

Week 1 – Monday

W1b

Define civilisation – evidence
and interpretation
Case study: Ancient Egypt

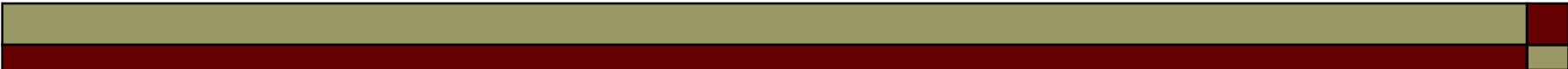
HPAR4010

What makes civilisation?

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Readings

- ❑  Trigger, B.G. 2003. *Understanding Early Civilizations: A Comparative Study*. Cambridge: CUP.
→ especially chapter 4: 53-69.
- ❑  Wengrow, D. 2010. *What Makes Civilization? The Ancient Near East and the Future of the West*. Oxford: OUP.
- ❑ Chapman, R. 2003. *Archaeologies of Complexity*. London: Routledge. → chapter 2+3
- ❑ Wenke, R. J. (1989). Origins of Complex Societies. In: *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 18 (1989), pp. 129-155.



At first

- There is land ...
 - With climate
 - Landscape (maybe seascape, ...)
- Act as an habitat for
 - Animals
 - humans





Nile and Desert



A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat desert landscape. The ground is a uniform light brown color, with some faint tracks and small dark spots. In the far distance, a range of low, dark hills or mountains is visible against a clear, pale blue sky. The word "Desert" is overlaid in the center in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline.

