

# Egypt Revealed

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## Of Special Interest

A look at the Egyptian Pharaohs

Current Events : The Egyptian Revolution

Egyptian Pivotal Conflicts

Egyptian vs Roman Gods

Pyramids of Egypt

## Ancient Egypt: A Brief Cultural History

By Marina Zimmerman

Egypt deserves a newspaper, for all of its discoveries and fascinating history. Egyptologists have created a magazine devoted to the culture and beliefs of this great country. At first, little was known about this place. Then archeologists dug deeper, and they found pottery, writings, tablets, hieroglyphs, art, jewelry, and other ordinary objects. These items have been given a good 'looking-at', and their uses have are now clear. A little research was done, and we have a basic idea of how Egypt worked.

When you hear the word "Egypt", you probably think of mummies, scarab beetles, deserts, or large pyramids made of stone. Egypt is located on a large continent called Africa, and its capital city is called Cairo. The current population of this country is about 81,015,887 people, and the main language spoken there is Arabic. The Nile river runs through Egypt, separating it from top to bottom. Egypt is a very old country. By around 5500 BC, the roaming tribes of the Nile had begun to settle down. They created a culture in which agriculture and animal husbandry, the practice of breeding and raising livestock. They also started making pottery,



The Great Sphinx Cairo, Egypt

combs, bracelets, necklaces, beads, and began using ceramic, copper, and stone tools.

After these tribes built villages and then cities, they also figured out a system of government. Egypt was governed by a pharaoh, or king. This way of ruling is called a monarchy. The Egyptians believed that the pharaohs were divine children of gods. Most of the pharaohs were men, and they had significant power. The pharaoh's wish had to always be fulfilled. When a pharaoh died, the body had to be preserved. They built the deceased ruler a large pyramid with many traps and secret passages. The tomb of the pharaoh was filled with gold, treasure, spells, and art.

There are many Egyptian periods, and each of them had a different set of pharaohs. The periods were in the order given: pre-dynastic period, early dynastic period, old kingdom, first intermediate period, middle kingdom, second intermediate period, new kingdom, third intermediate period, late period, Ptolemaic dynasty, and the Roman period.

The Egyptians were traders, and they bartered gold, lapis lazuli, slaves, and many other things. When they fought, they used chariots, bows, and spears.

Egypt is also famous for its hieroglyphs (a specific way of writing), and the art that they drew.

Egyptians had a specific lifestyle that is very rare nowadays and different to what we are used to. Agriculture was a large part of Egyptian society, and the years were split into three seasons: *Akhet* (flooding), *Peret* (planting), and *Shemu* (harvesting). Every year, the Nile River would flood, creating fertile soil that the Egyptians could use and plant in. When it was time, the food would be harvested. Livestock was raised, bred, sold, and eaten. Marriage was decided by parents. Women and men alike could own land. Everyone wore makeup and wigs.

Even though the great Egyptian ways are gone, we can still remember them by their writings and their sculptures. Cleopatra said, "Be it known, that we [the Egyptians], the greatest, are misthought." This great ancient nation will always be remembered by the entire world.

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## Mummification and Death Ritual

By Bonnie Pedroza

Egyptians believed that their Pharaoh, or king, was a divine god and his or her body had to be intact so that the gods would accept him in the afterlife. When a pharaoh passed away, it was traditional for the corpse to be mummified so that the body would be preserved, so that Pharaoh could live eternally in the afterlife. The whole process of mummification took around 65-75 days.

First, the Pharaoh's brains were removed using a long-hooked tool that pulled them out through the nose, and were discarded. Then, the organs were removed and placed into special jars that were guarded by different gods. The liver was placed in a jar that had the head of Ismeti, human-headed god of the south, the lungs were placed in the jar

that had the head of Hapi, baboon-headed god of the north, the stomach was placed in a jar that had the head of Duamutef, god of the east, and the intestines were placed in a jar that had the head of Qebehsenuf, the falcon-headed god of the west. The Pharaoh's heart remained in the body because the Egyptians believed that it was the most important organ.

