

## ORGANIZATION

The Middle Kingdom also developed an interest in conquering specifically the new pharaoh's homeland of Nubia. They developed a side interest in getting conquered specifically by the Semitic people from the Levant. They were able to conquer much of Egypt using superior military technology like bronze weapons and compound bows and chariots of fire. What? They're just regular chariots? Stan, why are you always killing my dreams? One group, the Hyksos were able to conquer all of Egypt but rather than destroying Egyptian culture they just relaxed like the Nile and assimilated into the Egyptians and the Egyptians adopted their military technology and then the Egyptians destroyed the Hyksos and expelled them from Egypt. Then by 1550 BCE there was again an Egyptian pharaoh, Amosis. Whose name only sounds like an STD. Anyway, after all these conquering and being conquered Egypt eventually emerged from its geographically imposed isolationism and can we cue the New Kingdom graphic? There it is. New Kingdom Egypt continued this military expansion but it looked more like an empire particularly when they headed south and took over a land in an attempt to find gold and slaves. Probably the most expansive of the New Kingdom pharaohs was Hatshepsut. A woman who ruled Egypt for about 22 years and who expanded Egypt not through military might but through trade. But most new kingdom pharaohs being dudes focused on military expansion which brought Egypt into conflicts with the Assyrians who you'll remember from last week and then the Persians and then Alexander the Great and finally, the Romans. On the whole, Egypt you probably would have been better off enjoying its geographical isolation and not trying to conquer new territory but all of Egypt's friends had jumped off a bridge. One last thing about the New Kingdom. There was this crazy new kingdom pharaoh named Akhenaten who tried to invent a new god for Egypt, Aten. Akhenaten was kind of the Kim Jong-il of Ancient Egypt. Like he had this feared police force and this big cult of personality and also he was a nut job. Anyway, after his death he was replaced by his wife and then a daughter and then a son, Tutankhaten who turned his back on the weird god Aten and changed his name to Tutankhamun. And that is about all King Tut did before he died probably around the age of 17. Honestly, the only reason King Tut is famous is that most pharaohs had their graves robbed by ancient people and King Tut had his grave robbed by 20th Century British people which brings us to the open letter. (wheels rolling) An open letter to King Tut. First we got to find out what Stan left for me in the secret compartment. It's a pen. I don't ... (screaming) It's a shock pen. Stan! Terrible, terrible gift for the secret compartment. Dear King Tut, I know that as pharaoh's lives go, yours was pretty poor. First, you had to

marry your sister which hopefully you weren't that psyched about plus you had a cleft palate and probably scoliosis. Plus you died before reaching adulthood but dude you have had the best afterlife ever. Since your body was discovered in 1922 you've become probably the most famous ancient person. There have been lots of books about you. Scholars have devoted their lives to you. Dude, we're so obsessed with you that we used this fancy new technology to scan your body and establish that you probably died of an infected broken leg and/or malaria. Also you've inspired such seminal works of artists The Discovery Kid Series Tutenstein which my son forces me to watch. Your relics have been to 6 continents. It all works out in the end, man. Well, I mean you're still dead so that kind of sucks. Best wishes, John Green. King Tut leads us nicely to the really crucial thing about Egyptian culture. Because King Tut lived right around the same time as the pyramids, right? Wrong. Remember the pyramids were built around 2500 BCE during the Old Kingdom. King Tut died in 1322 BCE 1,200 years later. That's 5 and a half Americas but because Egypt was so similar for so long it all tends to blend together when we imagine it. Ancient Egypt lasted a thousand years longer than Christianity has been around and 800 years longer than that other super long lived civilization China. There was an entire culture that lasted longer than Western Civilization has existed and it had ran its course before the West was even born. Next week we'll be looking at the Persians and the Greeks. I'll see you then.