

## STATION 1

# EGYPTIAN LAW & ORDER

## The Cops

At the head of the police during the New Kingdom was the Chief of the Medjay who had one or more deputies.

Regional and municipal forces were commanded by captains. Most of these high officers were native Egyptians, as were by this time most of the constables. Little is known about the structure of the ancient Egyptian police force otherwise, but whatever its actual organization, significant numbers of police officers could be assembled to guard strategic places in times of need or accompany expeditions: A mining party more than nine thousand men strong under Ramses IV was accompanied by a unit of fifty policemen, and when there was somewhat of a security situation in Upper Egypt during the late New Kingdom, the authorities ordered police from the region to assemble in order to protect the Theban necropolis:



Anubis weighing the heart of the deceased. Egyptians believed they would be judged and punished in the afterlife as well.

## Who are they working for, anyway?

The police were paid by the treasury, but apparently they had at times a supplementary income, being hired by local elites to protect their interests and property (as still happens today, occasionally).

Community policing may have focused more on keeping elites happy, rather than serving the interests of the general population. This meant that regular people had to be cautious in how they treated their local police officer!



...They plundered everything and burned its people, so they say. Now the high priest of Amen said to us, Bring the police of Per-nebyt together with those who are in the South and those of the Necropolis and let them stand there guarding the Necropolis...

A. G. McDowell, 1999, p.228

## Primary document analysis

Befriend the herald (i.e. policeman) of your quarter.  
Do not make him angry with you.  
Give him food from your house.  
Do not slight his requests;  
Say to him: "Welcome, welcome here."  
No blame accrues to him who does it.

The Instruction of the scribe Any, New Kingdom

## STATION 1, CONTINUED

### Crime and Punishment in Ancient Egypt



by Mark Andrews

... there are any number of other documented legal proceedings. From these, we know of the punishment in criminal proceedings. For example, from court documents at Deir el-Medina, we know that punishment for stolen or embezzled goods might be as simple as the return of the goods with a fine of twice their value.

Simple corporal punishment could involve a hundred strokes of the cane and in more serious cases, 5 bleeding cuts added, or brands as a sign of permanent dishonor. Depending on the severity of the case, being exiled to Nubia or the Western Oasis, or sent

quarries was not uncommon. Some crimes were punished with mutilation consisting of cutting off a hand, tongue, nose or ears. In extreme cases, capital punishment was inflicted by implement on a stake, burning alive, drowning or decapitation.

Because the guilty had violated Ma'at, it was also assumed the individual would suffer failure, poverty, sickness, blindness or deafness, with the final settlement awaiting in the Court of the Dead.

#### IT'S GOOD TO BE PHARAOH

The Pharaoh himself might very well decide the most important criminal cases, or at other times he might appoint a special commission with full authority to pass judgment.

#### BURIED ALIVE FOR ROBBING GRAVES!

Supposedly the mummy of a 25th dynasty grave robber, who was possibly buried alive



1. fines
2. 100 strokes of the cane
3. 5 bleeding cuts
4. branded by a hot iron
5. exile
6. mutilation
7. burned alive
8. drowned
9. decapitation
10. cutting off hand, tongue, nose or ears

#### FROM THE EDITOR

So, these punishments probably seem severe. However, you should know that in Egypt they also did support some basic rights. For instance, even slaves had some basic rights.

*Shirley Tinschert*

## STATION 2

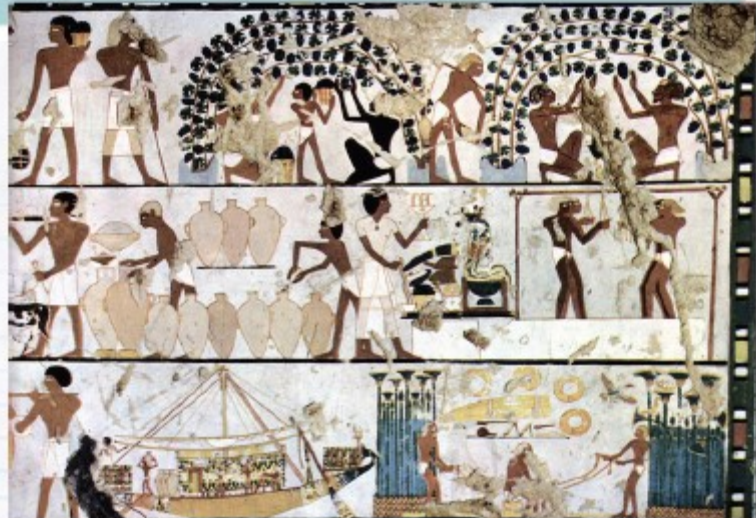
# EGYPTIAN ECONOMY

## Trade

Egypt's economy depended on the distribution of raw materials and produce, including both imported goods and locally produced commodities such as barley, emmer, cattle, wine and linen.

