

From Egalitarian to Patriarchal Society

**Agriculture and the Origins of
Civilization**

I. The Agricultural (or Neolithic) Revolution (9000–6000 B.C.)

A. Domestication of Plants—three models

1. Stress Model

a. oasis hypothesis (Jericho ca. 9000 B.C.; Kathleen Kenyon)

b. nuclear zone hypothesis (Jarmo ca. 6500 B.C.; Robert Braidwood)

c. edge-zone hypothesis (rising sea levels; Lewis Binford)

2. Sauer's Fish Model

3. Competitive Feasting Model







I. The Agricultural (or Neolithic) Revolution (9000–6000 B.C.)

B. Domestication of Animals (cattle, donkeys, goats, horses, onagers, sheep, etc.)

C. Relationship of Domestication to Sedentarianism

1. Hunter-Gatherer Societies

2. Nomadic-Herder Societies

3. Grain-Growing, Bread-Making Societies

I. The Agricultural (or Neolithic) Revolution (9000–6000 B.C.)

Video: *The Harvest of the Seasons*, from Jacob Bronowski, “*The Ascent of Man*,” no. 2.

1st stage: wild wheat + goat grass = emmer wheat

2nd stage: emmer wheat + another kind of goat grass =
bread wheat

technological innovations: plow, wheel, and irrigation

I. The Agricultural (or Neolithic) Revolution (9000–6000 B.C.)

1. egalitarian – no hierarchy – one level (people)
2. clanship – 1st order hierarchy – two levels (clan + non-related people)
3. state – 2nd order hierarchy – three levels
 - a. aristocracy (“headless” state)
 - horizontal power relations dominate
 - b. patriarchal kingship (dynastic state)
 - vertical power relations dominate

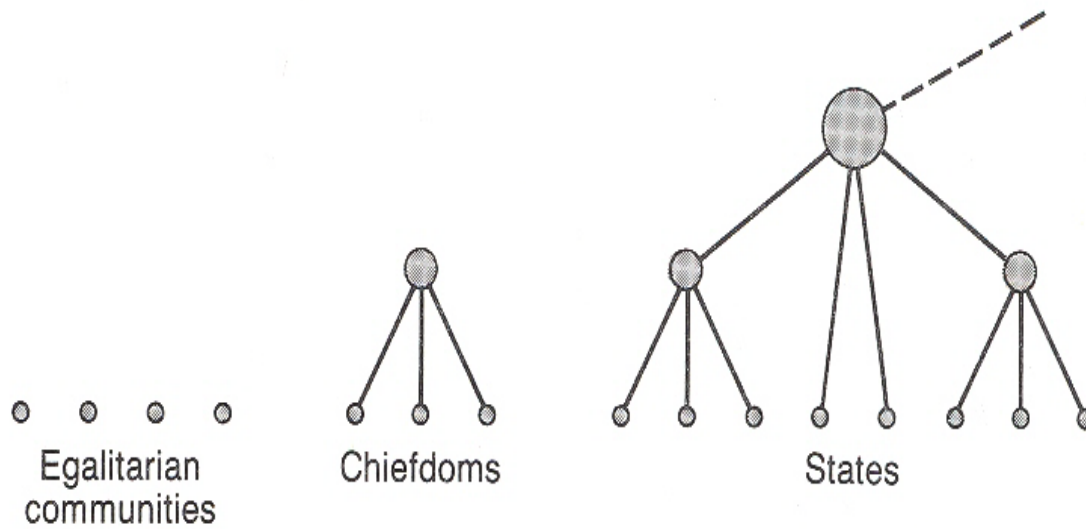
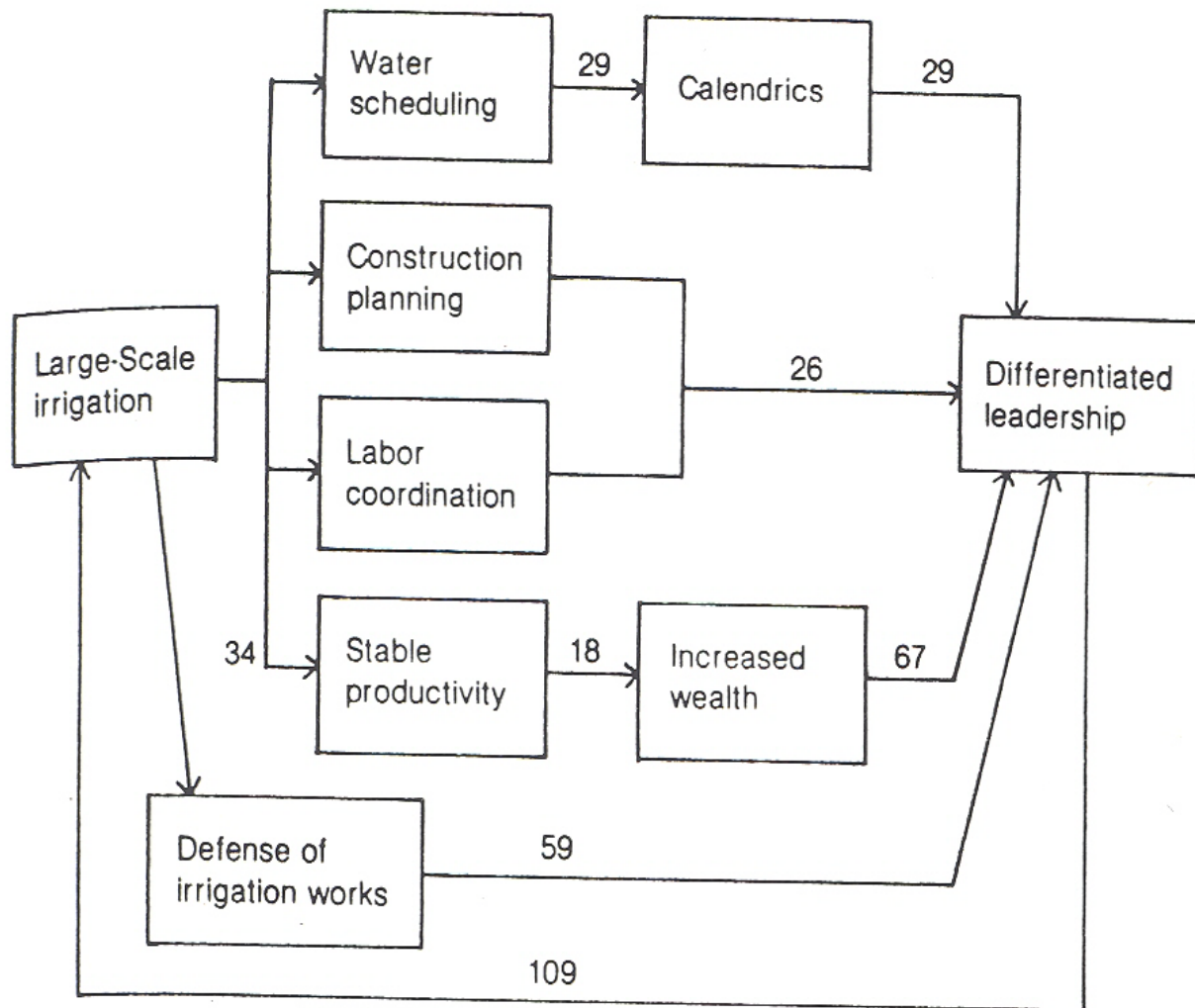


