

E11 Week 4 Wednesday

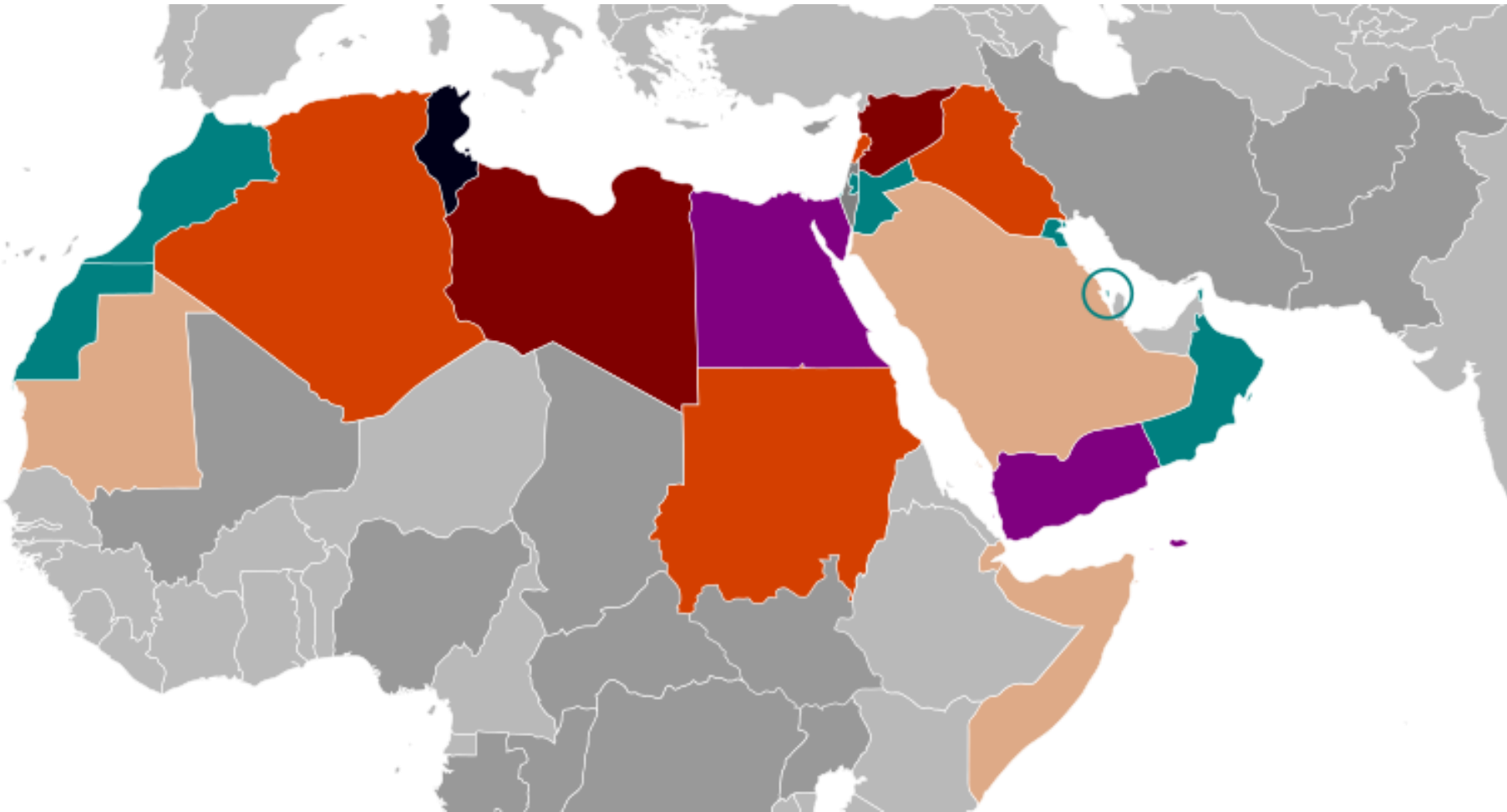
**Between Pharaonism and
Arab Spring – Whose
heritage? or the relevance of
the past in the present**

HPHP4013

From Egypt to the Near East: Phenomena
of the Mediterranean

Dr. Katharina Zinn

The Arab Spring – a Mediterranean event?





25 January 2011

Two governments overthrown (On 11 February 2011 and 3 July 2013), [Egyptian Crisis](#) follows until 2014

Overthrow of [Hosni Mubarak](#), who is later convicted of corruption and ordered to stand trial for ordering the killing of protesters.

- Resignation of Prime Minister(s) [Ahmed Nazif](#) and [Ahmed Shafik](#)^[159]
- Assumption of power by the [Supreme Council of the Armed Forces](#)^[160]
- Suspension of the [Constitution](#), dissolution of the [Parliament](#)^[161]
- Disbanding of [State Security Investigations Service](#)^[162]
- Dissolution of the [NDP](#), Egypt's former ruling party, and transfer of its assets to the state^[163]
- Arrest and prosecution of Mubarak, his family, and his former ministers^{[164][165][166]}
- Lifting of the 31-year-old state of emergency^[167]
- [Democratic election](#) held to replace Mubarak as president; [Mohamed Morsi](#) elected and inaugurated;^[168]
- [Sinai insurgency](#) begins

Overthrow of [Mohamed Morsi](#), who was convicted of espionage and inciting the killing of protesters.

- Arrest of Morsi by the [Egyptian Armed Forces](#) in a publicly supported [coup d'état](#)^[169]
- Designation of [Adly Mansour](#) as interim president and calls for early elections^[170]

846^[171]

