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# Ancient Egypt: The Middle and New Kingdoms

# Chapter 4, Section 3

**The Big Idea:** During the Middle and New Kingdoms, order and greatness were restored in Egypt.

# The Main Ideas:

1. The Middle Kingdom was a period of stable government between periods of disorder.
2. In the New Kingdoms, trade and military power reached their peak, but Egypt’s greatness did not last.
3. Work and daily life were different for each of Egypt’s social classes.

## Vocabulary:

1. **Middle Kingdom [p. 96]:** a period of order and stability that lasted until around 1750 B.C.
2. **New Kingdom [p. 97]:** a period during which Egypt reached the height of its power and glory.
3. **Trade routes [p. 97]:** paths followed by traders.
4. **Queen Hatshepsut [p. 98]:** female Pharaoh who increased trade in Egypt: sent traders south to kingdom of Punt on Red Sea and north to Asia Minor and Greece. Supported arts and architecture.
5. **Ramses the Great [p. 98]:** one of the longest reigns in Egyptian history, fought Hittites (Asia Minor), signed a peace treaty with Hittites and became allies. After his death, Sea Peoples invaded and Egypt never regained its power.

# The Middle Kingdom

* 1. **Pharaohs Fall:** Pyramids cost more than Pharaohs could collect. Pharaohs lost power.
	2. **Nobles Rise:** Nobles challenged Pharaohs and battled each other for power. No central ruler / chaos, disrupted trade, and decline in farming / economic hardship and famine.
	3. **Hyksos Invade:** mid-1700s B.C., Hyksos from southwest Asia used horses, chariots, and advanced (iron/bronze) weapons to conquer and rule Egypt for 200 years.
	4. **Ahmose Leads Revolt:** Ahmose from Thebes led successful revolt and declared himself king.

# The New Kingdom

* 1. **Building an Empire:** Egyptians took control of invasion routes and established an empire.
	2. **Growth and its Effects on Trade:** Egypt conquered north to Syria and south to Kush and took advantage of new resources such as copper and turquoise from the Sinai Peninsula. **Queen Hatshepsut** was leader in trade increase followed by **Ramses the Great** who was a diplomat.
	3. **Invasions of Egypt:** Hittites and Sea Peoples / empire disappeared and Egypt fell into chaos.

# Work and Daily Life

* 1. **Scribes:** kept records and accounts, wrote or copied religious texts. Scribes were honored in their position working for government and temples.
	2. **Artisans, Artists, and Architects:** below scribes in the social hierarchy. Sculptors, builders, carpenters, jewelers, metal and leather workers. Made statues, furniture, jewelry, pottery, footwear.
	3. **Soldiers:** served in army of the New Kingdom and received land as payment.
	4. **Farmers, Peasants, Slaves:** bottom of social hierarchy or off it completely. Laborers.
	5. **Family Life:** Men/boys married young so that they could have children. Women worked hard for their families and homes. Boys and girls went to school. Once a boy turned 14, he left school and joined his father to learn his craft. Women could own property, make contracts, and divorce husbands.