

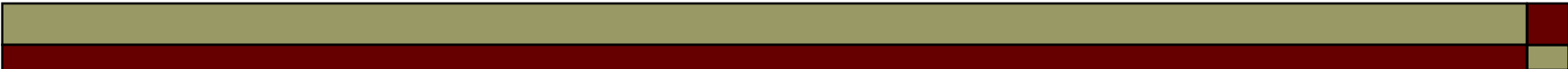
Week 2 Wednesday
E6

Egypt and her neighbours during the Late Period

HPHP4013

From Egypt to the Near East: Phenomena
of the Mediterranean

Dr. Katharina Zinn

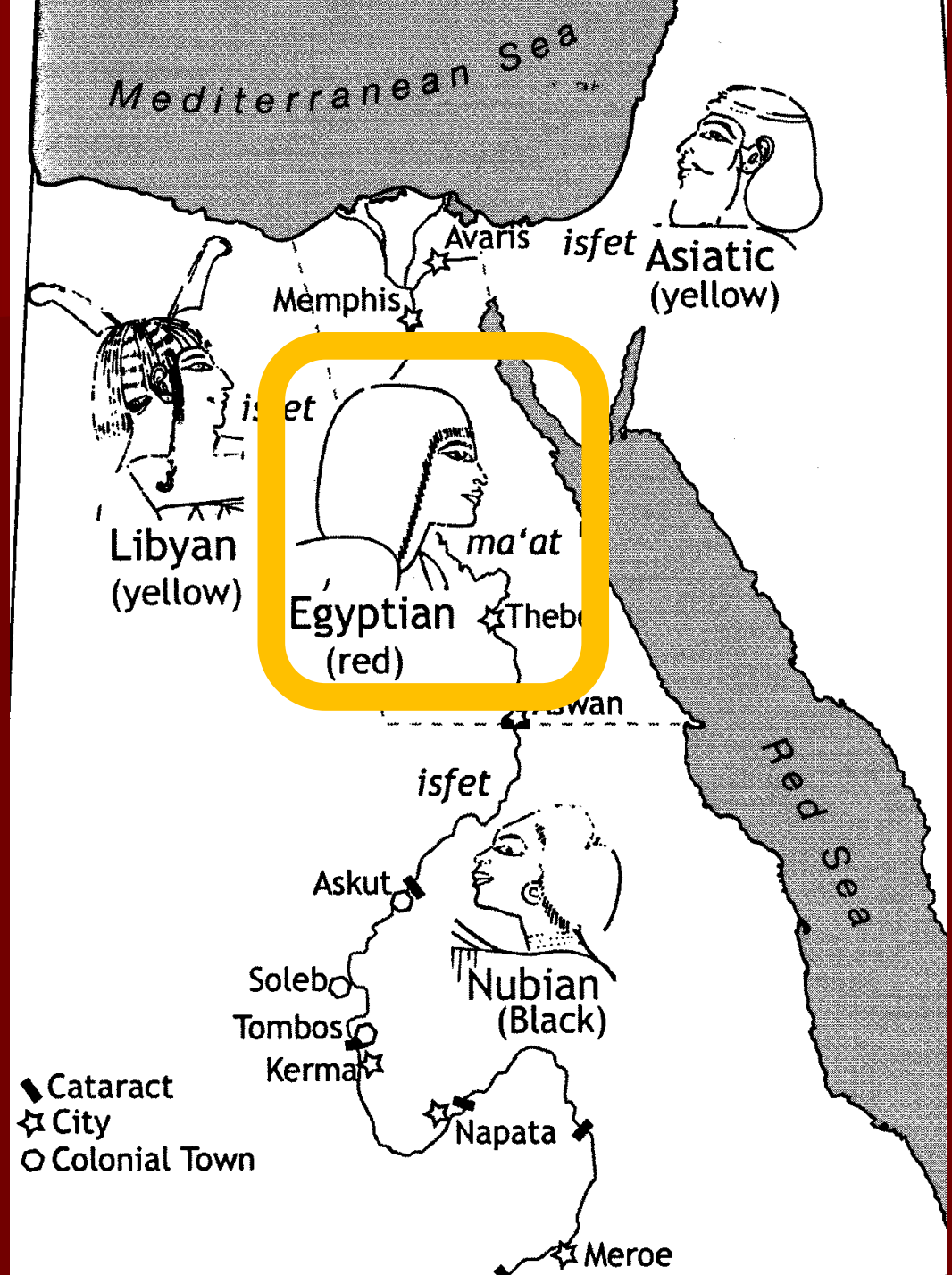


Additional Reading TIP

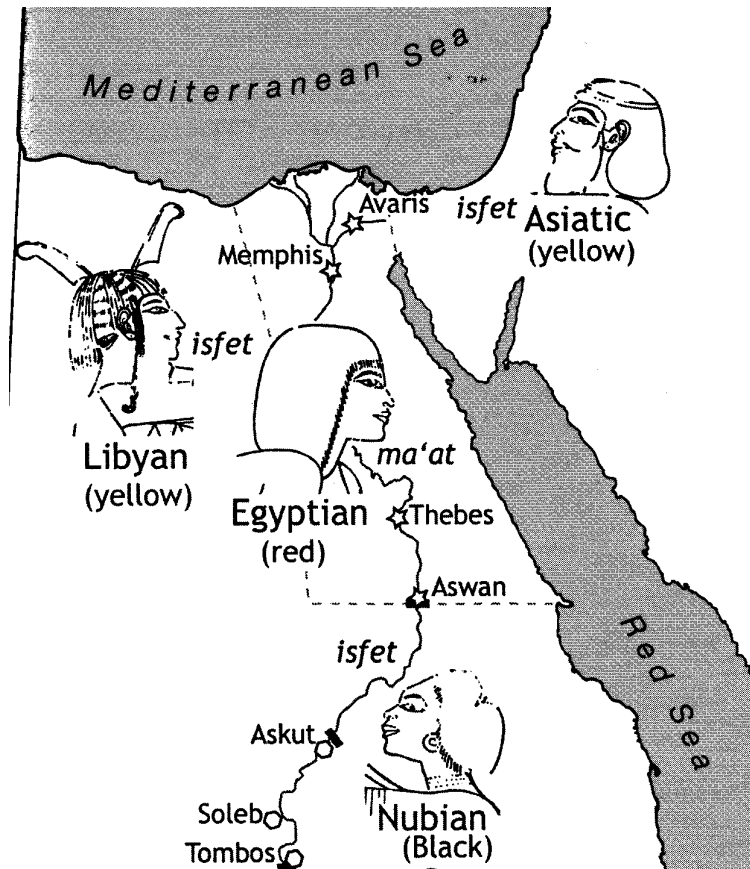
- ❑ Kitchen, K.A. (1986). *The Third Intermediate Period in Egypt, 1100-650 B.C.* London: Aris & Philips.
- ❑ Shaw 324-387 (12+13)
- ❑ Mieroop 260-315 (11+12)
- ❑ Gozzoli, R. (2006). *The Writing of History in Ancient Egypt during the First Millennium BC (ca.1070-180 BC): Trends and Perspectives.* London: Golden House Publ.

