

Fighting Pharaohs: Warfare in Ancient Egypt

# Mid-Term Review

# Exam Format

## ID section – 40%

- Answer 8 out of 10 questions
- Short answers; 3-4 sentences each
- Explain/identify it's context and content
  - What the term is or refers to
  - When it dates to (if relevant)
  - Where it's from (if relevant)
  - Why it is important for our understanding of Egyptian warfare, etc..

## Essay – 60%

- Answer 1 of 2 questions
- The prompt/question could be based on either a visual or textual source.
- Critically analyse the source!
  - What does the evidence tell us about the time/place/people involved?
  - How do we use this evidence to construct an overall picture of warfare in general?
  - How do we use this evidence to construct an overall picture of ancient Egyptian warfare?
  - Remember context and content

# Exam Content

Predynastic Period

Old Kingdom

First Intermediate Period

Middle Kingdom

# Egypt's Traditional Enemies



# **(Pre-)Predynastic Warfare**



## Paleolithic and Neolithic sites



# Gebel Sahaba

- Late Palaeolithic Period
- C. 13,500 BP
- In NUBIA
- 59 bodies



# Predynastic Warfare : Sources

- Weapons: Practical and ceremonial
- Iconographic depictions of killing enemies
- Rock inscriptions
- Later annals – Palermo Stone
- Artefacts with royal names
- Pictorial evidence of fortified towns



# Weapons

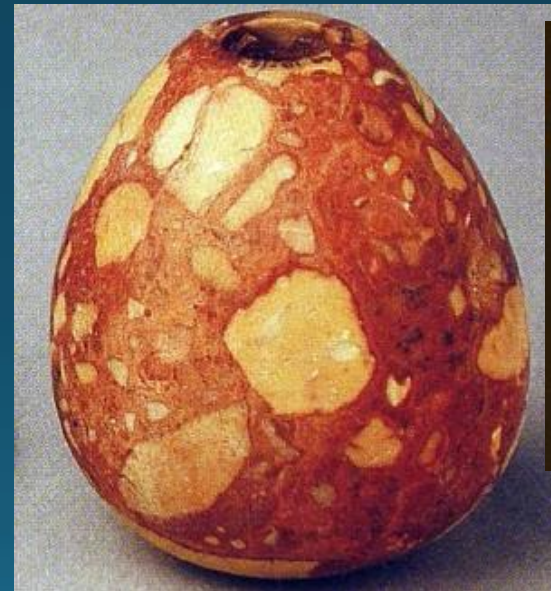
## Practical

- Arrows
- Knives



## Ceremonial

- Maces



# Gebel El-Araq Knife

- Ceremonial object
- Read all the way around as continuous image
- BOATS!
  - First time clearly linked to war, not purely ceremonial
- Hand-to-hand combat
- No obvious distinctions between the sides
  - Similar hair, clothes
- Is this civil war?
  - No: 'Egypt' is not a unified polity yet
  - Yes: Both sides are represented as part of the same group
- Order vs Chaos
- Can this show an historical event?



# Hierakonpolis Tomb 100



## CONTENT

- Naqada II
  - First Decorated Tomb
  - Unique
- Who is involved?
  - What are they doing?
  - To whom?
  - What else is shown?
  - How does this relate to warfare/violence in this period?

## CONTEXT

- When/where is this from?
- What type of object is it?
- Who had access to it?
- Who was the intended audience?
- What do we know of the social conditions pertaining to time & place this was created?

# Early Palettes

## Naqada I

Rhomboid  
Palette

Boats  
River animals



## Naqada II

Shield  
shaped  
Palette

Birds  
Hunter?



# Narmer Palette

Hierakonpolis  
Naqada III



# Battlefield Palette

## CONTENT

- Who is involved?
- What are they doing?
- To whom?
- What else is shown?
- How does this relate to warfare/violence in this period?