**Two governments overthrown
(Mubarak government - Morsi government)**

Arab Spring (28/01/2011)- storming the Qasr al-Nil bridge





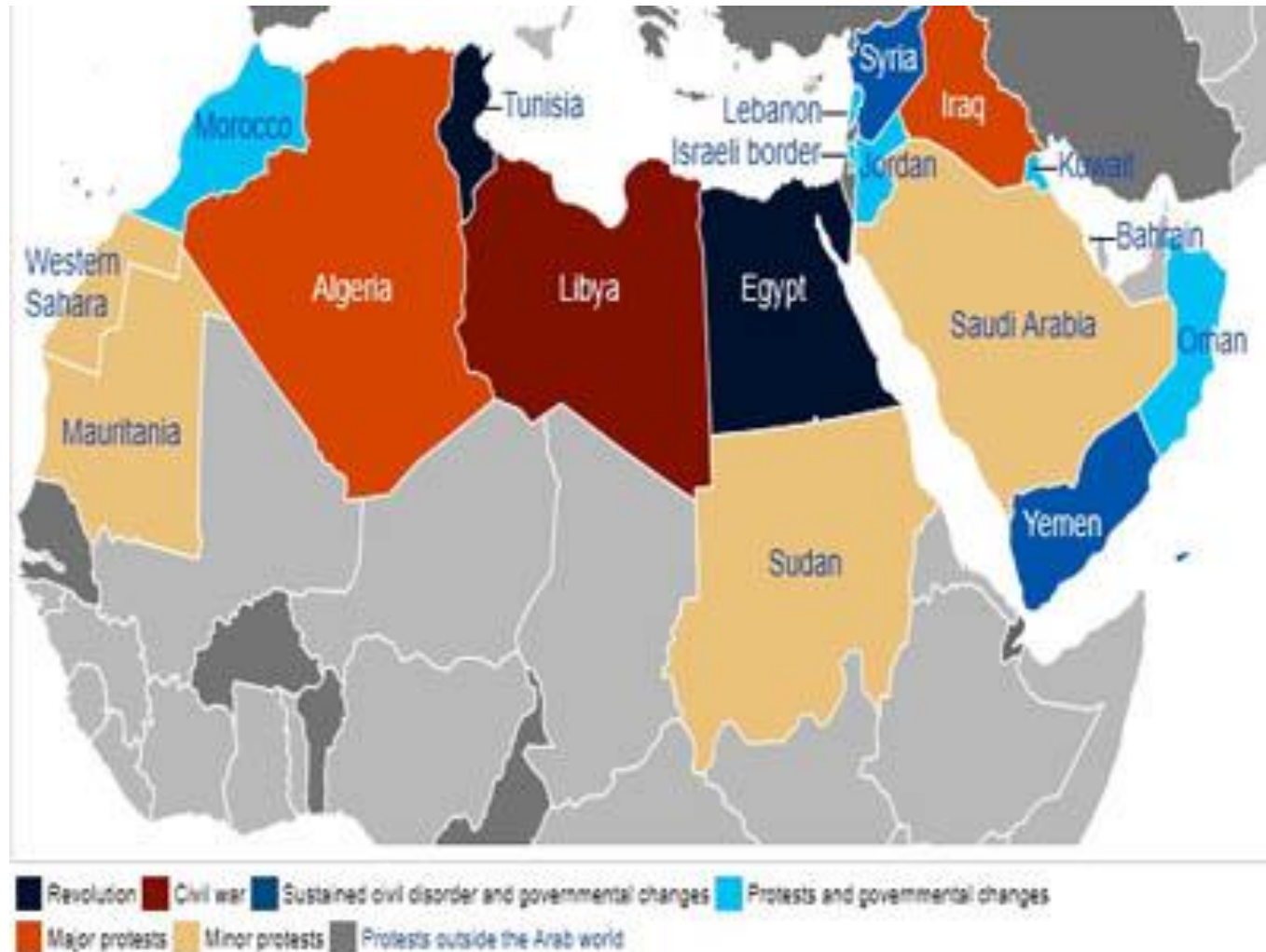


■ HOPE



■ Chaos: a revolution that failed to blossom

Why should this interest us?



Looting of the Egyptian Museum Cairo during the Arab Spring 2011

- Police secures the Egyptian Museum
- BBC coverage of the looting in 2011:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-12442863>





The Egyptian Museum- Tahrir Square - Cairo





Trafficking Culture

Researching the global traffic in looted cultural objects

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Egyptian Museum in Cairo – Thefts and Recoveries in 2011

Last Modified: 21 Aug 2012

Author: [Suzie Thomas](#)



The Egyptian Museum in Cairo found itself in the centre of the [2011 Egyptian uprisings](#) (the wider impact of which for Egypt is discussed in a separate entry), in part due to its location on Tahrir Square, upon which much of the protesting focussed (Anderson 2011). On 28 January 2011, despite apparent attempts to protect the museum and its contents (Butler 2011; El-Aref 2011a), looters and protesters entered the museum – possibly up to 1,000 individuals according reports (Sarant 2011).

Although looters apparently raided the museum shop for jewellery, smashed display cases, (Sarant 2011) and ransacked the ticket office (ABC News 2011), it was at first unclear exactly what had been taken, with varying reports emerging suggesting different accounts of the damage caused and scale of loss of cultural objects. At the time of the break-in itself, nine individuals were reportedly arrested as they tried to make their way out of the museum via fire exits with the heads of two mummies that they had attempted to steal (but that had subsequently broken up into pieces) (ABC News 2011; Sarant 2011).

The threat to the cultural objects and monuments, not only at the Egyptian Museum itself but at other museums and at archaeological sites across Egypt, was quickly recognised by archaeologists and other observers both within Egypt and further afield. The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) issued a statement shortly after the break-in which acknowledged that the political circumstances in Cairo in 2011 were different to those surrounding the looting of the Iraq National Museum in 2003, but that nonetheless Egyptian authorities needed to act to protect the country's universally significant cultural heritage (Archaeological Institute of America 2011).

Entries

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[Museum Theft](#)

Introduction

- Culture at Risk – Scholar fights archaeological looting in Egypt (2014)

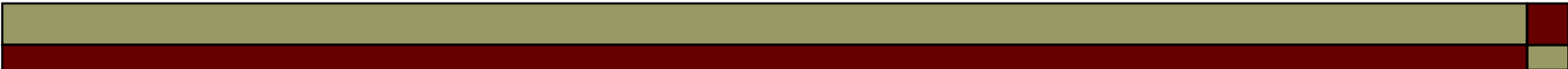


Mellawi Museum: ransacked 2013



2013: UNESCO Red List of looted artefacts (Arabic and English)

http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/Mallawi_Museum_Catalogue_REDLIST.pdf



Pharaonist movement / Pharaonism

- ❑ ideology against colonial involvement of Britain / France
- ❑ rose to prominence in Egypt in the 1920s and 1930s
- ❑ looked to Egypt's pre-Islamic past and argued that Egypt was part of a larger Mediterranean civilization
 - older and better civilization than everything Europe is characterized by
 - stressed the role of the Nile River and the Mediterranean Sea
- ❑ Creating of an Egyptian vs Arab identity
- ❑ Own their heritage
- ❑ most notable advocate was Taha Hussein

Taha Hussein

- ❑ 1889 – 1973
- ❑ one of the most influential 20th-century Egyptian writers and intellectuals
- ❑ figurehead for the Egyptian Renaissance and the modernist movement in the Middle East and North Africa
- ❑ believed that Egyptian civilization was diametrically opposed to Arab civilization (against Ottoman Empire), and that Egypt would only progress by reclaiming its ancient pre-Islamic roots

