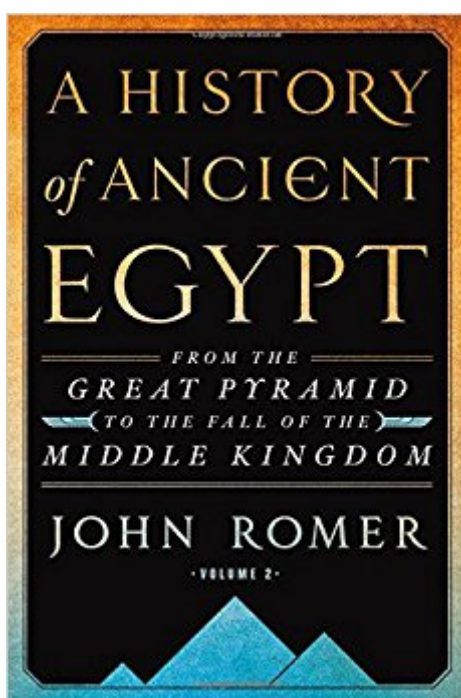


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A History Of Ancient Egypt Volume 2: From The Great Pyramid To The Fall Of The Middle Kingdom



Synopsis

"Another solid work of history from an author and historian who truly grasps the mysteries of ancient Egypt." - Kirkus Reviews
Drawing on a lifetime of research, John Romer chronicles the history of Ancient Egypt from the building of the Great Pyramid through the rise and fall of the Middle Kingdom: a peak of Pharaonic culture and the period when writing first flourished. Through extensive research over many decades of work, reveals how the grand narratives of 19th and 20th century Egyptologists have misled us by portraying a culture of cruel monarchs and chronic war. Instead, based in part on discoveries of the past two decades, this extraordinary account shows what we can really learn from the remaining architecture, objects, and writing: a history based on physical reality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Evocative and passionate ... [Romer] has a command of material and of language that makes this a fascinating tale ... Magisterial -- Anthony Sattin * Spectator * Magisterial ... Romer can still communicate like no one else, his affinity with his subject fuelled by half a century living and working alongside the ancient Egyptians to give him a level of understanding which simply cannot be accessed from an academic ivory tower ... Romer and his writings remain an inspiration -- Joann Fletcher * BBC History Magazine * John Romer's book is a courageous attempt to write Egyptian history in a new and inspiring way. It is particularly admirable to see the explicit acknowledgment of how inextricably intertwined modern histories of Egypt are with the history of Egyptology. The book

is also very elegantly written and presented -- Thomas Schneider, Professor of Egyptology and Near Eastern Studies, University of British Columbia --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

JOHN ROMER has worked in Egypt since 1966 on archaeological digs in many key sites, including the Valley of the King and Karnak. He led the Brooklyn Museum expedition to excavate the tomb of Ramesses XI. He wrote and presented a number of television series, including The Seven Wonders of the World, Romer's Egypt, Ancient Lives, and Testament. He lives in Tuscany, Italy.

Reading this book, I was soon reminded of an album of decades past, by the Firesign Theater entitled "Everything You Know is Wrong". And that, indeed, is how one feels early on, reading this book. As with his first volume of the history of ancient Egypt, John Romer discards all the supposition and conjecture that has tainted the study of this ancient culture for 200 years. His history is entirely objective, built on the discoveries of archeology, and not created by the imaginings of scholars past who viewed the history of this land through the lens of western civilization--and later western civilization at that. That this leaves us "knowing" less, is true. But it puts what we "know" on a surer foundation. Better to know less, but to be reasonably sure of that bit. (With a culture so far removed from us in time, especially, nothing can ever be certain.) To me, this kind of history is a breath of fresh air. "Land of the Pharaohs" is an entertaining fiction. "The Egyptian" a myth. We "know" none of the stuff upon which these tales are built. This is sad, in a way: as a passionate devotee of all things Egyptian, I wish, I want, I long for the full understanding of this people. So have many. But that understanding is, has been and likely always will be impossible. There is just too much time between us and them. Nevertheless, I eagerly devour every morsel, and this book, despite discarding so much of what has been imagined, is filled with good, solid "meat". A completely satisfying study. I have but one comment which might be perceived as negative, but is not intended to be. Much of this book is filled, not with the history of ancient Egypt, but with the history of the STUDY of ancient Egypt, and how what we "know" has undergone change after change. Dare I use the over-used term "paradigm shift"? If you enjoy a scholarly study, you will enjoy this book. The text indicates that writing it, the author has decided, perforce, that a third volume will now be necessitated due to the numerous discoveries of recent years. I eagerly await that.

Dr. Romer does it again with Volume 2. After perhaps a wandering mural-painting exercise in

describing Egypt's diverse beginnings in Volume 1, the author bores in on how all this led to the fall of the Old Kingdom and the rise of the middle one in the current Volume. In so doing he points out a great many details about that process that I did not previously know -- and I've been reading about the subject since the sixties. Archaeology is alive and well in Egypt, despite political upheavals, and what is known (rather than imagined) about those murky times continues to expand. Romer is a master portaitist of those times. He has spent a lifetime improving on his craft, with many previous works and hopefully his greatest work to come. To me there is no contemporary who can hold a candle to him. However some might find his wordiness - which I consider an aspect of his scholarly Englishness - hard to swallow. He is a serious scholar who comes off best to the serious reader and serious fan of Ancient Egypt.

Excellent. Cuts through the European filters that have shaped our view of Ancient Egypt to reveal what life was really like.

Romer offers a magisterial re-examination of everything we thought we knew about ancient Egypt, starting here with the Old Kingdom and ending with the Middle Kingdom. Essentially, the study of egyptology, emerging in an era of Western imperialism, projected onto these mysterious and enigmatic people a modern sensibility, largely ignoring or misunderstanding the evidence "on the ground," in Romer's words. Here he advises us on fairly and objectively approaching a true modicum of understanding, while admitting the large gaps in evidence and the ultimate fact that we can never truly know this magnetic culture in their true context. A touching section showed the warmth pharaoh Neferirkare showed toward his servants and courtiers, inscriptions that stressed pharaoh's helplessness in the face of his courtier collapsing and dying. Rather than being interpreted and perpetuated as a fascistic, brutal, savage race, Egypt, Romer compellingly offers, was so much more. Unfathomable in many ways but also luminous, complex, yet every bit as human as us. Excellent second volume following an equally excellent first volume. Highly recommended.

Excellent product and service.

I bought it for a gift for my mom,so I don't know how good it is.but my mom enjoys it

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