These goods were redirected by the royal storehouses as wages and salaries to artisans, officials, artists, priests and those not directly involved in food production. The Egyptians were careful accountants and inflicted severe penalties, including physical punishment, for tax evasion. Tomb scenes often depict the assessment of produce and collection of taxes by scribes; sometimes we see farmers being beaten for tax evasion.

In addition to grain and livestock, the Egyptians also produced a wide variety of fruit and vegetables for both domestic consumption and local trade. Domestic trade centered on the Nile, the main highway linking villages and towns. Evidence indicates that markets for small traders were set up at the quays and landing places where trading boats docked.



## Ancient Egyptian Jobs

What types of jobs were available to the Ancient Egyptians? It was not just building work relating to the construction of pyramids and monuments. The golden age of the Ancient Egyptians spanned over 3000 years during which the Ancient Egyptians lived in a well ordered society which was administered by people with jobs relating to the government of the country, law enforcement, judges and courts. All

classes of society paid taxes which in turn paid for the government and army - more Ancient Egyptian jobs. The jobs undertaken by Ancient Egyptian scribes revolved around work relating to the government of Egypt they were the civil servants of Ancient Egypt! The Ancient Egyptian religion also required various types of people undertaking the jobs related to religion and running the temples.



Slaves were used in ancient Egypt to build the pyramids



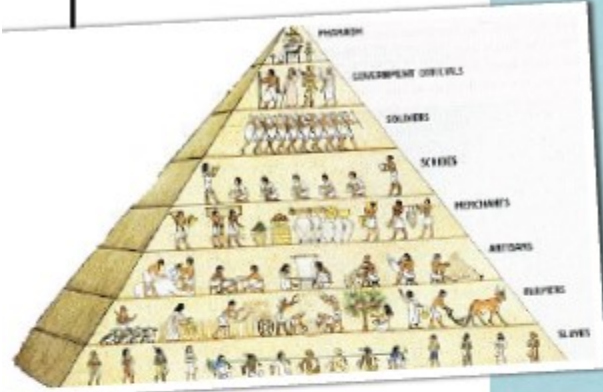
A sample of grain that was used as a form of payment and wages



Painting of workers making bricks from the tomb of Rekmire. Thebes, Egypt

## STATION 2, CONTINUED

### The Pyramid of Power



The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid of power provides an overview of the jobs undertaken in Ancient Egypt and the status that was associated with them.

These jobs could be divided into state employment and the protection and government of the country, private employment and jobs relating to working on estates, jobs relating to the religion and the temples, the doctors, the artists, the craftsmen and finally the laborers.

### EMBALMERS

There are no Egyptian texts that describe the embalming technique (but over time we have figured out how they did it). The embalmers were trained in both the technical process of embalming and the religious rituals that went along with it. The embalmers were in the priest class.



Before there were embalmers, the earliest ancient Egyptians buried their dead in the small pits in the desert where the heat and dryness would create "natural" mummies.

The pyramid of power didn't just determine the type of job you had—it also determined whether or not and how you would be mummified after your death. Initially, only pharaohs were mummified, but over time the practice was available to elites and eventually some peasants. However,

peasants had access to the cheapest version of mummification—basically, immersion in a chemical bath.

### SATIRE OF THE TRADES

These excerpts come from an Ancient Egyptian text also called *The Instruction of Dua-Kheti*. It exaggerates the negative aspects of varying professions and upholds the profession of the scribe. This is thought to be satire—making fun of the way the elite scribes saw the professions beneath them on the social structure.

I do not see a stoneworker on an important errand or a goldsmith in a place to which he has been sent, but I have seen a coppersmith at his work at the door of his furnace. His fingers were like the claws of the crocodile, and he stank more than fish excrement.

The barber shaves until the end of the evening. But he must be up early, crying out, his bowl upon his arm. He takes himself from street to street to seek out someone to shave. He wears out his arms to fill his belly, like bees who eat (only) according to their work.

See, there is no office free from supervisors, except the scribe's. He is the supervisor!



## STATION 3

# WAR & PEACE

## The Loot

The resources that flowed into Egypt during the New Kingdom came as a result of both warfare and peaceful trading activity. During the establishment of the empire, Egypt collected valuable booty from conquered towns and cities in the aftermath of successful military campaigns. This might be in the form of animals, especially horses, which were not known in Egypt before the New Kingdom; other livestock; grain and oils. Such plunder also included prisoners of war, who would often be given as rewards for bravery to successful soldiers.



