

## Imperialism, Trade, and Diplomacy in Ancient Egypt and the Near East

Povinně-volitelný předmět  
LS 2020/2021

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Druh atestace: zápočet (2/-)  
počet kreditů: 4  
jazyk výuky: angličtina  
formát: online

This course will explore how the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Syria-Palestine, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, Persia, the Aegean, and the wider Mediterranean were brought into contact with one another and shaped by a complex set of political, economic, and cultural interconnections. Its chronological scope ranges from the earliest forms of empire in the Near East in the 3rd millennium BC, through the interconnectedness of the Bronze and Iron Ages, until the Hellenistic kingdoms and the Roman conquest of Mesopotamia in the early 2nd century AD. The course has no prerequisites, and is intended for students with interests that may range from the ancient Near East and the Classical world to the modern Middle East, international relations, economic history, and the social sciences. Particular emphasis will be placed on continuity and change in the geopolitical dynamics that shaped the Near East and the Mediterranean in ancient times and that continue to characterize the whole region nowadays. This should provide the students with a solid conceptual framework which is applicable to the study of history in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspective.

### Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will have learnt, amongst other things:

- the historical development of the major powers of the Near East and the Mediterranean;
- the criteria which define an empire as opposed to other territorial states;
- the political and economic interests underlying imperialism in the ancient world;
- modes of trade and long-distance exchange in the Near East and the Mediterranean;
- how diplomacy may allow several imperial powers to pursue their own interests without resorting to military conflict between one another.

This course also provides students with an opportunity to practice foundational skills such as:

- formal academic writing, including appropriate citation of scholarly literature;
- methods of historical research;
- analysis of primary sources from cultures that are remote in time and space;
- critical engagement with scholarly literature;
- identification of new research questions and proposal of new research projects;
- evidence-based formulation of hypotheses and theories;
- oral and written formulation of persuasive arguments;

- better understanding of the historical and sociopolitical complexity of the Middle East.

Class format and schedule: The course meets once a week (2 hours per class), and the classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion of assigned readings.

Grades and assignments: The course will be graded only passed/failed and student will be evaluated based on participation, a mid-term essay, a classroom presentation and a final paper. Students are expected to read the assigned readings (both primary sources in English translation and secondary literature) in advance of each class and come up with questions and comments. Readings will be circulated in pdf format a week in advance, so no textbooks are required. The midterm essay (2,000 words + bibliography) will focus on the analysis of complex issues through a critical engagement with primary sources and scholarly literature. It will also be an opportunity for the students to practice formal academic writing, including bibliographical references. At the end of the course, students will have to give a short classroom presentation and write a final essay paper (5,000 words + bibliography) on a specific topic or research question of their choice. Students are required to discuss their research topics with the instructor at least a month in advance.

## **Weekly overview of the individual topics with bibliography**

### **Week 1**

Course introduction, overview of ancient Egypt and the Near East, methodological considerations

-Bard, K. (2015) *An Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and Malden: Wiley Blackwell (pp. 26-31, 36-39, 42-45, 47-58, 63-67).

-Liverani, M. (2011) *The Ancient Near East. History, society and economy*, London and New York: Routledge (pp. 3-9, 17-33).

-Warburton, D. A. (2011) 'What might the Bronze Age world systems look like?', in T. C. Wilkinson, S. Sherratt, J. Bennet (eds.) *Interweaving Worlds. Systemic Interactions in Eurasia, 7th to 1st Millennia BC*, Oxford: Oxbow Books, pp. 120-134.

### **Week 2**

Sociopolitical developments in Egypt and the Near East in late 4th and 3rd millennium BC

-Van De Mieroop, M. (2016) *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*, Chichester and Malden: Wiley Blackwell (pp. 67-89, 113-134).

-Matthews, R. (2003) *The Archaeology of Mesopotamia. Theories and Approaches*, London and New York: Routledge (pp. 127-154).

-Espinel, A. E. (2002) 'The Role of the Temple of Ba'alat Gebal as Intermediary between Egypt and Byblos during the Old Kingdom', *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 20, pp. 103-119.

