

16 The Egyptian Empire in the New Kingdom The Ramesside Period

AHAR5005

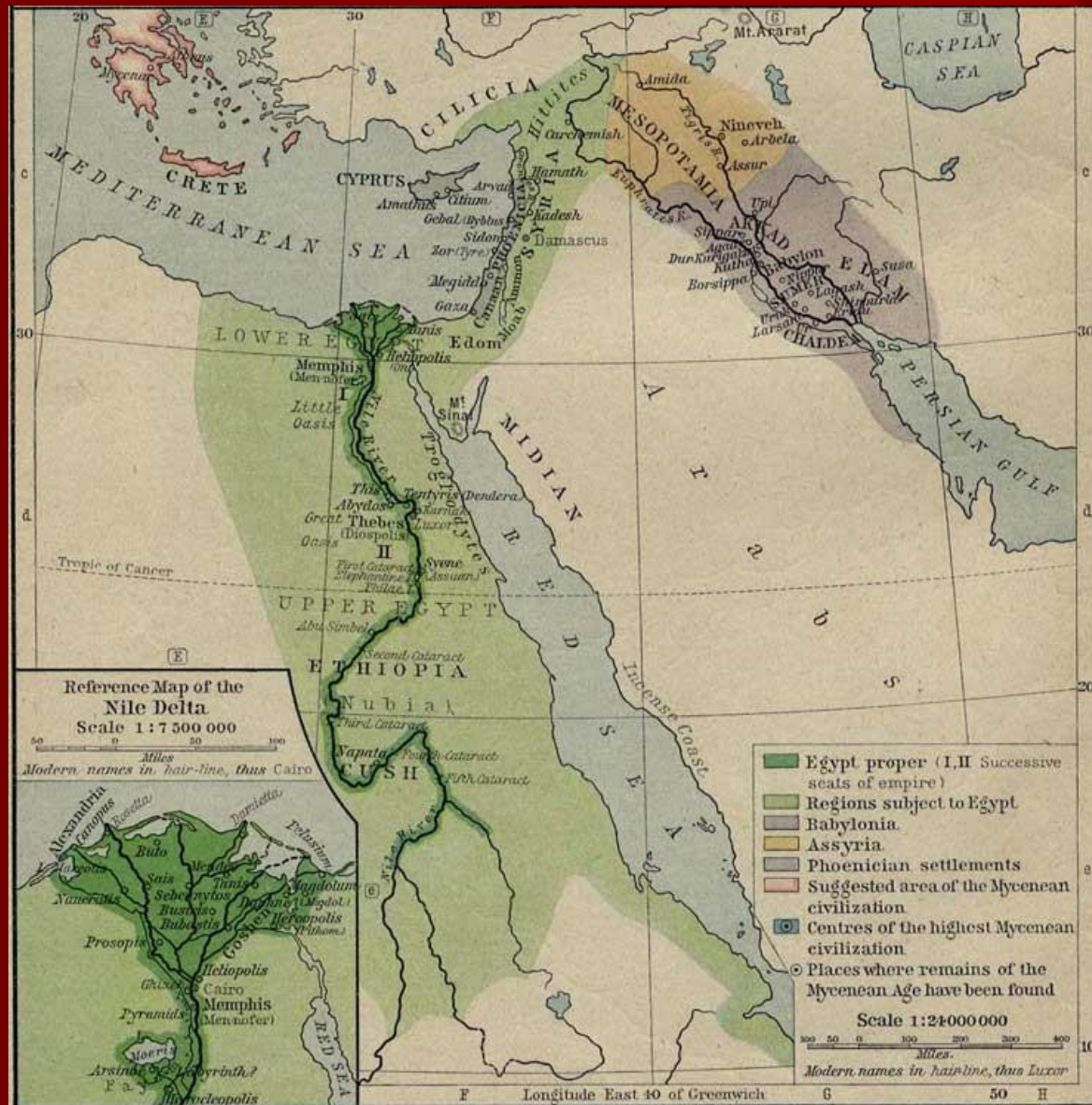
Connected Worlds

Dr. Katharina Zinn

Additional Reading

- ❑ Morris, E.F. (2005). *Architecture of Imperialism: Military Bases and the Evolution of Foreign Policy in Egypt's New Kingdom*. Leiden: Brill.
- ❑ Wilkinson, R. (2000). *The Complete Temples of Ancient Egypt*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- ❑ Higginbotham, C. R. (2000). *Egyptianization and elite emulation in Ramesside Palestine : governance and accommodation on the imperial periphery*. Leiden: Brill.
- ❑ Kitchen, K. A. (1982). *Pharaoh triumphant : the life and times of Ramesses II King of Egypt*. Warminster: Aris.
- ❑ Trigger, B.G. , B.J. Kemp, D. O'Connor, A.B. Lloyd (1983) *Ancient Egypt: A social history*. Cambridge: CUP. 204-242.

Egyptian Expansion during the NK



Ramesside period

- ❑ Ramesside period: called after 11 kings with name Ramesses; ruled in the Nineteenth to the Twentieth Dynasties (politically 19th dyn. started with Horemhab) with close connection to eastern delta7
- ❑ Most famous - Ramesses II (about 1279-1213 BC): faced armies of Hittite empire (Battle of Kadesh) → became a role model for successors
- ❑ Partly in response to the threat of foreign incursions: founded new capital (Nile Delta) Piramesse.



Ramesside period

- ❑ Period characterised by efforts to ward off migrating tribes (Sea Peoples) – joined forces with Libyan tribes by the reign of Ramesses III (about 1184-1153 BC)
- ❑ Egypt lost its hold on the empire
- ❑ After assassination of Ramesses III: internal economy crumbled → administrative corruption and political strife
- ❑ succession of kings named Ramesses failed to live up to the achievements of their famous predecessor.

Horemheb – Ramses I

- ❑ Horemheb likely ruled about 15 years, or perhaps as long as 28
- ❑ Died without a living heir
- ❑ Successor was his First Minister (“vizier”) and commander of the army, Paramesses as Ramesses I, founder of Dynasty 19



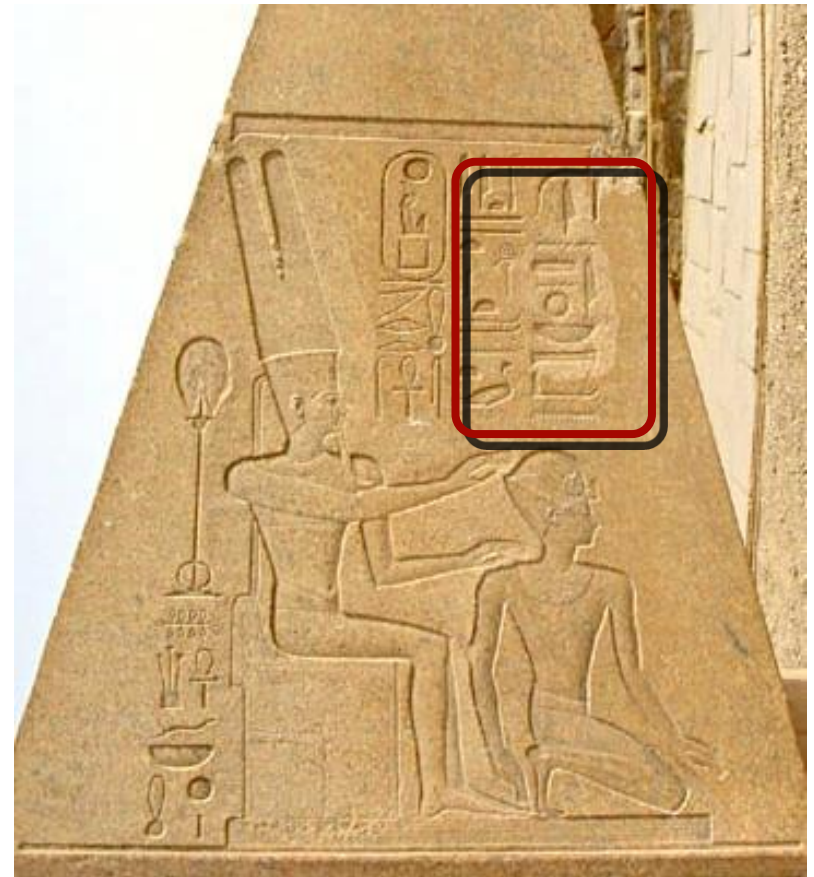
The Aftermath

- During Dynasty 19, Amarna Age was expunged from memory
- Amarna kings (save Horemheb) removed from king-lists and other records