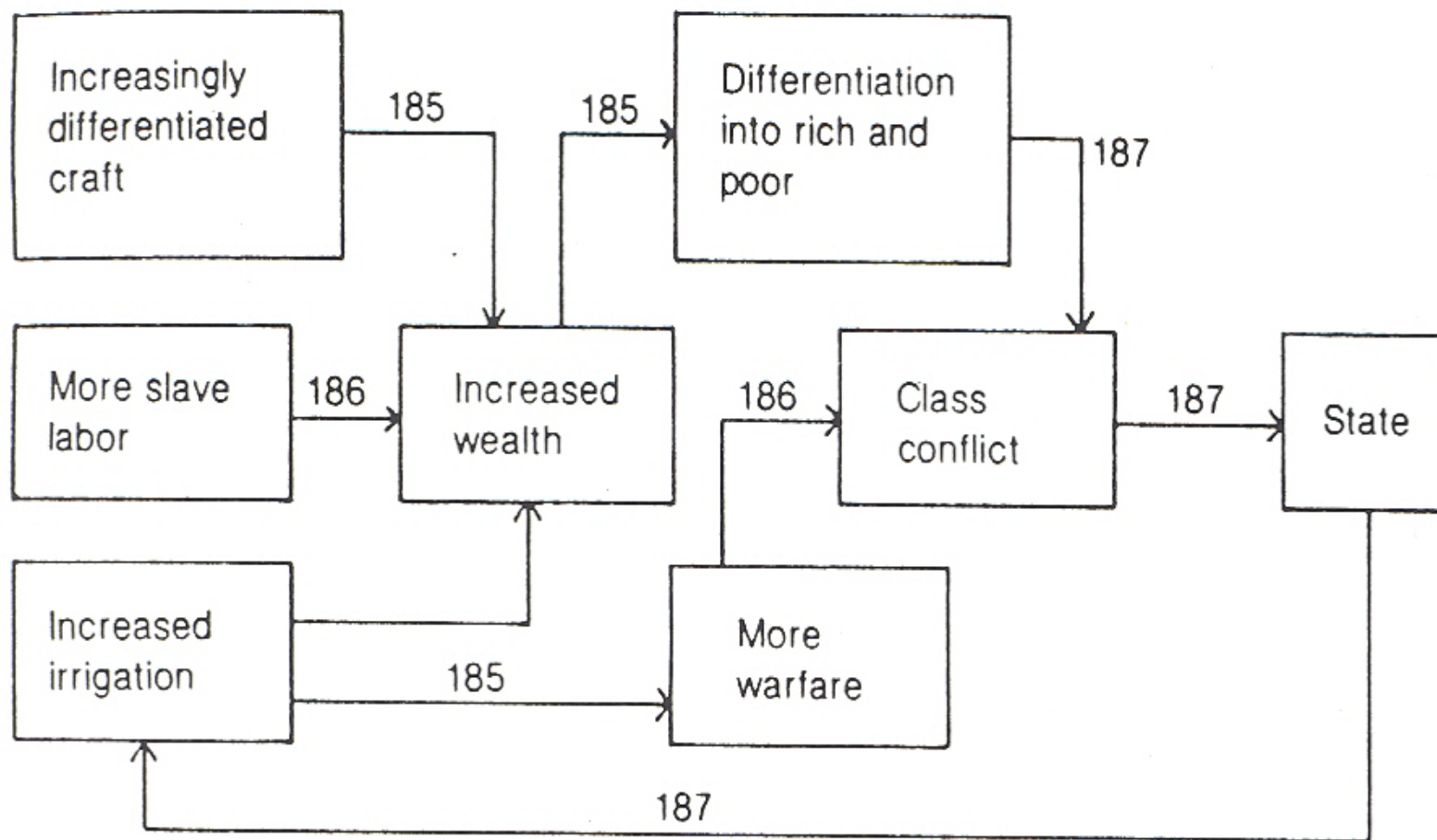
Figure 10.2 One of the defining characteristics of a state is the existence of a

