

THE IMPACT OF THE PTOLEMAIC RULE IN EGYPT AND HOW CLEOPATRA LOST HER THRONE TO ROME

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ABSTRACT

Since the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb in 1923, Egyptian culture has been celebrated as one of the richest cultures. It has impacted other world cultures, marking its place in Rome and Greece. The role of Ptolemies is crucial in building up the ties between neighboring countries, the trust of the people, and the monarch. The research paper has both philosophical and literature goals. The philosophical goal is to understand the belief of the non-Egyptian pharaohs to rule the nation. The literature goal is to know how the Ptolemies' monarchy was better than the previous rulers of Egypt and how well they were able to cooperate with other nations in maintaining military garrisons and investments, including Cleopatra's diplomacy in creating a pact with Rome by luring the generals of the Rome. This research paper delves into the reign of the Graeco-Macedonian pharaohs in Egypt for years together. The Ptolemies were Macedonian pharaohs ruling over Egypt, including Alexandria. As good as they were as kings and queens, They also made many contributions to Egypt, including the construction of the famous Library of Alexandria. The Ptolemies were also responsible for introducing the Greek language and Hellenistic culture to Egypt. Their relationship with its neighbors was also meaningful, as they maintained peace between Egypt and its neighbors. They also established a strong military to protect Egypt from foreign invaders. What matters is how Rome and the Greeks could interfere in the monarchy of Egypt right from the Old Kingdom. This was possible due to Egypt's weak military and reliance on Rome and Greece for military support. This allowed Rome and Greece to gain control over Egypt's resources and eventually annex it.

KEYWORDS : Ancient History, Ptolemaic Egyptian History, classical archaeology, Ancient Egyptian Military History, classical civilization, Greek History, Hellenistic Dy- nasty.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Book of the Dead, written and translated on papyrus, shows how fascinating the burial practices were and how magnificently the Egyptians preserved their dead. They believed in life after death and that all the objects kept in the coffins would be helpful to them. Pharaoh was the title used for both male and female rulers. To show that they belonged to the royal family, they wore masks and artificial beards to represent royalty. The pyramids were built to represent power. They were a resting place for the kings, queens, and loyal officials. The funerary and burial practices during the Hellenistic dynasty were Greek

and Egyptian-based. The funerary act was performed in Alexandria, Thebes, and Abydos. The Ptolemaic era focused primarily on Macedonian-Greek and Egyptian religion and mortuary practices. From Ptolemy I of Lagos to Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator, the title of pharaoh was widely used amongst these foreign rulers to represent power and authority over Egypt. The Ptolemies are said to have flourished the Egyptians by adding new systems based on Greek ideology. However, the Romans found their good luck around the corner once the Ptolemies' arrived in Egypt, which meant a clear path for them to bring their demands to Egypt. Alexander: The Great had a significant influence and control over its conquered regions; however, it was not the same with the Ptolemy I of Lagos. The Ptolemies' reign occurred after Alexander The Great's death in 30 B.C. Being one of the loyal generals in Alexander's army, he was well aware of the regions that could be easily conquered. He was Macedonian by nationality but was well-adapted to Egyptian rituals and beliefs. Egyptian locals at first believed that he loved and respected the Egyptian culture and power. He began to take control by worshipping the gods and making sacrifices to the gods, especially Amon, those who built various temples at Thebes and Karnak. His acts later resulted in gaining the local's trust and investing in harvest methods to popularise wheat and barley, which was the staple diet of the Egyptians. Democracy and Justice systems also flourished during his reign. Scribed and painted by many scholars and noble people of the Ptolemaic period, the Hellenistic period was one of the most flourishing periods of the Egyptian pharaohs. Remember, it's flourished, not successful! The monarchy and power were maintained until Ptolemy VIII's reign. The Ptolemies' efforts were crushed when Cleopatra failed to acquire her land back from the Romans. Cleopatra VII, the last ruler of Egypt, is said to have attempted suicide because Rome humiliated her after her defeat in the war with Octavius. Julius Caesar considered one of Cleopatra's lovers, is said to have betrayed her for the sake of power. Even after the successful conquest of Egypt, Julius Caesar was killed by his loyal followers. The thirst for power led to trust issues between the kings. However, it is equally important to know how the kingdoms were formed. The previous rulers were nothing less than successful. Khufu was the first Pharaoh to build an actual step pyramid, which seemed more inspired by the Mayans. Later, his son, Khafre, built pyramids, which his sons and descendants continued. These rulers were from different kingdoms and intermediate periods. Nonetheless, we must understand the formation of the kingdoms and their interlinked periods.