## CONTEXT

- When/where is this from?
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# Rock Inscriptions



## Gebel Tjauti

Naqada III; slightly before Narmer

# Early Dynastic Period



# Label of King Den: Dyn 1

Abydos  
Middle of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Dynasty

First depiction  
of the uraeus



Labels year of  
the king, NOT  
the object  
inside the jar:

“First occasion  
of smiting the  
East”

# Kingship and Conflict in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dynasty

## Seth Peribsen

Stela

Seth erased on top of serekh



# Horus AND Seth Khasekhemwy

K has an epithet of 'the two standards  
are at peace'

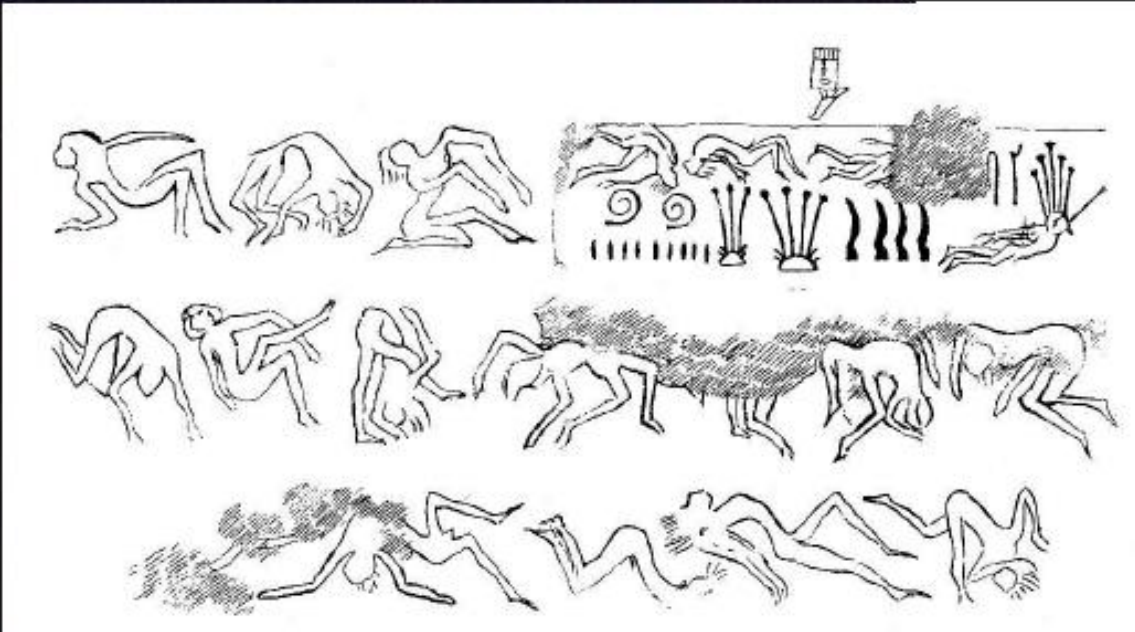
- insinuates that he ended a civil war -
- but his monument and tomb is  
right next to Peribsen's



