HISTORICAL PERIOD: NEW KINGDOM
EGYPT FROM AMENHOTEP III TO THE DEATH OF RAMSESSES II

**INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

**REGION OF AMENHOTEP III + ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION**

- Described by Dr Binder as the climax and turning point in NK – 1390 BC
  - Contrast to preceding period = period of peace with neighbours, diplomacy, consolidating wealth, building administration
  - Turning point in religion, innovation and change, art and technology
  - Berman comments “Egypt was wealthier and more powerful than ever before” – years of peace, strong harvests, steady flow of gold = allowed his innovation to transform the landscape
  - Protect the already gained peace and prosperity
- Diplomacy characterises reign e.g. the Armana letters – other countries sending tribute to show loyalty – called himself “the king of kings”
  - Even greatest kings of near east were desperate for gold
- Direct communication with subjects – ‘propaganda beetles’
  - Political significance to promote his strength and power
- Ninth ruler of the Eighteenth Dynasty
- Inherited a great empire – didn’t require much work to build it up
- Produced lots of source – archeological, inscriptions, iconography
- Son of Thutmosis IV and Queen Mutemwia (secondary wife)
  - Bark of Mutemwia
- Mummy from KV 35
  - Elderly upon death
  - Missy teeth, gums damaged
- Thutmoses IV died when he was very young – Mutemwia held power until Amenhotep was of age to rule
- Accession to the throne at age 12 -Evidence isn’t conclusive on age
- Year 2 of reign = married Queen Tiy (Great Royal Wife)
- Year 38 = final year on throne (aged around 50)
- Royal family
  - Great royal wife = Queen Tiy
    - Wooden head with elaborate headdress of Queen Tiy (Berlin Museum)
    - Allowed her parents to have a tomb built in the VoK = Yuya and Thuya (KV46)
    - Sent marriage scarabs around the kingdom (Brooklyin museum + national gallery of Victoria) – ensured children would be recognised as legitament
- Blue and yellow cosmetic jar with name written Tiy’s name in Cartouche = honour as this was reserved for the pharaoh and signifying universal and eternal rule. “the King’s wife Tiy, may she be healthy” + said that yellow and blue were her favourite colours
- Year 11 = built a lake for Queen Tiy
  - Other diplomatic marriages e.g. Mitanni Princess
  - Children
    - Tuthmosis (dies in infancy)
    - Sitamun
    - Iset
    - Henuttaneb
    - ... - in TT192
    - Amenhotep (becomes next pharaoh)
    - Nebetiah
    - Baket*aten*
      - Suggests change is happening
- Stela from a household shrine in Tell el Amarna = image of Tiy and Amenhotep at an offering table under the rays of the Aten => from the reign of the next Pharaoh
  - Armana become the new capital city 6 years into the reign of next pharaoh
  - Change is occurring
- Tomb of Huya (official at Amarna) – year 13 of reign of Akhenaten
- “Amarna Letters” – EA 28 – Tushratta, King of Mitanni to Akenaten => “… you must ask Teye, your mother,...”
  - Evidence of the contribution of Tiy in the diplomacy of her sons reign
  - Known by foreign rulers and influential
- Building program in Nubia extends into 5th Cataract + cluster around Thebes and lower Egypt = extensively built religious and political buildings
  - E.g. Luxor temple @ Thebes – RII built a forecourt to line up with Karnak
  - Glorify the gods and his own everlasting fame
- Exchange between the Aegean and All
- Over 1000 statues from monuments e.g. Colossi of Memnon from funerary temple,
  - 45 of these are over 3m tall
- Enormous funerary temple built on flood plan = almost nothing remains but 2 statues
- Build a new palace of mud brick = Malkata

Royal Titulary/ titles = reveal the program for this reign and explain the qualities he wanted to present
= his titles provide a bench mark to access his reign

Embellished and interspersed with epithets throughout reign - particularly insistent in attaching himself to Ra (traditional, sun god) + ‘Dazzling Sun Disk’

Titulary is the program which AIII set out as the expectation of his reign – these are absolutely upheld by the evidence of his reign
- Horus – strong bull, appearing in truth
- Two ladies – who establishes law, who pacifies the two lands
- Golden Horus – Great of strength, smiter of the Asiatics (foreigners)
  - Didn’t have to smite foreigners as he used diplomacy (Armana letters)
- King of Upper and Lower Egypt – Neb-maat-Ra = Ra is the lord of truth
- Song of Ra = Amenhotep (= Amen is pleased/ satisfied), ruler of Thebes
  - Built extensively to honour Amun

