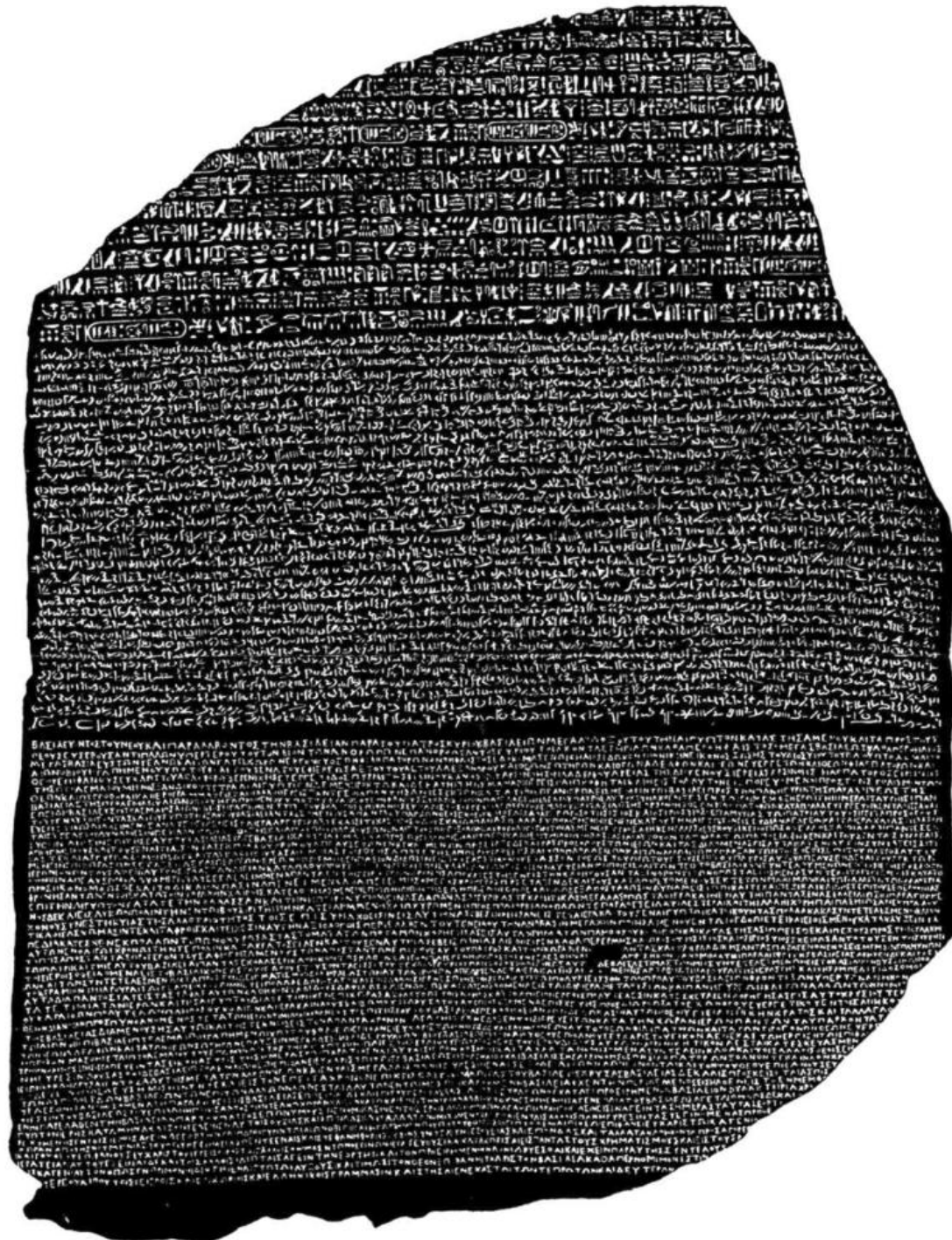
× Greek

+ deciphered by

Jean Francois

Champollion in

1822



# WHAT DO THEY SAY

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## ✘ Political

- + Lists of kings
  - ✘ establishing legitimate succession
- + Laws
- + Accounts of battles