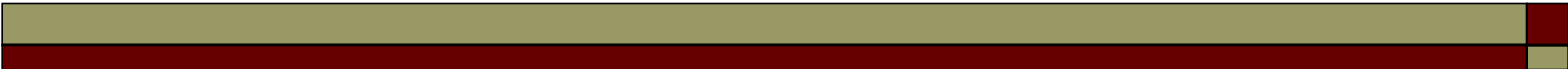


The question of Egyptian identity

- ❑ NK Egyptian identity – native Egyptian culture, religion and identity
- ❑ Then under the influence of brief successions of foreign rulers including Libyans, Nubians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Turks, French and British
- ❑ three new religions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, and produced a new language, Egyptian Arabic
- ❑ During the Middle Ages: monuments of the ancient Egyptian civilization sometimes destroyed as remnants of a time of jahiliyyah ("barbarous ignorance") – 13/14th cent. and later caliphats
- ❑ BUT evidence of popular local pride in Pyramids and the Sphinx, so much that these monuments were never destroyed out of the fear of causing riots

The question of Egyptian identity

- ❑ Pharaonic monuments generally seen as possessing magical powers
- ❑ viewed as objects of respect by ordinary Egyptians → Local legends claimed the attack on the Sphinx led to a massive sandstorm at Giza, which only ended with the holy man's lynching
- ❑ To prevent the destruction of the ruins, medieval Egyptians usually "Islamized" the ruins by inventing stories associating them with the companions of the Prophet Mohammad or local Sufi saints, thereby turning them into quasi-Islamic sites that could not be destroyed
- ❑ knowledge of hieroglyphs lost from 6th century until 1822 → Jean-François Champollion deciphered Rosetta Stone
- ❑ BUT memory of ancient Egypt = impressive civilization with monumental monuments → precise meaning long lost → limiting extent of popular identification with it



The question of Egyptian identity

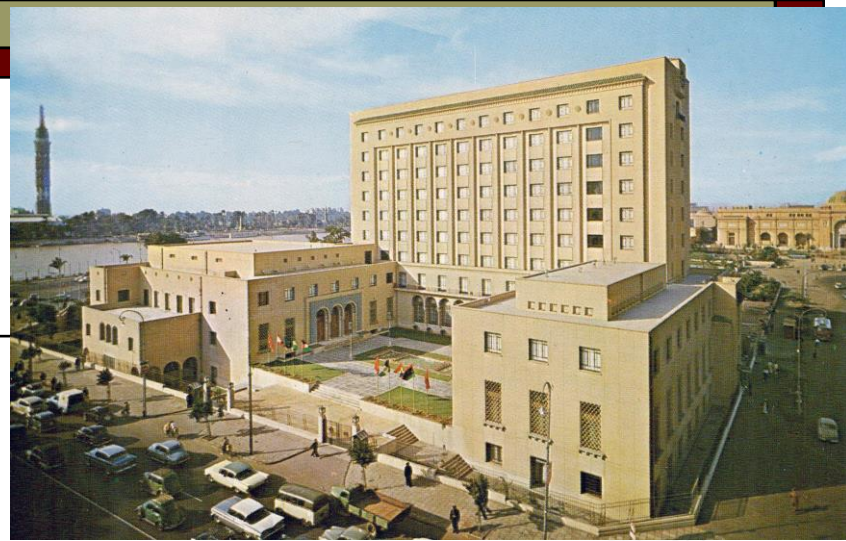
- Pharaonism: Decision to preserve Egypt's heritage
 - matter of pride
 - ending the plundering of sites in Egypt
 - create museum to display objects in Egypt instead of been taken to Europe
- Tahtawi published history of ancient Egypt in 1868
 - described discoveries of archaeologists and the deciphering of the hieroglyphs
 - first time heritage of ancient Egypt used as symbol of national pride in modern Egypt

Nationalism / Pharaonism

- Questions of identity rose in the 20th century: Egyptians tried to free themselves from British occupation and Ottoman Empire → rise of ethno-territorial secular Egyptian nationalism (s "Pharaonism") = dominant mode of expression of Egyptian anti-colonial activists (pre- and inter-war periods)
- most significant: absence of an Arab component in early Egyptian nationalism
- ancient Egyptian past as symbol of Egyptian distinctiveness, → down-played Arab and Islamic identities, intended to brand Egypt as a European rather than a Near Eastern nation

Nationalism / Pharaonism

- later 1930s = formative period for Arab nationalism in Egypt, involvement of Syrian/Palestinian/Lebanese intellectuals
- establishment of the League of Arab States in 1945, headquartered in Cairo
- nationalist prime minister of Egypt Saad Zaghlul seized of Tutankhamun: treasures belonged to Egypt → prevent Carter removing them to Britain
- → "it is the duty of the government to defend the rights and dignity of the nation"

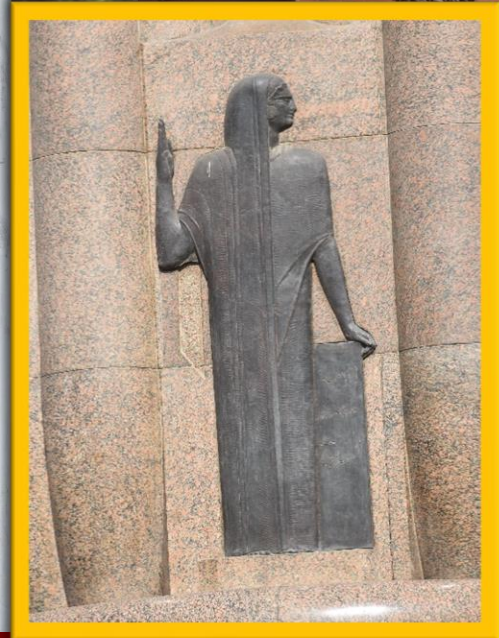


Nationalism / Pharaonism

- ❑ Opening of Tutankhamun tomb turned into nationalist demonstration: British High Commissioner Field Marshal Allenby was loudly booed by the crowd → demand immediate British evacuation of Egypt
- ❑ Wafd Party turned Tutankhamun into a symbol of Egyptian nationalism
- ❑ Ahmed Hussein founded nationalistic and fascistic Young Egypt Society in 1933 → glorified the ancient Egyptian past; closely modeled along the lines of the fascist movements of Italy and Germany – appealing to the Egyptian masses
- ❑ "Pharaonism" condemned by Hassan al-Banna, founder of fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, as glorifying a period of jahiliyyah ("barbarous ignorance")

