The Middle Kingdom Of Ancient Egypt

BETWEEN THE OLD AND THE NEW

COMPILED BY HOWIE BAUM
Egypt was reunited, but things had changed.

Pyramids were smaller and there was less wealth in the hands of the rulers.

The middle class gained access to consumer items such as jewelry and books (in scroll form)and it was a time of writing of great literature.

Middle Kingdom pharaohs strengthened their borders by building fortresses in the western and eastern delta to keep out invading Libyans and peoples of the Levant, respectively.

In Nubia, to the south, the Egyptians maintained or expanded extensive outposts dating back to the Old Kingdom.
11TH DYNASTY

DYNASTY 11
(2134–1991 BCE)

Mentuhotep II reunited Egypt and inaugurated the Middle Kingdom.

Only 7 kings are known in this dynasty, although the first king, Mentuhotep I, never reigned but was honored with the royal title by his descendants.

Mentuhotep II and the later kings were buried at Deir el-Bahri.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates of Reign</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Mentuhotep I</td>
<td>2134 - 1 year only</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Intef I</td>
<td>2134–2118 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Intef II</td>
<td>2118–2069 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Intef III</td>
<td>2069–2061 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Mentuhotep II</td>
<td>2061–2010 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Mentuhotep III</td>
<td>2010–1998 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Mentuhotep IV</td>
<td>1998–1991 BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
King Mentuhotep II

He became the 6th ruler of the Eleventh Dynasty and reigned for 51 years.

He is credited with reuniting Egypt, thus ending the turbulent First Intermediate Period.

Under the rule of Mentuhotep II, Thebes became the capital of Egypt, and it would remain a major religious and political center throughout much of Ancient Egyptian history.

He became the first King of the Middle Kingdom.

He became King after his father Intef III was on the throne.

He was, in turn succeeded by his son Mentuhotep III.
Painted sandstone statue of Mentuhotep II, wearing the Deshret crown

22 of these statues were along the causeway to his temple/tomb
THE TEMPLE AND TOMB OF KING MENTUHOTEP II

The Mortuary Temple of Mentuhotep II at the West Bank of Thebes (Modern Luxor) is a magnificent terraced temple and tomb, that he had built.

It represents the architectural change from the pyramids of the Old Kingdom to the Temple/Tombs of the New Kingdom.

It is located next to the later, and more famous temple of Queen Hatshepsut.
ANOTHER VIEW OF MENTUHOTEP II'S TOMB, TODAY
AT DEIR EL BAHRI

AERIAL VIEW OF MENTUHOTEP II'S MORTUARY TEMPLE TODAY, AT DEIR EL BAHRI
MENTUHOTEP II ON A RELIEF, FROM HIS MORTUARY TEMPLE

Ritual Implement with an inscription dedicating it from King Senwosret to Mentuhotep II.

Known as a pesesh-kef, it was used in the Opening of the Mouth ritual, during which a priest would hold the implement to the mouth of a cult statue or mummy, allowing it to receive offerings.
MENTUHOTEP II

He turned his sights on military conquests in order to consolidate his authority over all of Egypt.

He dispatched military forays from Thebes, into the Sinai region to the northeast and Nubia to the south.

The old Egyptian cult of perceiving the pharaoh as a god was revived, and Mentuhotep II wore the crown of Amun and Min to signify his deified status among his people.

He was the ruler who revived and re-invented Egyptian art.
In the 39th year of his reign, when the country was well under his control, Mentuhotep II continued his military campaigns into Nubia.

One such expedition was led by his Chancellor, Khety, illustrating the importance Mentuhotep II placed on reopening Egypt's access to Nubia, and beyond.
Mentuhotep III succeeded his father Mentuhotep II to the throne.

It is believed that, following his father's long 51 years of reign, Mentuhotep III was relatively old when he acceded to the throne and reigned for 12 years.

Despite its short duration, Mentuhotep's reign is known for his expedition to Punt and architectural innovations.
He was the fifth king of the 11th Dynasty.

His preference was for the arts and rebuilding.

He also opened trade with the Red Sea region and was involved with the Wadi Hammamat quarrying operations.

He built a shrine to the god Thoth near Deir el Bahri but his mortuary temple was never finished.
EXPEDITION TO PUNT

In Year 8 of his reign, an expedition was led by his steward, Henenu, from Koptos to Wadi Gasus, with 3,000 soldiers.

Wood was carried by his soldiers in order to build ships once they reached the Red Sea, to sail to Punt.

They brought back perfumes, gum resins, and also stone for building.

NOTE: Archaeologists still aren’t sure where the land of Punt was but guess its as shown on the map.
MAKING WOOD MODELS FOR TOMBS

Beautiful models of boats, bakeries, breweries, granaries, and people were made using **special tools, like those shown at the right.**

Many of the models in the following pictures were made of wood such as:

- Native acacia
- Tamarisk
- Sycamore fig
- Fir, Cedar, and other Conifers, imported from Syria.
The Tomb of Meketre
MEKETRE
CHANCELLOR AND HIGH STEWARD

The ancient Egyptian official Meketre was chancellor and high steward during the reign of Mentuhotep II, Mentuhotep III and perhaps Amenemhat I, during the Middle Kingdom.

