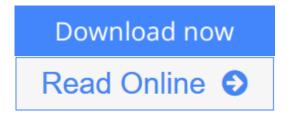


Egypt: A Short History

By Robert L. Tignor



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This is a sweeping, colorful, and concise narrative history of Egypt from the beginning of human settlement in the Nile River valley 5000 years ago to the present day. Accessible, authoritative, and richly illustrated, this is an ideal introduction and guide to Egypt's long, brilliant, and complex history for general readers, tourists, and anyone else who wants a better understanding of this vibrant and fascinating country, one that has played a central role in world history for millennia--and that continues to do so today.

Respected historian Robert Tignor, who has lived in Egypt at different times over the course of five decades, covers all the major eras of the country's ancient, modern, and recent history. A cradle of civilization, ancient Egypt developed a unique and influential culture that featured a centralized monarchy, sophisticated art and technology, and monumental architecture in the form of pyramids and temples. But the great age of the pharaohs is just the beginning of the story and *Egypt: A Short History* also gives a rich account of the tumultuous history that followed--from Greek and Roman conquests, the rise of Christianity, Arab-Muslim triumph, and Egypt's incorporation into powerful Islamic empires to Napoleon's 1798 invasion, the country's absorption into the British Empire, and modern, postcolonial Egypt under Nasser, Sadat, and Mubarak.

This book provides an indispensable key to Egypt in all its layers--ancient and modern, Greek and Roman, and Christian and Islamic.



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Egypt: A Short History By Robert L. Tignor Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Booklist

When the Greek historian and traveler Herodotus marveled at the Great Sphinx in the fifth century BCE, it was already nearly 2,000 years old. One of the common themes in this compact history of both ancient and modern Egypt is the sheer antiquity of Egyptian civilization. Tignor is professor of modern and contemporary history emeritus at Princeton University. Given the incredible length of Egyptian history, he has wisely chosen to concentrate on broad themes of continuity and change. He avoids, for the most part, a who-what-where-when chronology, which would have been inappropriate and interminable in a short survey. Still, Tignor does provide interesting profiles and speculations on some seminal figures, including the failed monotheist Akhenaten, the fabled Cleopatra VII, the nationalist leader Mustafa Kamil, and, of course, Nasser, Sadat, and Mubarak. The inescapable fact of the Nile as the life-giving force is stressed. It is also notable that Egypt has shown a remarkable ability to endure centuries of foreign invasion and occupation while still maintaining many of the elements of its traditional culture. A superb introduction. --Jay Freeman

Review

"Ambitious in scope, *Egypt: A Short History* provides an informative and readable account for the interested general reader."--Anthony Gorman, *Times Higher Education*

"Robert L. Tignor's ambitious *Egypt: A Short History* stretches from the Predynastic age to the present, tying the various periods together in a continuous 5,000-year narrative to create a lengthy history told in a short book. . . . Tignor writes with an easy, assured style, and his history becomes more focused and more authoritative as it progresses. He tells us it was conceived as an alternative guidebook for discerning tourists wishing to learn about more than just pyramids and pharaohs: as such--as an enjoyable book written by someone who clearly knows and loves Egypt and the Egyptians--it serves its purpose very well."--*Financial Times*

"[O]ne could not write a better account of Egypt's history--a gift from a master historian at the conclusion of his career."--Henry E. Chambers, *Middle East Journal*

"A brief look at Egypt's history can help us both understand the making of Egypt and the reasons behind what has already been dubbed Egypt's unfinished revolution."--Lisa Kaaki, *Arab News*

From the Inside Flap

"From Hyksos chariots to Egypt's latest venture in the desert, *Egypt: A Short History* is vintage Robert Tignor: concise, straightforward, and comprehensive. He manages to introduce primers on the sects of Islam, the trajectory of the Ottoman Empire, and other subjects ranging well beyond Egypt. And he gives fair warning: if you want to be mummified, your brain will be drawn out through your nose."--John Waterbury, American University of Beirut

"This is a masterpiece. In simple and accessible prose, Robert Tignor builds on his long and deep familiarity with Egyptian history, politics, and economy. The reader comes away with an understanding of what propels Egyptian history over the ages, and an appreciation of the key questions that beleaguer modern Egypt. This book will be of enormous value for general readers, students, and tourists."--Khaled Fahmy, New York University

"It's rare to get the entire history of Egypt between the covers of one book, but that is what this book does, providing a wonderful and thoroughly enjoyable sweep through Egyptian history. Robert Tignor is a great historian and this marvelous book displays his tremendous skill, experience, and knowledge."--J. G. Manning, Yale University

Users Review

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