

Political History and the Geopolitics of Egypt after the Pharaohs

A new imperial age:

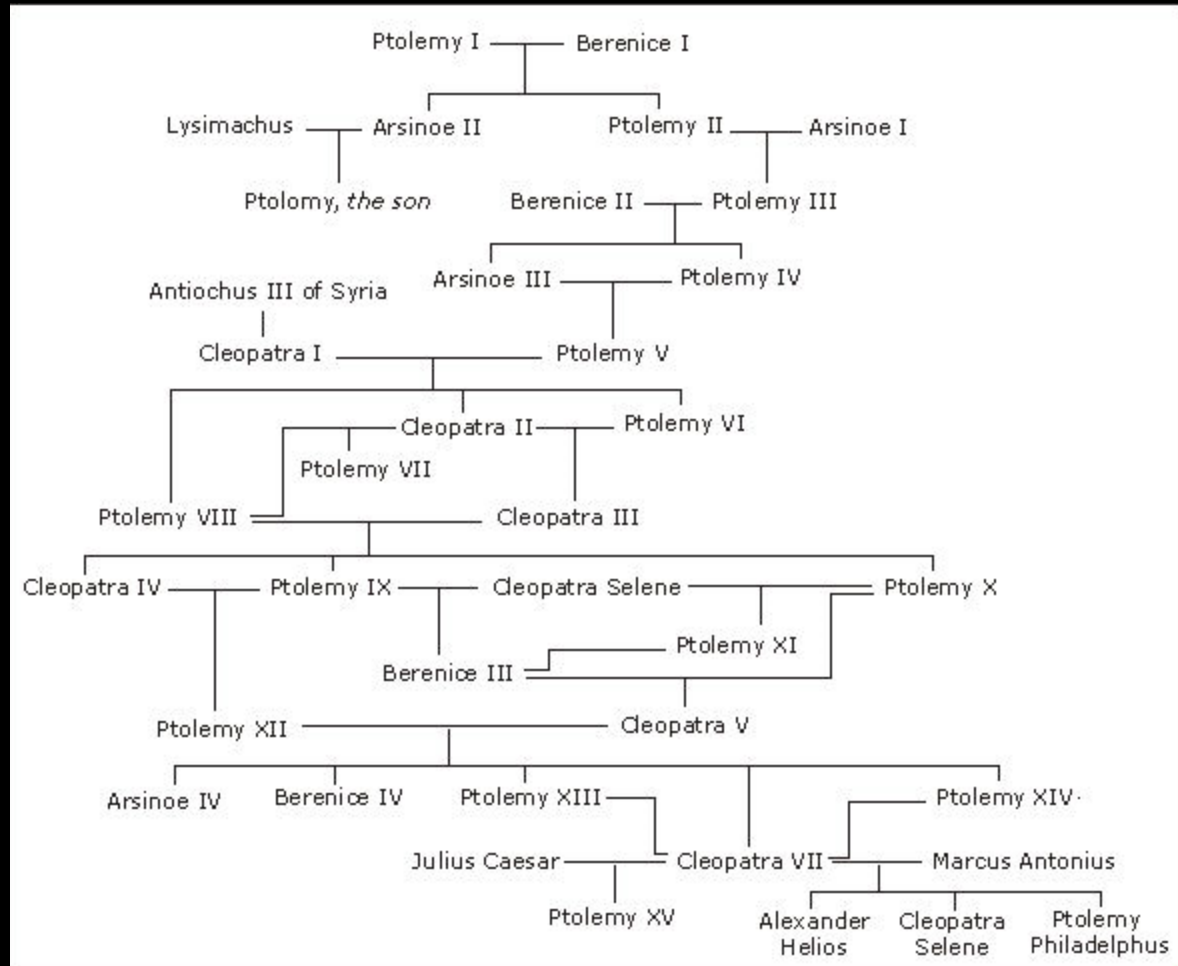




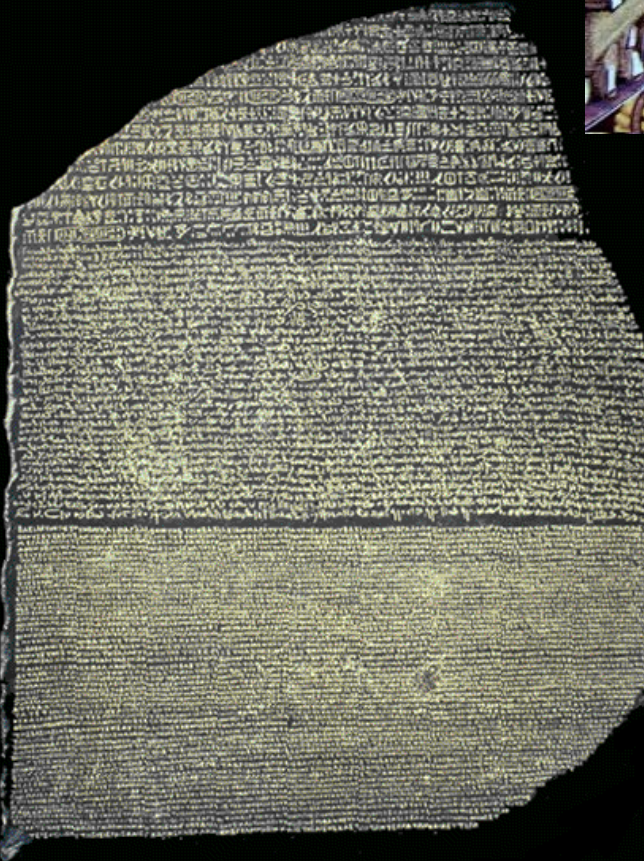