-Wengrow, D. (2006) *The Archaeology of Early Egypt. Social Transformations in North-East Africa, 10,000 to 2650 BC*, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press (Chapter 7, 'Egypt and the Outside World II, c. 3300-2500 BC', pp. 135-150).

-Marfoe, L. (1987) 'Cedar forest to silver mountains: social change and the development of long-distance trade in early Near Eastern societies', in M. Rowlands, M. L. Larsen, and K. Kristiansen (eds.) *Centre and Periphery in the Ancient World*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 25-35.

### Week 3

The Middle Bronze Age: Middle Kingdom Egypt, Šamši-Adad of Assyria, Ḫammurabi of Babylon, and Mursili I of Ḫatti

-Van De Mieroop, M. (2016) *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*, Chichester and Malden: Wiley Blackwell (pp. 113-134).

-Stein, G. J. (2008) 'A Theoretical Model for Political Economy and Social Identity in the Old Assyrian Colonies of Anatolia', *TÜBA-AR* 11, pp. 25-37.

-Michel, C. (2014) 'Considerations on the Assyrian Settlement at Kanesh', in L. Atici, F. Kulakoğlu, G. Barjamovic, A. Fairbairn (eds.) *Current Research at Kültepe-Kanesh. An Interdisciplinary and Integrative Approach to Trade Networks, Internationalism, and Identity*, *Journal of Cuneiform Studies Supplemental Series*, Lockwood Press., pp. 69-84.

-Goedicke, H. (1998) 'Khu-u-Sobek's Fight in "Asia"', *Ägypten und Levante* VII, pp. 33-37.

-Allen, J. P. (2008) 'The Historical Inscription of Khnumhotep at Dahshur: Preliminary Report', *BASOR* 352, pp. 29-39.

### Week 4

The Hyksos, the early New Kingdom (Ahmose-Tuthmosis IV) and the birth of an Egyptian empire

-Bourriau, J. (2000) 'The Second Intermediate Period (c.1650-1550 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 172-206.

-Bietak, M. (2010) 'From where came they Hyksos and where did they go?', in M. Marée (ed.) *The Second Intermediate Period (Thirteenth-Seventeenth Dynasties). Current Research, Future Prospect*, *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 192, Leuven, Paris, and Walpole: Peeters and Departement Oosterse Studies, pp. 139-181, pls. 11-26.

-Bietak, M. (2018) 'The Many Ethnicities in Avaris. Evidence from the northern borderland of Egypt', in J. Budka and J. Auenmüller (eds.) *From Microcosm to Macrocosm. Individual households and cities in Ancient Egypt and Nubia*, Leiden: Sidestone press, pp. 79-98.

-Bryan, B. M. (2000) 'The 18th Dynasty before the Amarna Period (c.1550-1352 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 207-264.

-The autobiography of Ahmose son of Ibana, the battle of Megiddo in the annals of Tuthmosis III, and the poetical stela of Tuthmosis III, in Lichtheim, M. (2006) *Ancient Egyptian Literature. A book of readings, volume II: the New Kingdom*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press (pp. 12-15, 29-35, 35-39).

### Week 5

The late 18th Dynasty in Egypt (Amenhotep III-Horemhab) and the world of the Amarna letters

-Moran, W. L. (1992) *The Amarna Letters*, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press (pp. xiii-xxxix, 1-5, 92-100).

-Liverani, M. (1979) *Three Amarna Essays*, Malibu: Undena Publications (pp. 21-33).

-Avruch, K. (2000) 'Reciprocity, Equality, and Status-Anxiety in the Amarna Letters', in R. Cohen and R. Westbrook (eds.) *Amarna Diplomacy. The Beginnings of International Relations*, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 154-164.

-Liverani, M. (2011) *The Ancient Near East. History, society and economy*, London and New York: Routledge (pp. 315-318).