Desert

„used“ Desert

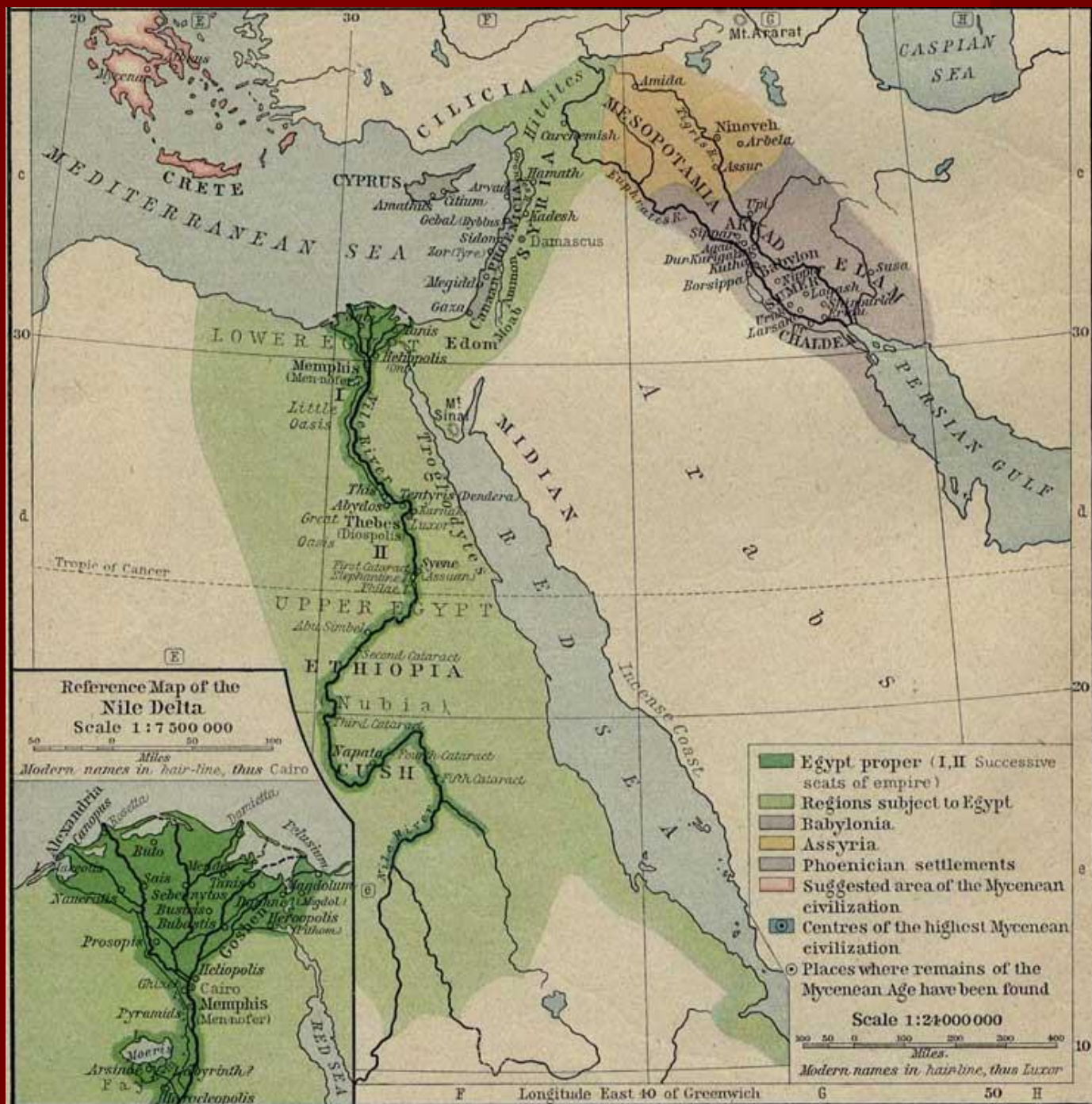


TEMPLE OF DUSH,
PARIS OASIS, EGYPT

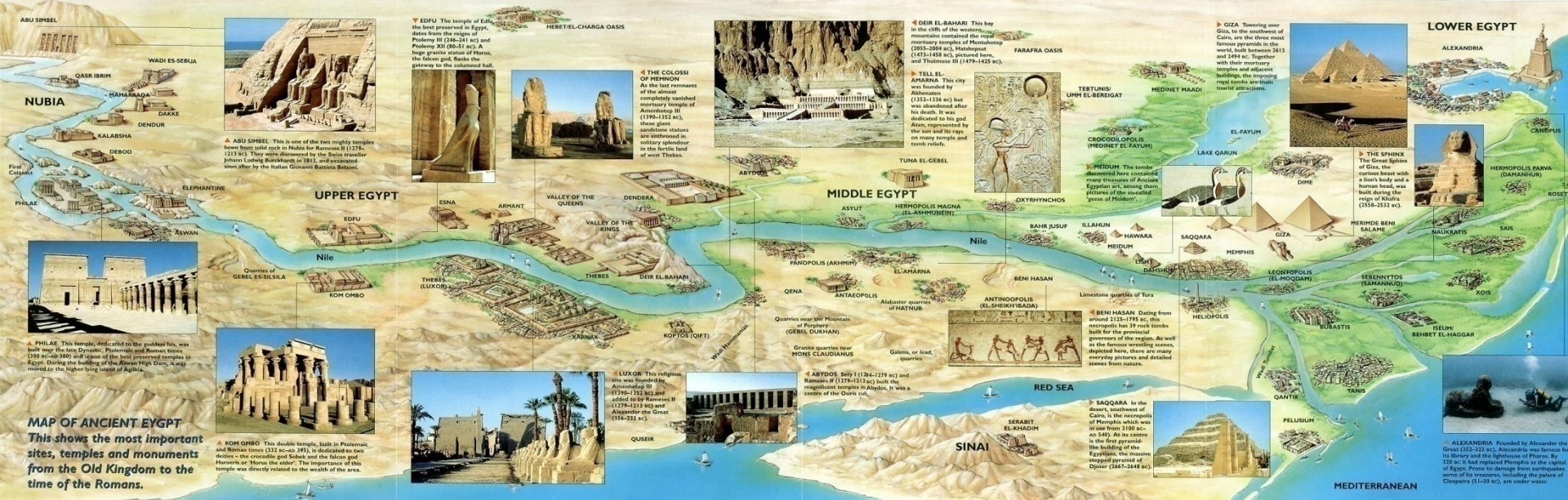
Definitions? Definitions!

- ❑ Is it eligible to use both?
- ❑ Ancient Societies
- ❑ Ancient Civilisations



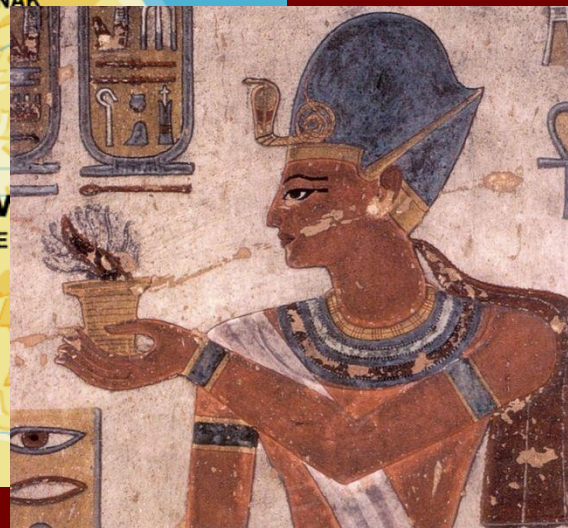
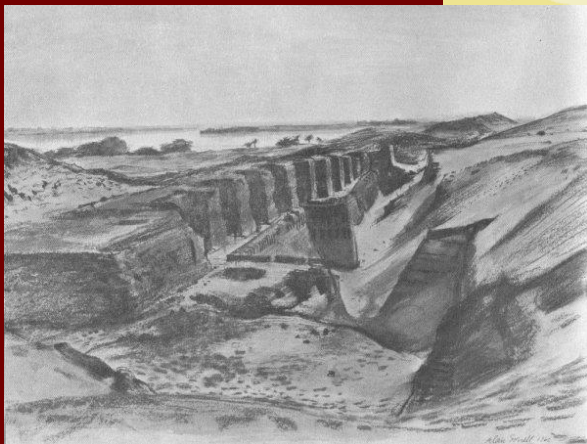
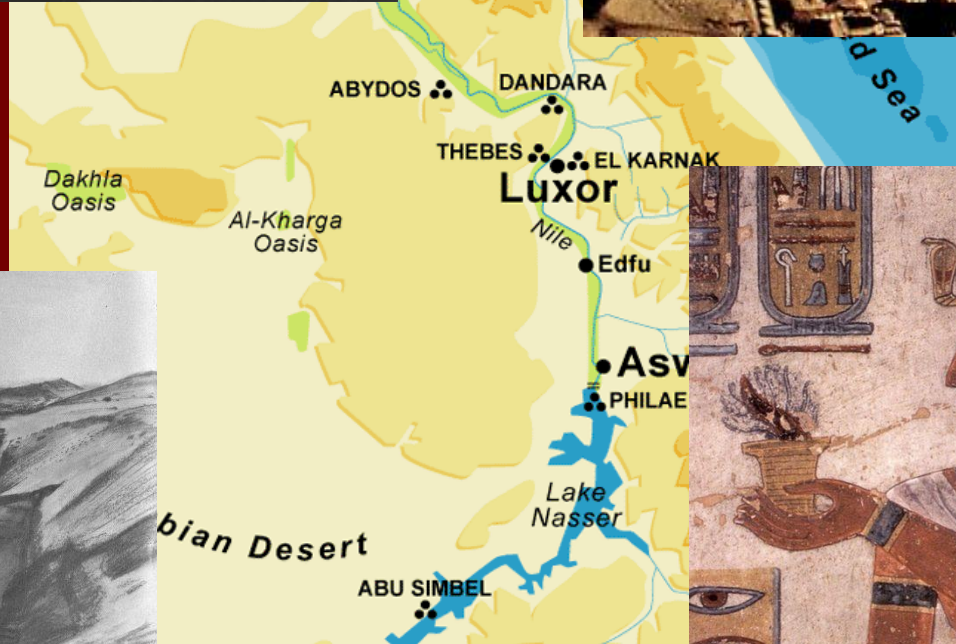
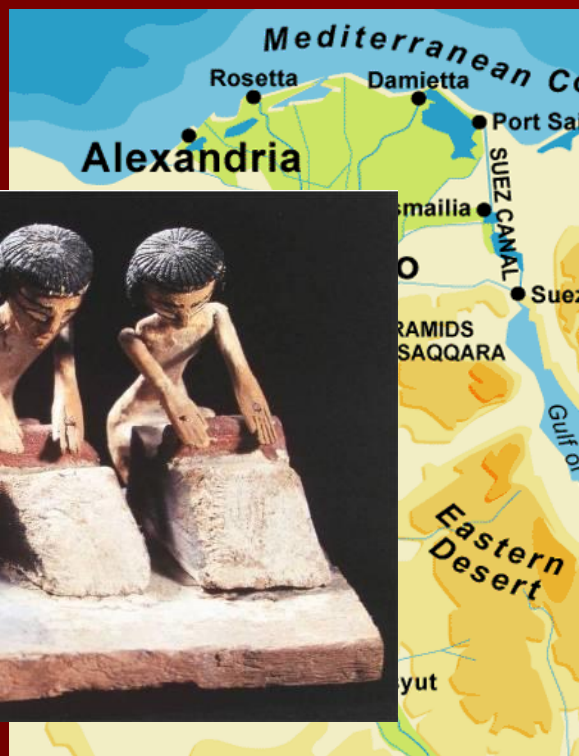