Afterwards, the Pharaoh's body was immersed in natron -a mineral that consists of hydrated sodium carbonate-crystals which would remove all of the moisture from the body. When about forty days had passed, the body was washed with water from the Nile, and rubbed with oils. The body was then stuffed with materials like leaves and cloth, and rubbed with sweet-smelling oils. Then the body was dried out. Amulets

were placed on the body for protection, the "Plummet" amulet to balance the Pharaoh in the next life, and the "Isis knot" amulet to protect the body, the Pharaoh was then wrapped in cloth.

The mummified body was placed in several gilded wooden coffins, all shaped to resemble a human body. The coffins also had spells written on them. All of the wooden coffins were placed into beautifully-decorated stone sarcophagus with spells of protection on the lid.

After the mummy had been sealed inside its many coffins and sarcophagus, there was the opening-of-the-mouth ceremony. The ceremony was held by a priest wearing a mask made to resemble Anubis, the god of tombs and weigher of the hearts of the dead. The sarcophagus was

held upright and the face touched with magical instruments to enable the spirit of the pharaoh to speak, see, and hear in the next world. After that, a funeral procession was held. Mourners cried and priests burned incense and scattered offerings of milk. Then a feast was held in front of the Pharaoh's pyramid with lots of dancing and reading of spells. The Egyptians built the pyramids with many mazes to prevent thieves from finding the mummy's burial chambers which were deep in the middle of the pyramid, and stealing the mummy's possessions, which would help him to make the journey to the underworld. Finally, the mummy is sealed inside its pyramid.



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## What Happened and what is Coming Next in the Egyptian Revolution

By Avery Largent

On January 25, 2011, protests began all over Egypt about the government and those types of protests are still continuing today. The effects of the protests, now called the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 have been harsh and not only to people. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011, two Pharaonic mummies were destroyed and there have been unconfirmed reports of a destroyed, very rare ancient Egyptian tomb devoted to a woman. In February, it was announced that many prized possessions from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo were stolen. Almost a whole year and much investigation later, most of the items are still missing. The items in question are a wood statue of Tutankhamen being carried by one of the many Egyptian goddesses, a wood statue of Tutankhamen harpooning, a limestone statue of Akhenaten, a statue of Nefertiti, the sandstone head of an Amarna princess, a stone statuette of a scribe from Aarna, 11 wooden shabti

statuettes and a heart scarab. Fortunately, the heart scarab, one of the missing shabti statuettes, and part of a mummy have been found, though sadly the other artifacts remain missing.

The Egyptian revolution began in January 2011 and is still continuing today. Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in multiple cities all over Egypt to speak out against the harsh and unfair government. Sally, 32, is a psychiatrist who just moved back to Cairo from London, partly because, she says, "I want to see change."

In February, Egypt's parliament was dissolved and its constitution was briefly suspended. On March 3rd, Ahmed Shafik stepped down as Prime Minister and was replaced by Essam Sharaf, former transport president. From April to November over a thousand protesters gathered at least once a month in Cairo and police and officials alike have become more and more strict and violent to the protesters. One police stated in his only defense: "I



Feb 8, 2011 Thousands of people protest in Tahrir Square

just had a job to do. I had my orders, a mission." On July 23rd, thousands of protesters tried to march to the Defense Ministry and were met there by thugs sporting sticks and stones and on August 1<sup>st</sup>, officials arrested 66 people.

On the 6th of August, hundreds of protesters gathered and prayed together in Tahrir Square. When they finished, the military attacked them. At least 850 people have died and 6,000 have been injured.

