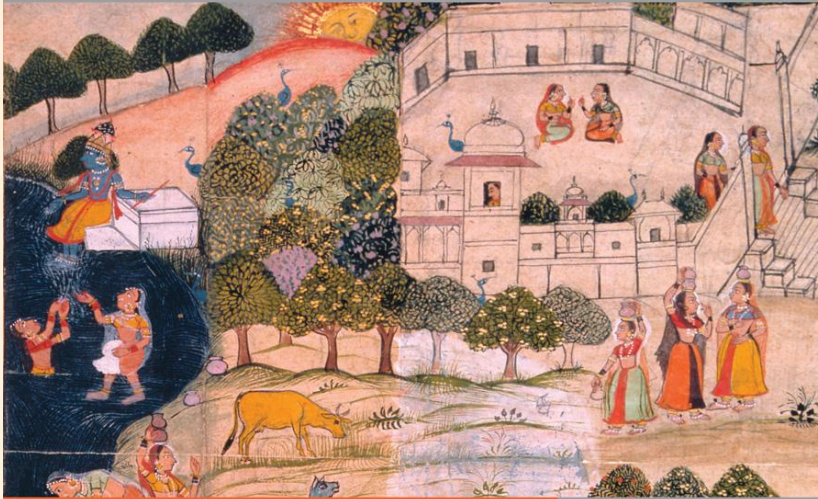


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

Chapter 3 Early Africa and Egypt

8000–3000 B.C.E.	Food-producing revolution in Africa
c. 4000–3000 B.C.E.	Nile Valley village-based civilizations
c. 3100–2200 B.C.E.	Egypt's Old Kingdom
2500–1000 B.C.E.	Desiccation of the Sahara begins; first permanent settlements south of the Sahara
c. 2600–2100 B.C.E.	Pyramid-building age
c. 2200–2100 B.C.E.	First Intermediate Period
c. 2100–1650 B.C.E.	Middle Kingdom
c. 1650–1570 B.C.E.	Second Intermediate Period
1500s B.C.E.	Hyksos invasion
c. 1550–770 B.C.E.	New Kingdom
c. 1550–1250 B.C.E.	The Empire
1300s B.C.E.	Akhnaton's monotheist experiment Tutankhamen
525 B.C.E.	Egypt's conquest by Persia
c. 1500 B.C.E. –	Kingdom of Kush 350 C.E.
c. 500 B.C.E.	Iron making at Meroe and Nok, Beginnings of sub-Saharan urbanization



African Geography and Climate

- Vast variety of topography
 - Coastal lowlands to deserts to inland plateaus to highlands and mountains
 - Deserts to grasslands to rainforests
 - Great rivers, made impassable by giant waterfalls
 - Heavy surf along the Atlantic coast, lack of good harbors
 - Indian Ocean coast enjoys good harbors, extensive trade