Ancient Egypt

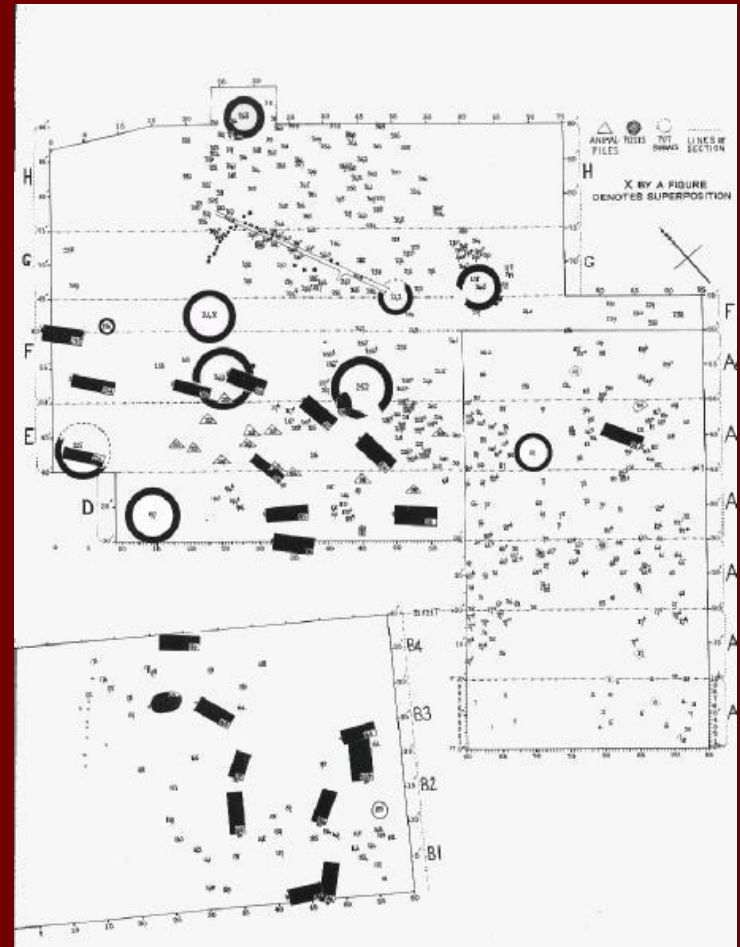


Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- **Civilisation:**
- the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization



The Prehistoric Village Near Hemamieh (Predynasty)



Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Civilisation:**
- ❑ the stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced
- ❑ the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization

Periods

- Pre- and Early Dynastic Period
- Old Kingdom
- First Intermediate Period
- Middle Kingdom
- Second Intermediate Period
- New Kingdom
- Third Intermediate Period
- Late Period
- Ptolemaic and Roman Period

Dynasties

- Predyn. (5300-3000BC), 0-2
- 3-6
- 8-11
- 11-12
- 13-17
- 18-20
- 21-24
- 25-"31"
- No dynastic time anymore (332BC -331AD)

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Civilisation:**
- ❑ the stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced
- ❑ the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization
- ❑ the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
- ❑ the comfort and convenience of modern life, regarded as available only in towns and cities