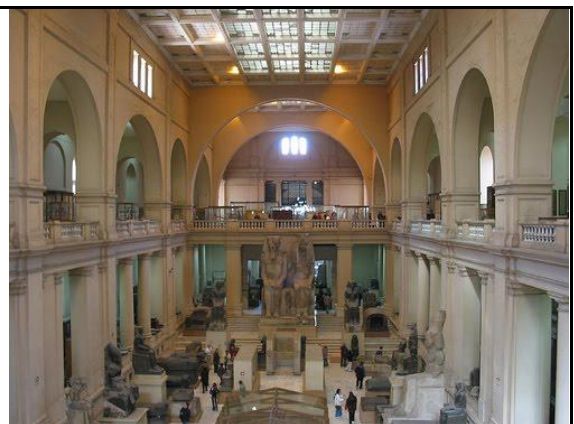
There have been surprises that have accompanied the revolution. People were and are still

asking who would be the leader controlling Egypt's sites and artifacts at the end of the revolution. Zahi Hawass had become an a very well-known public figure, ruling them definite strength, but unfortunately, this July he was fired from his position after nearly an entire decade of his work. A constitution had never been suspended before and yet it was earlier this year, and on January 26 the internet and many other means of communication were blocked briefly. Where will the violence stop? Where will the people draw the line? All must wait and see.

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## Egyptian vs. Roman Gods



*Egyptian Sun God Ra*



*Jupiter - Roman God of Thunder and Lightning*

*By Marina Zimmerman*

Gods are a universal religious icon found in all cultures, civilizations, and countries. They unify people, and help explain the natural wonders of the world through tales. In Egypt, the Pharaohs were believed to be divine gods, sent by Ra (the sun god and king of all) to rule the people. In Rome, the emperors were descendants.

Ra- god of the sun- had the head of a falcon and was the most important Egyptian god. Hathor- goddess of music and gentleness- had the head of a cow. Sekhmet had the head of a lion and was the goddess of war and destruction. Nut was the sky, and she was drawn blue with golden stars. Geb, the earth, was pictured as green and brown. Osiris was the god of the dead, and he was always depicted wearing a white robe and holding a crook and a flail. Seth, god of the desert, had the head of an unknown animal with a long,

curved snout (probably an ant-eater). Horus resembles Ra, but he is god of all pharaohs. Isis was the goddess of magic, and she appeared in the shape of a woman. The god of wisdom, Thoth, had the head of an ibis. The jackal-headed god of embalming and mummification was called Anubis. Ma'at, goddess of justice, had a feather in her hair. The god of creation was called Amun, and he looked like a man crowned with feathers. The goddess of cats (which were worshiped) was named Bastet, and she had the head of a feline. Most of the Egyptian gods had animal heads.

Jupiter- god of thunder and lightning- was the most powerful Roman god. Juno- goddess of family and marriage- was depicted as a woman. Mercury, god of thieves, was always wearing a hat with wings, a magic wand, and flying sandals. Venus was the goddess of beauty and love, and she wore much jewelry. Mars,

god of war, had shining gold armor and was very violent. God of the sea was Neptune, and the god of the dead was Pluto. Minerva was the goddess of wisdom and justice, and she had an owl on her shoulder. Bacchus was the god of wine who had grape vines crowning his head. The goddess of the hunt was called Artemis, and her brother Apollo was god of music, light, and reason. Vulcan was the god of fire and smith work. Ceres was the goddess of harvesting. The Roman gods were usually depicted as humans.

Gods were and are a very important part of society. They helped people understand how nature worked, and why everything happens. Ancient people needed a supernatural being to guide them through the tremors of life and to explain nature.

## Famous Egyptian Pharaohs

*By Jordan Lentz*

Famous Egyptian pharaohs have been compared, and their achievements observed. Some of the most famous pharaohs: Ramesses II, Tutankhamun, Hatshepsut, and Khufu are revisited. Readers were asked about their favorite pharaoh. "My favorite is Hatshepsut because she was the strongest female pharaoh that ruled" says Marina Zimmerman, avid fan of *Egypt Revealed*. "I like

Ramesses II because he was so famous in his time and still is now," replies Bonnie Pedroza after being asked about her favorite Egyptian pharaoh.



Khufu, also known as

Cheops, was a pharaoh of Ancient Egypt's Old Kingdom. He was pharaoh from 2589 BC-2566 BC. It was he who initiated the building of the Pyramid of Giza, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Contrary to his father in later folklore, Khufu is said to have been a very cruel and ruthless pharaoh. Khufu became pharaoh in his twenties, and according to the Turin King List he reigned for 23 years. The Turin King List is a hieratic papyrus thought to date from the reign of

Rameses II. Other sources said that his rule was much longer. It is thought that he led military campaigns to other African countries. Khufu may have been a very cruel pharaoh but that did not stop him from creating one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The pyramid of Giza still amazes us even in our high-tech, modern world.