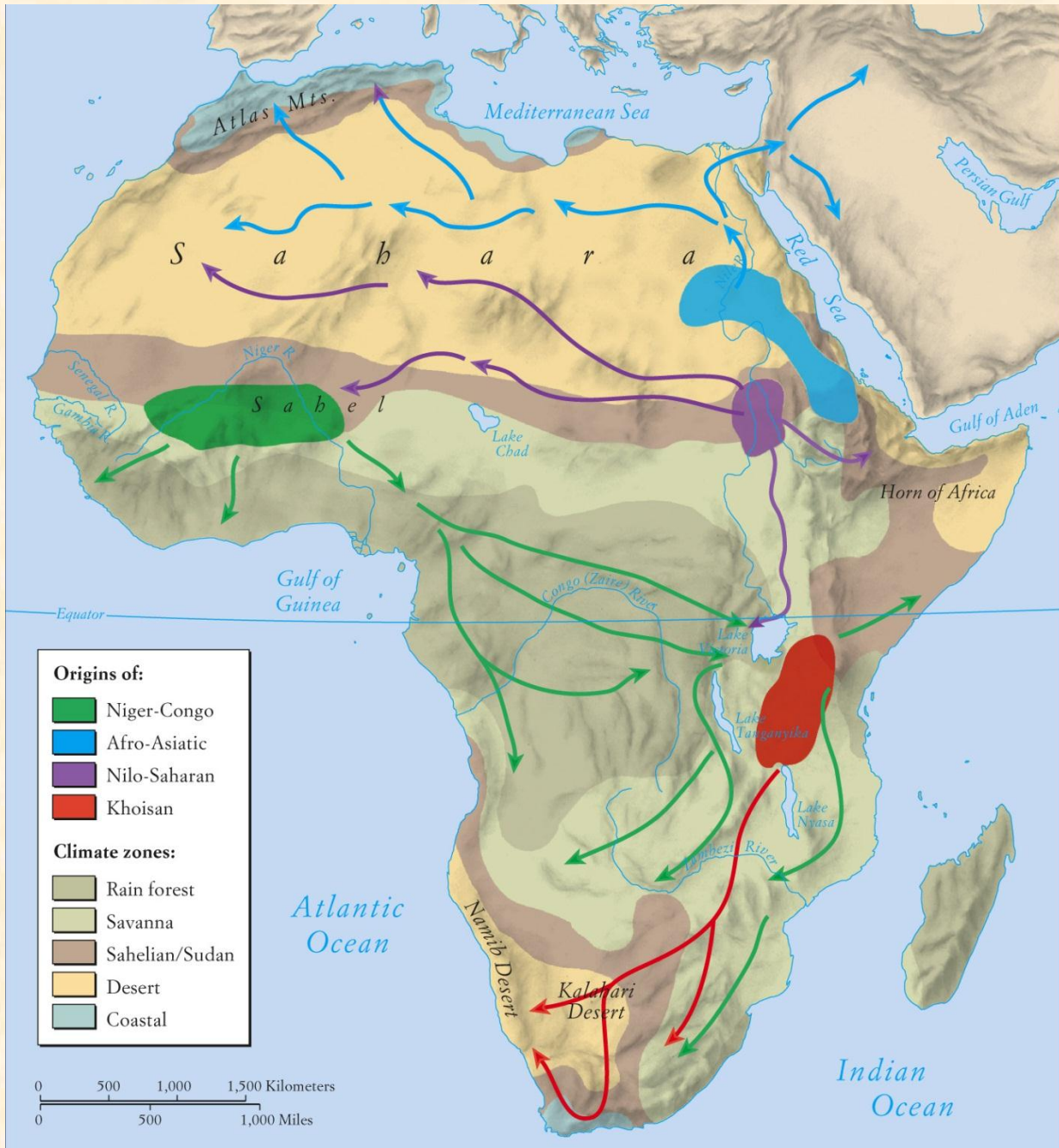
African Geography and Climate

- Interior generally isolated from coastal areas, lowlands
 - Five climatic, vegetative zones
 - Mediterranean and extreme south – temperate weather, good soils
 - The Sahel- steppes between the desert and the Savanna
 - The deserts – Sahara, Namib, Kalahari
 - The rainforests near the equator
 - The savanna – grasslands north of the rainforest



Africa's Neolithic Revolution

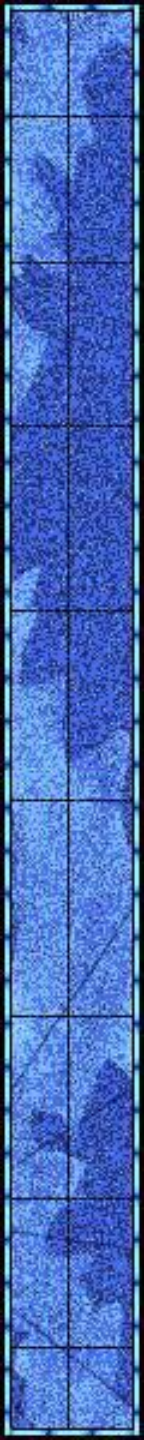
- 11,000-3000 BCE, higher rainfall than today
 - Grassy steppes, woodlands, lakes and rivers covered the “wet” Sahara
- Four different groups produced food in the region
 - Khoisan speakers
 - Nilo-Saharan speakers and Afro-Asiatic speakers
 - Niger-Congo Speakers





Khoisan

- Originally inhabited East Africa
- Remain Hunters and Gatherers
- Used microlithic stone tools
- Stone bowls and net bags
- Forced into drier regions of South Africa by farming peoples



Nilo-Saharan speakers and Afro-Asiatic speakers

- Originally hunters and gatherers from southern Nile region
- Spread across the Sahara during the 'wet period'
- Reached to Sinai Peninsula around 10,000-11,000 BCE
 - Migrated into Near East
 - Became known as the Semites
 - Domesticated cattle in the 8000s BCE
 - Over the next thousand years, began:
 - Stone pottery
 - Cultivating indigenous seeds (sorghum, pearl millet, fonio)
 - By 5500 BCE, added watermelon, gourds, calabashes and cotton