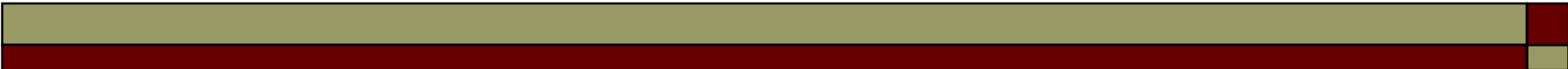
The Aftermath

- ❑ During Dynasty 19, Amarna Age was expunged from memory
- ❑ Amarna kings (save Horemheb) removed from king-lists and other records
- ❑ Amarna temples destroyed for building material
- ❑ Amun restored in art and texts



After Amarna - Back to usual: Saqqara stela of Horemhab, offering Maat, Thot and Re





Back to what? In any case:

Back to and reinvent
monumentality

In art as representation of the assumed
role of Egypt in the world

Colossal granite fist, BM: EA 9

From Memphis, Egypt
19th Dynasty, reign of
Ramesses II, about 1250
BC

Part of a statue, possibly
from the Temple of Ptah
at Memphis

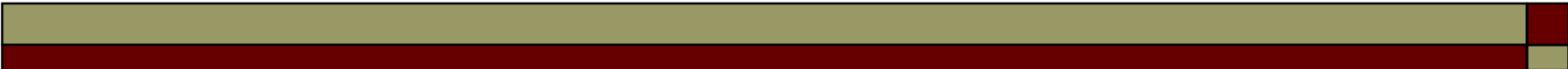
Length:
1.29m
(max.)



Ramses II, Turin

- Seated black granite statue
- Elegant , going back to TIII style, but a little bit “too cold”
- Seems to be static, no inventiveness as in battle reliefs





Architecture and building projects

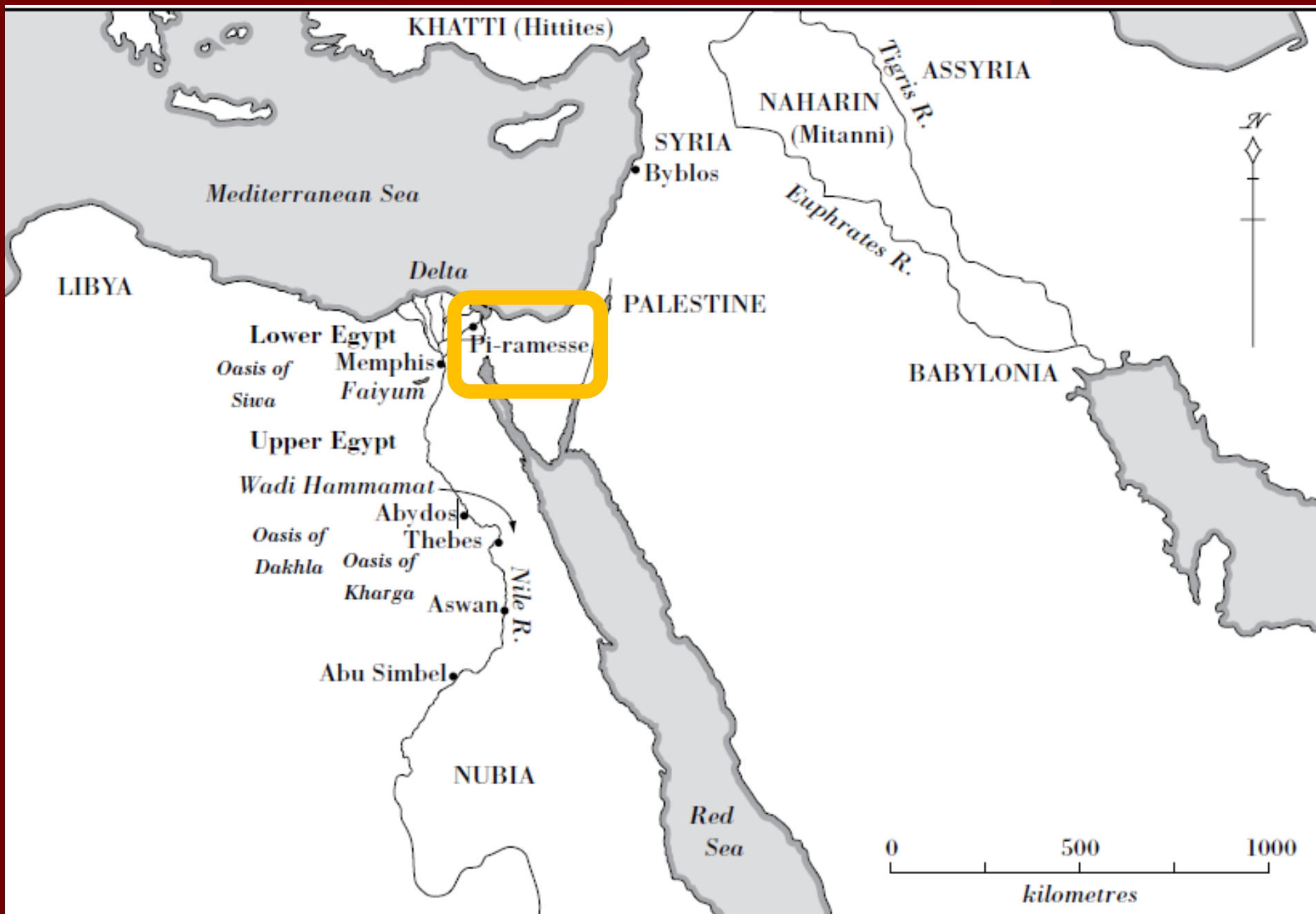
- ❑ Especially by Seti I and R II: large scale building projects (many, monumental – in Nile Valley and Nubia (Tanis, Karnak, Abu Simbel) → tremendous impression, emptiness of conception
 - Reliance on mere size
 - Coarsening in workmanship
 - Vital force goes down
 - Widespread re-use of earlier materials
- ❑ Purpose: Presenting Egypt as a powerful country (propaganda)

**Karnak,
Hypostyle Hall
(exterior),
Kadesh battle,
Seti I
→ architecture
and art as
propaganda**



The new capital: Pi-Ramesse (House of Ramses)

- Ramesses II moved capital from southern Egypt into the Delta, probably both to escape the influence of the powerful priests at Thebes, and to be nearer to the coasts ancient Mediterranean in order to protect Egypt's borders



