



The Origins of Civilization

Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #2

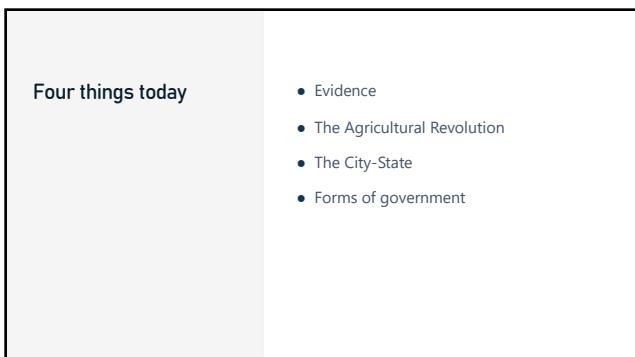
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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 9
Gilgamesh Essay Due
- Monday, March 17
Midterm
- Sunday, February 1
Responses for Week 1 Due

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Evidence

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(1) Stories are passed on

- Written documents

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(1) Stories are passed on

- Written documents
- Oral history

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(2) Things survive

- Archaeology

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(2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
 - tools, coins, household goods, etc.

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(2) Things survive

- Archaeology
- Material culture
 - tools, coins, household goods, etc.
- Art

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Example

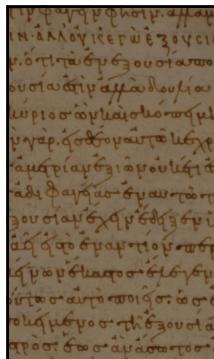
- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- Survives as 4000-year-old baked clay tablets
- Both the tablets and the contents are artifacts

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Kinds of evidence

- Primary source
 - Eyewitness testimony from the place and time being studied
- Secondary source
 - A scholar collects and interprets primary sources on a subject
- Tertiary source
 - General scholarly consensus on a subject
 - Includes encyclopedias, textbooks, and almost everything on the web
 - NOT ALLOWED as a source for history papers

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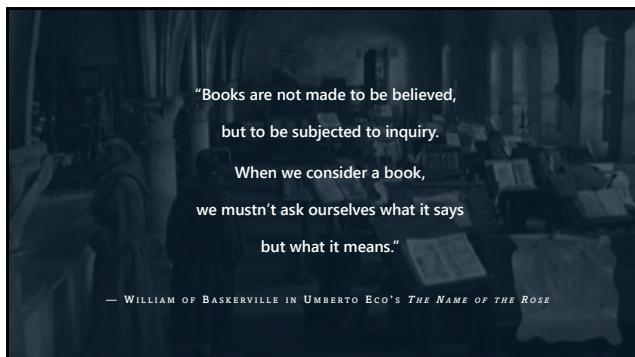


Problems with primary sources?

- Intentional bias
- Unintentional bias
- Point of view
- Survival
- Translation

CONCLUSION:
There are no facts in history

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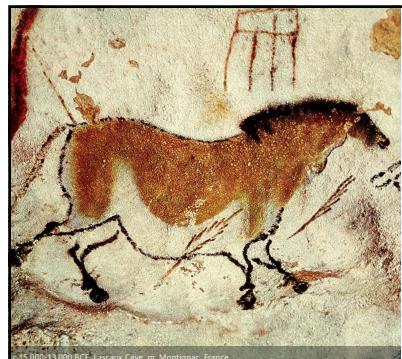
Example

- Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, 79 CE
- Account by Pliny the Younger
- Nothing is ever written for no reason

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The stone age

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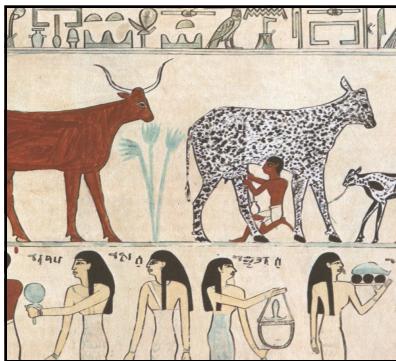
The Paleolithic (Old Stone Age)

- 3.3 million years ago
- Up through ~10,000 BCE
- Nature provides food, tools, protection
- Disperse across continents
- Trade between groups that encounter each other