Nilo-Saharan and Afro-Asiatic

- 5500-3500 BCE, Sahara reverts to desert causing further migrations
 - Berbers become nomads north of the Sahara
 - Others continue to farm and fish riverbanks and lakes
 - Migrations southeast to Ethiopian highlands and rift valleys



Niger-Congo Speakers

- Southern Sahara wetlands of West Africa
- 5000s BCE, began farming of yams, rice
 - Later Guinea fowl, oil palm for palm wine, raffia palm for textiles
 - Later still, black-eyed peas, okra, ground nuts and kola
 - Movement southward into Savana
 - Skilled boat-builders
 - Clear forests with stone axes, form large communities based on yam gardens

Bantu Expansion

- Bantu speakers -sub-group of Niger-Congo speakers
 - Spread South and East from West Africa to the Congo Basin
 - By 1000 BCE, they were at Lake Victoria
 - Began to breed cattle, grow grain
 - Establish small kingdoms, central, east and south Africa by
 - To present-day South Africa by 400 CE
 - Use of iron technology
 - Few Monuments, no writing until they reached the Swahili coast of East Africa
 - What we know of them before this comes from:
 - Linguistic analysis
 - Archaeology
 - The writings of the Portuguese from the 1500s CE



Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY

Early Civilizations of the Nile Valley

- After 5500 BCE, Afro-Asians migrated down the Nile Valley
 - Settled as farmers along floodplains
 - Gave up native sorghum, millets for wheat & barley
 - Obtained these from Semitic relatives of Palestine, Mesopotamia
- By 5000 BCE, first villages appeared along the Nile
- By 4000 BCE, they cleared the floodplain and competing states appear
- By 3500 BCE, three states vied for control (Nekhen, Nagada and This)
- By 3100 BCE, these Nilotic states came under control of king of This
 - A pharaoh, ruling in name of falcon god, Horus
 - Tradition says his name was Horus-Aha, or Menes



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LAND AND PEOPLE OF EGYPT

- Like Mesopotamia,
 - Dependent on river system – Nile – and 30 mile wide green strip, desert hills either side
 - Unlike Tigris/Euphrates, Nile benevolent & not given to unpredictable flooding
- Population overwhelmingly peasants
 - Most free tenant farmers working estates of large landowners, government officials
 - Little mechanization, work performed by humans or animals
 - Intimate knowledge of nature, environment
 - Dependent on strong government for protection & regularity of seasons
 - Maat: Personification of the principle of order





The Pharaoh – Egypt's God-King

- 3100-1000 BCE was Egypt's foundation period
- Pharaoh was a god (Horus) who chose to live on Earth
- Government Under the Pharaoh
 - Officials were noble landlords, temple priests with local power
 - Pharaoh directly responsible for welfare of Egypt:

Reign of the Pharaohs

- Pharaohs kept power for 2000 years because:
 - belief in divinity of king/queen (3 female pharaohs)
 - conviction that Egypt was specially favored and protected by the gods, assured by pharaohs and priests
 - climate and geography resulted in perpetual agricultural abundance
 - for 3000 years, until 1000 BCE, Egypt only rarely touched by war or foreign invasion



Egypt's Kingdoms

- Customary to divide Egypt's history into dynasties (rule by one family)
- 31 Dynasties, from Menes until the Persian invasion in 525 BCE
- Dynasties group under three "kingdoms": Old, Middle and New
- Old Kingdom (3100-2200 BCE) from Menes to the First Intermediate Period
 - Governed from Memphis
 - Most successful period
 - Art, architecture, religion, stability, prosperity
 - Construction of Giza pyramids



Middle Kingdom 2100-1650

- Preceded by First Intermediate Period
 - Breakdown of centralized power
- Marks five hundred year period of stability
 - Extension of rule further south (up the Nile)
 - Conditions of laboring people steadily worsened
 - Refinement of arts, crafts
 - Trade more extensive
 - Religion more democratic: afterlife included more
 - Small middle class of merchants, government officials began to appear



New Kingdom

- Preceded by Second Intermediate Period
 - Hyksos Invaders
- New Kingdom (1500-700 BCE) called the Empire
 - Imperialistic struggle with Hittites, others
 - Ended with Egyptian withdrawal from Near East
 - Repeated invasions during last 300 years
 - Kushites
 - Assyrians