A Managerial Theory of State Origins (Wittfogel 1957)



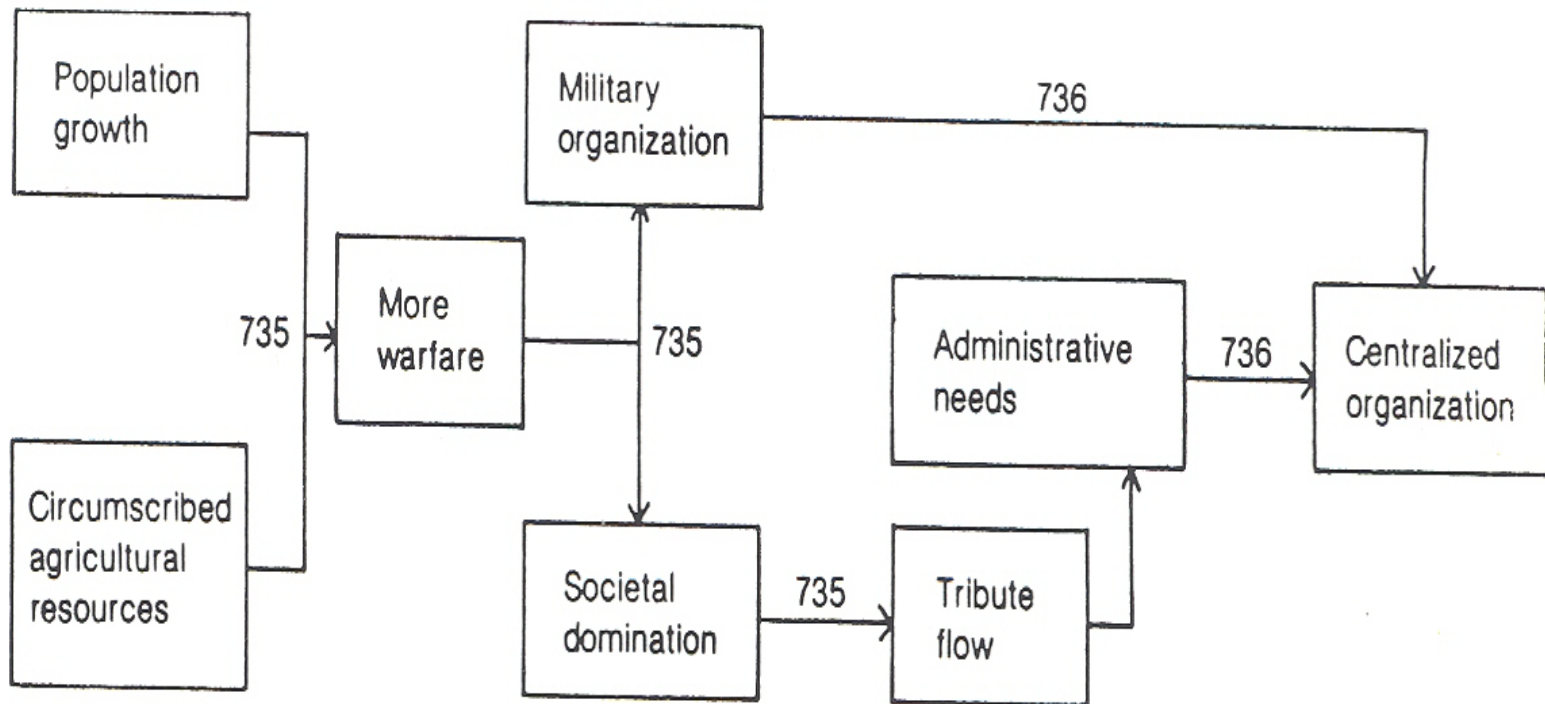
Wittfogel, K. A. "Hydraulic Hypothesis"
1963 *Oriental Despotism: A Comparative Study of Total Power*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