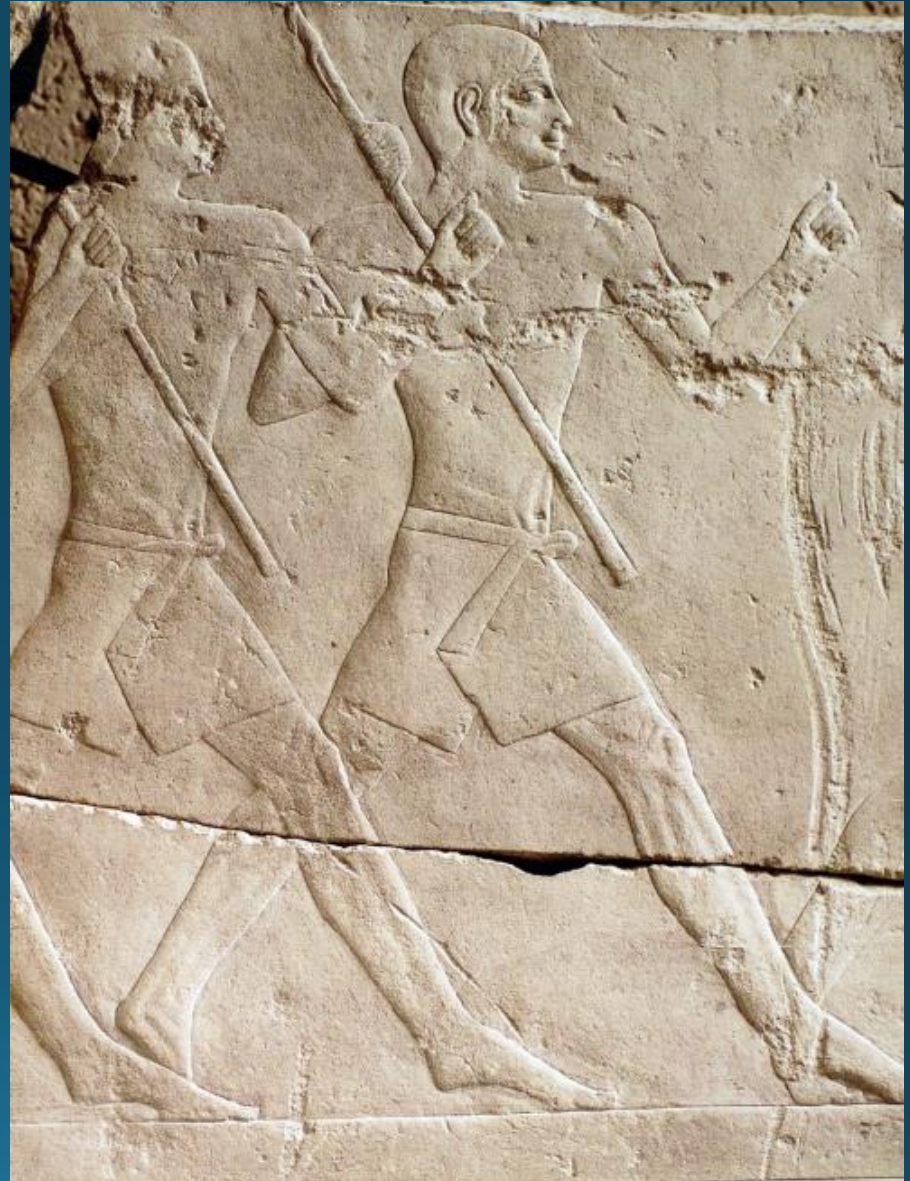


# Khasekhemy

- Upper Egyptian crown
- Bodies laying around
- 47,209 northern dead enemies; papyrus growing out of a dead man's head = Lower Egypt
- Too exaggerated to be real, but seems to have been violence
- Khasekhemy = clearly a very powerful king



# Old Kingdom





Temple relief (?) showing archers, 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty? (reused in later building)

# Predynastic vs. Old Kingdom Evidence

## PREDYNASTIC

- Battles shown
- Lack of order to images

## OLD KINGDOM

- Battles hardly ever shown; instead men going to war
- Very ordered images; registers used, men in files.
- Literary evidence

# LITERARY EVIDENCE: WENI & HARKHUF

## WENI

- Mid-6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty
- Abydos
- Text on slab outside offering chapel
- Military exploits are listed in detail
  - BUT they come between his accomplishments at court and on trade missions; military campaigns are not his sole concern or achievement
  - Literary devices (verse) used when describing the army's deeds
- Foreign soldiers in Egyptian army
- "His majesty put together an army of many tens of thousands..." (14)