- Van De Mieroop, M. (2016) *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*, Chichester and Malden: Wiley Blackwell (pp. 160-165).
- Na'aman, N. (1994) 'The Hurrians and the End of the Middle Bronze Age in Palestine', *Levant* 26 (1), pp. 175-187.
- Bryan, B. B. (2000) 'The Egyptian Perspective on Mittani', in R. Cohen and R. Westbrook (eds.) *Amarna Diplomacy. The Beginnings of International Relations*, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 71-84.

## **Week 6**

Egypt and the Levant during the Late Bronze Age

- Yon, M. (2006) *The City of Ugarit at Tell Ras Shamra, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns* (pp. vi, 1-2, 7-26).
- McGeough, K. M. (2015) "'What is not in my house give me": Agents of exchange according to the textual evidence from Ugarit', in B. Eder and R. Pruzsinszky (eds.) *Policies of Exchange. Political Systems and Modes of Interaction in the Aegean and the Near East in the 2nd Millennium B.C.E. Proceedings of the International Symposium at the University of Freiburg Institute for Archaeological Studies, 30th May – 2nd June 2012, Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences Press*, pp. 85-96.
- Kilani, M. (2019) *Byblos in the Late Bronze Age. Interactions between the Levantine and Egyptian Worlds, Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant 9*, Leiden and Boston: Brill (Chapter 6, pp. 200-244).
- Heinz, M. (2008) 'Kamed el-Loz: The Levant, Inner Syria and Mesopotamia', in C. Doumet-Serhal, in collaboration with A. Rabate and A. Resek (eds.) *Networking Patterns of the Bronze and Iron Age Levant. The Lebanon and its Mediterranean Connections. On the occasion of the symposium "Interconnections in the Eastern Mediterranean; The Lebanon in the Bronze and Iron Ages"*, 4-9 November 2008, Beirut, The Lebanese British Friends of the National Museum, Beirut: ACP, pp. 105-120.
- Morris, E. F. (2010) 'Opportunism in Contested Lands, B.C. And A.D.: or how Abdi-Ashirta, Aziru, and Padsha Khan Zadrans got away with murder', in Z. Hawass and J. H. Wegner (eds.) *Millions of Jubilees: Studies in honor of David P. Silverman, vol. 1*, Cairo: Supreme Council of Antiquities, pp. 413-438.
- Morris, E. F. (2015) 'Egypt, Ugarit, the God Ba'al, and the Puzzle of a Royal Rebuff', in J. Mynářová, P. Onderka, and P. Pavúk (eds.) *There and Back Again-The Crossroads II. Proceedings of an International Conference Held in Prague, September 15-18, 2014*, Prague: Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Arts, pp. 315-351.

## **Week 7**

The Bronze Age Mediterranean: Aegean connections to Egypt and the Near East and the case-study of the Uluburun Shipwreck

- Cline, E. H. (1987) 'Amenhotep III and the Aegean: A reassessment of Egypto-Aegean relations in the 14th century B.C.', *Orientalia, Nova Series* 56 (1), pp. 1-36.
- Barnes, J. T. (2013) 'Gift Exchange and Seaborne Contact in Eighteenth Dynasty Egypt: The Case of Keftiu Artists at Tell el-Dab'a (Avaris)', *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 5 (1), pp. 1-13.

- Yasur-Landau, A. (2010) 'Levant', in E. H. Cline (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Bronze Age Aegean* (ca. 3000-1000 BC), New York and London: Oxford University Press, pp. 832-848.
- Pulak, C. (2008) 'The Uluburun Shipwreck and Late Bronze Age Trade', in J. Aruz, K. Benzel, J. M. Evans (eds.) *Beyond Babylon. Art, Trade, and Diplomacy in the Second Millennium B.C.*, New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, pp. 289-310.
- Bass, G. F. (1991) 'Evidence of Trade from Bronze Age Shipwrecks', in N. H. Gale (ed.) *Bronze Age Trade in the Mediterranean. Papers Presented at the Conference held at the Rewley House, Oxford, in December 1989*, Jonsered: Paul Åströms Förlag, pp. 69-81.
- Bachhuber, C. (2006) 'Aegean Interest on the Uluburun Ship', *American Journal of Archaeology* 100, pp. 345-363.
- Zangani, F. (2016) 'Amarna and Uluburun: Reconsidering Patterns of Exchange in the Late Bronze Age', *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 148:4, pp. 230-244.

