CHAPTER 2 / EGYPT AND MESOPOTAMIA

World History
The Four River Valley Civilizations

Map of Four River Valley Civilizations:
- China: 3950–1000 BCE
- Mesopotamia: 3500–1600 BCE
- Ancient Egypt: 3000–2000 BCE
- Indus Valley: 2500–1700 BCE
Land Between Two Rivers
Land Between the Rivers

- **Fertile Crescent**: a region of fertile farm land reaching from Mediterranean to Persian Gulf
- **Mesopotamia** means land between two rivers and was located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers where Iraq is today
- In **Sumer** the fertile region attracted many Stone Age farmers eventually producing a surplus of food
Fertile Crescent: a region of rich farmland that curves from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf
First Cities / Sumerian Government

- 3200 BC first **Sumerian** cities emerge in southern Mesopotamia
- Had few **natural resources** so structures were built with **mud bricks**
- Over time these cities and land it controlled form **city states** which are political units with its own government
- Each city-state ruler was responsible for maintaining city walls and irrigation systems and were considered agents of the gods but not gods themselves
- Led **armies**
- Enforced laws
- Scribes collected taxes & keep records
Sumerian Religion

- **Polytheistic** believing the gods controlled every aspect of life
- Gods controlled every aspect of life
- The highest duty was to **keep the gods happy**
- Each city built a **ziggurat** or pyramid temple and at the top stood the **shrine to the chief god of that city**
- They believed that the afterlife was a **grim and dark** place which there was no release
Sumerian Society

– Distinct social hierarchy or system of ranks
– Ruling family, leading officials, high priests
– Small middle class of minor priests, merchants are artisans
– Base of society were the peasant farmers who made up the majority of the population
– Most owned slaves captured in war while some from debts owed
– Women’s role changed over time from honored roles to becoming more dependent on men
-- They did have some legal rights and some could engage in trade and own property
Advances in Learning

• Sumerians invented the earliest known form of writing called **cuneiform** using a reed pen to make wedge shaped marks on clay tables.

• Scribes had to go through years of difficult schooling to acquire their skills.
Additional Advances

- Math system based on the number 60 (we use 60 minutes in an hour)
- Circle is divided into 360 degrees
- Geometry needed for building
- First wheel
- First plow
- Use of bronze
- Sewers
- Cataloged medical knowledge
- Cylinder seals
- Epic of Gilgamesh about a great flood that destroys the world and a Sumerian hero
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The First Empire Builders

- Invasion and conquest was a prominent feature in the history of the ancient Middle East.
- 2300 BC **Sargon** conquered Sumer building the **first empire**.
- His empire falls after his death and many more conquerors follow.
Hammurabi The Lawgiver

- 1790 BC Hammurabi of **Babylon** brought much of Mesopotamia under his control
- Develops a set of laws known as the **Code of Hammurabi**
- This was the **first** attempt by a ruler to **Codify** or arrange and set down in writing all of the laws that would govern a state.
Crime and Punishment

- One section deals with **Criminal law** deals with offenses against others such as robbery, assault or murder.
- **Hammurabi's Code** was very cruel by today’s standards.
- *By setting specific punishments for offenses he limited personal vengeance and encouraged social order.*
- **Civil law** laws deals with private rights and matters such as business contracts, property inheritances, taxes, marriage and divorce.
- He took many steps to keep his empire unified including a common religion.
Hammurabi's Other Accomplishments

- United an empire
- Improved irrigation
- Organized a well trained army
- Encouraged religious unity
Warfare and The Secret of Ironworking

- **Indo-Europeans** coming in from the Black Sea area
- By forcing people to move elsewhere invaders helped spread **ideas** while others brought new **skills**
- Hittites had learned how to extract **Iron** from ore 1400 BC
- Kept this technology a secret until empire collapse 1200 BC
Assyrian Warriors

- Lived on upper Tigris & began expanding by 1100 BC
- Reputation as most feared warriors in history
- Warfare was central to their culture but did have a well order society with extensive laws
- King Assurbanipal founded one of the first libraries
Babylon Revived

- Chaldean leader Nebuchadnezzar revived power of Babylon
- Built a large empire from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea
- He built “The Hanging Gardens of Babylon”
- He pushed the frontiers of LEARNING! Into other areas especially astronomy
- Crash Course: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohXPx_XZ6Y
Gates to Babylon
Uniting Many People

• 539 BC Babylon falls to the Persian armies of
• In general the Persian armies of Cyrus the Great pursued a policy of **toleration** or acceptance of people they conquered
• **Unification accomplished under Darius** (522-486 BC)
• Divided Persian empire into provinces with each headed by a governor called a **satrap**
• Darius also adapted laws from the people he conquered and drew up a single code of laws
• Built and repaired roads to make **communication** easier. Set up a type of pony express system for mail
Ancient Persian Art
Economic Life