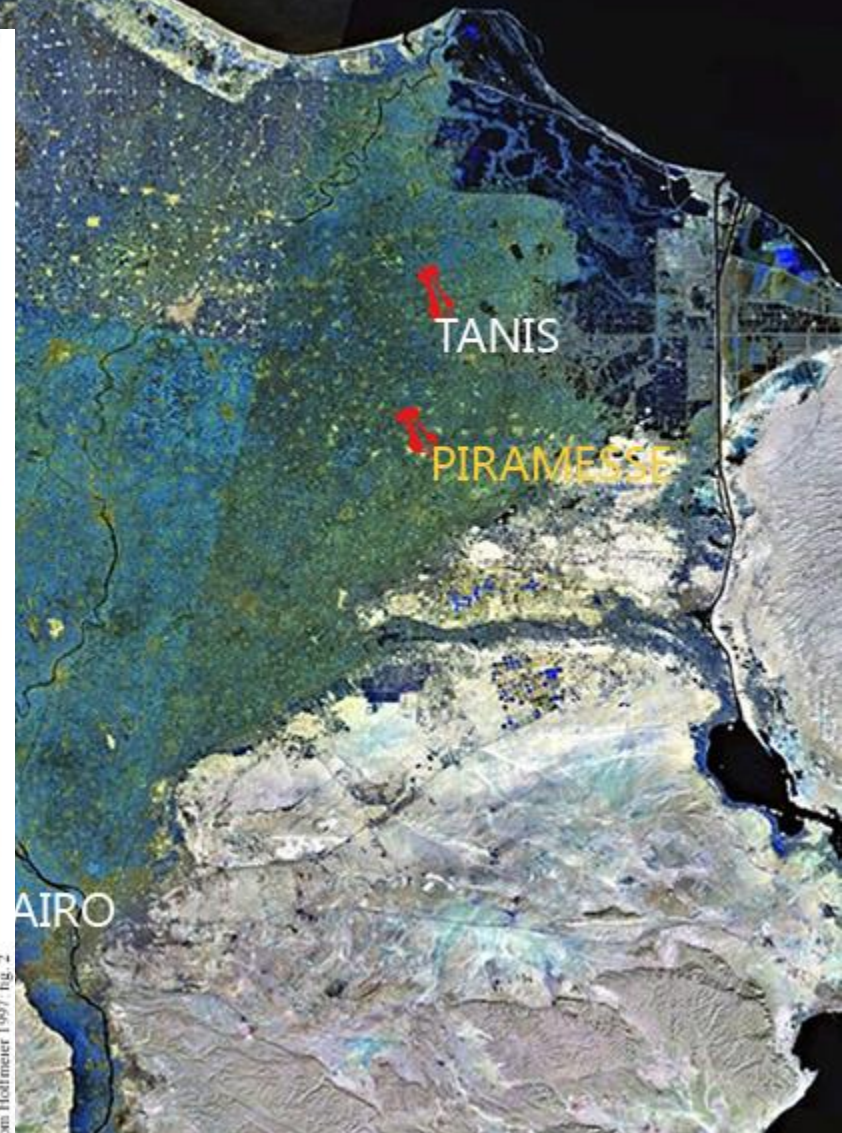
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- ❑ location even well known from documentation, was long in question where to look for → Tell-el Daba, Tanis, now know to be situated near Qantir, where in the 1920s decorated tiles discovered



- Canal Trace — Coastal Highway Proposed Exodus Route
 ■ Irrigated/Cultivated Area ■ Lakes ■ Desert