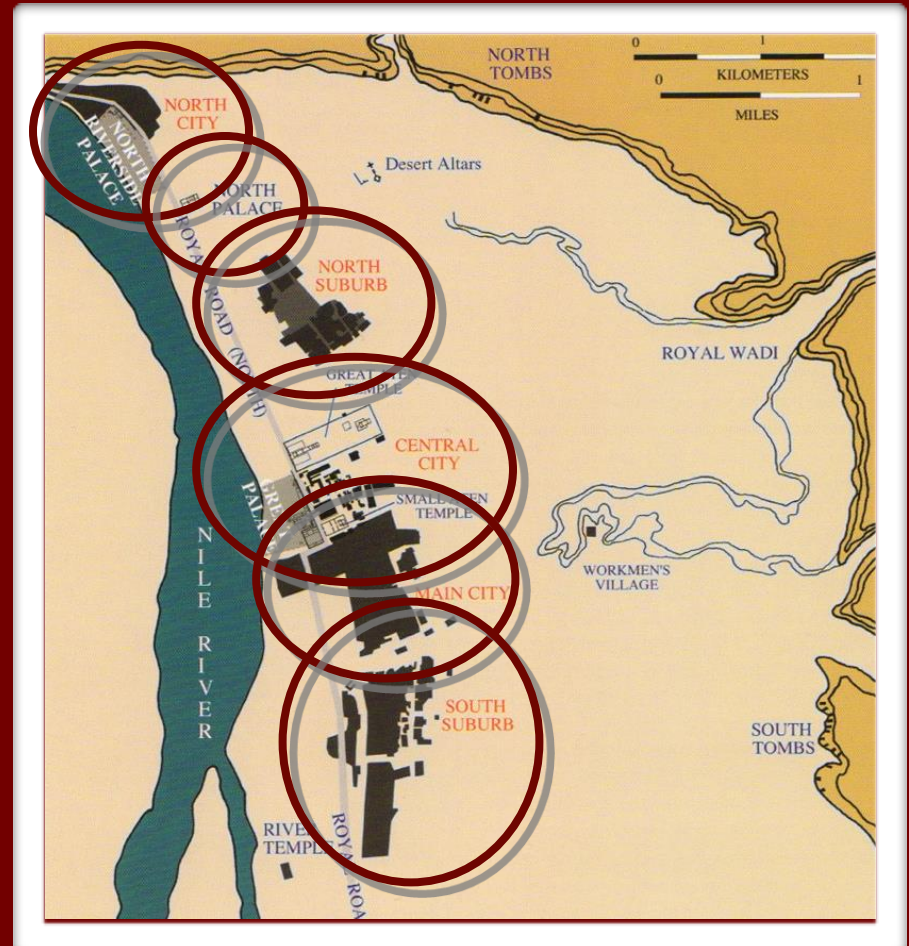


Edfu Tempel – religious sites in urban areas



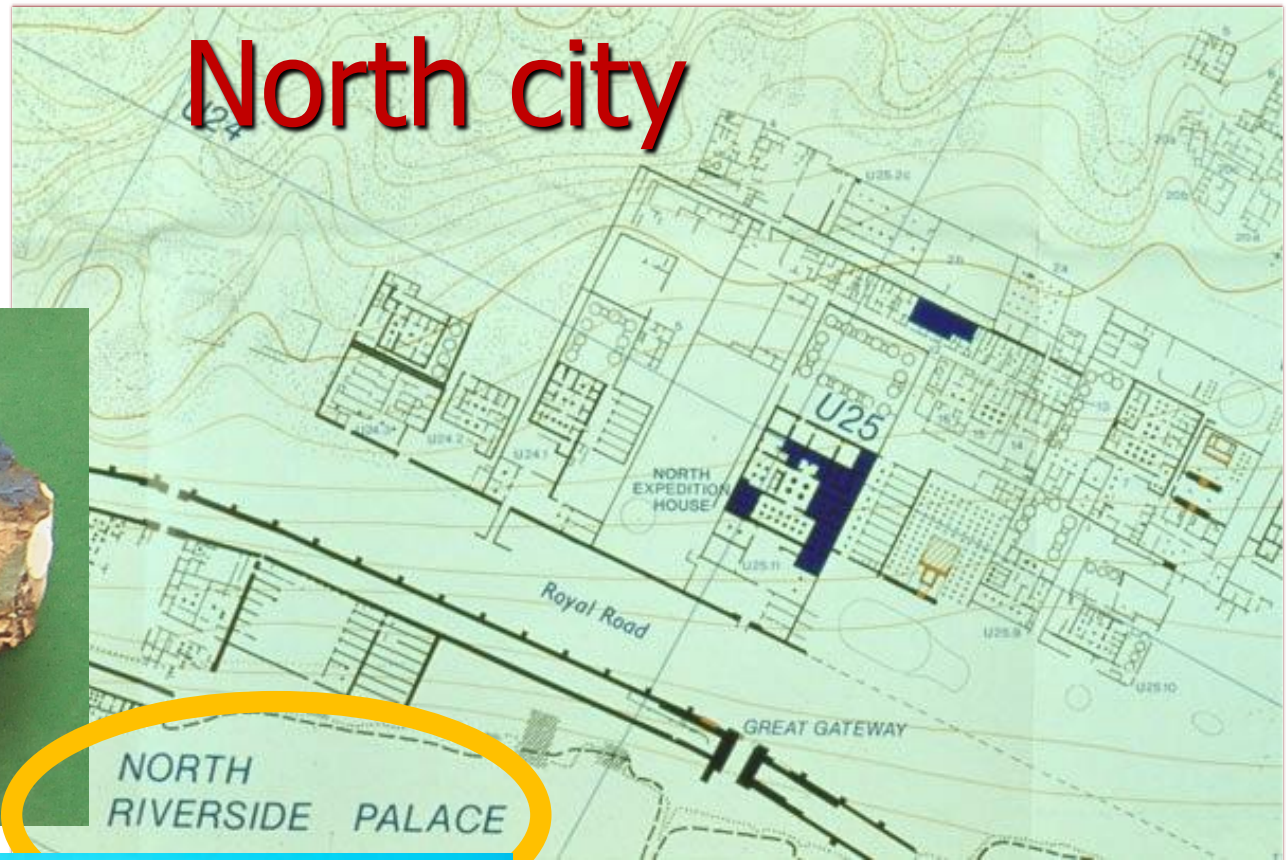
Urban zone of Amarna, capital under Akhenaton, NK, 18th dynasty

- North city
- North Palace
- North suburb
- Central city: temple, palatial, and administrative district
- Main city: urban housing
- South suburb



