What is *Conservatism*? How Does it Relate to Ancient Egypt?

In modern times, the term *conservatism* carries a great deal of social and emotional baggage. It is a term with a definition that has changed over the centuries. However, conservatism has consistently maintained a desire for slow-moving change, along with maintenance of established political, economic, and social structures.



Ancient Egypt may be considered an example of “classical conservatism”. This is in part due to their geography. Ancient Egypt was isolated and protected by deserts on each side. Inspired, perhaps, by the constant rhythm of the Nile, rising and setting eternally, the Egyptians developed a culture in which stability, not change, was the primary goal.

Certainly, changes did occur over time – in the mummification process, and in the burial practices of the Pharaohs. Trade grew and expanded, bring new ideas and goods into Egyptian society. Change was slow and cautious, however, as the Egyptians were careful not disrupt the rhythm of life along the banks of the Nile.