Ethnicity and monumental discourse

THE Egyptian
part of Ma'at –
the right order



Ethnicity as negotiated in relation to different principles of social identification



Monumental discourse

Group identification (within ethnic group) $\Leftrightarrow$ social categorisation (group classified from the outside)

- Egyptian $\Leftrightarrow$ Non-Egyptian

Ethnicity $\Leftrightarrow$ race

- Different races classified within the ethnicity of Non-Egyptian
- Nod to reality

The Nubian as the Egyptian: Taharqo



Taharqo (25th dynasty, 690-664BC)

**Restoring temples: kiosk
in Karnak**

**Royal power: T. as
sphinx (Louvre)**



Third Intermediate Period, Late period and Ptolemaic Period

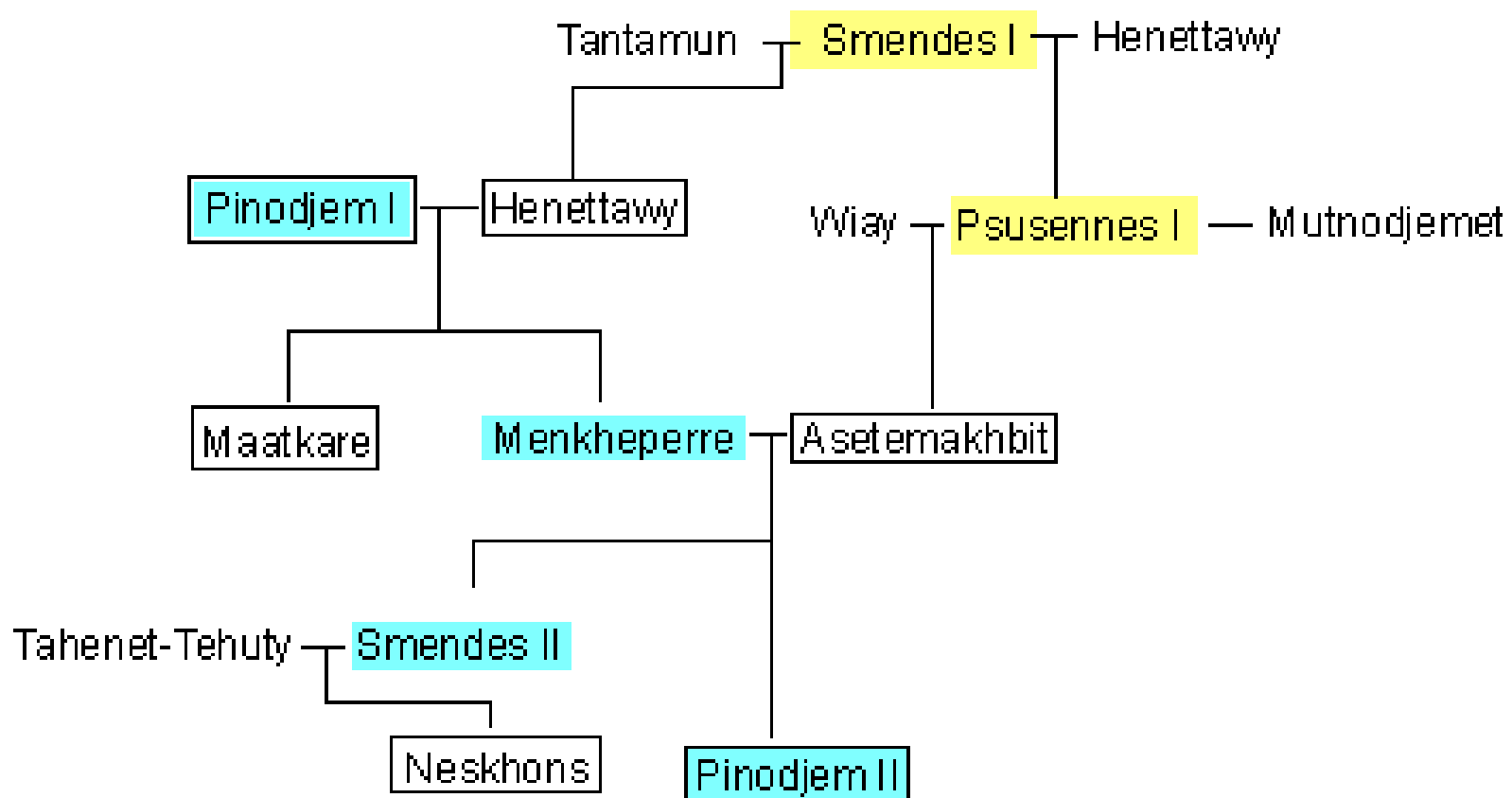
- ❑ Challenges for “being Egyptian” – political, military, economic problems and discontinuity
- ❑ BUT – when periods discussed as cultural phenomena it is paradigmatic, especially in visual arts → focus on tradition by being inventive and innovative

History

- ❑ At the death of Ramesses XI, throne passed to Smendes (northern relative of High Priest of Amun) – reign ca. 1070–1044 B.C.
- ❑ Followed by 350 years of politically divided rule and diffused power
- ❑ three general stages:
 1. Dyn. 21 (ca. 1070–945 B.C.): ruled from Tanis (eastern Delta) by pharaohs **and** from Thebes by High Priests of Amun (good general relations between both centers of power)

Family tree of “High Priest” of Amun in early 21th dyn.

Yellow: ruling king in Tanis; blue: High Priest of Amun (Karnak / Thebes)



History (cont.)

2. began in 945 B.C.: throne passed to powerful Libyan family (ruling in eastern Delta) = Dyn. 22 (ca. 945–712 B.C.) → BUT: pharaohs ruled as native Egyptians despite Libyan origin
 - First: Sheshonq I (ca. 945–924 B.C.) = most important (in Bible as Shishak = Egyptian ruler who sacked Jerusalem in Year 5 of the reign of Solomon's son)
3. Dyn. 23: Takelot II (ca. 850–825 B.C.), new power center in eastern Delta. **The two dynasties governed Egypt simultaneously for approximately ninety years, the final stage of the Third Intermediate Period.**

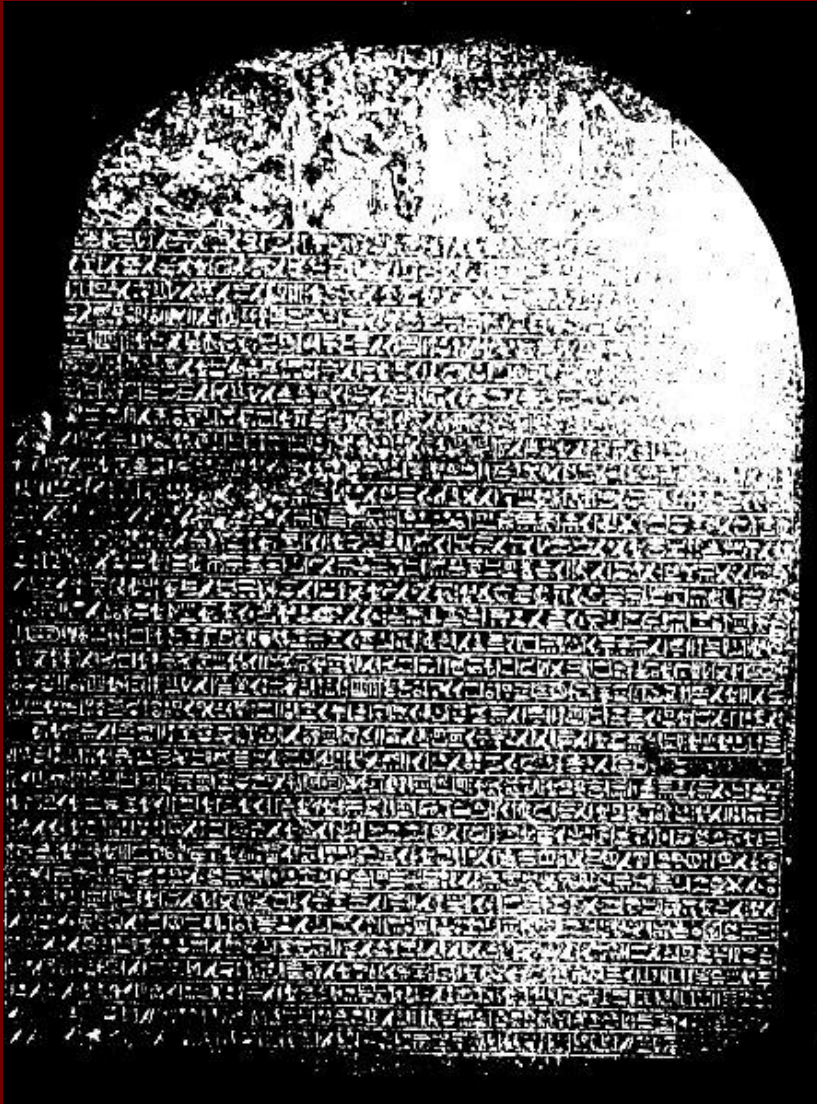
History (cont.)

