

**CHAPTER 4** Section 1 (pages 89–94)

# The Egyptian and Nubian Empires

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the religion of the ancient Hebrews.

In this section, you will read about the interaction of Egypt and Nubia.

## AS YOU READ

Use the time line below to take notes on changes in Egypt and Nubia.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Hyksos** Invaders that ruled Egypt from 1640 to 1570 B.C.

**New Kingdom** Period after the Hyksos rulers

**Hatshepsut** New Kingdom ruler who encouraged trade

**Thutmose III** Warlike ruler; stepson of Hatshepsut

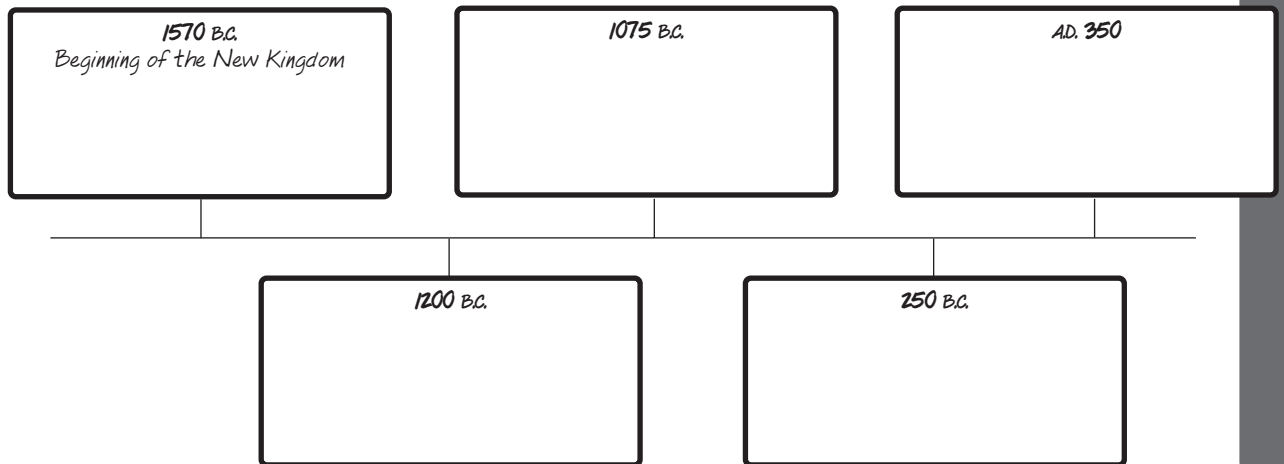
**Nubia** Region of Africa bordering Egypt

**Ramses II** Pharaoh and great builder of Egypt

**Kush** Nubian kingdom

**Piankhi** Kushite king who forced the Libyans out of Egypt

**Meroë** Home and trading center of the Kush kingdom



## Nomadic Invaders Rule Egypt

(page 89)

### Who were the Hyksos?

At the end of its second period of glory, power struggles weakened Egypt. New invaders, the **Hyksos**, arrived. They had the chariot. Egyptians had never seen this war machine before. The Hyksos ruled Egypt for many years. Some historians believe that the Hyksos encouraged the Hebrews to settle there.

Around 1600 B.C., a series of warlike rulers began to restore Egypt's power. Eventually, the Hyksos were driven completely out of Egypt. The pharaohs began some *conquests* of their own.

### 1. How did Egypt fall to the Hyksos?

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## The New Kingdom of Egypt

(pages 90–91)

The time from 1570 to 1075 B.C. is called the **New Kingdom**. In this third period, Egypt was richer and more powerful than ever.

**Hatshepsut** was one of the rulers of the New Kingdom. She encouraged trade. Her stepson, **Thutmose III**, was a much more warlike ruler. He and other pharaohs of this New Kingdom brought

Egyptian rule to Syria and Palestine in the east. They also moved south into **Nubia**. This was a part of Africa near where the Nile began. Egypt had traded with Nubia and influenced the region since the time of the Middle Kingdom.

The pharaohs of the New Kingdom did not build pyramids, like those who had come before. Instead, they built great tombs in a secret place called the *Valley of the Kings*. Some pharaohs also built huge palaces for themselves or temples to the Egyptian gods.

**Ramses II** stood out among the great builders of the New Kingdom. He reigned from about 1290 to 1244 B.C.

**2. What was the relationship between Nubia and Egypt during the New Kingdom?**

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**The Empire Declines** (pages 91–92)

*How did Egypt lose power?*

Around 1200 B.C., invaders attacked the eastern Mediterranean. They brought trouble with them.

