Ancient Nubia African Kingdoms On The Nile | 3e8c9c44b7a0144b6853eff8603777e


In the 9th century BC, a powerful kingdom arose in northern Sudan (Kush). Conquering Egypt, its kings ruled the Nile Valley, from the Mediterranean as far as Khartoum, for half a century. This was a period of dramatic historical events, dominated by the expansion of the Assyro-Aramaean kingdom and Palestine. To the east, Egypt supported an Egyptian-controlled state in Babylon. To the north, the Assyrians were allied with the Phoenicians, and the Libyan princes of Sais succeeded in ousting the Nubians and reuniting Egypt under their own rule. Despite these constant wars, this was also a period of artistic renaissance, attested by many building works in Egypt and Sudan, by a striking series of portrait sculptures, and the splendid burial treasures of the royal family. Withdrawal from Egypt did not mark the end of the Kushite state, which continued for nearly 1000 years.

Revised version of the author's dissertation--Claremont Graduate University, 2008.

The first Ethiopians explore the images of Africa and Africans that evolved in ancient Egypt, in classical Greece and imperial Rome, in the early Mediterranean world, and in the early domains of Christianity. Inspired by curiosity regarding the origins of race in southern Africa, Malvern van Wyk Smith consulted a wide range of sources: from rock art to classical travel writing; from the pre-Dynastic African beginnings of Egyptian and Nubian civilisations to Greek and Roman perceptions of Africa; from Khoisan cultural expressions to early Christian conceptions of Africa and its peoples as ‘demonic’; from Aristotelian climatology to medieval cartography; and from the geo-linguistic history of Africa to the most recent revelations regarding the genome profile of the continent’s peoples. His research led to a startling proposition: Western racism has its roots in Africa itself, notably in late New Kingdom Egypt, as its ruling elites sought to distance Egyptian civilisation from its African origins. Kushite Nubians, founders of Napata and Meroë who, in the eighth century BCE, furnished the black rulers of the twenty-fifth Dynasty in Egypt, adopted and adapted such diagnostic discriminations in order to differentiate their own ‘superior’ Meroitic civilisation from the world of ‘other Ethiopians’: in due course, archaic Greeks, who began to arrive in the Nile Delta in the seventh century BCE, internalised these distinctions in terms of Homer’s identification of ‘two Ethiopias’, an eastern and a western, to create a racialised (and racist) discourse of ‘worthy’ and ‘savage Ethiopians’. Such conceptions would inspire virtually all subsequent Roman and early medieval thinking about Africa and Africans, and become foundational in European thought. The book concludes with a survey of the special place that Aksumite Ethiopia – later Abyssinia – has held in both European and African conceptual worlds as the site of ‘worthy Ethiopia’, as well as in the wider context of discourses of ethnicity and race.

The shift from polytheism to monotheism changed the world radically. Akhenaten and Moses—a figure of history and a figure of tradition—symbolize this shift in its incipient, revolutionary stages and represent two civilizations that were brought into the closest connection as early as the Book of Exodus, where Egypt stands for the old world to be rejected and abandoned in order to enter the new one. The seven chapters of this seminal study shed light on the great transformation from different angles. Between Egypt in the first chapter and monotheism in the last, five chapters deal in various ways with the transition from one to the other, analyzing the Exodus myth, understanding the shift in terms of evolution and revolution, confronting Akhenaten and Moses in a new way, discussing Karl Jaspers’ theory of the Axial Age, and dealing with the eighteenth-century view of the Egyptian mysteries as a cultural model.

This book offers a comprehensive reassessment of the evidence concerning the political, social, economic, religious and cultural connections between Ancient Nubia and Egypt from the special viewpoint of Lower Nubia, the frontier region between the First and Second Nile Cataracts. Offers an illustrated journey through the history and contributions of Africa’s lost civilizations, from the ancient pyramids of Nubia to the ruins of Ethiopia’s Christian kingdom to the great library and university of Timbuktu.