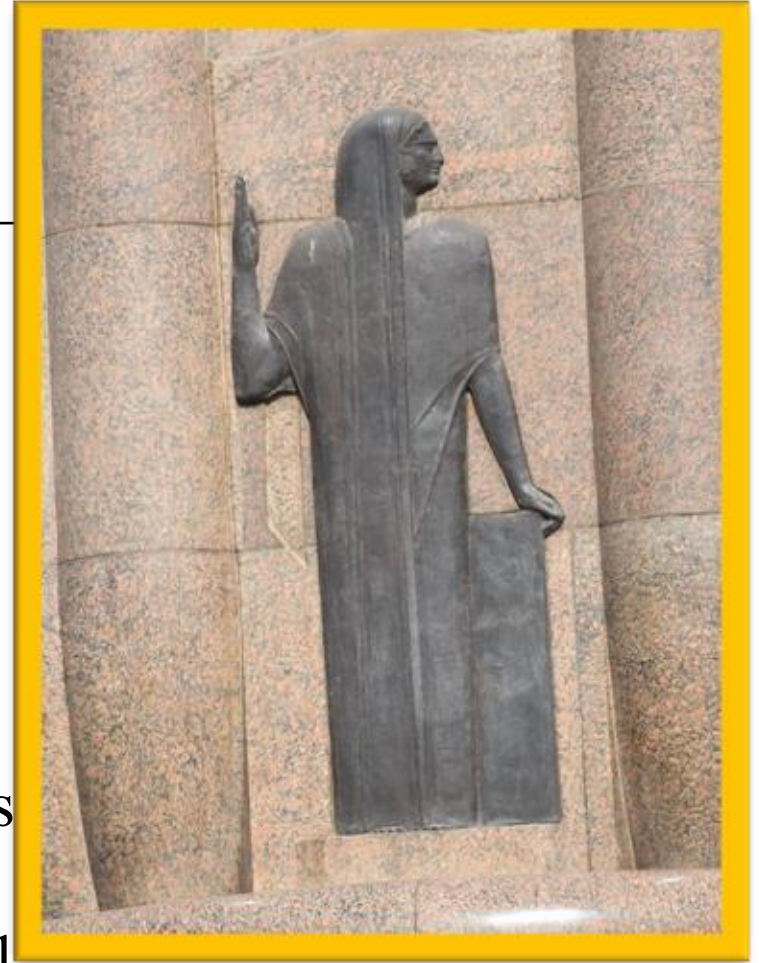
Qasr al-Nil bridge with the Saad Zaghloul monument (access road to Tahrir Square in Cairo)





Egypt as a woman

- influence of gender in shaping the Egyptian nation from the nineteenth century through the revolution of 1919 and into the 1940s
- gendered language and images of the nation, and the second considers the political activities of women nationalists
- Despite women were largely excluded from participation in the state, the visual imagery of nationalism was replete with female figures.



Influence on Tourism



■ In contrast 2006 – very crowded

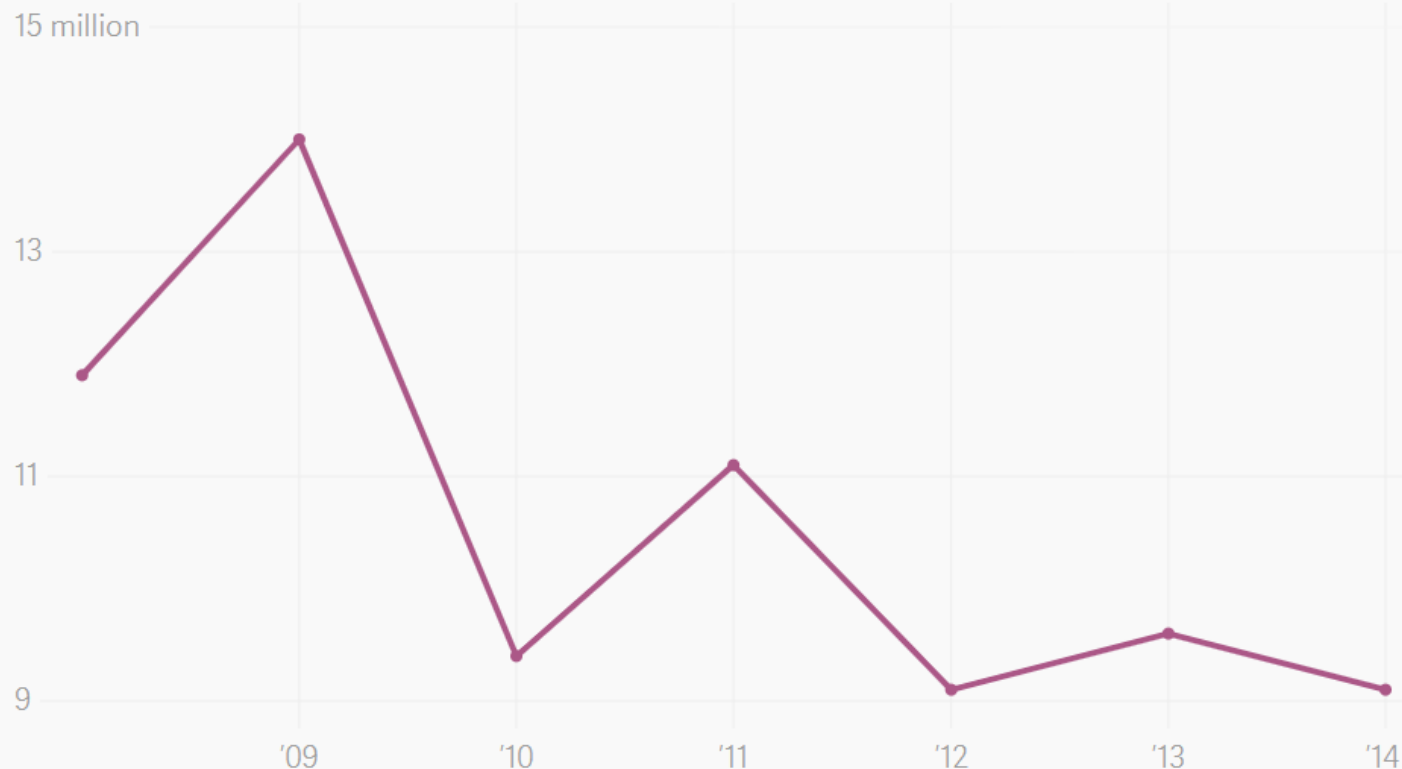
■ 2015 – empty →



Egypt and Tourism

- <https://qz.com/africa/1077425/egypts-tourism-looks-to-revive-after-years-of-sluggish-growth/>