## Famous Egyptian Pharaohs (continued)



Hatshepsut was the fifth pharaoh of the eighteenth dynasty of Ancient Egypt. She ruled from 1508 BC-1458 BC. Her reign was longer and more prosperous than any other woman pharaoh at that time. Peace was her priority, but she had several military victories at the beginning of her reign. She re-established trading relationships and brought great wealth to Egypt. That wealth allowed Hatshepsut to start and finish building projects that raised the caliber of Ancient Egyptian architecture to a standard that would not be rivaled by any other culture for a thousand years. One of the most prolific builders of that era was Hatshepsut. She ordered hundreds of construction projects throughout both Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt that were finer and more numerous than any of her Middle Kingdom predecessors. She built a wide variety of structures ranging from temples to shrines and obelisks. In a history of mainly male pharaohs Hatshepsut is a great example of what a female pharaoh can do when given the chance.



Tutankhamun ruled from 1333 BC-1323 BC, during the period of Egyptian history known as the New Kingdom. When he was 9-10 years old he became pharaoh. He had two daughters, but they both died. The king had very powerful advisers because he was so young when he obtained the throne. Following the reign of Akhenaten (his father) the country was very unstable both economically and politically. Diplomatic interactions with other countries had been foregone and Tutankhamun tried to invigorate them. He especially tried to restore a diplomatic relationship with Mitanni. After three years of rule, he decided to reverse some changes his father had made. He banned the worship of the god Aten and promoted the worship of the sun god Amun. Tutankhamun's tomb was unimpressive compared to his status. One hypothesis why this is so is because he might have died unexpectedly, before his grander more royal tomb was completed, so instead he was buried in somebody

else's tomb. Doing this would have followed the tradition of waiting 70 days between death and burial, which was very important to the ancient Egyptians. Tutankhamun is one of the most well-known modern day kings even though he died young and never had the ability or opportunity to build grand architectural monuments like Ramesses II.



Ramesses II, referred to as Ramesses the Great, reigned from 1279 BC- 1213 BC. He is often referred to as the most powerful and famous Egyptian pharaoh because of his successes in peace and war. Even now he is still referred to as the "Great Ancestor." Ramesses II led a number of military expeditions in his lifetime. When he became a teenager, his father bestowed upon him the rank of prince regent. A prince regent is a prince who rules a monarchy as regent instead of a monarch. Ramesses II more than any other pharaoh tried purposely to remove the Amarna monuments and modify the nature of the religious structure. Ramesses, like many pharaohs, ordered

the building of numerous structures, and his cartouches are prominently displayed even on buildings that he did not actually initiate the construction of. A cartouche is an ellipse with a horizontal line at one end, indicating that the hieroglyphs enclosed make up a royal name. In his third year of reign, he initiated the building of his memorial temple: the Ramesseum. The Ramesseum was built on a scale compared to the pyramids that were built 1,500 years earlier. He is thought to have obtained the throne in his late teens and ruled for sixty six years. He probably lived past eighty-five, and un-heard of age in that time. Even though the his exact age when he died is still disputed, one thing that historians know for sure is that he was and still is regarded as one of the most revered of all pharaohs that ever graced the earth with his presence.

### POLL TIME!

Who is your favorite Pharaoh?

Khufu	91	21%
Hatshepsut	181	42%
Tutankhamun	39	9%
Ramesses II	121	28%

# The Pyramids of Egypt

By Jordan Lentz

The Egyptian pyramids are immense structures built out of stone blocks that were dragged from quarries and put into position all without modern day equipment.

