Roman vs Egyptian Civilization

By Ronald Armistead-Tyler
Introduction to Roman and Egyptian Civilizations

Egyptian:
Ancient Egyptians set the steppingstones of innovation and mysticism. It was a civilization that constructed colossal pyramids, developed intricate hieroglyphs, gave birth to powerful pharaohs, and created an afterlife unique in life and death.

Roman:
The Romans secured their place as an empire with their political structures, military might, engineering prowess, and the notable impact it had on the development of law, architecture, and language.
Geography and Environment

The Nile provided a constant source of freshwater, fertile soil, and transportation. The annual flooding of the Nile deposited nutrient-rich silt along its banks, creating arable land for agriculture.

Egypt is primarily a desert country, bordered by the Sahara Desert to the west and the Arabian Desert to the east. These vast deserts provided natural barriers that protected the civilization from invasion, fostering a sense of security and isolation.
Government and Political Systems

The Pharaoh was the central figure in the Egyptian political system and was also considered a god on Earth.

The priesthood played a significant role in Egyptian society and politics. Temples, which were centers of worship and economic activity, were often controlled by high-ranking priests.

Inheritance of the throne was typically patrilineal, passing from father to son. Sometimes, the successor was a co-regent, allowing for a smoother transition of power.
Social Structure and Classes

Pharaoh: At the top of the social hierarchy was the Pharaoh

Nobility/Elite: Below the Pharaoh were the nobility/elite class.

Priests: Priests were a respected and influential in ancient Egypt.

Scribes: Scribes were held responsible for record-keeping.

Artisans/Craftsmen: They were responsible for producing goods and architectural marvels.

Farmers: They took up most of the population and supplied food.

Slaves: Minoritized people who did most of the labor.
Religion and Mythology

Ancient Egyptian religion was polytheistic, with each deity having a specific domain and characteristics. Their creation myth centered on the god Atum, who created the world by sneezing. Ancient Egyptians engaged in daily rituals, such as offering food and incense to household gods. Ancient Egyptians believed in the afterlife and spent a majority of their life preparing for it.
Art and Architecture

The most iconic examples of Egyptian architecture are the pyramids. The Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens contain many rock-cut tombs.

Obelisks were tall, slender, tapering monuments often erected in pairs at temple entrances.

Hieroglyphics were often used to decorate architectural elements, inscriptions, and tombs.
Economy and Trade

Agriculture was the backbone of the Egyptian economy. Egypt had trade routes extended south into Nubia (modern Sudan), east to the Red Sea, and west to the Mediterranean. Egyptians used a barter system for local trade, but for long-distance trade, a system of weighted metal rings called "Deben" was used as a form of currency.

The Egyptian government placed taxes and tariffs on goods, especially for ships passing through the Nile and Red Sea.
Egyptians enjoyed activities such as music, dance, and sports. The Egyptian diet consisted of bread, beer, vegetables, and fruits like dates and figs. Fish and meat were consumed on special occasions. Religion played a significant role in daily life. Houses in ancient Egypt were made of mudbrick. Clothing in ancient Egypt was generally made from linen.
Legacy and Influence

The Egyptians made notable contributions to mathematics and engineering, mostly in geometry and measurement systems.

Egyptian instruments like the sundial contributed to the beginning of astronomy and timekeeping.

The practice of mummification, which was for preserving the body for the afterlife, contributed to the knowledge of human anatomy.
Key Similarities and Differences

- Geographical Location
  - Egypt had to rely on the Nile.

- Political Structure
  - Egypt was centralized than imperialistic.

- Religion
  - Both were Polytheistic.

- Language and Writing
  - Egyptians used hieroglyphics.

- Art and Architecture
  - Pyramids/Colosseum

- Economy and Trade
  - Egypt used crops compared to coins.

- Social Structure
  - Pharaoh/nobility/priests/scribes/commons
  - Emperor/senators/equestrians/plebeians
After my research into the two civilizations, I do believe that the Romans had a much better civilization. I came to this conclusion because of the life-style of the Romans and how technologically advanced they were when compared to the Egyptians.
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