He commissioned a lot of magnificent wood models to go into his tomb.
MODEL OF A PADDLING, FUNERARY NUBIAN BOAT
WOODEN MODEL OF MEKETRE COUNTING CATTLE
MODEL OF A PADDLING BOAT
ANOTHER MODEL OF A TRAVELING BOAT
MODEL CATTLE STABLE
BREWING AND BAKING WORKS
MODEL OF A BEER BREWERY
WOMEN OFFERING BEARER
2 MODEL BOATS WORKING TOGETHER TO CATCH A NET OF FISH
MODEL OF A GRANARY, WITH SCRIBES IN A SEPARATE AREA
FARM PLOWING SCENE

MODEL OF A PROCESSION OF OFFERING BEARERS
MODEL SPORTING BOAT
MODEL OF A GRANARY WITH A Scribe ON THE RIGHT, RECORDING WHAT COMES IN AND HOW MUCH LEAVES, ONCE IT IS SORTED.
WOODEN STATUE OF A SERVANT GIRL
BAKERY AND MAKING BREAD
THE 12TH DYNASTY
7 KINGS AND 1 QUEEN

Chronology of the Kings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates of Reign</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>King Amenemhet I</td>
<td>1991–1962 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Senusret I</td>
<td>1971–1926 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Amenemhet II</td>
<td>1929–1892 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Senusret II</td>
<td>1897–1878 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Senusret III</td>
<td>1878–1841 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Amenemhet III</td>
<td>1844–1797 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Amenemhet IV</td>
<td>1799–1787 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Sobeknefru</td>
<td>1787–1782 BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AMENEMHAT I
(1995–1966 BCE)
Was advisor to the previous pharaoh; was assassinated by his guards.

AMENEMHAT II
(1911–1877 BCE)
Builder of the White Pyramid at Dashur (now destroyed).

SENUSRET II
(1877–1870 BCE)
Built an irrigation system at the Fayum oasis.

SENUSRET III
(1870–1831 BCE)
Was likely the source of the Greek legend about an Egyptian pharaoh named Sersekins.

AMENEMHAT III
(1831–1786 BCE)
Ruled during the Middle Kingdom’s golden age.

AMENEMHAT IV
(1786–1777 BCE)
Finished the Great Canal, linking the Nile to the Fayum oasis.

SOBEKNEFREU
(1777–1773 BCE)
First known female pharaoh for which there is confirmed proof.
A SUMMARY OF THE 7 KINGS AND 1 QUEEN, WHO RULED DURING THE 11TH DYNASTY

Amenemhat I
This dynasty was founded by Amenemhat I, who may have been vizier to the last king of Dynasty XI, Mentuhotep IV.

His armies campaigned south as far as the Second Cataract of the Nile and into southern Canaan. He also re-established diplomatic relations with the Canaanite state of Byblos and Hellenic rulers in the Aegean Sea. He was the father of Senusret I.

Senusret I
Senusret I followed his father's triumphs with an expedition south to the Third Cataract.

Amenemhat II
Amenemhat II was king during a very peaceful time.

Senusret II
Senusret II also was content to live in peace.
THE LEVANT

The Levant is a geographical term referring to the large area in the Eastern Mediterranean region of Western Asia.

It include the countries named today as Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Palestine and most of Turkey, southwest of the middle Euphrates river.

In Egyptian times, the southern part of the Levant or Palestine was called Canaan.
Senusret III
Finding Nubia had grown restive under the previous rulers, Senusret sent punitive expeditions into that land. He also sent an expedition into the Levant.

Amenemhat III
Senusret's successor Amenemhat III reaffirmed his predecessor's foreign policy.

However, after Amenemhat, the energies of this dynasty were largely spent, and the growing troubles of government were left to the dynasty's last ruler, Queen Sobekneferu, to resolve.

Amenemhat IV
Amenemhat IV succeeded his father, Amenemhat III, and ruled for approximately nine years.

Sobekneferu – She was the daughter of Amenemhat III and upon his death, she became the heir to the throne, as Queen.

She was the last ruler of the twelfth dynasty and had a short reign of only 5 years.

(More information about her will be shown later)
• He carried out many military campaigns to eliminate the invasion of Libyans and Asians.

• Directed the construction of dams in the ancient Fayoum region to protect agricultural lands from flooding and reuse of the Nile River waters again at the time of drought.

• Increasing the area of agricultural crops in ancient Egypt.

• Reorganizing the role of the government and the authority of the nobles in managing the regions of Upper and Lower Egypt.
He was the 2nd pharaoh of the 12th Dynasty of Egypt and ruled from 1971 BCE to 1926 BCE.

He was one of the most powerful kings of this Dynasty. He was the son of Amenemhat I.

He continued his father's aggressive expansionist policies against Nubia.