The reason that Egyptians chose the pyramid shape to bury their dead was because they thought that the shape was the shape of the primordial mound. The earth was created from the primordial mound according to ancient Egyptian beliefs. The majority of pyramids' outer layers were polished white limestone. This reflected the sun and they appeared to shine or glow from a distance. The pyramids are most definitely burial monuments but people are still not exactly sure about the theological principles that gave rise to them. One theory states that they were constructed as a type of "resurrection machine". This theory is based around the fact that ancient Egyptians thought that the dark area in the cosmos which the stars appeared to revolve around was the physical gateway into the heavens. A shaft off the main burial chamber in the Great Pyramid points directly at this "dark area". This suggests that the pyramid might have been designed to magically shoot the dead pharaoh's soul straight into the heavens.

In 1842 Karl Richard Lepsius wrote the first modern list of the pyramids, in which he counted 67. As of 2008, 51 more have been found bringing the total to 118. All of Egypt's pyramids were found on the west bank of the Nile except for the tiny 3rd dynasty pyramid of Zawyet el -Amwat. Most of the ones found on the west

bank of the Nile were grouped together in pyramid fields.

The Giza pyramid complex is home to the pyramid of Khufu (also known as the Great Pyramid), the smaller Pyramid of Khafre, and the smallest of the 3, the Pyramid of Menkaure, along with the Great Sphinx. Of the 3 pyramids only the Pyramid of Khafre still retains some of its original limestone casing. This pyramid seems bigger than the Pyramid of Khufu but this is only because of its elevation and a steeper angle



The pyramids at Giza

of inclination. The Great pyramid is actually larger in both volume and height. The Great Pyramid is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that remains standing today.

Some of the major pyramids are located at the Saqqara pyramid site. These include the Step Pyramid of Djoser, Pyramid of Unas, and many others. The Step Pyramid of Djoser is generally accepted as the world's oldest substantial monumental structure to be constructed of finished stone. The Pyramid of Unas contains one of the best preserved pyramid causeways in Egypt. This pyramid was also subject

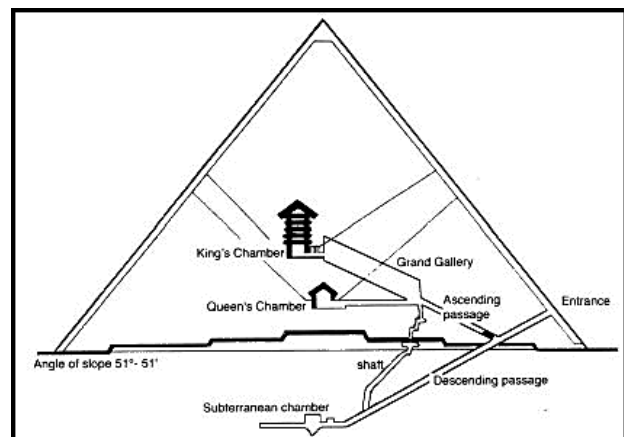
to one of the earliest known restoration attempts, conducted by a son of Ramesses II.

The pyramid site of Dahshur is one of the most important pyramid fields other than the Giza pyramid field and the Saqqara pyramid field. The Dahshur site was inaccessible until 1966 because it was located inside of an Egyptian military base. Several of Dahshur's more famous pyramids are the Bent Pyramid and the Red Pyramid. The lower part of the Bent Pyramid rises from the ground at a 55 degree

bottom section was starting to collapse at such a steep angle so they had to change the angle of the pyramid. Another idea is that Sneferu (the pharaoh that ordered the building of this pyramid) was close to death and the previous prototype of a pyramid at 55 degrees would take too long so builders switched to a lesser angle. The Red Pyramid is the 3rd largest of all the pyramids in Egypt after the Great Pyramid and the Pyramid of Khafra. At the time of its completion it was the tallest man made structure in the world. It is also thought to be the first successful attempt at building a smooth sided pyramid.

Throughout the years pyramids have fallen down or have been destroyed. Even though they still fascinate people in this very high tech world, how they possibly could have been built using only manual labour the majority of us wonder when staring at the immense pyramids at Giza and even the not so large pyramids like the Bent pyramid. The pyramids are proof that there are many things that we still have to learn about ancient societies.

angle, but the top section is only built at a 43 degree angle. Archaeologists think that the top section is at a lesser angle because the



Cross section

## Egypt's Empire Grows to Its Full Extent

Ramses II battles the Hittites in northern Syria, making his reign the most prosperous and expansive in Egypt's history.