- End of 8th cent. B.C.: further fragmentation
 - North: small local rulers
 - Eastern Delta, Osorkon IV (ca. 730–712 B.C.) of Dyn. 22 and Iuput II (ca. 754–712 B.C.) of Dyn. 23
 - Western Delta and Memphis: Tefnakht (ca. 724—717 B.C., Dyn. 24) ruling from Sais
 - Hermopolis: local king Namlot (ca. 740 B.C.)
 - Heracleopolis: local ruler Peftjaubast (ca. 740–725 B.C.)
- internal rivalries → Egypt lost control of Nubia
 - 760 B.C.: independent native dynasty ruled Nubia/Kush, from Napata, extended its influence into southern Egypt

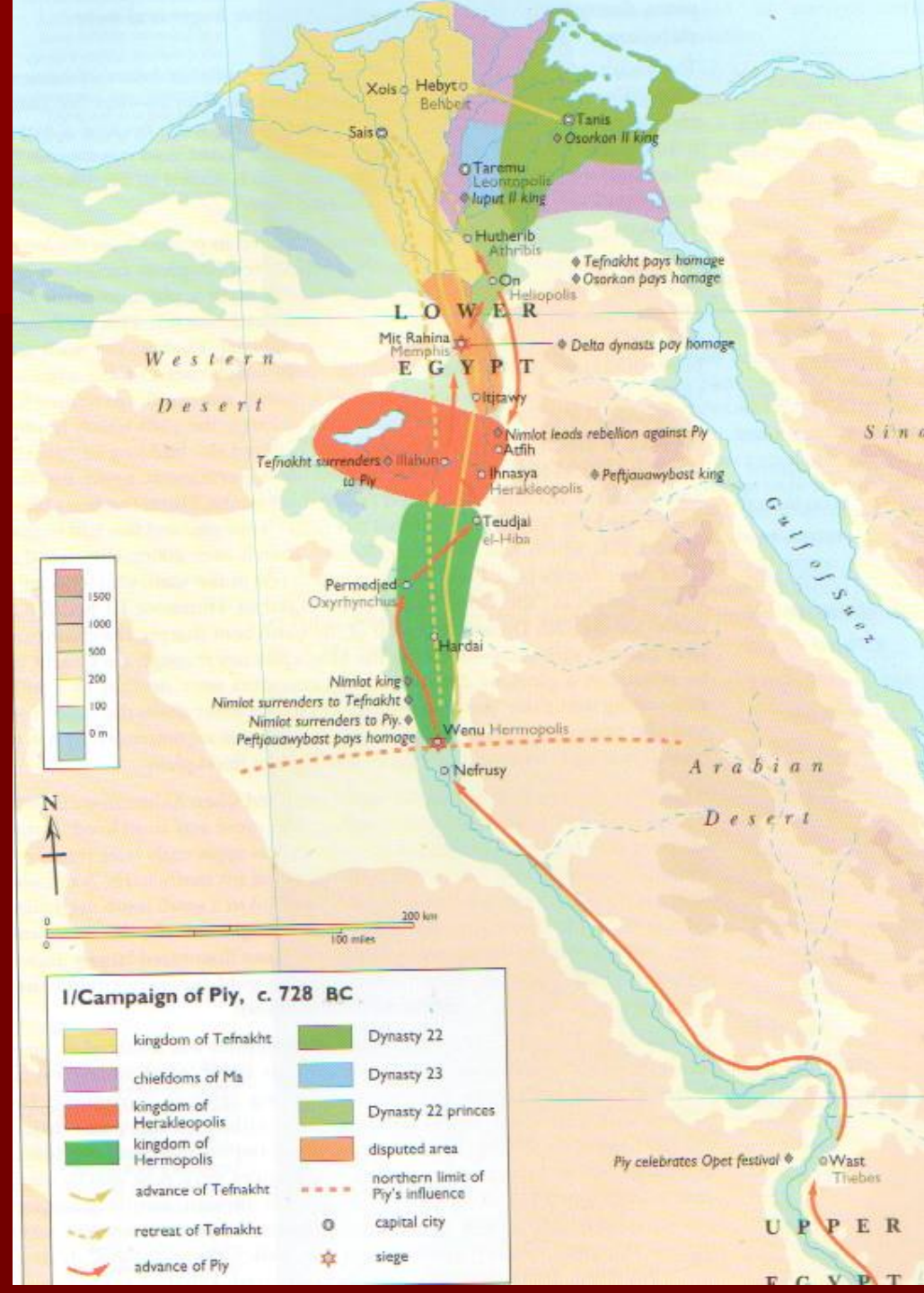
History (cont.)

- 729 B.C.: Namlot and Tefnakht joined forces, extended control further into Upper Egypt
- Nubian king **Piankhy (Piye)** saw this as threat to his independence, moved against the Egyptian coalition, besieged Egypt, took Thebes as northern capital
 - **Victory Stela**
- invasion proved successful: Egyptian rulers (Namlot and Tefnakht) accepted his leadership (Memphis in 728 B.C) = BEGINN of seventy-five years of Nubian rule in Egypt (25th dyn. = **Kushite Period**, goes over in Late Period)

Victory Stela of Piye



Campaigns of Piye

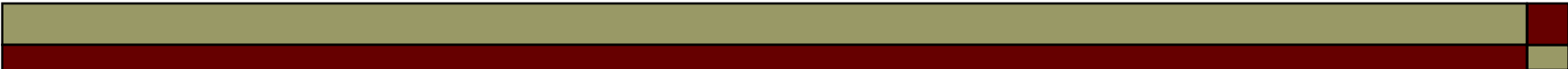


Victory Stela of Piye

- *Then all the nomes which were in the district of Memphis, heard (of it): Herypedemy, Penineywe, the Tower of Beyew, the Oasis of Bit; they opened the strongholds, and fled away; none knew the place whither they had gone.*
- Surrender of Memphis, Piye = described as triumphant (Egyptian) king, the Egyptians (Namlot, Tephnakht) as besieged enemies
- **But all in Egyptian phrases!**

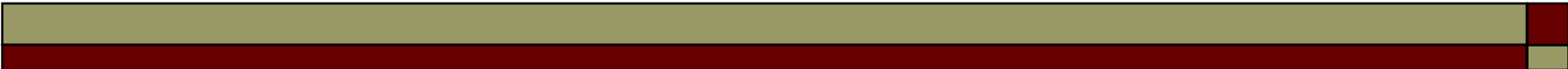
Victory Stela of Piye

- *His majesty proceeded to the house of [Ptah], his purification was performed in the Dewat-chamber, and every custom that is practised upon a king was fulfilled upon him.*
- = offerings to Egyptian gods, following Egyptian manners
- → Piye presents himself as **Egyptian pharaoh**, but returns to Napata



Art / Architecture

- ❑ TIP laid foundation for many changes observable in art and culture throughout the first millennium
- ❑ weakening of centralized royal power: temple = foremost sphere for political ambition, social identification, and artistic production.