North city

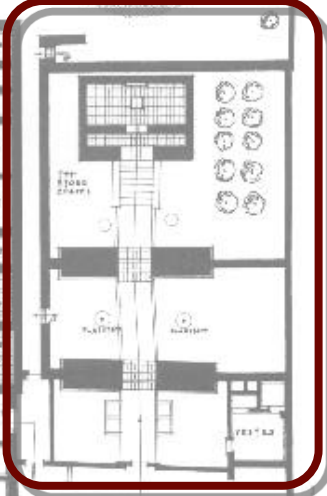
Swansea,
Egypt Centre
W798



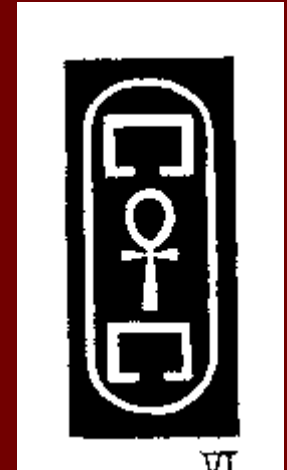
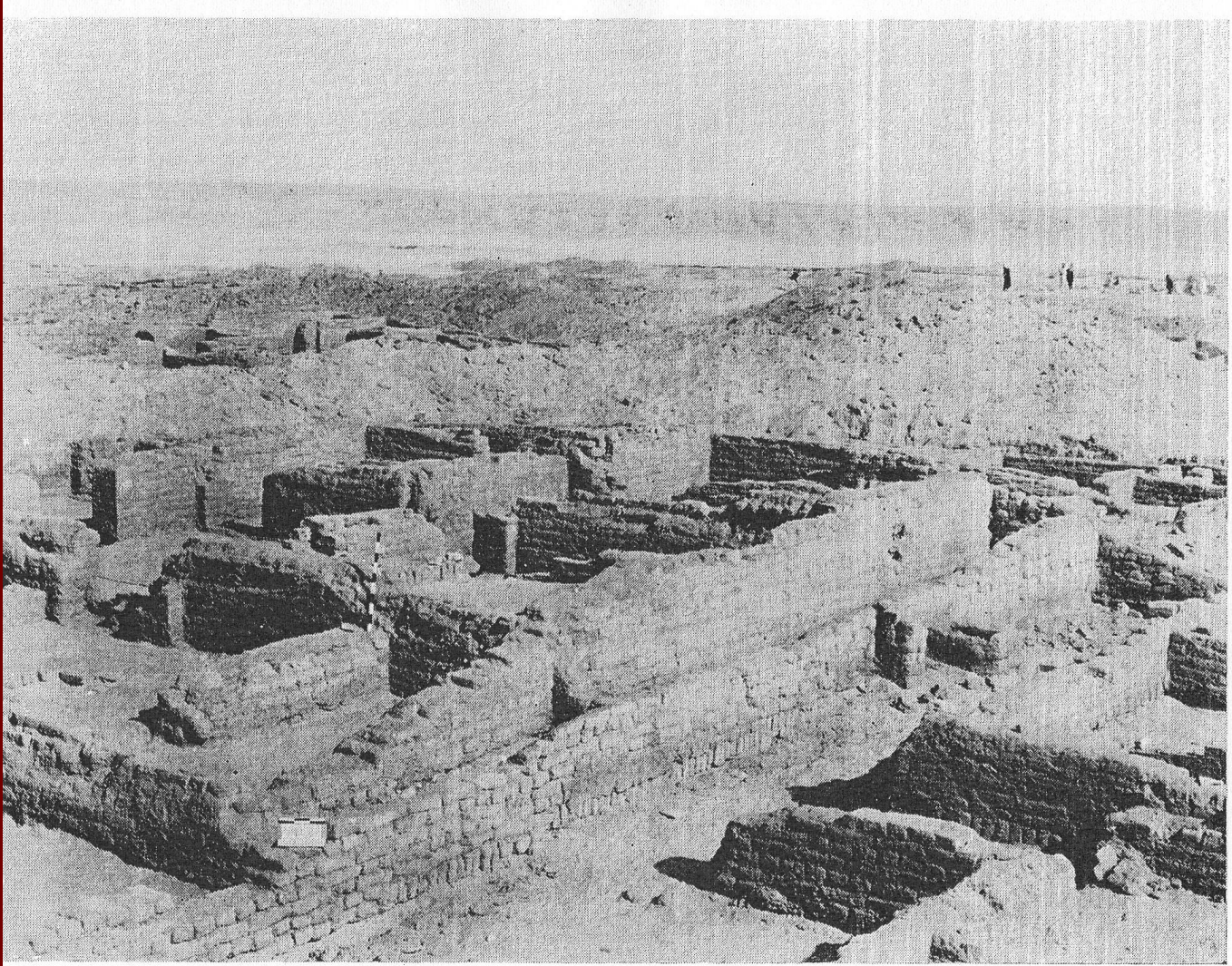
Eastern side

- Large houses and estates of officials
- Largest house opposite the gate way
- Private chapel made of stone with 2 pylons
- Often interpreted as the dwelling of Nefertiti, but Kiya equally possible





Amarna: House of Life (*pr-^hnh*)



Stela of
Montuwoser, MET



Material culture as expression of hierarchy – the elite

Senwosret III
MET New York



Seated statue of
Hatshepsut, MET



TT96 Sennefer, Mayor of Thebes (18th dyn.) – complex beliefs and ideas – the afterlife



Mastaba Ti, Saqqara, 5th dyn. - Craft specialisation

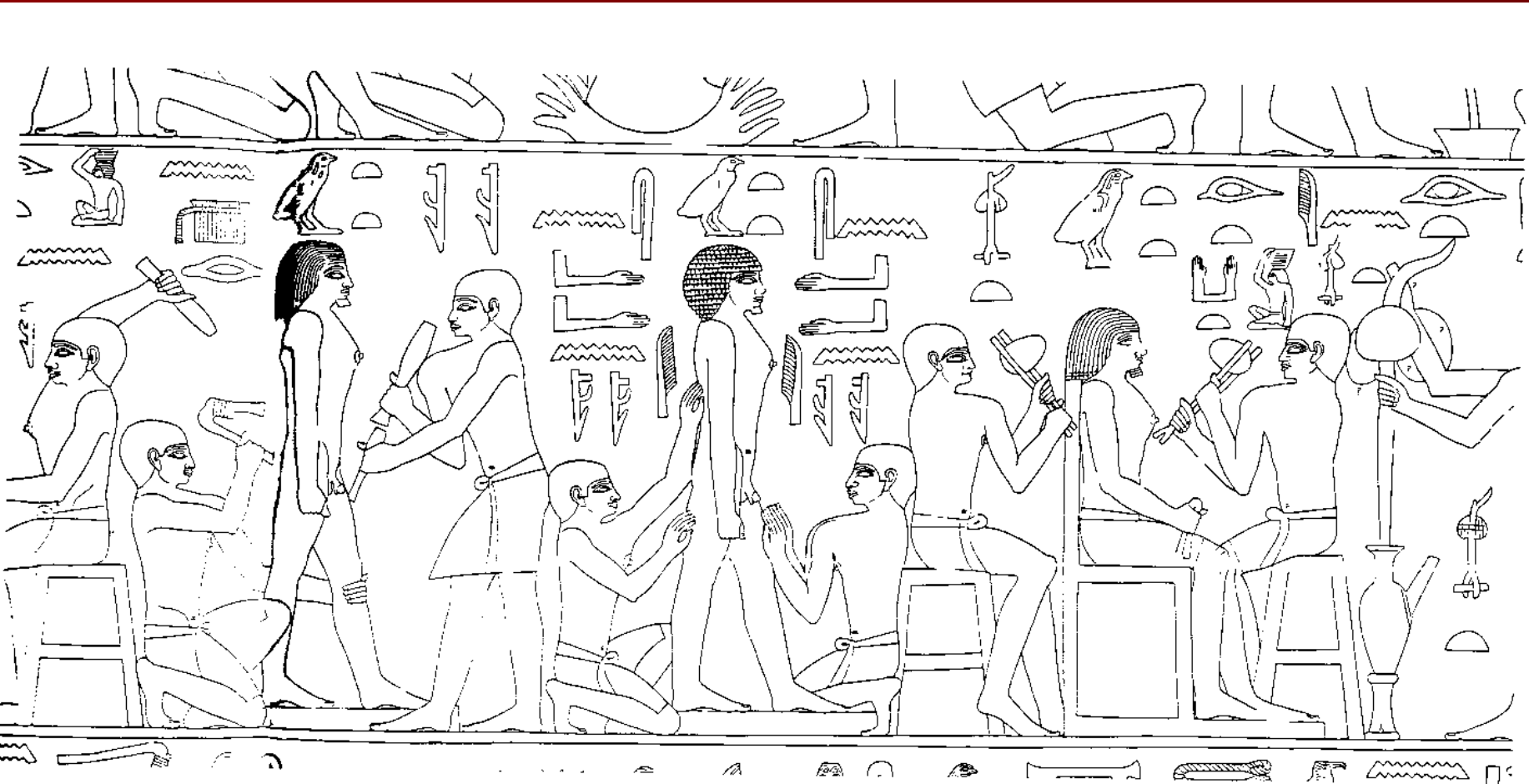


Abb. 26: Herstellung einer Statue aus dem Grab des Ti, Saqqarah (nach: Epron - Wild, Tombeau de Ti, Tafel CLXXIII, Ausschnitt)