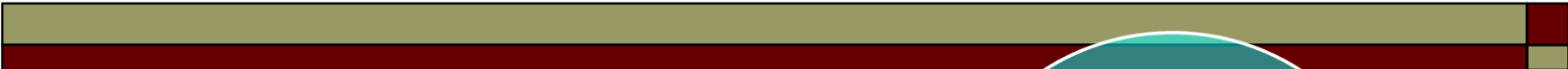
Egypt's tourism has declined since the 2011 uprising



Establishing new markets

- Increase Egyptian tourism by reconnecting Egyptians with their pharaonic heritage



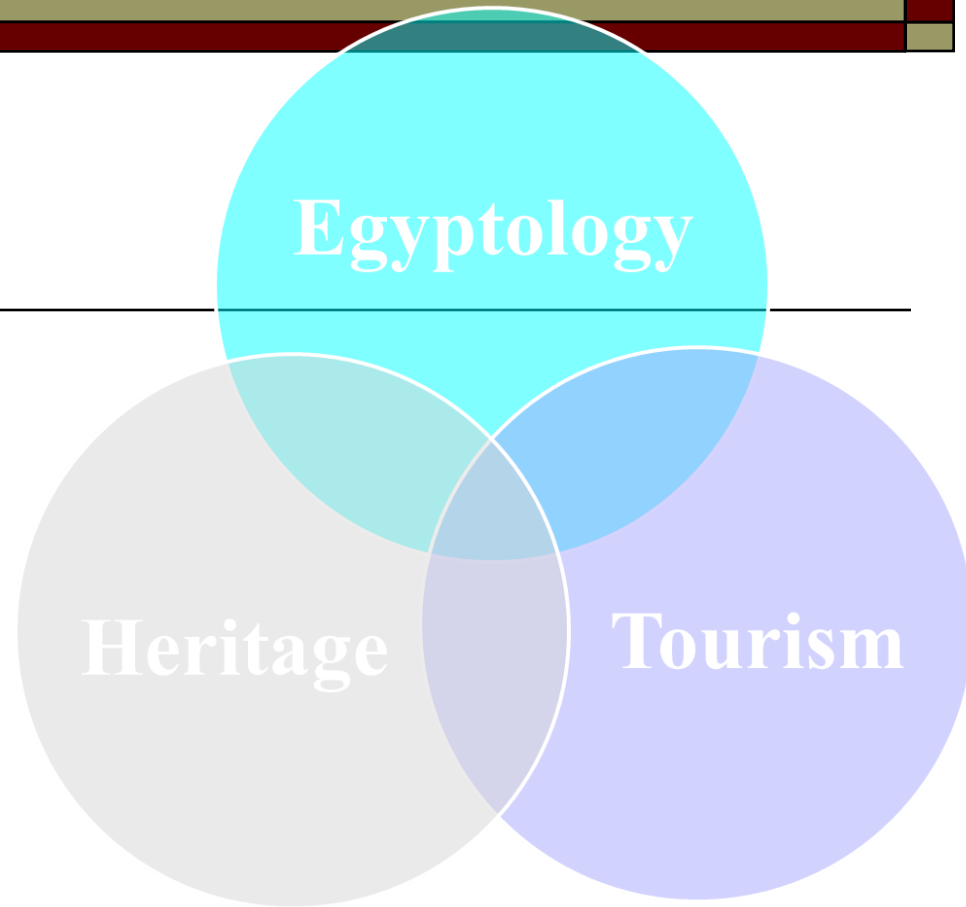


Egyptology

Heritage

Tourism

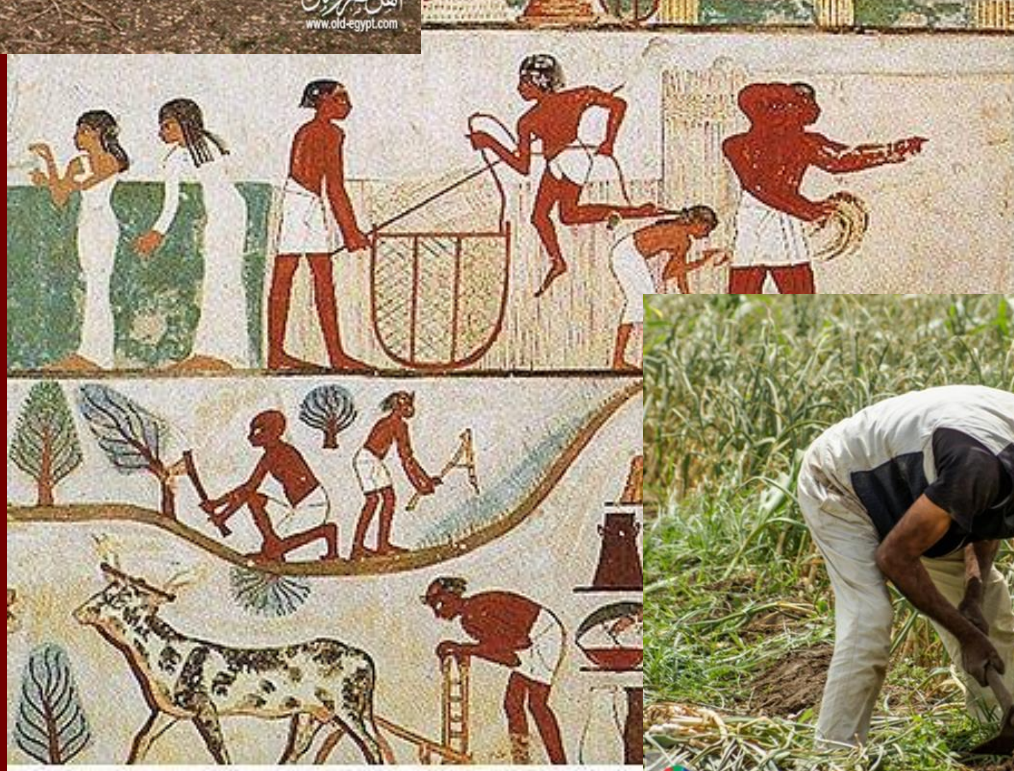
- Ancient history often used in modern times to inspire process of nation building, raising awareness and sense of national identity.
- Events, monuments and artifacts of the past can be often reflected in how a modern nation perceives itself and its future.
- Egyptian heritage is known to be a result of many great civilizations.