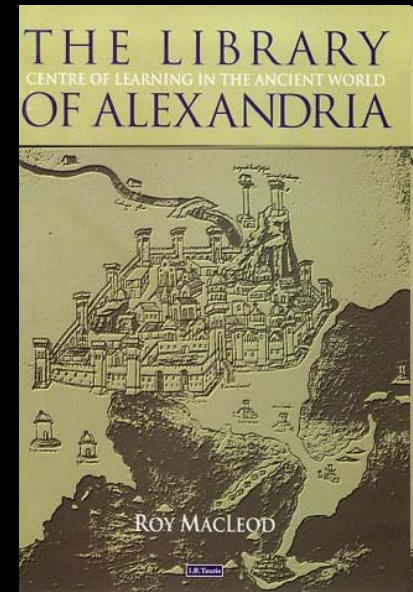
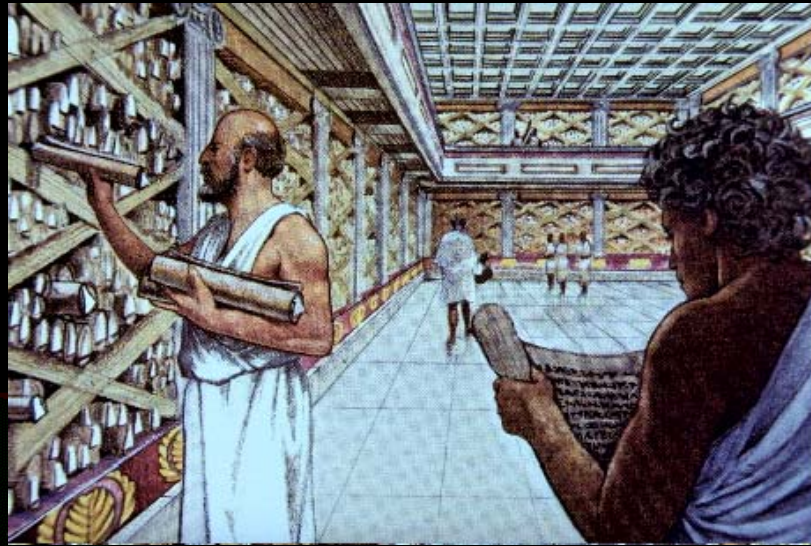
The extent of Ptolemaic control (dashed red lines) is approximate and, in many places, very uncertain.

