

# Timeline: Egypt

A chronology of key events:

Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/790978.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/790978.stm)

**circa 7,000 BC** - Settlement of Nile Valley begins.

**circa 3,000 BC** - Kingdoms of Upper and Lower Egypt unite. Successive dynasties witness flourishing trade, prosperity and the development of great cultural traditions. Writing, including hieroglyphics, is used as an instrument of state. Construction of the pyramids - around 2,500 BC - is a formidable engineering achievement.

**669 BC** - Assyrians from Mesopotamia conquer and rule Egypt.

**525 BC** - Persian conquest.

**332 BC** - Alexander the Great, of ancient Macedonia, conquers Egypt, founds Alexandria. A Macedonian dynasty rules until 31 BC.

**31 BC** - Egypt comes under Roman rule; Queen Cleopatra commits suicide after Octavian's army defeats her forces.

**642 AD** - Arab conquest of Egypt.

**969** - Cairo established as capital.

**1250-1517** - Mameluke (slave soldier) rule, characterised by great prosperity and well-ordered civic institutions.

**1517** - Egypt absorbed into the Turkish Ottoman empire.

**1798** - Napoleon Bonaparte's forces invade but are repelled by the British and the Turks in 1801. Egypt once more becomes part of the Ottoman empire.

**1859-69** - Suez Canal built.

**1882** - British troops take control of Egypt.

**1914** - Egypt becomes a British protectorate.

**1922** - Fu'ad I becomes King of Egypt and Egypt gains its independence.

**1928** - Muslim Brotherhood founded by Hasan al-Banna.

**1936** - April - Faruq succeeds his father as King of Egypt .

**1948** - Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria attack the new state of Israel.

**1949** February - Hasan al-Banna of the Muslim Brotherhood is assassinated.

**1949** - Committee of the Free Officers' Movement formed.

**1952** January - At least 20 people are killed in anti-British riots in Cairo.

**1952** - King Faruq abdicates in favour of his son Fu'ad II.



Egypt's pyramids served as tombs for her dead kings



Death mask of Tutankhamun, the boy king who died in 1323 BC



Rapidly-growing Cairo is expanding into the desert; Population 7.2 million (1998 estimate); Largest city in Africa and the Arab world

**1952** - Gamal Abdul Nasser leads a coup by the Free Officers' Movement, now known as the July 23 Revolution, which results in Muhammad Najib becoming President and Prime Minister of Egypt.

### Republic declared

**1953** June - Egypt is declared a Republic by Najib.

**1954** - Nasser becomes prime minister and later, in 1956, president.

**1954** - Evacuation Treaty signed. British forces, who began a gradual withdrawal in 1936 finally leave Egypt.

**1956** July - Nasser nationalises the Suez Canal to fund the Aswan High Dam.

**1956** October - Tripartite Invasion of Egypt by Britain, France and Israel due to the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. A ceasefire is declared in November.

**1958** February - Egypt and Syria join to form the United Arab Republic (UAR) in the first step of their aim for Arab unity.

**1961** - Syria withdraws from the union with Egypt but Egypt remains known as the UAR.

**1965** March - King Faruq dies in Rome.

### Six-day war

**1967** May - Egypt, Jordan sign defence pact. Israel says it increases danger of war with Arab states.

**1967** June - Egypt, Jordan and Syria go to war with Israel and are defeated. Israel takes control of Sinai, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the West Bank. It is known as the Six-Day War.

**1970** September - Nasser dies and is replaced by his Vice-President, Anwar al-Sadat.

**1971** - Treaty of Friendship between Egypt and the Soviet Union is signed.

**1971** - Egypt's new constitution is introduced and the country is renamed the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**1971** - The Aswan High Dam is completed. It proves to have a huge impact on irrigation, agriculture and industry in Egypt.

### Yom Kippur

**1973** October - Egypt and Syria go to war with Israel during Israel's celebration of Yom Kippur to reclaim the land they lost in 1967. Egypt begins negotiations for the return of Sinai after the war.

**1975** June - The Suez Canal is re-opened. It had been closed since the 1967 war.

**1976** - Anwar al-Sadat ends the Treaty of Friendship with the Soviet Union.

**1978** September - Camp David Accords for peace with Israel are signed.



Suez crisis: Military force failed to regain control of the canal



Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem led to peace deal

### MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD



Egypt's oldest, largest Islamist organization - founded 1928 has influenced Islamist movements worldwide mixes political activism with charity work. banned from open political activity, Rejects violence, supports democracy, wants a state governed by Islamic law. Leader: Mohammed Mahdi Akef

**1979** March - The peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is signed. Egypt is then condemned by other Arab nations and excluded from the Arab League.

### **Sadat assassinated**

**1981** 6 October - Anwar al-Sadat is assassinated by Jihad members.

**1981** October - A National Referendum approves Hosni Mubarak as the new president.

**1987** October - Mubarak begins his second term.

**1989** Egypt rejoins the Arab League.

**1993** October - Mubarak begins his third term in office.

**1995** June - Mubarak is the target of an assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, upon his arrival at a summit of the Organisation of African Unity.

**1997** - 58 tourists are killed by gunmen in front of the Temple of Hatshepsut near Luxor. It is alleged that Egypt's Islamic Group (al-jama'ah al'islamiyah) is responsible.

**1999** October - Mubarak begins his fourth term in office.

**2000** December - Egypt, Lebanon and Syria agree on a billion-dollar project for a pipeline to carry Egyptian gas under the Mediterranean to the Lebanese port of Tripoli.

**2002** February - Hundreds of passengers are killed after their train catches fire south of Cairo.

**2005** February-April - Pro-reform and opposition activists mount anti-government demonstrations.

**2005** May - Referendum vote backs a constitutional amendment that will allow multiple candidates to stand in presidential elections.

**2005** September - President Mubarak is re-elected for a fifth consecutive term.

**2005** December - Parliamentary polls end with clashes between police and supporters of the opposition Muslim Brotherhood. The National Democratic Party and its allies retain their large parliamentary majority. Muslim Brotherhood supporters, elected as independents, win a record 20% of seats.

President Mubarak promises democratic and constitutional reform in an address to parliament. Opponents are sceptical.



Protesters took to the streets in 2005 in a way not seen for years



Egypt's Naguib Mahfouz, arguably the greatest Arab novelist of the 20th Century