Festivals as tourism activities: Abu El-Haggag Festival-Luxor

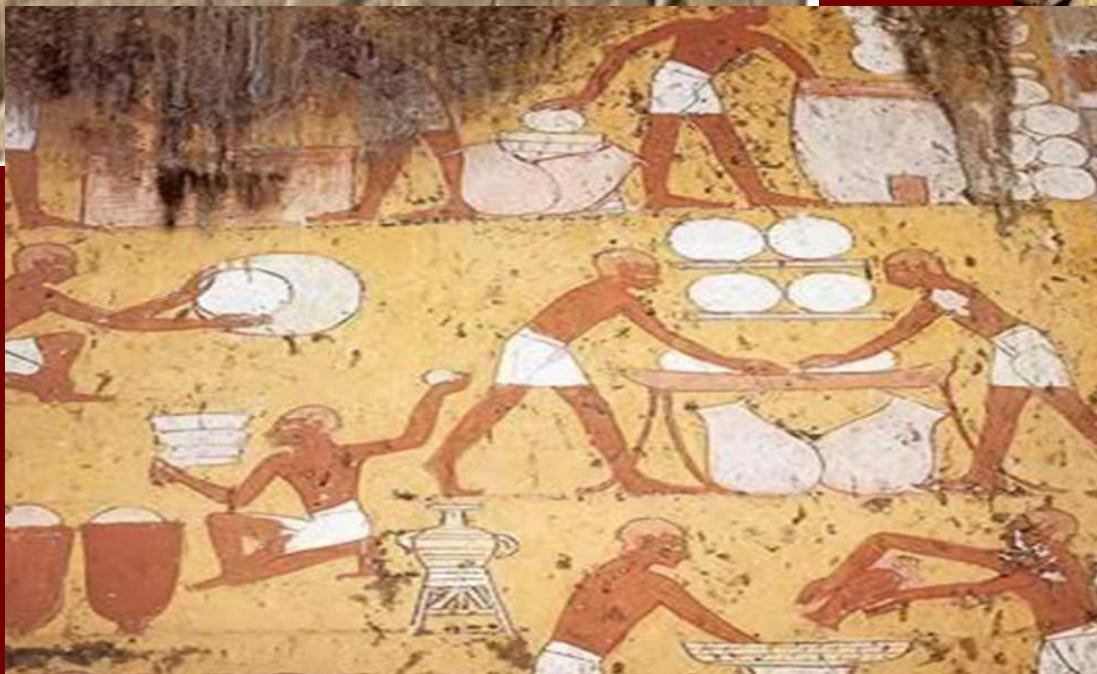












Sun Bread



Bread Basket, Museum of Agriculture, Cairo



Establishing new markets

- ❑ Increase Egyptian tourism by reconnecting Egyptians with their pharaonic heritage
- ❑ Community archaeology and heritage projects (Amarna Visitor Centre)



Heritage preservation problem recognised

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Cultural Heritage and Development in Egypt

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of the United Kingdom and the Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF) of Egypt are pleased to announce a joint call for Research Grant proposals addressing the theme of 'Cultural Heritage and Development in Egypt'. Funding of up to £350K is available per project and awards will be expected to have a maximum duration of 36 months.

Egypt is host to some of the world's most important historical sites and monuments and a diverse range of histories, dialects and cultures. Yet these assets – so central to Egypt's identity, social cohesion and future growth – are currently under threat by a range of factors such as urbanisation, climate change, criminal activity and population growth.

The aim of this call is to allow researchers from the UK and Egypt to work collaboratively on research projects, which address key challenges related to Egypt's cultural heritage. Proposals are invited under three thematic areas:

- Archaeological conservation: building a sustainable future for Egypt's cultural heritage
- Museums, libraries and archives: revenue generation, skills development and heritage preservation
- Intangible heritage

Guidance on the scope of the call, additional information on the thematic areas and the application process can be found below under '[Further Information](#)'.

The AHRC's involvement in this call is funded by the [Newton Fund](#) programme. The Newton Fund is an initiative intended to strengthen research and innovation partnerships between the UK and emerging knowledge economies.

Engagement projects

D		E	F
Preserving Egypt's Cultural Heritage			
Principal Investigator	Holding Organisation	Grant title	
Dr Eva Panagiotakopulu	University of Edinburgh	Past environments, future challenges: Fossil insects and the preservation of environmental evidence from Egyptian archaeological sites	
Professor Caroline Rooney	University of Kent	Egypt's Living Heritage: Community Engagement in Re-Creating the Past	
Dr James Moore	University of Leicester	Sounds from a Threatened Suburb: Developing a People's History of Heliopolis as a Route to a Sustainable Urban Future	
Dr Neveen Hamza	Newcastle University	Sustainable Green Markets, regenerating the urban historic core to sustain Socio-Cultural heritage and economic activities	
Dr Ilona Regulski	The British Museum	Sustainable solutions towards cultural heritage preservation in the Asyut region.	
Dr Magda Sibley	University of Sheffield	"Belle Epoque " Cairo Museums Itinerary (BECAMI)	
Dr Mohamed Gamal Abdelmonem	University of Wolverhampton	Virtual Reality of Medieval Culture: Collaborative Network for Cultural-Feed Virtual Heritage (CfVH) platforms of medieval Cairo	

Mellawi Museum





Cultural Heritage Training and Education Center

مركز تدريب وتعليم التراث الثقافي

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Cultural Heritage Training and
Education Center



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مشروع مصري يبحث عن آثارنا المتغربة



Beitrag erstellen



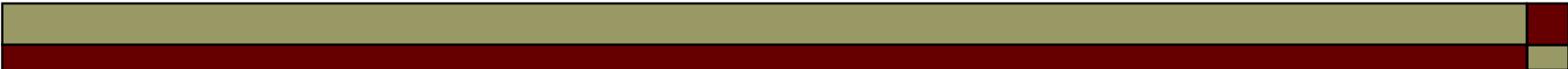
Foto/Video



Ich bin hier



Freunde markieren



Establishing new markets

- ❑ Increase Egyptian tourism by reconnecting Egyptians with their pharaonic heritage
- ❑ Community archaeology and heritage projects
- ❑ Push on new excavation in order to revive tourism
- ❑ promote religious, medical and luxury trips
- ❑ develop new markets in India, China and Eastern Europe (especially Russia)
- ❑ Egypt's largest public lender (National Bank of Egypt – NBE) extended grace period for loans granted to customers in tourism industry to counteract slump in tourism numbers