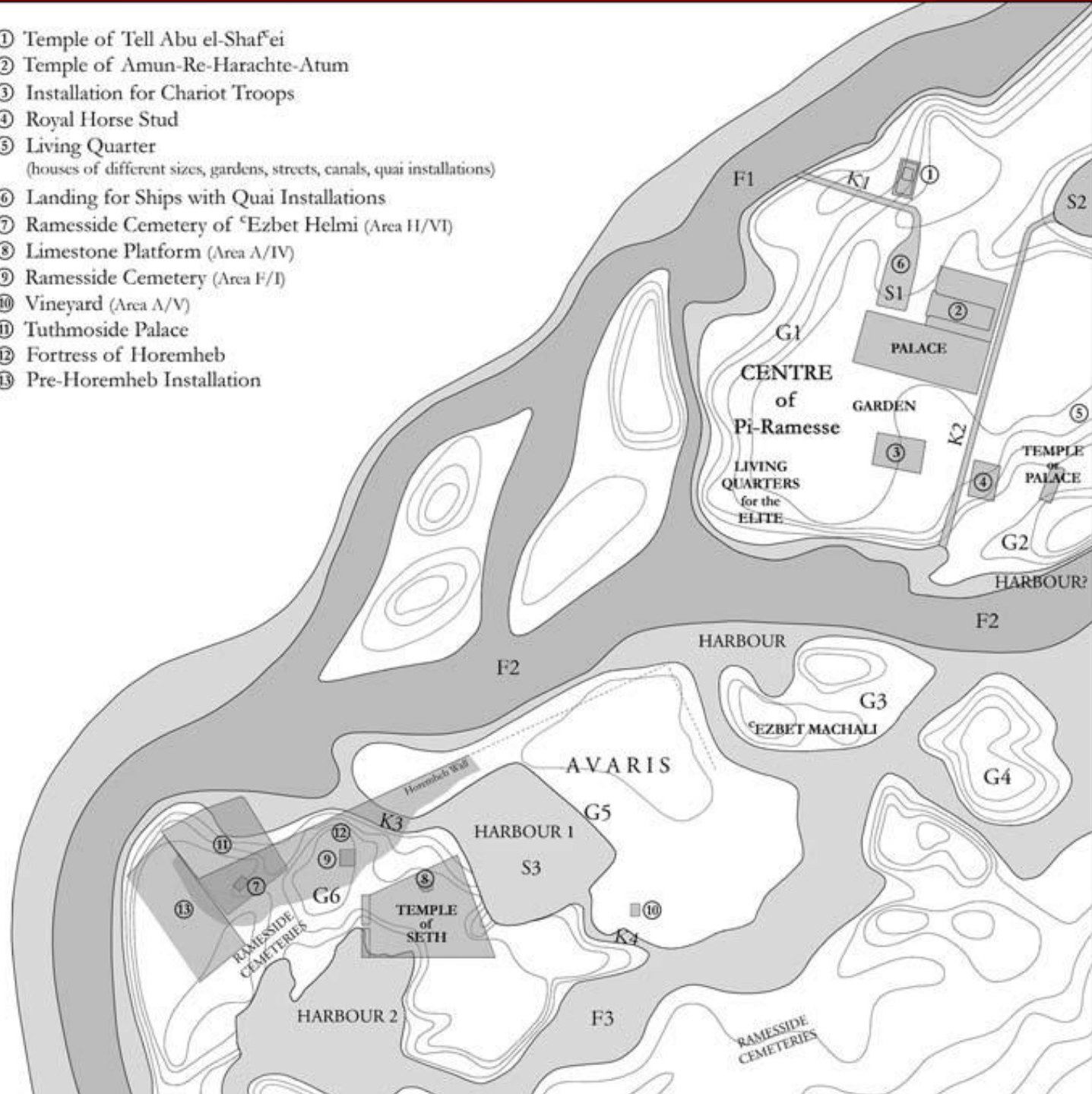
Adapted from Hoffmeier 1997, fig. 2

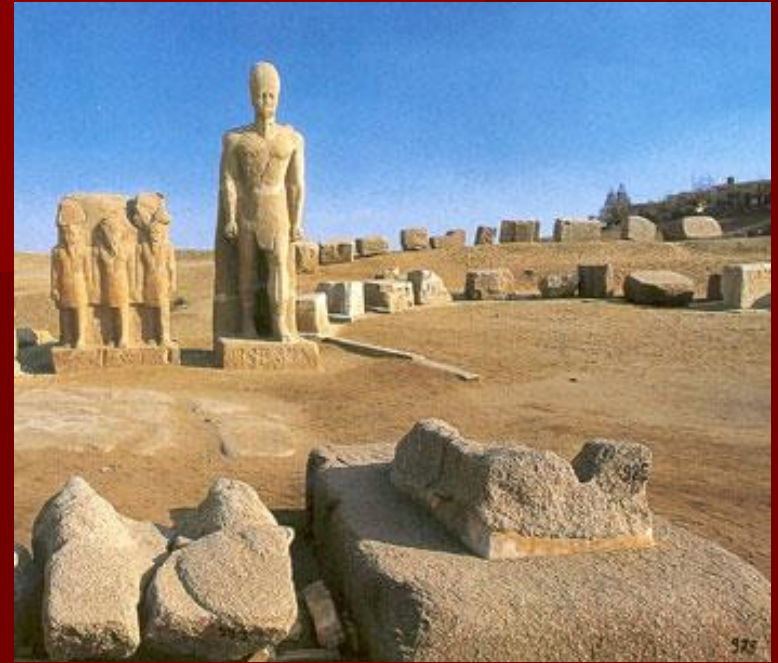


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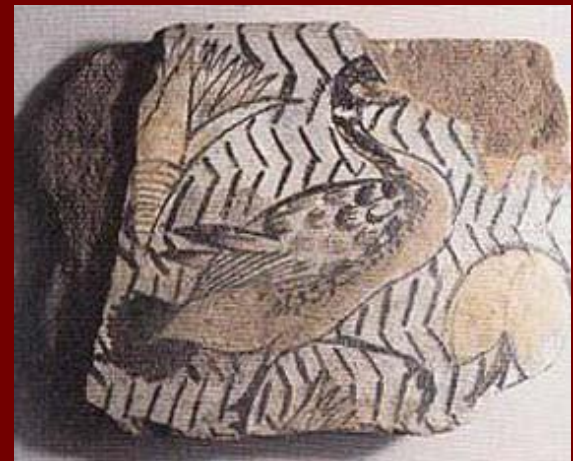
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- ❑ beginning in the 1970s, site examined by a German expedition, and the Austrian Archaeological Institute under the direction of Manfred Bietak – mapped out city by magnetometer → By late 1999, some 75,000 square meters had been measured in the fields around Qantir, and domestic areas, administrative quarters of a vast palace-temple compound, a possible cemetery and a region with poorer houses were defined

- ① Temple of Tell Abu el-Shaf'ei
- ② Temple of Amun-Re-Harachte-Atum
- ③ Installation for Chariot Troops
- ④ Royal Horse Stud
- ⑤ Living Quarter
(houses of different sizes, gardens, streets, canals, quai installations)
- ⑥ Landing for Ships with Quai Installations
- ⑦ Ramesside Cemetery of 'Ezbet Helmi (Area II/VI)
- ⑧ Limestone Platform (Area A/IV)
- ⑨ Ramesside Cemetery (Area F/I)
- ⑩ Vineyard (Area A/V)
- ⑪ Tuthmoside Palace
- ⑫ Fortress of Horemheb
- ⑬ Pre-Horemheb Installation





Glass making form



Tile from palace RII



BUT:

- ❑ reign of Merenptah
- ❑ → Piramesse was abandoned as a residence
- ❑ court withdrew to the old capital Memphis

**(Stela Hildesheim
0374)**

Award of the Gold of Honour to a soldier

NEW KINGDOM: 19TH
DYNASTY: RAMESSES
II / USERMAATRE-
SETEPENRE

From Tell Horbeit,
Quantir

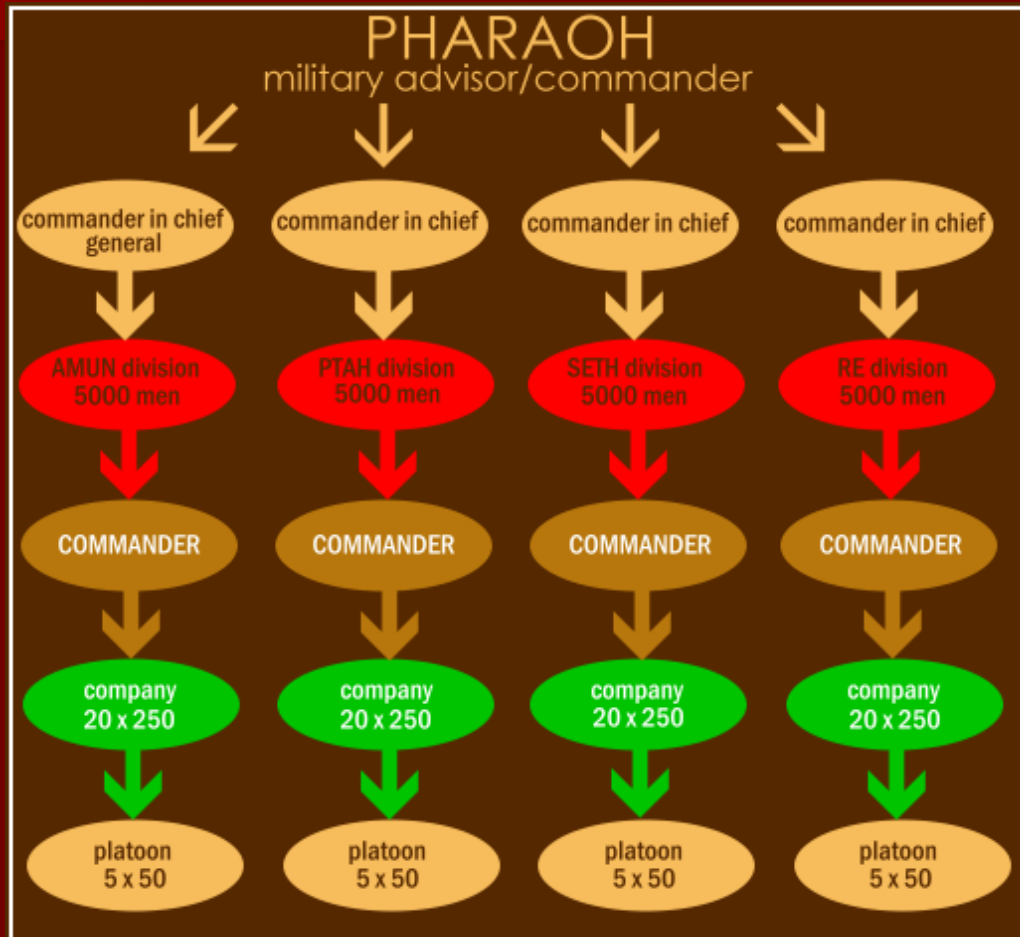


Clay mummy- like coffins Lachish

Egyptian officials
and soldiers
stationed in
Canaan →
Egyptian style
burial practice
(BM ME 1980-12-
14,4297)



Structure of the army

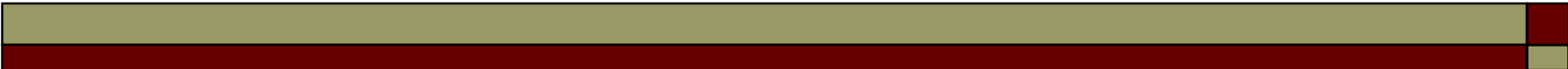


Historical background

- Egyptian empire → enhanced militarism even among educated Eg. society
 - Well equipped armies
 - New: standing army with long-serving soldiers
 - New economic background of new sector of administration: recruiting in young age → training camps, regular campaigns, veterans get grants of land, all depending on administration
 - New sense of soldier identity, separated from normal live
 - Image of military leadership, some pharaohs from soldier background (Horemhab, Ramses I, Sethos I)
- Army as institutionalised armed force