Syrians paying tribute to Egypt during the New Kingdom

## The Tribute

After a rebellious town had been conquered and the booty collected to be taken back to Egypt, the Egyptians required the town to pay an annual tribute or tax in the future, which represented a portion of their annual produce that might be raw materials or manufactured goods. Because Egypt did not possess quality timber for ship building, housing or

furniture, the most valuable tribute from Palestine was the cedar and fir of Lebanon. Copper and lead, in the form of ingots, came from Syria-Palestine. Booty plundered from conquered territories and tribute collected from vassal kingdoms, along with peaceful trade, increased Egypt's wealth.

## The Neighbors



Apart from Nubia in the south, Egypt's most important neighbors were Syria and Palestine to the north-east, and the powerful kingdoms of the Hittites and the Babylonians. Relations with these countries differed ... and were based on a number of factors including conquest, diplomacy and trade. The most significant development in this period was the great peace treaty between Egypt and the Hittites during the reign of Ramses II.

## STATION 3, CONTINUED

### War and Peace in Ancient Egypt--Primary Documents

#### 1479-1425 BCE

The tribute of the princes of Retenu Thutmose III exacted in his 31st year included 40 blocks of native copper and lead and in his 38th year he received 276 blocks of crude copper. Tribute of the chief of Isy [1] in [this year]: 108 blocks of pure copper or 2,040 deben [2]; 5(+x) blocks of lead; 1,200 [pigs] of lead; lapis lazuli, 110 deben; ivory, 1 tusk; 2 staves of ... wood.

Thutmose III: Annals of the 10th campaign James Henry Breasted, Ancient Records of Egypt, Part Two, § 493

#### 1290-1279 BCE

I turn my face to the north, I work a wonder [for thee]. ... .. snaring the rebels in their nests by the power of thy might. I bring to the countries that know not Egypt, with their tribute borne, consisting of silver, gold, lapis lazuli, every splendid costly stone of God's Land.

Seti I, Karnak reliefs J. H. Breasted, Ancient Records of Egypt, Part Three, § 116

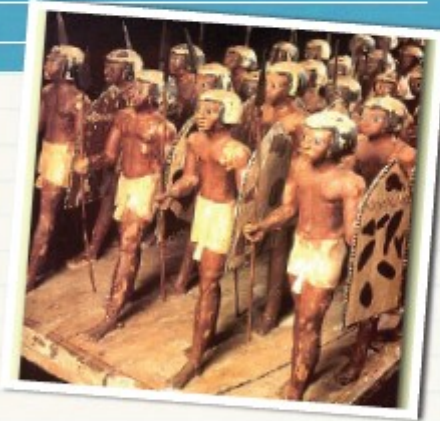
#### 1186-1155 BCE

I sent forth my messengers to the country of Atika, to the great copper mines which are in this place. Their galleys carried them; others on the land-journey were upon their asses. It has not been heard before, since kings reign. Their mines were found abounding in copper; it was loaded by ten-thousands into their galleys. They were sent forward to Egypt, and arrived safely. It was carried and made into a heap under the balcony, in many bars of copper, being of the color of gold of three times.

Ramses III James Henry Breasted, Ancient Records of Egypt, Part Four, § 408



Victims of civil war, bound with ropes and with their heads cut off and placed between their legs, from the Narmer palette, about 3000 BCE



Because it is surrounded by deserts, Egypt is pretty hard to invade. So a lot of the time Egypt was at peace. But not all the time. The Egyptians fought between themselves over who would be in charge of their country, and over whether the country would be united.

The Egyptians also sometimes fought off invasions from the Libyans to their west, or from the Nubians to their south (and sometimes they lost to these invaders too). Around 1700 BCE, there was a big invasion of Hyksos from the north...more on that later.

Also, the Egyptians sometimes invaded their neighbors. They sometimes invaded the Levant (modern Israel) to their north and sometimes they invaded Nubia (modern Ethiopia and Sudan) to their south.

## STATION 4

# SHIPWRECK!

## Uluburun

There is a shipwreck off the coast of Turkey known as the Uluburun shipwreck. This ship likely sank in 1316 BCE, and archaeologists have found and studied much of its cargo to learn about life and trade in the Bronze Age.

The ship is important for studying trade in the Late Bronze Age Mediterranean because it carried items from at least eight ancient civilizations: Mycenaean, Eastern European, Cypriot, Canaanite, Kassite, Assyrian, Egyptian, and Nubian. Its cargo, which may have been a royal one, was mainly composed of raw materials, although manufactured goods were also present.



