Summary Notes: SETI I

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| **Roles** | **Contributions** |
| Pharaoh:   * “As a stranger from the extreme north and with no royal lineage behind him, Sethos (Seti I) ran a serious risk of being viewed as an upstart.” – Sir Alan Gardiner * **Throne Name:** Men-maat-re, 'Eternal is the Justice of Re' **Golden Horus Name and epithet:** 'Renewing Appearances, Mighty of Archers in All Lands.' **Two Goddesses Name:** 'Repeater of Births, Strong Armed, Subduing the Nine Bows'  **Horus Name:** 'Strong Bull, Appearing in the West, Causing the Two Lands to Live.' * He had to ‘renew’ Egypt   Warrior:   * Being a successful warrior was beneficial for propaganda purposes, and therefore in many cases the contributions of the pharaoh as a military leader were greatly exaggerated. * Through leading successful military campaigns and maintaining peace, maat was believed to be sustained. * The role of warrior pharaoh was particularly significant for Seti I as it was through military campaigns that Seti I maintained Egypt's sphere of influence. * Propaganda inscriptions glorified Seti as a warrior:   *“His Majesty marched against them like a fierce-eyed lion. Making them carcasses in their valleys, overturned in their own blood.”* – Karnak Temple   * In reliefs from the Karnak Temple Seti is shown wearing the blue war crown- the symbol of a warrior pharaoh.   Religious Leader:   * The Pharaoh was believed to have both human and divine powers as the link between the gods and the people of Egypt. * In depicting themselves as having a special connection with the gods, the Pharaoh and his decisions were given credibility and merit. * Seti I had a large role in strengthening 'The Cult of the Pharaoh' which enforced the belief that the Pharaoh's and the Egyptian gods were of equal importance. * Specific to the Pharaoh's succeeding Akhenaten was the duty of restoring faith in the traditional God's of Egypt, whom Akhenaten had cast aside in favour of a monotheistic religion worshipping only the Aten.   Builder:   * Religion dictated the focus of the majority of building projects. Conducting building projects was also a political activity- it was a form of propaganda. * A major reason for the pharaohs conducting large-scale building projects was self- promotion. * Seti I's building program was of great importance as this was one of the ways that he worked toward restoring Egypt. He reinforced the significance of the Egyptian gods through the dedications of his temples. As an establishing pharaoh of the 19th dynasty, Seti's large, impressive monuments helped to justify his claim to the throne.   Leader of Administration   * The Pharaoh was in charge of all who had a role in administration and was responsible for making decisions about public works and foreign policy. * The issue of corruption among the officials of the government was one which the New Kingdom Pharaohs faced. Dealing with the officials consumed a large portion of Seti’s role in administration.   Father of Ramesses II   * Seti had to prove that his bloodline were appropriate rulers of Egypt. In ensuring continued support for the 19th Dynasty Pharaohs and securing his son's future as Pharaoh, Seti prepared Ramesses II for leadership from a young age. * At a young age Ramesses II was made ‘Commander in Chief’ of the army. * Age 15: he became involved in military campaigns. * Year 7 of Seti’s reign: Ramesses made co-regent.   *“When my father appeared to the populace, I being just a youth in his embrace, he spoke (thus) concerning me: ‘Cause him to appear as King, that I may see his beauty while I yet live!’ “* | * Seti I had to justify his claim to the throne as a founding member of a new dynasty. This could explain his eagerness to embark on major military campaigns early in his reign and conduct an extensive building program. * Seti likened himself to the great pharaohs of the 18th dynasty- particularly Thutmose III and separated himself from Akhenaten who defied the traditions of Egypt. * Primary Source: The war scenes on the exterior walls of the Karnak Hypostyle Hall at the temple of Amun. They depict the battles, victories, returns to Egypt and presentations of bounty and prisoners to the gods. Problems with this source: reliability (they would have been used as propaganda) and the only date provided is ‘Year 1.’ * **First Military Campaign:** Syria-Palestine region.   *“Year 1, the ‘Renaissance’, of King Men-ma-re (Seti I), endowed with life. His Majesty was informed as follows: ‘The Shosu beduin- foe are plotting rebellion…they ignore the laws of the palace. His Majesty was pleased at it…”* (Karnak Temple)  -After achieving victory against the Shosu Bedouin at Gaza Seti led his army north, asserting his hold on Canaan and addressing any signs of local resistance.  - Attack on Yenoam, a town in Palestine, recorded on two stelae found in Beth Shan. According to the stela, Hamath, Beth-Shan and Yenoam were captured in a single day.  - Seti’s army moved north along the coast of Lebanon, before leading an attack on Pella in Jordan.  - Upon his return to Egypt, Seti is shown engaging in battle with the Bedouins and winning. Seti’s return to Egypt is depicted in scenes 6 and 7 on the Hypostyle Hall.  - This campaign restabilised Egyptian control in the north and pacified Canaan.   * **Second Military Campaign:** Fought against the Libyans.   - Depicted in scenes 12, 13, 14 and 15 at Karnak.  - The Libyan army were advancing from the western Delta region and were met by Seti's Egyptian army, who led their campaign from the Delta, Memphis and Heliopolis. Seti was again victorious.   * **Third Military Campaign:**   - The evidence for this campaign is limited due to the  condition of the Karnak reliefs. However it can be inferred that the campaign succeeded in conquering the majority of the state of Amurru and Naharin in the north.   -Egypt’s empire and the territory of their greatest threat, The Hittites were now positioned directly alongside one another.   * **Fourth Military Campaign:** Fought against the Hittites near Kadesh.   - Regarded as one of the most important of his reign.  -Earlier attempts at capturing Kadesh had been interrupted by more pressing matters (e.g. attack from the Libyans)  - A victory stela discovered in Kadesh by French archaeologists suggests that Seti did succeed in capturing the town. If the was the case, Egypt only owned Kadesh for a short time before it returned to Hittite control by the beginning of Ramesses II's reign.  - A formal treaty between Seti and the Hittite king, Muwatallish, may have been made during this campaign.   * **Fifth Military Campaign:** Against the Irem people from Nubia.   - Occurred in approximately year 8 of his reign. As Nubia was the source of Egypt's gold and in affect, wealth, it was of great importance that influence in this region was maintained.  *- “Now His Majesty was in the City of Thebes, doing what was pleasing to his father Amen-re. His Majesty was informed as follows: 'The enemies in the land of Irem are plotting rebellion!'… The strong arm of Pharaoh was before them like a blast of fire, trampling the mountains. Came the dawn, 7 days (later), the strong arm of Men-ma-re brought the (foe) in, without missing even one of them, men and women alike.”* (stele set up by Seti's viceroy, Amen-em-ope)   * Amen appears to have been Seti’s favoured God however an emphasis was placed upon all of the traditional gods in an attempt to restore the religion of the pre-Amarna period. * Seti I enforced the role of the gods in his military campaigns through the buildings and the art of his reign. * To emphasise his close connection with the Gods Amen, Re, Atum, Re-Harakhte and Re-Atum-Khepri were all also referred to as Seti I’s ‘father.’   *"Seti made it as his monument for his* ***father****, Amen-Re, Lord of Thebes...making for him a great and splendid temple of fine sandstone. “* (Temple of Amen at Karnak)   * Seti I made a significant impact in the area of Pharaoh Worship through portraying himself as a God who was equally significant as the traditional gods of Egypt. He also placed great emphasis on honouring his father, Ramesses I as a way of justifying his bloodline's appointment as royal family. * **The Temple of Amun at Karnak:**   Seti focused on developing the Hypostyle Hall started during the reign of Amenhotep III. He completed both rows of columns and much of the northern section of the hall. The reliefs placed on the northern exterior wall depicted Seti's military campaigns and interactions with the gods   * **Temple of Seti at Abydos:**   *-“Abydos, the reputed home of Osiris, had always been a favourite site for the building activities of the Pharaohs, but to none of Sethos’s (Seti’s) predecessors had it occurred to honour the place on such as scale as he devised.” (*Sir Alan Gardiner)  - *[The temple at Abydos is] “perhaps the noblest monument of Egyptian art still surviving in the land.”* (Breasted)  - Dedicated to Osiris, Isis, Horus, Amen-Re, Ptah and Re-Harakhte and himself.  - Constructed of white limestone and contained beautiful reliefs of the highest quality.  - Contained the 'Kings List': the cartouches of seventy five Egyptian rulers. A highly significant piece of archaeological evidence which is highly regarded among all artefacts from Ancient Egypt.  -Completed by Ramesses II.   * **The Osireion**   -Located behind the Abydos temple and may have been intended to be a 'cenotaph' (empty tomb.)  -Unusual architecture: a rectangular 'island' surrounded by a channel of water was constructed in the middle of the hall- may have represented the primeval waters and mound which began all of creation.  -Completed by his grandson, Merenptah   * **Mortuary Temple at Qurna, Thebes**   - 'Temple of the Spirit of Seti-Merneptah-in the House of Amen on the West of Thebes.'  -Completed by Ramesses II who left the temple with more inscriptions placed there than by its original builder.   * **Temple at Elephantine**   -Seti added reliefs depicting himself presenting treasure to the gods Amen and Khnum.   * **Minor Temples and Restorations:**   -Smaller temples honoured the traditional Egyptian gods. He also dedicated many structures to Ramesses I.  -Temple at Buhen: honoured *“all the gods of Egypt.”*  - Seti's restorations consisted of repairing any damage inflicted to the name 'Amen' inscribed on monuments which most likely occurred during the Amarna period.   * **Heliopolis**   -Main building projects in Heliopolis are believed to have been obelisks, one of which is now situated in Rome.  -Many of his buildings here have not survived or were claimed by other pharaohs.   * **Tomb**   **-** Discovered in 1817 in the Valley of the Kings by archaeologist Giovanni Battista Belzoni.  -The largest of the royal tombs, measuring more than 120 metres long.  - The burial chamber is decorated with constellations and the walls adorned with passages from the Book of Gates and the Amduat. All throughout the tomb the impressive art which the reign of Seti was renowned for is found.   * Memphis was maintained as the capital of Administration and Thebes in Upper Egypt continued to be the religious district of Egypt. * Seti's 'Great Edict' threatened officials with severe punishments including severing body parts, lashes, bodily wounds, and punishment of the accused's family as a consequence of interfering with his building projects. It also stated that Seti's new temple at Abydos and royal goldmines were under government protection. * Seti personally inspecting gold mines in the Sinai. * Seti was portrayed as compassionate and selfless. Silsila quarry inscription:   *“Now His Majesty increased what was issued to the army force, in terms of ointment, beef, fish, and plenty of vegetables without restriction. Every man of them had 4lbs. of bread daily, daily; and a bundle of vegetables, a portion of roast meat and 2 sacks of grain monthly. They worked for His Majesty with a loving heart- his ideas were pleasing in the opinion of the people who were with the King’s Messenger…”* |