Art

- **Most important:** creation of stylistically and technologically innovative bronze and precious temple statuary of gods, kings, and important temple officials

Statuette of Amun

Dynasty 22 (ca. 945–715 b.c.)

Gold

H. 6 7/8 in. (17.5 cm)



Art

- **Most important:** creation of stylistically and technologically innovative bronze and precious temple statuary of gods, kings, and important temple officials
- New emphasis was placed on the king as the child/son of a divine pair.
 - expressed on a series of delicate relief-decorated vessels /other small objects chiefly in faience, but also of precious metal.

BM EA 14556



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- ❑ Nonroyal coffins and papyri: elaborate scenes and texts (ensure rebirth of deceased)

Coffins

- UCL 8899
- TIP: art of coffin decoration at its height
- Decoration especially important, because no images enriched the simple underground chambers (even for high-status people, often whole families together)



MMA 25.3.182–184
Coffin set of Henettawy
Dynasty 21 (Psusennes I,
ca. 1040–992 b.c.)
Deir el-Bahri
Gessoed and painted wood

"mistress of the house and
chantress of Amun-Re,"

Died in her twenties

Decoration reflects royal coffins of
an earlier age



Papyri – BM EA 10002/3

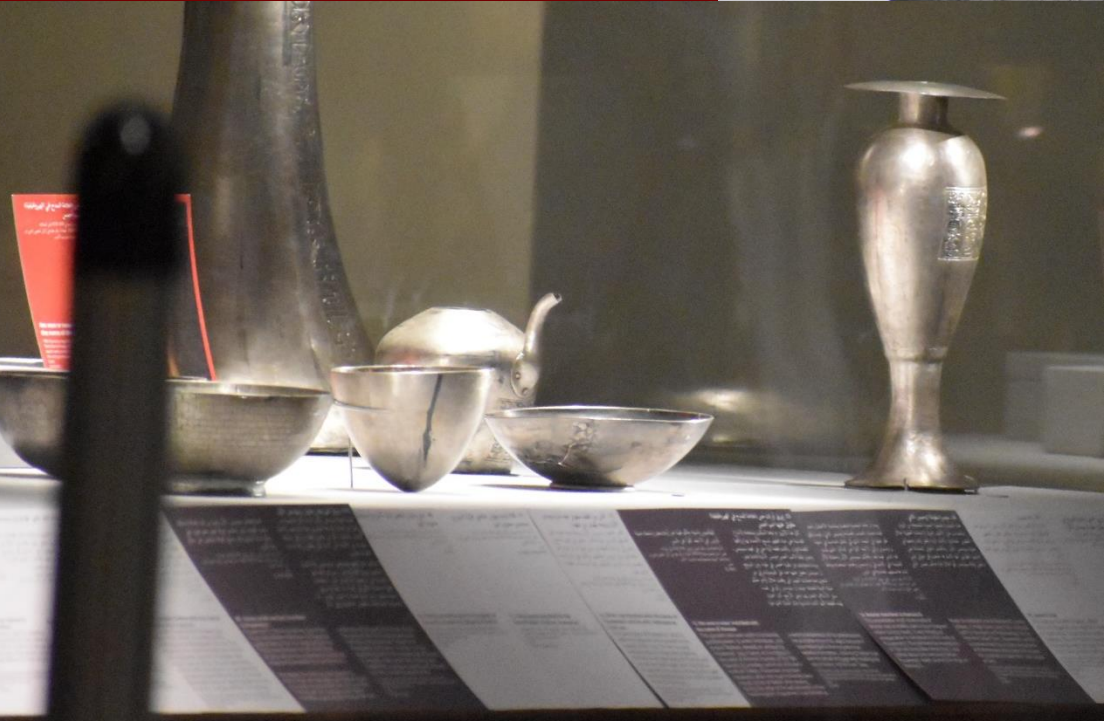


Architecture

- little building projects
- Temple precincts (offered sanctity and safety in turbulent times) = favored for burial sites for royal and nonroyal persons
 - Gold and silver royal burial equipment from Tanis – highest quality of craftsmanship

Silver/Gold from Tanis: funerary cups from the tomb of king Psusennes I





TIP elite tombs at Thot-temple el-Ashmunein

Right: floor with the Canopic box (wall with door-jamb belongs to adjoining structure)

Plan of remains of floor and wall of possible tomb-chapel (in yellow), with the Canopic box as found.



**Late Period (late 25th –
31st dyn.) –**

Rule of Foreigners:

Saite Dynasty

First Persian Occupation

Period of Independence

Second Persian Occupation

Additional Reading Late Period

- Kahl, J. (2010). Archaism. In: Willeke Wendrich (ed.), *UCLA Encyclopedia of Egyptology*, Los Angeles. <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/3tn7q1pf> Online [Accessed 22/11/2012].
- Manuelian, P. Der (1994) *Living in the Past. Studies in Archaism of the Egyptian Twenty-sixth Dynasty*. London: Kegan Paul.

Egypt's neighbours – the Neo-Assyrian Empire

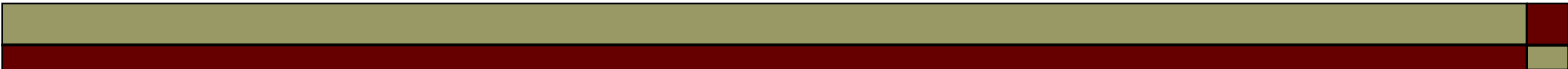


- Rise of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (874–671 B.C.)
- Invasion of Egypt (c. 673–633 B.C.)

Egypt's neighbours – the Neo-Babylonian Empire

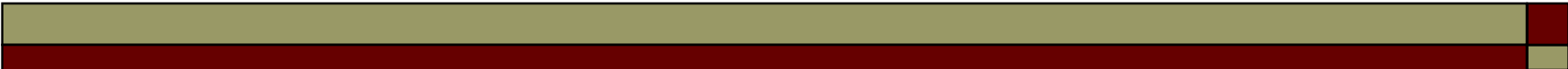


- 626–539 B.C. (firmly established through the fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire in 612 B.C.)
- Egypt sent military aid to the Neo-Assyrians and fought against the Babylonians



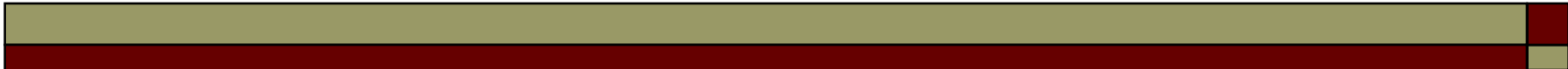
History - Late 25th dyn. (664-656B.C.)