Egypt and Tourism

- 2011 revolution – Arab Spring
 - 20 museums closed 2011-2015
 - Limited resources
 - Decline in foreign visitors → even less resources
- Ministry of Antiquities was self-sufficient: 2010 = 1.3 billion Egyptian pounds (\$146.40 million)
 - 2015 income only 275 million pounds – 1/5
 - About 20 million pounds against 80 million salaries
- NOT ecological / sustainable

AKHET TOURS & HAPI IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE IKG CULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
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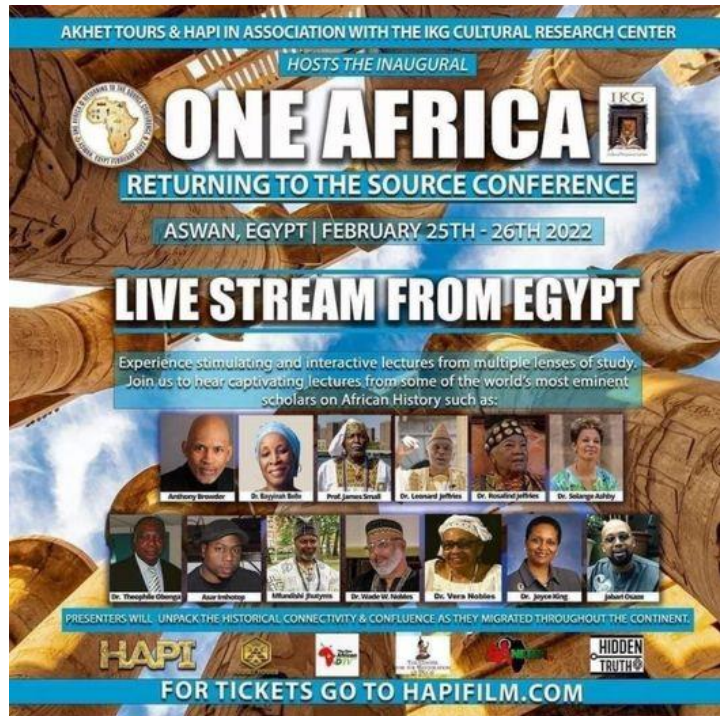
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Heritage and identity – problems and different layers of trauma?!
Inclusive or not?

Heritage and identity – problems, different layers of trauma?!



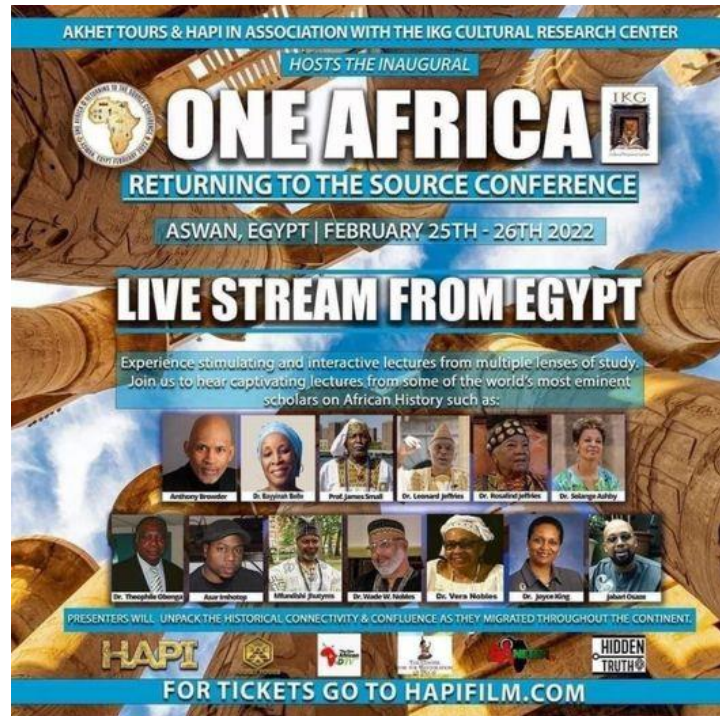
- ❑ Big debate on social media – ferocious response of many (?) Egyptians
- ❑ use of disturbing image: pharaoh smiting the Nubians, etc.) and ethnic slur words on Twitter has come as a shock to many
- ❑ Colleagues – especially in Aswan – have witnessed disturbing instances of street behaviour to the use of ethnic slur by a world-famous Egyptian Egyptologist on Egyptian TV (to no reaction from the host). A student once used the n-word in an essay, apparently without realizing it was a slur.

Heritage and identity – problems, different layers of trauma?!



- Afro-American scholars coming to Egypt to discuss the "Africanness" of Ancient Egypt seen as trigger for anger, reveals unspoken bias
- Extreme on both sides
 - potential audience of conference seems engaged in equally violent narrative: "we will make the Mediterranean red with the blood of the Egyptian children" → Biblical references???

Heritage and identity – problems, different layers of trauma?!



- ❑ Aswan affected in recent years by ethnic violence (2014)
- ❑ (minority) Nubians are a very sensitive topic in Egypt in general → destroying Nubian villages to build Nasser dam and lake Nasser
- ❑ Reactions similar to Pharaonism of 1919/1920 culminating in 1919 with the famous sermon of Father Sergius (Coptic priest, prominent nationalist orator) at the al-Azhar mosque - justified British to remain in Egypt on the grounds that they were protecting the Copts "let the Copts die and Muslims live as free men".

Racism in the Arab world, including Egypt

- President Anwar Sadat insulted as not looking "Egyptian enough" and "Nasser's black poodle“
- E.g. Nubian soccer player Mahmoud Abdel Razek stopped playing football due to racist slurs by rival Egyptian fans during a game
- Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR): black African immigrants face physical violence and verbal abuse, esp. refugees from Sudan
 - attributes violence and abuse to both a lack of government efforts at disseminating information, raising awareness and stereotyping on the part of the Egyptian media

Genom testing and ancestry

- Egypt = ideal region to study historical population dynamics due to geographic location + documented interactions in Africa, Asia and Europe
- 1st mill. BC = time of foreign domination → growing numbers of foreigners living within → contributing genetically to the local population
- Research on 90 mitochondrial genomes + genome-wide data sets from 3 individual Egyptian mummies – span around 1,300 years (NK to Roman Period): Egyptians shared more ancestry with Near Easterners than present-day Egyptians (received additional sub-Saharan admixture in recent times)
- = proof that Egyptian mummies are genetic source to study ancient human history