## Harkhuf

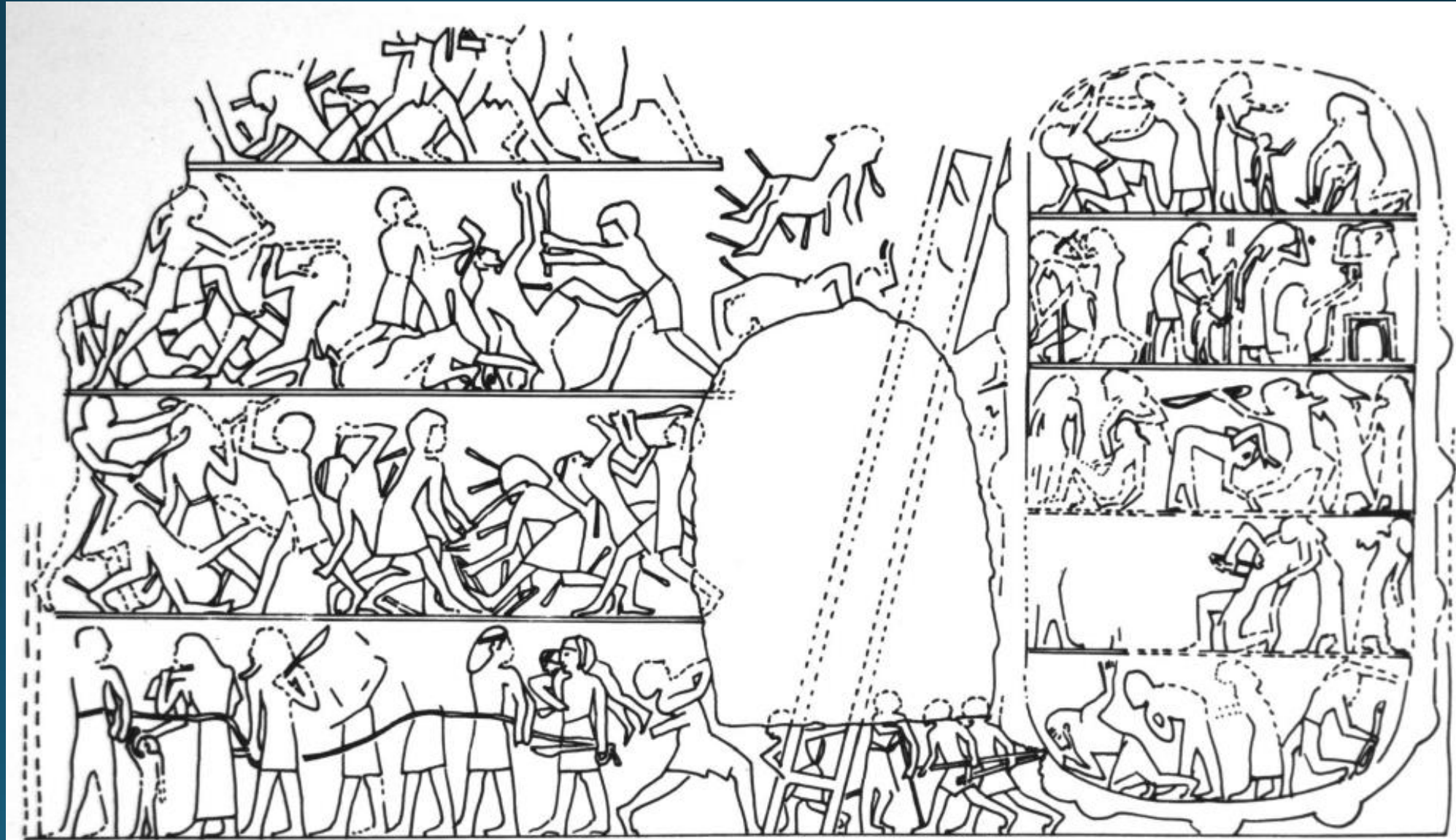
- Mid-6<sup>th</sup> Dynasty
- [Pygmy letter]
- "Yam...I brought back all sorts of perfect and luxury items of tribute therefrom" (5)



