



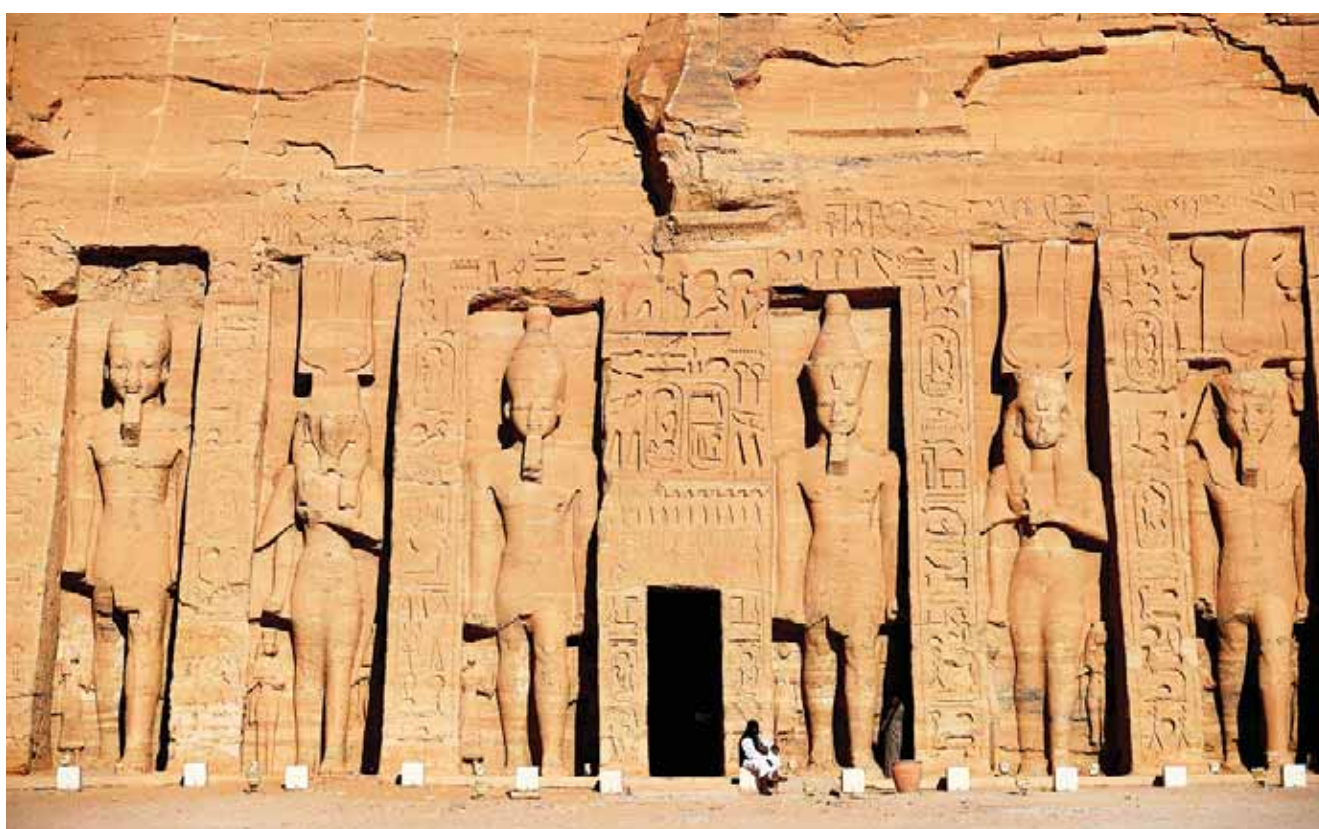
The Nefertari complex at the ancient Egyptian temple of Abu Simbel.

way. The lake behind the dam flooded the homeland of Egypt's Nubian people, forcing tens of thousands to leave. "For the Nubians, the High Dam is a symbol of oppression," said rights activist Fawzi Gayer. "It wiped out a civilization." Gayer was born just after his family was relocated to a dusty town its Nubian residents call Abu Simbel "Displacement". "We're talking about a community with a Nilotic identity that breathes the Nile... and we have been thrown into the belly of the desert," said Gayer.

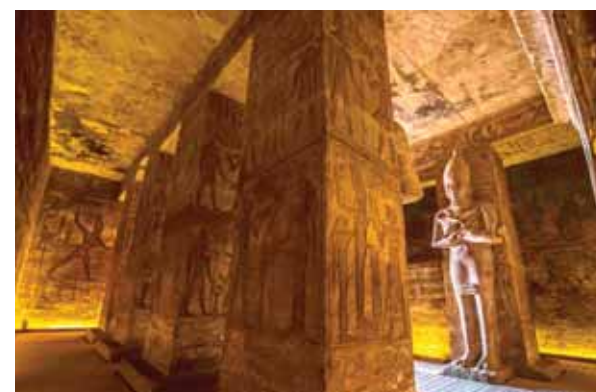
"The elderly died of shock." The Nubians' long-running demand for a "right of return" was included in the 2014 constitution, but their lands have been swallowed by the 355-kilometre-long Lake Nasser, which stretches south into Sudan. It was not only people who had to move; the waters threatened to drown the three-millennium-old Pharaonic temples at Abu Simbel, kick-starting a massive UNESCO-led rescue mission that took eight years. The ancient complex, including giant stone carved statues, was dismantled and moved to a new



The temple of Nefertari at Abu Simbel archaeological site in southern Egypt on the Nile's western bank.



The Nefertari complex at the ancient Egyptian temple of Abu Simbel, some 1120 kilometers south of the Egyptian capital Cairo.



The Ramses II temple at the archeological site of Abu Simbel.



The interior of Ramses II temple at the archeological site of Abu Simbel.