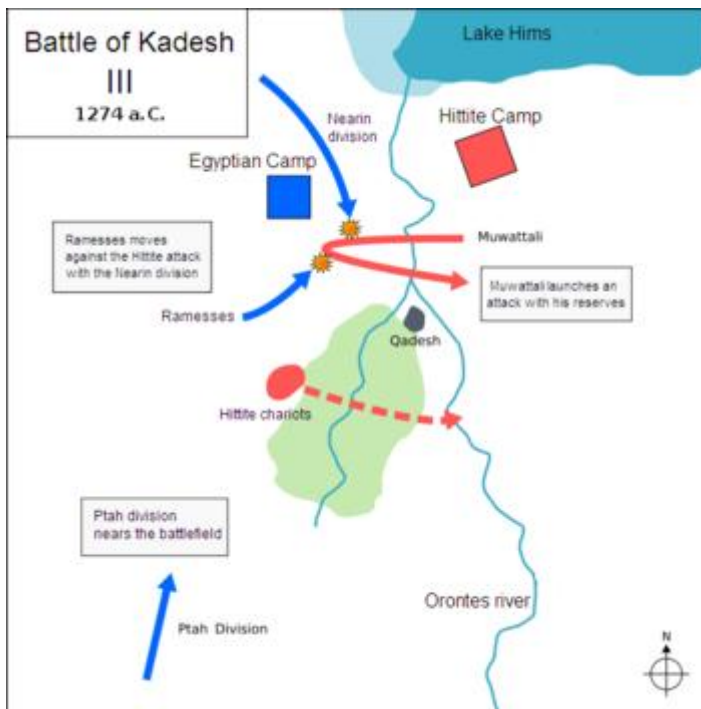
By Christopher McNally

Ramses II was referred to by his descendants and his people as "great ancestor". His reign started off with many battles with Mediterranean pirates, whom he easily defeated. He went on to reconquer many lands lost to Egypt after the reign of Thutmose II, until he came into contact with people who said that their allegiance lay with a "king of Hatti". Ramses had heard of this king before, but did not know much about his lands. This king of Hatti was actually the ruler of the burgeoning Hittite empire. They spoke an Indo-European language of the extinct Anatolian branch, and they too were reaching the height of their power. In the year 1274 BCE, Ramses learned

that this king of Hatti was too scared of the Egyptians to come out and fight. So, Ramses was confident that these Hittites would be a pushover, just like everyone else he had fought. In reality, however, the people who gave the Egyptians this information were Hittite spies. King Muwatalli II was massing a huge army to fight the Egyptians, the purported reason for this war being the recovering of some provinces taken over by the Egyptians. He then marched toward Ramses' army. In the beginning stage of the battle, which would prove to be the largest chariot battle in history, the Hittite army broke through the Egyptian Ra division. Ramses II was trapped in this struggle, fighting very hard for his

survival, and only barely got out of being killed, or even worse, captured. The Hittite army went on to attack the Egyptian camp. When they stopped to loot it, the Egyptians attacked and routed them, killing many. Muwatalli's forces were still quite strong, however. After an inconclusive battle the next day, neither side had gotten to their objectives. The overall outcome of this battle is disputed. The main source we have for it are Egyptian documents, which some have called propaganda, in a way similar to the bogus news reports from Stalingrad that were on the Nazi radio in January, 1943. Whoever was victorious, both sides were too worn out to fight any longer, and so they concluded one of the first known treaties

recorded in the languages of both sides to have survived to the present day. Amazingly, both the Hittite treaty and the Egyptian treaty are contained in their respective museums, making these very important documents in the history of Human conflict. The battle of Qadesh (or Kadesh) marked a high point in the fortunes of Egypt and the Hittite empire, but both soon fell out of their greatness. The Hittite capital, Hattusa, was destroyed in the 1100s BCE, the language disappearing soon afterwards. Egypt too sank into a slow but steady decline, sinking gradually off the face of the Mediterranean world spectrum until finally, it was subdued after the battle of Actium and made into a Roman province.



