

**IRL 112: ANCESTORS
OF CONTEMPORARY
INTERNATIONAL
SYSTEM**

Course Outlines

- ✓ Early Human Development
- ✓ Civilisation and its Attributes
- ✓ The City-States of Ancient Mesopotamia
- ✓ The Course of Egyptian History
- ✓ The Rise of New Empires: The Assyrian and Persian Empires
- ✓ Early Chinese Civilisations
- ✓ The Greek City-States
- ✓ The Emergence of Rome
- ✓ Renaissance Europe and the Emergence of the State System

Texts

- ✓ Spielvogel, J.J (2003). *World History, Modern Times*. United States of America: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill.
- ✓ Kaarbo, J. and Ray, J.L. (2011) *Global Politics, Tenth Edition*. USA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
- ✓ Kegley Jr., C.W. and Blanton, S.L. (2013) *World Politics: Trends and Transformation, International Edition*. Australia: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.
- ✓ Cox, M, Dunne, T, and Booth, K (2001). Empires, Systems and States: Great Transformations in International Politics. *Review of International Studies*, 27, 1-15.

INTRODUCTION

**“It is important to understand history in order to understand global politics. Recognising that things happening today have similarly happened in the past and will likely happen in the future, gives us insight into why such things happen” –
Kaarbo and Ray, 2011:25**



**Early Stages of
Human
Development**

Paleolithic

Neolithic

Civilisation

The Paleolithic Age



✓ The term Paleolithic Age is used to designate the early period of human history in which humans used simple stone tools.

✓ Paleolithic is Greek for “old stone”, and the Paleolithic Age is sometimes called the Old Stone Age.

✓ For hundreds of thousands of years, human beings lived in small communities, seeking to survive by hunting, fishing, and gathering in an often hostile environment.

✓ Over a long period of time, Paleolithic peoples learned how to create more sophisticated tools; how to use fire; and how to adapt to, and even change, their physical environment.

✓ Paleolithic peoples were primarily **nomads** who moved from place to place hunting animals and gathering wild plants for survival.

✓ They also created a human culture that included sophisticated cave paintings

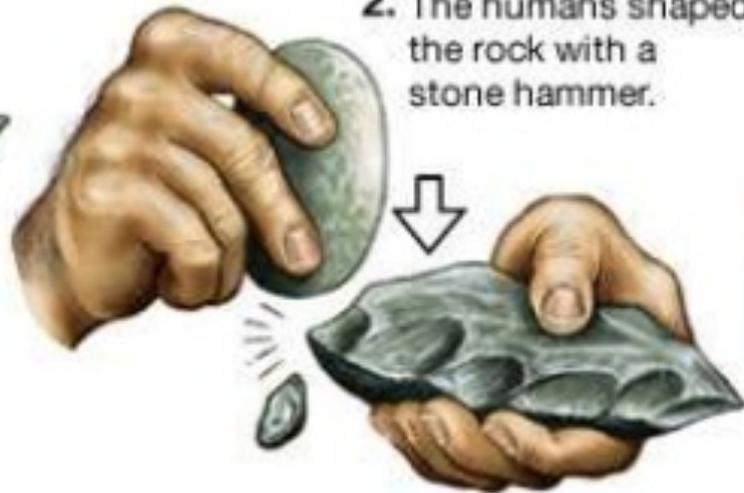
• They adapted to their environments by making simple tools.

How Stone Age Humans Made Hand Axes

1. The process started with a large piece of rock.



2. The humans shaped the rock with a stone hammer.



3. Using a hammer made of wood, stone, or antler they sharpened the edge.



4. They trimmed the edge by prying off tiny flakes with a pointed stick.



Finished hand ax



front view



side view

PALEOLITHIC AGE TOOLS

- To hunt for food, early humans formed spears,
- first by sharpening the ends of sticks, but later by attaching a sharp stone spear-tip to wood using animal sinew.



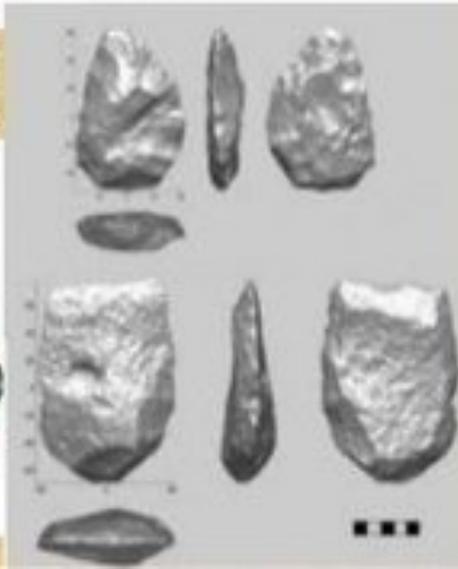
Weapons of Stone from Tennessee. (Smith. Inst.)



PALEOLITHIC AGE

Stone Tools

- Hand axe
- Scraper
- Chopper
- Grinder
- Hammer
- Arrow heads
- Flakes
- Burins



The Neolithic Revolution



✓ The Neolithic Revolution was the revolution that occurred in the Neolithic Age – the period of human history from 8000 to 4000 BC.

✓ The word ‘Neolithic’ is Greek for “new stone“. The Neolithic Revolution therefore approximates the New Stone Age.

✓ The real change in the Neolithic Revolution was the shift from the hunting of animals and the gathering of food to the keeping of animals and the growing of food on a regular basis – this is known as systematic agriculture.

✓ The planting of grains and vegetables provided a regular supply of food. The domestication of animals added a steady source of meat, milk, and wool. Animals could also be used to do work.

✓ The growing of crops and the domestication of animals created what historians called an agricultural revolution. Some believe this revolution was the single most important development in human history.

✓ The growing of crops on a regular basis gave rise to more permanent settlements, which historians call Neolithic farming villages. Once people began settling in villages or towns, they saw the need to build houses for protection and other structures for storage. Organised communities stored food and other material goods, which encouraged the development of trade.

✓ As village inhabitants mastered the art of farming, they gradually began to develop more complex societies. As their wealth increased, these societies began to create armies and to build walled cities. By 3000 BC, large numbers of people were concentrated in the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China. This would lead to a whole new pattern for human life.

NEOLITHIC

"Neo" means new

"Lithic" means stone

Neolithic means new stone age.



The Neolithic Agricultural Revolution was the change from the Paleolithic period to the Neolithic Period.

The thing that allowed for this change was the discovery of agriculture. It is thought that women discovered agriculture.

Systematic Agriculture was the consistent growing of crops on a continuing basis.

Domestication of Animals: In addition to growing crops Neolithic man also tamed animals for hunting (dogs) and other animals for their food such as sheep, cows, etc. . .

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

Developed Agriculture

Domesticated Animals

Used Advanced Stone Tools

Developed Weaving (better clothing)

Made Pottery (for food storage)



Neolithic Implements

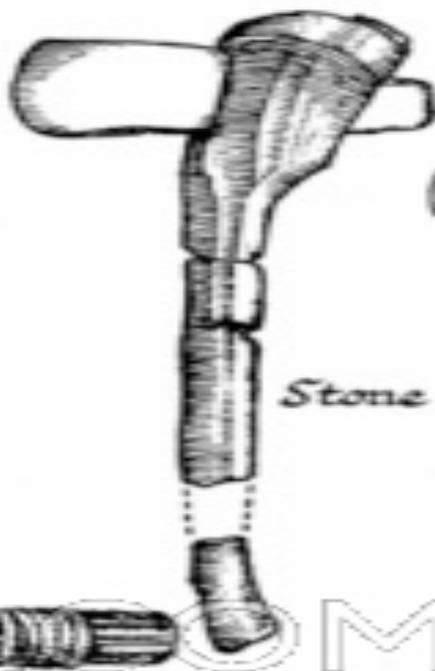
(drawn to differing scales)



Stone 'tranchet'
(cutting implement)



Stone pick



Stone



and horn
axe and
hammer



Stone
mallets



Axe-hammers
of polished stone



Flint
arrow-heads

Flint
knife



Tools



Paleolithic Age

- Simple shaped stone tools like cutters and hand axes . Also , they used spear tips and sticks



Neolithic Age

- More advanced shaped tools like bows and arrows and harpoons . Also , they used spear tips .



The Emergence of Civilisation



□ As we have seen, early human beings formed small groups that developed a simple culture that enabled them to survive. As human societies grew and became more complex, a new form of human existence – called civilisation – came into being.

□ A **civilisation** is a complex culture in which large numbers of human beings share a number of common elements.

Important Characteristics of Civilisation

1. Cities: As increase in food production in the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China led to significant growth in human population and the rise of cities.

2. Government: Growing numbers of people, the need to maintain the food supply, and the need to build walls for defense soon led to the growth of governments in these new urban civilisations.

3. Religion: All of the new urban civilisations developed religions to explain the workings of the forces of nature and then fact of their own existence. Rituals were developed to please the gods and goddesses. Temples were built as places for worship or sacrifice.

4. Social Structure: A new social structure based on economic power also arose. Rulers and an upper class of priests, government officials, and warriors dominated the society.

5. Arts and Crafts: Abundant food supplies created new opportunities, enabling some people to work in occupations other than farming. The demand of the upper class for luxury items encourage artisans and craftsmen to create new products.

6. Writing: Writing was an important feature in the life of these new civilisations. Above all, rulers, priests, merchants, and artisans used writing to keep accurate records.

A hand is shown on the left side of the image, holding a white rectangular card. The card is positioned in the center of the frame and contains the text 'The City-States of Ancient Mesopotamia' written in a bold, red, serif font. The background is plain white.

**The City-
States of
Ancient
Mesopotamia**

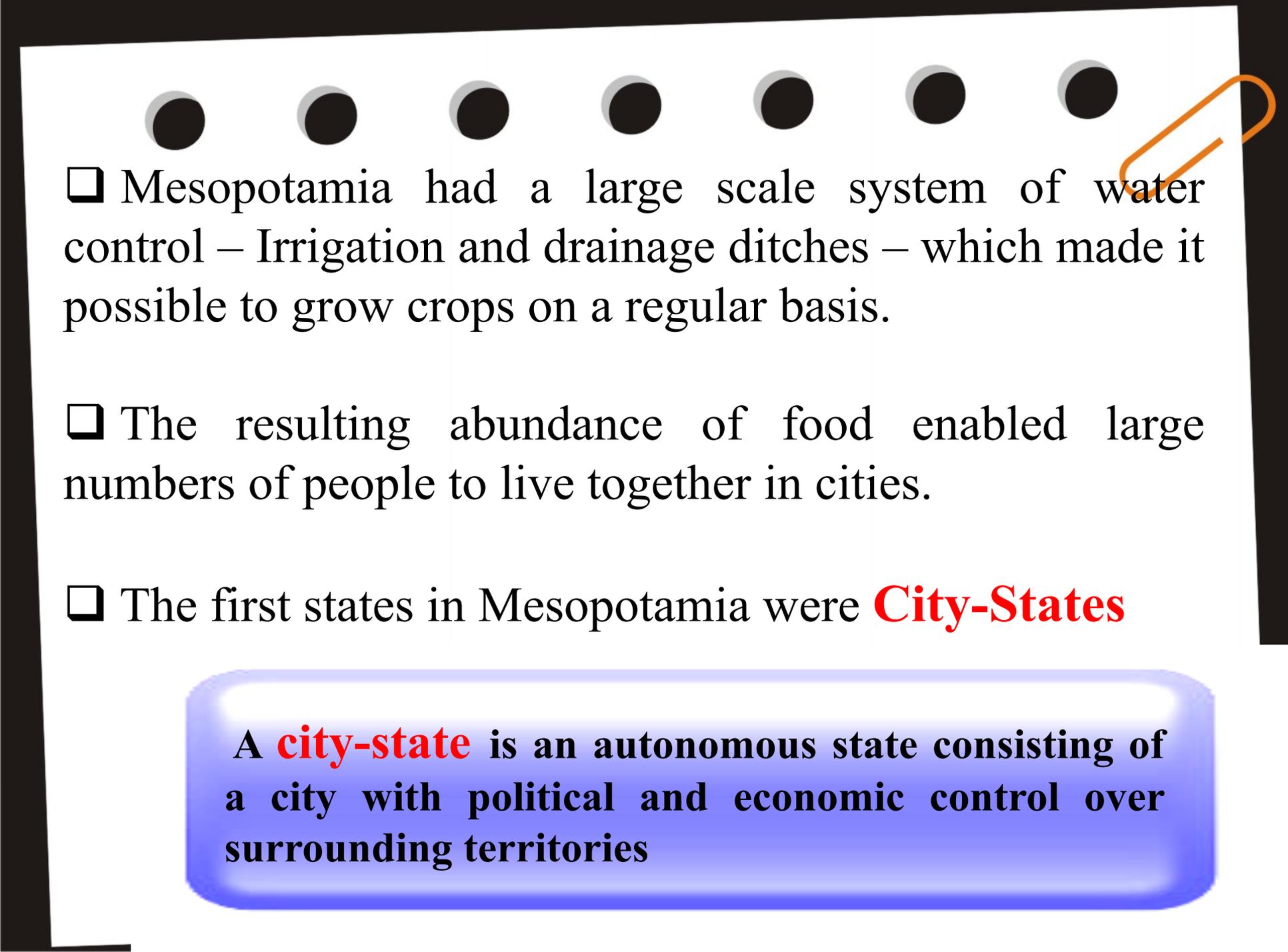


Describing Mesopotamia...

- Mesopotamia was then known as the land “between the rivers”.
- It was located in the valley between the **Rivers Tigris and Euphrates**.
- Mesopotamia was at the eastern end of an area known as the **Fertile Crescent**



A geographical area of fertile land in the Middle East stretching in a broad semicircle from the Nile to the Tigris and Euphrates



❑ Mesopotamia had a large scale system of water control – Irrigation and drainage ditches – which made it possible to grow crops on a regular basis.

❑ The resulting abundance of food enabled large numbers of people to live together in cities.