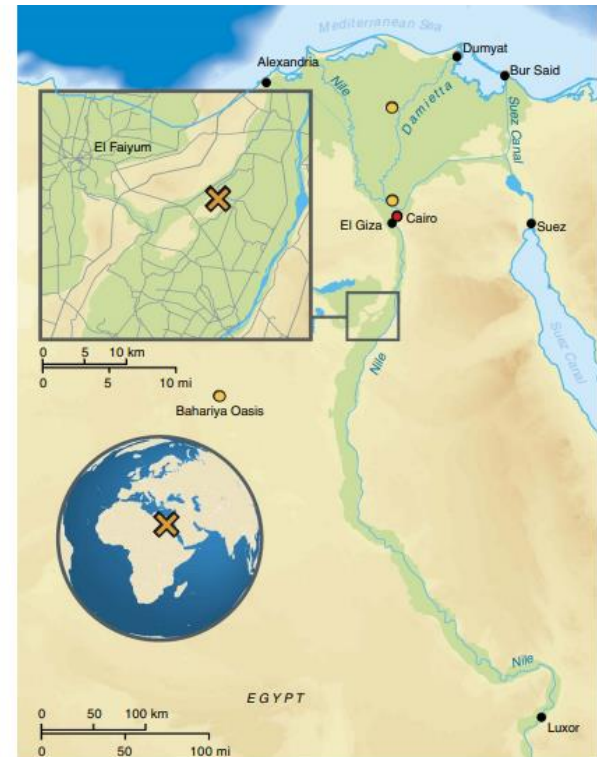


Figure 1 | Geographic context, of the samples used in this study. Map of Egypt depicting the location of the archaeological site Abusir-el Meleq (orange X) and the location of the modern Egyptian samples (orange circles) (design of the graphic by Annette Günzel).

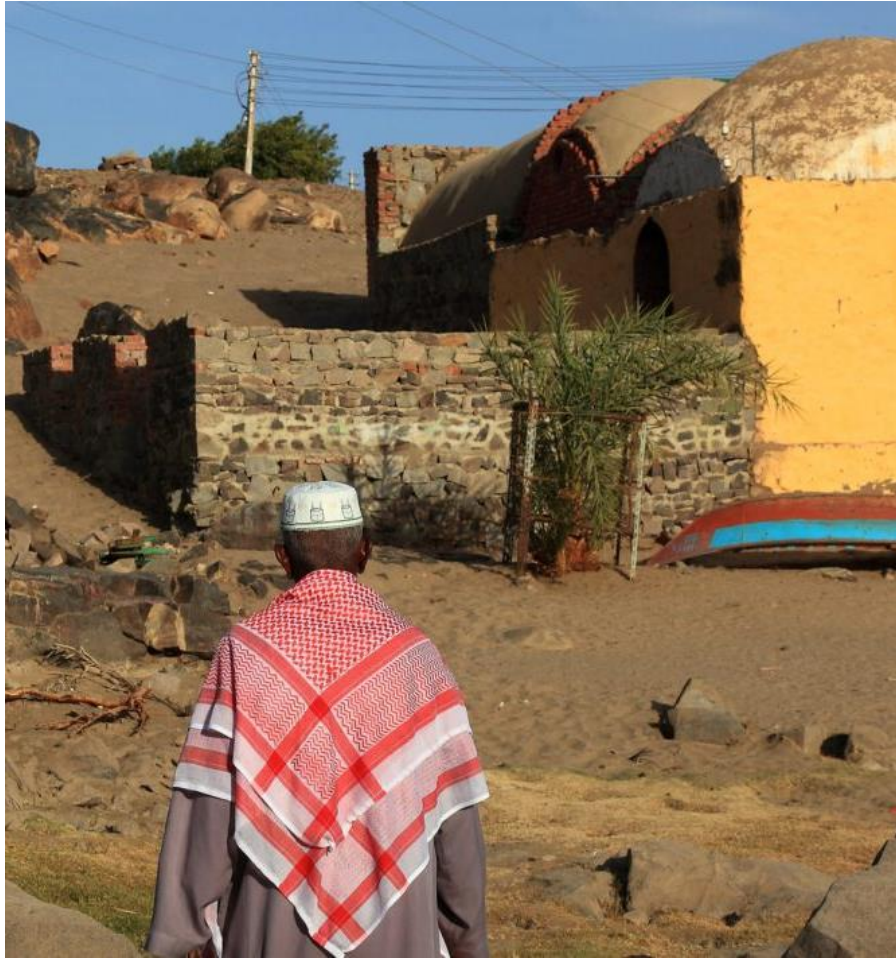
Anti-Racism – The Nubian Movement in Egypt compared with international Black Lives Matters movement?

- ❑ Nubian history: 1898 Nubia divided into Egyptian Nubia and Sudanese Nubia at 22 degrees north latitude (agreement between British + Egyptians)
- ❑ influence British colonialists evident until the Mahdist revolution, but continued with construction of reservoirs in Egyptian Nubia in 1902 (older Aswan Dam) for water for cotton cultivation → water rose → Nubians displaced to the highest point of the Nile
- ❑ No help from Egyptian government
- ❑ construction of the High Dam and creation of Lake Nasser, which flooded many Nubian villages on the banks of the Nile → displacement of Nubians (October 1963 – June 1964) organized by Egyptian government, moved villages to Kom Ombo desert: most houses unfinished, and many elderly and children died (displacement and lack of medical care)
- ❑ migration = difficult AND hope
- ❑ But became main drivers of Nubian movement

The Nubian Movement

- Arab Spring as opportunity to express Nubian mind
- Muslim Brotherhood: saw Nubian kings (25th dyn) as invaders → Provoked change: preserve the cultural / linguistic heritage of Nubia
- Nubian political activism is characterized by several qualities
 - Nubian movement organized between Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, and the villages of displacement (several tribes) → collective movement = shared common goal
 - organizational structures (committees, Nubian Lawyers Association, village associations in cities of migration)
 - BUT –action = seasonal: without clear plan or strategy → only reactions to the regime, without any anticipation of the government's actions
 - weak relationship between political parties, civil society organizations, human rights organizations = obstacle because Nubians only coordinate in times of crisis (links missing)
 - worst aspect of Nubian activism is the distance of youth and women from decision-making circles

Protests and governmental response



- ❑ 2017: 24 Nubian activists detained after protest calling for respect of their cultural rights
- ❑ Protesters gathered and marched 500 meters in al-Guzzayra square in downtown Aswan
- ❑ security forces were beating male and female participants