

The seventh king of Dynasty XVII, Senakhtenre is a shadowy figure whose parentage is unknown, as is his connection, if any, with his predecessor, Sobekemsaf II. In fact, no contemporary attestations for this pharaoh have been found. We know that he existed because of his inclusion on the Karnak king list, where his prenomen appears next to that of his successor, Sequentre. He is also listed on an offering table from Thebes which dates to Dynasty XIX and his cartouche appears in a tomb dated to the reign of Ramesses II, although the name is given incorrectly as Sekhentenre.

During the reign of Ramesses IX, rumors of robbery prompted an inspection of some of the royal pyramid-tombs at Dra Abu el-Naga. Two of the inspected tombs were listed as having belonged to two rulers, each having the name Seqenenre Taa. The odds of two successive pharaohs bearing the exact same nomen and prenomen are astronomical; most likely, a scribal error occurred either during the actual tomb inspection, or when the field notes were later transcribed and the prenomen Senakhtenre was recorded as Seqenenre. However, Ryholt posits that Seqenenre may have had two pyramid-tombs for some unknown reason and therefore there is only one Tao. He suggests that Senakhtenre's nomen was Siamen and gives a stamp-seal inscribed with that name in a cartouche as possible evidence:



The stamp was found in a tomb at Dra Abu el-Naga along with a seal "virtually identical in workmanship" which gives the name Segenenre. Another possibility is that the seal belonged to a son of the pharaoh Ahmose, also named Siamen, whose name enclosed in a cartouche appears in a scene from the tomb of Anhur-khau (TT359, reign of Ramesses IV) at Thebes. Seqenenre was most probably Siamen's grandfather; finding their names together seems at least as likely as Ryholt's theory.

The nomen Taa-a is sometimes translated "the Brave," however, it has been suggested that "the Elder" might be more accurate.

References:

Dodson and Hilton 2004 pp. 118-119, 122-123, 126-127 Ikram and Dodson 1998 p. 207 illustration 263, Newberry 1906 p. 89, fig.s 95 and 96 Peet 1930 p. 38 Petrie 1889 #754

D. Redford 1986 pp. 43, 48 #12, 50 #23 Ryholt 1997a pp. 171 table 28, 272, 278-280, 396-396, File 17/7, 410, table 98 von Beckerath 1999 pp. 128 #13, 129 #13

Dynasty XIII Senebmiu Horus Name: Nomen: 🖧 Unknown snb-mi-iw

Senebmiu

Seqenenre

Consorts:	Unknown	Senusert
Manetho:	Not given	Senusret Usertsen
King Lists:	K: (42 or 60)	
Variant Names:	Ra-Senefer-Ab	

Perhaps the fifteenth and last ruler of Dynasty XVI, Senwosret IV's parentage is unknown, as is his relationship to his predecessor, Montuhotep VI. He was without a doubt of Theban origin. Contemporary attestations for this king have been found no farther north than Karnak, which may mean that the dynasty's control of its northern boundary had been lost, or it may simply be that nothing to date has been found.

Attestations for Senwosret found at Karnak are 1) the greater part of a colossal red granite statue, inscribed with the king's full fivefold titulary and a dedication to Amen-Re, and 2) a much damaged stele dated to the king's first regnal year. South of Thebes, we have an inscribed block (whose present location is unknown) and a lintel from Edfu which bears only the nomen Senwosret and may or may not belong to Senwosret IV. Lastly, a dagger of unknown provenance, inscribed with the nomen Senwosret, may date to this king's reign.

References:

Bourriau 1988 pp. 54 illustration 53, 67-68 W. Davies 1981b p. 28 #38 Dodson and Hilton 2004 p. 116 Helck 1983 pp. 40 #55, 41 #56 Ryholt 1997a pp. 158, table 25, 306, 391, 410 table 97

SequenceDynasty XVIIHorus Name:Nomen:i = 1i = 1</td

Two Ladies: Unknown

Golden Falcon: Unknown

Length of Reign: Tomb:		5 years Dra Abu el-Naga		
Consorts:	Ahho Inhaj Sitdje	oy Î	Sekenenre Sequenenre Taa	
Manetho:	Not g	given	Ta'o	
King Lists:	K: (25)			
Variant Names:	Saqn	ounri		

The eighth ruler of Dynasty XVII, Seqenenre is almost certainly the son of his predecessor, Senakhtenre Taa and that king's queen, Tetisheri. Contemporary attestations for Seqenenre's reign are few and most are of unknown provenance. All securely attested tinds come from the Theban area, with the exception of an inscribed lintel, found at Deir el-Ballas, some 50 km. to the north of Thebes, that carries the only known example of Seqenenre's cartouche preceded by the title "King of Upper and Lower Egypt."

From the Royal Čache at Deir el-Bahri we have the king's sarcophagus and mummy. From Dra Abu el-Naga comes a throwing stick inscribed with the king's nomen and the name of an otherwise unknown "King's Son," Tjuiu (which is perhaps only an honorific title). Also from Dra Abu el-Naga comes a stamp-seal bearing the king's prenomen. A *Book of the Dead*, found in Tomb 47 in the Valley of the Queens, states it belonged to the "King's Daughter and King's Sister, Ahmose, begotten by the Good God, Seqenenre," who is most likely the future Queen Ahmose-Nefertari, wife of Ahmose, first king of Dynasty XVIII. A fragment of jar purchased at Qurneh is inscribed with the king's Horus name and nomen. There is also an inscribed jarlid, an axe-blade, a pendant and a pair of silver sphinxes.