- ❑ Assyrian threats towards Memphis and Thebes, against the Kushite kings
- ❑ Plundering of Thebes is recorded in Old Testament



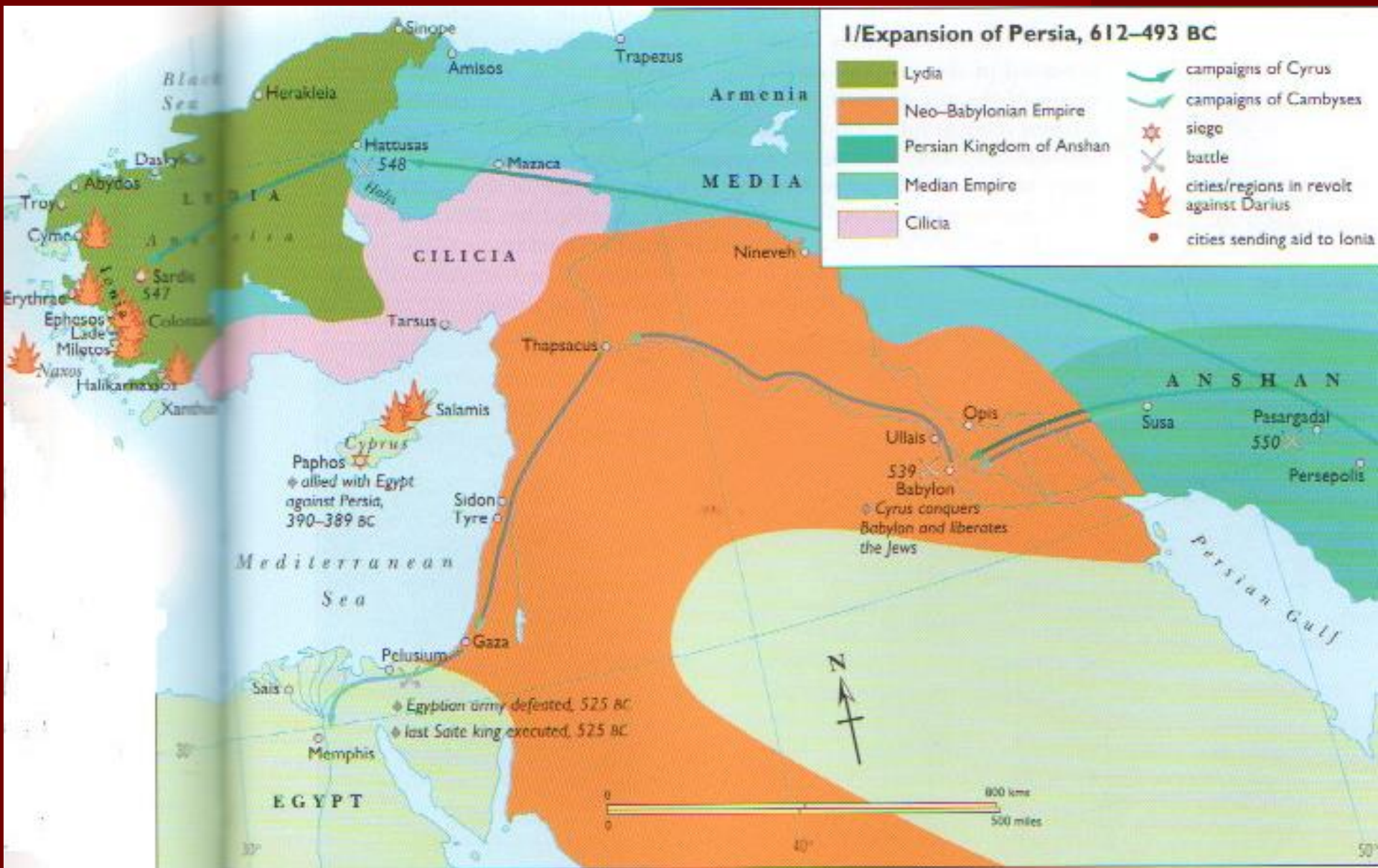
History - 26th dyn. (664-525B.C.)

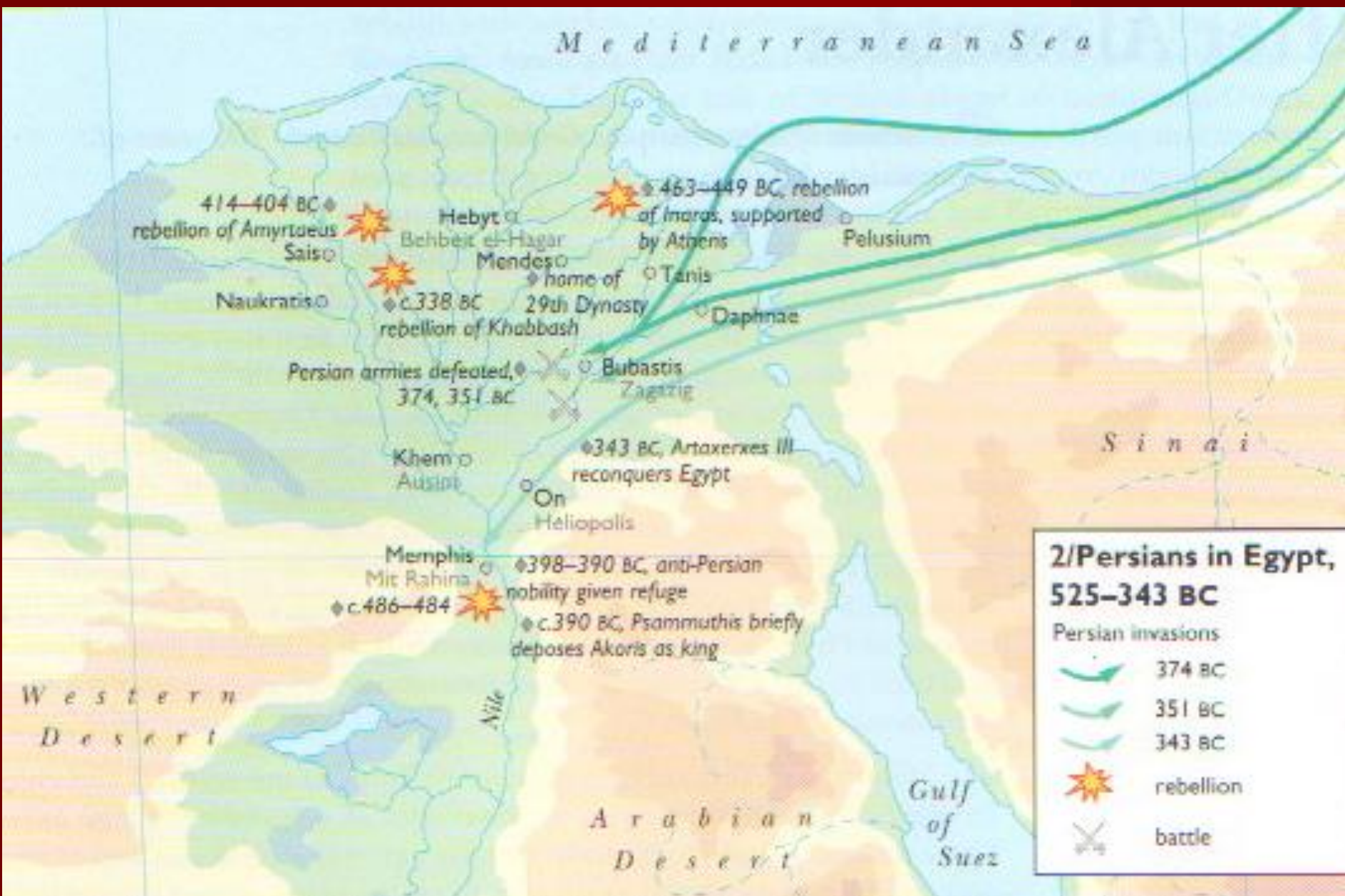
- ❑ strong line of kings, ruled over whole Egypt
- ❑ new stability → positive effect on prosperity of the country
- ❑ great amount of high quality large scale royal and private monuments (mainly Lower Egypt, now most disappeared), private tombs with finest sculptures and reliefs
- ❑ capital : **Sais** (Delta): city +cemeteries entirely quarried away (medieval period).
- ❑ major cities include Memphis and Heliopolis, Thebes lost its influential position (but some important monuments there)



History – First Persian Invasion (27th dyn., 525-404 B.C.)