❑ The first states in Mesopotamia were **City-States**

A **city-state** is an autonomous state consisting of a city with political and economic control over surrounding territories

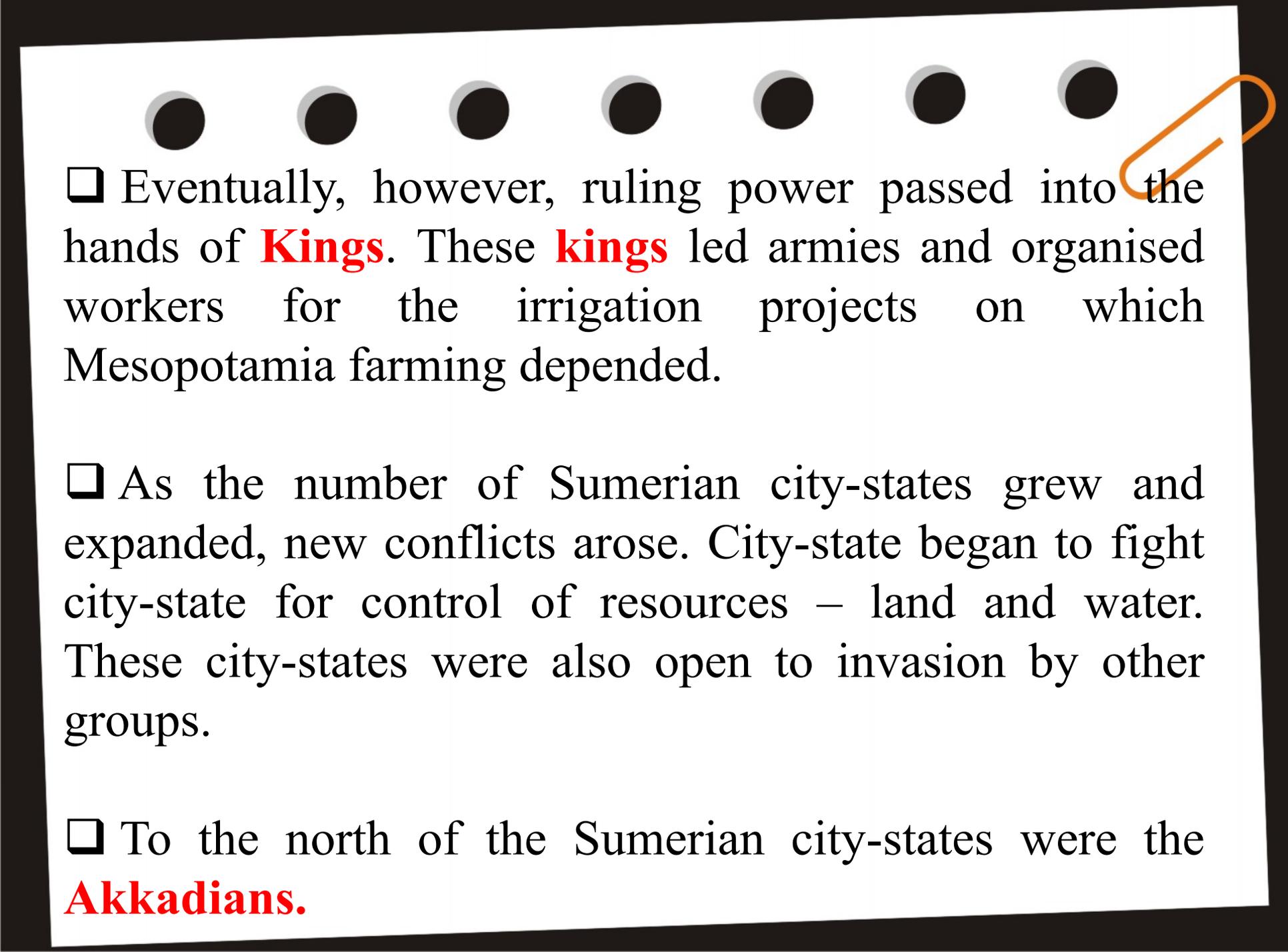


❑ These city-states were created by the **Sumerians**

Sumerians were the ancient people of **Summer** – an area in the Southern region of Babylonia in present-day Iraq. Their own civilisation was the establishment of city-states. By 3000 BC, they had established a number of city-states in Mesopotamia such as **Eridu, Ur, and Uruk**, among others

❑ The most prominent building in a Sumerian city-state was the temple dedicated to the chief god or goddess of the city.

The Sumerians believed that gods and goddesses owned the cities. The people devoted much of their wealth to building temples, as well as big houses for the priests and priestesses who served the gods. Priests and priestesses – who supervised the temples – had a great deal of power.



❑ Eventually, however, ruling power passed into the hands of **Kings**. These **kings** led armies and organised workers for the irrigation projects on which Mesopotamia farming depended.

❑ As the number of Sumerian city-states grew and expanded, new conflicts arose. City-state began to fight city-state for control of resources – land and water. These city-states were also open to invasion by other groups.

❑ To the north of the Sumerian city-states were the **Akkadians**.

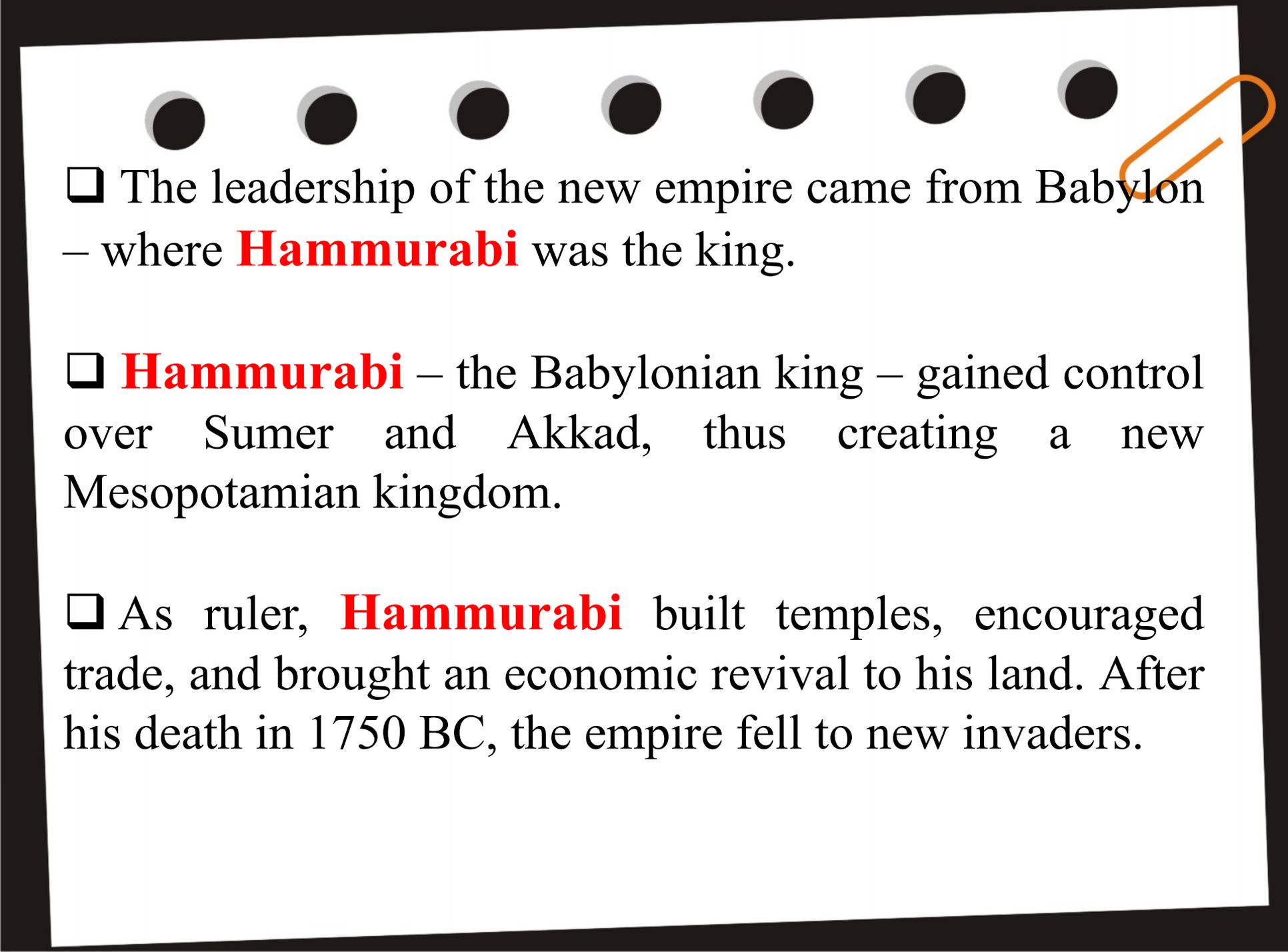


□ Around 2340 BC, **Sargon** – leader of the Akkadians – overran the Sumerian city-states and established the first empire in world history (the Akkadian Empire).

An empire is a large political unit or state, usually under a single leader, that controls many territories. Empires are often easy to create but difficult to maintain. The rise and fall of empires is an important part of history

□ Attacks from neighbouring territories eventually led to the fall of the Akkadian empire by 2100 BC.

□ **By 1792 BC, a new empire emerged in Mesopotamia**



❑ The leadership of the new empire came from Babylon – where **Hammurabi** was the king.

❑ **Hammurabi** – the Babylonian king – gained control over Sumer and Akkad, thus creating a new Mesopotamian kingdom.

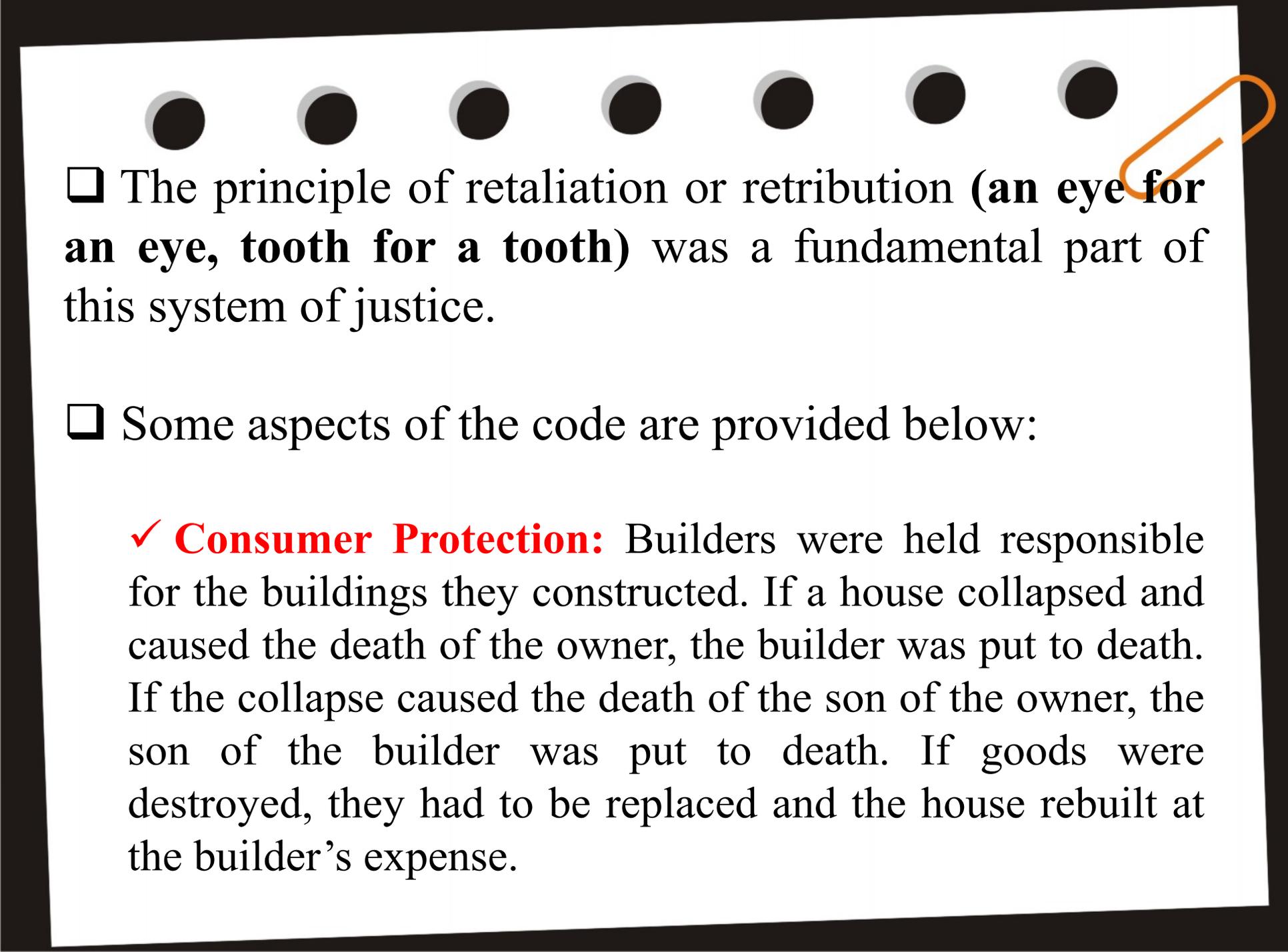
❑ As ruler, **Hammurabi** built temples, encouraged trade, and brought an economic revival to his land. After his death in 1750 BC, the empire fell to new invaders.



The Code of **Hammurabi**

❑ **Hammurabi** is remembered for his law code, a collection of 282 laws. Many of the codes were similar to later Israelite codes.

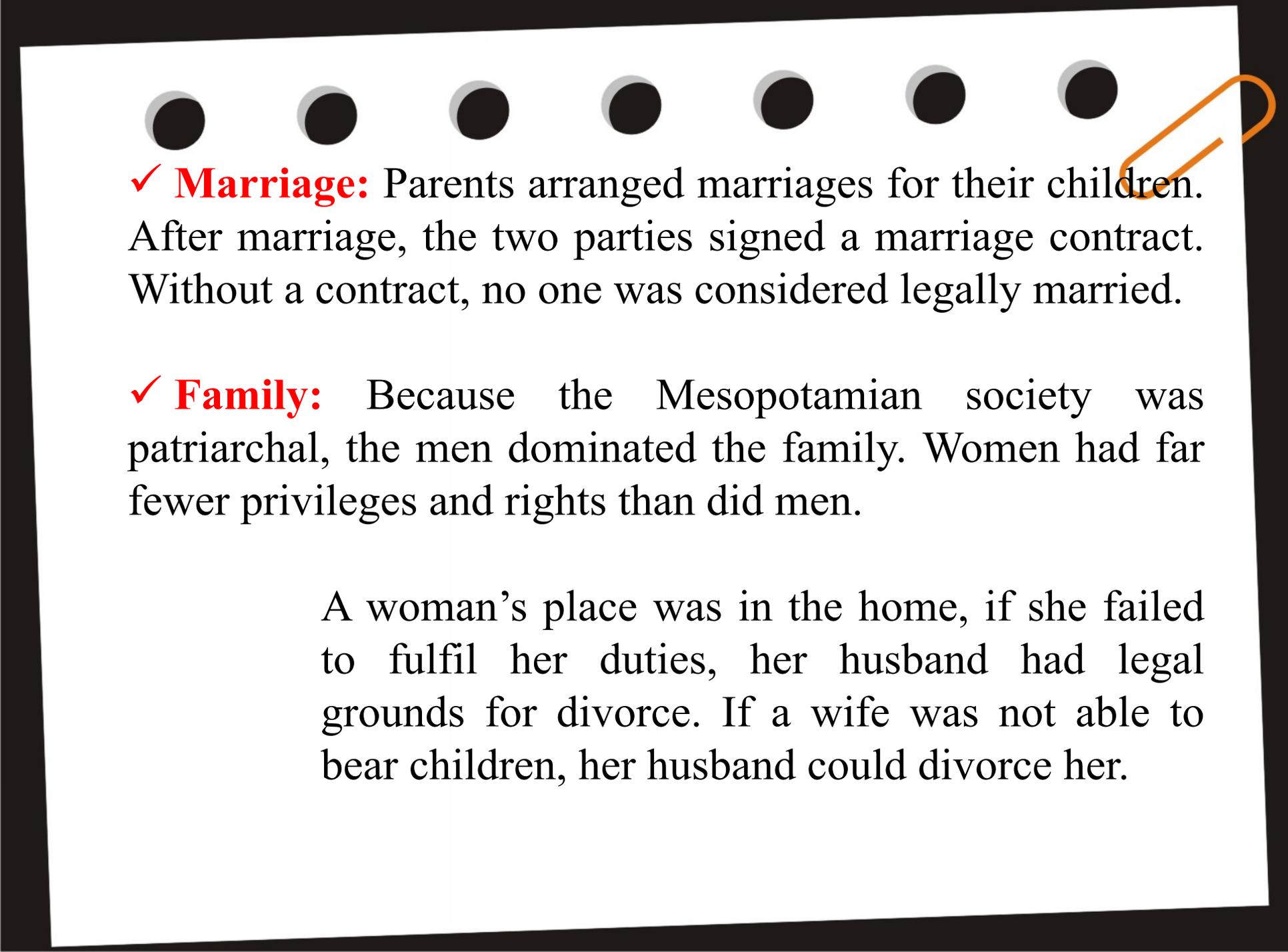
❑ The **code of Hammurabi** was based on a system of strict justice. Penalties for criminal offenses were severe, and they varied according to the social class of the victim. A crime against a member of the upper class (a noble) by a member of the lower class (a commoner) was punished more severely



The principle of retaliation or retribution (**an eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth**) was a fundamental part of this system of justice.