An Internal Conflict Theory of State Origins (Diakonoff 1969)



Diakonoff, I. M. (ed.)
1969 *Ancient Mesopotamia*. Moscow: Nauka Press.

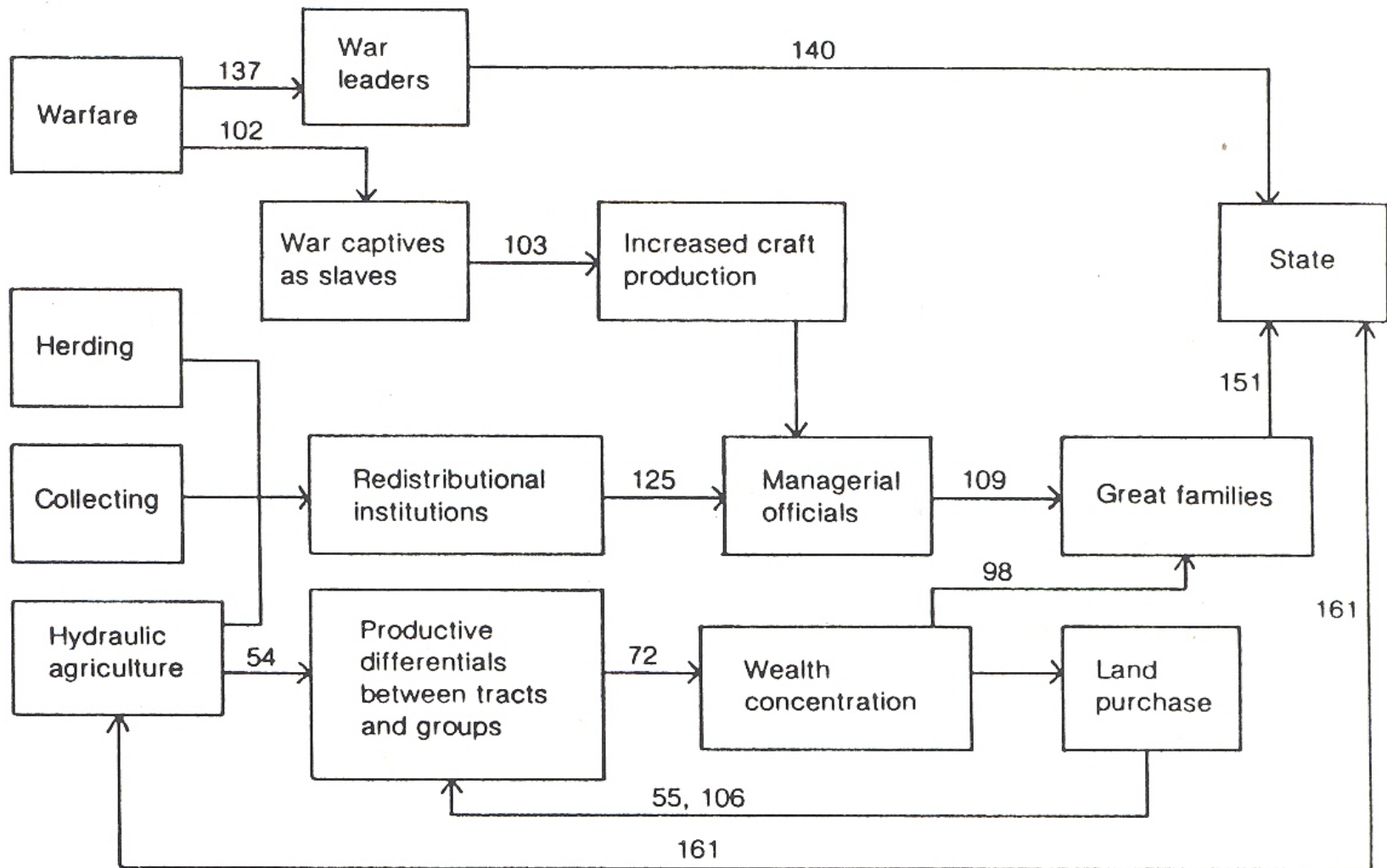
An External Conflict Theory of State Origins (Carneiro 1970)



Carneiro, R.

