EMERGENCE OF THE UNIFIED EGYPTIAN STATE
UPPER EGYPT

LOWER EGYPT
PROCESS OF UNIFICATION

1. THE SPREAD OF A UNIQUE MATERIAL CULTURE (ORIGINATING IN UPPER EGYPT) THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE NILE VALLEY

2. THE FORMATION OF A UNIFIED POLITICAL CONTROL
LOWER EGYPTIAN (ARCHAEOLOGICAL) EVIDENCE
MINSHAT ABU OMAR: NAQADA III CEMETERY WITH UPPER EGYPTIAN FUNERARY GOODS

MINSHAT ABU OMAR: NAMES OF SCORPION AND NARMER APPEAR ON CERAMIC VESSELS

TELL IBRAHIM AWAD: THE NAMES OF KA AND NARMER ON CERAMIC TRADE VESSELS
BUTO ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- Earliest Predynastic occupation associated with typically Lower Egyptian ceramics

- Transitional period characterized by Lower Egyptian ceramics made in Upper Egyptian style

- Late Predynastic dominated by Upper Egyptian material culture (ceramics especially)
EVIDENCE FOR POLITICAL CONTROL
1. NARMER PALETTE
2. SCORPION MACEHEAD
3. TOWNS PALETTE
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2. SCORPION MACEHEAD
3. TOWNS PALETTE
NARMER PALETTE

Discovered by J.E. Quibell and F.W. Green during their excavations at Hierakonpolis during 1897 and 1899 among a cache of religious objects in the temple precinct of Nekhen
Narmer, with the white crown of Upper Egypt, stands with an upraised mace preparing to smite a kneeling captive.

*Serekh* with the name Narmer

Horus (the patron deity of HK and Upper Egypt)

*Wash* (name of the kneeling man)
Narmer, wearing the Red Crown of Lower Egypt, inspects two rows of bound and decapitated captives.

Four standard bearers precede the party. The standards later came to be called the “followers of Horus,” or “the Gods who Follow Horus.”

A bull is shown attacking a walled and fortified town - some scholars believe it is Buto.
1. NARMER PALETTE
2. SCORPION MACEHEAD
3. TOWNS PALETTE
In dynastic times, RekhYT birds are symbolically associated with a specific population in Lower Egypt.

Standards from different districts in Upper Egypt have dead (RekhYT) birds hanging from them.
1. NARMER PALETTE
2. SCORPION MACEHEAD
3. TOWNS PALETTE

(The Libyan Palette, the Libyan Booty Palette, the Siege Palette, the Tjehenu Palette, the Trees and Towns Palette)
(CA. 3100 BC)
NAG EL-HAMDULAB
SCORPION MACEHEAD
NARMER PALETTE
All the same context - premeditated "grand scheme" as opposed to series of unrelated events

Dominant themes - boats and military dominance/power

Clear depiction of a ruler (wearing white crown of Upper Egypt)
FOLLOWING OF HORUS

Royal and ritual event; biennial judicial & tax-collecting tour/trip of the royal court as demonstration of royal authority
UNIFICATION?
POLITICAL EXPANSION/INTERACTION AND POLITICAL CENTRALIZATION THAT HAPPENED OVER A PERIOD OF TIME

UNIFICATION DIDN’T HAPPEN IN ONE GRAND EVENT - OVER THE LIVES OF SEVERAL RULERS

IMPOSSIBLE TO PINPOINT A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL UNIFICATION
THE END