



God-Kings of Egypt
Civilizations of the Ancient World | Meeting #6

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Upcoming Dates

- Monday, March 9
Gilgamesh Essay Due
- Tuesday, March 17
Midterm Exam
- Sunday, February 22
Responses for Week 4 Due

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Four things today

- Mesopotamian Empires
- Egypt
- Pharaohs
- Ishtar

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Quiz #2 | God-Kings of Egypt

- 1. The Nile River impacted the Egyptians by
 - a. never flooding, aiding trade and irrigation
 - b. rarely flooding, but always destructively, forcing Egypt to rebuild
 - c. flooding unpredictably, leaving Egyptians fearful and uncertain
 - d. flooding every year, leaving fertile soil and suggesting a world of cycles and benevolent gods
- 2. All of the following were true of the pharaohs. [Click?](#)
 - a. The government revolved around the pharaoh, who owned the land and everything it produced
 - b. The pharaohs were considered to be gods, identified with Ra, Horus, and Ptah
 - c. The pharaoh's wife was usually a stranger who was unrelated to them, from a foreign clan
 - d. Even the pharaoh was bound by *maat*, the system of order, justice, and harmony mandated for all by the gods
- 3. Egypt was unified as a single kingdom
 - a. from the beginning of time
 - b. early on, when the king of Upper Egypt conquered the rest
 - c. only metaphorically, in myth and literature
 - d. only by outsiders

Extra Credit

EC: Why do you think Egypt was able to unify, but not Sumer?

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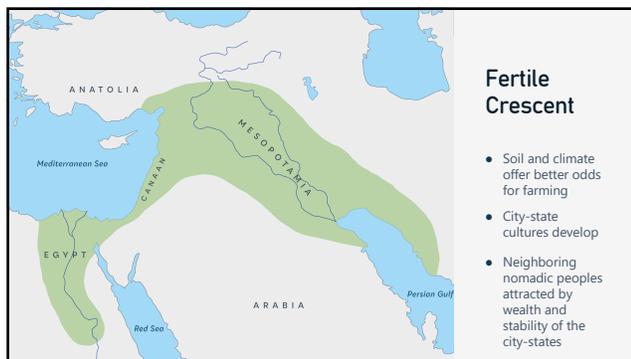
Questions about whatever



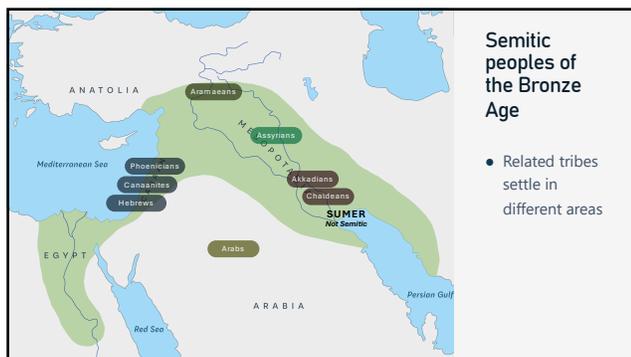
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Semitic peoples of Southwest Asia

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Sargon and Akkad

- Akkad becomes a strong city-state
- King Sargon I extends control over more and more of Mesopotamia

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Akkadian Empire

- Economic dominance
- Military victories
- Feudal rule over vassal states

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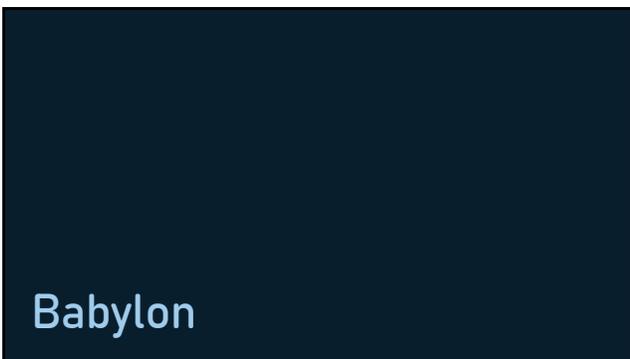
Sargon's Empire

- Control of distant resources
- Political unity
 - Connecting disparate peoples
 - Autocratic rule
 - Defortification of cities
- Economic unity
 - Goods
 - Access to resources not available locally
 - Ideas