Now in its 30th printing, this classic presents historical, archaeological, and anthropological evidence to support the theory that ancient Egypt was a black civilization.

"In 1300 BC, pharaonic Egypt created a new town on the windswept banks of the Nile in Northern Sudan: Amara West. Designed as a centre for the control of occupied Upper Nubia, the town flourished for 200 years. An interdisciplinary research project, led by the British Museum, has been working at the site since 2008. What was it like to live in Egyptian Nubia? What things did the inhabitants make and how did they interact with the spiritual world? How was food prepared and how healthy were the inhabitants? How did the town change over two centuries of occupation? What role did Nubian culture play in this apparently Egyptian town? Why was the town abandoned? This book offers a glimpse of the intricacies of everyday life under empire in Egyptian Nubia."— back cover.

Deals with the period beginning at the close of the Neolithic era, from around the eighth millennium before our era. This period of some 9,000 years of history has been sub-divided into four major geographical zones, following the pattern of African historical research. Chapters 1 to 12 cover the corridor of the Nile, Egypt and Nubia. Chapters 13 to 16 relate to the Ethiopian highlands. Chapters 17 to 20 describe the part of Africa later called the Maghrib and its Saharan hinterland. Chapters 21 to 29, the rest of Africa as well as some of the islands of the Indian Ocean.--Publisher's description

Introduction to the History of African Civilization explores the major issues dominating African Civilization from the earliest recorded period to the eve of colonial conquest of the continent. C. Magdaily Fyle begins with a discussion of the myths and prejudices underlying most analyses of African issues, and moves into a discussion of the origins of humanity; the similarities between the classical Nile valley civilizations of Egypt, Nubia, Kush, and Axum; and the spread of Islam through African societies. He poros; and the tems of precolonial government and society, including the role of women in government, as well as traditional trade and agricultural patterns. Fyle provides a new perspective on the Islamic Jihads, shifting focus from Sokoto and Macina to the Senegambia and the Upper Guinea region, and a revised interpretation of the Atlantic slave trade, which includes the importance of African objects to this process. He also discusses important cultural features such as the traditional African food, architecture, and typical structures of towns.

Includes pictures * Includes ancient accounts of Kush * Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *"The desert lands of Egypt will remain desert, however many millions of pounds are expended in Nile reservoirs. All that man can do is to extend somewhat the narrow strip of green running along the banks of the Nile." - Sir Benjamin Baker, Royal Institution, June 6, 1902 During the several centuries that ancient Egypt stood as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, civilizations of the ancient world, conflicts with its neighbors often played a central role in hieroglyphic texts and art from temples and tombs. The three primary enemies of the Egyptians were the Libyans who occupied

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the Western Desert and its oases, the so-called Asiatics who lived in the Levant, and finally the Nubians to Egypt's south. Among the three peoples, the Nubians were the most "Egyptianized" and at times were integral to the development of Egyptian history. Truly, the Nubians were the greatest of all sub-Saharan peoples in pre-modern times and deserve to be studied in their own right, apart from ancient Egyptian history. Unfortunately, it is often difficult for scholars to separate aspects of ancient Nubian culture that were truly unique and "Nubian" from those elements that were Egyptian, as the Nubians borrowed heavily in terms of culture from their northern neighbor. One historian noted, "As expected, strong Nubian features and dark coloring are seen in their sculpture and relief work. This dynasty ranks as among the greatest, whose fame far outlived its actual tenure on the throne. Especially interesting, it was a member of this dynasty that decreed that Asheshy (riverine Nubian of the principality of Kush), except such as came for trade or diplomatic reasons, should pass by the Egyptian fortress and cops at the southern end of the Second Nile Cataract. Why would this royal family of Nubian ancestry ban other Nubians from coming into Egyptian territory? Because the Egyptian rulers of Nubian ancestry had become Egyptians culturally; as pharaohs, they exhibited typical Egyptian attitudes and adopted typical Egyptian policies." Robert S. Bianchi went even further: "It is an extremely difficult task to attempt to describe the social and cultural evolution of the Nubians during the course of their relations with Egypt during the New Kingdom, because their presence appears to have virtually evaporated from the archaeological record. The result has been described as a wholesale Nubian assimilation into Egyptian society. This assimilation was so complete that it masked all Nubian ethnic identities as a result. As a result, many of the unique attributes and was far more advanced than any other culture in sub-Saharan Africa. Although the ancient Nubians get second billing to the Egyptians and are therefore not known as well to the general public, they were truly a remarkable people who left a cultural legacy that has stood the test of time. The Kingdom of Kush: The History and Legacy of Kush.

