



## Lost Civilizations: Egypt : The Mameluks



HD

**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

A documentary of 52'

*French Version*  
*English Version*

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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The Mamluk dynasty was the empire of the slaves. Political stability and internal peace provided Egypt with a period of prosperity and rapid development.

The Mamluk period lasted from 1250 to 1516. Originally members of the Ayubbid Sultan's private guard, the Mamluks revolted at the time the of the seventh crusade.

Their reputation as courageous warriors proved to be well-earned: they ruled all of Egypt, defeated the Mongols, and conquered the last Franc territories in Lebanon and Syria.

The Mamluk militia, formed in the XIIIth century mostly of white freed slaves (principally Turks and Circassians), rapidly developed into an elite military force.

It was the Ottomans who finally defeated the Mamluks in August 1516. Until the 19th century the Mamluks were employed successively by the Ottomans and then the French.

The Mamluk presence in Cairo lasted for two centuries, during which time they had an enormous influence on the city.

In particular thanks to the ambitious building programme of Sultan Nasir Mohammed. Many monuments remain standing to this day such as the Citadel, the an-Nasir Mohammed mosque, the striped palace, and the great Iwan.

The city is organised into areas known as Khitar. Saladin intended to build a great wall to encompass al-Qata'i, al-'Askar, al-Qahira and Fustat, uniting the city into one block, but he never completed the task.

Architecture was an important element in Mamluk culture, and their legacy is enjoyed by visitors to the city to this day.