2. VISUAL HISTORIA

Of the more than 175 kings who ruled the country for about 3400 years, only three or a handful are known today, which fit into a chronological framework with specific divisions and subdivisions. The history is divided into three kingdoms; Old kingdom. [2625 bce-2130 BCE] Middle kingdom. [1980 BCE- 1630 BCE]. New kingdom. [1539 bce-1075 BCE]. The Egyptian history is also divided into two periods; Pre-dynastic period. Post-dynastic period. Egypt had times of sustained internal volatility called intermediate periods. These periods took place between each of the three major kingdoms. The first intermediate period occurred after the old kingdom. A second intermediate period occurred after the Middle Kingdom. A third intermediate period occurred after the new kingdom. During these times, the country lost part of its territory. But later, it regained it. Finally, Egypt entered a twilight period. In its final years, some foreign countries took over the entire country. In 332 BC, Alexander the Great conquered the country, and just under 300 years later, around 47 BC, Julius Caesar took control of Egypt and appointed Cleopatra as his ruler. In reality, however, Rome was in charge. After the death of Julius Caesar in 40 BC, Cleopatra finally allied herself with Marc Antony, another Roman. However, Caesar's successor, Augustus, defeated her forces. He eventually led the Romans to victory over Cleopatra and Marc Antony. After Augustus had conquered Egypt, he joined it with the other Roman Empire and now ruled and controlled the largest empire in the East and West. During his long reign, numerous personalities sat on the throne of Egypt.

2.1. THE KINGDOMS: OLD KINGDOM

The ancient empire consists of 3 dynasties from 2686 to 2150 BC and into the 7th and 8th dynasties from 2170 BC to 2130 BC—an extended period of more than 600 years. During Dynasties 3 to 6, the empire and its territories were more consolidated. The religious doctrine developed evidence of the ideology, evident in art, architecture, and text. For example, the step pyramid construction at Saqqara in the 3rd Dynasty and the great sphinx and pyramid at Giza in the 4th Dynasty. Pyramid texts were initially carved into the inner walls of the pyramid's intermediate chambers. They consist of hundreds of spells created for rulers and intended to ensure the transition to a divine life after death. The worship of the sun and its main god, Ra, became the central element of the belief system from then on. Time also focused on the god of the afterlife, Osiris, and aspects of both Osiris and Ra appear in the Pyramid Texts. The ancient empires extended their power and dominion beyond their borders. However, their rule had some internal political problems, and it was not long before the ties that bound the two countries began to break. The elaborate

administrative system and the organization of local and provincial governors established by the pharaohs began to show weaknesses from the 6th Dynasty onwards. The rulers of the 7th and 8th dynasties were short-lived, with those responsible for the south. In general, weaker kings led to stronger local political leaders. The last two dynasties of the old empire, the 7th and 8th and then the 9th and 20th and in the middle of the 11th dynasties, cover a period of less than 200 years (2130 BC – 1980 BC), which in modern times is known as the First Intermediate Period.