## ✘ Commercial

- + tax records
- + land records
- + contracts

## ✘ Religious

- + prayers
- + instructions for rituals



# EXAMPLE: THE NEGATIVE CONFESSION

I have not blasphemed a god,  
I have not robbed the poor.  
I have not done what the god abhors,  
I have not maligned a slave to his master.  
I have not caused pain,  
I have not caused tears.  
I have not killed,  
I have not ordered to kill,  
I have not made anyone suffer.  
I have not damaged the offerings in the temples,  
I have not depleted the loaves of the gods,  
I have not stolen the cakes of the dead.  
I have not copulated nor defiled myself.  
I have not increased nor reduced the measure,  
...  
I have not added to the weight of the balance,  
I have not falsified the plummet of the scales.  
I have not taken milk from the mouths of children,  
...I am pure, I am pure, I am pure, I am pure!  
From *The Book of the Dead*

# DEATH AND MUMMIES

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- ✘ Egyptians culture was obsessed with death
  - + probably the desert was one reason
  - + earliest, clearest articulation of an afterlife
- ✘ Afterlife = Continuation of Life
  - + in the land of the gods
  - + very materialistic
    - ✘ you could take it with you
  - + Not reincarnation
    - ✘ born again
  - + Resurrection
    - ✘ Ka: the life-force



# CASE IN POINT

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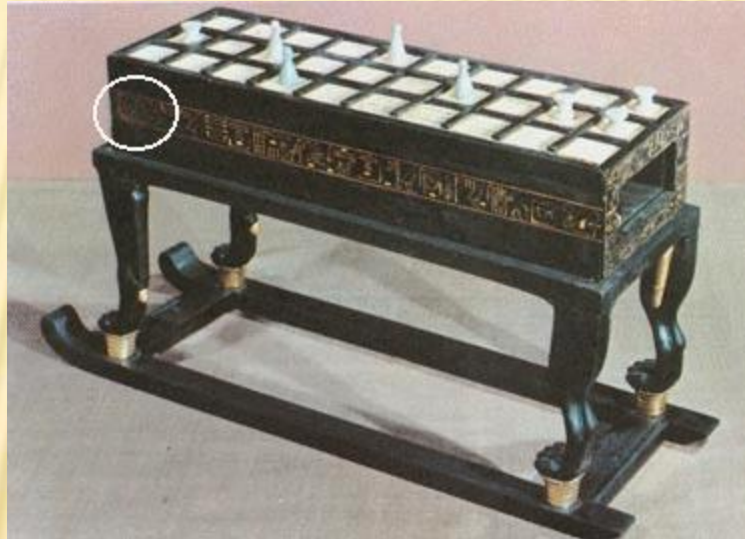
- ✘ Tutankhamen
  - + a totally minor king
  - + last of his dynasty
  - + out of favor because of his father Akhnaten
- ✘ And yet he is buried with a mound of loot





# INCLUDING THIS

- ✘ A board for the game of Senet
  - + actually 4 different Senet boards in the tomb



# SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

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## ✘ Court

- + royal family
  - ✘ multiple wives / concubines
- + advisors / ministers

## ✘ Priesthood

- + mostly hereditary
- + secluded in temples and religious cities
- + embalmers

## ✘ Commoners

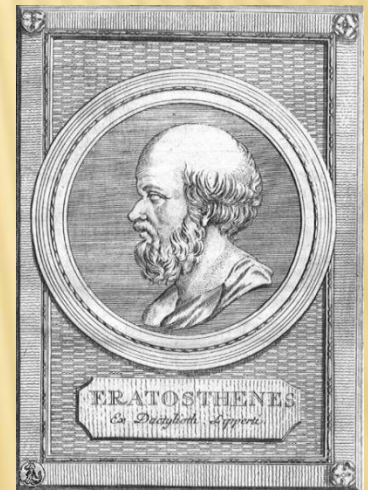
- + farmers
- + artisans

## ✘ Slaves

- + usually foreigners captured in battle
- + could hold important jobs

# EGYPTIAN TECHNOLOGY

- ✘ Egyptians were great builders of stone and brick
  - + pyramids
  - + temples
  - + wood was rare and very precious
- ✘ Egyptians had very advanced medicine
  - + much admired and copied by the Greeks
- ✘ Egyptians developed mathematics
  - + especially geometry and surveying
  - + Eratosthenes (276-194 BCE) measured the circumferences of the earth
    - ✘ off by only 16%





