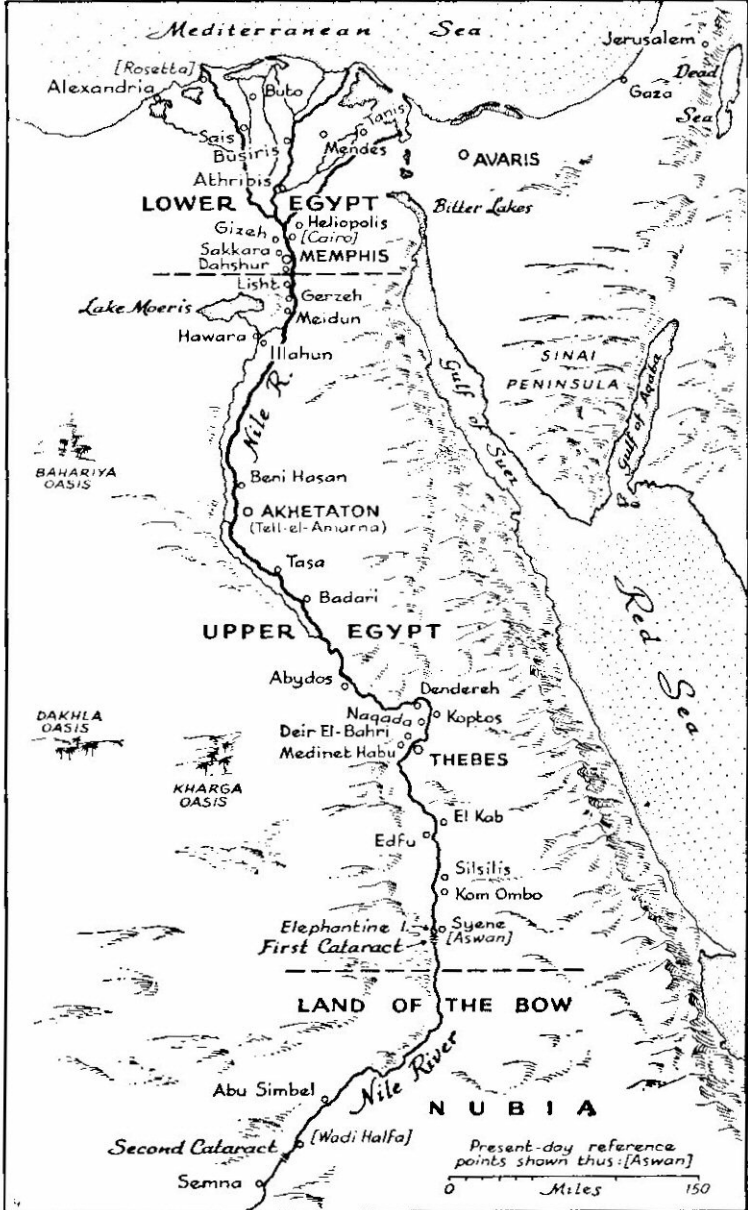


Almost two thousand years before the birth of Christ, a conquering army marched out of the heart of Asia Minor. The conquerors overran other lands and peoples unchecked as they moved westward, for their warriors possessed a new and effective weapon—the horse-drawn chariot. Those who tried to defend their countries against these newcomers were swiftly battered to the dust.

Among the defeated nations was Egypt, already very old and once mighty. So bitter were the Egyptians against the alien invaders that when they were finally able to expel them generations later, they attempted—with excellent results—to erase all trace of their occupation of the Nile Valley. To this day, therefore, we do not know who these Hyksos were, where they came from, or how long they ruled—merely that they held Egypt for a time, introduced the horse to that land, and were accounted worse than devils by its inhabitants. This was a time of intrigue, of danger, of dissension within the ranks of the Egyptians themselves, since the more conservative of the Pharaoh's officials favored a token tribute to the Hyksos and no open break. It was also a time when a young man might dare great things. Highborn Egyptians entered officers' training at about ten years of age and became active combatants at fourteen or fifteen. Both of the royal princes who led the first attacks upon the Hyksos were in their teens.

Only in the far south of Egypt and in Nubia (modern Sudan) did the old Egyptian way of life continue feebly during the years of alien occupation. Nubia—the Land of the Bow, ruled by a viceroy of the Pharaoh—furnished archers

for the Desert Scouts, a corps famed for over a thousand years in Egyptian records. Their skill was so widely known and respected that in foreign tongues the name for Egyptian was also the word for bowman. And it was in Thebes, the ancient capital of the south, that a successful revolt against the Hyksos took fire in 1590 B.C. Egyptians, once again united, beat back the enemy and established an empire that dominated the southern Mediterranean for centuries to come.



Mediterranean Sea

Jerusalem

[Rosetta]
Alexandria

Dead Sea
Gaza

Buto
Sais
Busiris
Athribis
Mendes
Tanis

AVARIS

LOWER EGYPT

Bitter Lakes

Gizeh
Sakkara
Dahshur
MEMPHIS
Heliopolis [Cairo]

Lake Moeris

Lisht
Gerzeh
Meidun
Hawara
Illahun

SINAI
PENINSULA

BAHARIYA
OASIS

Beni Hasan

AKHETATON
(Tell-el-Amarna)

Tasa

Badari

UPPER EGYPT

Abydos

Denderah

DAKHLA
OASIS

Naqada
Deir El-Bahri
Medinet Habu

Koptos

THEBES

KHARGA
OASIS

El Kab

Edfu

Silsilis

Kom Ombo

Elephantine I.
First Cataract
Syene [Aswan]

LAND OF THE BOW

Abu Simbel

Nile River

NUBIA

Second Cataract
[Wadi Halfa]

Semna

Present-day reference
points shown thus: [Aswan]

0 Miles 150