He also organized an expedition to a Western Desert oasis and established diplomatic relations with some rulers of towns in Syria and Canaan.
FUNERARY BOAT OF UKH HOTEP II

Ukhhotep II was an ancient Egyptian official during the reign of pharaoh Senusret I.

This is one of two funerary boats bearing the name of Ukhhotep, which carries a mummy on a canopied bier with a leopard skin spread on its roof.

The deceased is accompanied by two female mourners, probably his relatives, in the guise of the goddesses Isis and Nephthys.

There are 2 attendant priests, each dressed in a leopard-skin garment that indicates their office.
AMENEMHET II

He was the son of Senusret I and one of his chief queens, Nefru.

He was the third ruler of Egypt's 12th Dynasty.

Like his father, he served the first part of his reign as co-regent (perhaps for only two years) with Senusret I and he led a Nubian expedition during that time.

He ruled Egypt for 30 years after his co-regency.
SENUSRET II

He was the fourth pharaoh of the Twelfth Dynasty of Egypt and ruled from 1897 BCE to 1878 BCE – 19 years.

He took a lot of interest in the Faiyum oasis region and began work on an extensive irrigation system from Bahr Yussef through to Lake Moeris through the construction of a dike at El-Lahun and the addition of a network of drainage canals.
SENUSRET III
(1878-1860 BCE)

He was the 5th king of the 12th Dynasty of the Middle Kingdom of Egypt.

His reign is often considered the height of the Middle Kingdom which was the Golden Age in Egypt's history in so far as art, literature, architecture, science, and other cultural aspects reached an unprecedented level of refinement, the economy flourished, and military and trade expeditions filled the nation's treasury.

In Senusret III, the people found the epitome of the ideal warrior-king border fostered lucrative trade.
AMENEMHAT III

He was the 6th king of the 12th Dynasty of the Middle Kingdom.

He was elevated to the throne as co-regent by his father Senusret III, with whom he shared the throne as the active king for twenty years.

During his reign, Egypt attained its cultural and economic zenith of the Middle Kingdom.
AMENEMHAT IV

He was the seventh king of the Twelfth Dynasty of Egypt, from 1990–1800 BCE).

He ruled for more than nine years.

His reign started with a two-year coregency with Amenemhat III and it was seemingly peaceful.

He undertook expeditions in the Sinai for turquoise, in Upper Egypt for amethyst, and to the Land of Punt.

He also maintained trade relations with Byblos as well as the Egyptian presence in Nubia.
WHO WAS THE FIRST QUEEN OF ANCIENT EGYPT?

Merneith is believed to have become ruler upon the death of her husband Djet (who possibly was her brother) but there isn’t any positive evidence of this.

It is possible that their son Den was too young to rule when Djet died, so she may have ruled as regent until Den was old enough to be the king in his own right.

Before her, Neithhotep is believed to have ruled in the same way, after her husband King Narmer died, as Narmer's son was too young to rule then.
Merneith’s name was written on a Naqada seal inside a serekh which was the way the kings' names were written.

This would mean she may have actually been the second female in Egypt's first dynasty to have ruled as pharaoh.

The strongest evidence that Merneith was a ruler of Egypt is her tomb.

This tomb in Abydos (Tomb Y) is unique among the otherwise exclusively male tombs as it is of the same scale as the tombs of the kings of that period.

Merneith was buried close to Djet and Den.
SOBEKNEFERU

There is no doubt that Sobekneferu was considered a king, and not a queen regent, so she was either the 3rd or 1st known female and last ruler of the 12th dynasty of ancient Egypt.

She used all five of the king’s names and her reign is recorded.

She was depicted wearing the kilt of a man over her sheath dress.

This was not an attempt to pretend to be male (she retained the female suffixes on her titles) but rather a recognition that the traditional image of a pharaoh was male and in order to fully take on the role, she also had to adopt male clothing.

Upon his death, she became the heir to the throne. She asserted legitimacy through her father, Amenemhat III.
Sobekneferu died after her very short reign of 5 years, leaving no heir.

Her untimely death ended the period of the Middle Kingdom, which was followed by the conquest and rule of the Hyksos.

The Hyksos, meaning "foreign rulers" were better fighters than the Egyptians as they used horses and chariots, to shoot arrows from.
A LESS POWERFUL DYNASTY

Even though the table at the right lists 12 kings, there were actually 70 during this dynasty, that lasted 126 years, from 1756 to 1630 BCE), so some of the Kings were only in power for a few months.

The royal residence remained at the same place and the kings still ruled the whole country.

Egypt’s hold on Lower Nubia was maintained, as was its position as the leading state in the Middle East.

No major changes happened!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDYLe9LN6mY&t=23s go to 2.10
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<th>Author</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chronicle of the Pharaohs (The Reign-By-Reign Record of the Rulers and Dynasties of Ancient Egypt)</td>
<td>Clayton, Peter A.</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Thames and Hudson Ltd</td>
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<td>History of Ancient Egypt, A</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Blackwell</td>
<td>None Stated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Valley of the Kings</td>
<td>Weeks, Kent R.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Friedman/Fairfax</td>
<td>ISBN 1-5866-3295-7</td>
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