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## Battle of Megiddo

### The first battle in recorded history

*By Christopher McNally*

In about 1479 BCE, the new kingdom Pharaoh named Thutmose III, son of Hatshepsut, was in a very unfavorable position in the Middle East. During the new kingdom, Egypt had extended its rule far from the Nile river, becoming one of the first recorded superpowers. Its new provinces were ruled by subject kings, much like state governors. However, under Thutmose's mother's peaceful 20 years of rule, The king of the kingdom of Kadesh, which probably stretched over large amounts of Palestine and Syria, had seen his chance. With the help of the Mitanni,

competitors with Assyria, he convinced many of the subject kings in his area to rebel against the Egyptians. When a few kings in southern Palestine resisted, the king of Kadesh invaded. So, Thutmose, who had just come to power, raised a huge army, and marched toward the enemy forces. A few weeks after he set out, Thutmose III reached Yehem, around 16 miles southwest of the town called Megiddo, where his enemies had taken up residence. The king of Kadesh and all the bankrolled subject kings were encamped inside the city. Now Thutmose had three roads to take. The first road led north through the town of Aruna, then to Zefiti,

and then southeast to Megiddo. The second led straight through a mountainous ridge to the city. The third road led east towards Damascus, skirting around the ridge and then turning north towards Megiddo. Thutmose chose the second option, perhaps figuring, correctly, that the enemy would not suspect him to be so unwise as to take the mountainous, narrow, direct route. Instead, they had concentrated the bulk of their army on the third route near the town of Tannach. So, the Egyptians soon got to and crossed over the pass, Thutmose cheering his men along all the way. When they got close to the city, they only came into

contact with a tiny covering force. To prevent his forces from being split, Thutmose stopped and formed defensive positions. On hearing of the Egyptian move, the rebel army moved towards Megiddo, establishing their positions facing those of Thutmose. The way in which the battle transpired has been mostly lost, the main thing reported was the enemy fleeing ignominiously from the Pharaoh. Whatever happened, Megiddo was captured by the forces of Egypt, although the king of Kadesh fled. So, the first battle to be recorded by eyewitnesses in history ended.

## Battle of Actium

### Mark Antony and Cleopatra VII Philopater lose the last major battle of Ancient Egypt, land of the Pharaohs

*By Christopher McNally*

By 30 BCE, the country that had once seen the likes of Rameses II ride victoriously into his capital, the Egyptian empire, was a spent force. In the preceding 1200 years, it had seen a steady decline from its peak of power until it sank into turmoil and near-obscurity, even Nubia, Egypt's old enemy, conquering it for a

short while. Then came a succession of conquerors, culminating with Alexander the Great liberating Egypt from Persian rule and founding the city of Alexandria. After the death of Alexander, his empire was split into a few successor states ruled by his generals, Egypt coming under the control of the Ptolemy family. These were solidly Hellenistic people, and they

acted the part quite well, distancing themselves from their people and going so far as not learning Egyptian. Then, in the 50s and 40s BCE, things changed. Egypt was embroiled in a bitter civil war fought between two Ptolemys. One, coincidentally named Ptolemy, followed in the footsteps of his forefathers, being revered by his people who thought that he was a god,

like other Pharaohs, and not understanding any of their language. He was also only about 13 years old in 48 BCE, relying on his advisers to do all his work for him. Because of his standing as a god, many of the people of Egypt sided with him. The other Ptolemy was quite different. For one thing, she was older, being 21 years old in 48 BCE. Her name was Cleopatra, and she claimed to be the

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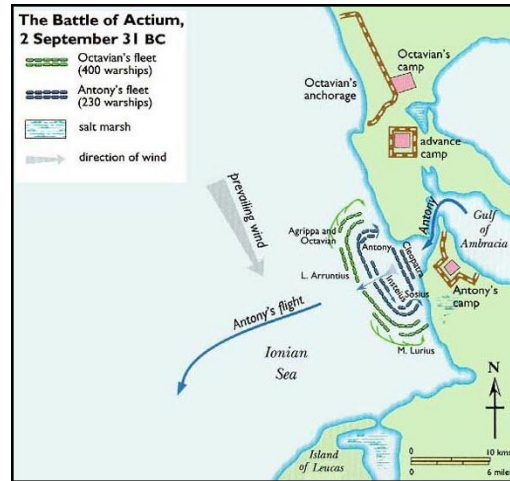