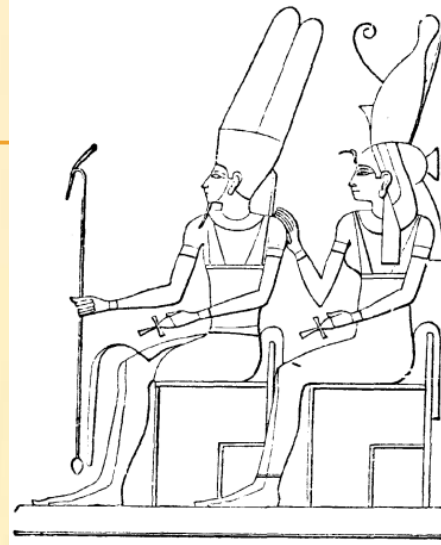
# EGYPTIAN RELIGION

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- ✘ Religion was very concrete
  - + Images of the gods were the gods
  - + They had to be fed, robed, sung to, praised, and otherwise cared for
  - + Gods expected perfection
- ✘ Religion was not particularly public
  - + There were regular public rituals
  - + Temples were built to exclude common people
    - ✘ especially from the innermost holy places
  - + Many of the rituals were secret knowledge
    - ✘ severe penalties for disclosure

# GODS

- ✘ Amun-Ra
  - + national god of Egypt
  - + identified with the pharaoh
  - + sun god
  - + bringer of life, creator
- ✘ Osiris
  - + order and virtue
  - + killed by Seth and resurrected
  - + god of the dead
- ✘ Isis
  - + wife and sister (!) of Osiris
- ✘ Horus
  - + son of Osiris after his rebirth
  - + represented as a falcon
- ✘ Seth
  - + god of evil and disorder



# AFTERLIFE

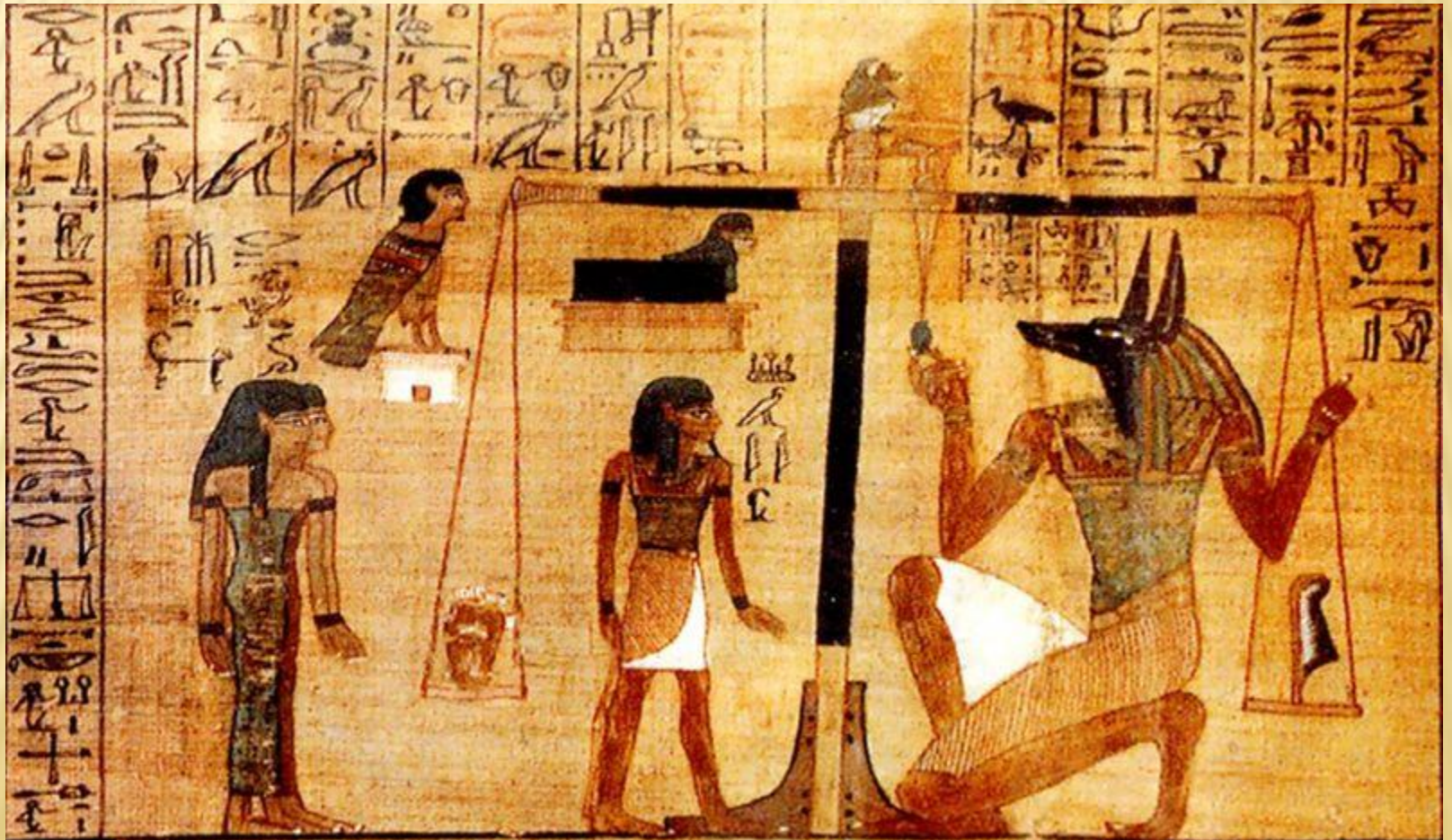
- ✘ Egyptian beliefs very influential
  - + some argue Christian views derive from them
- ✘ After death
  - + join with the Amun-Ra when setting
  - + travel through the underworld
  - + soul would be judged
    - ✘ "weighing of the heart"
  - + passing through 12 "houses"
  - + reward
    - ✘ eternal life
      - ★ rising with the sun god
      - ★ "fields of peace"
  - + otherwise
    - ✘ soul is consumed by Am-Mit