• He improved **trade** and set a common set of **Weights and Measures**

• He encouraged the use of **Money** introduced by the Lydian's

• However most people used the **Barter Economy** to exchange one set of goods for another

• the **Money Economy** where goods and services are paid for through the exchange of some token of an agreed upon value, by using a single Persian coinage

Darius could link all of his subjects together
Money vs. Barter Economy

WHY MONEY WAS INVENTED

SORRY, I’VE GOT NOTHING SMALLER
New Religion

- **Zoroaster**, thinker who united the empire (600 BC)
- Rejected Persian gods
- Ahura Mazda was a single wise god who was in a constant battle against Ahriman the prince of lies and evil
- All individuals will have to choose which side to support
- On judgment day all would be judged by their actions. The good would enter paradise and evil doers would be condemned to eternal suffering
- Zoroastrianism was the first religion to teach dualism, the belief that the world is controlled by two opposing forces, good and evil
Phoenician Sea Traders, Manufacturing and Alphabet,

- famous sailors and sea traders
- *Carriers of Civilization*
- Phoenicians were great traders and set up colonies or territories settled and ruled by people from another land
- Phoenicians were the “Purple People:
- They had their own alphabet that had symbols that represented spoken sounds and was quick, flexible
THE ROOTS OF JUDAISM

- Israelites or **Hebrews** recorded events in the **Torah** their most sacred text.
- Abraham migrates to Canaan (Palestine).
- He considered the founder of the **Israelite nation**.
- Famine forced many to migrate to **Egypt** where they became **enslaved**.
- **Moses** led them out of Egypt on an **great exodus** but died before they reached Canaan.
- 1,000 BC Israelites set up a kingdom called **Israel**.
- King David united the Israelite tribes into a **single nation**.
- David’s son, **Solomon** turned Jerusalem into an impressive **capital** and tried to increase Israel’s influence with other empires.
Division and Conquest

• Solomon’s building projects required high taxes & forced labor causing revolts to erupt
• The kingdom split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south
• Israelites could not fight off invaders and in 722 BC fell to the Assyrians then Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed the temple and forced many Israelites into exile in Babylon and this period was called the Babylonian Captivity and the Israelites became known as the Jews
• Years later Darius would conquer Babylon and free the Jews from captivity
The Chosen People / Law and Morality

• They Israelites differed from other around them because they were **monotheistic** or believed on only one true God

• Israelite society was **patriarchal** in that fathers and husbands held great legal and moral authority over their families

• Women had few rights
Ten Commandments

• At the heart of Judaism are the **10 Commandments** which are a set of **laws** the Jews believe God gave them through **Moses**

• First four stress **religious duties** toward God like keeping the Sabbath a holy day for rest and worship

• Rest set out rules for conduct towards other people
An Ethical Worldview / Looking Ahead

- In Jewish history spiritual leaders emerged to interpret God’s will called **prophets**
- They preached a strong code of Ethics or moral standards of behavior
- Judaism 14 min: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTPaqTSuurs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTPaqTSuurs)
- Thousands of years ago many Jews left their homeland, this scattering of people was called **Diaspora**
- The Jews still maintained their identity, lived in close knit communities and obey their religious laws and traditions helping them survive centuries of persecution and influencing both **Christianity** and **Islam**
Geography of the Nile Valley

- Nile/Egypt region is a very fertile area
- Farmers grew wheat and flax which is a plant whose fibers were used for clothing
Yearly Flooding of the Nile

- Nile comes from the highland lakes of Ethiopia.
- Every year the spring rains in this region send this water down into the Nile flooding and the soaking the region with and Silt or soil.
- People built dykes or earthen dams, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches to channel the rising river and store for the dry season.
Uniting the Land

TWO REGIONS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

UPPER EGYPT: which stretched from the first CATARACT or waterfall of the Nile northward to within 100 miles of the Mediterranean

- Lower Egypt that empties into the Mediterranean Sea
- In 3100 BC MENES, king of UPPER EGYPT united the two regions and used the Nile to link the two regions and also used the river as a trade route
Pharaoh Headdress
Three Main Periods of Ancient Egypt

- **Old Kingdom** - 2700–2200 BCE
- **Middle Kingdom** - 2050–1800 BCE
- **New Kingdom** - 1550–1100 BCE
- Power passed from one **Dynasty**, or ruling family, to another
The Old Kingdom (2700 – 2200 BC)

Pharaohs organized a strong centralized state

Egyptians believed the pharaoh had a divine right to rule because he was a **GOD** so he had absolute power and owned and ruled all of the kingdom

Known as the **Age of the Pyramids**

Pyramids were **tombs** for **Pharaoh's**

- Built without iron tools or **WHEELED VEHICLES** and were often started as soon as soon a pharaoh
- Pyramids suggests strength of Egypt
Building a Tomb
Building a Pyramid
Or Maybe ...

