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**1.1 The First Humans**

- **Hominids:** Earliest humanlike species
  - Started in Africa, 3-4 million years ago
  - **Australopithecines:** Southern ape-men
    - Lived in Eastern and Southern Africa
    - First to make simple stone tools
    - Possibly bipedal
  - **Homo Habilis:**
    - 250,000 years ago
    - Encountered other hominids (e.g. the Neanderthals) and interbred
- **Paleolithic age:** people made tools and learned how to harness fire
  - People could differentiate edible foods when hunting and gathering
  - Possibly lived in groups of 20-30 people
  - Both genders were responsible for food, but women bore children and raised them, staying closer to the camps
    - No gender hierarchy yet
  - They made shelter from caves, wood poles, and sticks with animal hide

- The **systematic use of fire** began 500,000 years ago
- Cave paintings of animals that they didn't hunt were found, believed to be for religious and decorative purposes
- **Neolithic Revolution: Stone Age**
  - Occurred after the end of the ice age (10,000 BCE)
  - Cultivation of crops + domestication of animals
  - Not as dependent on rainfall → first **sedentary societies**
    - **Sedentary**: staying in one place; not nomadic
- **Agricultural revolution:**
  - Food gathering → food production
    - Regular supplies of crops and animal domestication
  - People had control over the environment, and expanded in population

Crops	Location
Wheat and Barley	Middle east → Southern Europe → Central Europe → Mediterranean → Western Asia → Egypt → Africa → India
Root crops (yam)/tubers	Africa
Rice/millet, domestication of pigs and dogs	Northern China
Beans/squash/maize/dogs/fowl	Mexico, Central America

- **Oldest Civilizations in the Middle East**
  - Villages or towns
    - Organized communities stored food, accumulated material goods, and engaged in trade
    - Division of labor: pottery, woven baskets, stone tools, vegetable filters
    - Men assumed **primary responsibility** in the fields/herding animals. Women grinded grain, cared for children, made clothes, household tasks and this led to a **rise in patriarchy**
  - Writing and use of metals (e.g. copper, bronze) started 4000-3000 B.C.E
  - **Bronze Age** started 3000-1200 BCE, then replaced by iron
- New pattern of human life

## 1.2 The Emergence of Civilization

- **Civilization:** Complex culture in which large numbers of people share a variety of common elements
  - **Urban focus:** cities became the center of development
  - New political and military structure: developed a bureaucracy
  - Social structure: based on economic power
    - Upper → Middle → Lower (slaves)
  - Complexity in **materialism:** developed luxury items and goods
  - Distinct religious structure: Gods
  - Writing: Records
  - Artistic and Intellectual activity: Architecture
- Civilizations that developed

River Civilizations	Mesopotamia → Tigris and Euphrates
	Valleys of Indus River in India → Himalayas to Arabian Sea
	Northern China → Yellow River
	Egypt → Nile
	Peru (South America) → Supe River Valley, many buildings
Plain Civilizations	Uzbekistan (Central Asia) → Writing, cultivation, their own system of irrigation, bronze tools

### 1.3 Civilization in Mesopotamia

#### Geography and Agriculture

- Location: Mesopotamia, literally “land between the rivers” (referring to Tigris and Euphrates)
- Climate: Little rainfall; irregular flooding dependent on snowmelt from mountains
- Soil: Fertile due to silt deposits from river floods
- Human adaptation:
  - Construction of **irrigation canals and drainage ditches** to manage water
  - Required **cooperation and planning**, a hallmark of civilizations
- Impact: Surplus crops → food security → growth of cities and specialized labor
- Conflicts between city-states were likely:
  - Flat plains made city-states vulnerable to attack
  - Rivers were shared resources → disputes over irrigation and farmland
  - Expansion of agriculture increased territorial competition

#### Sumerian City-States

- Origins: Sumerians (~3000 BCE), origin unclear

- Major city-states: Eridu, Ur, Uruk, Umma, Lagash
- Political structure:
  - Each city controlled surrounding farm → independent city-states
  - Centralized authority centered on king and priestly elite
- Religious buildings:
  - **Ziggurats:** massive stepped towers, temples at top
  - Temples dedicated to city's patron deity
- Government type:
  - **Theocracy:** priests had power; kings were seen as divinely appointed
  - Kings led armies and managed public works (irrigation, infrastructure)
- Social structure
  - **Elites:** kings, royal family, high priests and priestesses
  - **Dependent** commoners: clients working on palace/temple estates
  - **Free** commoners: farmers, merchants, fishers, artisans, scribes (~90% of population)
  - Slaves:
    - Owned by temples, palaces, and wealthy landowners
    - Used in construction, agriculture, textile production, domestic labor
  - Hierarchy affected daily life
    - Class determined legal rights, economic opportunities, and punishments
    - Most Mesopotamians worked in agriculture, but cities had diverse labor for trade and crafts
- Empires and warfare
  - Conflict: constant war over land and water resources among city states