1970 A Theory of the Origin of the State. *Science* 169: 733-738.

A Synthetic Theory of State Origins (Adams 1966)



Adams, R. McC. 1966 *The Evolution of Urban Society: Early Mesopotamia and Pre-hispanic Mexico*. Chicago: Aldine.

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

A. Civilization—How do you know it when you see it?

1. Class stratification, each stratum marked by a different degree of privileges and access to the products of the community
 - a. social status determined by: the law
 - b. social status determined by: religious function
 - c. social status determined by: wealth

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

A. Civilization—How do you know it when you see it?

2. Political and religious hierarchies complementing each other in the administration of organized states
3. Division of labor, with full-time craftsmen, servants, soldiers, and officials existing in a symbiotic relationship with the food producers

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

B. Sumerian Theocracy

1. An — god who created man from clay

2. Patron Divinities of Cities

Inanna (Ishtar) — Uruk

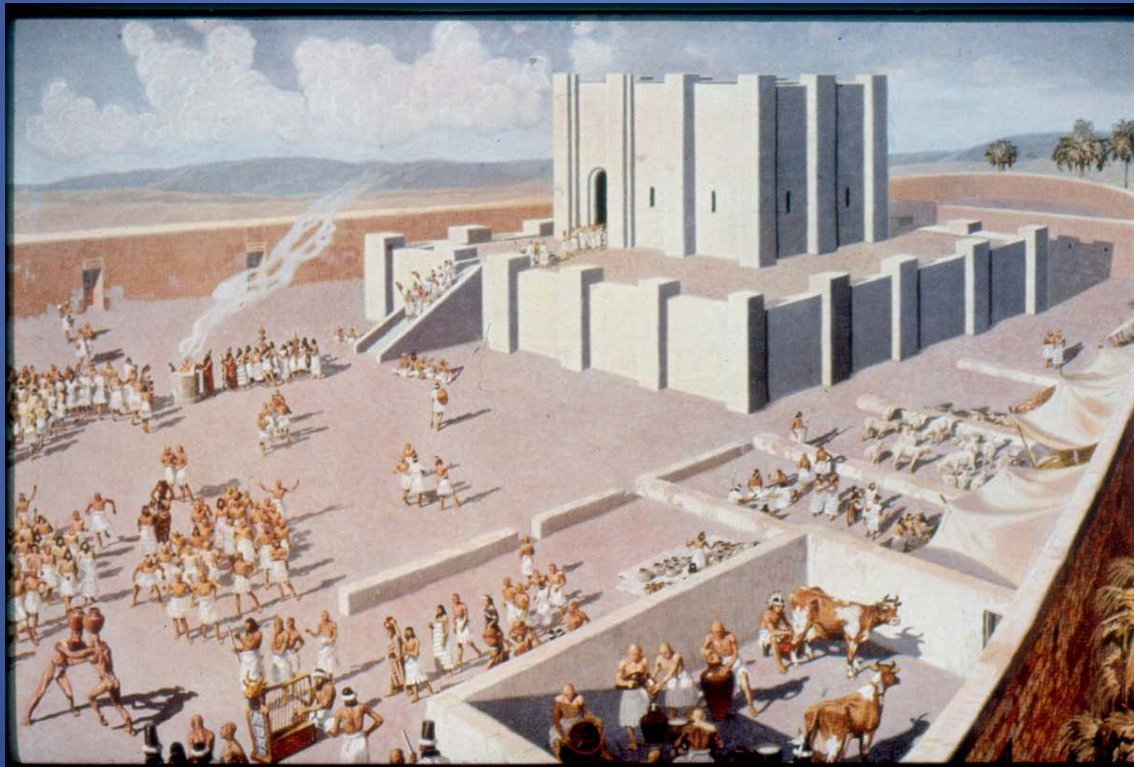
Sin — Ur

Ninurta — Elam

Enlil — Nippur

Enki (Ea) — Eridu

Artistic Reconstruction of Ur



II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

B. Sumerian Theocracy

3. *Ensi* — steward, chief priest

4. Assembly — senior males of community

5. Council of Elders — elected by community

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

C. Rise of Patriarchal Kingship and the Repression of Women

1. Trajectory from theocratic administration to patriarchal kingship (3300–2500 B.C.)
2. Reification (Gerda Lerner)
3. War-making
 - a. 1st stage: states win out over egalitarian and tribal societies
 - b. 2nd stage: warriors demand higher status —> subordination of women

