

CHAPTER

4

Section 1

HISTORYMAKERS

Hatshepsut

Ambitious Queen Seeking Eternity

"My command stands firm like the mountains, and the sun's disk shines and spreads rays over . . . my august person, and my falcon rises high above the kingly banner unto all eternity."—inscription ordered by Hatshepsut

Hatshepsut was a remarkable woman. Born to the Egyptian royal family, she was not content to play the secondary role of queen. When given the opportunity, she seized control and ruled Egypt for two decades.

There are three other players in the story of the queen, and they all have the same name. Thutmose I, pharaoh from around 1525 B.C., was her father. He was also father to Thutmose II. Hatshepsut and Thutmose II, who had different mothers, were married to one another. This was the custom in Egypt's royal family. Thutmose II, then, was both Hatshepsut's half-brother and her husband. Thutmose II's son, Thutmose III, was born to another woman. He was Hatshepsut's nephew and stepson.

When Thutmose I died, the crown passed to his oldest surviving son, Thutmose II. Hatshepsut, as his wife, ruled as queen. They ruled together for eight years. During that time Thutmose III was born.

Suddenly, Thutmose II—though only in his early thirties—died. Thutmose III, his successor, was only a few years old. Hatshepsut ruled with him as coregent. In the earliest artwork from his reign, Thutmose III is shown as the chief ruler. Hatshepsut is placed behind him, which indicates junior status.

This arrangement did not last. In the second year of their joint rule, Hatshepsut made her move and seized power. In 1503 B.C., she had herself declared king. She began to wear the double crown that showed she ruled upper and lower Egypt. In later years she was even shown in artwork wearing male clothing. To support her claim to the throne, Hatshepsut resorted to propaganda. She had a temple built and decorated with images showing that she was born of the gods—as a proper pharaoh should be. She also spread a false story that Thutmose I had arranged to have her crowned king.

The real support for her power grab, though, was a strong group of court officials, including the chief steward, the high priest, the chancellor, and the treasurer. She did not have Thutmose III killed, but for almost 20 years she ran the country.

During this time, there was little military activity. The woman king did work to expand Egyptian trade, however. She sent workers to Sinai to mine turquoise. She also launched a large expedition to Punt, an African land that was located on the southern edge of the Red Sea and the home of such desirable goods as myrrh and frankincense. Egyptian priests wanted these substances—both of which were incense—to burn during sacred ceremonies. Hatshepsut also sent agents with weapons and jewelry to trade. They brought back not only the incense, but also several trees and roots to plant in Egypt to produce this valuable substance.

Pictures showing this voyage appear on the walls of a great temple that Hatshepsut had built. Another set of scenes depicts a different venture. Early in her rule, Hatshepsut ordered red granite taken from a quarry on the Nile River. The stone was shaped into two huge obelisks 185 feet high. They were placed on a barge 300 feet long and 100 feet wide. Twenty-seven ships powered by 864 men pulling oars towed the stones down river to the temple at Karnak. Before being set in place, they were completely covered with gold—and inscribed with Hatshepsut's name.

After more than 20 years, though, Thutmose III was ready to rule on his own. In 1482 B.C., he took control from his aunt. No one knows what happened to Hatshepsut. Soon after beginning his rule, though, Thutmose III tried to remove her memory from Egypt. Almost all mention of her, on stone or on papyrus, was erased. Nevertheless, one of her two great obelisks now stands in Cairo. It calls her by the title she so dearly wanted—pharaoh.

Questions

1. **Making Inferences** Why would the support of court officials help Hatshepsut seize power?
2. **Summarizing** For what achievements is Hatshepsut remembered?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Why would Thutmose III try to remove Hatshepsut's name from all records?

CHAPTER 4

HISTORYMAKERS

Sennacherib *Destroyer and Builder of Cities*

Section 2

*"The flame that consumes those who will not submit."
and "He who cares for Assyria."—Assyrian inscriptions describing Sennacherib*

Sennacherib's Assyrian army often sent waves of fear through cities and peoples who found themselves in its path. Sennacherib was widely known for brutal treatment of those who would not submit to his will. On the other hand, to Assyrians themselves, Sennacherib was a great leader who expanded Assyrian power and rebuilt the great city of Nineveh.

Sennacherib was the son of Sargon II, who had helped build the Assyrian Empire in Southwest Asia. Under Sargon the Assyrians had captured the ancient city of Babylon. In addition, he had formed an efficient and effective government. Sennacherib, the crown prince, had been part of that government. When his father died in 705 B.C., he took the throne. The new king devoted the first years of his reign to a great building project.

Nineveh, an ancient city, had fallen into disrepair. Sennacherib was determined to make it his capital—and a more glorious city than it had ever been. He made the city's walls stronger and built new streets. He built a huge palace on eight acres of ground. It included parks and orchards with plants and animals from around the world. The palace was decorated with silver and copper. Copper was also used to make huge statues of 12 bulls and 12 lions. Most important, Sennacherib brought precious water to the city. He built canals to carry water from hills more than 50 miles away. Outside the city walls, he set aside farmland for the city residents. There he introduced an unusual new crop: cotton.

While the king created the capital that was his work of art, trouble brewed in the east. The former king of Babylon—allowed by Sargon to live—decided to reclaim his throne. He attacked in 703 but was quickly defeated by Sennacherib. In response to the threat, the Assyrian king decided to bring the whole area under control. He captured 88 walled towns and several major cities.

Sennacherib also moved to the west. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, had joined in the Babylonian revolt. So, too, had the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon. Representatives of the pharaoh of Egypt had also discussed taking part. Sennacherib decided

to attack. In 701 B.C., he captured the Phoenician cities. Then he moved to Judah, where he forced Hezekiah to pay a large penalty. Next came Egypt. As Sennacherib prepared for an invasion, though, he was forced to call a halt. Some disaster—perhaps a plague—struck his army and he had to withdraw.

More military movements were needed in the east. Again, the former king of Babylon began a revolt. Sennacherib used a remarkable feat of engineering to move his troops into position. He sailed ships down the Tigris River to a southern city. Then he had them hauled overland to the Euphrates River. From there they sailed into the Persian Gulf. Sennacherib then easily defeated the allies of the old king of Babylon.

Trouble continued there for many years, however. Sennacherib had tried to maintain Babylon as a separate kingdom, but these attempts failed. The Chaldeans, who lived in Babylon, grew more and more unwilling to recognize Assyrian power. Finally, they captured and killed the king's son and murdered other supporters of Assyria. Sennacherib led an army back to Babylon in 689 B.C. He quickly destroyed the city, killed his opponents, and flooded the ancient capital.

With his conquests complete, Sennacherib settled down in his capital to rule his empire. He named one of his younger sons, Esarhaddon, as his heir—an act that raised resentment among his other sons. Their resentment combined with a Babylonian conspiracy brought about Sennacherib's death. In January of 681 B.C., two sons murdered the aged Sennacherib, perhaps while he was at prayer in a temple.

Questions

- Forming and Supporting Opinions** Which inscription at the top of the page do you think is a better description of Sennacherib? Give reasons for your answer.
- Drawing Conclusions** Do you think that Sennacherib was resourceful? Why or why not?
- Making Inferences** What led Sennacherib to attack other kingdoms?

CHAPTER 4

Section 2

1. Military advantage

2. Location of empire

3. Cultural values

4. Time span of rule

5. Cause of fall

6. Greatest legacy