

The late Second Intermediate Period and the early New Kingdom

a tour through the texts

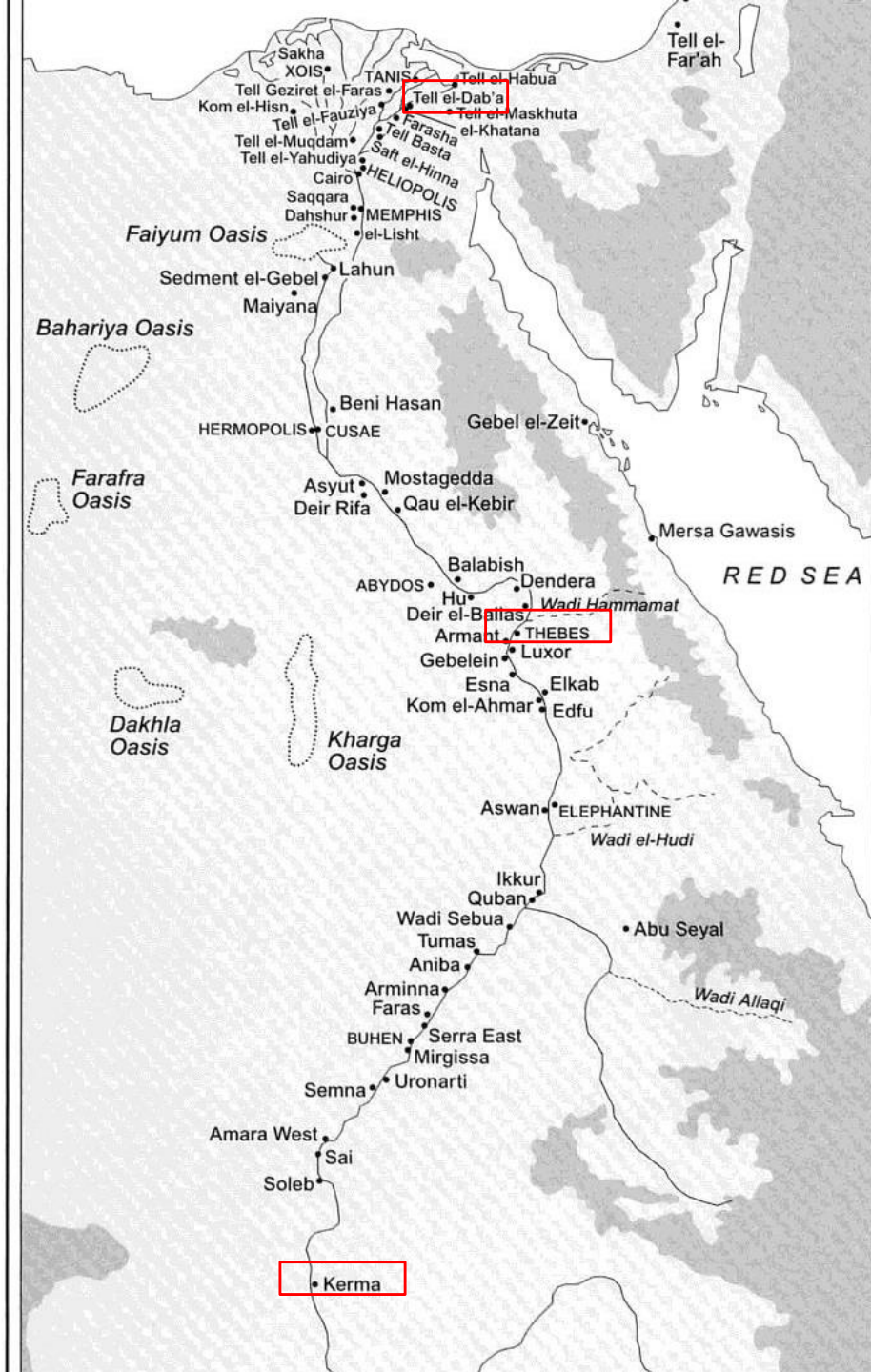
Badass Pharaohs: In it to win it

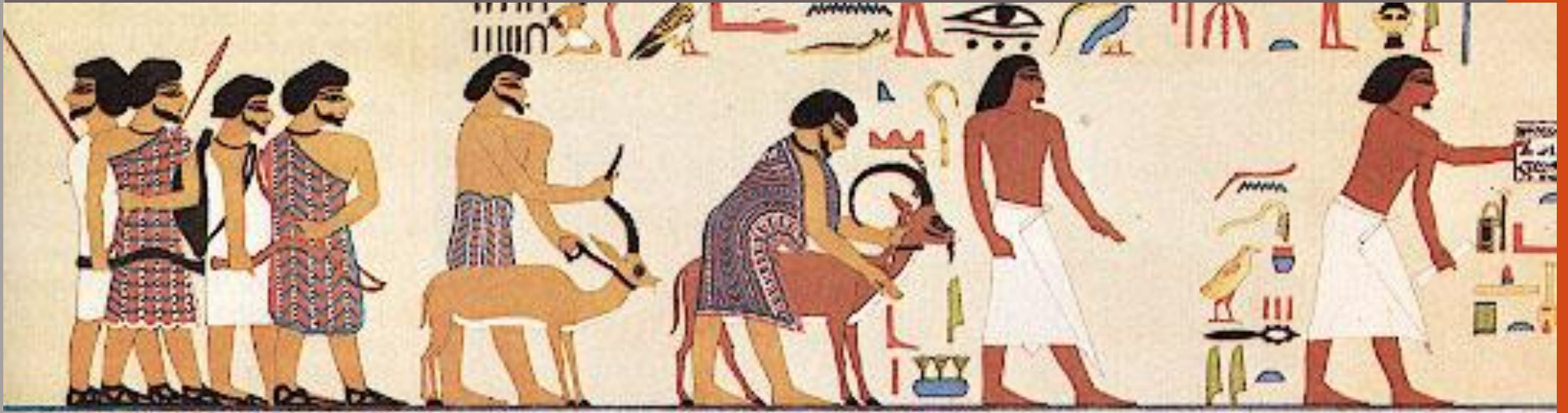
Important Places:

Thebes

Avaris (Tell el-Dab'a)

Kerma





Facsimile of a painting from the tomb of the official Khnumhotep II at Beni Hasan, 12th Dynasty, showing the Hyksos