Some aspects of the code are provided below:

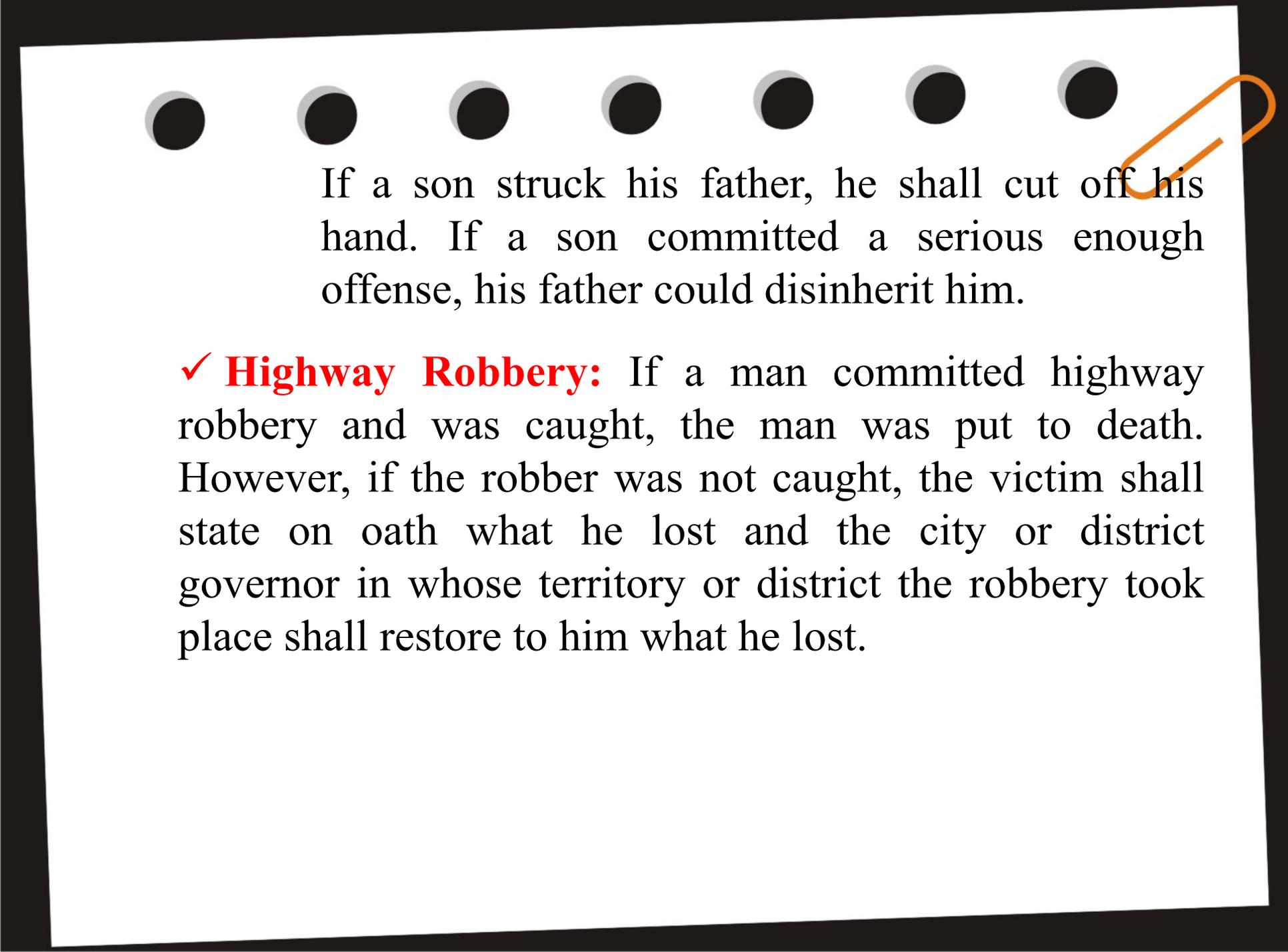
✓ **Consumer Protection:** Builders were held responsible for the buildings they constructed. If a house collapsed and caused the death of the owner, the builder was put to death. If the collapse caused the death of the son of the owner, the son of the builder was put to death. If goods were destroyed, they had to be replaced and the house rebuilt at the builder's expense.



✓ **Marriage:** Parents arranged marriages for their children. After marriage, the two parties signed a marriage contract. Without a contract, no one was considered legally married.

✓ **Family:** Because the Mesopotamian society was patriarchal, the men dominated the family. Women had far fewer privileges and rights than did men.

A woman's place was in the home, if she failed to fulfil her duties, her husband had legal grounds for divorce. If a wife was not able to bear children, her husband could divorce her.

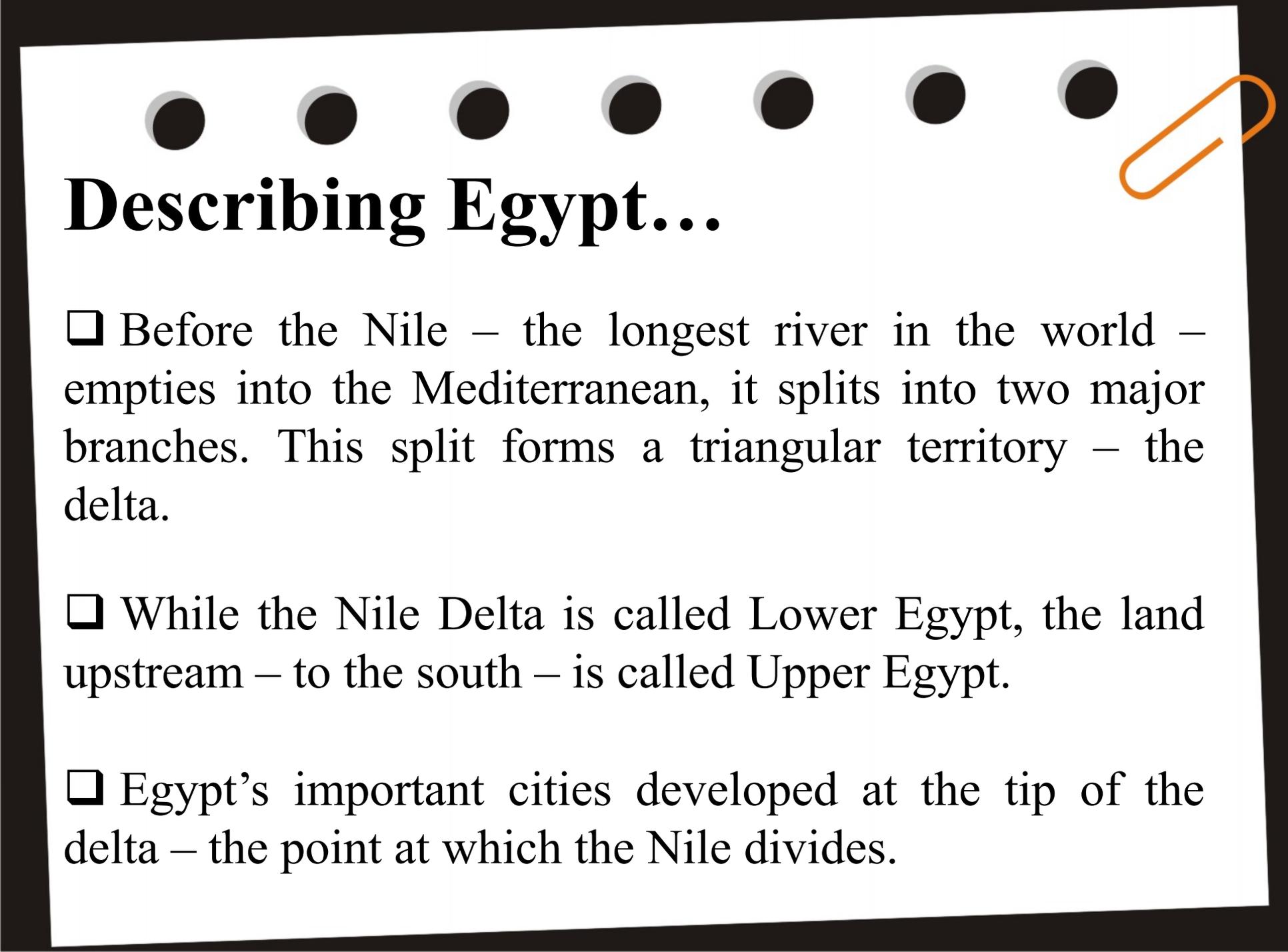


If a son struck his father, he shall cut off his hand. If a son committed a serious enough offense, his father could disinherit him.

✓ **Highway Robbery:** If a man committed highway robbery and was caught, the man was put to death. However, if the robber was not caught, the victim shall state on oath what he lost and the city or district governor in whose territory or district the robbery took place shall restore to him what he lost.

The Course of Egyptian History



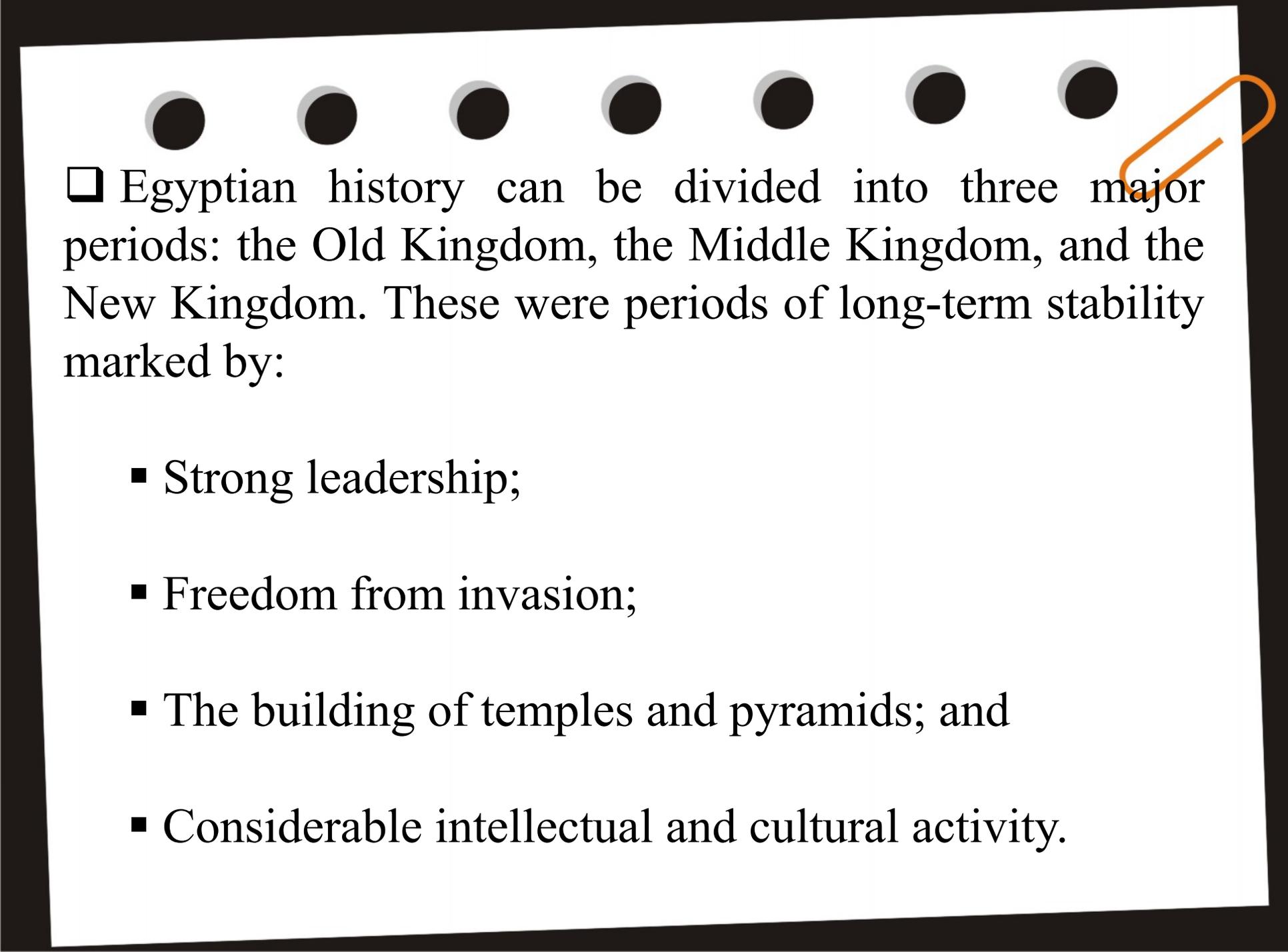


Describing Egypt...

□ Before the Nile – the longest river in the world – empties into the Mediterranean, it splits into two major branches. This split forms a triangular territory – the delta.

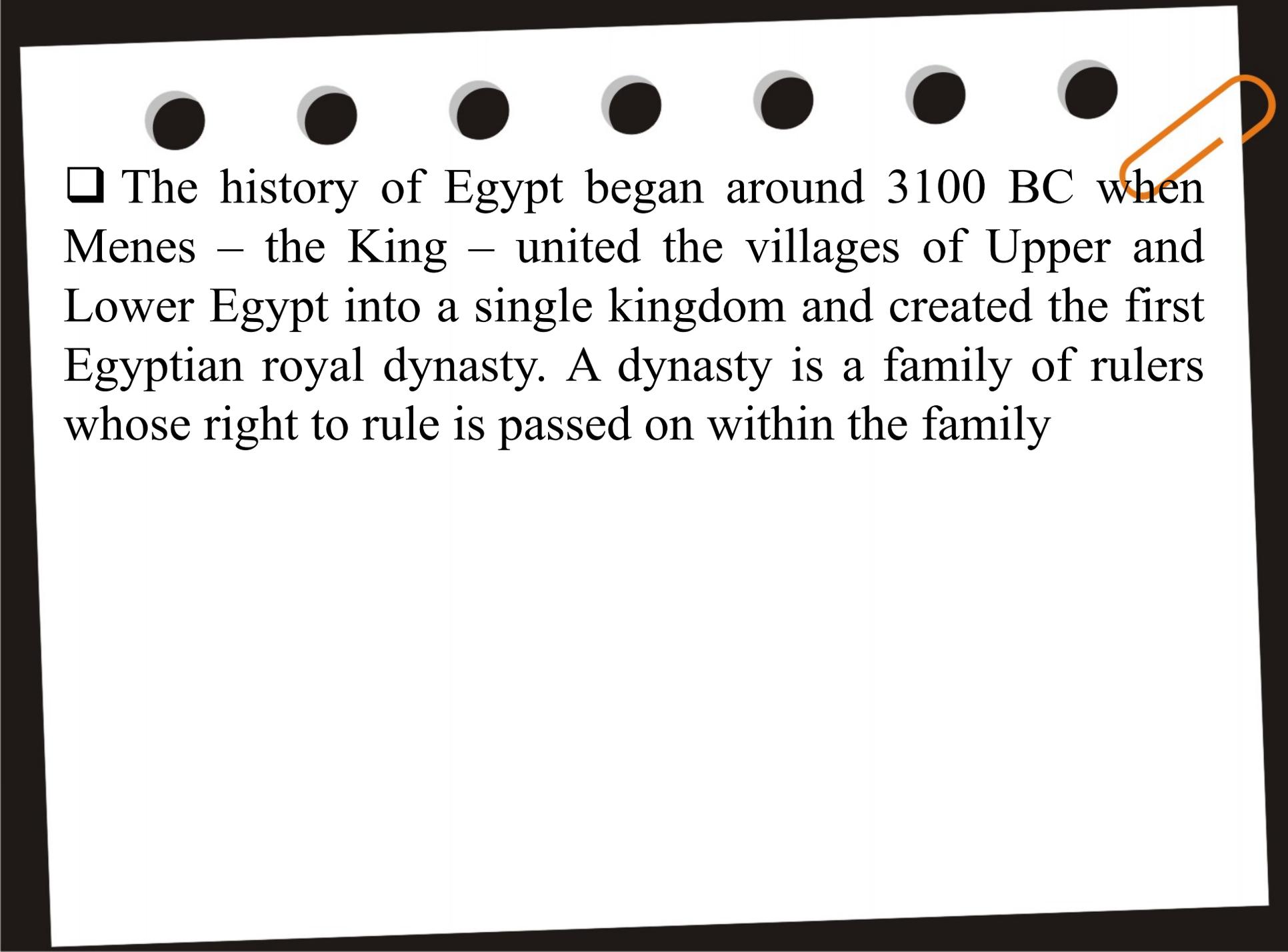
□ While the Nile Delta is called Lower Egypt, the land upstream – to the south – is called Upper Egypt.