# BOOK OF THE DEAD

- ✘ Long text describing the passage to the Afterlife
- ✘ Found on papyri, on tomb paintings, on linen wraps for mummies



# NEW KINGDOM

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- ✘ 1570-1075 BCE
  - + 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> dynasties
- ✘ Begins with the expulsion of the Hyksos
  - + invaders from the east
    - ✘ Asia, Syria, no one is really sure
    - ✘ chariots, better bows
    - ✘ conquered lower (northern) Egypt
  - + eventually forced out



# 18<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY

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- ✘ Famous pharaohs

- + Hatshepsut

- ✘ actually a woman

- + Thutmoses III

- ✘ most aggressive general

- + Amenhotep III

- ✘ huge building projects esp. Luxor and Karnak Temples



# 18<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY

- ✘ Aknaten (Amenhotep IV)
  - + denounces other gods
  - + worships only Aten
    - ✘ the solar disc
  - + creates a new holy city
    - ✘ Aketaten / Amarna
  - + enormous social upheaval
- ✘ Son Tutankamun
  - + originally Tutankaten
  - + pharaoh at age 8
    - ✘ changes name
    - ✘ marries his sister
  - + regency
  - + dies at age 19
    - ✘ murdered?
    - ✘ latest evidence shows a broken leg leading to gangrene



# BUST OF NEFERTITI (18<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY)



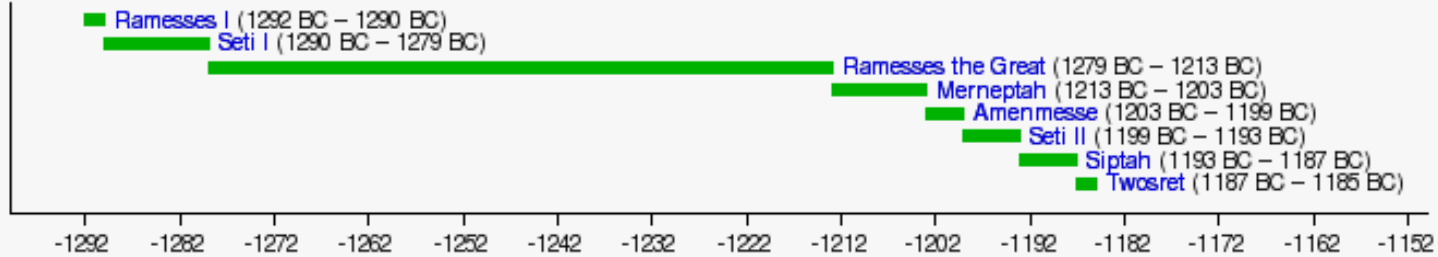
# 19<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY

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- ✘ Ramses I chosen by Horemheb as successor
  - + old military man, but he had a son (Seti I) and a grandson (Ramses II)
- ✘ During this dynasty
  - + all references to Aknaten removed
  - + Amarna temples abandoned



# 19<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY TIMELINE



# RAMSES II



# RAMSES II (THE GREAT)

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- ✘ Re-established Egyptian empire
  - + over parts of Lebanon and Syria
- ✘ Conquered parts of Nubia
- ✘ Enormous building campaign
  - + a capital near present day Cairo
  - + many palaces and temples
- ✘ Possibly the pharaoh of Exodus



