

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

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

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

D. Beginnings of the State

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

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
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

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	
3. *Ensi* — steward, chief priest
4. Assembly — senior males of community
5. Council of Elders — elected by community

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

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

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

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)
3. Melluha — 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

B. Epic of Gilgamesh

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

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

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

Chronology of the Ancient Levant and Mesopotamia

A. Chronological Outline of Neolithic (Agricultural) Revolution (Levant)

1. End of Last Ice Age – 13,000–12,000 B.C.
2. Natufian Period – 10,000–8500 B.C.
3. Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (PPNA) – 8500–6500 B. C.
4. Pre-Pottery Neolithic B (PPNB) – 6500–6000 B.C.

B. Chronological Outline of Urban Revolution (Mesopotamia)

1. Hassuna Period – 6000–4800 B.C.
2. Halaf Period – 5500–4500 B.C. (ca. 5500 B.C. – development of agriculture)
3. Ubaid Period – 4500–3800 B.C.
4. Uruk Period – 3800–2900 B.C. (Sumerians Arrive)
5. Early Dynastic – 2900–2350 B.C.
6. Akkadian – 2350–2150 B.C.
 - a. Sargon (Sharrum-kin) (2390–2335 B.C., 2334–2279 B.C., or 2270–2215 B.C.)
7. Ur III – 2125–2027 B.C.)
8. Amorites at Babylon – ca. 1900 B.C.
 - a. Reign of Hammurabi (1848–1806 B.C., 1792–1750 B.C., or 1728–1686 B.C.)
9. Kassites – ca. 1600 B.C.
10. Hittite Empire – ca. 1400–1200 B.C.
11. Rise of Assyrians – ca. 1100 B.C.
12. Destruction of Assyrian Capital at Nineveh – 612 B.C.
13. Chaldean (Neo-Babylonian) Empire – 612–539 B.C.