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

D. The Beginnings of Writing (ca. 3500 B.C.)

1. Historians' Competition: Egypt vs. Sumer
2. Tokens in a Clay Ball?

Mesopotamian Scribes



II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

E. International Trade of the Bronze Age

(carnelian, copper, diorite, gold, lapis lazuli, obsidian, silver, timber, turquoise, wheat)

1. Mesopotamia (Akkad, Babylon, Elam, Lagash, Nippur, Ummur, Ur, Uruk [Erech])
2. Dilmun — N.E. Arabia + islands of N. Persian Gulf (Bahrain, Falaika)

II. Rise of Civilization in Mesopotamia (Urban Revolution)

E. International Trade of the Bronze Age

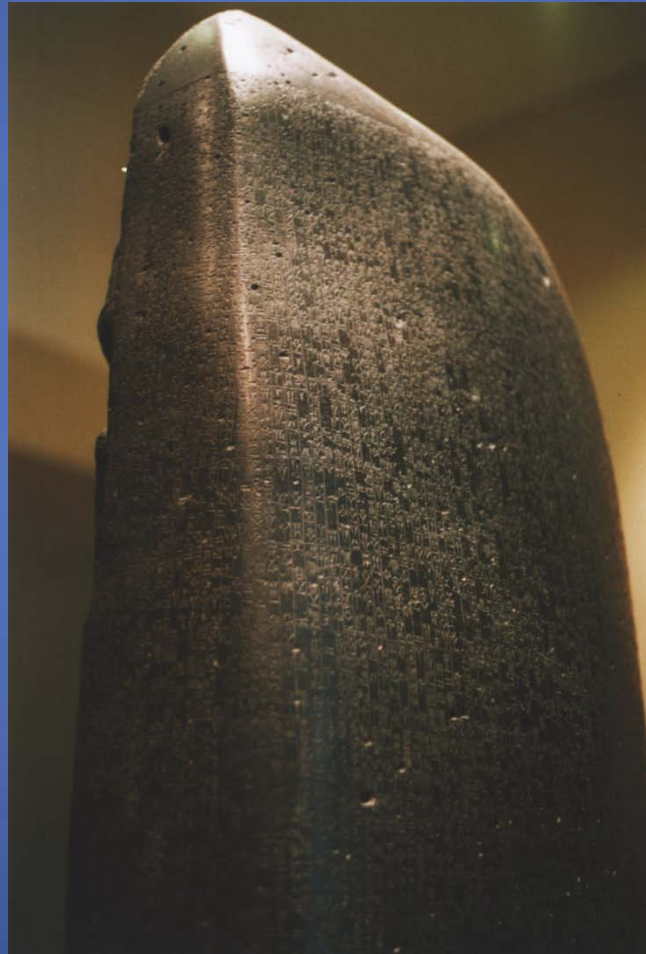
3. Melliha — Indus Valley (Harappan Civilization)
4. Magan — S. Arabian peninsula
5. Marhashi — Iranian plateau?
6. Oxus — N. Afghanistan
7. Aratta — Iranian plateau?

III. Evidence of the Texts

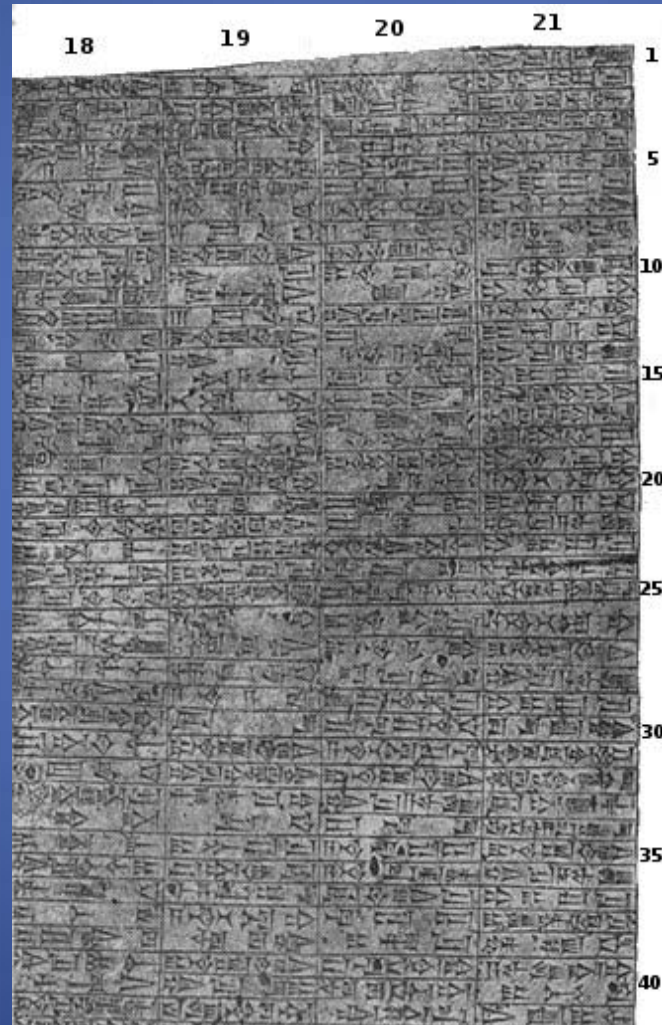
A. Code of Hammurabi

1. Hammurabi and the problem of ancient Mesopotamian dating
2. Hammurabi and the Great Man Theory

Code of Hammurabi Stele



Code of Hammurabi (text excerpt)

