

historically dated to the Middle Kingdom, our focus is the reign of the Pharaoh Senwosret I, mainly due to the movement of administrative reform and cultural development occurred in this period.

Concepts such as invisible religion, connective memory and cultural texts are used to demonstrate how a sense of cultural belonging was created and how individual decision had implications in the society, as a whole. Loyalty to the Pharaoh should be an individual conscious decision. Loyalism demanded a choice where neutrality was not an option.

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#### **TITLE**

To create an empire: The Ancient Egyptian mind and beliefs behind the New Kingdom imperial expansion

#### **KEYWORDS**

Empire, Enemies, Expansion, Protection, New Kingdom

#### **ABSTRACT**

Perhaps one of the most recognizable elements of Ancient Egyptian iconography is the depiction of the dominance of enemies of Kemet by the Pharaoh. This establishes a direct connection with the most profound belief where Egypt was both the maatic centre of the Universe and should be maintained clean from those who were not Egyptian. It also reveals a central concern in the Egyptian mind: invaders must be kept at bay. Enters the New Kingdom and the political canvas from where it emerged seems to be, in fact, an implacable execution of that referred intrinsic belief taken to an extreme. It was, however, this belief that gave birth to an Empire. One proposes to analyse how a belief, applied to an unstable political scenario became one possible catalyst on the forge of an imperial dominion of Egypt over its surroundings. From the Old Kingdom until then, Egyptians mainly protected Kemet and its most immediate borders. However, always exploring, here and there, the

“outside world”. But a change in view and action, one proposes because of a specific scenario to be here presented, originated a new approach and interaction of Egypt over the world that would last for several hundred years and change the political scenario, geographical frontiers and the sphere of influence Kemet had. The main challenge of this essay is to try and understand if the Egyptian New Kingdom Empire was, first, a response to protect Egypt from enemies that had dominated the Land for far too long, and second, maintained for a new imperialistic desire had eventually emerge on the mind of those who sat on the Throne of Horus?

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#### **TITLE**

“No one of them could find his hand”: The practice of enemy hand cutting in New Kingdom Egypt

#### **KEYWORDS**

New Kingdom, hand cutting, military violence

#### **ABSTRACT**

The New Kingdom Egyptian practice of cutting off the hands of enemies in war is well known. Nevertheless, previous studies of this military custom rarely encompassed the entire corpus with all known attestations together. The questions of origin and duration of this practice, as much as its location, purpose and meaning, have so far been answered differently, partly as a consequence of the lack of a comprehensive study, partly as the lack of attention to all available written and iconographic data. This paper will present the results of the study which encompassed known written and iconographic attestations and argue that the existence of this practice is not certain before the reign of Ahmose and after the reign of Ramesses III. Furthermore, both written and iconographic evidence will be provided showing that the hands were cut off from the living enemies too. The hands