Aksum and Nubia assemblies and analyzes the textual and archaeological evidence of interaction between Aksum and Kush. Aksum, focusing primarily on the fourth century CE. Although ancient Nubia and Ethiopia have been the subject of a growing number of studies in recent years, little attention has been given to contact between these two regions. Hatke argues that ancient Northeast Africa cannot be treated as a unified area, pointing out that, Nubia and Ethiopia developed along different lines to provide a comparative perspective of two regional spheres of interaction, as a result of which the Nubian kingdom of Kush came to focus its energies on the Nile Valley, relying on this as its main route of contact with the outside world, while Aksum was oriented towards the Red Sea and Arabia. In this way Aksum and Kush coexisted in peace for most of their history, and such contact as they maintained with each other was limited to small-scale commerce. Only in the later centuries did Aksum take up arms against Kush, even then the conflict seems to have been related mainly to security issues on Aksum’s western frontier. Although Aksum never managed to hold onto Kush for long, much less deat the final death-blow to the Nubian kingdom, as is often believed, claims to Kush continued to play a role in Aksumite royal ideology as late as the sixth century. Aksum and Nubia critically examines the extent to which relations between two ancient African states were influenced by warfare, commerce, and political fictions.

Nubia’s remote setting has not only lent it an air of mystery, but also isolated it from exploration. This book attempts to document some of the recent discoveries about ancient Nubia, with its remarkable history, architecture, and culture. By doing so, the authors of the essays give us a picture of this rich, but unfamiliar, African legacy.

For centuries, Egyptian civilization has been at the origin of the story we tell about the West. But Charles Bonnet's archaeological excavations have unearthed extraordinary sites in modern Sudan that challenge this notion and compel us to look to black Africa and the Nubian Kingdom of Kush, where a highly civilized state existed 2500-1500 BCE.

Nubia: Ancient Kingdom of Africa is the accompanying catalogue for an exhibition at New York University's Institute for the Study of the Ancient World that explores the rich cultures of ancient Nubia in present-day southern Egypt and northern Sudan. The exhibition traces the rise, fall, and re-emergence of Nubian power over the course of some 2,500 years, from the earliest Nubian kingdoms of about 3000 BC through the kingdom of Egypt beginning in about 750 BC. Beautifully illustrated, the catalogue includes a historical overview of Nubia and its excavations by Guest Curator Geoff Emberling; a series of archival excavation photos from one of Nubia's most prodigious excavators, George A. Reisner; a checklist of objects from the exhibition; and a selected bibliography for further study of these rich but little understood African kingdoms.

Medieval Christian Nubia is often a neglected period of medieval African history. Because meaning is determined largely by context this work traces the Greco-Roman, Merotic and Jewish precursors. The regional, historical and theological schisms within Christianity are also a highlight. The dynamics of the three Nubian kingdoms of Nobatia, Mukurar, and Alwa are the centerpiece of this book that covers mural arts, architecture, and the names of the leading kings and bishops. Another strength of the book is the analysis of the 700-year baqt treaty between Christain Nubia and Islamic Egypt. The longest lasting treaty in Medieval Islamic history. The transition from Christianity to Islam in the 14th century is analyzed in great personal, political, political, spatial, military detail. Historical Dictionary of Medieval Christian Nubia contains a chronology, an introduction, and an extensive bibliography. The dictionary section has over 200 cross-referenced entries on politics, economy, foreign relations, religion, and culture of the medieval Nubians. This book is an excellent resource for students, researchers, and anyone wanting to know more about Medieval Christian Nubia.