14th Dynasty
(Deltans: Avaris)

15th Dynasty
(Hyksos:
Avaris)

Rise of 15th Dyn/
takeover of
Avaris

13th Dynasty
(Egyptians: Itjy-tawy)

15th Dyn conquest
of Memphis

Abydos Dyn
(Egyptians:
Abydos)

15th Dyn
conquest of
Abydos

16th Dynasty
(Egyptians:
Thebes)

15th Dyn
conquest of
Thebes

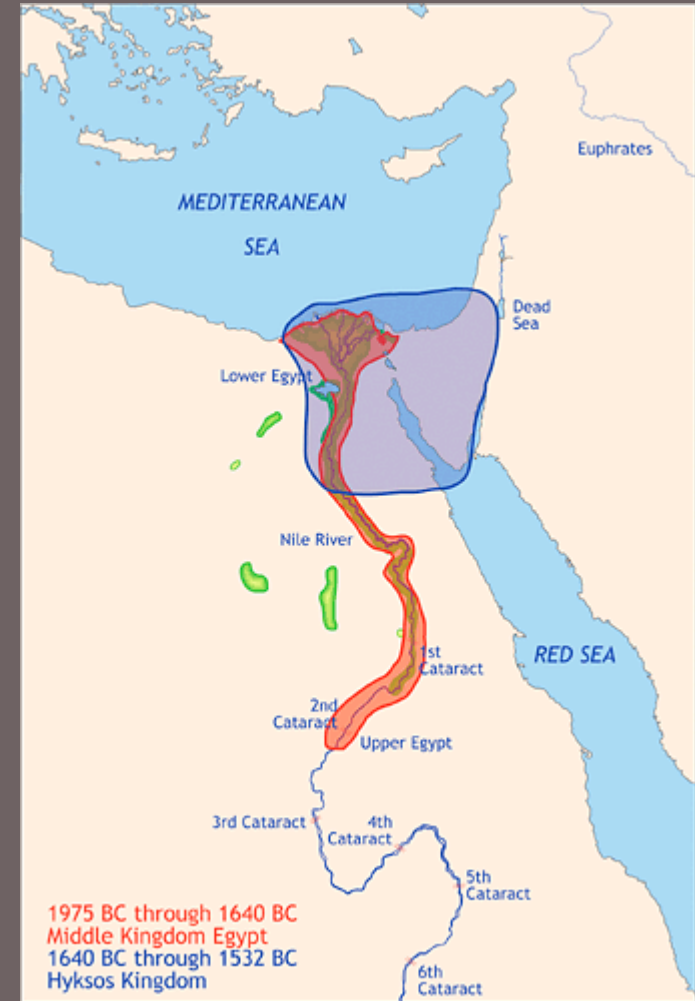
17th Dynasty
(Egyptians: Thebes)

