

# Origins of Human History

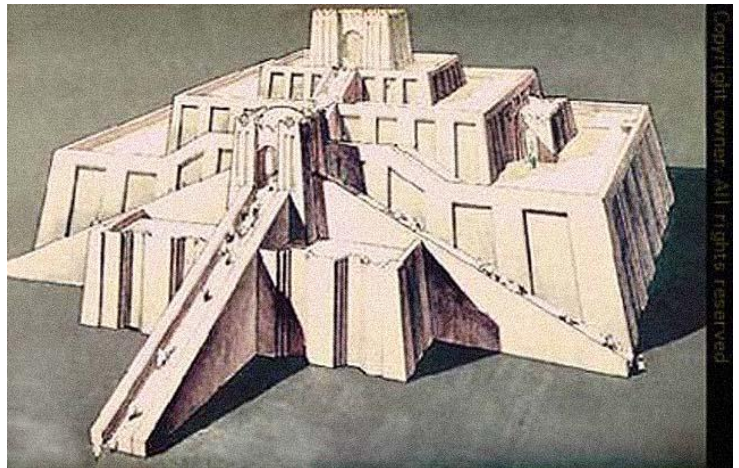
## Timeline of Human Evolution

- 2.5 million years ago first humanoids
- *Homo sapiens* emerged 250,000 to 100,000 years ago
  - o Out of Africa Theory: Theory that humans originated in Africa and migrated following herds
    - Over next 80,000 years humans expanded to almost every corner of the world
  - o *Homo sapiens* displaced other species of hominoids as dominant species
  - o Speech developed about 100,000 years ago
  - o 14,000 B.C.E. – End of Great Ice Age
  - o 12,000 B.C.E. – Beginnings of the Stone Age (Paleolithic Age)
    - Humans spreading out and using more advanced tools
  - o 10,000 B.C.E. – Neolithic Revolution
    - Beginnings of domestication of plants and animals
    - Cultivation of grasses and cereal crops
  - o 10,000 B.C.E. – City of Jericho Founded
  - o 7,000 B.C.E. – Çatal Hüyük
    - First examples of major social stratification
  - o ca. 4000 B.C.E. – Bronze Age

## Beginnings of Civilization

### Sumer

- 3,500 B.C.E. Sumerians adopt cuneiform writing
  - o First true civilization
    - Traits of Civilization
      - Art
      - Geography
      - Military
      - Social Stratification
      - Political Structure
      - Religion
      - Intellect
      - Technology
      - Economic System
  - o Developed in Mesopotamia in Fertile Crescent
  - o Complex Art
    - Frescos in temples
    - Statues of gods
  - o Founded science of Astronomy
    - Marking movement of stars and sun
      - Created calendar
      - Created units of 10, 60, and 360
  - o Built Ziggurats
    - Contained professional Priests who performed religious ceremonies
    - Polytheistic gods for natural world
      - Ex. Pray to gods to avoid floods

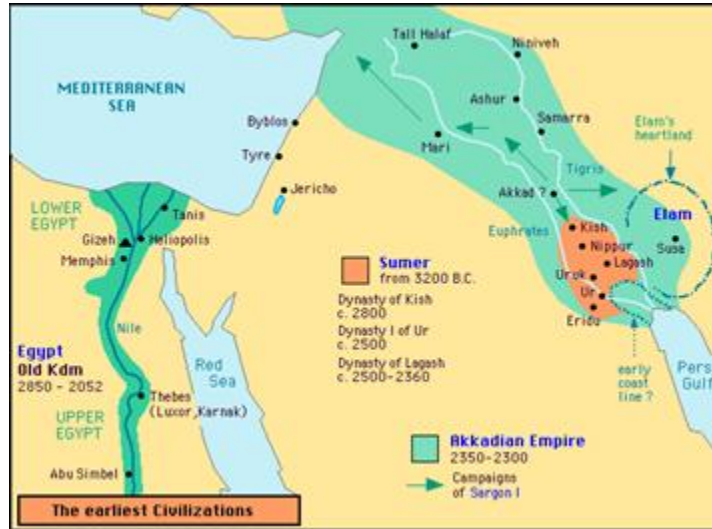


- City States
  - Showed complex political structure
- Adopted currency
  - Silver
- Militarily hard to defend

