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## Mitanni Enslaved: Prisoners of War, Pride, and Productivity in a New Imperial Regime

Morris, Ellen F.

The early to mid-Eighteenth Dynasty can be considered a transformational moment in Egypt's social history. The first true northern empire was forged gradually over the course of a century — first through the vengeful conquests of Ahmose, then through the ambitious and exploratory expeditions of Thutmose I, and finally via Thutmose III's relentless annual campaigning. The last stage, perhaps already anticipated during the joint reign with Hatshepsut,<sup>1</sup> took place over the better part of two decades in the middle of the fifteenth century B.C. and occasioned such an influx of prisoners of war that the citizens of the imperial center at Thebes found themselves surrounded by foreign slaves.

In this transformational moment, then, Egypt's economy was radically reworked, such that much of the hard labor on state projects and institutional land was now undertaken by a new population. But the point that I argue in this essay and illustrate through one specific case study is that this new population was in and of itself symbolic of a new world order. Now, thanks to this glut of foreign chattel, Egyptians of even relatively modest status could view themselves as microcosms of the state — as literal or symbolic masters over an enslaved enemy.

The foreign prisoners of war whose entrance and acculturation into Egyptian society are traced in this essay are first depicted at work on the estates of some of Hatshepsut's most esteemed nobles. To the best of my knowledge, images of these highly recognizable men appear in Egyptian art abruptly during this reign, although admittedly the numbers of decorated tombs constructed prior to this point in the early Eighteenth Dynasty is small. They reach the zenith of their numbers in the sole reign of Thutmose III and gradually disappear from view over the next two generations.

In this essay, it is first argued that among the great mass of prisoners that entered Egypt at this time a distinct foreign population is indeed identifiable in these tombs. Second, the dissemination and eventual assimilation of this cadre of prisoners, turned slaves, is charted. Finally, the case is mustered that these men were, in all likelihood, Hurrian warriors fighting on behalf of Mitanni and that the commemoration of their enslavement reflected both a historical reality and at the same time a celebration of Egypt's newfound and hard-won position of dominance over its neighbors to the north.

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Dominique Valbelle, Université de Paris-Sorbonne, Paris IV/UMR 8167 . . . v Mitanni Enslaved: Prisoners of War, Pride, and Productivity in a New Imperial Regime 361 15 Mitanni Enslaved: Prisoners of War, Pride, and Productivity in a New Imperial Regime Ellen Morris, Barnard College The early to mid-Eighteenth Dynasty can be considered a transformational moment in Egypt's social his- tory. The last stage, perhaps already anticipated during the joint reign with Hatshepsut,1 took place over the better part of two decades in the middle of the fifteenth century and occasioned such an influx of prisoners of war that the citizens of the imperial center at Thebes found themselves surrounded by foreign slaves. The Imperial Civil War (also referred as the War of Self-destruction by princess Pina and the pro-peace senators) is the civil war between Zorzal 's pro-war faction and Pina 's pro-peace faction, aided by the JSDF . During the war, Zorzal and his cohorts manage to inflict some damage to the JSDF due to their experience in fighting the JSDF, with various guerrilla tactics and early countermeasures against the JSDF such as disguising Imperial troops as refugees or sending monsters out on a rampage in and Productivity in a New Imperial Regime. Ellen Morris, Barnard College. The early to mid-Eighteenth Dynasty can be considered a transformational moment in Egypt's social his over an enslaved enemy. The foreign prisoners of war whose entrance and acculturation into Egyptian society are traced in this. essay are first depicted at work on the estates of some of Hatshepsut's most esteemed nobles. To the best of. Mitanni enslaved: prisoners of war, pride, and productivity in a new imperial regime. Ellen Morris. In Creativity and Innovation in the Reign of Hatshepsut, eds. J. Galan, B. M. Bryan, and P. F. Dorman. SAOC 69, Chicago: University of Chicago Press 2014, pp. 361-379. [https://www.academia.edu/8617942/Mitanni\\_enslaved\\_prisoners\\_of\\_war\\_pride\\_and\\_productivity\\_in\\_a\\_new\\_imperial\\_regime](https://www.academia.edu/8617942/Mitanni_enslaved_prisoners_of_war_pride_and_productivity_in_a_new_imperial_regime). Entire Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization (SAOC) 69. <https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/publications/saoc/saoc-69-creativity-and-innovation-reign-hatshepsut>. Enslavement was a common alternative fate of prisoners.4 Massacres of prisoners did happen, in particular when they suited the political purposes of the victorious party.5 Ancient Roman warfare offered a similar picture, although the significance of enslavement was possibly greater. Often the inhabitants of whole towns and settlements were captured and enslaved.6 Mass

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