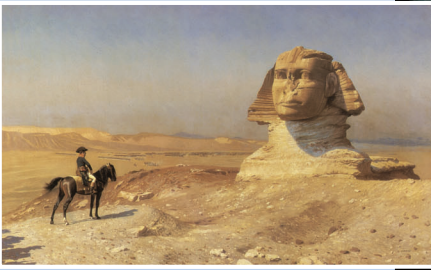


Suez – the canal that shrank the world



■ **1874-55 BC:** First canal between Nile River delta and Red Sea dug during reign of Pharaoh **Senusret III**

Canal re-excavated by various rulers over next 2,500 years including Romans and into early Islamic era



■ **1798:** **Napoleon** discovers remnants of ancient canal but abandons rebuilding project after preliminary survey wrongly concludes Red Sea is 10 metres higher than Mediterranean, making locks-based canal too costly to construct



■ **1858:** French diplomat and engineer **Ferdinand de Lesseps**, licensed by Egyptian viceroy **Said Pasha** to construct canal, founds **Compagnie Universelle du Canal Maritime de Suez** with authority to build and operate canal for 99 years, after which ownership is to return to Egyptian government

■ **Nov 17, 1869:** Suez Canal opens to shipping after 10-year excavation by over 1.5m labourers

■ **1875:** External debts force Said Pasha's successor, **Ismail Pasha**, to sell Egypt's 44% share in canal to Britain for £4 million

■ **1882:** British seize control of canal during **Anglo-Egyptian War**

■ **1888:** **Convention of Constantinople** – still in force – guarantees neutrality of canal, open to all shipping in peace and war

■ **1936:** **Anglo-Egyptian Treaty** allows Britain to maintain defensive force in Suez Canal Zone



■ **1954:** Britain agrees to remove troops after Egypt repudiates treaty. Withdrawal completed Jun 1956

■ **1956, Jul:** Egyptian President **Gamal Abdel Nasser** nationalises Suez Canal

■ **Oct:** **Suez Crisis** – Britain, France and Israel invade Egypt to regain control of canal. Nasser responds by sinking all 40 ships present in waterway

■ **Nov:** UN-brokered truce takes hold. Canal remains closed until 1957

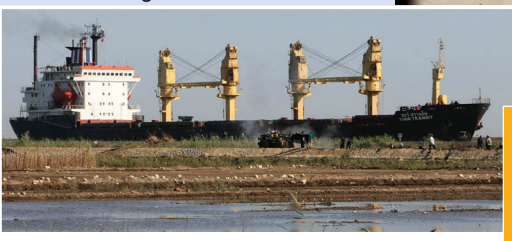
■ **1967:** **Six-Day War** – Israel attacks Egypt and captures Sinai Peninsula. Egypt blockades Suez Canal again

■ **1973:** **Yom Kippur War** – Egypt and Syria go to war with Israel to reclaim land lost in 1967. After war Egypt begins negotiations for return of Sinai

■ **1975:** Canal reopened after being cleared of mines

■ **2008:** New rules of navigation allow passage of ships of up to 19m draft

■ **2010:** Plans to increase draft to 22m, allowing transit of fully-laden supertankers



MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Port Said

Port Said bypass

SUEZ CANAL

El Qantara

Ballah bypass

Ismailia

Lake Timsah bypass

Deversoir bypass

Great Bitter Lake

Suez

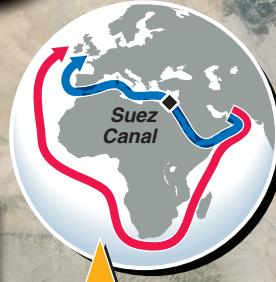
Port Tawfik

Gulf of Suez



SUEZ CANAL
Length: 190km
Transit: 21,400 ships (2008)
Navigation: Single lane, with four bypasses to allow transit in both directions
Revenue: Around \$5bn a year – Egypt's third-largest source of income

10km
6 miles



Suez Canal reduces distance between Persian Gulf and northern Europe by 8,700km, compared with route around Africa

Sources: Suez Canal Authority, British Museum

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