- ❑ Cambyses conquers Egypt, but not Eg. Oases or Nubia





History – First Persian Invasion (27th dyn., 525-404 B.C.)

- ❑ Cambyses conquers Egypt, but not Eg. Oases or Nubia, successfully overthrew the native Egyptian pharaoh, Psamtek III, took throne name Mesut-i-re "Offspring of Re".
 - Biased memory: in Eg. Sources named as destroyer of Egypt and mad tyrannical despot (Herodotus; Jewish 'The Demotic Chronicle': destroying all the temples of the Egyptian gods)
 - But in reality rule not so traumatic: Saite dynasty collapsed, Cambyses simply took charge of the country



Cambyse offering the Apis



History – First Persian Invasion (27th dyn., 525-404 B.C.)

- Egyptians particularly isolated at this time: Greek allies defect
- many of Egypt's minorities (Jewish community at Elephantine) + certain elements within the Egyptian aristocracy welcomed Cambyses

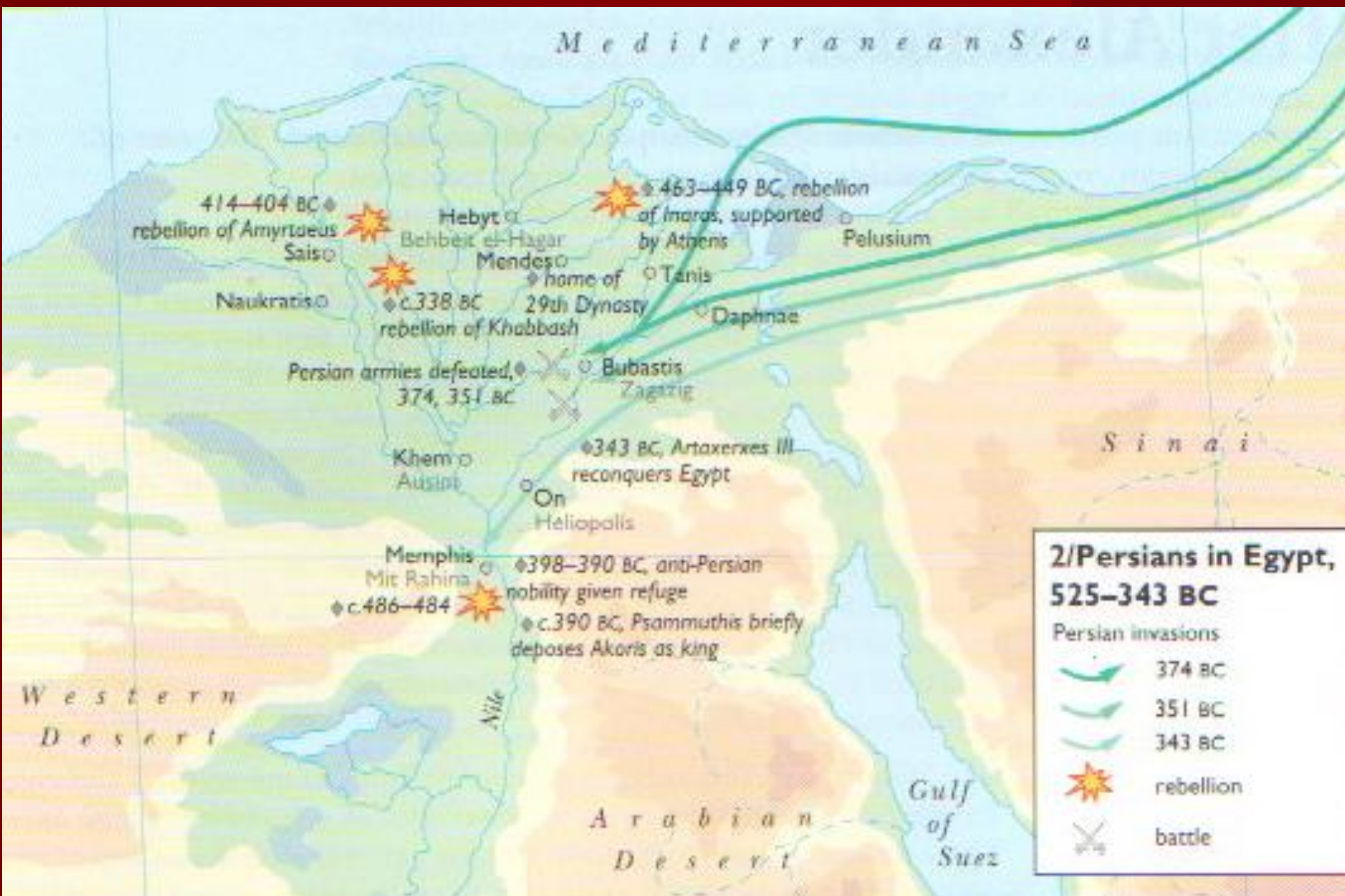
- Darius I collects Eg. Law, develops temples, acts as Egyptian pharaoh
- resistance in Egypt: Persian control challenged by series of local Egyptian kings, primarily in the Delta

History – Egyptian Independence (Dyn. 28 – 30, 404-343 BC)

- ❑ 404 B.C.: coalition of local Eg. Rulers overthrew Persians; 404 to 399 B.C.: EG. ruled by Amyrtaios II of Sais (only pharaoh 28th dyn.)
- ❑ 399–380 B.C.: 29th dyn. in Mendes (Eastern Delta)
- ❑ Dyn. 30: mid-Delta city of Sebennytos; first king Nectanebo I (380–362 B.C.) to repelled Persian attack, remaining years = peaceful, ambitious program of temple construction, continued by Nectanebo II (360–343 B.C.), hold off another Persian attack in 351 B.C.

History – Second Persian Invasion (31st dyn., 343-332 B.C.)

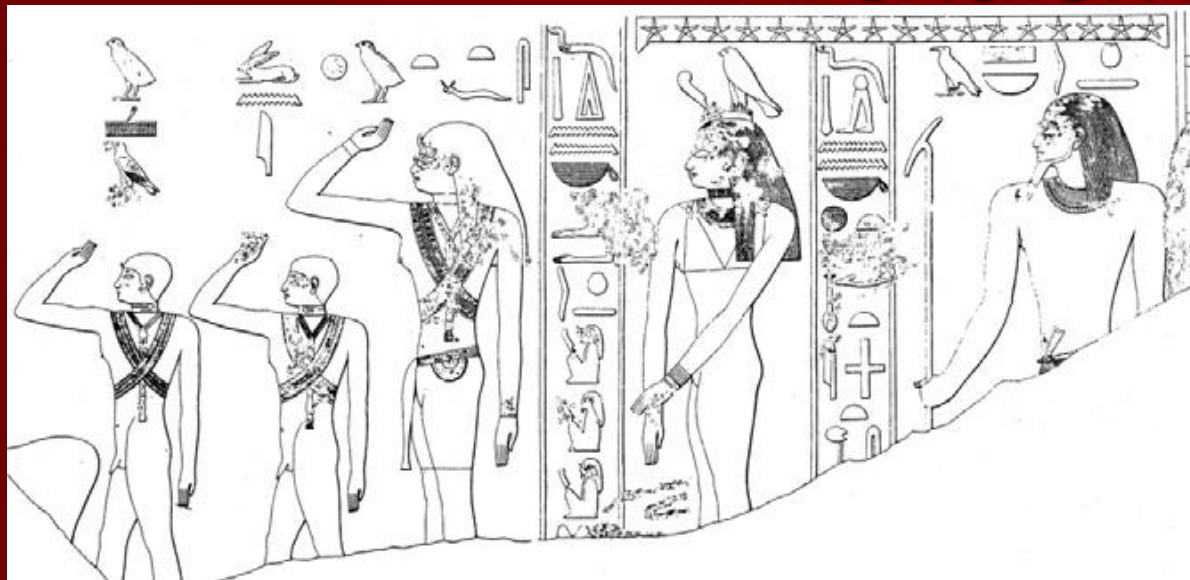
- 343 B.C.: third Persian attack succeeded, Egypt fell once again to the Persians, who were defeated in turn by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.
- Eg. lost control of own country