□ Egypt's important cities developed at the tip of the delta – the point at which the Nile divides.



□ Egyptian history can be divided into three major periods: the Old Kingdom, the Middle Kingdom, and the New Kingdom. These were periods of long-term stability marked by:

- Strong leadership;
- Freedom from invasion;
- The building of temples and pyramids; and
- Considerable intellectual and cultural activity.

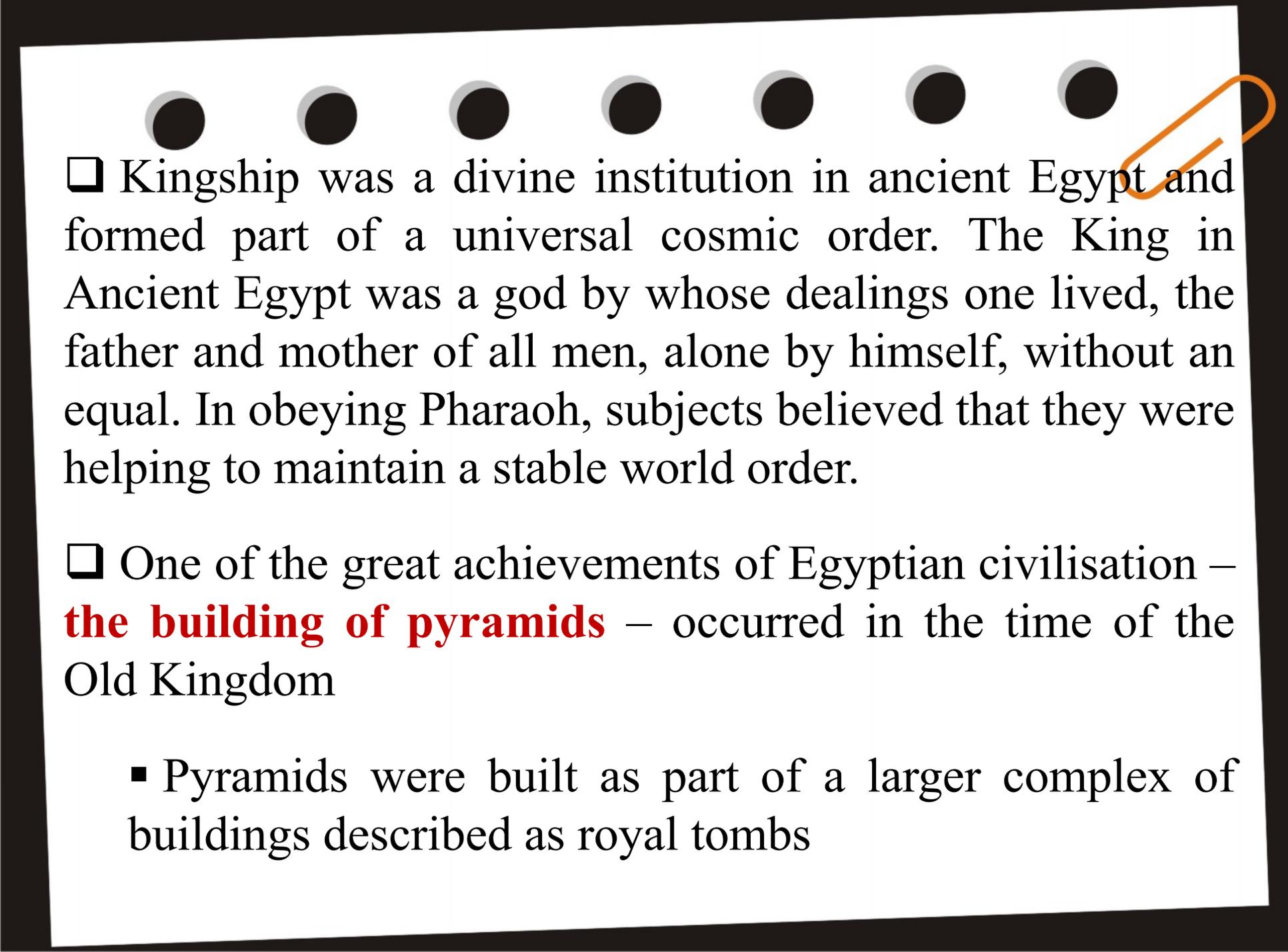


□ The history of Egypt began around 3100 BC when Menes – the King – united the villages of Upper and Lower Egypt into a single kingdom and created the first Egyptian royal dynasty. A dynasty is a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family



The Old Kingdom

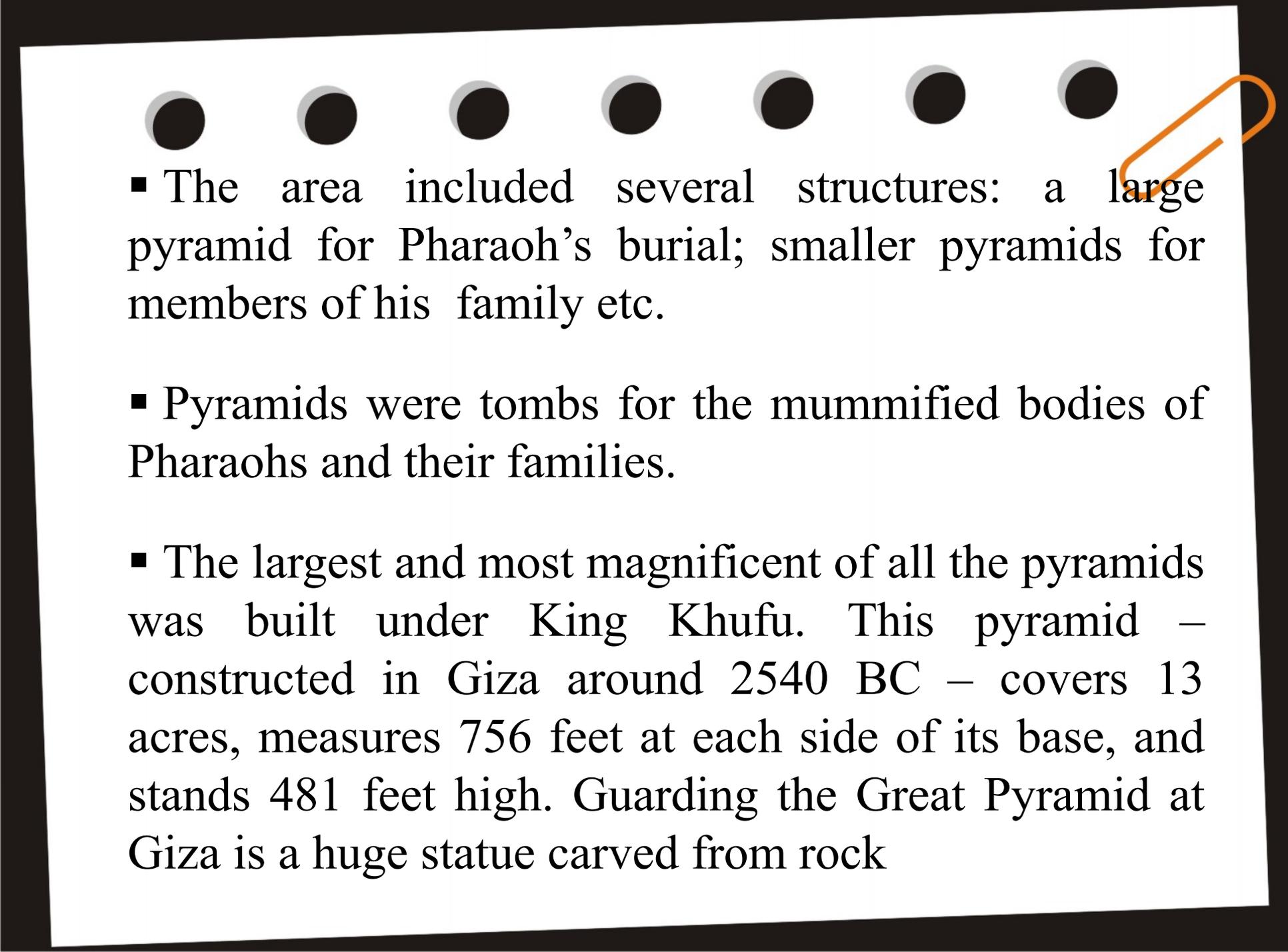
- ❑ The Old Kingdom – which lasted from around 2700 to 2200 BC – was an age of prosperity and splendour.
- ❑ Like the Kings of the Sumerian city-states, the monarchs of the Old Egyptian Kingdom were powerful rulers over a unified state.
- ❑ Among the various titles of Egyptian monarchs, that of **Pharaoh** eventually became the most common



□ Kingship was a divine institution in ancient Egypt and formed part of a universal cosmic order. The King in Ancient Egypt was a god by whose dealings one lived, the father and mother of all men, alone by himself, without an equal. In obeying Pharaoh, subjects believed that they were helping to maintain a stable world order.

□ One of the great achievements of Egyptian civilisation – **the building of pyramids** – occurred in the time of the Old Kingdom

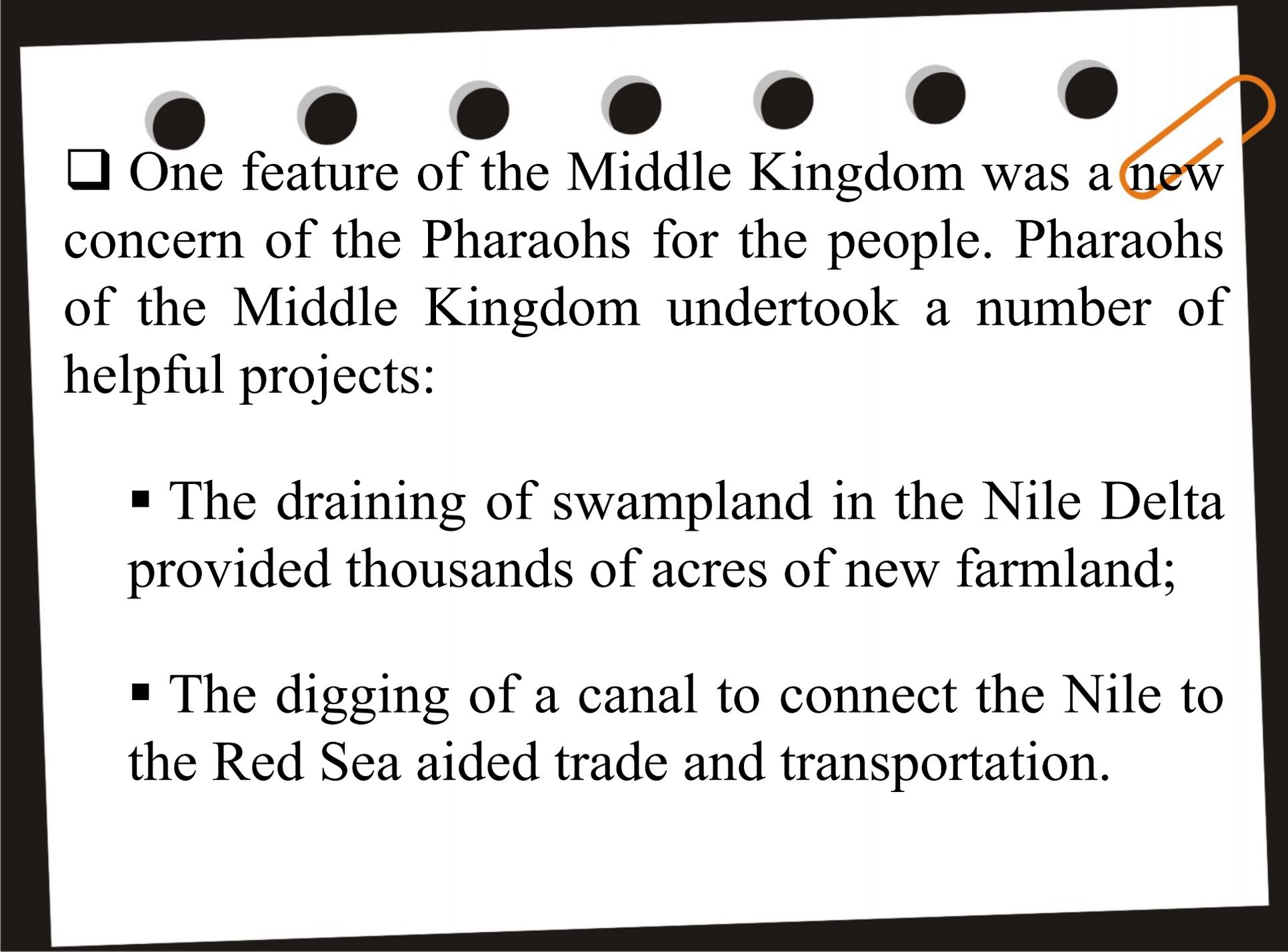
- Pyramids were built as part of a larger complex of buildings described as royal tombs

- 
- The area included several structures: a large pyramid for Pharaoh's burial; smaller pyramids for members of his family etc.
 - Pyramids were tombs for the mummified bodies of Pharaohs and their families.
 - The largest and most magnificent of all the pyramids was built under King Khufu. This pyramid – constructed in Giza around 2540 BC – covers 13 acres, measures 756 feet at each side of its base, and stands 481 feet high. Guarding the Great Pyramid at Giza is a huge statue carved from rock



The Middle Kingdom

- ❑ The collapse of the Old Kingdom was followed by a period of chaos that lasted about 150 years.
- ❑ Eventually, a new royal dynasty gained control of all Egypt and began the Middle Kingdom.
- ❑ The Middle Kingdom was a period of stability lasting from about 2050 to 1652 BC. Egyptians later portrayed the Middle Kingdom as a golden age – an age of stability.