2.2. MIDDLE KINGDOM

The Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate Period followed this. The Middle Kingdom comprises the second half of the 11th Dynasty and the entire 12th, 13th, and 14th Dynasty. Dynasties 14, 15, 16 and 17 form the Second Intermediate Period. In the middle of the 11th dynasty, a king named Neb-hepetre Mentuhotep II came to the throne of the divided country. Under his rule, he succeeded in reuniting the nation. In many ways, his dynamic actions matched those of the legendary early rulers, for he united two countries, Upper and Lower Egypt. Once again, the country was whole. Like Narmer before him, he also came from the south. However, he remained at his ancestral seat and ruled the country from the south. He also chose a Theban site as his burial place. There were many changes in the subsequent two dynasties, 12 and 13. Amenemhat I, the first ruler of the 12th dynasty, caused a shift back to the Memphite territory in the north. This was the centre of the old kingdom of his predecessor. He established an administrative capital in the north, in Itjtawy, a place not yet precisely located. This further ensured the reunification of the two countries. There seemed to be some political tension during his reign. His funeral was held in the north, as were his successors. And they all took the form of a pyramid of the old kingdom. The 12th Dynasty is known for establishing a strong centralised government and administration—reconciliation with the local district governors. The rulers of the rest of the dynasty continued to focus on building a strong empire. The pharaohs led the construction of significant projects, such as canals needed for transportation and irrigation. They built fortresses at sites in the south to ensure peaceful times with Nubia, a rival in the area. The next 13th dynasty was a unified kingdom centred in Itjtawy and still part of the Middle Kingdom. It consisted of many kings, more than 50, most of whom had short reigns and could not hold their own against the Nubians in the south. In the north, they faced many Asiatic peoples migrating into the delta region. This latter group eventually became powerful enough to establish a 14th dynasty of their own, and soon after, the Semitic Hyksos took over and established a rival 15th dynasty. This dynasty

extended over almost all of Egypt, except in the south, where the native Egyptians were able to establish the 17th dynasty. Eventually, the Hyksos allied with the Nubians of Kush against Egypt. This chaotic period is known today as the Second Intermediate Period and ended when the Theban dynasty under Kamose and later his brother Ahmose defeated the Hyksos-Kushite coalition. A stela recorded all these events.

2.3. NEW KINGDOM

The new imperial dynasties 18-20 follow. The history of this period is characterised by the emergence of several influential royal figures whose distinct personalities, beliefs and actions strongly influenced the development of Egyptian civilization during this period. It lasted almost 500 years. One ruler introduced an innovative concept that did not survive in ancient Egyptian culture and may ultimately have played an essential role in the development of Western religious thought. In the 18th dynasty, Egypt's borders were extended in all directions. The military rule of Thutmose III, who continued the progress of his predecessors like no other ruler, ushered in a long, peaceful reign that relied to a large extent on international diplomacy as never before. Egypt enjoyed a long period of peace and experienced a golden age of art and literature. At the beginning of the 18th century, these kings established their own Theban royal tomb, called 'the "Valley of the Kings"', which remained in use until the end of the 20th century—after the death of Amenhotep III, his son and successor, Amenhotep IV, soon developed a revolutionary concept and system. His changes affected all areas of Egyptian life and belief but did not last long. His son and successor, Tutankhamun, was to lead the Counter-Reformation to restore the traditional ideology in Egypt. The discovery of his tomb astonished the world, and the dynasty ended with two military men who were not related to their predecessors, Ay and Horemheb. The dynasty 19 succeeded its first ruler, the elder Ramses

I. He, too, was a military leader. He was soon followed by his sons Seti I and Ramses II. The latter is known as the longest-reigning pharaoh. He ruled until he was 67 years old. He expanded the empire to such an extent that there were constant military conflicts with West Asia. He fought against the Asian peoples, the Sea Peoples, the Libyans, the Hittites and others. The 19th Dynasty ended in a conflict with the supporters of at least two major factions. The rulers of the 20th Dynasty were not as successful as their predecessors, except for Ramses III, considered the last great war pharaoh and represents the end line of a successful military pharaoh of the Egyptian empire begun by Thutmose 3. Ramses III ruled during a

chaotic period in the ancient Near East and Mediterranean. He faced hostility from the Libyans, the tribes of the west and the Sea Peoples. These were formidable forces from the eastern Mediterranean, Asia Minor, and the Aegean world. Despite his many successes and his ability to overcome difficulties from within, such as a harem conspiracy to kill him, his successors were not so capable. They could not maintain the empire and suffered under the stresses of a rapidly changing outside world. Furthermore, they could not begin to deal with the constantly fractured relationship between the monarchy and the clergy. The high points of the 20th Dynasty were soon to fall, and with the death of its ruler, Ramses II, the Third Intermediate Period began.