Some of these invaders were called the “Sea Peoples.” They attacked the Egyptian empire. They attacked the Hittite kingdom, too.

As the power of Egypt fell, the land broke into many small kingdoms. People from Libya began to invade Egypt. They took control of the land. They followed the Egyptian way of life.

**3. Who invaded Egypt?**

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**The Kushites Conquer the Nile Region** (pages 92–93)

*How did the Kushites rule?*

As Egypt grew weaker, the Nubian kingdom of **Kush** became more powerful. Under Egyptian rule, the people of Kush accepted many Egyptian traditions and customs. They felt that they had to protect Egyptian values.

A Kushite king named **Piankhi** moved into Egypt to force out the Libyans. He united the Nile Valley. He wanted to bring back Egypt’s glory. The Kushites ruled Egypt for a few decades. Then the Assyrians invaded. They forced the Kushites back to their home.

**4. How did the Kushites view Egyptian culture?**

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**The Golden Age of Meroë** (page 94)

*What was Meroë?*

The Kushite kings settled in the city of **Meroë**, south of Egypt. Their kingdom entered a golden age. The city played an important role in trade. Meroë also became an important center for making iron weapons and tools.

Traders in the city brought their iron to the ports of the Red Sea. These goods were taken on ships to Arabia and India. The traders from Meroë, in the meantime, brought back jewelry, cloth, silver lamps, and glass bottles. The city thrived from about 250 B.C. to about A.D. 150. By A.D. 350 Meroë had fallen to rival Aksum, a seaport farther south.

**5. Why was Meroë important?**

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**CHAPTER 4** Section 2 (pages 95–98)

# The Assyrian Empire

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Egypt and Nubia, In this section, you will read about the Assyrians, the people who took over Egypt.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on Assyria.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Assyria** Powerful empire in northern Mesopotamia

**Sennacherib** Assyrian king and empire builder

**Nineveh** Assyria's capital on the Tigris River

**Ashurbanipal** Assyrian king who gathered writing tablets from many lands

**Medes** People who helped to destroy the Assyrian empire

**Chaldeans** People who helped to destroy the Assyrian empire

**Nebuchadnezzar** Chaldean king who rebuilt Babylon

ASSYRIA	
<i>Military might</i>	<i>defended themselves first; then conquered others</i>

## A Mighty Military Machine

(pages 95–96)

### Who were the Assyrians?

For a time, **Assyria** was the greatest power in Southwest Asia. The Assyrians began as a farming people in the northern part of Mesopotamia. Because their homes were open to attack, they formed a strong fighting force. Soon they turned to conquest. Assyrian kings, including the fierce **Sennacherib**, built an empire that stretched from east and north of the Tigris River all the way to central Egypt.

The Assyrians used many different methods to win their battles. Their soldiers carried strong iron-tipped spears and iron swords. They used large numbers of men with bows. They dug tunnels under

city walls to weaken them. They used heavy battering rams to knock down the wooden gates of the city.

The Assyrians conquered almost everything in their path. They usually killed or enslaved those they defeated. Some Assyrian kings bragged about their cruelty toward people they captured.

Sometimes conquered peoples would revolt. Assyrians wanted to stop these rebellions and *dominate* the peoples. They forced groups of captives to leave their homelands. Then the captives were too far away to cause trouble.

### 1. What made the Assyrians such a strong fighting force?

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## The Empire Expands (page 96)

### Whom did the Assyrians conquer?

Between 850 and 650 B.C., the Assyrians conquered all of Mesopotamia along with Syria and Palestine. Then they took modern Turkey and Egypt. They ruled by putting in power kings who would support them. They also collected taxes and tribute—yearly payments from peoples who were weaker. If a city did not pay, the Assyrian army moved in and destroyed it.

The Assyrian kings were builders, too. One built the city of **Nineveh** on the north branch of the Tigris River. It was the largest city of its day. The city was surrounded with walls.

Another king, **Ashurbanipal**, gathered thousands of writing tablets from the lands that had been taken. Some of these tablets were dictionaries. The collection provided historians with much information about the earliest civilizations in Southwest Asia. The library was also the first to have many of the features of a modern library, including a cataloging system.

### 2. Besides conquering other people, what did the Assyrians accomplish?

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## The Empire Crumbles (pages 97–98)

### Why did the Assyrians fall?

The Assyrians had also made many enemies over the years. After a while, those enemies banded together. An army made up of **Medes**, **Chaldeans**, and others struck back. In 612 B.C., they destroyed the city of Nineveh. Many people in the area were glad that the city was in ruins.