God's Wife of Amun

- ❑ office of the 'God's wife of Amun': already important in NK and late 22nd dyn, especially influential in 25th and 26th dyn.
- ❑ Kings placed their daughters in position, succession of one 'God's wife' to the next was made by adoption
- ❑ appears with greater prominence on monuments than the king himself, occupying positions in formal art normally reserved for the king.

Archaism



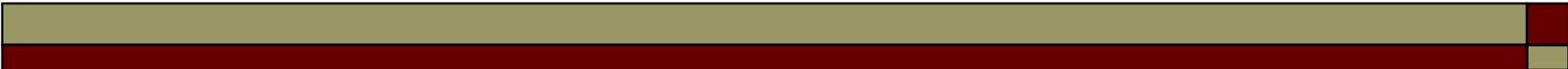
Libyan family
in Temple of
Sahure, 5th
dyn.



Taharqo, as
sphinx, tramples a
Libyan while
family looks on.
Kawa, Temple T.

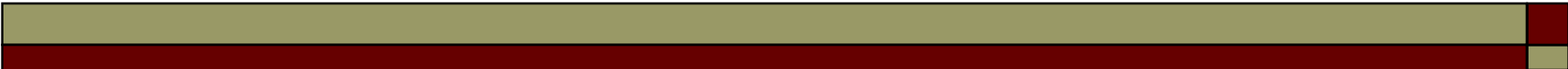
Archaism

- People entered ancient monuments, (Step Pyramid of Djoser), copied ancient reliefs
 - Still today there are reliefs about which Egyptologists cannot agree whether they belong to the 12th or the 26th dynasty;
- written documents contain ancient words, grammatical forms, archaic orthography
- new inscriptions written in the extinct language of the Old Kingdom
- (fictitious?) family trees with which people tried to document their direct descent from ancestors of the 3rd millennium



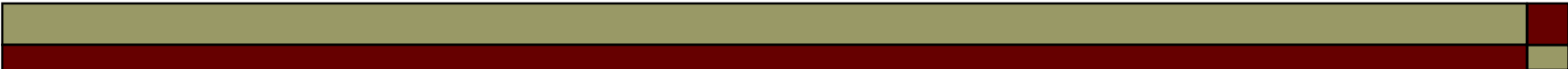
Archaism

- continuation of ancient rites and cult traditions which originated some two millennia before.
- temples of the Late Period are the 'built memory' of a mythical distant past. They re-established primordial principles of architecture, epigraphy, cult and ethics (Assmann).



Why archaism? – different approaches

- ❑ national pride and identity (after TIP, re-gaining of independence and national unity) (H.Junker)
- ❑ a lack of contemporary creativity (Rudolf Anthes)
- ❑ political legitimation: drawing mythical past, selective forgetting of parts of the recent past (Battiscombe Gunn; Anthony Spalinger)
- ❑ nationalistic nostalgia, wish to escape the present (Adolf Erman; Eberhard Otto; J.Vandier)
- ❑ 'chaotic conditions' (dying culture): ancient art was copied eclectically and arbitrarily (W.Wolf)
- ❑ national consolation (John Wilson)



Why archaism? – different approaches

- ❑ search for orientation (collective identity) during a time of change; the mythical distant past now taken literally, rather than symbolically, in funerary rituals (Hellmut Brunner; Diethelm Eigner; Jan Assmann)
- ❑ a need of the social and political elite, especially the priests, to find new ways of displaying and maintaining their status and privileges by drawing on an exclusive knowledge of the past (Sabine Neureiter)
- ❑ aristocracy's cultural consciousness: distinguished Egyptian elite from lower classes and from others outside Egypt (Jan Assmann 1996: 381-2)

**MMA
2008.353:
Head of a
goddess,
probably Mut
Kushite
Period**



MMA 2008.353: attachment to a processional barque



**Block statue of a governor, Late Period, Dynasty
26 (ca. 664–525 b.c.)**

Graywacke 14 in. (30.5 cm), MMA 1982.318

- Avoided any superfluous detail
- shallow edges indicate the hairline and the bottom of the man's dress over his lower legs
- Eyes, eyebrows, ears, and mouth are boldly but sparingly delineated
- prominent features of the piece: the smoothly shaped, agile body and long, elegantly disposed limbs

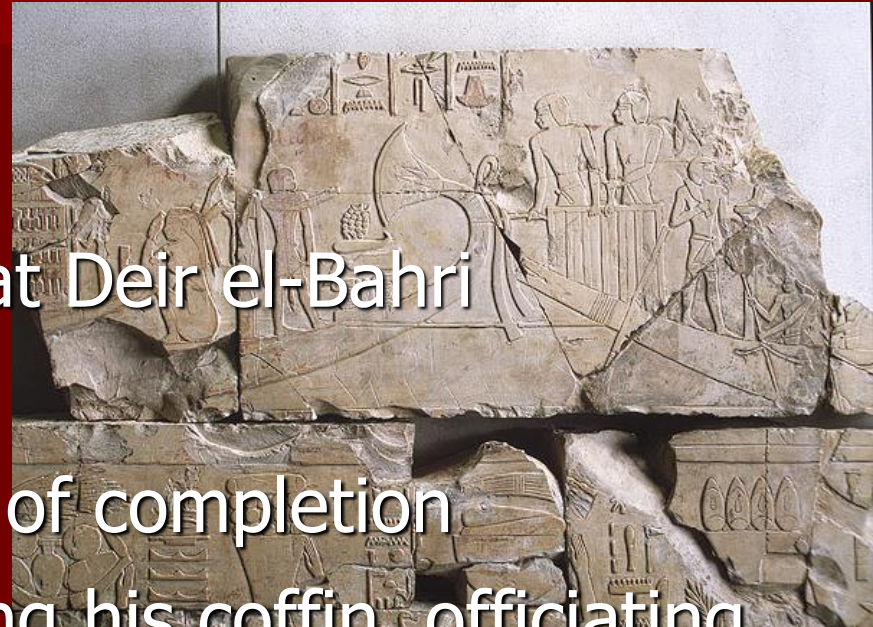


Nes-peka-shuty, Late Period, early Dynasty 26,
Psamtik I, ca. 656–610 b.c.