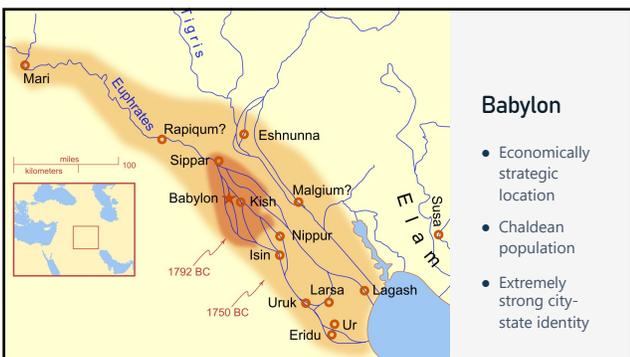
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Marduk

- Babylon has thousands of god and goddesses
- Marduk dominant
 - Patron deity of Babylon
 - Judges other gods as well as the living and the dead
- Henotheism: many gods, one dominant

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The Old Babylonian Empire

- Around 1900-1600 BCE
- Absorbed culture and stories of conquered peoples
- Babylon as a center of science and natural history, especially astronomy

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How does the Code of Hammurabi change things?

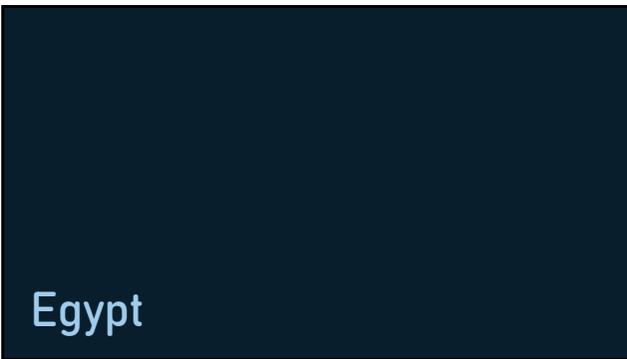
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Code of Hammurabi

- Unified legal system emphasizes benefits of empire
- Consistent rules for guilt and sentencing
 - From city to city
 - From judge to judge
- Public law
 - Justice associated with the people, not just nobility
 - Known laws/punishment minimizes arbitrary/corrupt rulings
- State supersedes family/local
 - Emphasis on center rather than parts
 - Makes possible a sense of identity with the larger whole

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Egypt

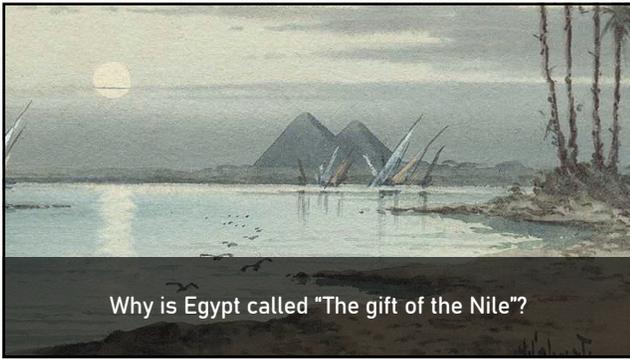
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Ancient Egypt

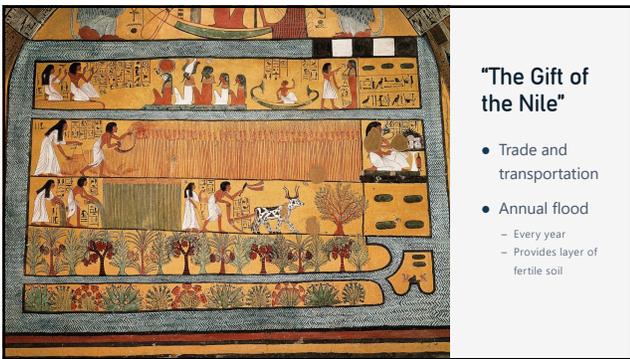
- Today Egypt is a block of land defined by lines drawn on a map (nation-state)
- Identities in the ancient world originated from settlements and urban centers
- Ancient Egypt was the inhabited lands on either side of the Nile

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Why is Egypt called "The gift of the Nile"?

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"The Gift of the Nile"

- Trade and transportation
- Annual flood
 - Every year
 - Provides layer of fertile soil

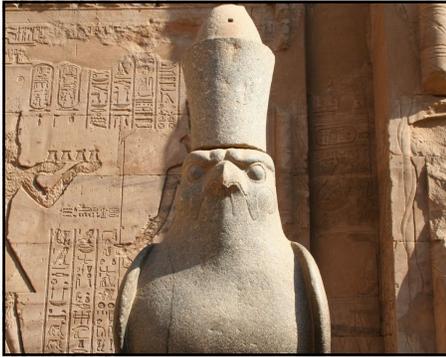
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Cultural impact of the flood

- Nature provides = gods are benevolent
- Egyptians expect cycles and recurrences
- Permanence and lack of change