Map by Tom Elliott for the Ancient World Mapping Center
University of North Carolina (www.unc.edu/awmc)

The Ptolemaic Dynasty (305-30 BCE)



Hellenization:



The Cleopatra Affair: Egypt Lost



- 48 BCE Pompey flees to Egypt and is assassinated by Ptolemy XIII
- J. Caesar arrives to avenge his countryman (although his enemy)
- Cleopatra uses the opportunity to make a powerful ally against her brother. JC is ensnared.
- Library of Alexandria burns down (or at least part of it) in the struggle for the city
- Caesar takes the city and installs Cleo on the throne
- Cleo has JC's baby (Caesarion) and makes a visit to Rome
- 44 BCE JC is assassinated and civil war ensues
- Cleo picks Mark Anthony to be her champion by 41 BCE.
- Turns out badly when Octavian defeats the couple at Actium in 31 BCE
- August 1 30 BCE Octavian captures Alexandria and the Ptolemaic dynasty ends
- Some two weeks later Cleopatra takes her life



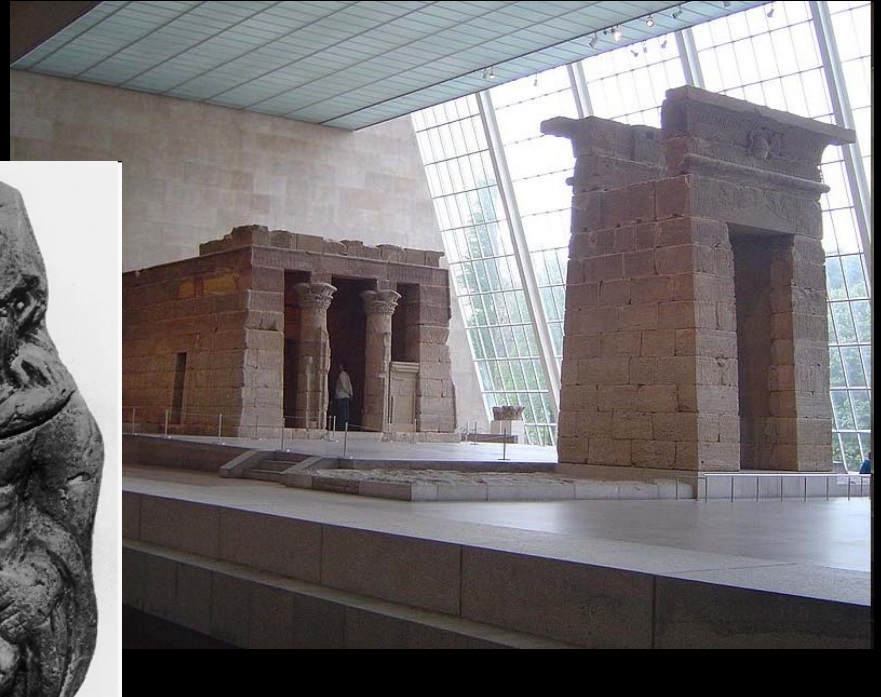
ROMAN EGYPT AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES

At the death of Trajan (117 A.D.)

Provincial boundaries (dashed red lines) are approximate and, in many places, very uncertain.

Map by Tom Elliott for the Ancient World Mapping Center
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Romanization:



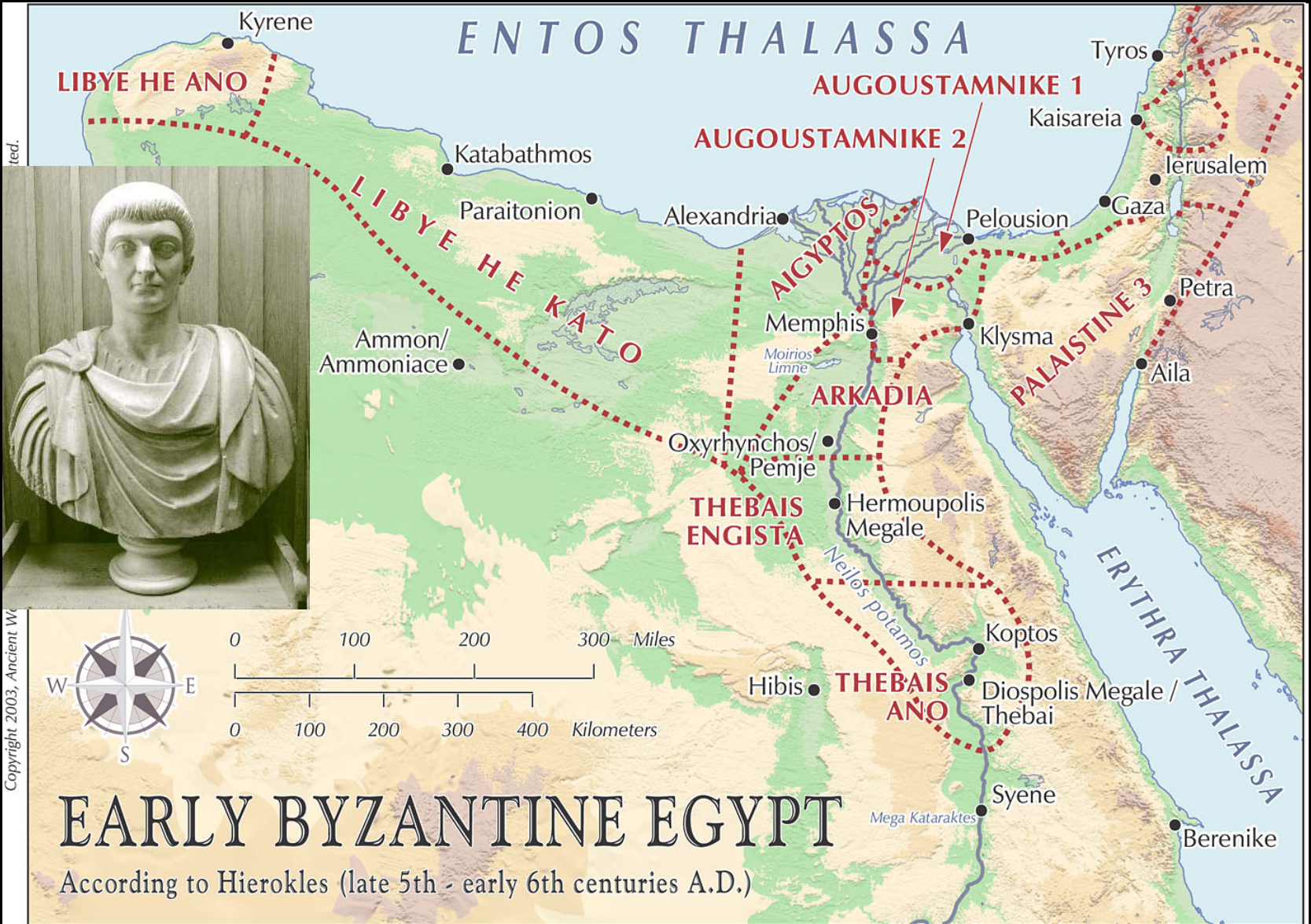


LATE ROMAN EGYPT AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES

According to the Verona List (c. A.D. 303-324)

Provincial boundaries (dashed red lines) are approximate and, in many places, very uncertain.

Map by Tom Elliott and Rachel Barckhaus for the Ancient World Mapping Center University of North Carolina (www.unc.edu/awmc)



EARLY BYZANTINE EGYPT

According to Hierokles (late 5th - early 6th centuries A.D.)

The provincial boundaries (dashed red lines) are approximate and, in many places, very uncertain.

Map by Tom Elliott for the Ancient World Mapping Center
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Christianization:

