

WH World History

DYNA NOTES™

TOOLS FOR EXPLOSIVE LEARNING

Categories 1, 3, 4, & 5 – 8000 BC-500 BC, Rise of Civilization

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION – 8000 BC-4000 BC

Neolithic Revolution: refers to transition from hunting and gathering to **agriculture** (regularly planting crops) and domestication of animals (sheep, goats, cattle, pigs) by humans that occurred ~8000 BC-4000 BC; took place slowly and independently in many places around the world:

- **causes:** hunting and gathering provided an unreliable food supply; nomadic life (seasonal moving with herds) consumed human energy
- **effects:** humans settled where they planted crops, forming villages; produced a more reliable and larger food supply; populations grew:
 - simple buildings erected for shelter and to store food
 - women may have lost status during Neolithic: men dominated new agricultural tools, weapons, animal husbandry (care, breeding of)
 - excess food allowed **specialization of labor** (not everyone farmed); **artisans** (skilled workers) wove, made stone tools, weapons, pottery
 - some excess food and material items were traded within and among settlements; traders exchanged ideas and innovations

Example 1: At Catalhöyük, a Neolithic village of possibly 8,000 people in Turkey dated to ~7000 BC, archaeologists found simple and artisan-created ceramics, including female figurines in grain bins.



Example 2: At Faiyum (Neolithic, Egypt, ~5200 BC), remains of goats, pigs, and grains showed trade existed with southern Egypt.

DEVELOPMENT OF RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS – 4000 BC

Neolithic Revolution produced more people, wealth, and complexity:

- **militarily:** villages needed protection from raiding nomads or rival groups
- **economically:** specialization of labor produced economic differences
- **socially:** differences in economic power led to social classes

Additional human and geographic factors explained the rise of civilizations:

- **periodic flooding:** layer of silt increased soil fertility and productivity
- **high population density:** water and fertile soil supported many people
- **transportation:** rivers linked large areas and facilitated movement
- **arid/semi-arid/changing climates:** seasonal droughts reduced soil fertility
- **irrigation:** irrigation systems were developed to water crops and maximize food output; activities that required cooperation

A greater need for cooperation, coordination, and organization led to:

- (1) **urbanization** (presence of **cities**), (2) **political organization/government** (theocracy, bureaucracy, supreme ruler, not just "council of elders"), (4) **social structure**, (5) **art, monumental architecture, metalwork**

LOCATIONS OF RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

Civilizations arose in four river valleys:

- **Tigris and Euphrates**
- **Nile**
- **Indus**
- **Yellow**



SUMERIAN CIVILIZATION – "BETWEEN THE RIVERS"

Geography	located in "fertile crescent" between Tigris and Euphrates (connected by nearby villages); no natural barriers (to invade)
Government	theocratic monarchs claimed divine authority
Religion	polytheistic (many gods) and syncretistic (added to some gods); economic differences created social classes
Social Structure	king, elite class (priests, scribes, officials, military), large landowners, artisans and merchants, slaves; patriarchal (father-ruled); women slaves
Writing	wedge-shaped cuneiform on clay tablets; then evolved to be more abstract; mostly used for record-keeping
Architecture and Art	homes, defensive walls, and ziggurats (temple to main god) built from mud bricks (sun-baked); <i>Gilgamesh</i> depicts artistic ideal of strong king
Innovations	wheel, plow, orchards; bronze, arches, domes; 60-based number system, place value; mapping of constellations

HAMMURABI'S CODE IN ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA – 1770 BC

Akkadians and Babylonians conquered Sumer, created empires, and spread Sumerian culture. **Hammurabi's Code**, a Babylonian king's laws (**primary source**), is the earliest written legal code:

- **public display (stones, tablets):** laws ruled by king, even king
- **social structure:** punishment and rules varied by class
- **family:** patriarchal; men and children; women lower status
- **retribution:** rights and punishment; eye for an eye
- **types of law:** criminal, civil, family, slave, property
- **divine authority:** artwork; laws given by deity

EGYPT, GIFT OF THE NILE

King Menes united Upper (south) and Lower (north) Egypt ~3100 BC.

Geography	northward-flowing, predictable; natural barriers (deserts, Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Nile to south)
Government	divine pharaoh ; royal clergy (passed to family members)
Religion	polytheistic; belief in Maat (justice) and afterlife (complex)
Economy	agriculture (wheat, flax, papyrus); surplus (wealth), trade
Social Structure	king, nobles, peasants, not artisans, merchants, slaves (farmed, provided forced labor)
Writing	hieroglyphics ; hieratic script
Architecture and Art	huge pyramids (stone); royal tombs (showed principle of Maat (truth, justice, balance, order))
Innovations	papyrus paper; medical skills, anatomy (mummification); geometric calculations (area, volume); 365-day calendar

JUDAISM AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

In addition to Sumerians and Egyptians, other peoples contributed to the development of civilization in the West. Phoenicians created a sea trade empire and the alphabet. Nomadic Hebrew people settled in Palestine (Israel), founded **Judaism**, and recorded impactful new ideas in Hebrew Bible:

- **exclusive monotheism:** concept of one true god; evolved from polytheism (one god before other gods) as polytheism was rejected
- **covenant "contract"** existed between God and his chosen people: God was just, merciful, and loving, but punished his people if they did not obey his will as revealed to prophets, including **Jewish Ten Commandments** which defined religious duties and ethical behavior (honor parents and do not kill, commit adultery, steal, lie, or covet)

CIVILIZATIONS IN CHINA AND INDIA AND HINDU RELIGION

Eastern river valley civilizations emerged ~1700 BC in India and China.

Huang He, Chang Jiang Rivers (China)	Indus River (India)
geography: large natural barriers (seas, mountains, Gobi desert)	natural barriers (seas, Himalaya); monsoons (seasonal winds, rain)
government: king supported by warrior aristocracy (wealthy land-owners); divided into territories	first civilization was Harappan; Aryan dominated ~1500 BC, also settled Ganges; rajahs (chiefs) ruled clans
religion: afterlife; ancestor reverence	Hinduism (many variants practiced)
economy: farming, intra-China trade	farming and trade
social structure: king, aristocracy, peasants; filial piety (dutiful respect for parents, patriarchal)	caste system (strict social classes); born to set level of purity/pollution; patriarchal; extended families
writing: Chinese pictographic	little known of Harappan script; ~1500 BC

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