#### Akkadian Empire (~2340 BCE)

- Leader called Sargon
  - Conquered Sumerian city states, appointed governors
  - Maintained standing arm (5400 soldiers)
  - Legacy: first large dynastic empire in Mesopotamia

#### Babylonian Empire (~1792 BCE)

- Leader called Hammurabi
  - Conquest strategy: divide opponents → subdue individually
  - Built infrastructure: walls, temples, canals
  - Promoted trade and economic growth
  - Seen as a "shepherd" to his people, ensuring peace and prosperity

- Decline of empires: Weak successors → fragmentation → return to city state conflicts

#### Code of Hammurabi

- Purpose: enforce justice, portray Hammurabi as a source of law
- Principles:
  - Retribution: "an eye for an eye"
  - Punishments varied by social class
    - Crimes against nobles are more severe than against commoners
- Examples of laws:
  - Family: arranged marriages, dowries, property rights
  - Women: limited rights, but could reclaim dowry or inheritance under certain conditions
  - Children: strict obedience, harsh punishments for offenses
- Code reveals
  - A structured social hierarchy
  - Patriarchal control of family and property
  - A legal system closely tied to religious and moral authority

#### Religion and Culture

- Worldview: Mesopotamians believed gods controlled every aspect of life
- Polytheism: multiple deities responsible for natural forces and human events
- Major gods:
  - An: sky
  - Enlil: wind
  - Enki: water, earth, inventions
  - Ninhursaga: soil, vegetation, mother goddess
- Human role: perform labor for gods, maintain their favor
- Priestly class:
  - Conducted rituals, sacrifices, and divination
  - Divination: reading animal livers/organs to predict outcomes
- Literature:
  - **Epic of Gilgamesh**: explores mortality, human ambition, relationship with gods
- Religion was central to Mesopotamian life
  - Natural disasters were unpredictable and believed to be caused by Gods
  - Kings relied on priests to maintain legitimacy
  - Rituals aimed to secure divine protection and prosperity

## Writing and Sciences

- **Cuneiform** writing system
  - Developed c. 3000 BCE
  - Evolved from pictographs → stylized signs → phonetic symbols
  - Used for record-keeping, education, literature, law
- Scribal schools
  - Trained professional scribes for temple, government, and business
  - Education mainly for wealthy boys
- Mathematics
  - Base 60 number system, geometry for land measurement and building
- Astronomy
  - Lunar months, solar-year adjustments, charted constellations
- Early writing systems had
  - Pictographs symbolize objects/ideas → abstract meaning
  - Necessary administration, trade, legal records

### 1.4 Egyptian Civilization: "The Gift of the Nile"

#### Geography and the Nile River

- The **Nile River** is the longest river in the world, flowing north from central Africa to the Mediterranean
- Annual flooding deposited fertile silt, creating the **Black Land** along the banks, surrounded by deserts called the **Red Land**
- **Delta:** Northern Nile splits into 2 branches forming Lower Egypt; upstream is Upper Egypt
- Nile benefits:
  - Provided fertile soil → abundant harvests → food surpluses
  - Natural transportation → easier travel, trade, and communication
- Geography offered **protection from invasions:**
  - Deserts to east and west
  - Cataracts in the south
  - Mediterranean to the north
  - Unlike Mesopotamia, in the Nile:
    - Flooding was predictable → stable, life-enhancing rather than threatening
    - Society remained more rural with many villages along the Nile
  - Geography created security, stability and a sense of continuity in Egyptian civilization

## The Pharaoh and Religion

- Pharaohs were divine rulers and central to both political and spiritual life
- **Hymn to the Nile:** shows Egyptians' gratitude for the river's life giving power
- **Hymn to the Pharaoh:** celebrates kingship as a unifying and protective force
- Pharaoh maintained **Ma'at** the cosmic order of truth, justice and harmony
- Religion was inseparable from daily life
  - Polytheistic with gods linked to the sun, Nile, and natural forces
  - Major gods: Re (sun), Osiris (afterlife), Isis (fertility, resurrection), Horus (royalty)
  - Pharaohs were "Son of Re" and central to rituals
- Afterlife belief:
  - Humans had **ka**, their spiritual body
  - Mummification preserved the body so the **ka** could continue life
  - Tombs contained goods for the afterlife

## Periods of Egyptian History

### Old Kingdom (c. 2575-2125 BCE)

- Capital: Memphis
- Age of prosperity, pyramids, and monumental architecture
- Pharaoh seen as God-king
- Bureaucracy developed; vizier oversaw provinces (nomes)
- Hierarchical society: (from most to least powerful) pharaoh → nobles/priests → merchants/artisans → peasants/serfs
- Achievements
  - Pyramids, including the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza
  - Art: formulaic, functional, tied to ritual
  - Writing: hieroglyphics → sacred inscriptions, later simplified scripts on papyrus

### Middle Kingdom

- Followed a period of disorder (First Intermediate Period)
- Pharaoh portrayed as a shepherd of the people → public welfare focus
- Nome system reorganized for clearer governance
- Bureaucracy more structured; tax collection and labor obligations formalized
- Culture
  - Osiris cult democratized → afterlife accessible to more people
  - Continued monumental construction and art

