**War in Egypt**

Because it is surrounded by [deserts](http://quatr.us/egypt/environment/), Egypt is pretty hard to invade. So a lot of the time Egypt was at peace, but not all the time. The Egyptians fought between themselves over [who would be in charge](http://quatr.us/egypt/history/oldkingdom.htm) of their country, and over whether the country would be united as one big country or many smaller kingdoms.

The Egyptians also sometimes fought off invasions from the [Libyans](http://quatr.us/africa/history/carthage.htm) to their west, or from the [Nubians](http://quatr.us/africa/history/meroe.htm) to their south (and sometimes they lost to these invaders too). Around 1700[BC](http://quatr.us/bc.htm), there was a big invasion of [Hyksos](http://quatr.us/egypt/history/secondinter.htm) from the north.

Also, the Egyptians sometimes invaded their neighbours. In the New Kingdom period, they sometimes invaded the [Levant](http://quatr.us/religion/jews/joseph.htm) (modern Israel) to their north and [Nubia](http://quatr.us/africa/history/meroe.htm) (modern Ethiopia and Sudan) to their south.

The Egyptian army had [bronze](http://quatr.us/arts/bronze.htm)-tipped spears and shields made of wood and [ox-hide](http://quatr.us/clothing/leather.htm). They do not seem to have worn armour. Before the New Kingdom periods Egyptians would normally fight on foot. However, during and after the New Kingdom period the Egyptian would use chariots drawn by [horses](http://quatr.us/environment/horses.htm) as well as foot soldiers. An archer would ride in the Chariot and shoot arrows at the enemy.

Beginning as early as the [Middle Kingdom](http://quatr.us/egypt/history/middlekingdom.htm), Egyptian pharaohs hired [Nubian mercenaries](http://quatr.us/africa/war/) to fight in their wars. It is likely (though not proven) that the [New Kingdom Egyptians](http://quatr.us/egypt/history/newkingdom.htm) hired [Greek](http://quatr.us/greeks/history/latebronze.htm) [mercenary](http://quatr.us/war/mercenaries.htm) soldiers to fight in their wars with them from about 1500 BC. Certainly many [Greek soldiers](http://quatr.us/greeks/war/hoplites.htm) fought for Egypt while Egypt was revolting against [Persian rule](http://quatr.us/egypt/history/persians.htm) in the 500s and 400s BC.