Succession - Amenhotep IV/ Akhenaten

- Question of coregency at the end of AIII’s reign
  - Used to prevent dynastic strife at the death of a king by establishing an approved partner on the throne
  - Aldred has been a strong advocate of a long period of joint rule for twelve years or more – based on visual remains as and art historian – use the Tomb of Ramose to present his case
  - The proponents of this theory have often been art historians, while historians have largely remained unconvinced
  - Berman maintains that it is unnecessary to propose a coregency to explain the production of art – lack of written evidence
  - Redford is a critical opponent of the idea as there are no inscriptions
  - Evidence is inconclusive
  - We know nothing of the childhood of Akhenaten – if he was coregent there would be written evidence
- Eldest male = Thutmosis (did not survive infancy) ev: small sarcophagus
- Heir changed name from Amenhotep IV → Akhenaten
- Early 18th dynasty = era of expansion of territory
  - Warrior pharaoh iconography with the unification of the land and expulsion of the Hyksos → Thuthmosis IV did a small amount of this = securing routes to the mines in the Eastern deserts
  - Took the children of defeated northern empires as booty and raised them as Egyptians – ensured good foreign relations when they returned to rule
- Learnt from his father to appoint loyal officials – introduces a strong bureaucracy oversaw by Amenhotep Son of Hapu
- Neighbours during rule = Aegean, Hittites, Mitanni, Nubia
- Amarna Letters now in museums all around the world = evidence of International Correspondance
  - Calls him ‘brother’

BUILDING PROGRAMME

Building programme surpassed that of any of his predecessors in both quantity and quality – display of his immense wealth and power

Built on a huge scale with the intention of lasting for eternity – lavish use of materials, precise workmanship
Begun building early in reign – records from year 1+2 of quarrying for limestone

Overseer of programs = Amenhotep son of Hapu – rewarded with mortuary temple behind the pharaohs

Built both to glorify himself and to emphasise his relationship with the gods, ensuring their benevolence and his own everlasting fame as asserted by Berman.

Builds the extent of Egypt from the Delta to Upper Egypt and in Nubia

Religious significance = honour the gods

Van Dijk proposes that “Egypt’s wealth was symbolized by the sheer size of the monuments”

**Temple of Amun at Luxor (Thebes)**

- Built by architects Suti and Hor in celebration of the Opet festivals
- Earliest and most complete expression of classic temple design, featuring a progression from an open court through a series of halls to the sanctuary
  - Design features
    - 12m high columns shaped like papyrus with open flowers in both the large forecourt and first processional colonnade
    - Reliefs of Amun's role in the divine birth and coronation of AIII
- Connected the temple of Amun at Karnak with a paved avenue lined with ram-headed sphinxes = 1.5km
- Power of the Amun priesthood was developing – controlled 1/3 of the pharaohs' wealth – showed interest in the Aten to shift this power away from them

**Additions to the temple of Karnak (Thebes)**

- Built new pylon = inscription on it praises himself and Amun and lists gifts to the temple + forecourt
- Claims for himself by demolishing the shrines and monuments of earlier pharaohs
- Another smaller pylon with 2 colossal statues of himself
- Canal built from the gateway to the Nile

**Temple of Soleb (Nubia)**

- North of third Cataract
- Physical presence for political regions + religious significance to deify himself
- Over 20m long with a dine white sandstone pylon, 2 courtyards, a hypostyle hall (palm-shaped columns), shrine – gold and silver throughout
- Wall paintings of AIII’s Heb-sed festival (includes Tiy and 2 daughters)
- Column bases with reliefs of conquered foreigners
- AIII is featured in sculptures and reliefs flanked by ram horns (symbol of Amun)
- Shrine is equipped for two gods; Amun and Nebmaatre (one of AIII’s names) = promoted himself to be worshipped as a living god
- Establishes own cult to deify himself
- Extensive building in Nubia to consolidate Egypt’s power

**Sedeinga (Nubia)**
- Dedicated to Tiye

**Malkata Palace (Thebes)**
- Moved his residence from Memphis to Thebes: new palace on the west bank of the Nile
- Called the House of Nebmaatre – the dazzling sun disc
- Complex covers 32 hectares = 4 palaces
  - Harem, great hall of the Vizier, administrative buildings, residential apartments, audience pavilions, gardens, small temple of Amun etc.
- Buildings were 1-3 storeys mudbrick with timber columns with plastered and painted walls featuring naturalistic scenes = traditional in style and use of materials
- Floorplan of the complex although nothing survives but the Colossi

**Mortuary temple**
- 1km north of palace complex
- Huge scale – size and splendour is indicated by an inscription “A very happy monument; never has happened the like since the beginning”
- Built to house the funeral service for the pharaoh’s spirit and dedicated to Amun
- 2 Colossi of Memnon in front of the temple (over 16m)

**Tomb**
- One of only 2 in the west valley of VoK (wast bank Nile @Thebes) = isolated location
- KV 22
- Typical D18 bent axis tomb
- Possibly started in the tomb of his father Thutmoses IV
- Large scale tomb – long reign
- Number of chambers and passage ways which lead to a 6 pillar burial chamber
- Walls plastered and painted extensively
- Paintings = range of gods including Hathor, Osiris and Anubis
- Lots of objects recovered including his mummy – moved to KV 75 in D:20 for safe keeping as it was broken into in antiquity
- Some paintings in the Louvre in Paris
- Currently work on conservation

**ADMINISTRATION – OFFICIALS ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION**
- Bureaucracy ran smoothly under the supervision of the viziers, public works were maintained, large building programs were undertaken, manufacturing and arts flourished, bumper harvests were recorded and taxes collected.
- Priesthood = maintained the temples of Amun and other gods
- Exquisitely decorated tombs of the officials who worked in AIII’s civil administration show how richly he rewarded loyal and efficient service
  - Sebekhotep – treasurer
    - Role = acquisition of precious metals, control of mining operations
  - Romose, son of Imhotep I – Vizier of the South