



EMERGENCE

OF THE

UNIFIED

EGYPTIAN STATE

A satellite-style map of Egypt, showing the Nile River valley in green and brown, surrounded by vast yellow and orange desert regions. The Mediterranean Sea is visible at the top, and the Red Sea is partially visible at the bottom right. The Nile River flows from the south towards the north, where it branches out into a large delta. Two white rectangular boxes with black text are overlaid on the map: one in the upper left and one in the lower left.

LOWER EGYPT

UPPER EGYPT

A satellite-style map of Egypt showing the Nile River valley. The river flows from the south towards the north, where it branches into the Mediterranean Sea. The surrounding desert is shown in shades of tan and brown. Two locations are marked with red dots and labeled in white text on black rectangular backgrounds. The first label, 'BUTO', is located on the western bank of the Nile, north of the delta. The second label, 'HIERAKONPOLIS/NEKHEN', is located on the eastern bank of the Nile, south of the delta.

BUTO

HIERAKONPOLIS/NEKHEN

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**

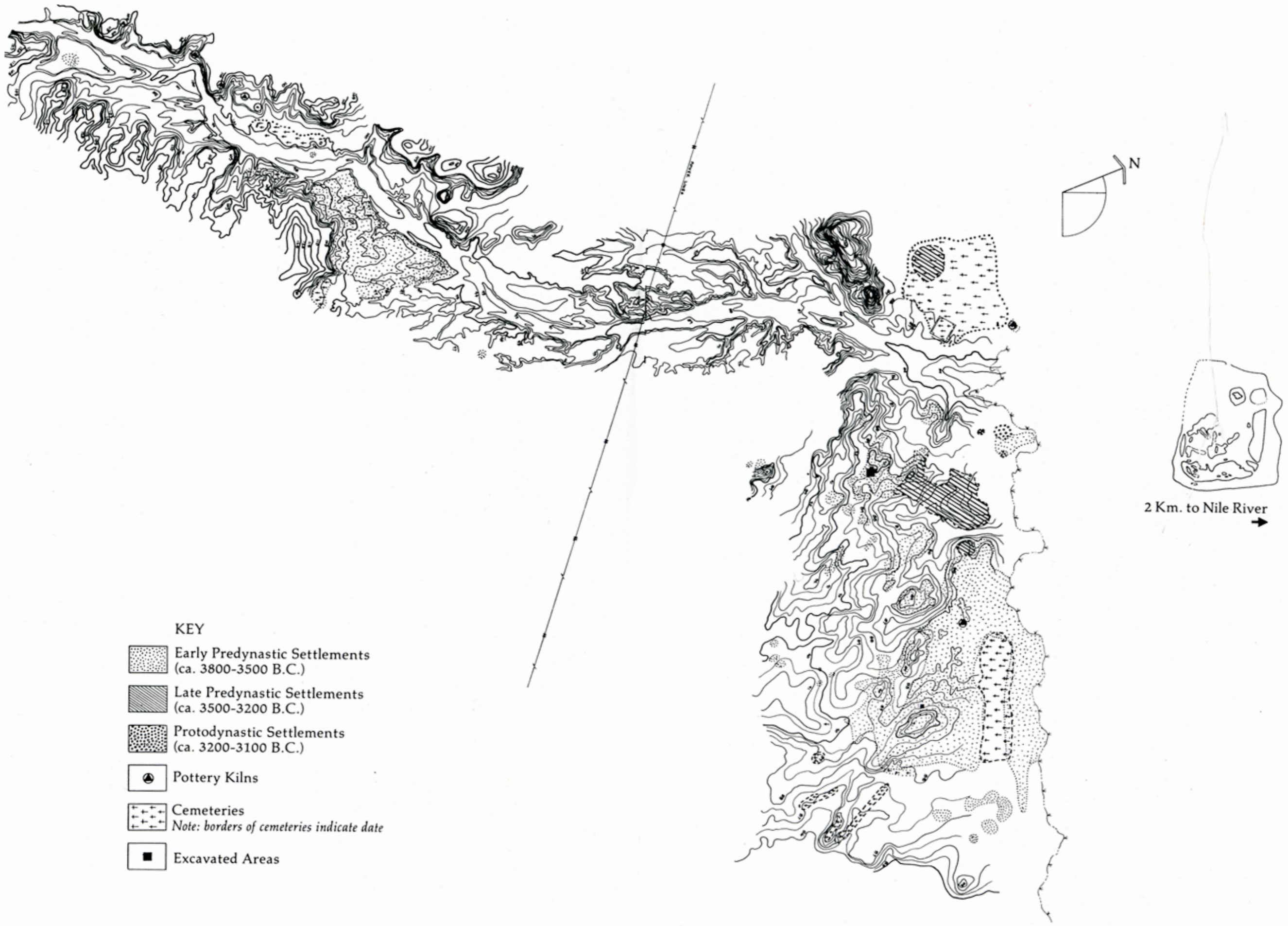
① NARMER PALETTE

② SCORPION MACEHEAD







③ TOWNS PALETTE

NARMER PALETTE

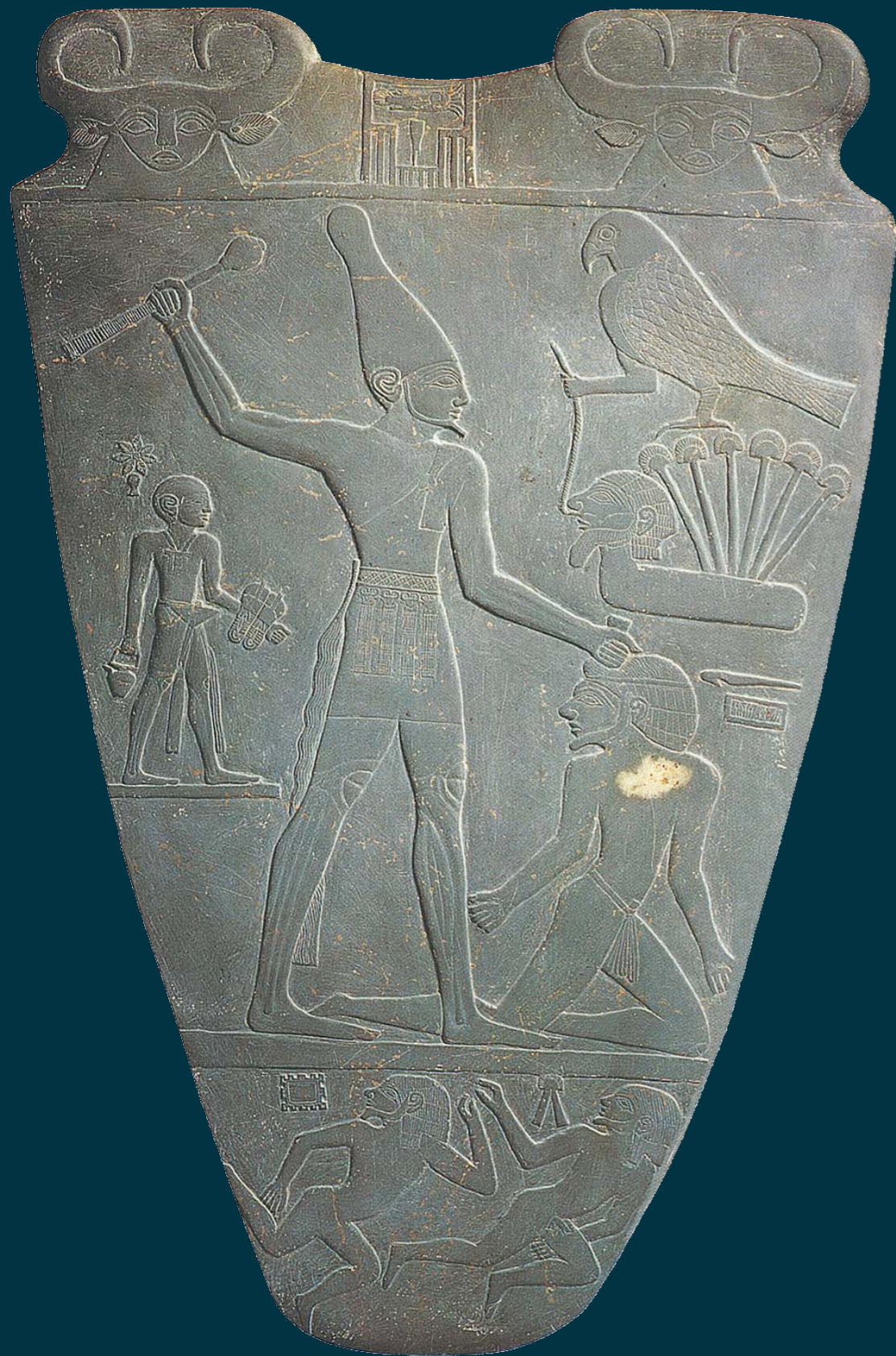
Discovered by J.E. Quibell and F.W. Green during their excavations at Hierakonpolis during 1897 and 1899 among a cache of religious objects in the temple precinct of Nekhen



KEY

- 
Early Predynastic Settlements
(ca. 3800-3500 B.C.)
- 
Late Predynastic Settlements
(ca. 3500-3200 B.C.)
- 
Protodynastic Settlements
(ca. 3200-3100 B.C.)
- 
Pottery Kilns
- 
Cemeteries
Note: borders of cemeteries indicate date
- 
Excavated Areas

2 Km. to Nile River →





Serekh with the name Narmer

Horus (the patron deity of HK and Upper Egypt)



Wash (name of the kneeling man)

Narmer, with the white crown of Upper Egypt, stands with an upraised mace preparing to smite a kneeling captive.