Cultural Achievements

- Pyramids
 - Largest – Khufu – outside modern-day Cairo
 - Tombs were built while pharaoh was alive
 - Built during the Old Kingdom
- Statues, Temples, smaller tombs around 1300 BCE
 - Temples Karnak, Tel el Amarna
 - Tomb of Tutankhamen
 - Ruled 1347-1339 BCE, died at 18
 - Only one discovered to date NOT completely looted
 - Statues have graceful lines, great dignity
 - Reinforced by art, architecture of surroundings



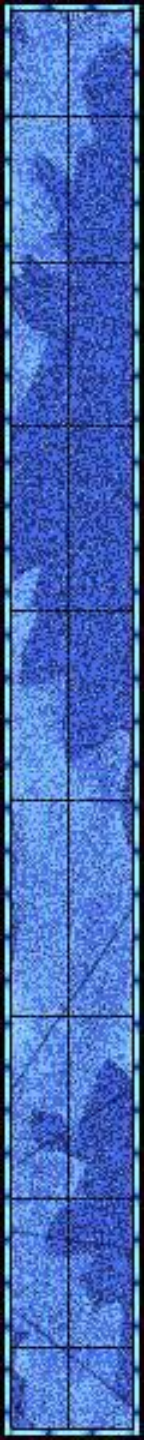
Cultural Achievements

- Hieroglyphics (“sacred carvings”)
 - Pictographs representing ideas, phonetic sounds
 - Used objects beginning with a strong consonant sound
 - Never developed into an alphabet
 - Dated use as far back as circa 3000 BCE
 - Their use confined to small groups of educated people
 - Faded out of use after Persian invasion
 - 604 symbols have been deciphered



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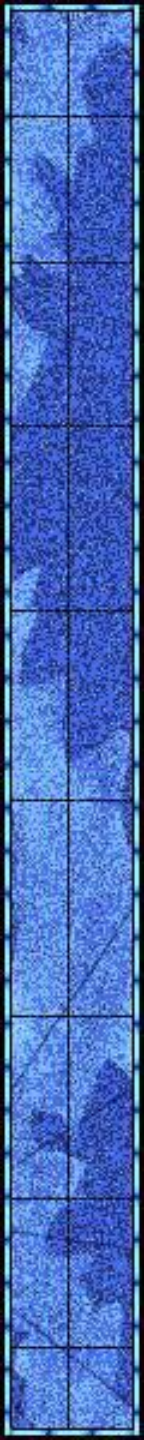


