Soldiers and Scribes
How did the Egyptian empire continue to grow and thrive?

Government officials and priests may have represented the pharaoh, but without the strength of the soldiers and the records of the scribes, there would have been no Egyptian empire.

Soldiers
How did the Egyptian empire get so large? The Egyptian army used well-trained soldiers to expand its borders and maintain control of the people. Some soldiers fought on foot using spears, shields, and axes. Others rode behind horses in chariots and shot arrows. During times of peace, soldiers continued to work for the government, digging irrigation canals for farms or building temples.

For a young Egyptian, life as a soldier was one opportunity to gain status. Young men could join the army and rise through the ranks. Successful soldiers were rewarded with gifts, including land and servants.

Scribes
Whenever Egyptian officials needed to write something down, scribes, or official government recorders, were there to write it. Scribes recorded court cases, calculated taxes, wrote letters between government officials, and kept official histories.
Scribes wrote official documents in a system of picture-symbols called hieroglyphics. They also kept records and wrote less formal documents in a simpler script.

Becoming a scribe took a lot of training. Scribes studied for many years, copying passages from sunrise to sundown. Only boys could train to be scribes, and many of those boys were sons of scribes. While most members of the elite and some skilled merchants and craftsmen could read and write, scribes created almost all of the written records in ancient Egypt.