## The cargo

The cargo was mostly raw materials: copper, tin, ceramics, bronze, glass, wood, and terebinth resin (a type of amber).

There was over ten tons of Cypriot copper; 500 individual copper ingots of four different styles. These ingots were a form of transporting the raw copper. The tin ingots fell into similar forms and constituted the largest source of tin from the Bronze

Age, more than all other Bronze Age finds put together. Chemical analyses of the copper and tin were conducted in order to determine the origin. The conclusion of the lead-Isotope tests on the copper pointed to Cyprus. The tests on the tin, however, showed only the exclusion of an eastern European, Cornish or Spanish origin.



Recreation of the ship that sunk



It took more than 20,000 dives to finish the excavation

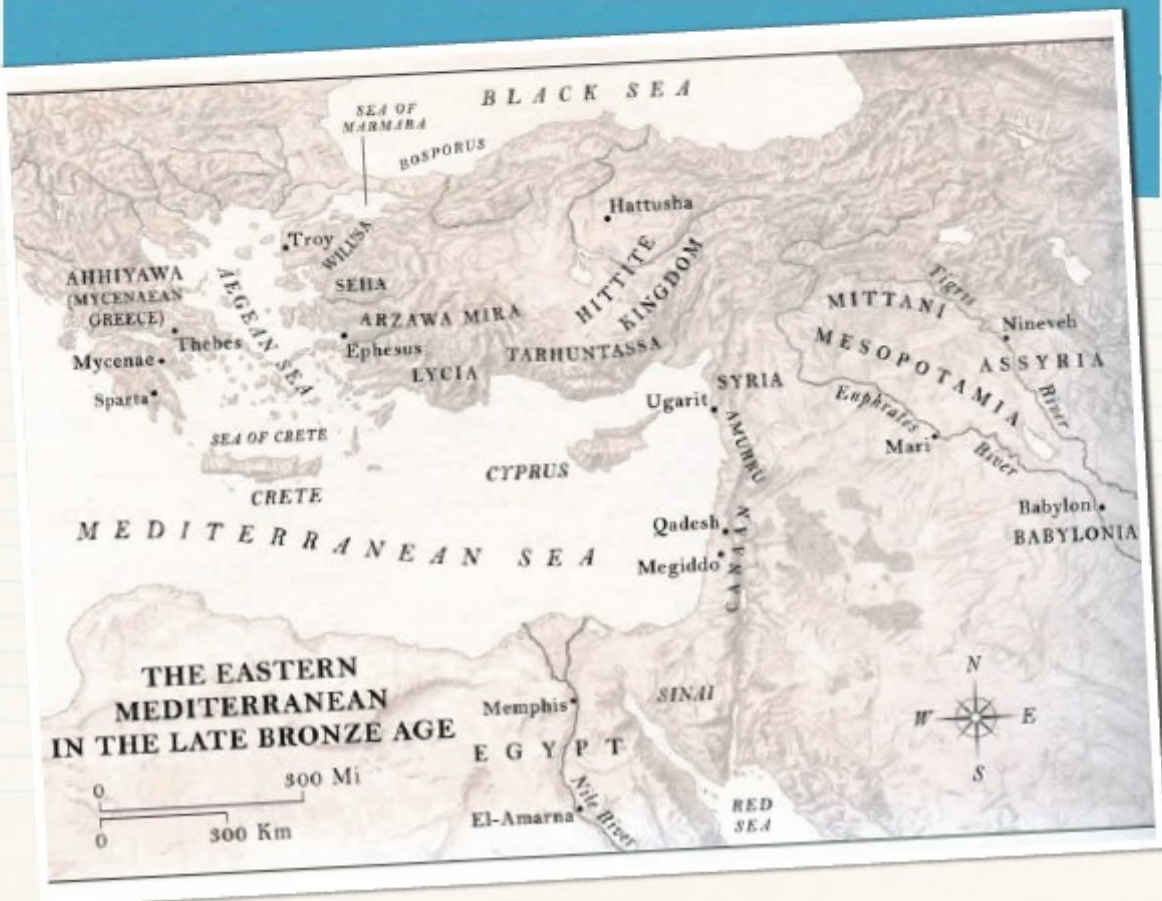


An archaeologist investigating the over 3000 year old shipwreck

## STATION 4, CONTINUED

### Things carried by the ship





1. glass beads
2. gold Canaanite jewelry
3. Ebony
4. Elephant tusks
5. hippo teeth
6. Food & Spices: almonds, pine nuts, figs, grapes, cumin, sumac, coriander, safflower, pomegranate, wheat, barley
7. Tools like drills, chisels, fish spears and weapons
8. 150 Canaanite jars