❑ One feature of the Middle Kingdom was a new concern of the Pharaohs for the people. Pharaohs of the Middle Kingdom undertook a number of helpful projects:

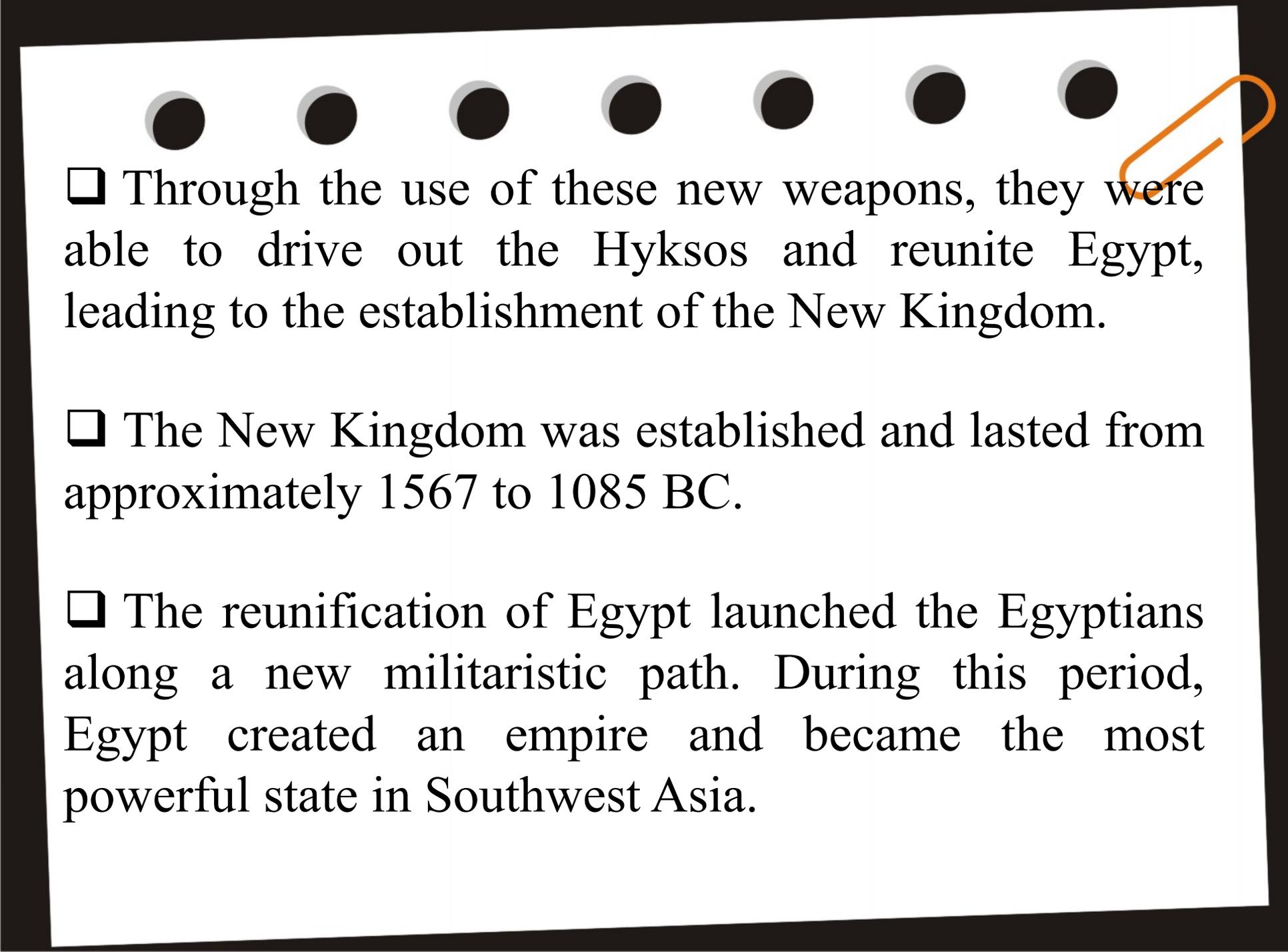
- The draining of swampland in the Nile Delta provided thousands of acres of new farmland;
- The digging of a canal to connect the Nile to the Red Sea aided trade and transportation.



The New Kingdom

❑ The Middle Kingdom came to an end around 1652 BC with the invasion of Egypt by a group of people from Western Asia known to the Egyptians as Hyksos. The Hyksos used horse-drawn war chariots and overwhelmed the Egyptian soldiers who fought from donkey carts.

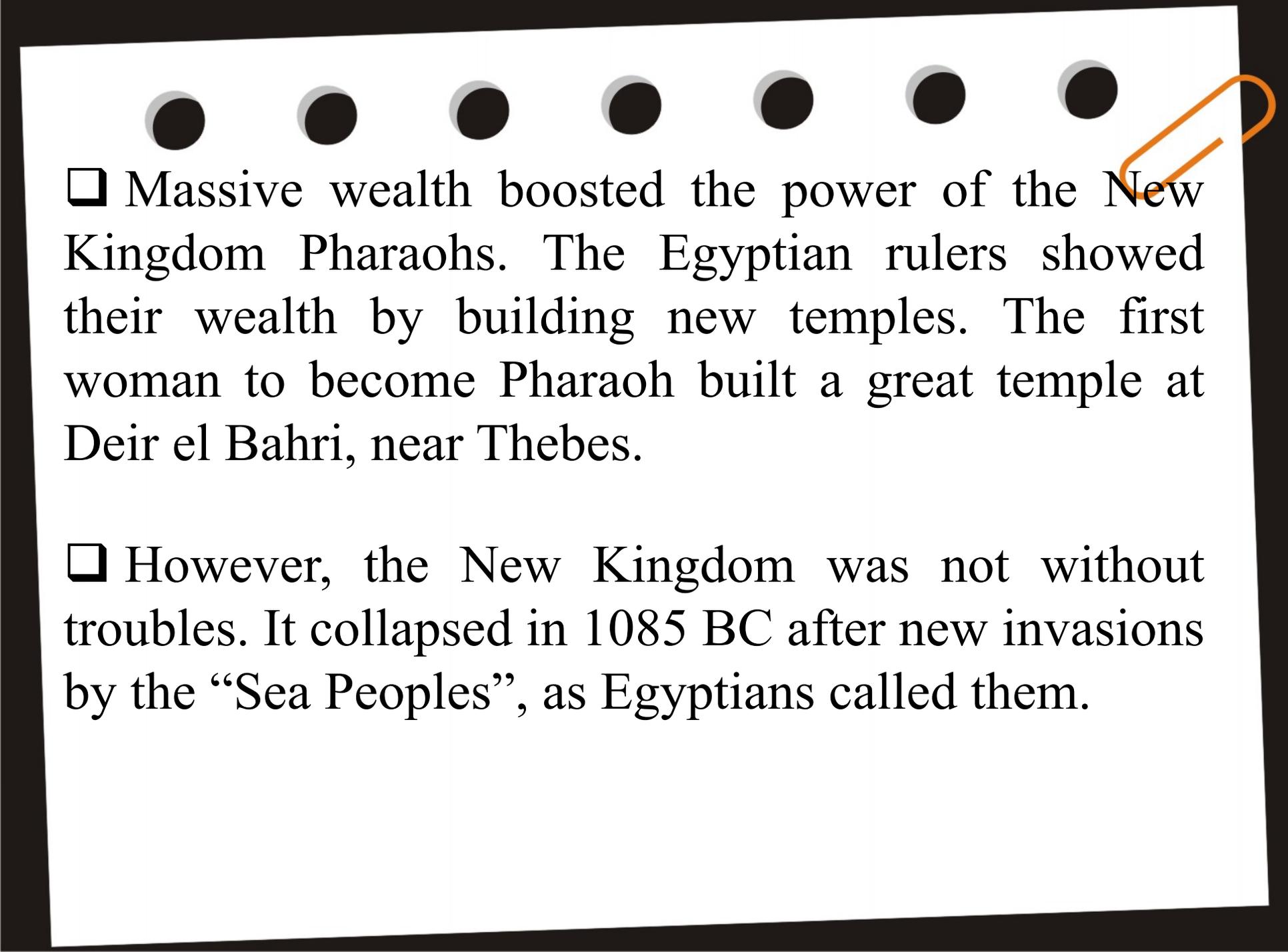
❑ Eventually, a new dynasty of Pharaohs developed weapons using bronze and mastered the military skill of using horse-drawn war chariots.



❑ Through the use of these new weapons, they were able to drive out the Hyksos and reunite Egypt, leading to the establishment of the New Kingdom.

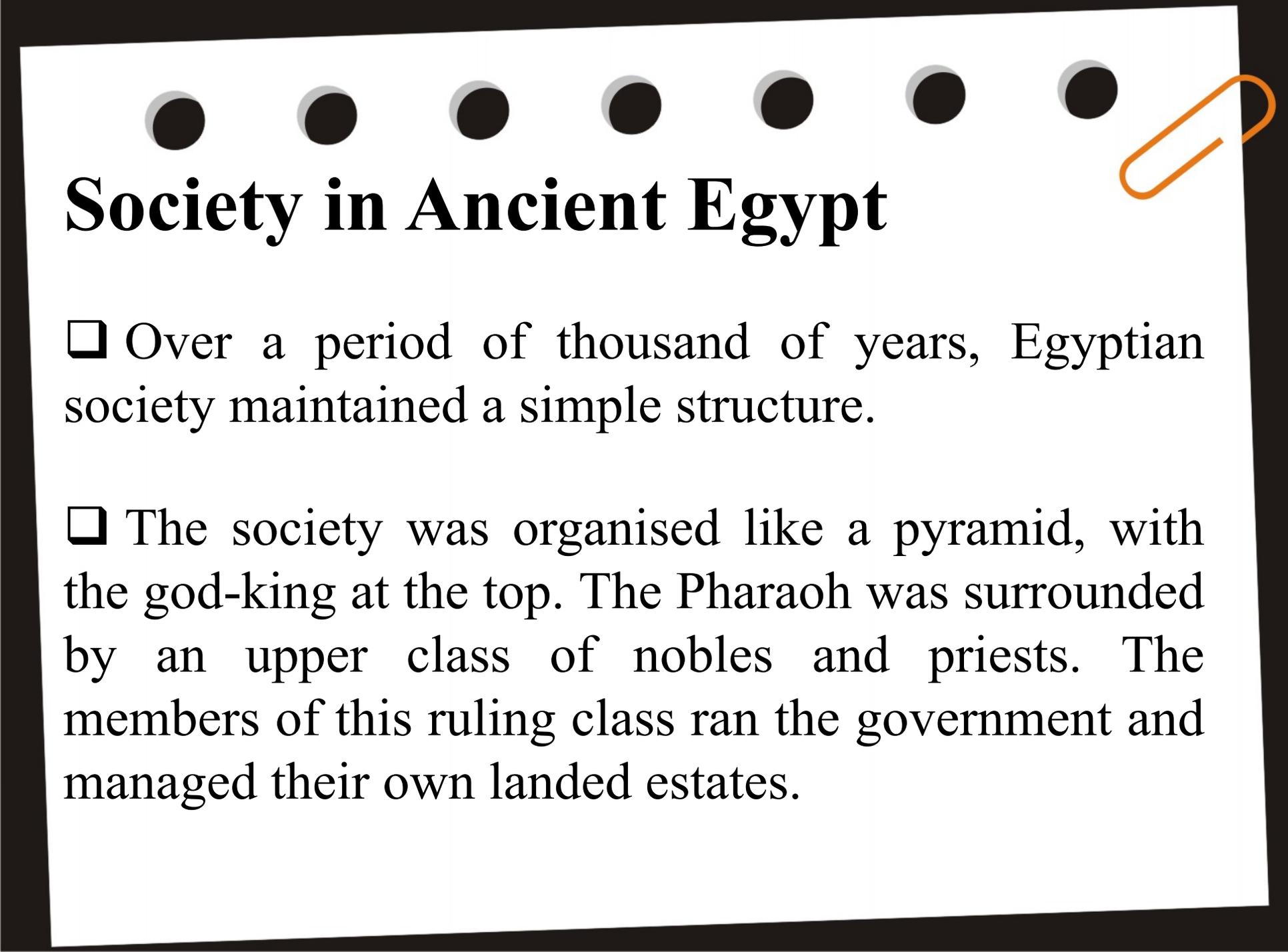
❑ The New Kingdom was established and lasted from approximately 1567 to 1085 BC.

❑ The reunification of Egypt launched the Egyptians along a new militaristic path. During this period, Egypt created an empire and became the most powerful state in Southwest Asia.



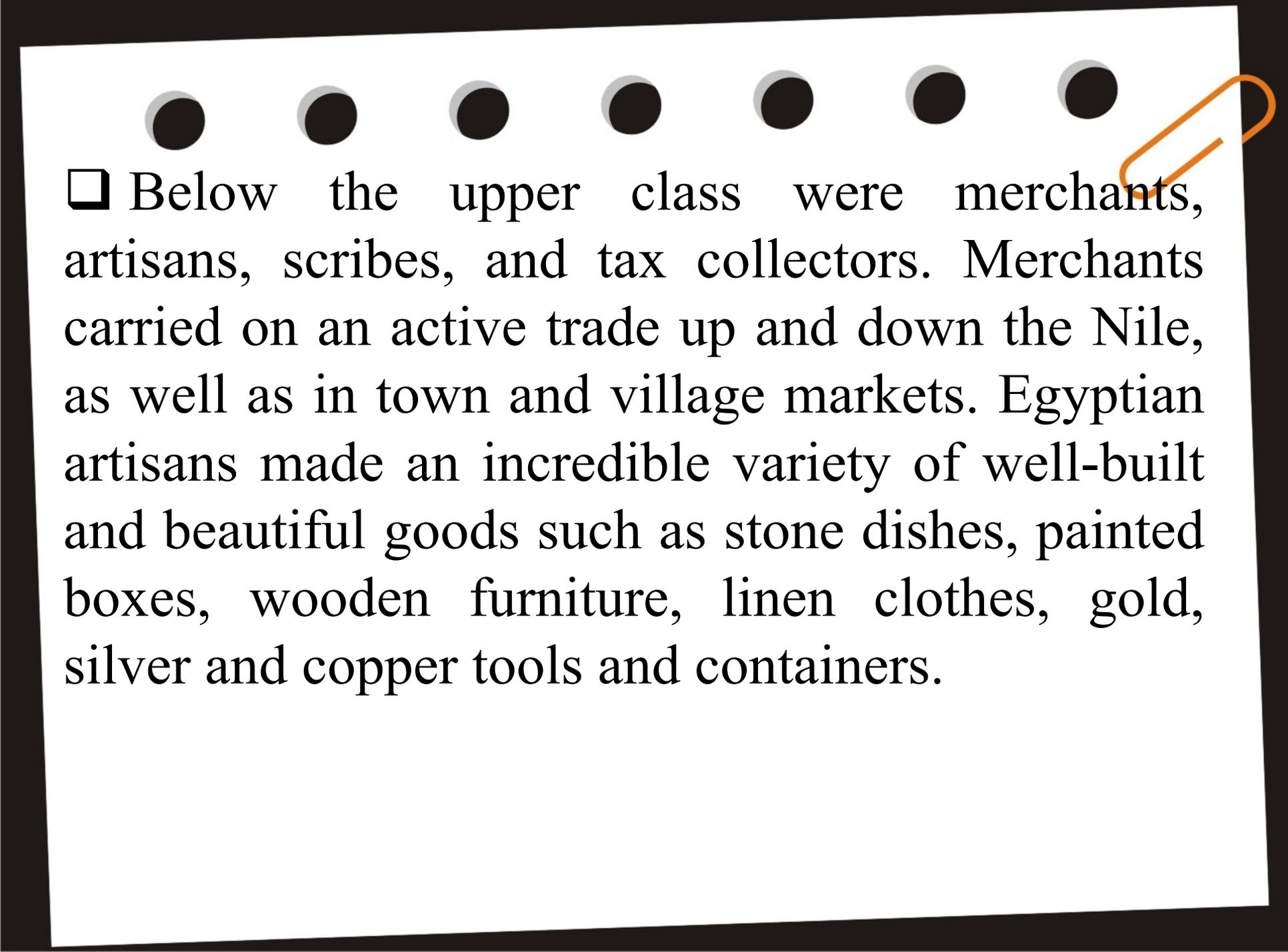
❑ Massive wealth boosted the power of the New Kingdom Pharaohs. The Egyptian rulers showed their wealth by building new temples. The first woman to become Pharaoh built a great temple at Deir el Bahri, near Thebes.