## Empire Building in Mesopotamia

### Akkad

- 2350-2000 B.C.E
- 2334-2279 B.C.E. Sargon of conquered neighboring Sumer establish world's first empire.
  - He appointed rulers of to help him rule empire
  - Began Mesopotamia's heritage



Akkad to regions military

### First Dynasty of Babylon

- Hammurabi (Ruler) 1792-1750 B.C.E.
  - Conquered most of Mesopotamia
  - Famous for passing of Laws
    - Civil Law
  - Criminal Law
  - Improved Irrigation canals
  - Repaired Temples
  - Raised army (using tax money)
  - Promoted patron god Marduk
  - Empire declined rapidly after Hammurabi but survived 15 generations

1750 Code

### Hittites

- 1400 B.C.E. to 1200 B.C.E.
- Originated in Asia Minor (Turkey) and pushed into Mesopotamia around 1400 B.C.E.
  - First Indo-European Empire
- Known for advancements in ironworking
  - Allowed for stronger weapons and tools
  - Iron was cheap so Hittites could arm more people at a cheaper cost
  - Tried to keep iron working techniques secret, but after fall of empire Hittite iron smiths moved around and spread knowledge of iron working
- Made advancements in use of chariots



### **Assyrians - 2000 B.C.E. – 625 B.C.E.**

- Highly organized
  - o Laws
  - o Ability to collect taxes
- Social Roles: Women had to wear veils
- First to collect ancient writings and collect them in a library
- First to establish militaristic society
  - o Famous as a ruthless conqueror
    - Surrender or be destroyed
- Power declined after death of ruler Ashurbanipal in 627 B.C.E.
  - o Declines into civil war

### **Chaldean Empire (Neo-Babylonian)**

- 625 - 539 B.C.E.
- Nabopolassar (Ruler) 625 B.C.E.
  - o Re-establishes Babylonian civilization but remains under Assyrian Control
  - o 612 B.C.E. allies with Medes to overthrow Assyrians
- Nebuchadnezzar (Ruler) 612 B.C.E.
- Sacks Jerusalem and carries off Jews
- Reigns over Golden Era
  - o Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- powerful king helped defeat Assyrians and re-establish empire that reached from Mediterranean Sea to Persian Gulf

### **Achamenid /Persian Empire – 539 B.C.E.**

- Babylon fell to Cyrus the Great (559-529 E.C.E.)
  - o Established empire that reached from Asia Minor to India
  - o Respected customs of conquered
  - o Divided empire into provinces
  - o Babylonians welcomed Cyrus
- Darius I 522 B.C.E. – 486 B.C.E.
  - o Satrapy – established provinces
    - Ruled by Satraps
    - Paid taxes
  - o Established common law system throughout the Empire
  - o Economic Advancements
    - o Standardized weights and measures system
    - o Established coin money system
- Zoroaster – Great Thinker (600 B.C.E.)
  - o Advancements in Religion
    - Came up with idea of one main god Ahura Mazda
    - Idea of a heaven and hell
  - o Advancements in Medicine
    - o Made connection that poor emotional health can mean bad physical health
- Empire destroyed by Alexander the Great (331 B.C.E.)

### **Phoenicians**

- 1200 B.C.E – 539 B.C.E.
- Famous as traders and sailors in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Lebanon and Syria)
- Manufacturing and Trade
  - o Developed Glass

- Traded Tin
- Traded Purple dyes for clothing
- Traded with cultures all around the Mediterranean Sea
- Set up colonies in North Africa and Spain. Some made it as far as Britain
- Carriers of Civilization
  - Established an alphabet
    - Writing system based on symbol based sounds
    - Added symbols for vowels and constantans
    - Single sound for each letter
    - Greeks mimicked system is developing own alphabet