## Battle of Actium (continued)

incarnation of Isis, probably to counter her younger brother's supposed god status. She was entertaining, a bit spoiled, and unlike her forefathers knew and spoke quite fluent Egyptian, being revered by her followers as a truly great ruler. But by 48 BCE, she was trapped in Alexandria along with the rest of her followers. Then, a third factor entered the picture. By that year, another civil war was reaching its climax as well. Over the past 200 years, a new power had skyrocketed into the Mediterranean spotlight. During that period, the Republic of Rome had completely defeated Carthage, Lybia, Macedon, Greece, Syria, Israel, and, most recently, Gaul. The last conquest had been made by the forces of Proconsul and General Gaius Julius Caesar, the same man who was now chasing his archenemy, Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, into Egypt. When Caesar arrived in Ptolemy's camp, he was received by the young Pharaoh, jubilant with glee, holding Pompey's severed head in his hand, in a bid to get Caesar on his side. Instead of the expected result, Caesar was horrified by this barbarous act, reports going out that the general broke into tears at the horrid sight. Caesar retired to camp, probably disgusted with all things Egyptian, when some Egyptian slaves gave him a carpet. The almost certainly

confused Caesar was amazed when the carpet was rolled up, revealing that none other than Queen Cleopatra had been inside it. She then explained to him how she had been forced to do this, as her horrid nasty little brother had holed her up in her own palace and it was the only way for her to escape. She then went on to convince the Roman to fight for her side. He easily brushed aside Ptolemy's forces and established Cleopatra as the new ruler of Egypt. As the years went by, Caesar finished off the last of Pompey's supporters, eventually returning to Egypt and having an affair with Cleopatra, this resulting in a son, Caesarion. Caesar was murdered in Rome, setting off yet another Roman civil war, which was ended by a federation led by Mark Antony, one of Caesar's generals, and Octavian Caesar, Julius' adopted son. They divvied up the Republic among themselves, the east going to Antony, and the west

going to Octavian. Eventually, one man would want the whole, so this fact, coupled with the threat posed by Caesarion and by Antony's affair with Cleopatra led to war in 31 BCE. Antony landed his legions in the bay of Actium, Greece, where he and Cleopatra then sat about doing nothing, and so were trapped and blockaded by Octavian. First, Antony tried to break out. When this failed, he and Cleopatra realized that their sick and starving troops would have to leave by sea. So, on September 2, they acted. Octavian's fleet was blockading their own fleet outside the bay, so Antony sent his giant quinqueremes plodding towards his enemy's fleet. He also packed his troopships full of legionaries. Octavian's ships were small triremes and liburnians, but they were faster than Antony's ships, which fighter's fleet included at least one decireme. However, Antony's giant, unwieldy ships at first seemed to push aside



Octavian's smaller ships, and a gap was made in Octavian's line. Now Cleopatra saw her chance. Probably realizing that this was her last chance for escape, she led her entire fleet through the gap and speeding back to Egypt, so that they could fight again another day. Antony followed her in a smaller ship, abandoning his entire fleet to Octavian, who took the escape of Antony and the Egyptians as a sign of cowardice.

The flight of their commander disheartened the men of Antony's fleet, but despite this, they fought their ships hard and well. However, Octavian's ships' maneuverability meant that he eventually gained the upper hand and, with the help of flaming arrows, destroyed or captured all the remaining vessels in the enemy fleet. Octavian had won the decisive battle of the war, and, because of the shame stemming from the loss of the battle, Antony committed suicide. Now, Cleopatra was alone against the most powerful enemy in the world, and to prevent the humiliation of her capture, she too killed herself. Octavian, now the sole ruler of the Roman Republic, got himself declared First Citizen, thus starting the Imperial period, and Egypt was incorporated into the new Roman Empire as the province of Aegyptus.