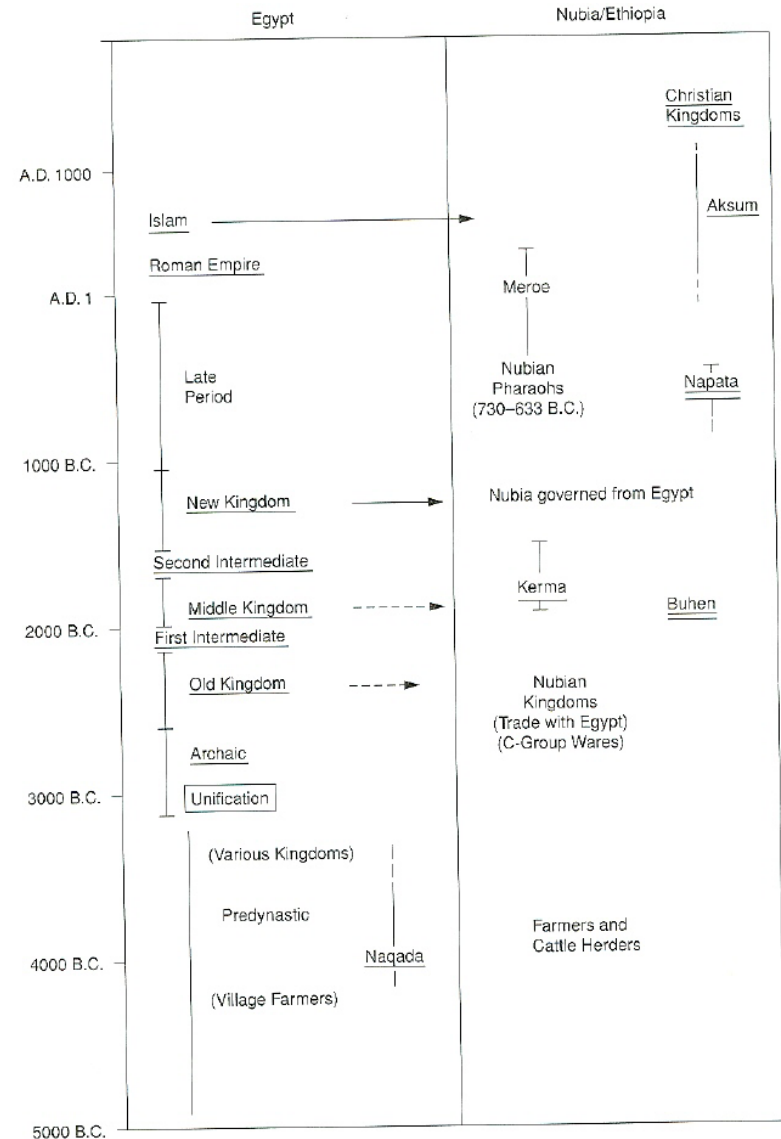


Egypt

Land of the Nile

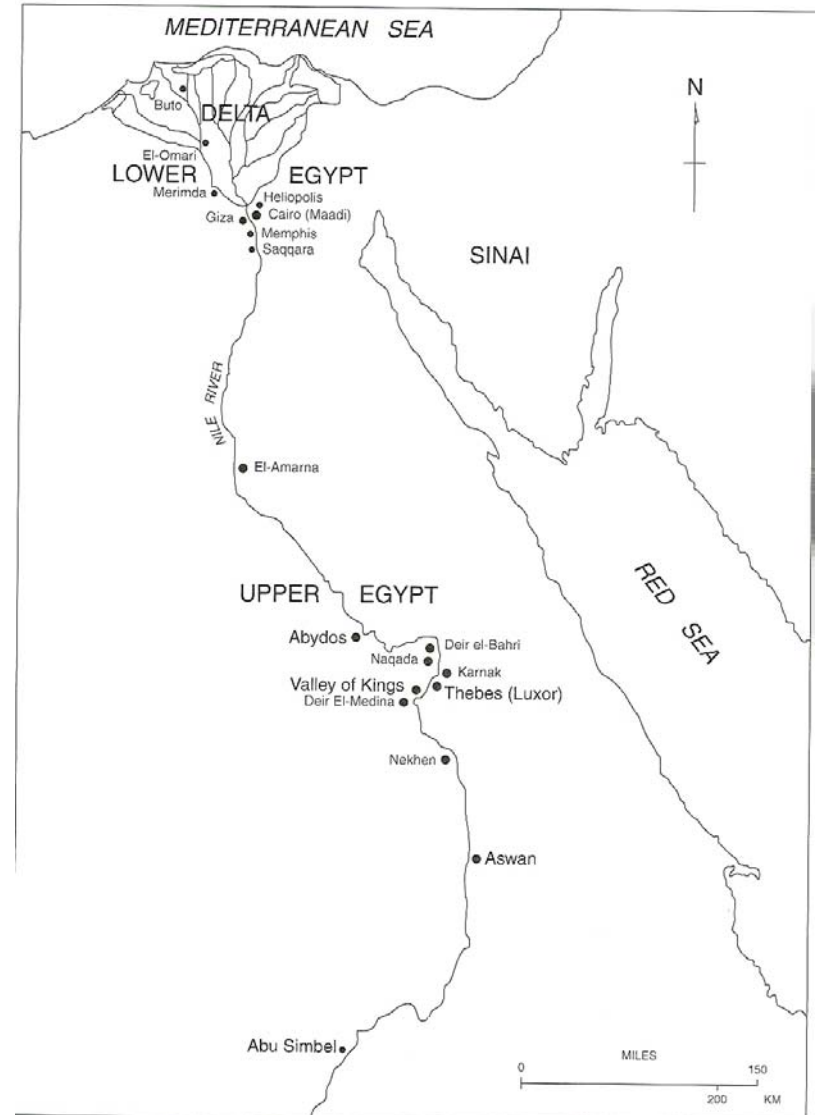
Time Line

- Influences north and south along the Nile
- Influences east and west from Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Mediterranean
- Village farming ca. 5000 BC (comp. Mesopotamia 6500 BC)



Geography

- Upper and lower Egypt
- Valley vs. Delta
- Resources to the west, trade to the east



Beginnings

- Transitions from hunting and gathering to village farming: 8000-7000 BP
- least known aspect of Egyptian prehistory
- Trade between more sedentary delta wetlands, more nomadic western upland grasslands
- Transitions from village to Predynastic chiefdoms: 7000-6000 BP
- Increases in settlement size (Naqada)
- Emergence of local elites
- “Strategic” jockeying for control over trade, food production, land
- Emergent kingship: Upper Egypt (Nekhen)

Unification: 5500-5100 BP

Upper Egypt

- Competing chiefdoms
- Rising need to control Delta-based trade
- Site of Abydos as key to understanding sequence
- Palette of Narmer

Lower Egypt

- Pre-ag. contacts with both east and west
- Cosmopolitan but un-unified Maadi culture
- Increasingly valuable, stable long-distance trade

Archaic Period, 4920-4580 BP

- “Consolidation of the State”
- Dominance of Upper Egypt continues
- Ideological refinement of divine kingship: ma’at, pharoanic divinity
- Elaboration of governmental bureaucracy: conversion of nomes to administrative units, development of hieroglyphic writing and scribe class

Old Kingdom Egypt

4680-4134BP

- Final ideological steps for divine kingship: Pharaoh as child of deity >>>pharaoh as deity
- Territorial consolidation of Upper and Lower Egypt, first phases of territorial expansion
- Shift of capital from Abydos to Memphis, into Lower Egypt
- Heyday of Egyptian artistic expression: pyramids, sculpture, painting – state-sponsored, consuming vast resources, displaying power