- [several kings]
- Seqenenre Tao I
(*m.* Tetisheri)
- **Seqenenre Tao II**
(*m.* Ahhotep)
- **Kamose**
- **Ahmose I**
(*m.* Ahmose-Nefertari)

Begin 18th Dyn/end Hyksos rule

Apophis and Seqenenre *...and* the Hippopotamuses

- Papyrus Sallier I
- 19th Dynasty (reign of Merneptah)
- Tell us that the Hyksos ruled as kings from Avaris in the north, while the Thebans controlled the south, though they had to pay tribute to the Hyksos



It once happened that the land of Egypt was in misery...A day came to pass when King Seqenenre, was [still only] ruler of the Southern City [Thebes]. Misery was in the town of the Asiatics, for [the Hyksos king] Apophis was in Avaris, and the entire land paid tribute to him.

— P. Sallier I



So King Apophis adopted Seth for himself as lord, and he refused to serve any god that was in the entire land except Seth.

— P. Sallier I

“Let there be a withdrawal from the canal of hippopotamuses which lies at the east of the City, because they don't let sleep come to me either in the daytime or at night.”

*Then the Prince of the Southern City
became stupefied for so long a while
that he became unable to render [a
reply] to the messenger of King
Apophis.*

— P. Sallier I







*Sarcophagus
of Kamose*

The Kamose Inscriptions

- Two stelae from the Temple of Karnak (in Thebes), dated to Year 3 of his reign
- The Carnarvon Tablet, a hieratic writing board that preserves the beginning of the text from one of the stelae (recovered from a 17th-Dynasty tomb at Deir el-Bahari)



The Carnarvon Tablet

“I should like to know what serves this strength of mine, when a ruler is in Avaris, and another in Kush, and I sit united with an Asiatic and a Nubian, each in possession of his slice of Egypt, and I cannot pass by him as far as Memphis... He has possession of Hermopolis, and no man can rest when despoiled by the taxes of the Setiu [“sand-dwellers”]. I will do battle with him, and I will rip open his belly! **My desire is to deliver Egypt and to smite the Asiatics!**”

- Apophis “has possession of **Hermopolis**”
- The Asiatics have Egypt “as far as **Cusae**” [from the north]
- “I sailed north [from **Thebes**] to my victory to drive back the Asiatics...with the bowmen of the Medjay”
- “I sent a patrol to confront Teti...within **Neferusi**...for he [an Egyptian!] had made Neferusi a nest for the Asiatics...I destroyed his walls and slew his people”
- Apophis was “devastated when his messenger recounted what I had done against **Cynopolis**, which had been his property”



“I moored at Per-Djed-Ken [an unknown location], my heart joyful. I made Apophis see a miserable moment...I espied his women looking out toward the shore, and their bodies did not move when they saw me. They looked out from their loopholes on their walls like young lizards within their burrows, saying: IT IS AN ATTACK.”

“As Amun the valiant endures, I will not leave you alone, I will not let you tread the ground without my being upon you. May your heart quake at that, O miserable Asiatic.

See, I am drinking the wine of your [own] vineyard which the Asiatics whom I have captured [have been forced to] press for me.”



What should we believe?