Midterm essay: The Amarna letters in historical perspective (2,000 words + bibliography)

Situate the Amarna letters in a long-term historical perspective (in light of what we have studied thus far).

What was the origin of this diplomatic system? Is it the product of long-term geopolitical developments that started centuries before? Or does it represent a break in Near Eastern history? (1500 words + bibliography)

## **Week 8**

Hittite imperialism in Syria, the fall of Mittani, Ramesses II, and the battle of Qadesh

- Liverani, M. (2011) *The Ancient Near East. History, society and economy*, London and New York: Routledge (pp. 303-324).
- Bryce, T. (2005) *The Kingdom of the Hittites*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 154-220).
- Primary sources in Beckman (1999) *Hittite Diplomatic Texts: Šuppiluliuma I's letter to Niqmaddu II of Ugarit* (pp. 125-126), Šuppiluliuma I's treaties with Niqmaddu II of Ugarit (pp. 34-35), with Aziru of Amurru, with Šattiwaza of Mittani (pp. 41-54) and with Tette of Nuḥašše (pp. 54-58), Šuppiluliuma I's edict concerning the tribute of Ugarit, Muršili II's edicts concerning the frontiers and the tribute of Ugarit (pp. 173-177).
- Van Dijk, J. (2000) 'The Amarna Period and the Later New Kingdom (c. 1352-1069 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 283-294).
- Murnane, W. J. (1990) *The Road to Kadesh. A Historical Interpretation of the Battle Reliefs of King Sety I at Karnak*, 2nd edition revised, Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (pp. 1-71).
- The Kadesh battle inscriptions of Ramesses II, in Lichtheim, M. (2006) *Ancient Egyptian Literature. A book of readings, volume II: the New Kingdom*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press (pp. 57-72).
- Primary sources in Beckman (1999) *Hittite Diplomatic Texts: Hattušili III's treaties with Ramesses II of Egypt and Bentešina of Amurru*.

## Week 9

The twilight of the New Kingdom in Egypt, the Sea Peoples, and the collapse of the Bronze Age world

- Van Dijk, J. (2000) 'The Amarna Period and the Later New Kingdom (c. 1352-1069 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 294-307).
- Cline, E. H. (2014) *1177 B.C. The Year Civilization Collapsed*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press (pp. 1-13, 102-176).
- Liverani, M. (1987) 'The collapse of the Near Eastern regional system at the end of the Bronze Age: the case of Syria', in M. Rowlands, M. Larsen, and K. Kristiansen (eds.) *Centre and Periphery in the Ancient World*, Cambridge, New York, Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, pp. 66-73.
- Artzy, M. (1997) 'Nomads of the Sea', in S. Swiny, R. L. Hohlfelder, H. Wylde Swiny (eds.) *Res Maritimae: Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean from Prehistory to Late Antiquity*. Proceedings of the Second International Symposium "Cities on the Sea", Nicosia, Cyprus, October 18-22, 1994, Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute Monograph Series, Volume 1, Atlanta: Scholars Press, pp. 1-16.
- Killebrew, Ann E. (2006-2007) 'The Philistines in Context: The Transmission and Appropriation of Mycenaean-Style Culture in the East Aegean, Southeastern Coastal Anatolia and the Levant', *Scripta Mediterranea* 27-28, pp. 245-266.
- Kahn, D. (2011) 'The Campaign of Ramesses III against Philistia', *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections* 3 (4), pp. 1-11.
- Ben-Dor Evian, S. (2016) 'The Battles between Ramesses III and the "Sea-Peoples". When, Where and Who? An Iconic Analysis of the Egyptian Reliefs', *Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde* 143 (2), pp. 151-168.
- Ben-Dor Evian, S. (2017) 'Ramesses III and the "Sea-Peoples": Towards a New Philistine Paradigm', *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 36 (3), pp. 267-285.

