Forty years after the British conquered Egypt in 1882, they declared it independent, but with so many qualifications that their last occupying troops did not leave until 1956. Meanwhile, French Egyptologists dominated the Egyptian Antiquities Service for 94 years, from 1858 to 1952. How did this double colonial occupation, and the opposing national struggle for independence, affect the practice of archaeology in Egypt? What sort of arguments did modern Egyptians have among themselves about identifying with their pharaonic heritage? Nasser finally won full independence from the old colonialism, and the UNESCO-coordinated Nubian salvage campaign of the 1960s offered a promising example of international cooperation. But to what extent did old inequities in knowledge and power still shape the practice of Egyptian archaeology in the emerging postcolonial age?

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