2.2.1. THE THIRD INTERMEDIATE PERIOD

The third intermediate period consisted of Dynasties 21 to 25, from around 1075 BC to 656 BC. At the end of the 20th dynasty, the priesthood of Amen could be observed, which gained so much power in the south that it rivalled the pharaoh who ruled in the north. The situation also remained unchanged in the 21st dynasty. Some priests even had their names inscribed in cartouches; ovals were reserved for the pharaohs or sometimes the queens. Some of the priests even wore royal cobras on their foreheads. The rulers of the 21st Dynasty had a robust Libyan element, descended from the tribes that lived in the Delta in earlier times. In the 22nd Dynasty, they could not follow the trend towards decentralization in the north. The Delta and the Theban area in the south characterized the 23rd Dynasty. The 24th dynasty was centred in the delta. The last period of this dynasty was the 25th, called the Nubian or Cushite dynasty. It was the time when rulers of this type, who had previously threatened Egypt, raised their forces, moved north to invade Egypt, and, for a time, successfully controlled their former rival. Their leaders had presented themselves as Egyptians. The late period, which consisted of Dynasties 26 – 32, they have lasted about 330 years. From the 27th dynasty onwards, the rulers were rarely Egyptians. They were Egyptianized Libyans; even Persian rulers could come for two dynasties. The last of these dynasties, the 31st, was conquered by Alexander the Great in 332 BC, which marked the end of native pharaonic rule. A new dynasty, the Macedonian dynasty, 32 began. It was short-lived, and after only 27 years, its last ruler, Ptolemy, the general of Alexander the Great, became the first pharaoh of that name, beginning the long reign of the Ptolemaic or 33rd Dynasty. All the kings were descended from the Greco-Macedonian line that ruled over the native Egyptians. Their last ruler was the famous Cleopatra. She was the 7th to bear this name. Her alliance with the Roman general Julius Caesar secured her supremacy as the head of the

Egyptian state over her younger brother. She went to Rome with Caesar. After his death, however, she considered it necessary to return to Egypt for her safety and that of her son Caesarean. She soon allied with another military man, Marc Antony. The two plotted against the mighty Roman troops under Octavius, who eventually became the "Emperor Augustus". He was to defeat the forces of Cleopatra and Marc Antony. Their reign ended in 30 BC, perhaps after an apparent suicide. After almost 3300 years, the glorious civilization of the ancient Egyptians had ended. The formation of a sophisticated state would not occur for several centuries, probably during Dynasty 0. It is a period before Dynasty 1 when rulers controlled large political states that paved the way for a unified kingdom under a single leader.

3. CLASSIFICATIONS

The classification combines two types; Egyptian deities that had some roles in the foreign lands. Foreign deities that gained some status in ancient Egypt. Certain members of the pantheon acquired roles beyond Egypt's borders during different periods. When pharaohs extended their control over countries and influenced foreign areas, these gods and goddesses also began to play a significant role in subjugating foreigners. Hathor, a native Egyptian, was worshipped in the Sinai and at Byblos. But she was already a member of the cult in Nubia. Certain Egyptian gods were assigned to border areas, like Ash, who was associated with the western desert and, sometimes, Libya. During this time, foreign deities began to appear on Egyptian monuments within their borders and are also mentioned in various texts. In the 18th dynasty, there was a rise in the importance of a divine living king. At the temple of Amun at Luxor, a state temple, Amenhotep III built and decorated a chapel for his coronation. He also set up a cult to worship himself as a god in Soleb in ancient Nubia. At the southern border of ancient Egypt at Abu-Simbel, Ramses 2 later built a giant temple that included the imagery of himself as a divine king. Perhaps both his and Amenhotep's activities were meant to represent their power at the southern borders. However, when he decided to enlarge the temple at Luxor, Ramses was included at that site, which was hardly a border area, and a colossal figure of himself as a divine pharaoh.

4. THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD OF EGYPT

Ptolemy of Lagos I was a dedicated general in the Alexandrian army for years, and he saw all the world's ways with him. Alexander the Great had no will and a Persian princess mysteriously murdered his son. As Alexander's most trusted and loyal general, Ptolemy was his first choice over other empires. He chose North Africa, which included much sought-after Egypt, which led to the birth of Ptolemaic Egypt.

However, after Alexander's death, the throne was given to his mentally impaired brother, so the throne was given to the most loyal general of Alexander, Ptolemy I. Ptolemy found no difficulty in conquering Egypt, hence becoming a pharaoh and started the Hellenistic dynasty, which was ended after Cleopatra VII's death. This dynasty lasted 300 years, ruling Egypt with a powerful military and political force. Ptolemy's descendants continued to rule Egypt until the Romans conquered the country in 30 BC. The Ptolemies left behind a legacy of art and architecture that can still be seen today. They also established a solid economic and administrative system, allowing the country to thrive. The Ptolemies also promoted learning and culture, creating a vibrant intellectual environment that allowed the development of new ideas and technologies. They also established diplomatic relations with other countries, creating a network of trade that benefited Egypt. This enabled the Ptolemies to become a significant regional power, and their influence can still be felt today. The Ptolemies were very religious and said to have made enormous sacrifices for their gods, especially at the temples of Thebes. They also built many temples and monuments to honour the gods. This helped further to cement the Ptolemies' place in Egyptian history. The Ptolemies also developed a taxation and bureaucracy system, allowing them to manage their empire effectively. This system is still used today by the Egyptians. The Ptolemies also implemented a military conscription system, which helped protect them from external threats. Their ties with Greece worsened in one way and strengthened with Rome, as they found an opportunity to connect with Egypt for their power and benefits.

The Ptolemies were also able to foster trade between their empire and other nations. This allowed them to gain wealth and resources, which they used to improve their standard of living. The Ptolemies also established diplomatic relations with other great powers, which helped maintain their stability.

The Hellenistic dynasty was very fruitful and rewarding for Egypt. Crops and harvest methods advanced, strengthening ties and pacts with neighbouring countries. Various imports were made throughout the Mediterranean region. This form of cultural assimilation allowed the Greeks to access Egypt's resources while preserving their own culture. The Ptolemaic Dynasty was a prime example of the power of religion to shape and influence the history of the ancient world. Ptolemies were Macedonian Greeks who made their nobles and priests write about their contributions and victories. However, the scribe writers only sometimes wrote good Greek. After the death of Alexander, Ptolemy of Lagos, Macedonia, took over the region that Alexander and his heirs had conquered. After a while, Ptolemy moved to upper Egypt,

taking the role of Alexander's heir. When left under Alexander's control, a local Greek, Kleomenes of Naukratis, was given the power of military garrisons and regional administrators. His performance was impressive in the eyes of Alexander. However, Ptolemy of Lagos was very suspicious of him. Kleomenes' systems were very speculative for Ptolemy as he focused on priests rather than the latter. Ptolemy eventually triumphed in removing Kleomenes from power and installing his administrator. As a result, Ptolemy consolidated power and control of Egypt.

When Ptolemy II took the role of a Greek king or Greek pharaoh, he made pretty good contributions to Egypt. Agricultural goods, harvesting techniques, wheat, and barley were declared staple diets; he was a loyal devotee who worshipped the gods and made temples at Thebes. He made huge sacrifices to the gods and goddesses. The priests were given high regard in the Hellenistic dynasties. He also developed the writing, mathematics, and astronomy system, which the Greeks adopted. He also built magnificent monuments such as the Colossus of Rhodes. He also constructed roads and aqueducts and improved the education system. He founded many cities, including Alexandria, which would become the capital of Egypt. He also developed a new political system based on the concept of democracy.