The Chaldeans, who had ruled the area earlier, took control of Mesopotamia again. A Chaldean king named **Nebuchadnezzar** rebuilt the city of Babylon. Once more it was one of the greatest cities of the world. The city included famous hanging gardens with many different plants from the cool mountain regions. Slaves watered the plants with hidden pumps.

Babylon also featured a *ziggurat*. This step-shaped pyramid soared 300 feet into the air. It was the tallest building in Babylon. At night, priests would study the stars and the planets. They recorded what they saw. This was the beginning of the science of *astronomy*.

### 3. Who were the Chaldeans?

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**CHAPTER 4** Section 3 (pages 99–103)

# The Persian Empire

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the military might of the Assyrians.

In this section, you will read about the wise rule of the Persians.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on key people in the rise of Persia, its rule, and its religion.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**Cyrus** Persian king who created a huge empire

**Cambyses** Cyrus's son

**Darius** Persian king who put satraps in place and built the Royal Road

**satrap** Governor who ruled locally

**Royal Road** Road that helped unify the Persian Empire

**Zoroaster** Persian prophet and religious reformer

<b>Cyrus</b>	<i>general and king who conquered a huge empire</i>
<b>Cambyses</b>	
<b>Darius</b>	
<b>Zoroaster</b>	

## The Rise of Persia (pages 99–100)

### *How did Persia come to power?*

Persia, a new power, arose east of Mesopotamia, in modern Iran. The area had good farmland. It was also rich in minerals. There were mines of copper, lead, gold, and silver.

The Persians joined with other forces to help defeat the Assyrians. About 550 B.C., the Persians began their own conquests.

Their king was **Cyrus**, an excellent general.

Cyrus led his army to conquer a huge empire. It stretched from the Indus River in India all the way to Anatolia. The empire covered about 2,000 miles. Cyrus took all this land in just over 10 years.

Cyrus won this vast land in part because of the wise way he treated the people there. Cyrus did not follow the examples of the Assyrians. They destroyed towns and cities. Cyrus, however, made sure that his army did not harm the people he conquered. He allowed the people to practice their old religions, too. Cyrus let the Hebrews return to

Jerusalem and rebuild their temple there. Cyrus was also a great warrior. He was killed in battle.

**1. What made Cyrus a great leader?**

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**Persian Rule** (pages 100–101)

*Who was Darius?*

Cyrus died in 530 B.C. The kings who followed him had to decide how to run the vast new empire. His son, **Cambyses**, conquered Egypt. Cambyses was not like his father. He was not wise or understanding. He did not respect the Egyptians and their way of life.

The next king, **Darius**, proved as able as Cyrus. Darius put down several revolts. He won more land for the empire and created a government for the empire. Only Greece escaped Persian control.

Darius divided the land into 20 *provinces*, each holding a certain group of people. He allowed each group to practice its own religion, speak its own language, and obey many of its own laws. He also put royal governors—**satraps**—in place to make sure that the people obeyed his laws.

Darius built the **Royal Road** to unite his large empire. This excellent road system ran 1,677 miles. Royal messengers on horses could travel this distance in about seven days. The Royal Road made communication better within the empire. Transportation became easier too.

Darius also had metal coins made that could be used for business anywhere in the empire. The coins had a standard value. This money system, along with the Royal Road, helped increase trade.

**2. How did Darius change Persia?**

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**The Persian Legacy** (page 103)

*What is the legacy of the Persian Empire?*

During the Persian Empire, a new religion arose in Southwest Asia. A prophet named **Zoroaster** said there were two powerful spirits. One stood for truth and light. The other represented evil and darkness. The two spirits were in a constant struggle. People needed to take part in the struggle. They would be judged on how well they fought. These ideas influenced later religions.

The Persians left their mark in history. They were fair and understanding. The Persians showed respect for other cultures. Their government brought order to Southwest Asia.

**3. What mark did the Persians leave on history?**

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**CHAPTER 4** Section 4 (pages 104–109)

# The Unification of China

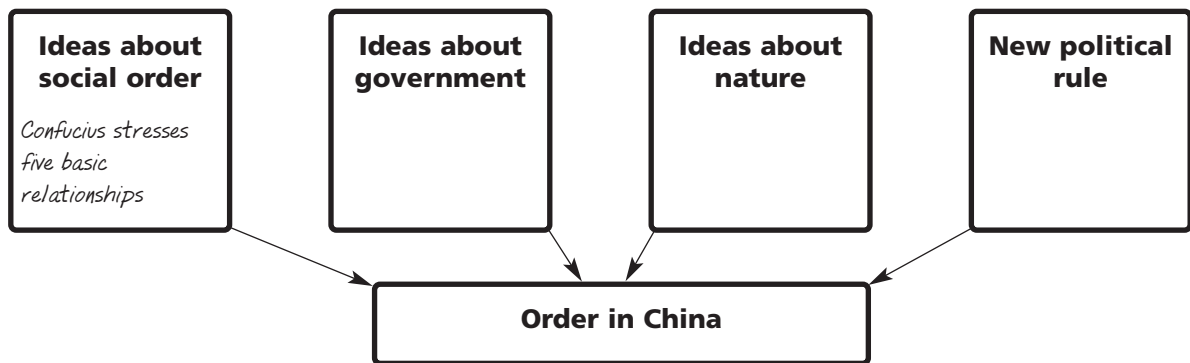
## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Persian empire.