*Statue head and
mummy of Ahmose I*

Stela for Ahhotep, by Ahmose I, at Karnak

“Give praise to the lady of the land...whose name is (held) high in every foreign country, who has made many plans, the King’s Wife, the sister of the sovereign, may he live, prosper and be healthy, the King’s Daughter, the noble King’s Mother, who knows (all) things, who took care of Egypt. She looked after its troops, she guarded them, she rounded up its fugitives, brought back its deserters, she pacified the South and she repelled those who rebelled against her, the King’s Wife Ahhotep, may she live!”





The Gold of Valor



Biography of Ahmose, son of Ibana

- Naval Commander (*ḥry-ḥnyt*)
- Served under Ahmose I, Amenhotep I, and Tuthmosis I
- From his tomb at el-Kab, written later by his grandson (seen next to him in this relief—the smaller figure)



*The Naval Commander **Ahmose**, son of Ibana, the justified, he says:*

I speak to you, all people. I let you know what favors came to me. I have been rewarded with gold seven times in the sight of the whole land, with male and female slaves as well. I have been endowed with very many fields. The name of the brave man is in that which he has done; it will not perish in the land forever.

My father was a soldier of...Seqenenre Tao II...I became a soldier in his stead on the ship "The Wild Bull" in the time of the Lord of the Two Lands, Nebpehtire [Ahmose I], the justified. I was a youth who had not married; I slept in a hammock of netting.

I followed the sovereign on foot when he rode about on his chariot. When the town of Avaris was besieged, I fought bravely on foot in his majesty's presence.

Then there was fighting on the water in Pa-Djedku [a canal] of Avaris. I made a seizure and carried off a hand. When it was reported to the royal herald the Gold of Valor was given to me. Then they fought again in this place; I again made a seizure there and carried off a hand. Then I was given the Gold of Valor once again.

Then Avaris was despoiled, and I brought spoil from there: one man, three women, total: four persons. His majesty gave them to me as slaves. Then Sharuhennu [a border town in SW Canaan] was besieged for three years. His majesty despoiled it and I brought spoil from it...