## Week 10

Interconnections in literature: Sinuhe, Wenamun, the Homeric poems, and other stories

- Tale of Sinuhe in Lichtheim, M. (2006) *Ancient Egyptian Literature. A book of readings, volume I: the Old and Middle Kingdoms*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press (pp. 222-235)
- Baines, J. R. (1982) 'Interpreting Sinuhe', *JEA* 68, pp. 31-44.
- Taking of Joppa in Simpson, W. K. (2003) *The Literature of Ancient Egypt: An Anthology of Stories, Instructions, Stelae, Autobiographies, and Poetry*, Yale: Yale University Press, pp. 72-74.
- Tale of Wenamun in Lichtheim, M. (2006) *Ancient Egyptian Literature. A book of readings, volume II: the New Kingdom*, Berkeley and London: University of California Press (pp. 224-230)
- Liverani, M. (2001) *International Relations in the Ancient Near East, 1600-1100 BC*, Houndmills and New York: Palgrave ('Wen-Amun and Zakar-Ba'al: Gift or Trade?', pp. 170-175).
- Winand, J. (2011) 'The Report of Wenamun: A Journey in Ancient Egyptian Literature', in M. Collier and S. Snape (eds.) *Ramesseid Studies in Honour of K. A. Kitchen*, Bolton: Rutherford, pp. 541-559.
- Baines, J. R. (2009) 'On the background of Wenamun in inscriptional genres and in topoi of obligations among rulers', in D. Kessler, R. Schluz, M. Ullmann, A. Verbosvek, S. Wimmer (eds.)

Texte-Theben-Tonfragmente. Festschrift für Günter Burkard, Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, pp. 27-36.

-Cline, E. H. (2013) *The Trojan War. A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

-Feldman, L. H. (1996) 'Homer and the Near East: The Rise of the Greek Genius', *The Biblical Archaeologist* 59 (1), pp. 13-21.

### **Week 11**

Near Eastern empires of the 1st millennium BC: Assyria, Babylonia and Persia

-Van De Mieroop, M. (2016) *A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC*, Chichester and Malden: Wiley Blackwell (pp. 246-345).

-Taylor, J. (2000) 'The Third Intermediate Period (1069-664 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 345-354).

-Zamazalová, S. (2011) 'Before the Assyrian Conquest in 671 B.C.E.: Relations between Egypt, Kush and Assyria', in J. Mynářová (ed.) *Egypt and the Near East – The Crossroads*, Prague: Charles University, pp. 297-328.

-Vanderhooft, D. (2003) 'Babylonian Strategies of Imperial Control in the West: Royal Practice and Rhetoric', in O. Lipschits and J. Blenkinsopp (eds.) *Judah and the Judeans in the Neo-Babylonian Period*, Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, pp. 235-262.

-Lloyd, A. B. (2000), 'The Late Period (664-332 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (pp. 374-382).

-Stern, E. (1984) 'The Persian Empire and the Political and Social History of Palestine in the Persian Period', in W. D. Davies and L. Finkelstein (eds.) *The Cambridge History of Judaism*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 70-87.

### **Week 12**

Alexander the Great, the Hellenistic kingdoms, and the Roman empire in the Near East

-Lloyd, A. B. (2000) 'The Ptolemaic Period (332-30 BC)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 388-413.

-Musti, D. (1984) 'Syria and the East', in F. Walbank, A. Astin, M. Frederiksen, R. Ogilvie (eds.) *The Cambridge Ancient History, Volume 7, Part 1: The Hellenistic World* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 175-220.

-Peacock, D. (2000) 'The Roman Period (30 BC-AD 395)', in Shaw, I. (ed.) *The Oxford History of Ancient Egypt*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 414-436.

-Edwell, P. M. (2008) *Between Rome and Persia. The Middle Euphrates, Mesopotamia and Palmyra under Roman Control*, London and New York: Routledge (pp. 7-30).

### **Week 13**

Students' presentations

Final paper due (5,000 words + bibliography)