❑ However, the New Kingdom was not without troubles. It collapsed in 1085 BC after new invasions by the “Sea Peoples”, as Egyptians called them.

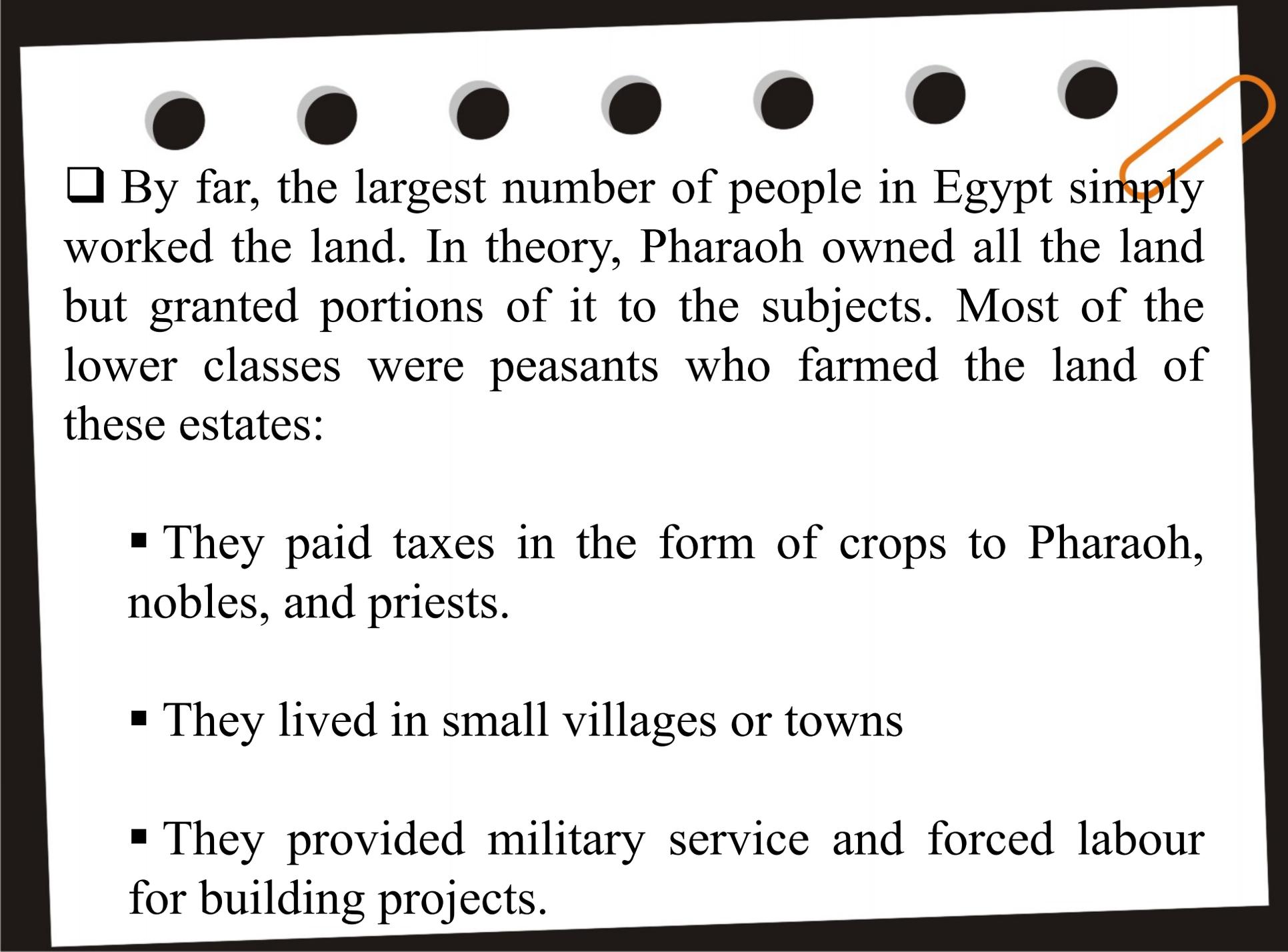


Society in Ancient Egypt

- ❑ Over a period of thousand of years, Egyptian society maintained a simple structure.
- ❑ The society was organised like a pyramid, with the god-king at the top. The Pharaoh was surrounded by an upper class of nobles and priests. The members of this ruling class ran the government and managed their own landed estates.



□ Below the upper class were merchants, artisans, scribes, and tax collectors. Merchants carried on an active trade up and down the Nile, as well as in town and village markets. Egyptian artisans made an incredible variety of well-built and beautiful goods such as stone dishes, painted boxes, wooden furniture, linen clothes, gold, silver and copper tools and containers.

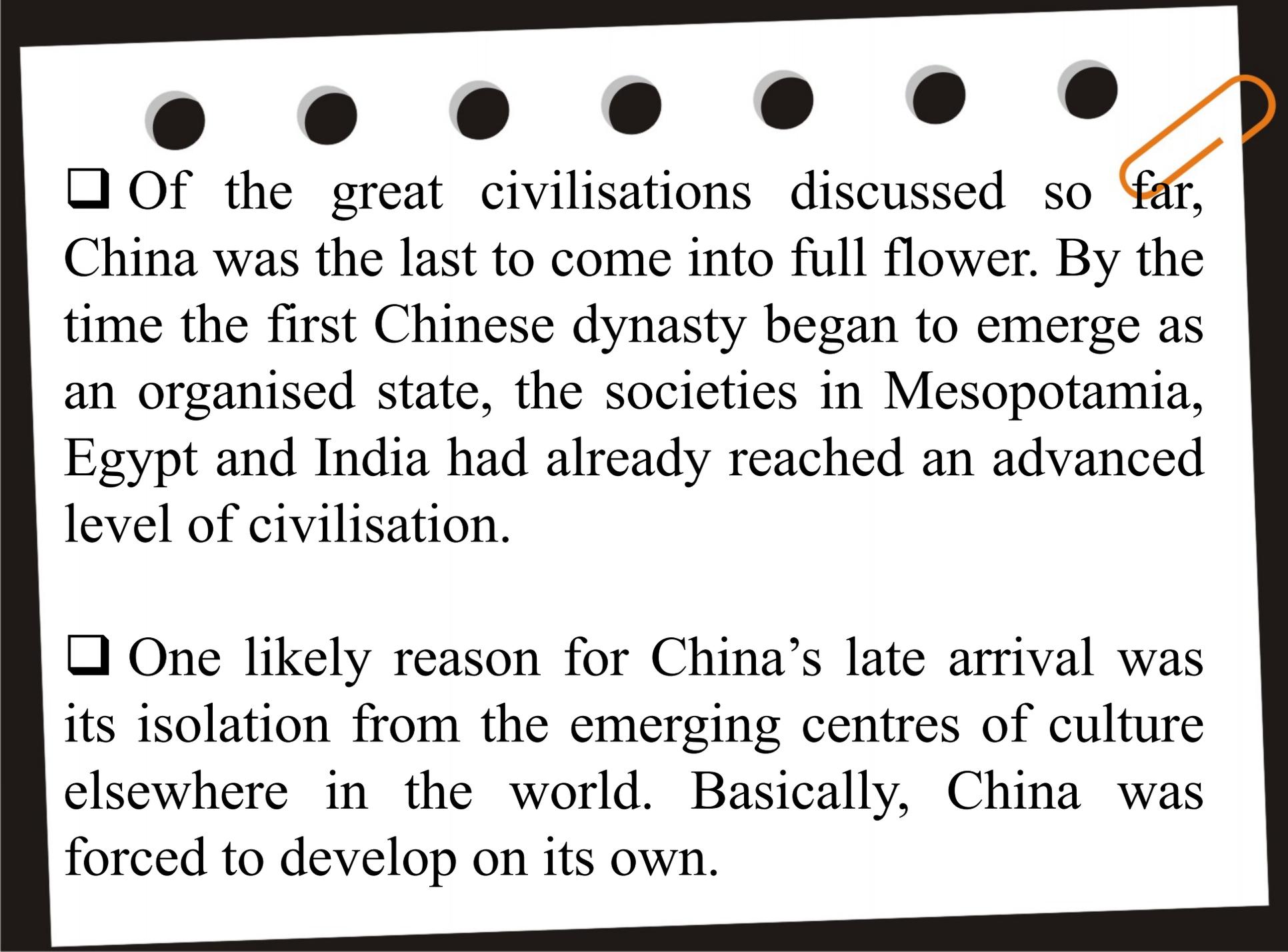


□ By far, the largest number of people in Egypt simply worked the land. In theory, Pharaoh owned all the land but granted portions of it to the subjects. Most of the lower classes were peasants who farmed the land of these estates:

- They paid taxes in the form of crops to Pharaoh, nobles, and priests.
- They lived in small villages or towns
- They provided military service and forced labour for building projects.

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Early Chinese Civilisations



❑ Of the great civilisations discussed so far, China was the last to come into full flower. By the time the first Chinese dynasty began to emerge as an organised state, the societies in Mesopotamia, Egypt and India had already reached an advanced level of civilisation.

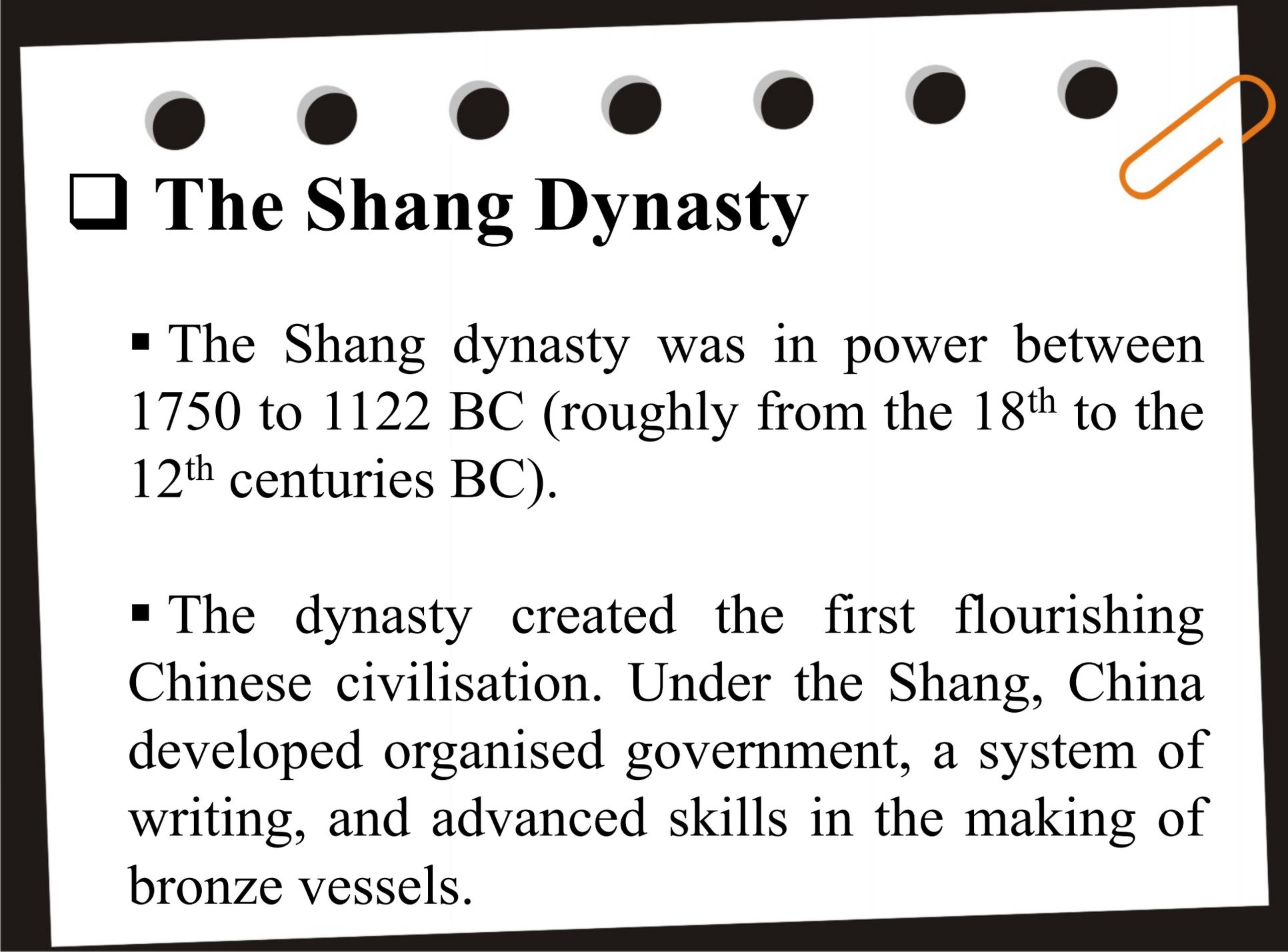
❑ One likely reason for China's late arrival was its isolation from the emerging centres of culture elsewhere in the world. Basically, China was forced to develop on its own.