For many of us the history of Africa is, at best, vague. We might think of Egyptian pyramids, legendary queens (of Sheba or Cleopatra) and Zulu warriors. The truth, however, is one of remarkably diverse, creative, culturally rich civilisations. In this book, which accompanies an 8-part BBC series, Gus Casely-Hayford takes us on a fascinating journey through the history of this remarkable continent. We will encounter archaeological sites of staggering beauty that rival the Great Wall of China, vast and ancient universities that predate Oxford and Cambridge, kingdoms of extraordinary wealth, artistic traditions that still inspire artists today, great religious sites that surpass the Vatican, and a country with more pyramids than Egypt. In recent years new archaeological and anthropological research has opened up the study of African history in ways previously unimaginable. Long-lost kingdoms are suddenly being brought back to life. Civilisations that had faded into myth are revealing their secrets. Using this latest research, this latest revision of the history of Africa-Hayford provides a fresh and colorful, richly-informed way. Accessible and inspiring, The Lost Kingdoms of Africa is both a major addition to our understanding of this oft-overlooked history and a source of genuine delight and wonder.

The cultures of Nubia built the earliest cities, states, and empires of inner Africa, but they remain relatively poorly known outside their modern descendants and the community of archaeologists, historians, and art historians researching them. The earliest archaeological work in Nubia was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian descendants and the community of archaeologists, historians, and art historians researching them. The earliest archaeological work in Nubia was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was motivated by the region's role as neighbor, trade partner, and enemy of ancient Egypt. Increasingly, however, ancient Nile-based Nubian cultures are recognized in their own right as the earliest complex societies in inner Africa. As agro-pastoral cultures, Nubian settlement, was mot...
William Y. Adams, the leading Nubologist of the world. The awesome result is her attempt to map the cultural, social, political history of Nubia as a single people as actors on the world stage as they act out their destinies in the cradle of civilization. The underlying purpose of her book is to reconstruct the collective efforts of the past and present Nubian campaigns and their collaborative scholarship so that the African American as well as all Americans can begin to understand the contributions of the civilization of Africa and Asia as a continuous historical entity. The history of the Kingdom of Kush begins with its earliest kingdom of Kerma in 2500 BC. It continues with the conquest of Egypt by the Nubian Pharaohs in 750 BC, reluctantly recognized as the Twenty-fifth Dynasty of Egyptian Pharaohs. They ruled as black pharaohs from their Kingdom at Napata until they were forced to retreat to Napata by the Assyrians, who were enemies of the Egyptians. It was at Meroe, the last empire of the Kush, that forty generations of Meroitic kings and queens continued the Kingdom of Kush reaching monumental and dynastic heights. Their symbiotic relationship with Egypt was over, allowing them to develop their own indigenous culture with a language and script of their own. Their architecture, arts, politics, material and spiritual culture in the minds of many scholars surpassed that of Egypt. Over two hundred pyramids have been investigated. It is an epic that will be long remembered. The dawn of Christianity in the Kingdom of Kush has been found in the treasure cave of the Frossocos of Faras. Numerous research projects have studied the Nubian cultures of Sudan and Egypt over the last thirty years, leading to significant new insights. The contributions to this handbook illuminate our current understanding of the cultural history of this fascinating region, including its interconnections to the natural world.

Nubia: The Rise and Fall of African Empires introduces readers to the wealthy empires and powerful trading kingdoms that once dominated the African continent. As an international nexus for trade, Africa once attracted merchants and explorers from Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The personal journals and publications of these intrepid adventurers captured their first hand impressions of Africa's Empires. This edition of African Civilizations, first published in 2001, re-examines the physical evidence for developing social complexity in tropical Africa and more wide ranging geographical studies. An article he wrote in 1998 is presented as an introduction. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR.

