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Global - Mr.Badgley    1WW

#13 What effect did law and religion have on early civilization?

1. Mesopotamia - plains of the Fertile Crescent that lies in Southwest Asia  
Polytheism - the belief in more than one god   
City-states - a city and its surrounding lands functioning as an independent political unit  
Fertile Crescent - A region in Southwest Asia that has a curved shape, rich farmland, and is surrounded by dry land. It includes the Mediterranean Sea and Mesopotamia  
Empire - a political unit in which a number of people or countries are ruled by a single person.  
Dynasty - a series of rulers from a single family

2. Hammurabi's code advanced civilization by laying down basic principles for how future civilizations behaved. For example, Hammurabi's code states that if "a man pts out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out." This laid down the ground rule of equal punishment. A certain action would result in whatever was deemed an equal punishment. Another example would be the prologue, which set out the goals of the laws. It stated that the laws were meant to bring righteousness and destroy evil so the strong should not harm the week. It appears as if the government should have a responsibility for what occurred in society. It gave rights and compensation to its people. If a man was robbed and the thief was not caught, the government had to pay the victim for what was lost.

3.Cultural diffusion is the spread of the properties of cultures. An example of cultural diffusion seen in the past fourteen years can be seen in Hong Kong. The idea of democracy being a good thing spread to Hong Kong. Some people there believe that there rights are being eroded by mainland China due to internet and press censorship.

4. The need to interact with the environment led to advances in civilization by providing a challenge that when conquered, would lead to an improvement in life. One example of this during the time of the Sumerians was the unpredictable periods of flooding and drought. This obviously reduced crop yields. The solution to this was digging irrigation ditches to carry river water to the fields. Another example from Sumerian times was the lack of natural barriers. The solution to this was building city walls out of mud bricks. This proliferated the use of mud bricks and eventually led to geometry to properly erect city walls and buildings. A third example, this time set in modern times, is the GravityLight. In an environment where there is no electricity and fuel is scarce, creating light was a problem. By attaching a heavy weight or bag filled with anything heavy to one end of the invention's string, enough energy to power a light for thirty minutes is generated. A fourth example is edible oil dispersant. This advancement was born out of the need to disperse oil spills without adding more harmful chemicals to the water. Seeing that using this is more safe than using regular chemicals, the ecological damage is lessened.