## New Kingdom (c. 1539-1069 BCE)

- After Hyksos invasion and the Second Intermediate period
- Militaristic, expansionist, professional army
- Pharaohs gained immense wealth, built grand temples
- Known pharaohs: Hatshepsut (trade, temples), Thutmose III (military campaigns), Amenhotep IV/ Akhenaten (religious reform, monotheism attempt), Tutankhamun (restored traditional religion), Ramesses II (military, monumental construction)
- Decline due to internal struggles, invasions by **Sea Peoples**, and a gradual loss of empire

## Society and Economy

- Economy:
  - Growth based on agriculture
  - Trade along the Nile, Red Sea and internationally (Crete, Syria, Punt, Nubia)
  - Crafts: jewelry, furniture, tools, papyrus, linen, art
- Family life
  - Marriage encouraged early, monogamy was common
  - Women respected, could inherit property and run businesses
  - Marriage was arranged, children especially sons were important

## Culture and Achievements

- Architecture: pyramids, temples, tombs
- Art: stylized, formulaic, functional for ritual and afterlife
- Writing: Hieroglyphics, later simplified scripts on papyrus
- Religion: central to life; preserved Ma'at
- Afterlife beliefs: Mummification, ka, Osiris cult

## Egyptian Influence

- Nubia/Kush: trade in gold, ivory, ebony, spices, and slaves
- Cultural borrowing: pyramids, hieroglyphs, religious beliefs
- Kushite dynasty ruled Egypt (25th dynasty)

## Mediterranean

- Influence trade, expanded Egyptian wealth and knowledge

## Continuity and Change

- Nile central to agriculture and transport
- Pharaoh as central ruler and divine figure
- Belief in cosmic order, afterlife, and ritual
- Hierarchical social structure



- Shifts in pharaohs roles (absolute god-king type person → shepherd of people)
- Military and empire expansion during New Kingdom
- Religious experiments (Akhenaten)
- Periods of disorder and foreign invasion

## 1.5 The Roman World Empire

### Early Rome and the Republic

- Founding myths: Romulus & Remus, Aeneas
- **Etruscan** influence: urban planning, engineering

### Roman Republic (509–27 BCE)

- Patricians vs. plebeians → Struggle of the Orders
- Offices: consuls, praetors, tribunes of the plebs
- Senate: advisory but powerful
- Conquest of Italy:
  - Roman Confederation granted citizenship or ally status
- **Punic Wars** (264–146 BCE):
  - Rome vs. Carthage → Rome dominates western Mediterranean
  - Hannibal's invasion led to second Punic War
    - Scipio Africanus defeats Carthage
- **Marius**: professional army loyal to generals
- Crisis of the Republic:
  - Grachi brothers created land reform, but were assassinated
  - First Triumvirate (**Julius Caesar**, Pompey, Crassus)
    - Julius Caesar declared himself dictator for life, but was assassinated (44 BCE)

### The Roman Empire at Its Height

- **Augustus Caesar** (27 BCE–14 CE):
  - First emperor; Pax Romana Begins
  - Maintained republican façade
- Five Good Emperors (96–180 CE):
  - Trajan, Hadrian – expanded and stabilized empire
  - Romanization: spread of Latin, law, urban culture
- Economy and Society
  - Latifundia (large estates with slave labor)
  - Silk Road used for trade with Han China

- Had **paterfamilias**: male head of household
- Culture
  - **Virgil** wrote the epic **Aeneid**
  - Roman law: twelve tables, law of nations, natural law
- Architecture: arch, vault, dome, concrete (e.g. Pantheon, Colosseum)
- Daily life:
  - Bread and circuses for entertainment (gladiators, chariot races)
  - Slavery was widespread → led to the **Spartacus revolt** (73–71 BCE)

#### Crisis and the Late Empire

- Third-century crisis: 27 emperors in 50 years, invasions, plague, inflation
- **Diocletian** and **Constantine**:
  - **Tetrarchy**, price controls, hereditary occupations
    - **Tetrarchy**: dividing the Roman Empire between 2 emperors
  - Constantinople founded (330 CE)

#### Fall of the West (476 CE):

- Germanic tribes (Visigoths, Vandals) sacked Rome
- Odoacer deposes Romulus Augustulus

#### Rise of Christianity

- Jesus of Nazareth: message of love, salvation
- Paul of Tarsus: spread to Gentiles
- Persecution → Edict of Milan (313 CE, Constantine) → official religion (Theodosius, 380 CE)
- Appealed to all classes; offered community, eternal life

#### Roman vs Han Empires

- Similarities:
  - Large populations (~50–60 million)
  - Road networks, centralized bureaucracy, agrarian base
  - Threatened by nomadic invasions (Xiongnu/Germans)
- Differences:
  - Han Empire had dynastic continuity, Confucian ideology, less social mobility
  - Rome was a republic then empire, greater merchant role, more urbanized
  - Legacy: China reunified; Rome West collapsed permanently