This edition of African Civilizations, first published in 2001, re-examines the physical evidence for developing social complexity in tropical Africa.

Examines the history, culture, religion, daily life, and legends of the people of the northern African kingdom of Kush, located in the region known as Nubia, between Sudan and Egypt. The kingdom of Kush lay to the south of Egypt, beyond the first Nile cataract. The kingdom flourished for a thousand years and during the seventh and eighth centuries BC, its rulers actually controlled Egypt as pharaohs of the 25th dynasty. Extensive remains of Kushite pyramids, settlements and temples still exist, as do papyri and inscriptions in the Meroitic script. Yet their script has never been deciphered and the Kushites remain a relatively little-known people. This book draws together what is known of the culture and history of Kush, both from material remains and from the limited number of available ancient written sources.

"Ancient Nubia will introduce you to the peoples and culture of the ancient land of Nubia. A civilization sometimes threatened by, but more often competitive with, its more powerful northern neighbor, Egypt. Ancient Nubia had an identity and a diversity of tradition that is extraordinary to investigate."—Cover.

Includes a brief introduction to Nubia cultures and highlights of the Nubia gallery at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, obtained from Nubian excavations. Black Man of the Nile and His Family, first published in 1972, is Dr. Ben's best known work. It captures much of the substance of his early research on ancient Africa. In a masterful and unique manner, Dr. Ben uses Black Man of the Nile to challenge and expose "Europeanized" African History. He points out the distortion after distortion made in the long record of African contributions to world civilization. Once exposed...
he attacks these distortions with a vengeance, providing a spellbinding corrective lesson in our story.

The first edition of this book provided teachers of African history, for the first time, with fully annotated translations of the most important Greek and Roman sources for the history of these two remarkable ancient African civilizations. The new edition retains all of the features that made the first edition so successful while significantly expanding the coverage of the history of Kush and Axum. The illustration program has been revised, new translations have been added including recently discovered Nubian and Axumite royal documents, and a new chapter treats the origins of the kingdom of Kush and its relations with Egypt and Persia.

*Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the Nubians written by the ancient Egyptians and other ancient historians *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents During the several centuries that ancient Egypt stood as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, civilizations of the ancient world, conflicts with its neighbors often played a central role in hieroglyphic texts and art. The three primary enemies of Egypt's pharaohs were the Libyans who occupied the Western Desert and its oases, the so-called Asiatics who lived in the Levant, and finally the Nubians to Egypt's south. Among the three peoples, the Nubians were the most 'Egyptianized' and at times were integral to the development of Egyptian history. Truly, the Nubians were the greatest of all sub-Saharan peoples in pre-modern times and deserve to be studied in their own right, apart from ancient Egyptian history. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to separate aspects of unique and 'Nubian' from those elements that were Egyptian, as the Nubians borrowed heavily in terms of culture from their northern neighbor. One historian noted, "As expected, strong Nubian features and dark coloring are seen in their sculpture and relief work. This dynasty ranks as among the greatest, whose fame far outlived its actual tenure on the throne. Especially interesting, it was a member of this dynasty that decreed that no Necho (rivener Nubian of the principality of Kush), except such as came for trade or diplomacy, they remain should pass by the Egyptian fortress and cops at the southern end of the Second Nile Cataract. Why would this royal family of Nubian ancestry ban other Nubians from coming into Egyptian territory? Because the Egyptian rulers of Nubian ancestry had become Egyptians culturally; as pharaohs, they exhibited typical Egyptian attitudes and adopted typical Egyptian policies." Robert S. Bianchi went even further: "It is an extremely difficult task to attempt to describe the Nubians during the course of Egypt's New Kingdom, because their presence appears to have virtually evaporated from the archaeological record. The result has been described as a wholesale Nubian assimilation into Egyptian society. This assimilation was so complete that it masked all Nubian ethnic identities insofar as archaeological remains are concerned beneath the impenetrable veneer of Egypt's material culture." An in-depth examination of the ancient Nubians reveals that although the Nubians were closely related culturally in many ways to the Egyptians, they produced a culture that had many of its own unique attributes and was far more advanced than any other culture in sub-Saharan Africa. Although get separated in the general public to the Egyptians, they were truly a remarkable people who left a cultural legacy that has stood the test of time. The Ancient Nubians: The History of One of the Oldest Civilizations in Africa looks at the cultural history of the Nubians and its influence across the region. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about Meigiddo like never before, in no time at all.