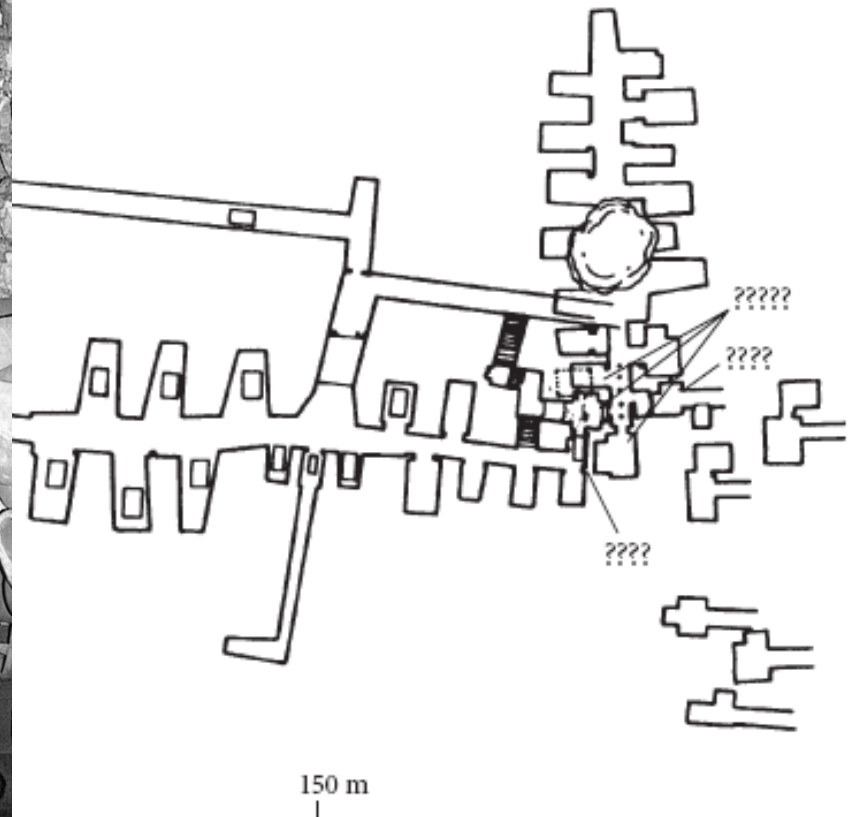


Nes-peka-shuty, Late Period, early Dynasty 26, Psamtik I, ca. 656–610 BC

- MMA 23.3.468
- vizier Nes-peka-shuty
- tomb cut into the north cliff at Deir el-Bahri
- Work never finished
- reliefs show varying degrees of completion
- Episode funeral: barge bearing his coffin, officiating mortuary priest clad in leopard skin → towed across the river to the necropolis on the west bank
- Theban tomb of NK = models for scene, others patterned after scenes of Hatshepsut's temple.



Serapeum at Saqqara



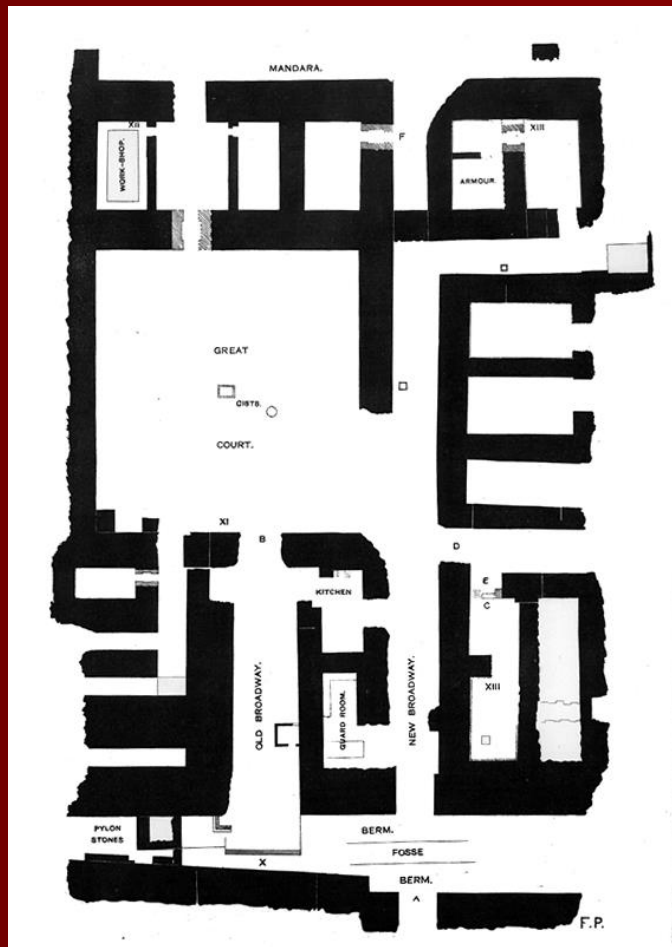
Saqqara: The Serapeum and Animal Cults

- ❑ cult of Apis bull at Memphis (may already have existed from Early Dynastic Period, earliest individual bull burials discovered date to 18th dyn.)
- ❑ Subterranean galleries:
 - Lesser Vaults, begun late in the reign of R II
 - Greater Vaults begun in early 26th Dynasty (Psamtek I.)
- ❑ Saite Dynasty: Apis bull cult and other animal cults had enormous resources

Granite
sarcophagus of a
sacred Apis bull,
buried in the
underground
gallery of the
Serapeum
at Saqqara.
Picture taken in
1997



Palaces / temples of the Late Period Period (Palace of Apries in Memphis)



Archaism

- ❑ Texts, architecture, and works of art referring to remote past
- ❑ revival of the past = “archaism,” (substantial gap in time between model and copy, elements referred had inbetween fallen out of use)
- ❑ Archaism = elite phenomenon, found in royal and (elite) non-royal sphere
- ❑ From NK onwards, but most obvious during the Third Intermediate and Late Periods

Montemhet as old man (bust)

JdE 31884

Karnak
granite

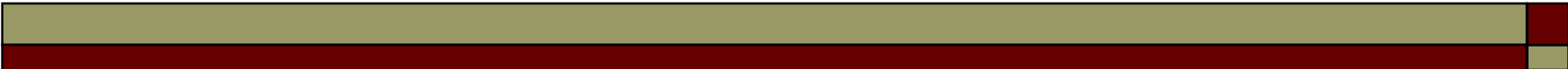


Archaism

- archaistic tendencies + references to the past, especially to the Old Kingdom (seen as part of mythical prehistory)
- comprised the following phenomena:
 - state officials bearing names and titles which derived from the Old Kingdom;
 - copying of grave architecture, sculptures, decorations, and inscriptions from earlier times as inspiration for new graves, temples, etc.
 - a cult of Khaemwese, the legendary first archaeologist of Egypt, among the privileged classes;

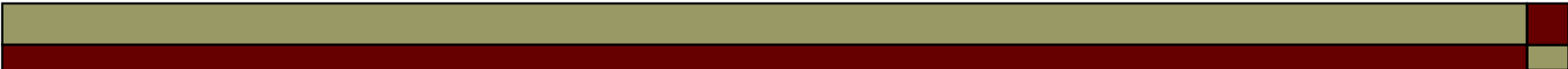
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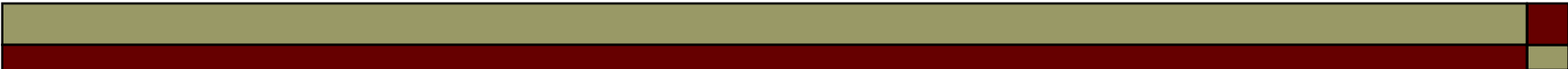
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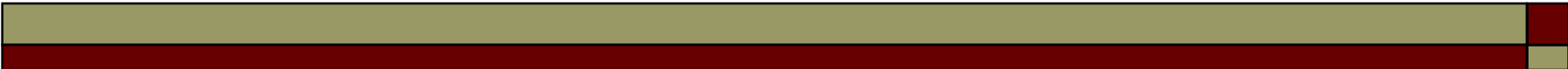
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