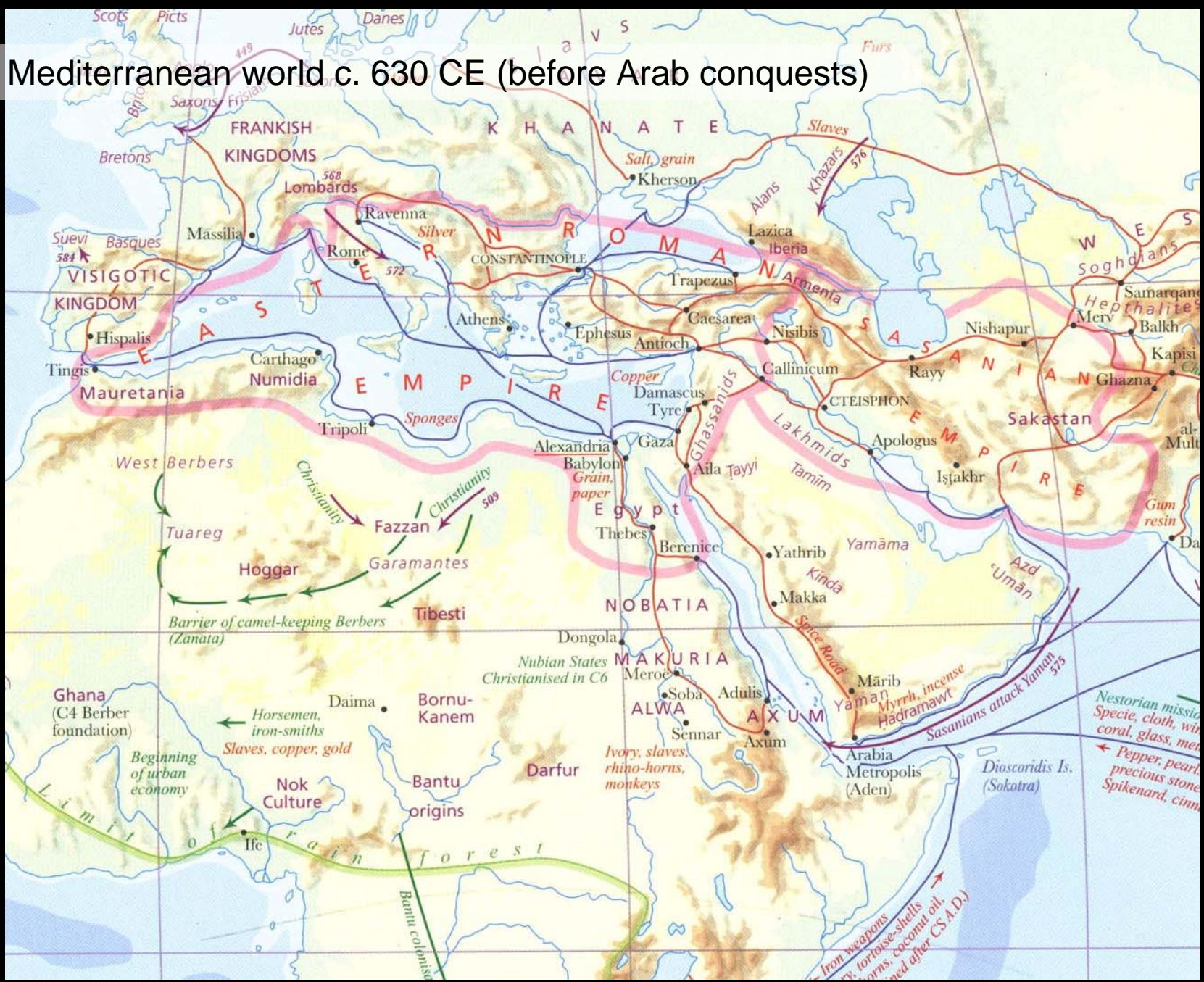


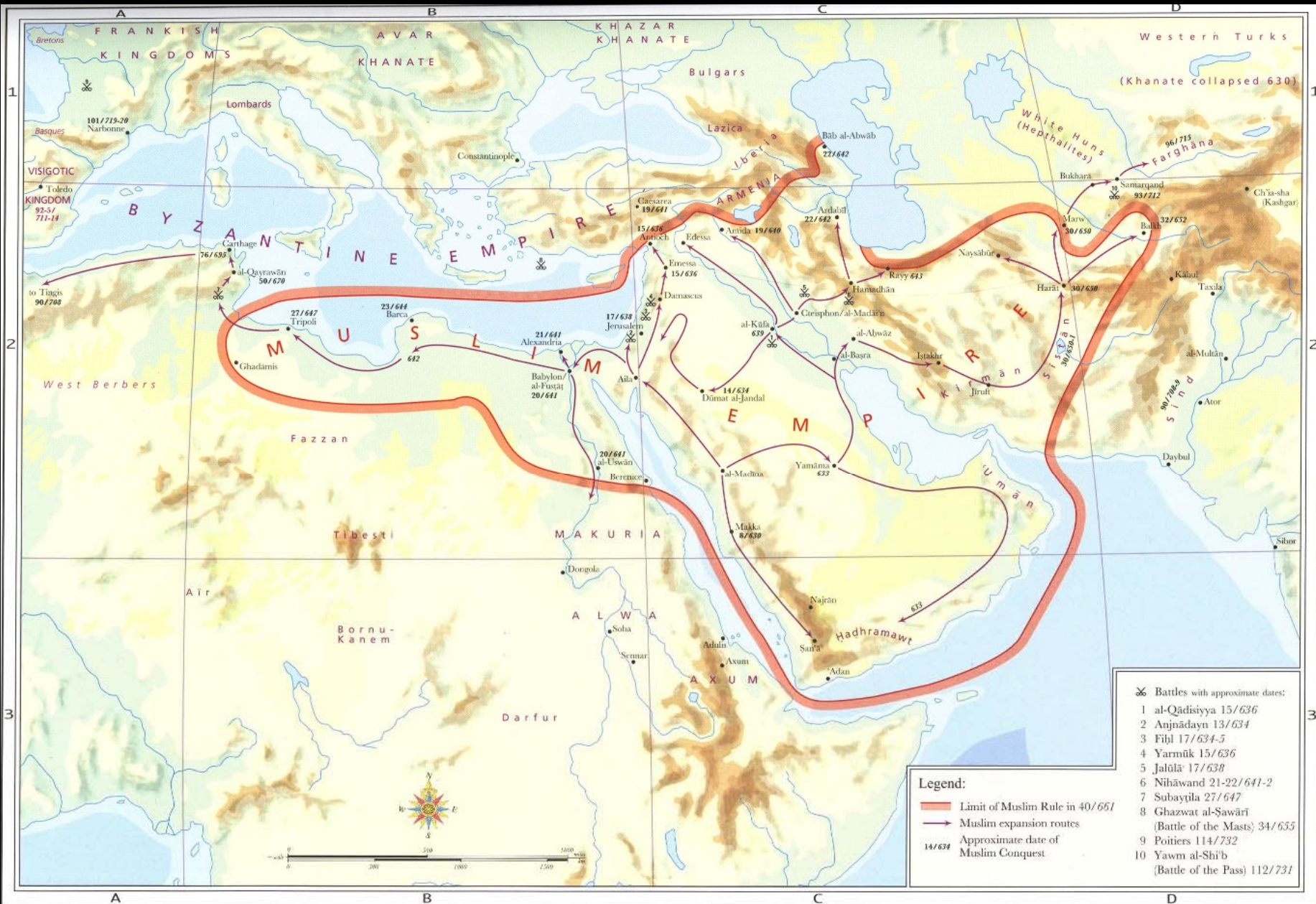
Theophilus, Gospel in hand, stands triumphantly atop the Serapeum in 391



Deir as-Suriani Monastery in Wadi Natrun (Egypt)

The Mediterranean world c. 630 CE (before Arab conquests)





EARLY MUSLIM CONQUESTS

The Arab conquest of Egypt:



رواق القنينة



رباط شنتي ٢١٢ هـ (٨٢٧ م)
جامع عمرو بن العاص
٢١٢ هـ (٨٢٧ م)
لوحة ١
To Husn 212 H. (827)
THE MOSQUE OF AMR IBN AL-AS
21 H. (827)
Plate 1



- Establishment of Fustat
- Amr ibn al-'As – treaty or by force?
- Settlement and migration
- Red Sea canal
- Granary to Arabia
- Whither Alexandria
- Treaty with the Nubians

Egypt under the Umayyads:



- Taxation and land tenure
- Conversion and persecution
- Increasing Arabization (language, culture and demographics)
- A financial support to an external imperial dynasty

Abbasids, Tulunids and Ikshidids:



General view from the Minaret of Sarghatmish

THE MOSQUE OF AHMAD IBN TULUN
263-65 H. (876/7-79)

جامع أحمد بن طولون
(٢٦٣-٢٦٥ هـ / ٨٧٦-٨٧٩ م)

منظر عام من منارة صرغتمش

لوحة ٢

Plate 2

- Bureaucratic mismanagement
- Increasing independence from imperial authority
- Demographic shifts with new ethnic groups
- Increasing urbanization

The Fatimid Empire/Caliphate:



- A Shii dynasty
- Egypt at the center of the Muslim world
- An imperial style of its own
- Factionalism
- Industry and the great building projects

Ayyubid rule and the Crusader threat:



- The Sunni revival
- Defending *Dar al-Islam* from those barbarian Franks
- Egypt and Syria again reunited
- The beginnings of a citadel politics
- Whither empire?