New York, MET: Horse



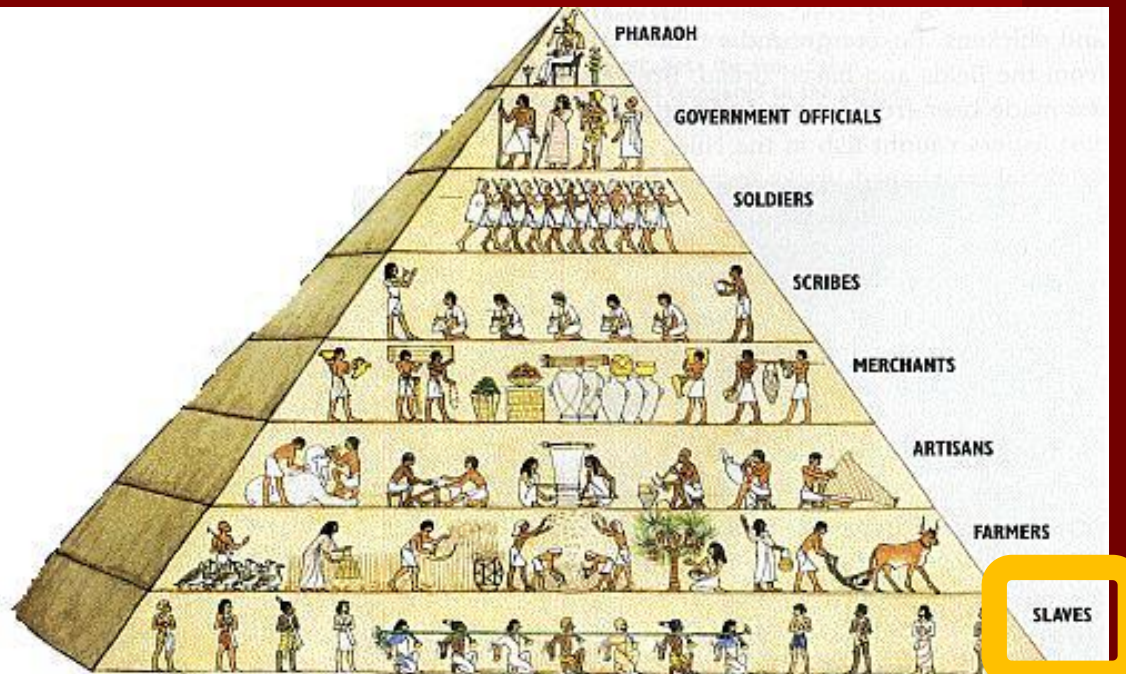
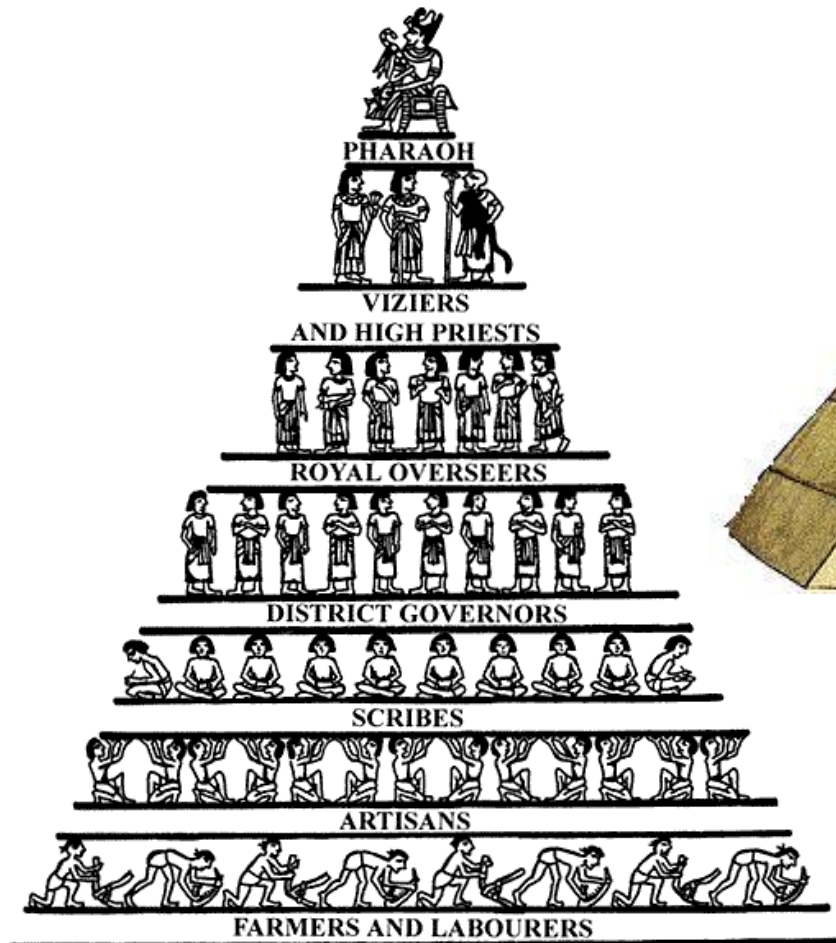
Pektoral Senwosret II, MET

