

WORLD HISTORY-1

MODULE II-BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATIONS



TOPIC-THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION IN EGYPT
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EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION



- Ancient Egypt was the cradle of an ancient civilization of eastern North Africa, concentrated along the lower reaches of the river Nile.
- The ancient Egyptian civilization coalesced around 3150 BCE, with the political unification of lower and Upper Egypt under the First Pharaoh and continued for over next three millennium.
- By about 5500 BCE, small tribes living in Nile valley developed into a series of cultures
- The largest of these, in upper Egypt was Badani and Naqada culture in Lower Egypt Menes, the known first Pharaoh, then united both lower and upper Egypt.
- In the early dynastic period about 3150 BCE the first of the dynastic pharaohs solidified their control over Egypt by establishing their capital at Memphis from where they could control the labour force and agriculture



- As well as trade routes
- The Pharaohs became more powerful and they collected taxes, co-ordinated irrigation projects to improve crop yields and established judicial system to maintain peace and order in the society
- The state became more able to sponsor construction of colossal monuments- the Pyramids- with the surplus resource made available by a productive and stable economy
- A new class of educated scribes and officials who were granted estates by Pharaohs in payment for their services
- Later it could not afford a large centralized administration
- With the decline of the powers of the central authority, the regional governors called 'Nomarchs' began to declare independence
- This was escalated with the severe droughts between 2200-2150 BCE



- This is known as the Intermediate period.
- During this period the regional rulers increased their powers and competed each other for supremacy.
- By 2160 BCE the Lower Egypt was controlled by the ruler in Herakleopolis and Upper Egypt by the Intef.
- They fought each other for supremacy which finally resulted in the victory of the Intef ruler, who founded the Middle Kingdom.
- The capital of the Middle Kingdom was Thebes.
- The Middle Kingdom rulers restored the lost prosperity by increasing the agricultural land with provisions of irrigation facilities.



- But the Middle Kingdom was attacked by the Hyksos and the invasion resulted in the destruction of the kingdom.
- After the end of the Middle Kingdom, a second Intermediate period came into effect in the Egyptian history by 1650 BCE.
- Soon the Egyptian kings were able to regain the lost power and land and the New Kingdom was founded.