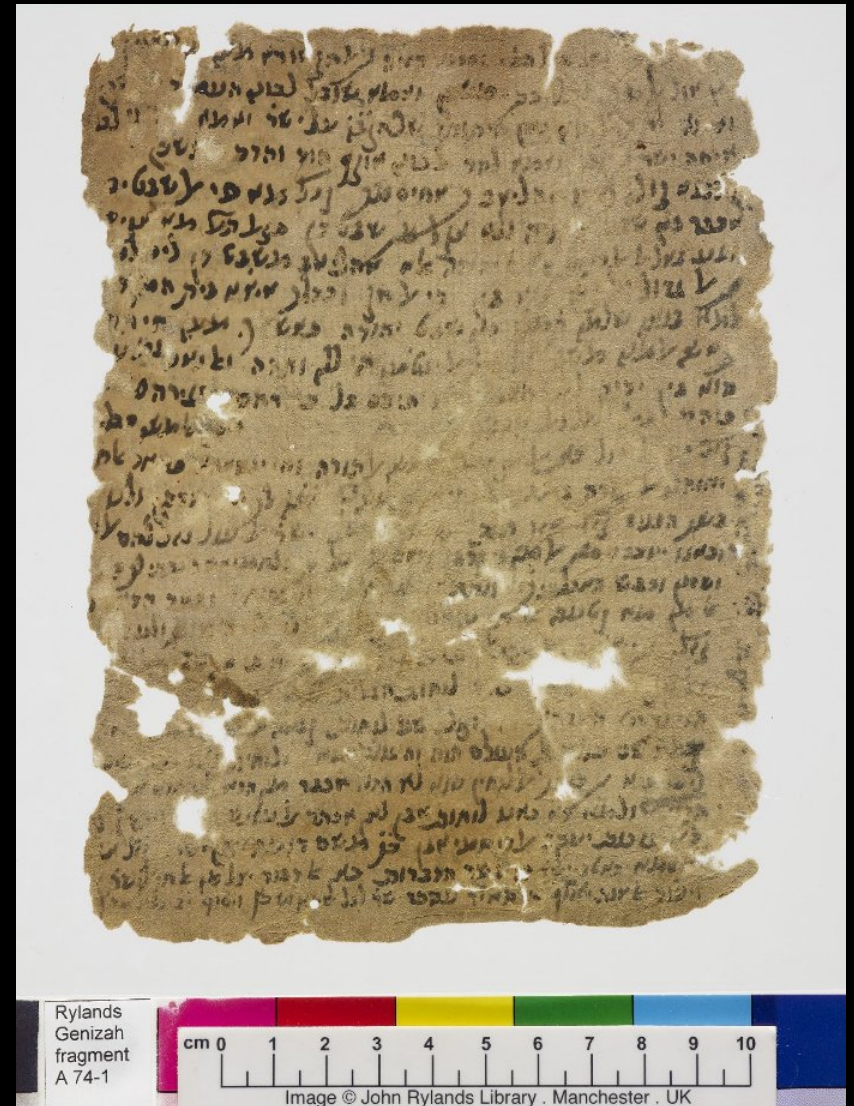
Mamluk Egypt - The slave becomes the master:



- The new ruling elite – *Bahri* or *Burji*
- At least the Mongols didn't get this far...
- Europeans in the form of merchants not warriors
- Black death, Silk Road, and the “world system”
- First the Ottomans and then the Portuguese...
- Lots and lots of building projects...

Sultan al-Zahir Barquq Funerary Complex

Islamization? Arabization?:



Rylands
Genizah
fragment
A 74-1

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