Seqenenre's name has been found in several tombs at Thebes, none of them contemporary with that pharaoh. These tombs date from the early part of Dynasty XVIII (the reign of Ahmose or Amenhotep I) to the reign of Ramesses IX of late Dynasty XX, a span of some five hundred years. Obviously, later generations considered Seqenenre Taa a very important king. Seqenenre's pyramid-tomb at Dra Abu el-Naga was inspected during the reign of Ramesses IX and found to be undisturbed.

The Theban rump-state seems to have held an uneasy truce with the contemporary Hyksos Dynasty XV. Some small amount of trade may have been conducted, but it is very likely that tribute in

Seqenenre

the form of taxes was flowing down the Nile to the east Delta city of Avaris, the Dynasty XV capital. Apepi, the Hyksos king at this time, considered himself, and almost certainly was, supreme overlord of Egypt in its entirety. The "kings" at Thebes were vassals who were undoubtedly resentful of their status. Such conditions couldn't be maintained and eventually, probably during Sequence's reign, open hostilities erupted.

While we will probably never know what single event finally brought about the outbreak of war, a tale written down in Ramesside times (Papyrus Sallier I) gives us an idea of the tension that was building up between Apepi and Seqenenre. The story is simply that Apepi wanted to pick a fight with the ruler of Thebes and, after much deliberation, decided to insult Seqenenre by demanding that the hippopotamus pool at Thebes be done away with because the noise from the beasts was keeping the Hyksos ruler awake! Certainly a rather silly thing to start a war over, especially because Segenenre agreed to move the hippopotami. Unfortunately, at this point in the story the papyrus breaks off, so we do not know what the story says happened next. Goedicke posits that what has long been translated as "hippopotamus pool" should actually refer to re-claimed land occupied by mercenaries, i.e., "troops loyal to Seqenenre in the area east of Thebes." If this were the case, certainly Seqenenre would be concerned; Apepi was ordering him to divest Thebes of her allies. Goedicke believes that Sequenere's agreement to do as Apepi has ordered is a clever ruse: he would move his paid warriors, not to their own homeland, but instead toward the Hyksos king and his capital.

Seqenenre's mummy is that of a man of between 35 and 40 years of age at time of death. He is estimated to have been 1.702 m. tall. The pathetic remains present proof of violence. The skull was fractured by axe blows that left gaping holes; the nose was smashed; there was a spear wound to the left cheek and another on the right side of the head. Even more disturbing, the hands are grotesquely twisted, the lips are pulled back and the teeth are clenched in a horrible grimace of agony.

References:

Bietak and Strouhal 1974 pp. 29-52, 78 Dodson and Hilton 2004 pp. 114, 122, 123, 126-127, 128-129 Forbes 1998a pp. 598-599 Gauthier 1907-17 vol. II pp. 157 #VI Goedicke 1986 Hein 1994 p. 240 #302 Ikram and Dodson 1998 pp. 10, 117-118, 315, 318, 321 Kaplony 1973 pp. 15 #42, pl. 11 #42, 26-27 #63, pl. 14 #63 Lilyquist 1995 p. 23 #6, 84 fig. 17 Newberry 1906 p. 89 fig. 95 Partridge 1994 pp. 31-34 Partridge 2002 pp. 188-189 Peet 1930 p. 38 Petrie 1889 #759 Petrie 1924 vol. II p. 6 fig.s 1 and 2, 7-10 #XVII. 7 D. Redford 1986 pp. 43, 48 #12, 50-51 #23, 51 #24, 60 D. Redford 1997 pp. 17-18 Ryholt 1997a pp. 171 table 28, 176 note 628, 177, 257, 276-278, 304, 397-398 File 17/8, 410, table 98

> Horus Na Unknow

G. Smith 1912 pp. 1-6, pl. I-III Strudwick 1999 pp. 127 von Beckerath 1999 pp. 128-131 #14 Zuhdi 2000/2001

Se...re Khety

Dynasty IX/X(?)

me: /n	Nomen:	20	*////	99	

 $s...-[r^{c}] h[t]y$ Se...re Khety

Prenomen: Unknown

Two Ladies: Unknown

Golden Falcon: Unknown

Length of Reign:		Unknown			
Tomb:		Unknown			
Mummy:		Unknown			
Consorts:	Unkr	iown	Variant		
Manetho:	Not given		Names:	Sere Akhtoy	
King Lists:	sts: Not given				

Se...re Khety is known only from a single, much-damaged graffito at the travertine quarries of Hatnub, in Middle Egypt. It is generally assumed that he was one of the Herakleopolitan pharaohs who controlled an unknown amount of territory around Herakleopolis in Middle Egypt (see "Herakleopolitans" in Glossary), although this is by no means certain. The nomen Khety, which was a very popular royal name during Dynasties IX/X, and only during that period, would seem to support the probability of such placement.

References:

Anthes 1928 p. 14 inschr. Xb, pl. 6 von Beckerath 1999 pp. 74 #c, 73 #c