Ramesses II – Interconnection with the outside world

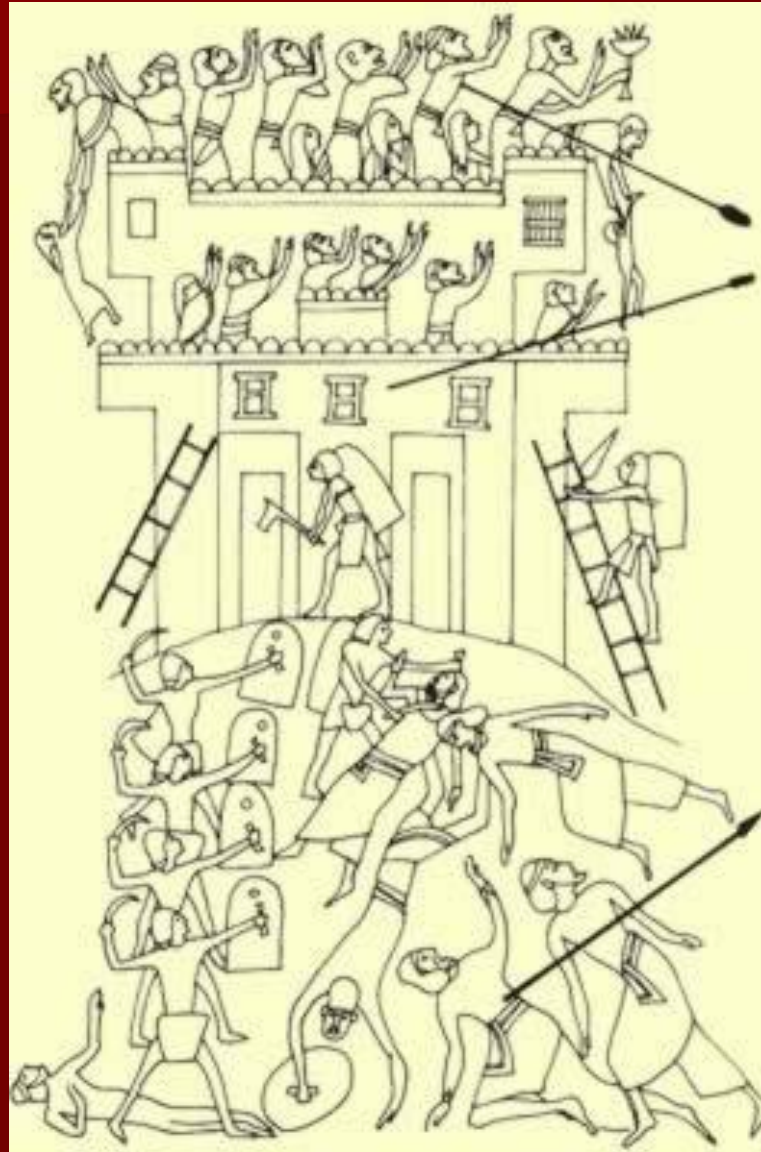
- numerous campaigns to return previously held territories back from Nubian and Hittite hands and to secure Egypt's borders
- responsible for suppressing some Nubian revolts, a campaign in Libya, enjoyed more than a few outright victories over the enemies of Egypt
- Battle of Kadesh
- Egyptian army is estimated to have totaled about 100,000 men



Ramesses II

- ❑ Battle against Sea Peoples: Shardana, Lukka, Shekelesh
- ❑ Syrian Campaigns
 - First: Canaan, Palestine, captured Amurru

Ramses II in Southern Canaan

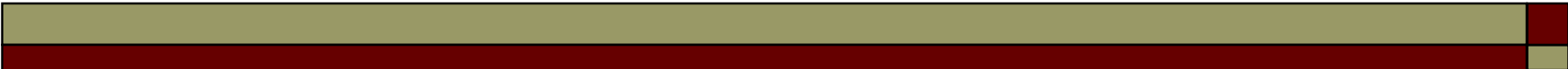


Ramesses II

- Battle against Sea Peoples: Shardana, Lukka, Shekelesh
- Syrian Campaigns
 - First: Canaan, Palestine, captured Amurru
 - Second: Battle of Kadesh (year 5)
 - Accounts at several temples, earliest = Abydos: Karnak and Ramesseum = 2 versions, Abu Simbel = condensed one

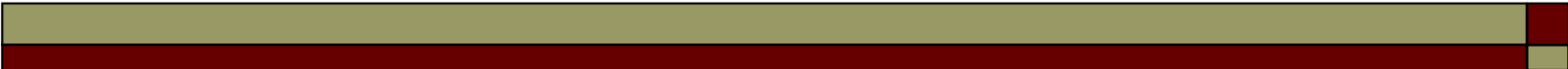
Battle of Kadesh (Karnak version)





Interesting:

- ❑ In the battle of Kadesh – “merceneries” on Egyptian site
 - Lived and died in the Nile valley!, owned land
 - Nubians
 - Asiatic Apiru
 - Sherdana (Middle Egypt)
 - Teheru (at first on Hittite site, later on Egyptian!)

