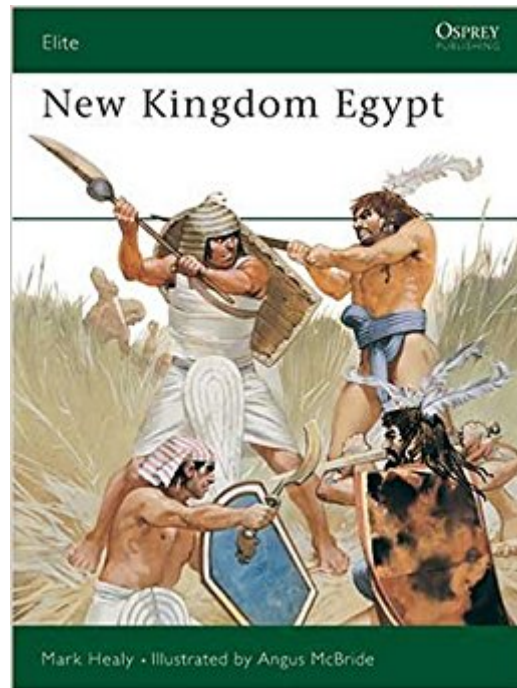




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New Kingdom Egypt (Elite)



Synopsis

Osprey's examination of the New Kingdom of Egypt (16th - 11th Century BC) and its people. Builders of the Pyramids and most ancient of all the powers of the biblical world, the Egyptians remain one of history's most fascinating and enigmatic peoples. During the New Kingdom era, Egypt reached the peak of its power, wealth, and territory. Through the intensive military campaigns of Pharaoh Thutmose III (1490-1436BC), Palestine, Syria, and the northern Euphrates area in Mesopotamia were all brought within the New Kingdom. Mark Healy outlines the history, organisation and dress of the New Kingdom Egyptians in this volume packed with accompanying illustrations and photographs, including 12 full page colour plates by the ever popular Angus McBride.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

An unrivalled illustrated reference source on fighting men and commanders, past and present. Each volume is packed with full colour artwork, making military history uniquely accessible to enthusiasts of all ages.

Mark Healy was born in 1953. He has a Master's degree in Political Theology from Bristol University. He is by profession a schoolteacher and is head of the Humanities faculty in a large school in Somerset. He has written a number of Osprey titles including Elite 40 New Kingdom Egypt and Campaign 16 Kursk 1943. He has a great interest in both the ancient and modern periods, is

married with one son and lives in Dorset.

The basic content of this book is pretty good, mostly accurate, and interesting. It has lots of editing, proofreading, and problems with the way the book was put together. References to the color artwork are in some cases wrong in the text. The book would be very good if the text and artwork were brought up-to-date, the production problems corrected, and if the artwork was spread out through the book. The large "tear-drop" shaped penis shield was not worn until the late New Kingdom, so to use it in almost all the paintings is misleading.

Another Osprey book that gives great detail with great drawings. This book covers the battles and the equipment used by this army. After reading I came to understand the organization and the equipment used by this army. Osprey gets straight to the facts about the history with easy to follow reading.

This is a very good reference book on the Army of the New Kingdom of Egypt.

I love reading all these historical books

The best (and indeed one of the only) books published solely on the armies of New Kingdom Egypt, this is an excellent visual guide in addition to providing good background information on tactics, chariot warfare, training methods, etc. Angus McBride's artworks is incredible as usual, his Hittites and Mitannians being especially powerful.

Over the past couple of decades, I've worked my way slowly through perhaps one-third of Osprey's long, long list of small, nicely illustrated volumes on military history. Even though I'm widely read in this field, I always learn something new, and (I admit it) I enjoy the full-color plates of uniforms and weapons. The quality of the writing, however, does vary somewhat, and this is one of the less successful efforts. The "New Kingdom," a modern archaeological designation, begins with the expelling of the foreign Hyksos rulers who made up the 18th Dynasty in the mid-16th century BC and ends with Ramesses XI in 1085 BC -- a period of almost five hundred years. This was the age of Egyptian imperial expansion (something the earlier pharaohs had never bothered with), the introduction of the chariot (a defensive reaction to the Semitic Hyksos themselves, who conquered Egypt behind horse-teams), and the rise and decline of first the Mitanni kingdom in Mesopotamia

and then the Hittites in Anatolia. All of this forced Egypt to emerge from its cultural shell and deal with the external world, which it had largely avoided for the previous couple of millennia. The New Kingdom produced the names modern readers are most likely to have heard before -- Queen Hatshepsut, Thutmose III, Ramesses II "the Great" -- and it was a period of surprising innovation and cultural adaptation in Egypt. It's also a rather complex era politically and Healy is only partly successful in explaining it. This may be because he lacks the academic training; according to the jacket copy, he has an M.A. in "Political Theology," whatever that may be, and he teaches humanities at the secondary level, so his background in ancient history and military science may be that of the hobbyist -- it's hard to say. But the narrative he presents is not very well organized, he omits the opening scene-setting contextual section most of these volumes start with, and he tends to gloss over points that really need more explanation, especially in discussing the key battles of Megiddo and Kadesh (or Qadesh). The plates, provided by the very talented Angus McBride, are the best part of the book this time around.

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