Government in Old China

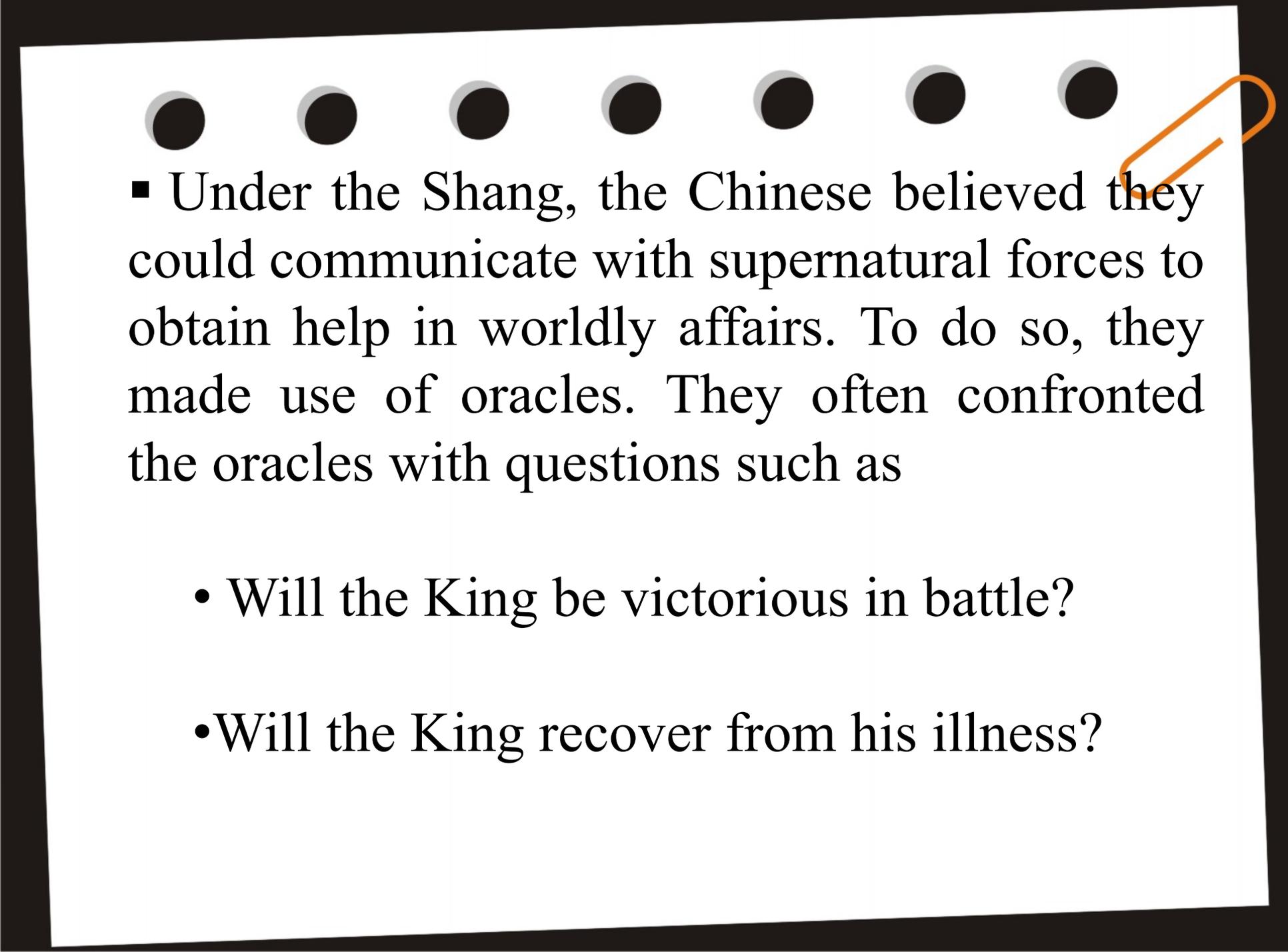
Government in old China was organised along dynasties (a sequence of powerful leaders in the same family). These dynasties included:

- The Shang Dynasty
- The Zhou Dynasty
- The Qin Dynasty
- The Han Dynasty



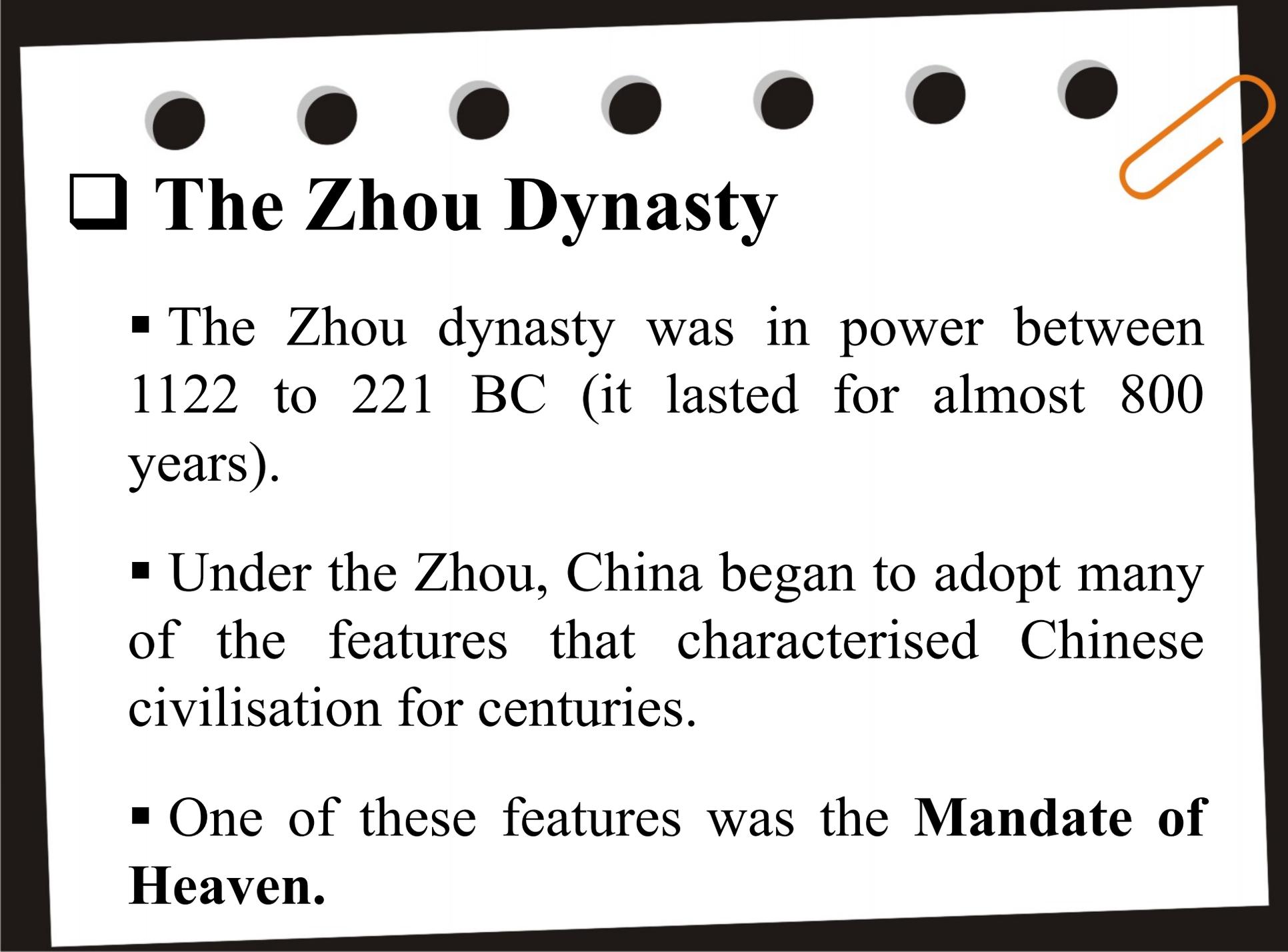
□ The Shang Dynasty

- The Shang dynasty was in power between 1750 to 1122 BC (roughly from the 18th to the 12th centuries BC).
- The dynasty created the first flourishing Chinese civilisation. Under the Shang, China developed organised government, a system of writing, and advanced skills in the making of bronze vessels.



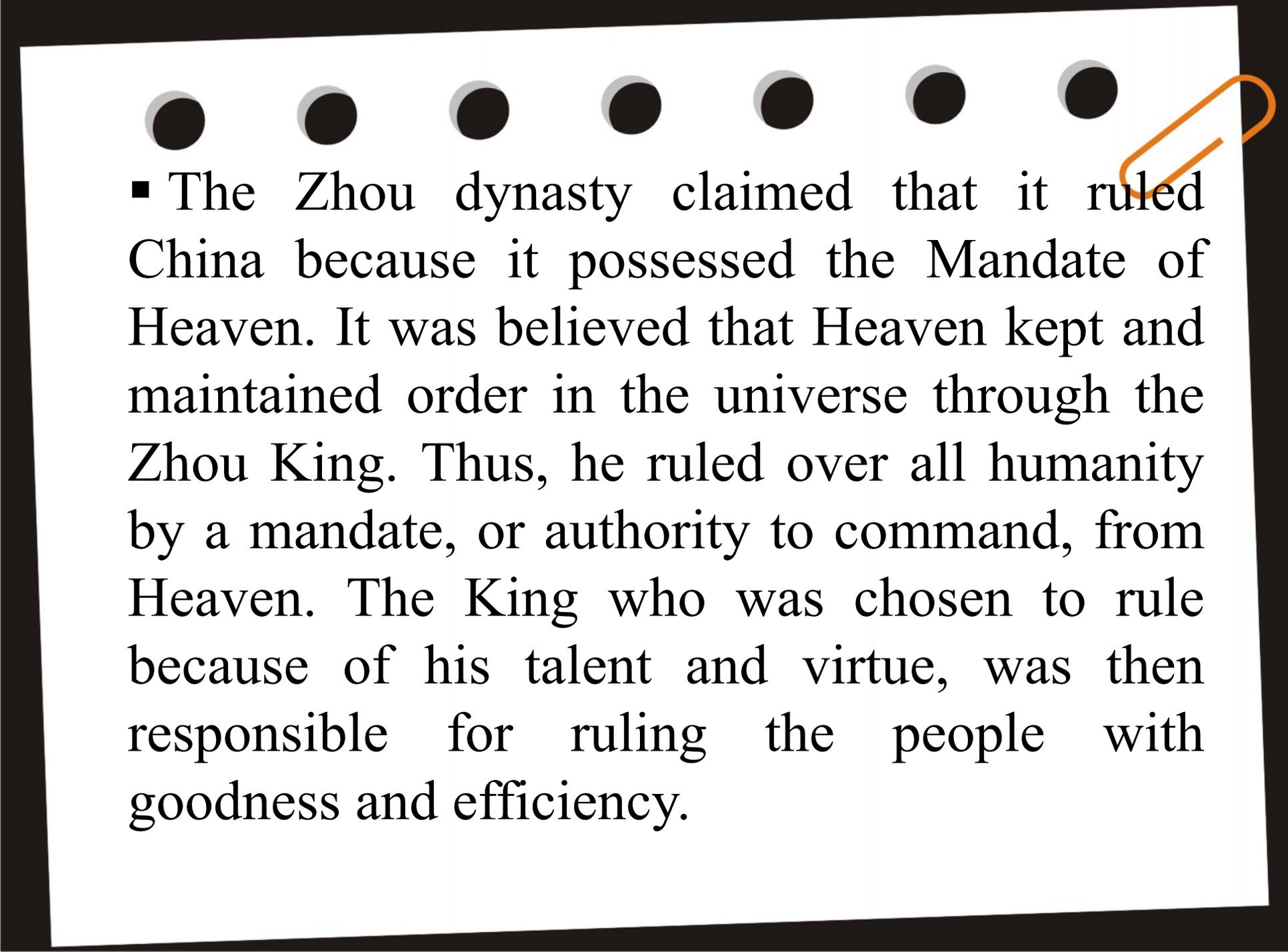
▪ Under the Shang, the Chinese believed they could communicate with supernatural forces to obtain help in worldly affairs. To do so, they made use of oracles. They often confronted the oracles with questions such as

- Will the King be victorious in battle?
- Will the King recover from his illness?

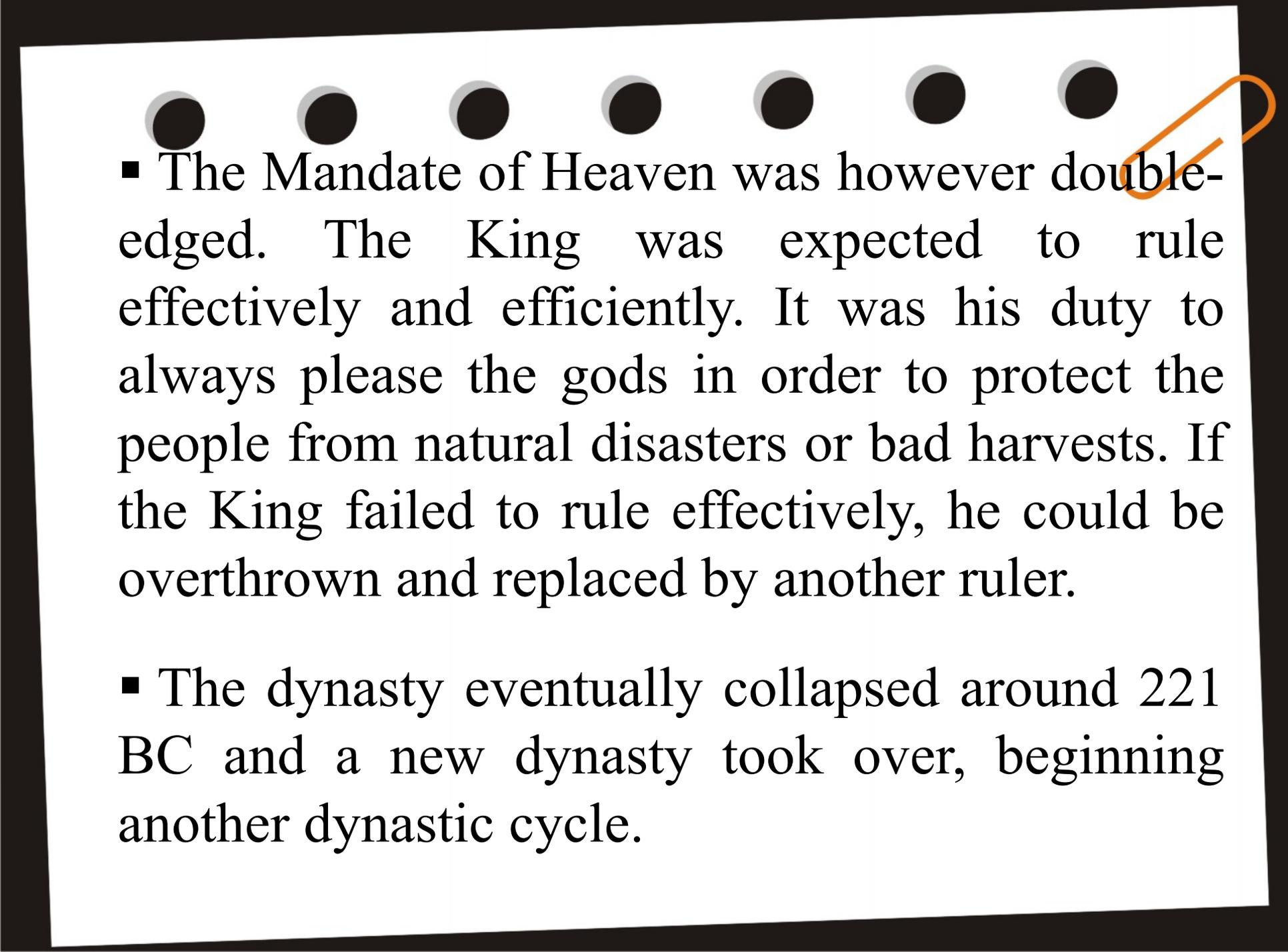


□ The Zhou Dynasty

- The Zhou dynasty was in power between 1122 to 221 BC (it lasted for almost 800 years).
- Under the Zhou, China began to adopt many of the features that characterised Chinese civilisation for centuries.
- One of these features was the **Mandate of Heaven**.

