

Road Map

The tables on the following pages set out a road map to the book, by sketching the contents of the ensuing chapters.

Chapter	Time frame	Location/cities	Main event(s)	Figures and actors	Travelers or commentators
Chapter 1 Finding the Source of the Nile: Centuries of Discovery	Ancient Egypt (3100–332 BC) Greco-Roman period (332 BC–641 AD)	The Nile Alexandria; Mountains of the Moon; Nile valley	Festivities are held by the Nile Greeks and Romans travel the Nile; geographical maps of the Nile are created	Pharaohs Caesar; Cleopatra; Claudius Ptolemaeus	— Herodotus; Strabo
Middle Ages (641–1517)	Ruwenzori Mountains		Egypt dispatches messengers to Ethiopia; Arab geographers produce Nile maps	El-Musta'ala Bellah; al-Masudi; al-Khawarizmi; Suhrab; ibn Hawqal; al-Idrisi	al-Baghdadi; Ibn Battuta
Portuguese exploration (15th to 18th centuries)	Lake Tana; Gondar		Portuguese explorers arrive in Ethiopia;	Pedro Paez; Jeronimo Lobo;	James Bruce
19th and 20th centuries	Sudd swamps; Lakes Victoria, Albert, Tanganyika, and Edward; Burundi; Rwanda		discovery of the sources of the Blue Nile	Jacques-Charles Poncelet; James Bruce Mehmed Ali; Khedive Ismail Pasha; Charles Gordon; Burkhardt Waldecker	Richard Burton; John Hanning Speke; Samuel and Elizabeth Baker
Chapter 2 Birth of the Nile: Water Carves a Path through Rugged Land	Prehistory (225 million years ago)	East Africa	Discovery of the sources of the White Nile; southernmost source of the White Nile in Burundi	Formation of Pangea; creation of the Ruwenzori Mountains Formation of glaciers	— —
	Ice Age (30,000 years ago)				
	Holocene Wet Phase (7500–3900 BC)		Sahara Desert	Rise of global temperatures; birth of the Nile	

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	Ancient Egypt (3100–332 BC)	Memphis	Development of human settlements along the Nile valley		
	Modern Egypt (1805–present)	Aswan	Construction of dams		
Chapter 3 The Nile of Lower Egypt: Memphis, the First Capital City	Early and Old Kingdoms of Egypt (3150–2181 BC)	Memphis; Saqqara; Giza	Memphis becomes the first capital of a single Egypt; pharaohs build pyramids	Menes; Djoser; Khufu; Khafra; Menkaure	Herodotus
	New Kingdom of Egypt (1549–1077 BC)	Memphis	Archaeological discovery of ruins and relics in Memphis	Khaemwaset	Auguste Mariette
Chapter 4 New Kingdom of Egypt (1549–1077 BC)	Thebes	Thebes becomes the capital of Egypt; temples built on the banks of the Nile at Thebes	Ahmose I; Amenhotep I, III; Thutmose III; Hatshepsut; Ramesses II	Dominique Vivant Denon	
	18th and 19th centuries		Napoleonic expedition	Napoleon;	
	20th century		Discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun	Giovanni Belzoni; Lord Carnarvon; Howard Carter	
Chapter 5 Avaris and Akhetaten: Temporary Capitals on the Nile	Second Intermediate Period of Egypt (1650–1540 BC)	Avaris	The Hyksos invade Egypt and found their capital, Avaris	The Hyksos; Kamose; Ahmose I	Manetho
	New Kingdom of Egypt (1540–1077 BC)	Akhetaten	Founding of Akhetaten; worship of the sun god Aten	Thutmose III; Amenhotep III; Akhenaten; Tutankhamun; Ay; Horemheb	

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Chapter 6 Nubia on the Nile: The Kingdom of the Black Pharaohs in Napata and Meroe	Prehistory (c. 5000 BC)	Banks of the Blue Nile (present-day Sudan)	Migrants from south of the Sahara settle in present-day Sudan to become Nubians	Nubians	–
	Ancient Egypt (3100–332 BC)	Nubia; Napata; Meroe	Conquest of Nubia by Egypt; founding of the Kushite kingdom	Thutmoses I; Rameses II; Kashta; Piye	Johann Ludwig Burckhardt; Frédéric Caillaud
	19th century	Egypt and Sudan	Ruins of the Kushite kingdom – discovered; Condominium Agreement establishes the boundary between Egypt and Sudan	–	–
	20th century	Aswan	Aswan High Dam displaces the Nubians	–	–
Chapter 7 Alexandria: Greeks and Romans on the Western Edge of the Nile Delta	Greco-Roman period	Rhakotis; Lake Mareotis; Alexandria; Actium; Rome	Founding of Alexandria; construction of Pharos lighthouse	Alexander the Great; Ptolemies; Cleopatra; Caesar; Antony; Octavius	Herodotus; Diodorus Siculus; Strabo; Philo
	Middle Ages	Alexandria; Rosetta	Mamluk rule ends with the Ottoman conquest of Egypt	'Amr Ibn al-'As; 'Umar ibn al-Khattab	Ibn Battuta
	18th and 19th centuries	Alexandria; Rosetta	Napoleonic expedition; construction of Mahmoudiyah Canal	Napoleon Bonaparte; Mohmed Ali	Napoleon Bonaparte

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Chapter 8 A Nile Oasis in the Sahara: Fayoum of the Ptolemies	Ancient Egypt; Ptolemaic period	Fayoum; Philadelphia	Canal of Bahr Yussef	Joseph (in the Bible); Amenemhat III; Alexander the Great; Ptolemy I, II; Arsinoe	Herodotus; Manetho; Strabo
Chapter 9 Caito: The Thousand Year Capital on the Nile	Middle Ages	Fustat; Al-Qahira	Arab conquest of Egypt; building of cities with mosques at their centers	'Amr Ibn al-'As; Ahmad Ibn Tulun; al-Mu'izz; Jawhar al-Siqili; al-Hakim; Badr al-Jamali	Ibn Hawqal; al-Maqrizi; Nasir-i Khusraw
Chapter 10 Crusaders on the Nile: Damietta and Mansoura	Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Crusades (1213–21; 1228–9; 1248–54)	Damieta; Mansoura	Crusaders attack Egypt and seize Damietta	Jean de Brienne; al-Kamel; Louis IX of France; al-Salih; Shajar al-Durr.	al-Maqrizi; de Joinville
Chapter 11 Cities of the Blue Nile: Lake Tana and the Ethiopian Empires	15th to 20th centuries	Axum; Lalibela; Gondar	Establishment of Gondar as a permanent capital	Lalibela; Fasilads; Haile Selassie	Pedro Paez;
Chapter 12 Rosetta and the Discovery of Ancient Egypt: Where the Nile Meets the Sea	18th and 19th centuries	Rosetta; Alexandria; Cairo	Napoleonic expedition and the discovery of the Rosetta Stone	Horatio Nelson; Jacques-François Menou; Jean-François Champollion	Napoleon; al-Jabarti

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Chapter 13 Khartoum and Omdurman: An Islamic State on the Nile in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	1879–99	Khartoum; Omdurman	The Mahdi establishes an Islamic state; Abdullahi invades Ethiopia; General Gordon killed; Herbert Kitchener captures Khartoum	Mohamad Ahmad (the Mahdi); Charles Gordon; Khalifa Abdullahi	Herbert Kitchener; Francis Reginald Wingate
Chapter 14 A Pyramid for the Living: The Nile at Aswan	20th century	Aswan	Construction of both the old dam and the High Dam at Aswan	British engineers; Gamal Abdel Nasser; Soviet engineers	—