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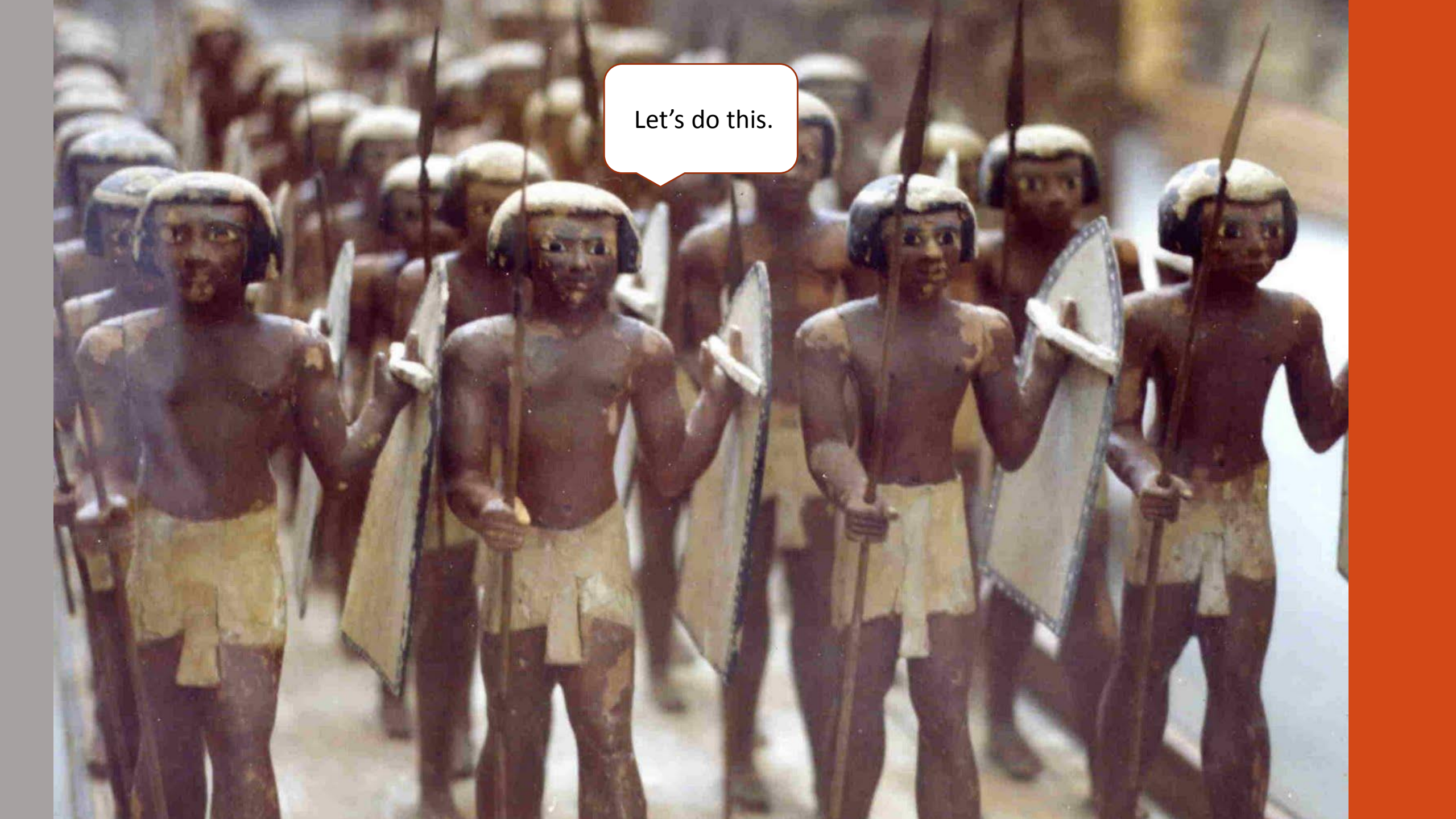
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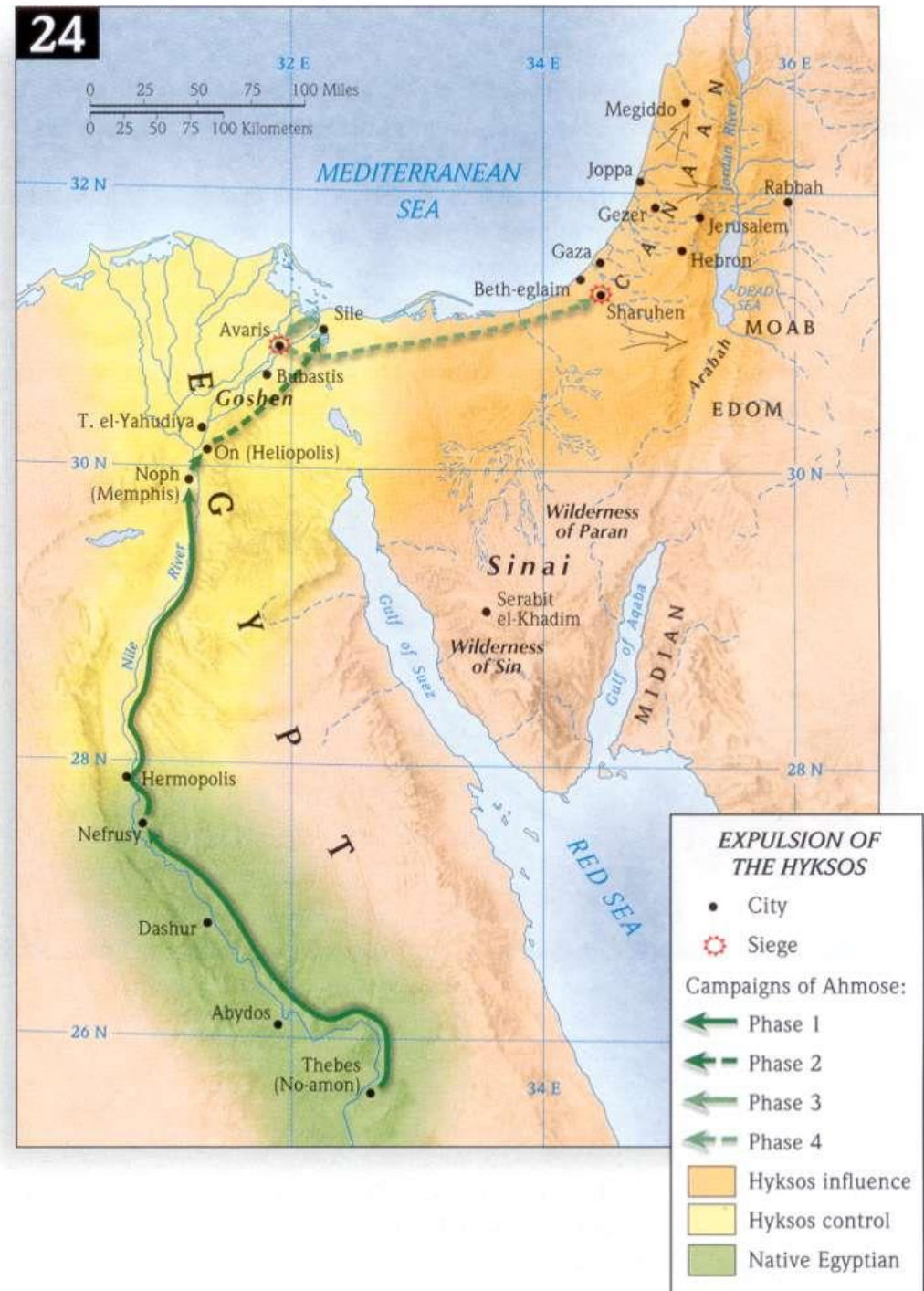
covered in front
aris
a). It would
and presented