4.1. ROLE OF RELIGION AND POLITICS DURING THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD

Pharaohs were regarded as living gods by the people of ancient Egypt. As the Ptolemies adapted to some extent to the traditions and customs of the ancient Egyptians, they too were referred to as "living gods". However, the Macedonian- Greek elites who already lived in religion were the first step in the monarchs' and rulers' cult reign of the Ptolemies. They did not believe in worshipping humans as living gods. As they were in Egypt and adapted to the traditions of the ancient Egyptians over time, they posthumously shifted their worship from dead humans to living mortals. Therefore, the Ptolemies were given the title of the living god. The Ptolemaic dynasty was awarded the 'Sumnaot Theoi' title, meaning gods who shared temples. Religion was the first step in the monarchs' and ruler-cult reign of the Ptolemies. The Ptolemaic dynasty did not become as well established until the arrival of Ptolemy II Philadelphus, who revered his late father, Ptolemy I Soter, and his late wife. In memory of his father, Ptolemy II Philadelphus created the first festival in honour of his father, the Ptolemaieia. This was a pathway for Ptolemy II to be considered a living god. The Ptolemies needed support from the Egyptians and the Macedonian Greeks to stand as firm as the Greek Pharaohs. They manipulated the traditions of both groups, which secured their sovereignty. It is said that the Ptolemaic Dynasty is the longest- ruling monarchy since Alexander the

Great. Ptolemaic Egypt is ‘ ‘ a tale of two cultures’ ’ brought together by the Greek Dynasty, which used ruler cults, religious cults, and temples to legitimize its rule. This resulted in Egyptians becoming ‘ Hellenized’ and Greeks becoming ‘ Egyptianized ’. The Ptolemaic Dynasty truly represents a remarkable example of how religion was used as a political tool in the ancient world to justify its conquest and domination of a nation.

5. THE LAST PTOLEMY OF ANCIENT EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

Cleopatra was the last member of the Ptolemaic Dynasty to rule as a pharaoh. Hence, it would be better to use the term Hellenistic pharaoh’. Ptolemy I was the foundation of the Ptolemaic Dynasty. Cleopatra’s father, Ptolemy Auletes, also known as the flute player, enormously influenced her life. She called herself Cleopatra Thea Philopator, a Goddess who loved her father. According to records, in 58 B.C.E, Ptolemy XII is said to have visited Athens, Rome and other empires with one of his daughters. The daughter is said to be Cleopatra. At a young age, she was exposed to other empires of the world, and as a young ruler, she was exposed to political affairs and her stand as a future queen. Cleopatra, a Macedonian-Greek queen of ancient Egypt, took over the throne in 51 B.C.E, when her father, Ptolemy Auletes, died, leaving her with the future of Egypt and her brothers, Ptolemy XIII and Ptolemy XIV. Ptolemy XIII was ten years old at that time, and Cleopatra was 17 years old. Cleopatra was of Macedonian-Greek descent and didn’t have a single drop of Egyptian blood. However, as a pharaoh, she had to forget that she was a Greek! Her priority was her nation of Egypt. She had to gain the trust and support of local Egyptians. She was the first among her Ptolemies family to learn Egyptian and other languages she knew. She also participated in various religious events and other festivities to ensure the Egyptians’ trust and loyalty. Cleopatra was driven by her brother Ptolemy XIII just after the death of their father. Marc Antony decided to be an ally of Egypt and help Cleopatra regain her throne. However, according to the sources, Julius Caesar and Marc Antony helped her. Julius Caesar helped Cleopatra regain her throne because of his diplomacy in getting control of Egyptian affairs. It is said that Ptolemy XIII, when revolted against his sister, had no choice but to escape to Syria and leave Alexandria along with her brother Ptolemy XIV. Her brother, Ptolemy XIII, took full advantage of her absence and put Pompey, a Roman general, to death and allowed the foe of Egypt, Julius Caesar, into the alliance of Egypt. Using her allure and charm, she lured Julius Caesar by creating an alliance with him and bringing him into the fight with Ptolemy XIII by secretly entering Alexandria with the help of her sexual aura. Ptolemy XIII, outnumbered by the Roman troops, was finally