# RAMSES THE GREAT

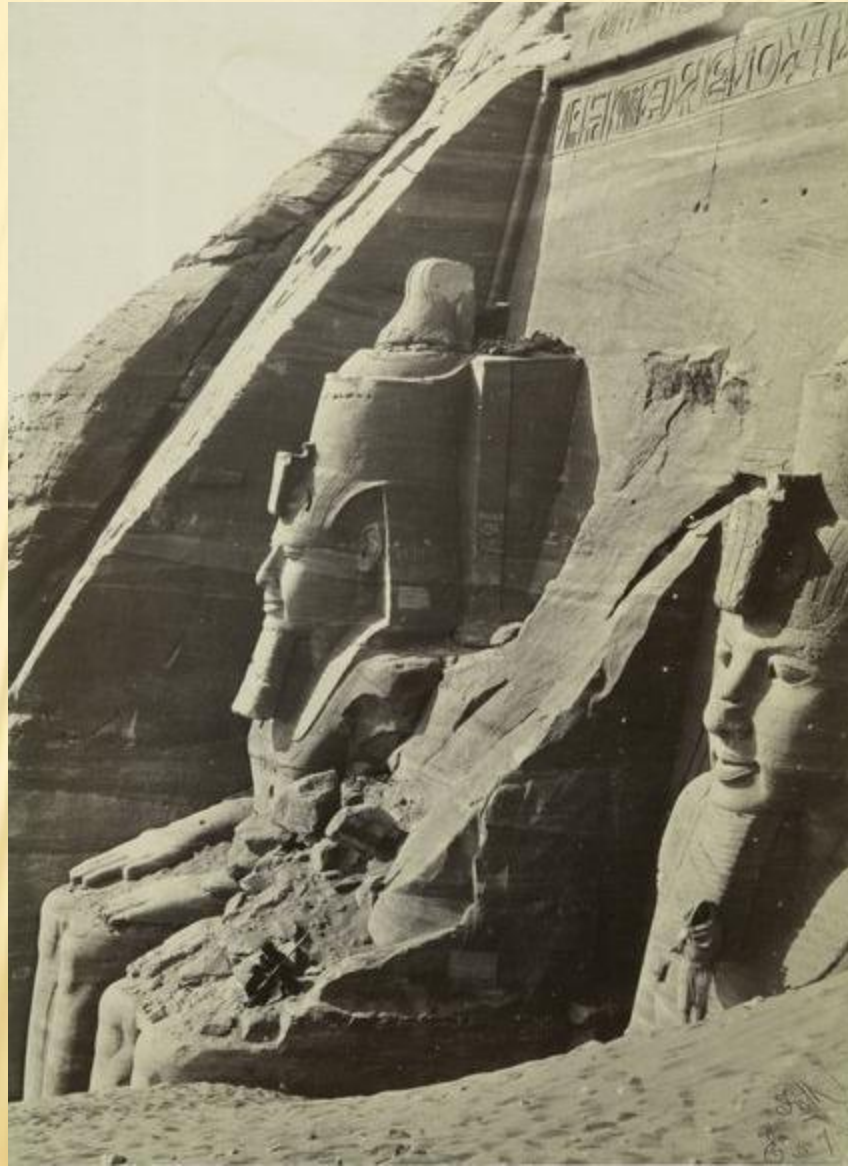
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- ✘ Ramses II ruled for a long time
  - + 66 years
  - + dies at age 90 or so
  - + teeth completely worn away
- ✘ Lost much of his territorial ambition
  - + after his victory/defeat/stalemate at Qadesh vs the Hittites
  - + after the death of Nefertari?
  - + (after the events of Exodus?)
- ✘ Legacy
  - + defeat of Mediterranean pirates
  - + extension of Egyptian influence as far as
    - ✘ Syria (Hittite empire)
    - ✘ Nubia
  - + as many as 100 children by various wives

# TREATY BETWEEN RAMSES II AND HITTITE KING HATTUSHILI III



# TEMPLE AT ABU SIMBEL





# 19<sup>TH</sup> DYNASTY

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- ✘ Sees a rebirth of religion
- ✘ Akhnaten had completely broken with the old religion
  - + no doubt extremely stressful on the whole society
- ✘ Tutankhamun reverses this decision
  - + victories of Ramses possibly seen as vindication

# CONCLUSION

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- ✘ Egypt was very unusual
  - + long cultural continuity
  - + relative isolation
- ✘ The New Kingdom sees radical social upheaval
  - + monotheism and back
- ✘ Ramses II
  - + long reign
  - + revival of military power

# WEDNESDAY

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- ✗ Race Games
- ✗ Reading: Parlett, Ch. 4