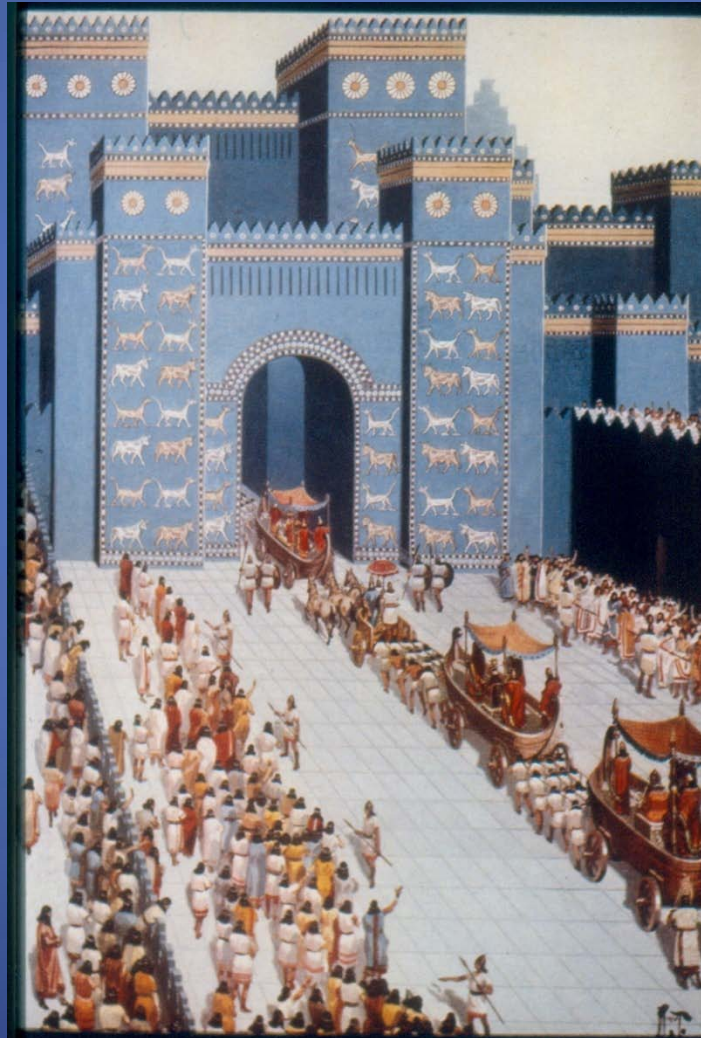


Code of Hammurabi

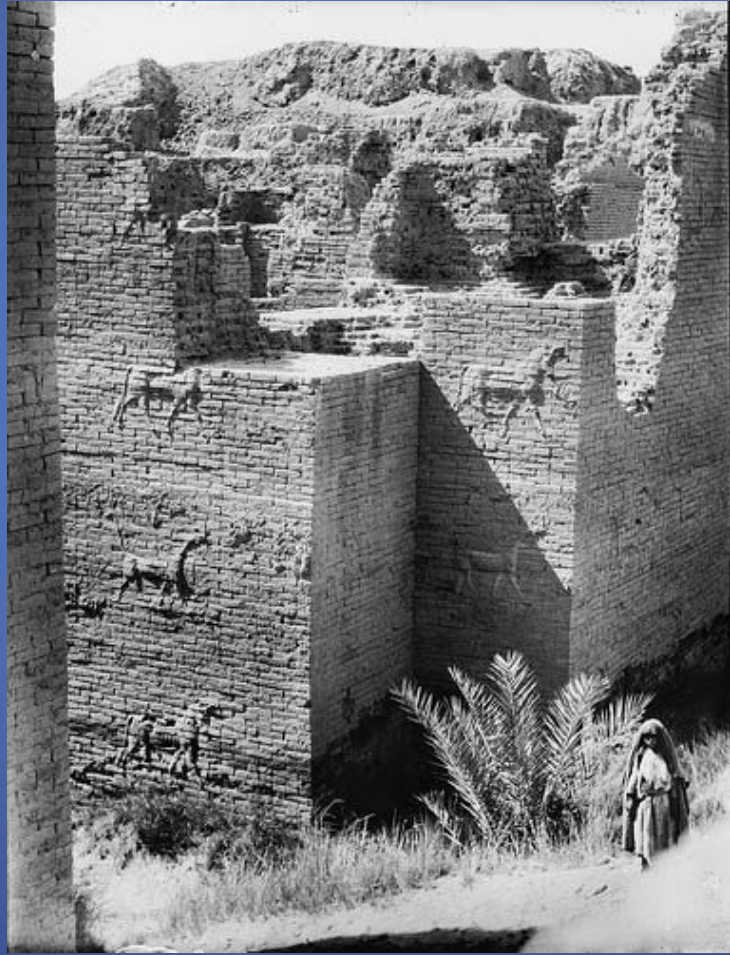
1. If any one ensnare another, putting a ban upon him, but he can not prove it, then he that ensnared him shall be put to death.
2. If any one bring an accusation against a man, and the accused go to the river and leap into the river, if he sink in the river his accuser shall take possession of his house. But if the river prove that the accused is not guilty, and he escape unhurt, then he who had brought the accusation shall be put to death, while he who leaped into the river shall take possession of the house that had belonged to his accuser.