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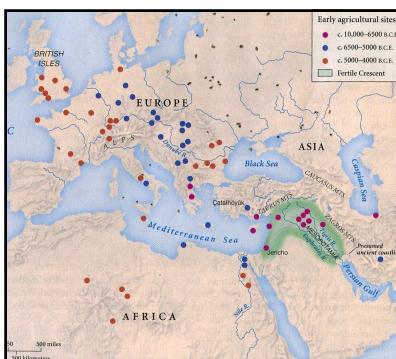
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Neolithic: Agricultural revolution

- 10,000 – 3000 BCE
- Slow development of agricultural practices and technology
- Crop yield must increase to build an urban civilization

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Conversion to agriculture

- Sites across Eurasia and North Africa
- Many do not last

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Neolithic sites

- Homes clustered together in a "proto-city"
- No planning, centralized rule, or specialized labor
- Inhabitants farm surrounding lands by day and then return

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The city-state

- Economically independent
 - Urban center—skilled labor and manufacturing
 - Surrounding farmlands—part of central market and identity
- Politically autonomous
- Monumental building
- Patron deity

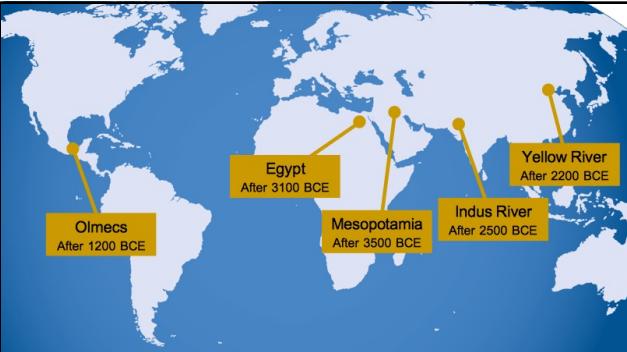
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City-state culture

- Shared...
 - Culture
 - Heritage
 - Language
 - Religion
- Rivalry for limited resources



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Civilization as social revolution

- Complex social structures
 - Division of labor
 - Class
 - Forms of government
 - Citizen and noncitizen
- The responsibilities of the citizen
 - The individual is subordinated to the community
- The responsibilities of gender
 - Male: public/present; Female: private/future

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What forms of government did the ancient world develop?

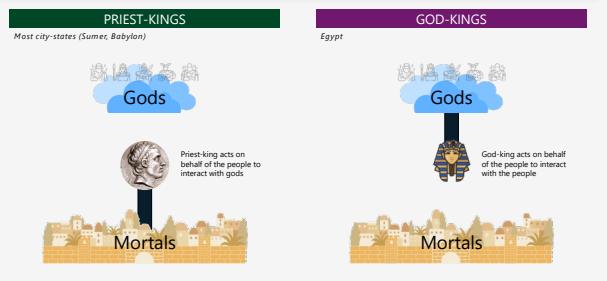
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Forms of government

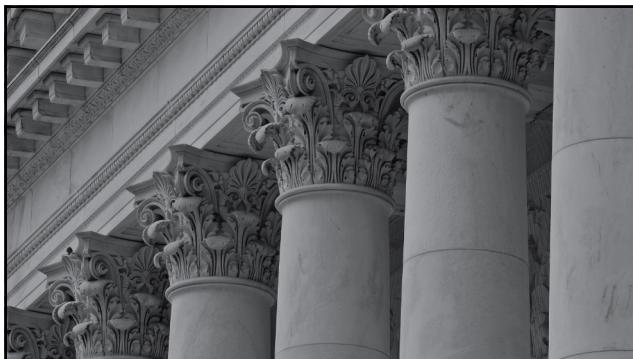
• Democracy	δῆμος 'people' + κράτος 'power'	• Citizen	CIVITAS 'city-dweller'
• Republic	RES PUBLICA 'public matters'	• Constitution	CONSTITUO 'settled, agreed upon'
• Oligarchy	ολίγος 'few' + ἄρχων 'leader'	• Empire	IMPERIUM 'power to command, compel'
• Autocracy	αὐτός 'self' + κράτος 'power'		
– Tyranny	τύραννος 'lord and master'		
– Monarchy	μόνος 'alone' + ἄρχων 'leader'		
– Dynasty	δύναμαι 'to be able, strong enough'		
• Theocracy	Θεός 'deity' + κράτος 'power'		

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Priest-Kings and God-Kings



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