driven to death, signifying Cleopatra's Pharaoh's arrival. The dates, however, are very unspecific because various records show that in March 47 B.C.E., Ptolemy XIV became the husband of Cleopatra. Other documents show that in 47 B.C.E., Cleopatra and Julius Caesar were involved in a mutual relationship that resulted in the birth of their baby son, Caesarion. Ever since their son's birth and Julius Caesar's assassination, Cleopatra and her son reigned over Egypt. After the death of Ptolemy XIII, Caesar restored Cleopatra as queen of Egypt, along with her brother Ptolemy XIV, as her husband by the march of 47 B.C.E. She reassured the Egyptians that Egypt would remain in her even after death. To ensure the trust and support of the locals, she frequently organized religious ceremonies. She brought in one of Rome's two most potent alliances: Julius Caesar and Marc Antony. The alliance with Julius Caesar lasted until his murder, after which Cleopatra and her son Caesarion returned to Egypt. Her alliance with Marc Antony lasted until the Battle of Actium, led by Octavius.

5.1. THE ALLIANCES

Modern concepts consider Cleopatra a temptress because she decided to ally Marc Antony and Julius Caesar of Rome with Egypt. This alliance provides a fascinating insight into their political affairs. Since being called a temptress, she lured both the men of Rome into her seduction to know what kind of decisions were cooking inside of them. Cleopatra's alliance with Julius Caesar produced a son whom Cleopatra named Ptolemy Caesar, called Caesarion by Alexandrians. Cleopatra wanted to establish his connection to Egypt and Rome through a vocabulary similar to the one she used for her images. He was the apparent heir to power in Rome and Egypt, securing Cleopatra's legacy. The only problem with this plan was that most people were not convinced that Caesar was the father, which was especially true of the Romans. Cleopatra's alliance with Marc Antony was even more controversial than Caesar's. The affair resulted in Antony leaving his wife Octavia, whose brother was the powerful Octavian. Cleopatra and Marc Antony were a team and planned to rule the empire together. To rule the empire successfully, they had to gain the confidence of all its people, which meant appealing to different local traditions. They minted coins in Alexandria featuring portraits of both of them to show they were united as rulers. Coins were an essential part of political agendas, and these were different. They served the purpose of uniting the two rulers in the eyes of people across the empire. Almost everyone used coins and would be exposed to the images. Cleopatra had twins Cleopatra Selene and Alexander Helios with Antony. They did not represent the same threat to Octavian as Caesarion. Few photos of the twins exist today. This is because they did not play an essential role in the political goals of their mother, and as a result, there was not the same need for images of them as there was for Caesarion. Conclusively, Octavius took revenge on her sister, destroyed the kingship of Cleopatra and Marc Antony, and hence took over Alexandria on August 3, 31 B.C.E.

6. CONCLUSION

Classical archaeology gives us a glimpse of what happened in the past and what protocols can be taken to preserve such delicate information so that future generations can understand our niche. The Ptolemies' or the Hellenistic rulers, are great examples of how wonderful Greek and Egyptian culture is by bringing the tints of Macedonian-Greek into the vast pool of Egyptian heritage. Religion, Democracy, Politics, and Beliefs were diplomatically handled by the Ptolemaic rulers, which helped them redefine the Egyptian civilisation. The Ptolemies played their role well. On the other hand, Cleopatra, the last ruler of Egypt, somewhat failed or misunderstood the meaning of power and lost it to the Romans. Ptolemies, the later civilisation of ancient Egyptians, brought various new things into their basket; however, they failed to understand how politics and democracy are maintained. Marrying their siblings to protect the bloodline didn't mean they were safe from troubles and royal rivalry. Their immaturity about this very thing resulted in Cleopatra's defeat. Indeed, Cleopatra used strategic communication and diverse leadership to maintain her power and secure her legacy. She used her speaking skills to persuade and charm her enemies and embraced different opinions and cultures to gain support. She also used her influence to create a robust network of allies and to ensure her legacy would last after her reign. However, she failed to understand her role as pharaoh and greed for power overcame her mind, which resulted in her downfall.

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