A photograph of a group of ancient Egyptian warrior statues, likely from the New Kingdom period. The statues are made of dark stone or wood, with some areas painted in ochre and blue. They are depicted as young men with short, dark hair, wearing a simple kilt. Each statue holds a long spear in its right hand and a rectangular shield in its left. The shields are decorated with a blue and white pattern. The statues are arranged in a line, receding into the background, creating a sense of a marching army. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Let's do this.".

Let's do this.

The Expulsion of the Hyksos

- March north from Thebes to Memphis to reclaim the city
- Capture the fortress at Sile (Tjaru), which served as a major access point to the east—and a supply route
- Swing back to Avaris and capture and sack it
- Push the Hyksos into Palestine
- Beseige Sharuhén, a Hyksos stronghold (takes 3 years)



- “Now when his majesty had slain the nomads of Asia, he sailed south...to destroy the Nubian bowmen. His majesty made a great slaughter among them...His majesty journeyed north, his heart rejoicing in valor and victory. He had conquered southerners and northerners.”
- “Then Aata came to the south...the gods of Upper Egypt grasped him...his majesty brought him away as captive and all his people as booty.”
- “Then came that foe named Teti-An [Teti the Handsome], who had drawn together rebels. His majesty slew him and his troop was annihilated.”



A Note on the back of the Rhind Mathematical Papyrus



Year 11, 2nd month of Shemu:

Heliopolis was entered [*i.e.* taken].