# Private Tomb Scenes: Old Kingdom

Tomb of  
Inti at  
Deshaha

Late Old  
Kingdom



# Private Tomb Scenes: Middle Kingdom

Tomb of Intef

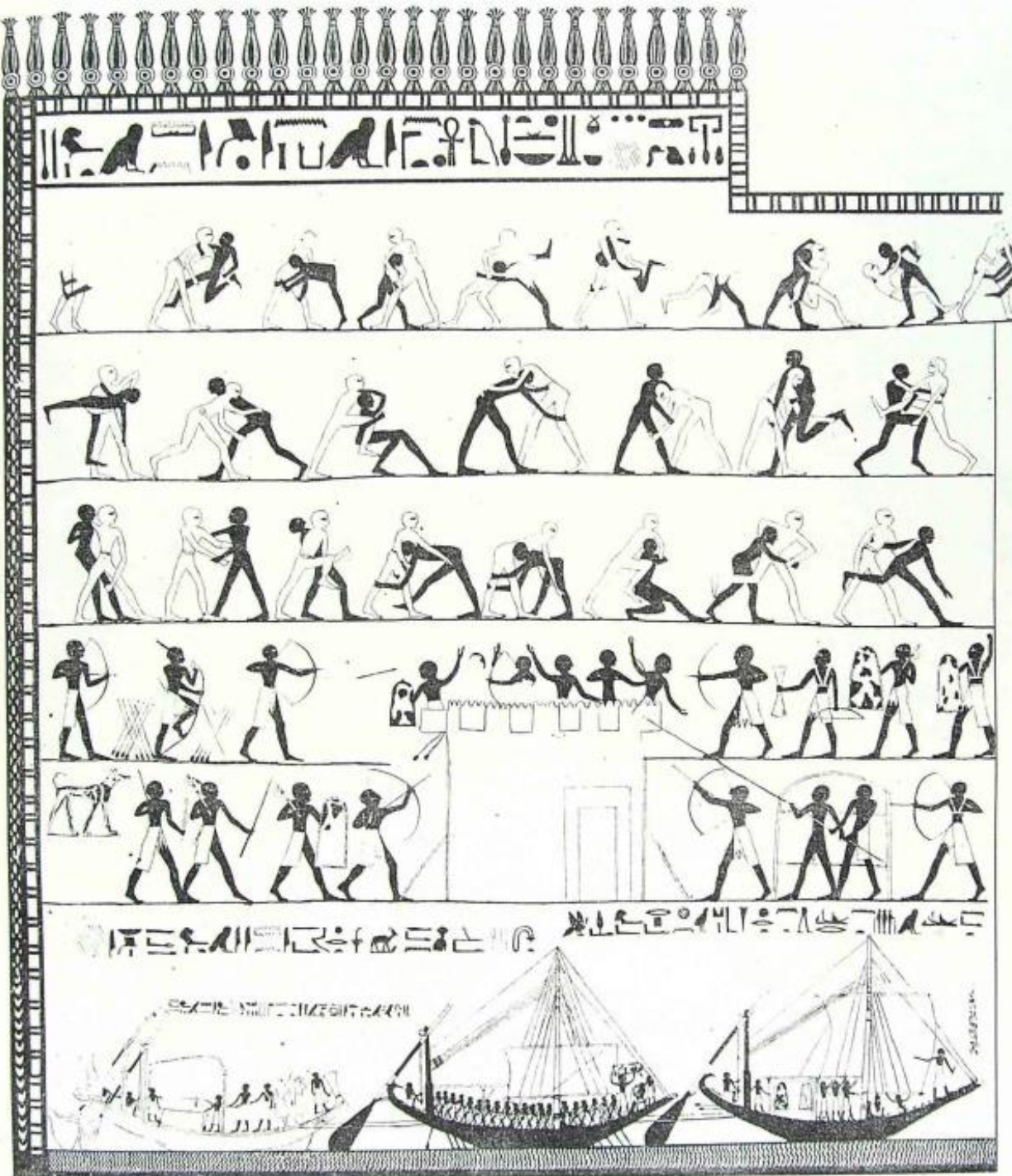
Very early MK – 11<sup>th</sup> Dynasty



# Private Tomb Scenes: MK cont.

Beni Hasan

Late 11 – early 12<sup>th</sup>  
Dyn. tomb



# Middle Kingdom Forts

Who built them?

Where did they build them?

Why are they shaped differently?

Why were they built?

Were they exclusively structures of war?