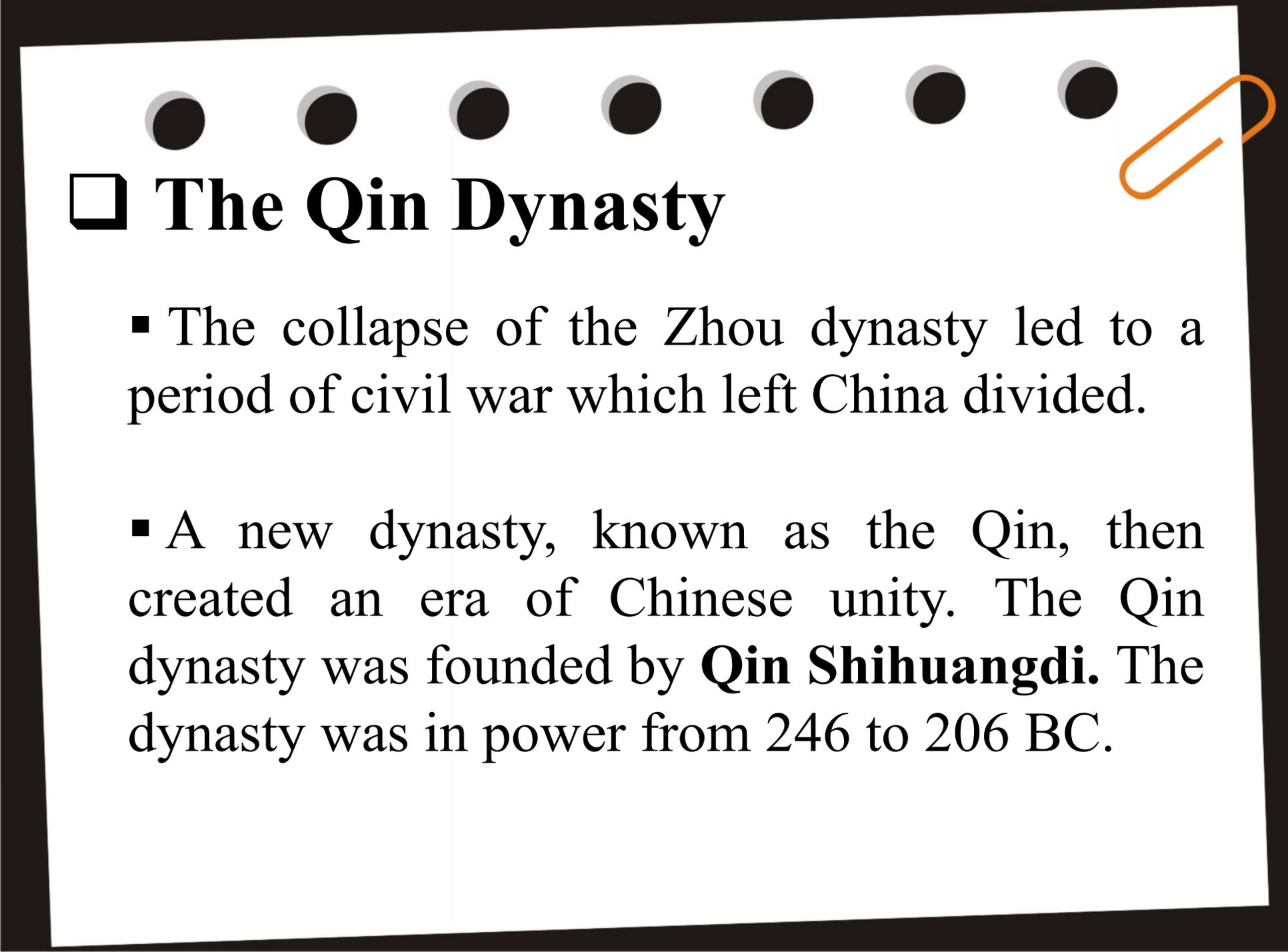


▪ The Zhou dynasty claimed that it ruled China because it possessed the Mandate of Heaven. It was believed that Heaven kept and maintained order in the universe through the Zhou King. Thus, he ruled over all humanity by a mandate, or authority to command, from Heaven. The King who was chosen to rule because of his talent and virtue, was then responsible for ruling the people with goodness and efficiency.



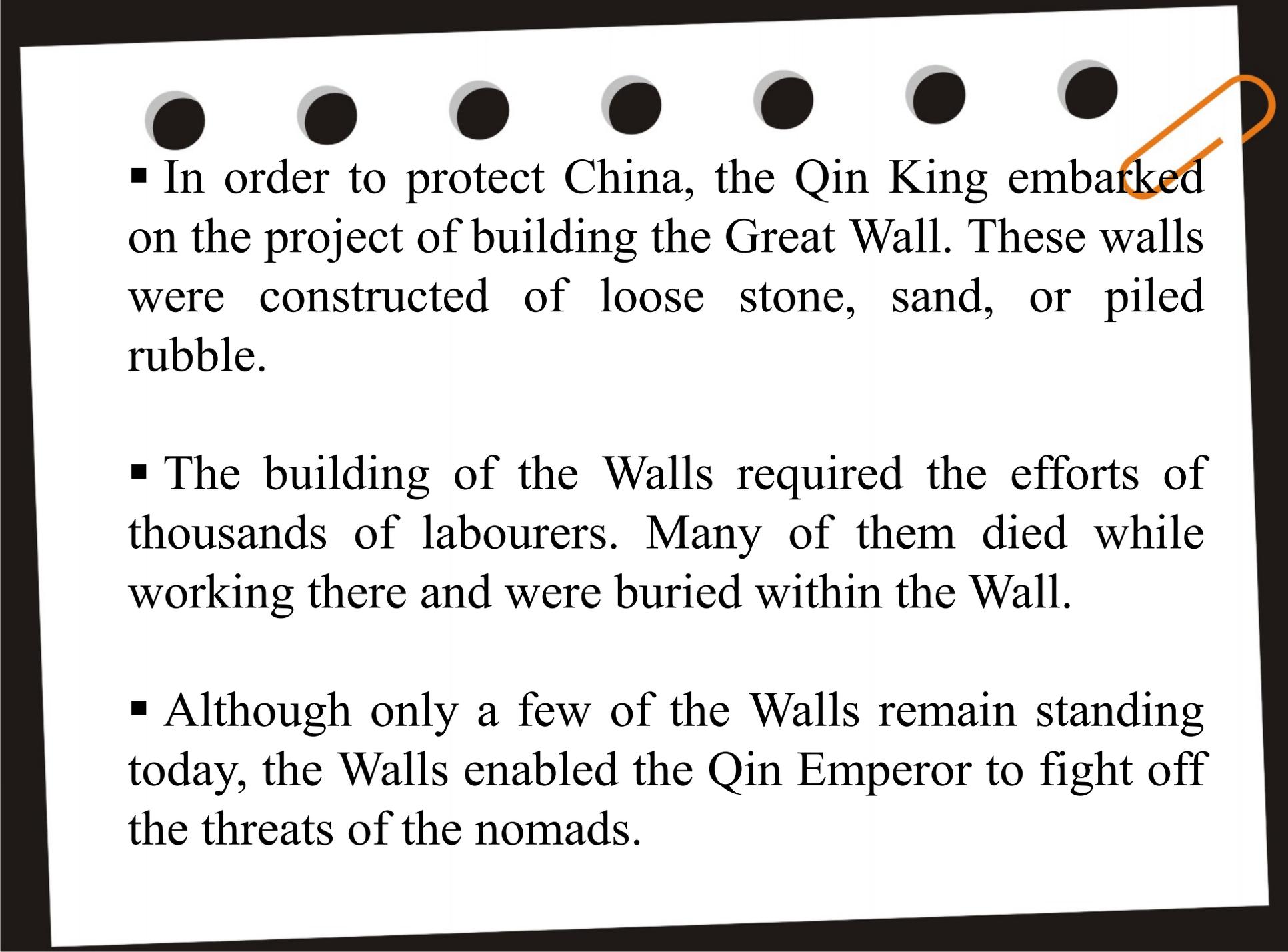
- The Mandate of Heaven was however double-edged. The King was expected to rule effectively and efficiently. It was his duty to always please the gods in order to protect the people from natural disasters or bad harvests. If the King failed to rule effectively, he could be overthrown and replaced by another ruler.

- The dynasty eventually collapsed around 221 BC and a new dynasty took over, beginning another dynastic cycle.



□ The Qin Dynasty

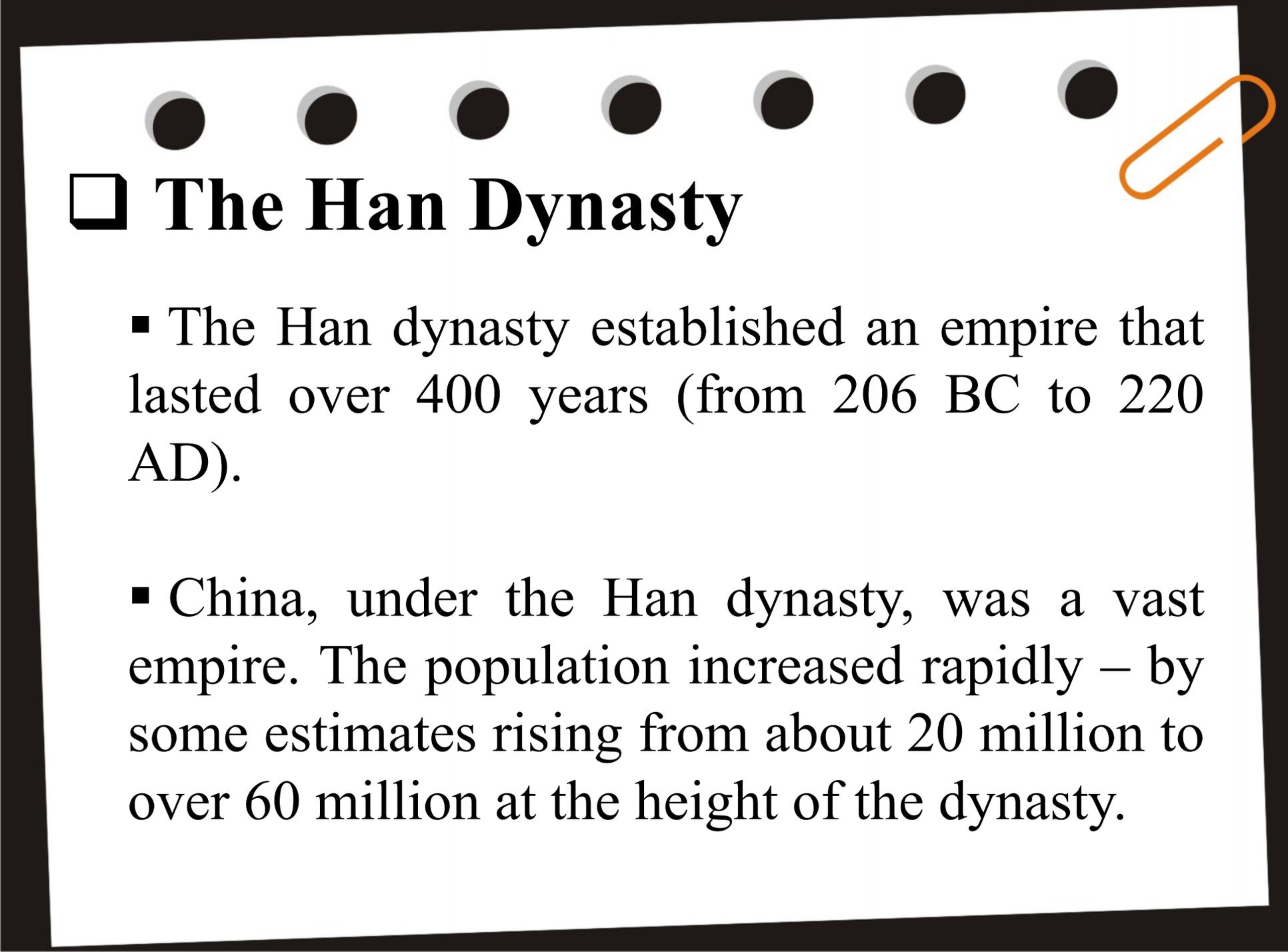
- The collapse of the Zhou dynasty led to a period of civil war which left China divided.
- A new dynasty, known as the Qin, then created an era of Chinese unity. The Qin dynasty was founded by **Qin Shihuangdi**. The dynasty was in power from 246 to 206 BC.



- In order to protect China, the Qin King embarked on the project of building the Great Wall. These walls were constructed of loose stone, sand, or piled rubble.

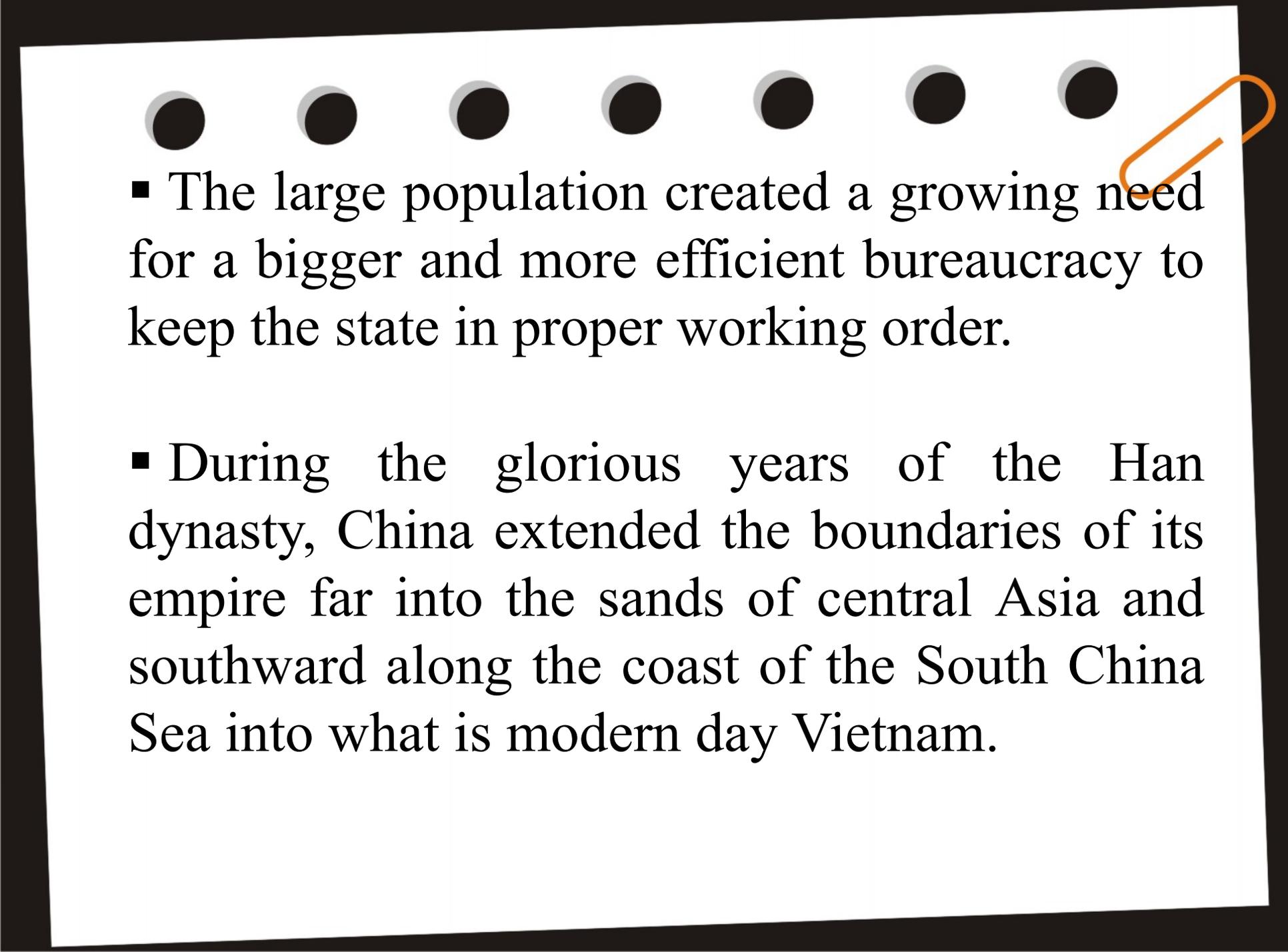
- The building of the Walls required the efforts of thousands of labourers. Many of them died while working there and were buried within the Wall.

- Although only a few of the Walls remain standing today, the Walls enabled the Qin Emperor to fight off the threats of the nomads.



□ The Han Dynasty

- The Han dynasty established an empire that lasted over 400 years (from 206 BC to 220 AD).
- China, under the Han dynasty, was a vast empire. The population increased rapidly – by some estimates rising from about 20 million to over 60 million at the height of the dynasty.



- The large population created a growing need for a bigger and more efficient bureaucracy to keep the state in proper working order.

- During the glorious years of the Han dynasty, China extended the boundaries of its empire far into the sands of central Asia and southward along the coast of the South China Sea into what is modern day Vietnam.