THE SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

The Hyksos
A Note on Chronology
Figure 2.2 The geopolitical situation along the Egyptian and Nubian Nile in the Hyksos Period. Drawing: William Pabst.
Sources for Second Intermediate Period History

Written:
Contemporary
  royal building inscriptions
  private tomb inscriptions
  literary and other papyri
  scarabs
  personal names
Later
  early 18th Dynasty accounts of wars of reunification
  king lists, especially Turin Canon

Archaeological:
  ceramics from throughout Egypt
  Avaris and other Delta sites
  Theban tombs of kings
Hyksos = Hekau-khasut, ‘rulers of foreign lands’
Manetho's account of the beginning of the Hyksos rule - as quoted by Josephus

... unexpectedly, from the regions of the East, invaders of obscure race marched in confidence of victory against our land. By main force they easily seized it without striking a blow; and having overpowered the rulers of the land, they then burned our cities ruthlessly, razed to the ground the temples of the gods, and treated all the natives with a cruel hostility, massacring some and leading into slavery the wives and children of others. Finally, they appointed as king one of their number whose name was Salitis. He had his seat at Memphis, levying tribute from Upper and Lower Egypt, and always leaving garrisons behind in the most advantageous positions. ... In the Saite (Sethroite) nome he founded a city very favorably situated on the east of the Bubastite branch of the Nile, and called Avaris after an ancient religious tradition.
Fig. 16 Tomb F/I-p/19-no. 1, with a chapel in front of a nearly square superstructure.

Fig. 17 Fragmentary remains of a colossal seated statue of an Asiatic dignitary.
Figure 2.3 Distribution of datable royal monuments, inscriptions, and significant artifacts of the Thirteenth Dynasty. The circles correlate to the number of such items actually recorded at each site. Drawing: William Pubst.
Dynasty 14:

Yaqub-Har
Aperanat

Nehesy
Merdjefare

Figure 4.22. Door posts of a sacred building of King Nehesy (ca. 1700 B.C.). 2 fragments (Bietak 1984c: figs. 1, 2)
Scarabs in the 13\textsuperscript{th} Dynasty and Second Intermediate Period sometimes have titles.

Royal name scarabs are particularly problematic but have been given great weight for reconstructing the history of the period.
Dynasty 15:

Salitis

Names unclear: represented only by scarabs

Beon

Sakir-Har: attested on one door jamb

Khayan

Very well attested (comparatively)

Apepi

Khamudi

Perhaps a year date on Rhind Papyrus?
Offering table inscription, Avaris

“Horus: pacifier-of-the-two-lands, the perfect god, ‘Akenenre, may he live! This is what he made as his monument for his father [Seth], lord of Avaris, affixing his flag-staves, that he might make ‘given-life’ like Re forever.”
“I put in at Per-djedken, my heart happy, so that I might let Apepi experience a bad time, that Syrian prince with weak arms, who conceives brave things which never come about for him!”

“I captured his [Apepi’s] messenger in the oasis upland, as he was going south to Kush with a written dispatch, and I found on it the following, in writing by the hand of the Ruler of Avaris:

Aa-user-re, son of Re, Apepi greets my son the ruler of Kush. Why have you arisen as ruler without letting me know? Do you see what Egypt has done to me? The Ruler which is in her midst- Kamose-the-mighty, given life!- is pushing me off my own land! I have not attacked him in any way … come north! Do not hold back! … Then we shall divide the towns of Egypt.”
Figure 2.5 Distribution of datable royal monuments, inscriptions, and significant artifacts: Fifteenth and Seventeenth Dynasties. The circles correlate to the number of such items actually recorded at each site. For the Fifteenth Dynasty, in the Delta, sites with a distinctly Canaanite flavor in their material culture, rather than specific items, are given. Drawing: William Pabst.
“See, [Apepi] has Hermopolis! No one can be at ease when they are milked by the taxes of the Asiatics!

… Then spoke the magistrates of his council: ‘See, as far as Cusae it is Asiatic water … the interior is with us [the Thebans] as far as Cusae’

-Kamose Stela II
Avaris – Tell el-Dab’a
Figure 2.6 Simplified site plan of Tell el-Dab'a/Avaris and Pi-Ramesse/Qantir, showing the principal mounds or tells and indicating approximately the principal periods of occupation, indicated either by Dynasty (XII, XIII, XV) or as New Kingdom (NK). Drawing: William Pabst.
12th Dynasty back-to-back houses at Avaris
15th Dynasty palatial structure
Avaris: 15th Dynasty palace, fortified wall and gardens
20. Three tomb designs of the Hyksos period. (Clockwise from top left) Superstructure of one tomb style – side view. Bird’s-eye view of vaulted tomb with cross-sections of each end, marked A and B. Bird’s-eye view of a brick tomb with cross-section (A) showing the position of the body under the roofing bricks. (Drawing by Charlotte Booth after Van den Brink, 1982)
Fig. 35 Tomb A/II-l-no.5 of the deputy treasurer named 'Amu, 'the Asiatic'. 
Figure 4.20. Plan of the sacred precinct.
Fig. 23 Serpentine statuette of an official from palace tomb F/1-l/19-no. 1, stratum d/1 (reg. no. 5093).

Fig. 24 Seal-impression of the treasurer of the King of Lower Egypt and chief steward named Aya from palace tomb F/1-m/18-no. 2, stratum d/1 (reg. no. 5696).

Fig. 25 Impression from cylinder seal depicting the north Syrian weather-god, found in the northern part of the palace of the early 13th Dynasty, stratum d/1 (reg. no. 2995).

Fig. 26 Plumb-bob and stone float left in the courtyard of the palace by builders (reg. nos. 3117 and 3118).
Tell el-Yahudiyeh ware
“I haven’t left a plank to the hundreds of ships of fresh cedar which were filled with gold, lapis, silver, turquoise, bronze axes without number, over and above the moringa-oil, incense, fat, honey, willow, boxwood, sticks and all their fine woods- all the fine products of Retjenu- I have confiscated all of it!”

-Kamose Stela II