## STATION 4, CONTINUED

### Uluburun artifacts: evidence of trade

Item #	Type of artifact	Artifact Image	Description	Origin
1	Ox-hide copper ingots	 <p>An ingot is metal that has been molded into a particular shape. It is speculated that the copper ingots on this ship were molded with four handles so they could be easily carried. They are called ox-hide ingots because they looked like the hide of an ox with four legs. The two handled variety was not as popular because it would be more difficult to carry. The ingots on this ship weighed about 60 lbs. each.</p>	<p>Three hundred and fifty-four copper ox-hide ingots (four-handled and two-handled types) were found.</p> <p>The ten tons of raw copper on the ship comprised the main cargo. This raw material would have been mixed with tin when the ship reached its destination to make bronze for weapons, tools etc. The hold carried enough copper and tin to make three hundred bronze helmets and breast plates.</p>	Cyprus
2	Hippopotamus ivory		<p>The picture shows pairs of hippopotamus incisors (left) and carines (right) of a total of thirteen found on the shipwreck.</p>	Southern Egypt, Sudan (Africa)
3	Ceremonial Scepter		<p>This is a ceremonial scepter - made of volcanic stone. The closest parallels to this artifact are found in Romania and Bulgaria.</p>	Balkans (Romania, Bulgaria)
4	African blackwood (ebony)		<p>Ebony (<i>Dalbergia melanoxylon</i>) logs found near KW 761. Divers excavated cedar and African blackwood logs, the largest being one yard long. African blackwood is not ebony (found in India), although the ancient Egyptians called it ebony. The trees are found in Sudan and as far south as Mozambique and Angola.</p>	Sudan

STATION 4, CONTINUED

**Uluburun artifacts: evidence of trade, continued**

Item #	Type of artifact	Artifact Image	Description	Origin
5	Coarse-ware stirrup jars		<p>These vessels contained almost every type of seed recovered from the wreck. Some of the seeds recovered from the wreck were pomegranate, grape, olive, coriander, sumac, various grass and weed seeds, and pulses (the edible seeds of peas, beans, lentils etc.).</p>	Crete
6	Bronze chisels and sword		<p>A chisel is a tool with a beveled edge for shaping wood, stone, or metal. There are three bronze deep chisels of Mycenaean type on the left of the picture and two bronze necked adzes of southern Canaanite type on the right of the picture.</p>	Mycenae, Canaan
7	Nefertiti gold scarab		<p>This is a unique gold scarab naming Nefertiti. Nefertiti was the beautiful wife of the heretic Eighteenth Dynasty Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaten. It is the only known scarab of this queen. The scarab was worn and seemed to have been in use, probably as jewelry, for some time.</p>	Egypt

STATION 5

# THE HYKSOS

A CASE STUDY IN CONFLICT BETWEEN PASTORAL NOMADS AND AGRARIAN COMMUNITIES

## meet the Hyksos

We generally know very little about the Hyksos. But here is what we do know:

- their name translates from Greek to mean "foreign rulers"
- they were horse-riding nomads from southwest Asia
- they used horse-drawn chariots and bronze weapons
- they learned to use bronze from the Hittites and Mesopotamians
- they captured Memphis and claimed authority over Egypt in 1674 BCE

### SAY GOODBYE TO THE HYKSOS

There is evidence that the Hyksos were 'nice' rulers in that they didn't force the locals to change their customs. In fact, the Hyksos even adopted some Egyptian customs as their own, including worshipping some Egyptian gods. However, the Egyptian elites were not happy to be ruled by outsiders, so they adopted the advanced technology of the Hyksos and used it against them. The Egyptian elites were in charge of Egypt by 1550 BCE.



## A slow take over?

We know that the Hyksos controlled much of Egypt by 1674 BCE. However, we aren't sure how they did it. It's possible that the Hyksos didn't actually force their way in—they may have come in as traders, merchants, wine makers, sailors, craft workers, doctors, and artisans and just stayed. The Egyptian art of the Middle

Kingdom shows them as having beards and wearing different clothes. They have a colored cloth with lots of fancy designs. The art work shows them bringing trade goods and tribute.



**CULTURAL DIFFUSION:** These are scarabs from three different Hyksos rulers. They borrowed this tradition from the Egyptians, with one exception—there is no writing on theirs, just designs.



**HYKSOS' KINGDOM:** The Hyksos controlled the area in blue during their reign.



**KICKED OUT:** The Hyksos were eventually pushed out of Egypt by a group of angry, armed nobles who organized a revolt. This marks the beginning of the New Kingdom in 1550 BCE.