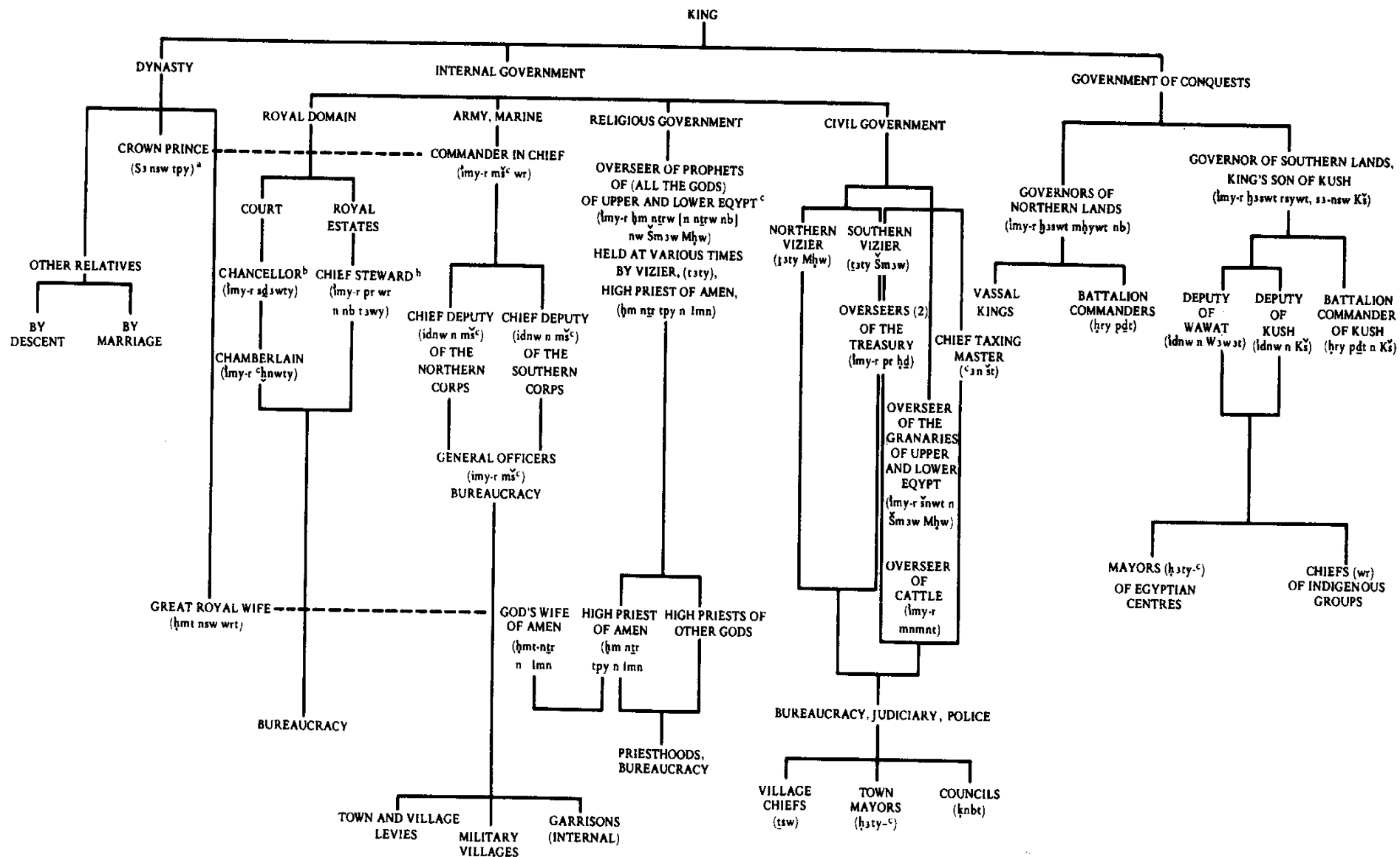


Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Society:**
- ❑ the community of people living in a particular country or region and having shared customs, laws, and organizations
- ❑ Origin: mid 16th century (in the sense 'companionship, friendly association with others'): from French *société*, from Latin *societas*, from *socius* 'companion'

The society of Egypt





Narmer Palette



Dilemma

□ Official royal texts only mention king

■ Royal projects

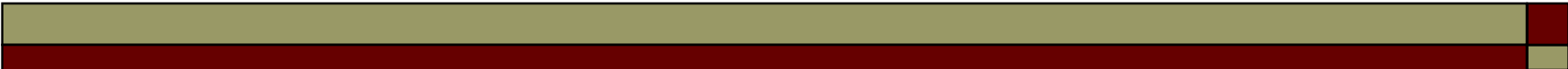
□ Building temples

□ Fighting wars

□ Performance rituals

only presenting king while recorded as
“historical” events !

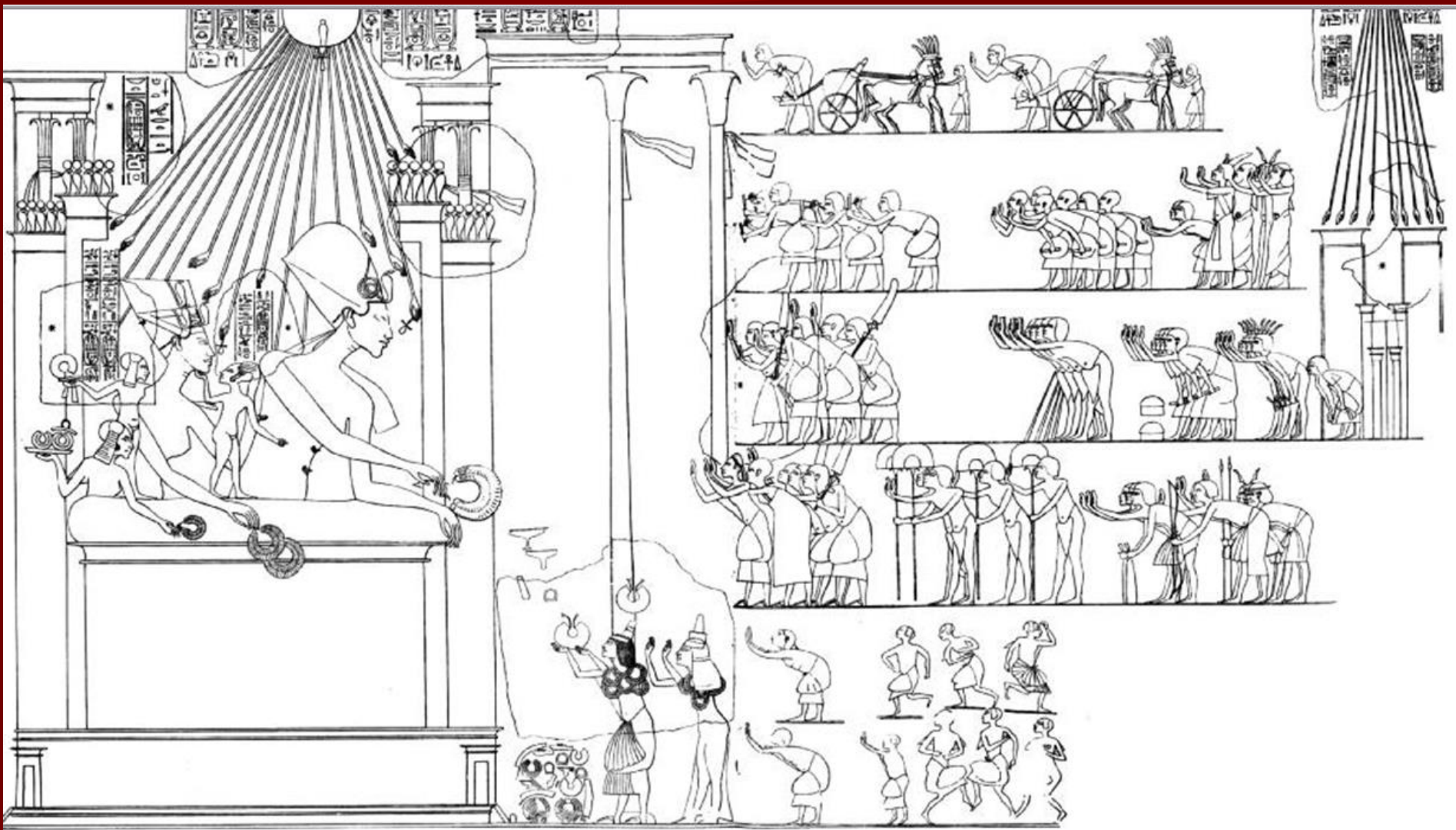
What about other members of elite?