Interesting look into the history of Ancient Nubia

African Empires in Ancient America tells the story of the numerous African groups who colonized Mexico, North and South America. Today most people believe that African people never voyaged outside Africa except as slaves. This is false, the Dafuna boat discovered in Nigeria dates back to 12,000 BC. And hundreds of ancient African boats have been engraved on rocks in the Sahara desert. Boats from Magan (Egypt) and Meluhha (Kush-East Africa) are mentioned in Sumerian cuneiform text. In this book you will discover that Africans have a long tradition of sea exploration and founded many of the major American civilizations. Although many people have heard about the possible discovery of America by Mansa Abubakari of the Mali Empire, and the giant Olmec heads of Mexico, Dr. Clyde Winters gives a detailed account of the Malian colonies established by these West Africans in North America and Brazil. You will discover the role of the Xi, or Olmec people as the Mother Culture of Mexico. Dr. Winters outlines the Axumite discovery of America, and the role of the Ethiopians in the rise of Mochica civilization and religion. In addition, this book discusses the ancient Sumerian influence in South America, and the African role as Mound Builders in the United States. African Empires in America is the only book that finally explores the history of Black colonization of the Americas before Columbus. It is a must read for anyone interested in a true history of America.

*Includes pictures *Includes ancient accounts *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading Africa may have given rise to the first human beings, and Egypt probably gave rise to the first great civilizations, which continue to fascinate modern societies across the globe nearly 5,000 years later. From the Library and Lighthouse of Alexandria to the Great Pyramid at Giza, the Ancient Egyptians produced seven of the Seven Wonders of the World, revolutionized medicine, created some of the first syringes and scalpels, developed mathematics and medicine, and established language and art that spread across the known world. With world-famous leaders like King Tut and Cleopatra, it’s no wonder that today’s world has so many Egyptologists. Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of ancient Egyptian civilization was its incorporation from the ground up, as the ancient Egyptians had no prior civilization which they could use as a template. In fact, ancient Egypt itself became a template for civilizations that came after them. The Greeks and the Romans were so impressed with Egyptian culture that they often attributed many attributes of their own culture - usually erroneously - to the Egyptians. That said, some minor elements of ancient Egyptian culture were, indeed, passed on to later civilizations. Egyptian statues appear to have had an initial influence on the Greek version, and the ancient Egyptian language continued long after the pharaonic period in the form of the Coptic language. By the 4th century BCE, it appeared as though ancient Egypt was in its final death throes. It had long ceased to be an influential kingdom in the Near East and Mediterranean regions, and it had been ruled over by a succession of foreign peoples including Libyans, Nubians, Assyrians, and Persians. But just when Egypt seemed to be doomed to pass forever into obscurity, it was reinvigorated by outsiders, most notably Alexander the Great. While in the process of campaigning to destroy the Achaemenid Persian Empire and conquer the world in 331 B.C.E, he made a pit stop in Egypt that forever changed the course of Egyptian history. Although his understanding of ancient Egyptian chronology and religion was minimal, Alexander was intrigued by ancient pharaonic culture, knowing, as the 5th century BCE Greek historian Herodotus once wrote, "Egypt is the gift of the Nile." As a result, Alexander endeavored to incorporate the land of the pharaohs into Hellenic Civilization. The three primary enemies of the Egyptians were the Libyans who occupied the Western Desert and its oases, the so-called Asiatics who lived in the Levant, and finally the Nubians to Egypt's south. Among the three peoples, the Nubians were the most "Egyptianized" and at times were integral to the development of Egyptian history. The Nubians were the greatest of all sub-Saharan peoples in pre-modern times and deserve to be studied in their own right, apart from ancient Egyptian history. In 1515, a Portuguese missionary explorer by the name of Father Francisco Álvares entered Ethiopia and took note in the interior of the remnants of a civilization of obviously Christian origin, with living adherents conforming to a branch of the faith clearly founded in antiquity. Could this be the Kingdom of Prester John? Father Álvares was intrigued, but he was wary of too fanciful a construction, and he speculated more practically on the legend of King Solomon, the Queen of Sheba, and other such muses. As for the center of the civilization, he called it Aquasumo. Thus, the existence of the Kingdom of Aksum came to the notice of Christian Europe after almost 1,000 years of isolation. The Ancient Kingdoms of Africa: The History and Legacy of the African Continent's Most Prominent Kingdoms in Antiquity chronicles the tumultuous rise and fall of kingdoms like Egypt, Nubia, Aksum, and more.