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

Narmer, wearing the Red Crown of Lower Egypt, inspects two rows of bound and decapitated captives.

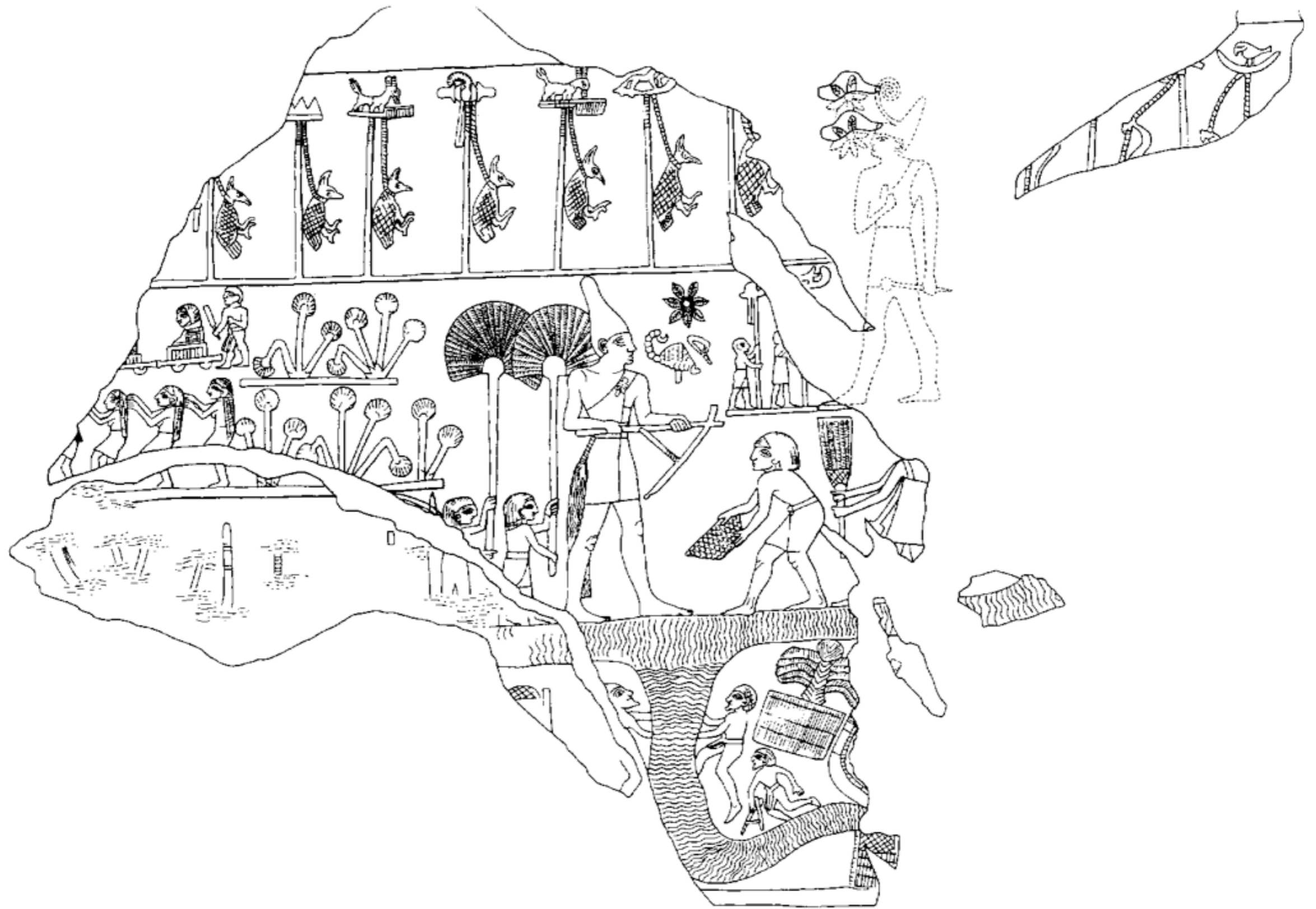
A bull is shown attacking a walled and fortified town - some scholars believe it is Buto

① NARMER PALETTE

② SCORPION MACEHEAD

③ TOWNS PALETTE







- ★ **STANDARDS FROM DIFFERENT DISTRICTS IN UPPER EGYPT HAVE DEAD (REKHYT) BIRDS HANGING FROM THEM**
- ★ **IN DYNASTIC TIMES, REKHYT BIRDS ARE SYMBOLICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A SPECIFIC POPULATION IN LOWER EGYPT**

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)





NAG EL-HAMDULAB PETROGLYPHS



(CA. 3100 BC)

NAG EL-HAMDULAB

NARMER PALETTE



SCORPION MACEHEAD

- ★ **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