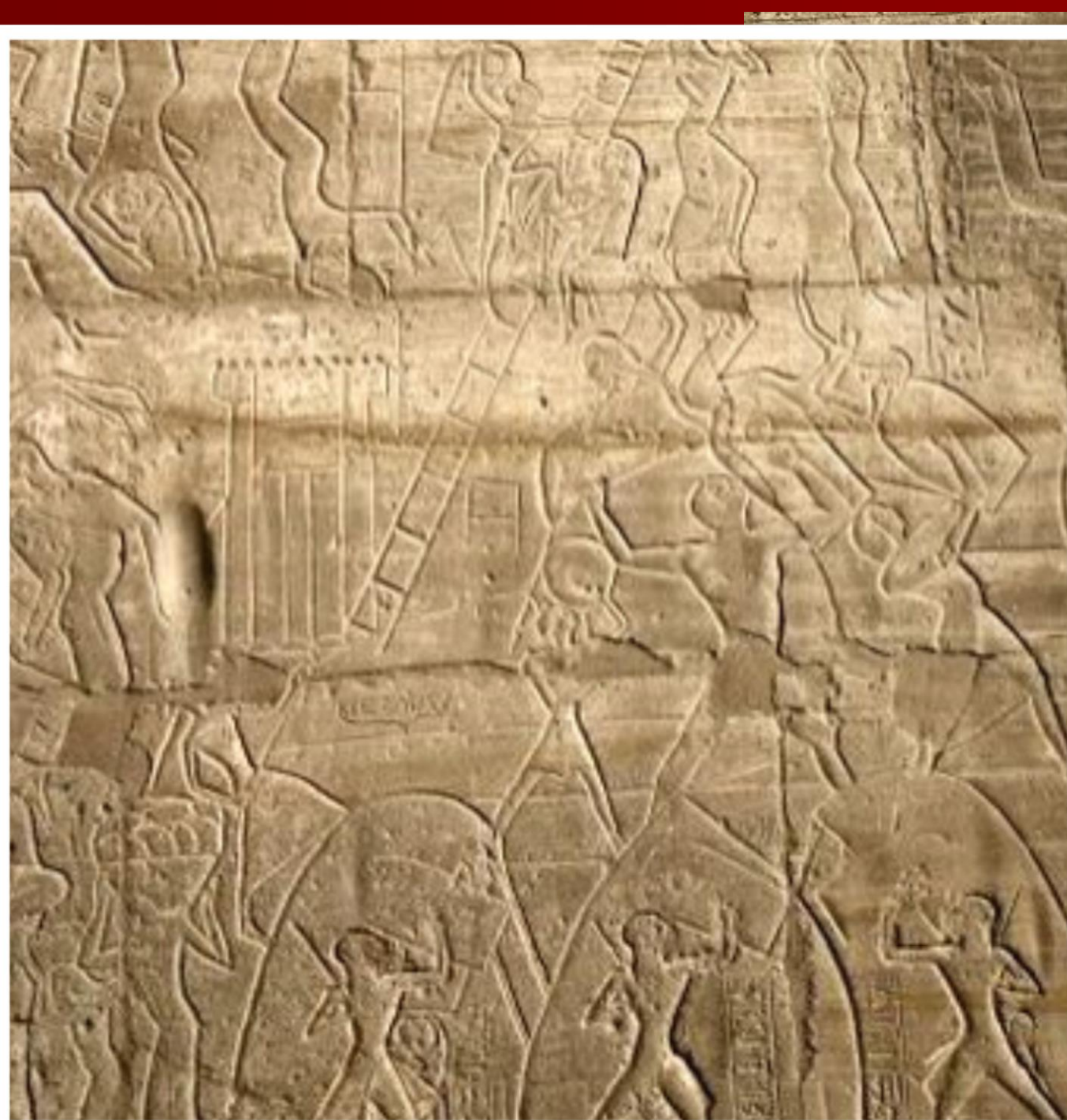


Ramesses II

- ❑ Battle against Sea Peoples: Shardana, Lukka, Shekelesh
- ❑ Syrian Campaigns
 - First: Canaan, Palestine, captured Amurru
 - Second: Battle of Kadesh (year 5)
 - Third: mainly Canaan (Syria in Hittite hand)
 - Later campaigns: Amurru, Dapur (as far as T III 120 years before)

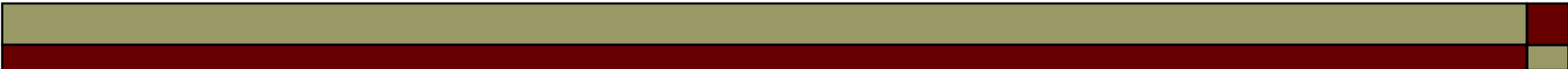
Stela Ramses II from Beth Shan





Peace treaty with the Hittites

- deposed Hittite king, Mursili III fled to Egypt, after the failure of his plots to oust his uncle from the throne, Hattusili III demanded his nephew back to Hatti, Ramses refused → crisis
- Finally 21st regal year (1258 BC): agreement with the new Hittite king at Kadesh, Hattusili III, to end the conflict → document is the earliest known peace treaty in world history
- Treaty recorded in two versions (dual-language recording): hieroglyphs (Karnak, Ramesseum, Abu Simbel), Akkadian (cuneiform script), texts differ, even most is identical (Hittite version claims that the Egyptians came suing for peace, while the Egyptian version claims the reverse); given to the Egyptians in the form of a silver plaque, and this "pocket-book" version was taken back to Egypt and carved into the Temple of Karnak

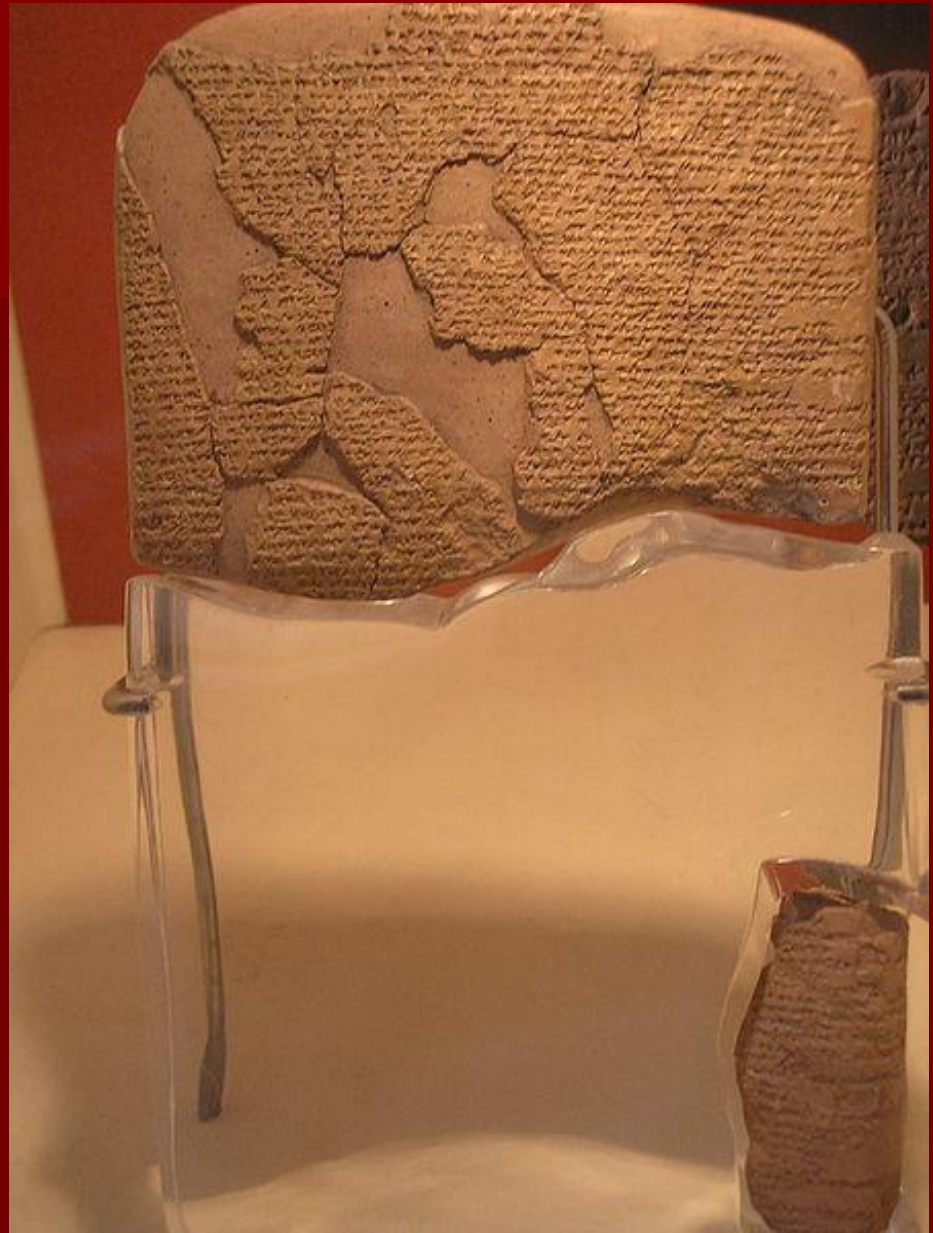


Peace treaty with the Hittites

- ❑ 18 articles call for peace between Egypt and Hatti, maintain that their respective gods also demand peace; frontiers not laid down, but can be inferred from other documents: Pap. Anastasy A papyrus (harbour town of Sumur north of Byblos is mentioned as northernmost town belonging to Egypt)
- ❑ No further Egyptian campaigns in Canaan after the conclusion of the peace treaty; northern border safe and quiet until Ramesses II's death
- ❑ Peace kept: King of Mira tried to involve Ramesses in a hostile act against the Hittites, Egyptian refused - Hittite did the same

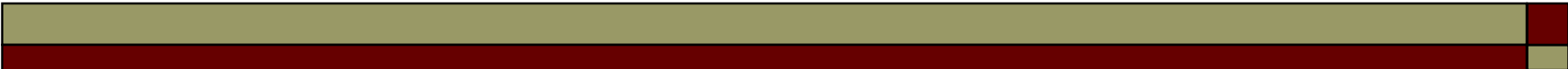
Ramses II

Tablet of treaty
between Hattusili III
of Hatti and
Ramesses II of
Egypt, at the
Istanbul
Archaeology
Museum



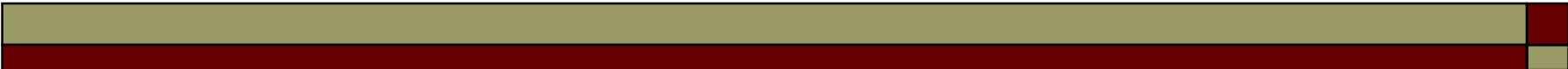
Ramses II - peace

- Third decade
- Peaceful relations between Hittite and Egypt
→ diplomatic marriages
- Political activity proved by cuneiform tablets
- Qantir: found Hittite shields and workshops to produce them → Hittite as mercenaries? or maybe working in the stables



Ramesses II

- ❑ Battle against Sea Peoples: Shardana, Lukka, Shekelesh
- ❑ Syrian Campaigns
- ❑ Nubian Campaigns
 - conquest was recalled in decoration from the temples Ramesses II built at Beit el-Wali (which was the subject of epigraphic work by the Oriental Institute during the Nubian salvage campaign of the 1960s), Gerf Hussein and Kalabsha in northern Nubia. On the south wall of the Beit el-Wali temple, Ramesses II is depicted charging into battle against the Nubians in a war chariot, while his two young sons Amun-her-khepsef and Khaemwaset are shown being present behind him, also in war chariots.