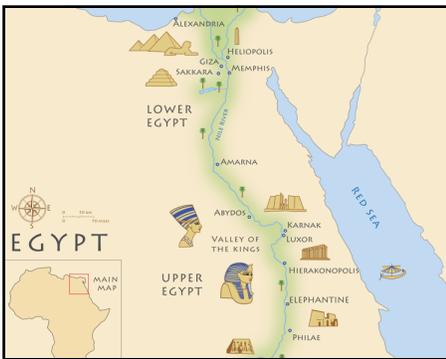
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The gods

- Benevolent and nurturing
- Many depicted as part animal
- Cycle of Horus and Osiris

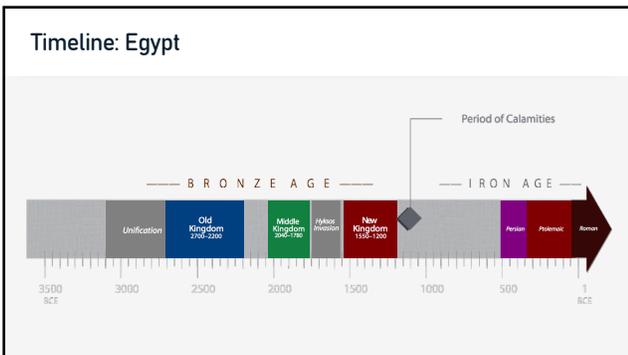
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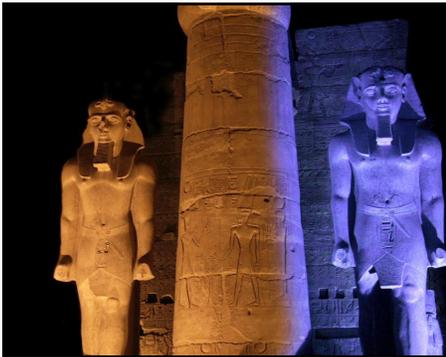
Upper and Lower Egypt

- Lower Egypt is downstream, Upper Egypt is upstream
- Originally two kingdoms governed from Memphis and Luxor/Thebes

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The pharaoh

- Unifying presence
- Manifestation of the gods
- All-powerful

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Priest-Kings and God-Kings

PRIEST-KINGS	GOD-KINGS
<i>Most city-states (Sumer, Babylon)</i>	<i>Egypt</i>
 <p>Gods</p>	 <p>Gods</p>
 <p>Priest-king acts on behalf of the people to interact with gods</p>	 <p>God-king acts on behalf of the people to interact with the people</p>
 <p>Mortals</p>	 <p>Mortals</p>

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Ma'at

- Harmony, balance, justice
- Gods are benevolent; pharaohs must be benevolent and provide ma'at

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The pharaoh's death

- Elaborate tombs
 - Pyramids in the earlier dynasties (Old Kingdom)
 - Valley of the Kings in New Kingdom
- Records of accomplishments
- Mummification
- Seen as a cycle mimicking Horis and Osiris

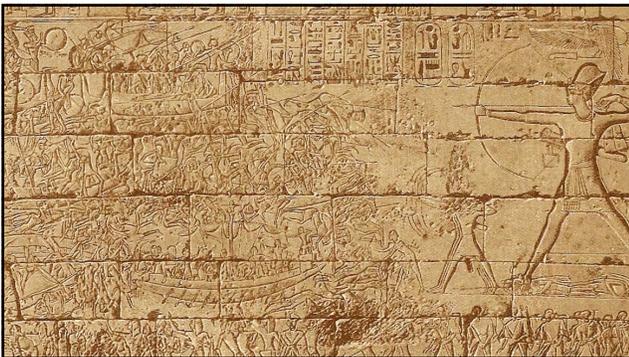
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Hieroglyphs

- Used to record official records and sacred texts
- Part of the preservation of the pharaoh's life after death
- Less formal versions used for other writings

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The world-views of Sumer and Egypt

- Humans and the natural world
- Humans and the divine
- The ruler as intermediary

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Ishtar and the Bull of Heaven

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Ishtar (Inanna)

- Sumerian goddess of fertility and war
- Depicted as capricious and not to be trusted

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Ishtar's Proposal

- Ishtar wants Gilgamesh
- Gilgamesh rejects Ishtar
 - Ishtar's treatment of past lovers
 - Refusal to pass from mortal life into being consort if goddess
- Reckless or heroic?

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The Bull of Heaven

- Ishtar gets Enlil to send as vengeance
- Bull as a symbol of nature's power
 - Terrifying and destructive
 - Can be used by mortals
- Bull sent against Uruk
- Gilgamesh and Enkidu defeat using strength and cunning

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