

- ▲ Approximately 2700-2200 BC
- ▲ Rulers became known as **pharaohs**, meaning “great house”; they were revered by the people as gods wielding complete power; some refer to the Old Kingdom as the “age of the pharaohs”
- ▲ Government workers of the **bureaucracy** (an administrative organization with officials and regular procedures) managed the affairs of the kingdom. The **vizier** was the chief administrator, second only to the king
- ▲ The building of the pyramids began during this kingdom. (video)

- ▲ Approximately 2055-1650 BC
- ▲ A time of strength and expansion—south to Nubia; east into Palestine and Syria
- ▲ The “age of the people” as the pharaohs viewed themselves less as divine rulers and more as stewards responsible for guiding and providing for the people
- ▲ Public works: draining of swamps in the Nile Delta; digging a canal from the Nile to the Red Sea
- ▲ Invaders from western Asia—the Hyksos—conquered Egypt, bringing an end to the Middle Kingdom. Under the Hyksos rule, however, the Egyptians learned advanced metalworking and military techniques (especially the use of horse-drawn war chariots) which would help in their liberation.

- ▲ Approximately 1550-1070 BC
- ▲ The Egyptians overthrew the Hyksos, reuniting under a new dynasty
- ▲ This kingdom is sometimes referred to as the “age of empire” because of ~~its~~ its success not only in keeping invaders out, but also in expanding their territory to become the most powerful state in Southwest Asia
- ▲ A number of famous pharaohs ruled during this time
  - ♦ Thutmose – the warrior pharaoh
  - ♦ Hatshepsut – the woman pharaoh
  - ♦ Amenhotep IV – the worshipped pharaoh - religious revolution
  - ♦ Tutankhamen – the boy pharaoh reading p. 40
  - ♦ Ramses II – the “great” pharaoh
- ▲ Invasions by the “Sea People” forced the Egyptians back to their traditional borders, ending their golden period