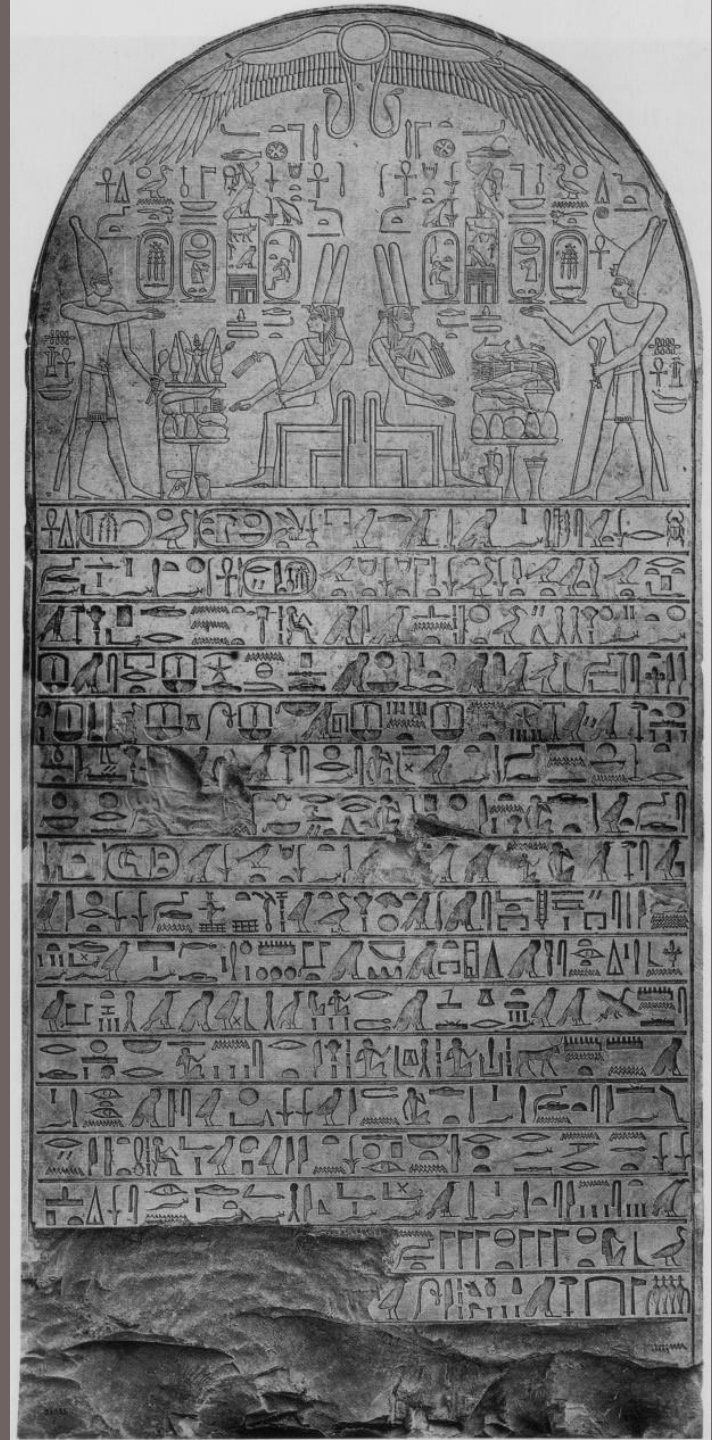
1st month of Akhet, day 23:

He-of-the-South strikes again at Sile.

[1st month of Akhet] day 25:

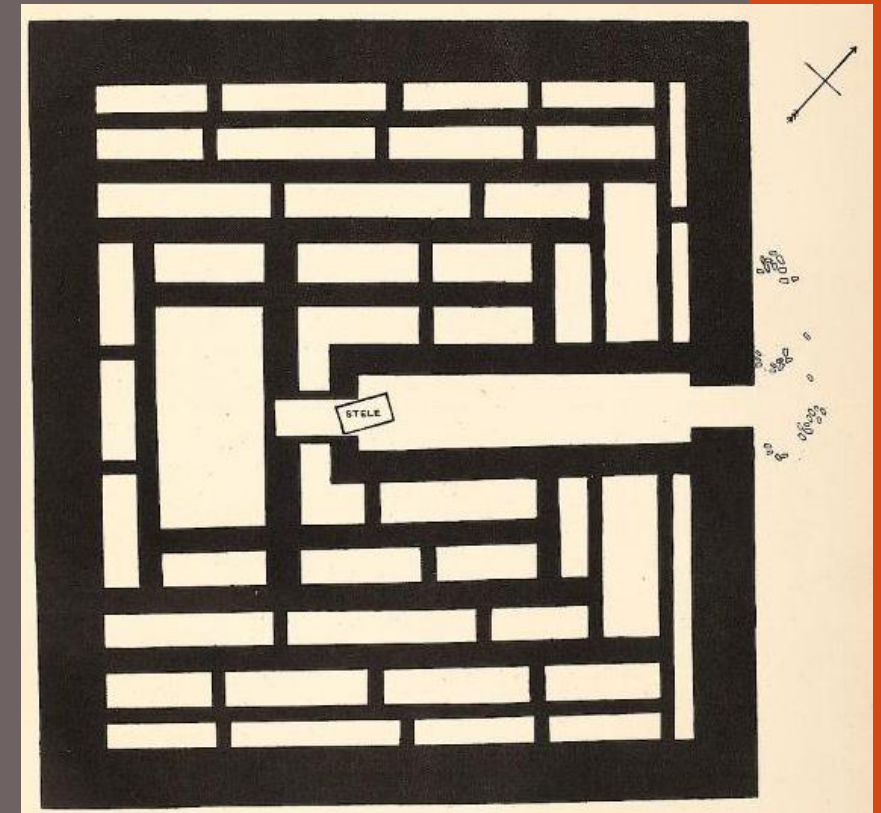
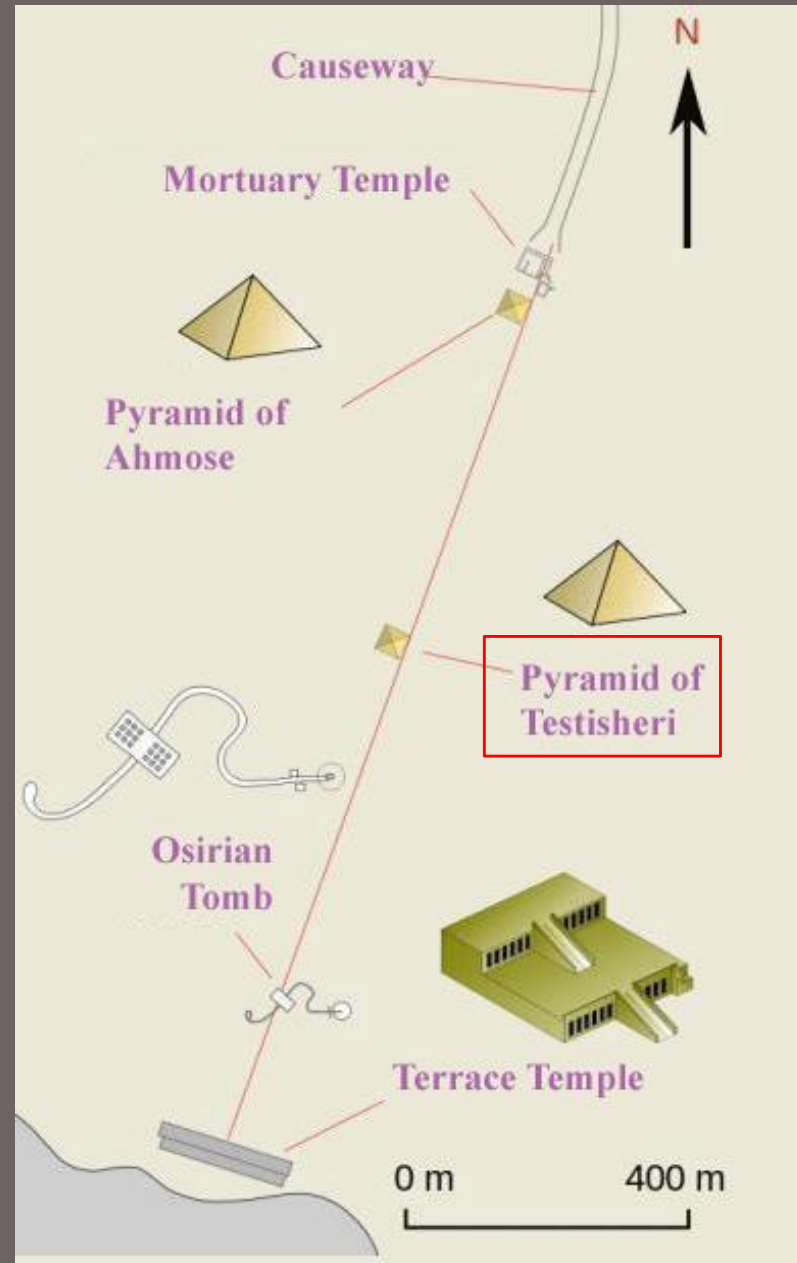
It was heard that Sile had been entered [*i.e.* taken].

Tetisheri Stela of Ahmose I





Above: Map of Egypt during the New Kingdom, with Abydos indicated



Left: The Ahmose Temple Complex, with Tetisheri's pyramid

Above: Plan of Tetisheri's pyramid, with the find-spot of the stela