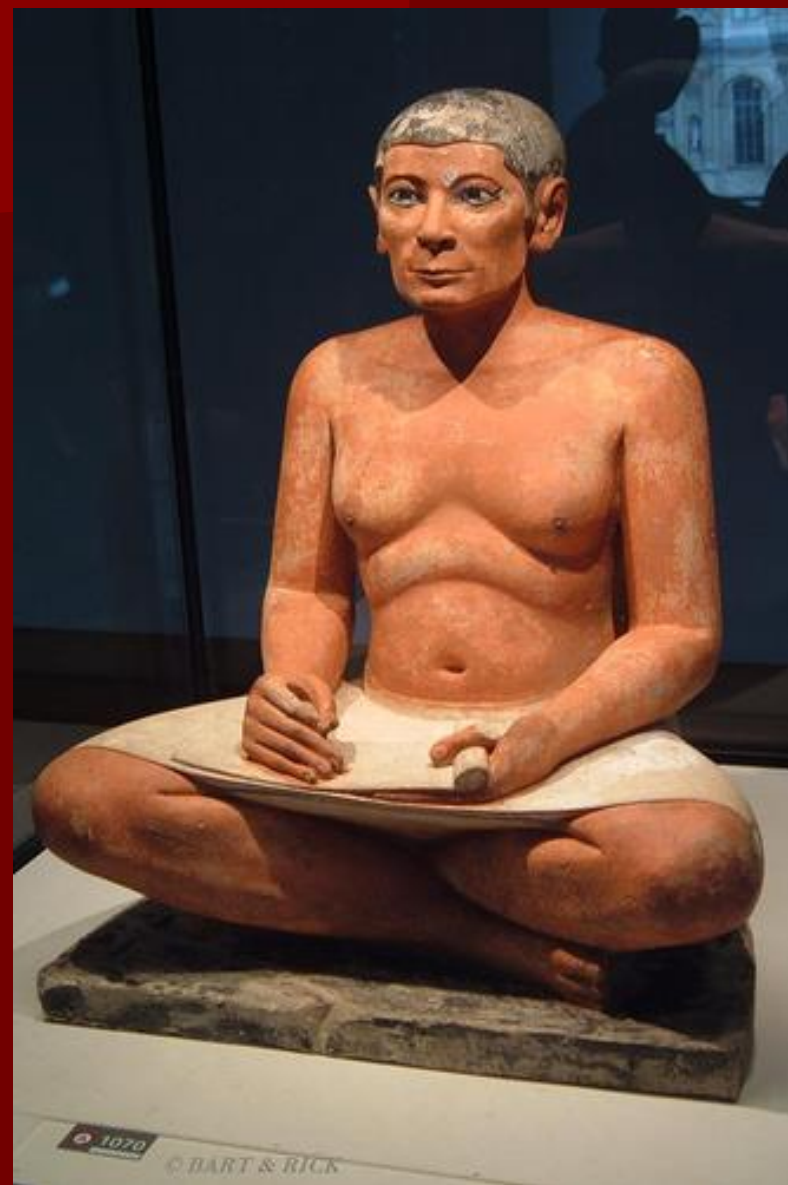


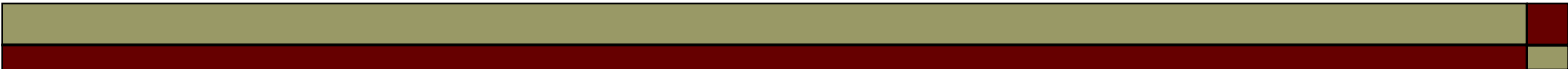
Monarchy in AE

- King: head of large administration which involved institutions of semi-independent nature (temples), leading battles and responsible for diplomatic activities (political role outside Egypt), hold state together (inner political role)
- Divine role of the king

Window of appearance reward scene – Tomb of Ay, Amarna





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- Class of scribes as administrative link between the institutions who governed Egypt:
 - King
 - Priests
 - Military
 - Court

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Culture: applicable for Humanities**
- ❑ the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively
- ❑ the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society
- ❑ the attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social group

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

□ Origin of “culture”:

- Middle English (denoting a cultivated piece of land)
- noun from French *culture* or directly from Latin *cultura* 'growing, cultivation'
- verb from obsolete French *culturer* or medieval Latin *culturare*
- both based on Latin *colere* 'tend, cultivate'
- late Middle English = 'cultivation of the soil' and from this (early 16th century), arose 'cultivation (of the mind, faculties, or manners')

Google "Ancient Egyptian Culture"