For more than a thousand years, from A.D. 500 to 1700, the medieval kingdoms of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay grew rich on the gold, salt, and slave trade that stretched across Africa. Scaring away hundreds of years of ignorance, prejudice, and mythology, award-winning authors Patricia and Fredrick McKissack reveal the glory of these forgotten empires while inviting us to share in the inspiring process of historical recovery that is taking place today.

The fabled land of Nubia, whose very name means 'gold,' was famous in ancient times for its supplies of precious metal, exotic material, and intricate craftsmanship. Many of the adornments made in Nubia are masterpieces of the jeweler's art—marvels of design and construction rivaling, and often surpassing, adornments made in Egypt and the rest of the ancient Mediterranean world. Although these unique treasures are among the most stunning to have survived from antiquity, they remain largely little known. Richly illustrated with beautiful photographs of these exquisite items, many of them never before published, Nubian Gold also places the jewelry within the cultural contexts in which it was
manufactured and employed. It tells the story not only of the treasures themselves but of the exciting tales of their discovery and the rich background of the exotic and remote civilizations that produced them. The book also explores the innovative techniques used to procure the precious materials used in the jewelry and to craft them into intricate ornaments replete with magical purpose and coded meaning. Featured in the book are not only the intricately crafted pieces themselves but depictions of them in sculpture, relief, and painting as well as references to them in ancient texts, locating them within the full spectrum of Nubian history, from the earliest beginnings of society to the advent of Christianity.

The great Cheikh Anta Diop gave African culture roots from which one can trace the branches. No African researcher since, however, has provided a comprehensive analysis connecting the ancient Nile Valley civilization with the African cultural universe. From the pyramids of Egypt to the great walls of Zimbabwe, Western scholars have attributed the achievements of these prodigious indigenous African civilizations to people culturally and geographically alien to Africa. In the case of the ancient Nubian empire of Kush, however, which occupied the southern part of Kemet (ancient Egypt) and all of present-day Sudan, one expects reasonable scholars to attribute this African culture to an African people. Sadly, however, the dogmatic, eurocentric Hegelian analysis of Africa is still alive and well in even the most current research on Nubia and Kush. It is up to African scholars to reconstruct Kushite history using an Afrocentric approach in order to shed light on this vital part of our African heritage. The present much-needed work traces Diop's great "African cultural commonalities" of matriarchy, totemism, divine kingship, and cosmogony to the very core of Kushite culture. This work represents the cutting edge of a new generation of Afrocentric scholarship whose mandate it is to provide a clearer picture of Africa's true nature and of its genuine contribution to World Civilization.