Religion, Philosophy and Eternal Life

Polytheistic religion – at least 300 gods

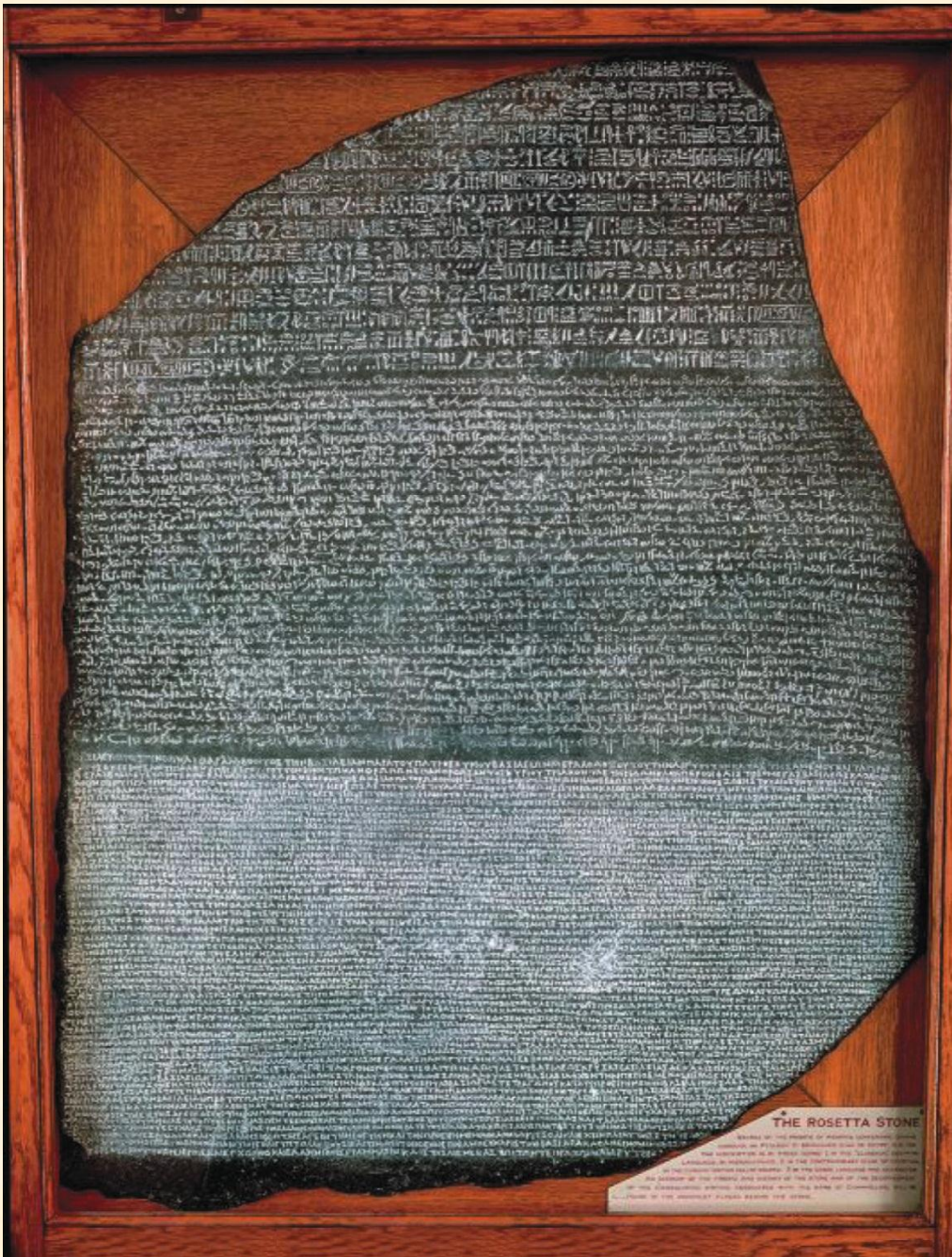
Amun and Ra – joined, came to represent embodiment of all gods, Sun God

- Other deities:
 - Osiris – God of the Underworld
 - Horus – Son of Osiris, made visible as the Pharaoh
- Belief in afterlife
 - Originally only for upper classes
 - Gradually democratized
- Eternal reward/punishment for their *ka*, or life essence which had to submit to the moral Last Judgment
- Afterlife benevolent, surrounded by family, friends, protective gods
 - No need to work, no suffering
 - Concept of hell emerges during New Kingdom
- Time cyclical



Philosophy, Religion, and Eternal Life

- Gods reflected forces of nature
- Gods of Mesopotamia capricious, angry
 - Why? Tigris, Euphrates unpredictable and destructive
- Egyptian religion different – “The Gift of the Nile”
 - Ra, sun god, shined year, year out
 - The rhythms of the Nile were stable and orderly, thus the gods and cosmos were as well
- These ideas were represented in Maat
 - The universal order and “rightness”



The British Museum, London, UK / Bridgeman Art Library

Attempt at Monotheism

Akhnaton's experiment with wife Nefertiti

- Polytheism to monotheism (“one god”)
 - cult of sun god, newly renamed Aton
 - heavenly father worshiped as single and universal god of all creation
 - Monotheism unsuccessful, not seen again until appearance of Judaism
 - At his death, priests returned to old ways under the boy-pharaoh Tutankhamen
- Priests opposed these changes
 - Death of Akhnaton (by poison?) brought return to old faith under Tutankhamen





Trade and Egypt's Influence

- Sought wood from Byblos in Phoenicia
- Ivory and gold from the south in Nubia (also slaves)
- Conquered Sinai Peninsula for copper and gold mines
 - Following rise of Bronze Age
- Trade routes with eastern Mediterranean
- Naval expeditions to the Land of Punt: luxuries from India, southern Arabia, and eastern Africa for spices, frankincense, myrrh, and gold
- Pushed south to Nubian land of Kush

Kush and Meroe

- Nubia located on s-curve of the upper Nile (Sudan)

Kingdom of Kush emerged during the 1400s BCE, lasted to the 300s CE

Written language – still undeciphered

Trade routes through E. Mediterranean, Red Sea, Western Indian Ocean

- Gold, spices, aromatics (frankincense and myrrh) of East Africa, India and China
- Heavy Egyptian influence until capital moved to Meroe
 - Henceforth, cultural influences increasingly sub-Saharan African
- Major industrial center from 500s BCE – Iron Age



Martin Gray/National Geographic