In this section, you will learn how China was restored to order.

## AS YOU READ

Use a chart like the one below to take notes on new ideas and changes in China that restored order.



## TERMS AND NAMES

**Confucius** China's most influential scholar

**filial piety** Children's respect for their parents and elders

**bureaucracy** Organization of government into agencies and departments

**Daoism** Philosophy of Laozi that puts people in touch with the forces of nature

**Legalism** Chinese idea that a highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order

**I Ching** Chinese book that gave advice on practical and everyday problems

**yin and yang** Powers that govern the natural rhythms of life and must be balanced

**Qin dynasty** Dynasty that unified China

**Shi Huangdi** First emperor of China; leader of the Qin Dynasty

**autocracy** Government in which the ruler has unlimited power

## Confucius and the Social Order

(pages 104–105)

### *How did Confucius try to restore order in China?*

After the fall of the Zhou dynasty, China became a land of troubles. Ancient Chinese values were forgotten. Civilization seemed doomed. Yet some thinkers tried to find ways to restore these values.

One of the most important thinkers was **Confucius**. He was born in 551 B.C. Confucius believed that order could return. But first, the peo-

ple would have to work at five basic relationships. These were ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older and younger brothers, and friend and friend. The family relationships, he thought, were the most important. Confucius stressed that children should practice **filial piety**. This is respect for parents and elders.

Confucius also tried to make government better. He helped create the basis of a **bureaucracy**. This is a system of departments and agencies for running the government. Education was important for the people who held jobs in this kind of government.

Over time, the ideas of Confucius spread to other countries of East Asia.

**1. How did Confucius try to restore ancient Chinese values?**

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**Other Ethical Systems** (pages 105–107)

*What other ethical systems developed?*

Another thinker of this period was Laozi. He said nature follows a universal force called the Dao, or “the Way.” His beliefs are called **Daoism**.

Other thinkers formed a set of beliefs called **Legalism**. They said the government should use the law to restore order in China.

Some Chinese people looked for practical advice in solving problems. They might refer to a book called ***I Ching***. Other people turned to the idea of **yin and yang**. These two powers represented the harmony between opposite forces in the universe.

**2. What was the basic purpose of all these ethical systems?**

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states. This young ruler used the ideas of Legalism to unite China. After ruling for 20 years, he took a new name—**Shi Huangdi**. This means “First Emperor.”

Shi Huangdi doubled the size of China. He established an **autocracy**. In this kind of government, a ruler has unlimited power. Shi Huangdi forced wealthy *nobles* to give up their land in the country and move to his capital city. He destroyed his enemies. The emperor wanted to control ideas, too. He ordered his government to burn books.

Shi Huangdi also had peasants build a network of roads that linked one corner of the empire to another. He set standards for writing, law, money, and weights and measures to be followed throughout the empire.

In the past, some Chinese rulers had built sections of wall to try to block attacks from northern nomads. Shi Huangdi had hundreds of thousands of poor people connect these sections of wall and make a huge barrier. When finished, the Great Wall of China stretched for thousands of miles.

These steps won the emperor little support. When he died, his son took the throne. Just three years into his *reign*, peasants revolted and managed to overthrow the emperor. By 202 B.C., the Qin dynasty had given way to the Han dynasty.

**3. Name two changes that Shi Huangdi made.**

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**The Qin Dynasty Unifies China**

(pages 107–109)

*What happened during the Qin Dynasty?*

A 13-year-old ruler became ruler of the **Qin Dynasty**. He ended the troubles of the warring

Daoism	Legalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The natural order is more important than the social order</li><li>• A universal force guides all things.</li><li>• Human beings should live simply and in harmony with nature.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order.</li><li>• Punishments are useful to maintain social order.</li><li>• Thinkers and their ideas should be strictly controlled by the government.</li></ul>

**Skillbuilder**

Use the chart to answer the questions.

**1. Which set of ideas places more importance on social order?**

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**2. In what ways are these ideas opposite?**

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