Ramesses II

- ❑ Battle against Sea Peoples: Shardana, Lukka, Shekelesh
- ❑ Syrian Campaigns
- ❑ Nubian Campaigns
- ❑ Campaigns in Lybia
 - evidence of activity on a 300 km stretch along the Mediterranean coast as far as Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham, no detailed accounts large military actions, only generalised records of his conquering and crushing them, may not refer to specific events

Merenptah

- ❑ Campaign to Libya, year 5: fighting coalition of Meshwesh and Sea People after settlement invasion (Libyans brought their families)
 - Lacking pictorial evidence, but any narrative and literary texts (longest in Karnak) → Long list of captives and slains (6000 + 2400 Sea People in total)

Israel Stele

Hymn of victory over
the Libyans

Key northern Delta
cities closed their gates
→ Merenptah took
thread serious



Libya – mentioned in Israel- Stele

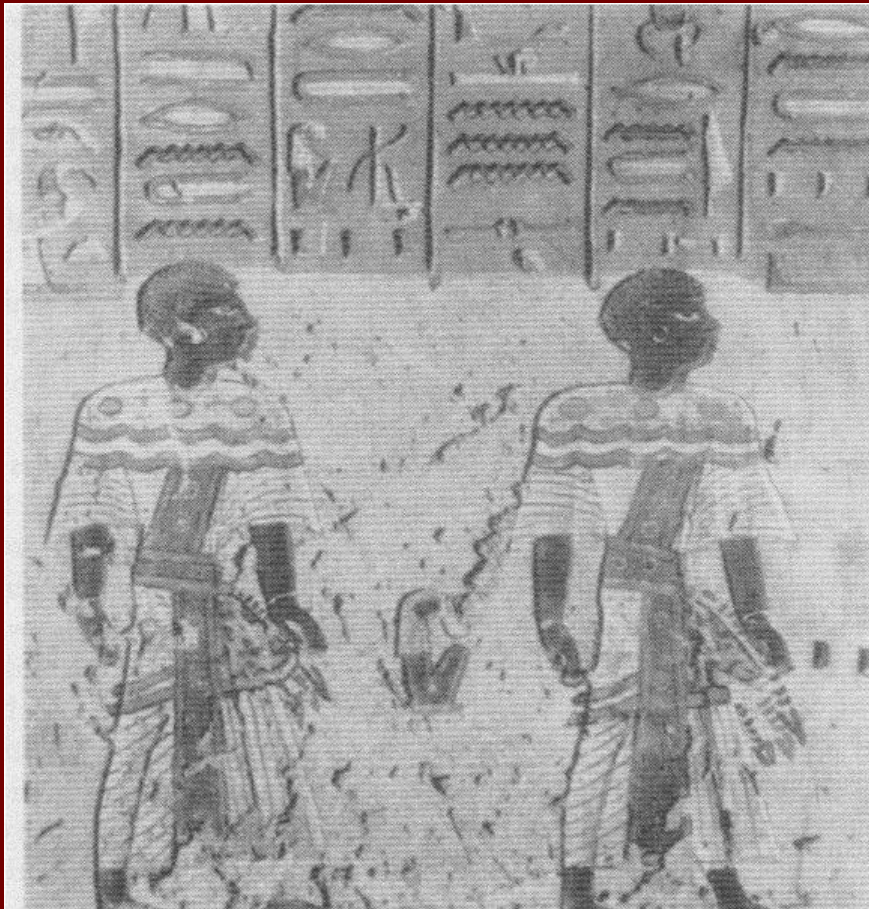
- [...]The vile chief of the **Libu** who fled under cover of night alone without a feather on his head, his feet unshod, his wives seized before his very eyes, the meal for his food taken away, and without water in the water-skin to keep him alive; the faces of his brothers are savage to kill him, his captains fighting one against the other, their camps burnt and made into ashes ...

Libyan (Theban tomb of Hui, 18 dyn.)