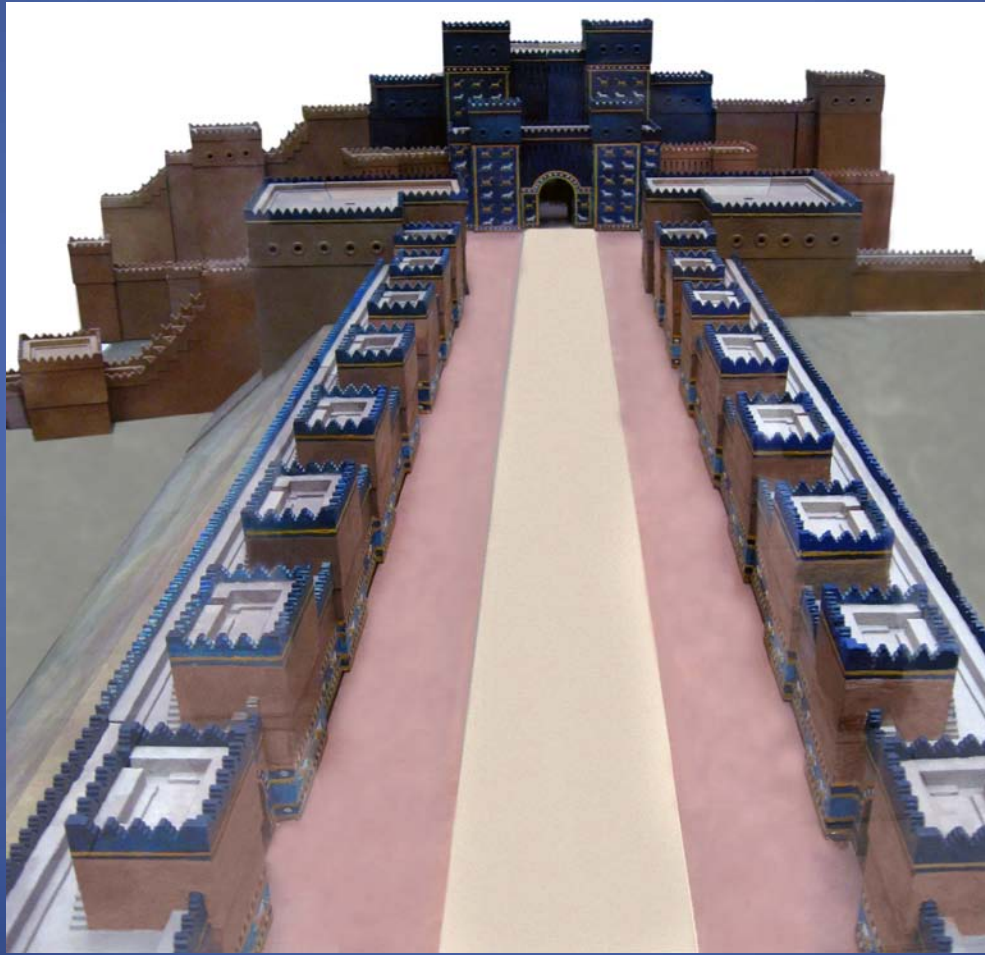
Code of Hammurabi

Gate of Ishtar, Babylon (artistic recreation)











III. Evidence of the Texts

B. Epic of Gilgamesh

1. Provenance
2. Date of Composition
3. Parallels
4. Pessimistic or Realistic?

III. Evidence of the Texts

C. The Problem with the Assyrians: The Nature of Terrorism

1. Contributions to other cultures
2. Did they have a sense of humor?