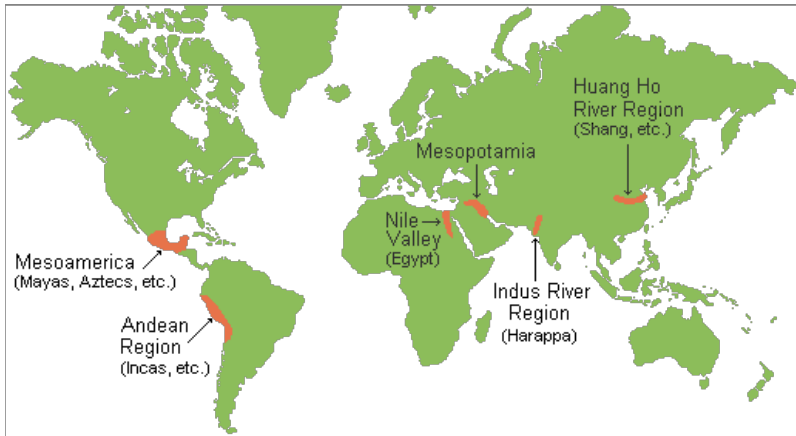


The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural and Urban Societies

Causes Effects Social Economic Political Environmental Cultural



Map of the Early Civilizations

The rise of civilizations was a major change in the human society. Civilizations were caused by the productivity and innovation of the Neolithic Revolution.

The First States Emerged Within Core Civilizations

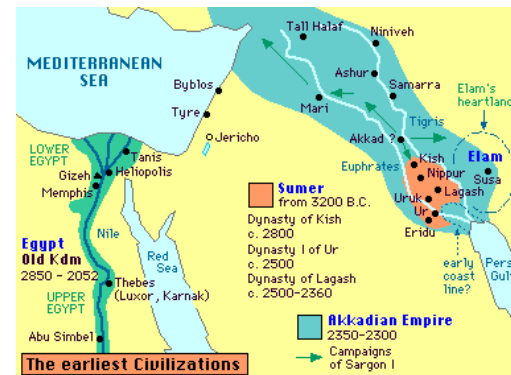
Most civilizations had a government that was mostly a **theocracy**. The ruler was a person who, depending on the civilization, was chosen by the gods or was a god himself. This provided them with a lavish lifestyles and exquisite funerals. This leader was usually supported by the military, therefore, he was extremely powerful. The leader made basic rules and provided the consequences for breaking these rules. He organized the irrigation system as well.

These early civilizations also had to deal with the people who were around them. Conflicts for land and water usually led to violent wars that weakened these participating civilizations. These vulnerable states were more easily conquered by the more powerful states. When more powerful states invaded the weaker states, it created larger civilizations that encompassed the whole region. These more powerful states usually had more of an advantage because they had more resources. The Hittites, for example, had access to iron which made their weapons stronger, therefore, making them better in war.

Mesopotamia at first was split up into many warring city-states until 2300 BCE when Sargon of Akkad came into the picture. He was the first person to unify Southern Mesopotamia. He did this by capturing other major city-states and putting his officials in to rule them. He also made the temples less powerful by redistributing their land to the commoners of the state.

In Egypt, Ahmose I shunned the Hyskos and started the New Kingdom. This kingdom expanded Egypt's rule beyond the Nile River Valley for the first time. Under this kingdom, Egypt's rule extended from Nubia to Southern Mesopotamia, giving Egypt contact with other civilizations.

Empire building also occurred in Babylon. This area started out as an area in modern southern Iraq full of individual tribes that were brought together by **Hammurabi**. After this area united it was called Babylonia and it had some of the most fertile land in the world.



Mesopotamian City States

Culture Played A Significant Role In Unifying States

In the early civilizations, monumental architecture and urban planning were used to organize the civilizations. In the ancient Indus Valley civilization, **sewage systems** were used to keep the waste out of the cities. These systems brought the waste underground and under the streets then lead out of the city through ditches. This system is the basis of our modern waste management.



Egyptian Painting

Also in these civilizations, the elites supported the arts and artisanship. In the Egyptian civilization, paintings were used to depict divine beings such as gods, goddesses, and pharaohs. In these paintings, the being's size was based on their importance. Therefore, a pharaoh would be the largest thing in the painting and a more important god would be bigger than a less important god.

Record keeping systems started in these civilizations and diffused to other cultures. In the Incan civilization, **quipu** was the first form of writing in South America. This system of chords of different materials and colors joined together by different knots provided the Incas with a way to keep track of their transactions.

As these early civilizations developed, they developed laws that established social classes and their rule over the people. For example, the **Code of Hammurabi** was a harsh law code that described everything from the wages of an ox driver to the liability of a builder. In this code, Hammurabi establishes the general rule of an "eye for an eye" as a base for punishment. The harshness of the punishment for doing something wrong also depended on whether you were a slave or a free man.

Religion also played a major part in the culture of the early civilizations.

	Vedic Religion	Hebrew Monotheism	Zoroastrianism
Deity	Many gods known as Devas	Yahweh	Ahura Mazda
Location	India	Mesopotamia	Persia
Basic Beliefs	This is the beginning of hinduism so their beliefs are very similar. There is a spiritual unity of the cosmos. Everyone has free will. Transmigration of the soul. They believe in being peaceful.	There is only one god. Everyone was created in the image of god. Believers are uniquely connected. The Torah teaches about life and death. The land of Israel was promised to them. One day a messiah will bring peace to humanity.	There is only one god, the Ahura Mazda. They are to help god make the world better. There are two ways of thinking, good and bad. Heaven and Hell, afterlife, coming of a savior. Sacred book called the Gathas. Based on good thoughts, deeds, and words.



Trade Routes Between Mesopotamia and Indus Valley

As these civilizations grew, they began to produce more than they need, so they had to trade. Between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley, a trade relationship grew. These trade routes were filled with luxury goods and other unnecessary items. The trade was facilitated by private traders and the government of the two civilizations. In north Africa, Egypt conquered Nubia in order to control its trade. Egypt desired to gain all of the mineral wealth of gold and carnelian found in Nubia and to get ivory, ebony, and animal skins from further south in Africa.



Trade Routes Between Egypt and Nubia

The different early civilizations all had very similar social structures. Like many of the other states, Mesopotamia was ruled by a group of nobles and the commoners were below them on the hierarchal rank. Slaves were at the bottom

of this rank. Also similar to other civilizations, Mesopotamia was a patriarchal society. Men had control of their wives and could sell them to pay their debts. Women also started wearing veils in Mesopotamia. Although women had fewer rights than men, some women rose up and became involved in their society by running small businesses and having small political roles.

The literature of these early civilizations told us a lot about their culture. For example, **The Epic of Gilgamesh** is an epic poem about the Mesopotamian ruler Gilgamesh and his quest for eternal life. It tells us about Mesopotamian culture because it mentions the gods that they worshiped and how they lived. This work of literature is still mentioned in pop culture and literature today.