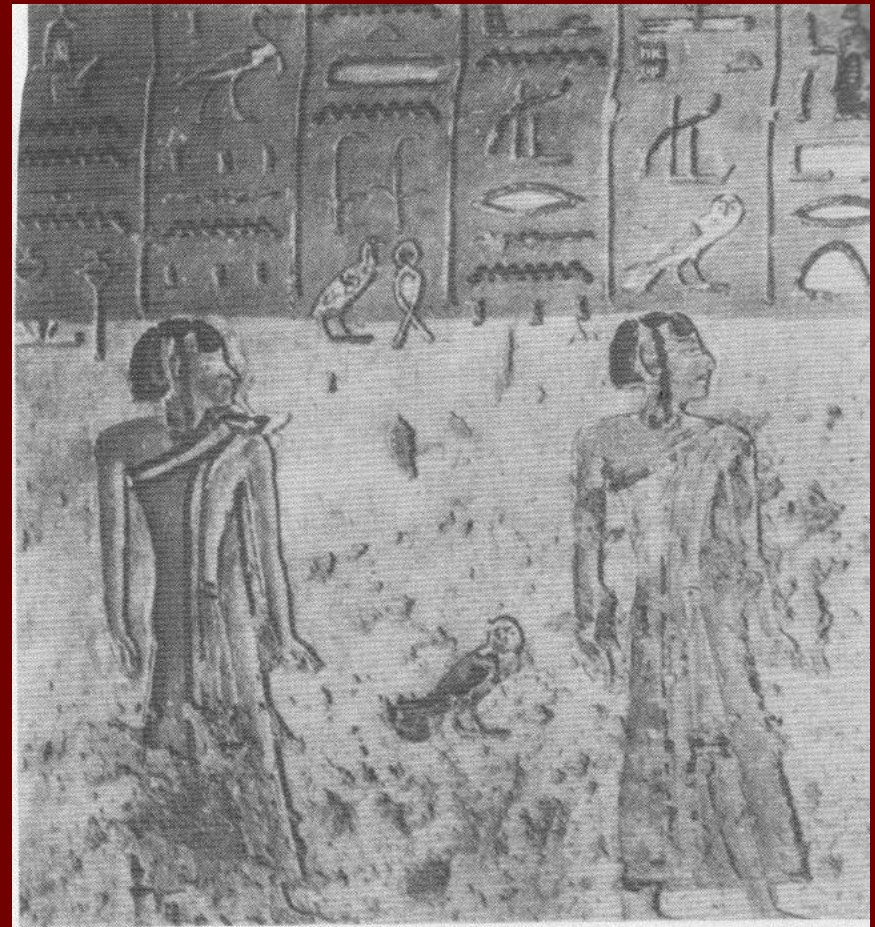


Thebes, tomb of R III

**Upper-class Nubian
gentry**

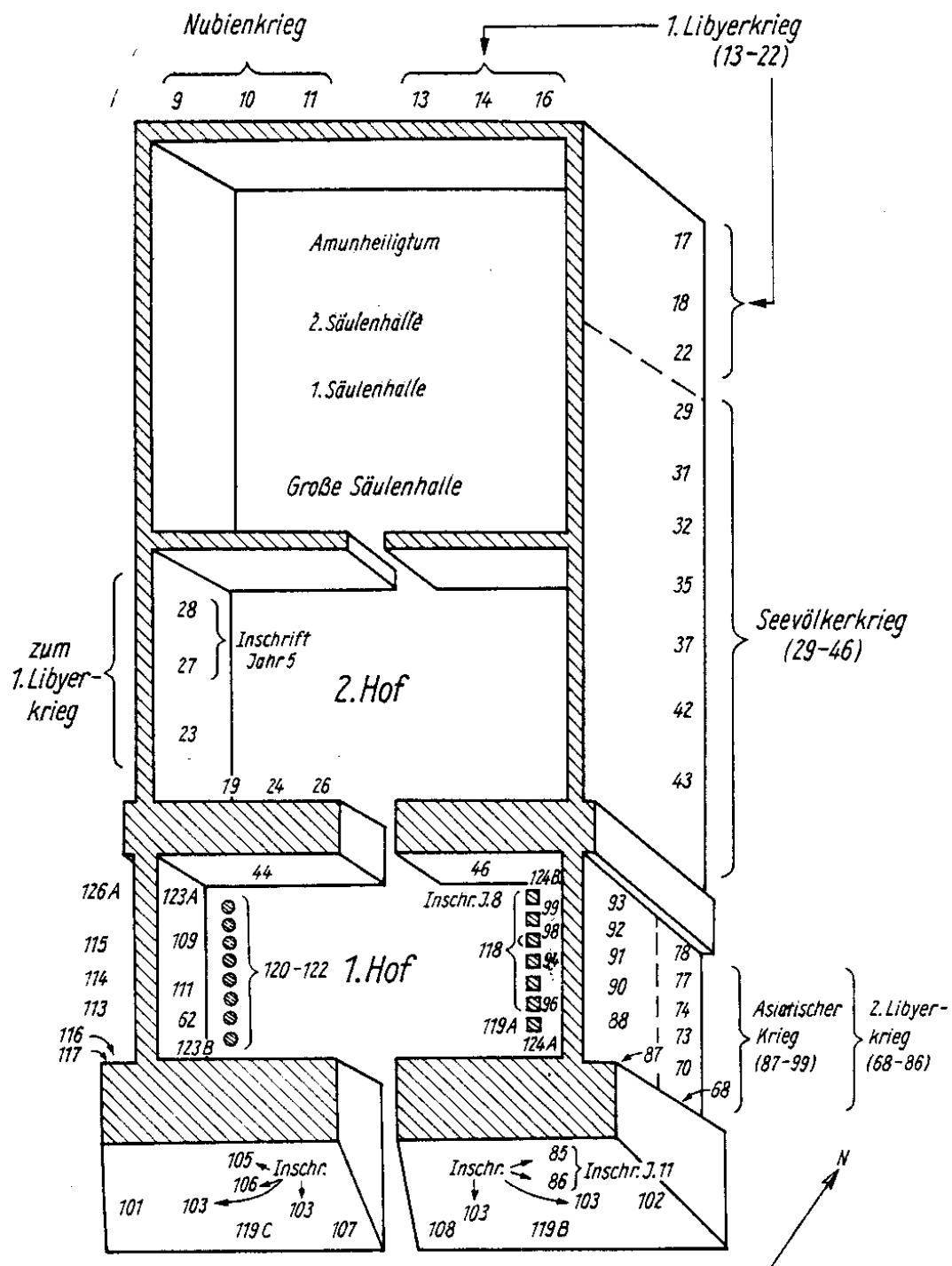


Libyan tribesman



Medinet Habu





Medinet Habu, R III, Bull hunting, south wing First Pylon

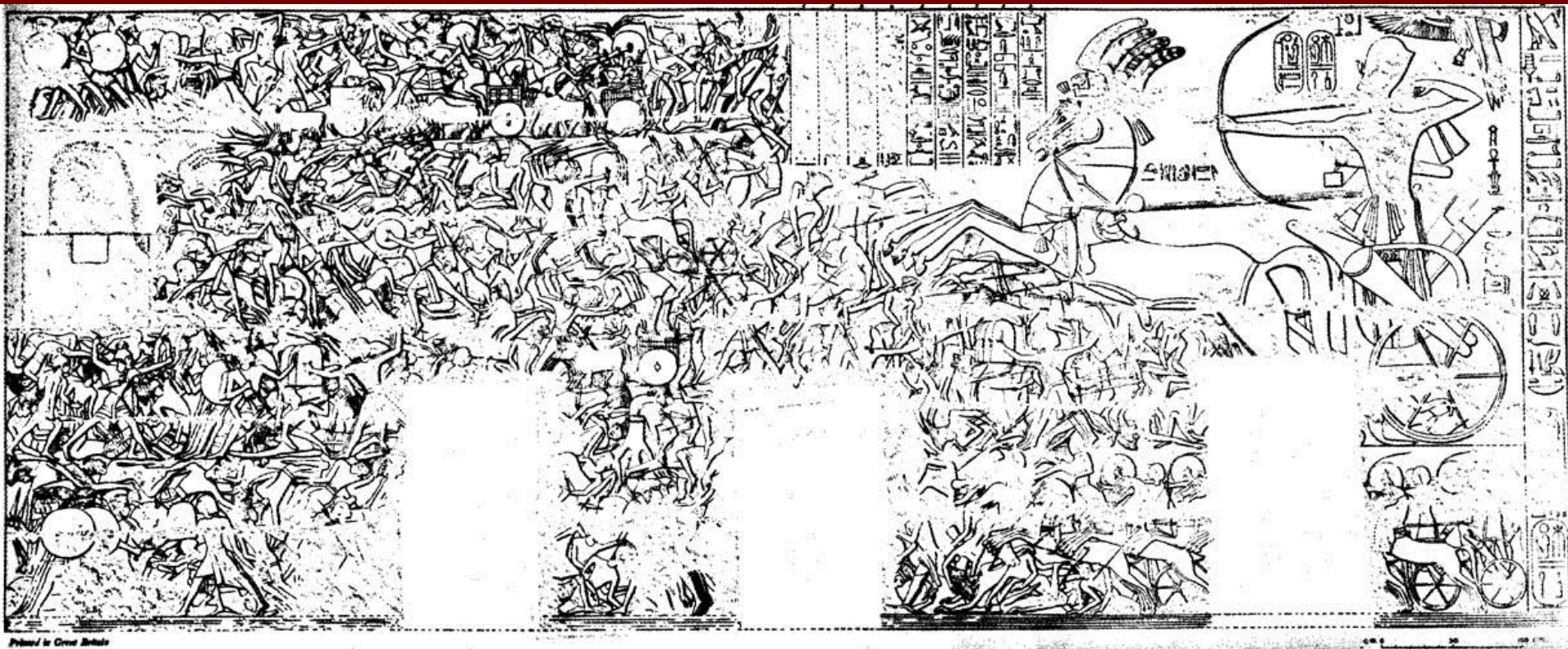
Influence of painting on relief: bull hiding in the rushes, registers are connected, Greater plastic quality from R III



R III, Medinet Habu Sea Battle



Land Battle



From Ramses IV – Egypt on the defensive

- ❑ Employing foreign elite men as mercenaries (Sherdana, Qeheq – Libyan tribe)
- ❑ Numbers from Pap. Wilbour show high ranks and wealth of these people