Things Fall Apart?

The First Intermediate Period: kingship and society in a time of change
Chronology

Late Old Kingdom (Memphis)
  c. 2181-2160 BC
  Dynasty 7
  Dynasty 8

First Intermediate Period (Herakleopolis)
  c. 2160-2025 BC
  Dynasty 9
  Dynasty 10

First Intermediate Period (Thebes)
  c. 2125-2004
  Dynasty 11 (first half)
Relating evidence and questions in the First Intermediate Period

- Private Tombs
  - Autobiographies
  - Art
  - Coffin Texts
- Royal Decrees
- Later literature
- Rock Inscriptions
- Archaeological data
- Climate data

- When is the FIP?
- Who holds authority, how and where?
- Social structure and religious changes?
- Condition of the country?
- WHY DID IT HAPPEN?
First Intermediate Period kings: the pyramid of Ibi at South Saqqara (8th Dynasty)
From the tomb of Idi at Coptos, late 8th Dynasty:

“Neferkauhor (the king), year of the first occasion, fourth month of the Shemu season, day 2: setting off for Ra-henu for the second time in order to bring noble stone from..."

Beginning of the speech of the officials throughout the nomes of Upper Egypt. The god’s father, beloved one of the god, iry pat, foster-child of the king, haty-a, overseer of Upper Egypt, Idi.

I established monuments...
And I made pleasant with incense this soul chapel of my father and my ancestors so that these soul chapels of these noble ones were like.... And I refreshed and set up the statues of these noble ones, these iry pat, which I found in a state of disrepair...

I never gave him (his father) a reason to be disappointed.
I never did anything which was distasteful to him.
For my part, I looked for every man who had a problem with him, for he has let me know everyone among them who was in his house. I have got rid of them totally, I have dispossessed them.
Non-royal tombs of the FIP
Ankhtifi of Moalla: a nomarch of the Herakleopolitan Period
From Ankhtifi’s autobiography:

Member of the elite, high official, army-overseer Ankhtifi the forceful, who says:
Now, the army leader of Armant came to say:
“Come, you male! The western fortresses are open.”
I went downstream via the western ones of Armant and found that the Theban and Coptite nomes both had opened the fortresses of Armant at Semekhsen’s cliff, about which I had been petitioned to.

Then I was brave with my arms against them there, like a harpoon on the nose of a hippopotamus who has fled, having gone upstream to topple their fortresses with the forceful troop of Moalla.
Such am I, an unequaled male.
High official, army-overseer of the Hierakonpolite nome Ankhtifi the forceful, who says:
I went downstream with a powerful battalion of Trustworthiness and moored on the western side of the Theban nome, with the flotilla’s fore at Semekhsen’s cliff and the flotilla’s rear at the suburb of Tjemy, and the battalion of trustworthiness was seeking battle throughout the western side of the Theban nome but no one came out, for fear of it.

I went downstream and moored on the eastern side of the Theban nome, with the flotilla’s rear at Imby’s tomb and the flotilla’s fore at the cultivation of Sega. Its walls were besieged, for it had bolted its doorbolts before it, for fear of this powerful battalion of trustworthiness. This battalion of trustworthiness started patrolling throughout the western side and throughout the eastern side of the Theban nome, seeking Battle, but no one came out, for fear of it.
Stela of a Nubian soldier from Gebelein
The Theban kings of the First Intermediate Period

Dynasty 11 (first half)

(Mentuhotep aa (the great))
Intef I
Intef II
Intef III
Nebeheptre Montuhotep