ALIENS BUILT THE PYRAMIDS
Pyramids then and now
Pyramid: inside and out
The Sphinx
Sphinx in ancient times
Obelisk
Pyramids Videos


- History channel fact about pyramids 2 min: http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/tutankhamen/videos/deconstructing-history-the-great-pyramid?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false
A turbulent period
Egyptians suffer crop shortages
Nile did not rise regularly
Egyptian armies occupied part of Nubia
Traders had contact with people around the Middle East and island Crete
The Hykos invaded in 1700 BC
Egyptians were impressed with their horse drawn war chariots and the Hykos were impressed by the Egyptians civilization and adopted many customs, beliefs and names
Egyptian rulers drove out the Hyksos after 100 years and set up the New Kingdom
New Kingdom (1550 – 110 BC)

Powerful pharaohs build a large empire bringing Egyptians into greater contact with more regions & peoples

**Queen Hatshepsut**: ruled between 1503 – 1482; She encouraged trade with many eastern Mediterranean lands and along the Red Sea. First female to rule in her own name

Mr. Betts Hatshepsut 5:41:
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YnfI4yxlSE&list=PLCH8uxPXHPDAJtHZorCO4JUFaL-yPPvy&index=5](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YnfI4yxlSE&list=PLCH8uxPXHPDAJtHZorCO4JUFaL-yPPvy&index=5)

**Ramses II**: most powerful ruler who ruled between 1290 – 1224; He increased the empires size, built temples and monuments boasting of his conquests;

- Egyptian power begins to decline after Ramses death
New Kingdom Rulers

Hatshepsut

Ramses II
Abu Simbel
Abu Simbel then and now
Tomb of Seti
Tomb of Ramses
Egypt and Nubia

• Nubia, known as Kush, developed south of Egypt
• These two civilizations maintained a close relationship each interacting and conquering each other.
Egyptian Religion

• Egyptian belief in eternal life had a profound effect on their civilization

• **They are Polytheistic**
  - Chief god was **Amon Re**: the sun god
  - **Isis**: Goddess of the life
  - **Osiris**: Ruled over the Underworld and was god of the Nile

• **Aton**: a minor god whose symbol was the sun disk
Egyptian Afterlife

Egyptian afterlife

- Heart gets weighed against the feather of truth. If heart is lighter than the feather go to Happy field of food.
- If heart weighs more than the feather. Get heart eaten by the crocodile eater of the dead
Frontalism
Religious Rebel

– In 1380 BC Akhenaton devoted his life to the worship of Aton who was a minor god

– The pharaoh took the name Akhenaton which means he who serves Aton

– His wife was the beautiful Nefertiti

– Scholars disagree: did the pharaoh try to introduce a new religion based or the worship of a single god or did he just want to raise Aton to the highest place among the gods

– Many resisted this revolutionary change and after Akhenaton’s death the old gods were restored
Akhenaton and Nefertiti
Mummification

- The preservation of the dead
- Process took months to complete
- At first a privilege for rulers and nobles but later even common people could be mummified
The Mummification Process

How mummification took place:

- Pull brain out of nose using a hook
- Make a cut on the left side of the body near the tummy
- Remove all internal organs
- Let the internal organs dry
- Place the lungs, intestines, stomach and liver inside canopic jars
- Place the heart back inside the body
- Rinse inside of body with wine and spices
- Cover the corpse with nation (salt) for 70 days
- After 40 days stuff the body with linen or sand to give it a more human shape
- After the 70 days wrap the body from head to toe in bandages
- Place in coffin
- If the person had been a Pharaoh, he would be placed inside his special burial chamber with lots of treasure
- Mummification 5 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9onQuap5nA
Mummies
MUMMIES
Mummy Coffins
Hatshepsut and a Coffin
Coffins

- And exterior coffin, then and interior coffin
Evidence of the Tomb of Tutankhamen (King Tut)

- Buried in the Valley of the kings
- Most royal tombs had been stripped of their treasures by looters
- In 1922 archaeologist Howard Carter unearthed the tomb of Tutankhamen which had remained untouched for more than 3,000 years
- King Tut was 19 years old when he died
Inside the Tomb of King Tut
Tut Videos

• History channel Death of King Tut 3 min: http://www.history.com/topics/ancient-history/tutankhamen/videos/coroners-report-king-tut

• Inside the tomb 4 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hyqwnmnbew

• SNL: https://screen.yahoo.com/king-tut-000000724.html
Tut’s MRI Scan and Canopic Jars
Inside the Tomb
Sarcophagus of Tut
Funerary mask and Scarab pendant
Bed and Head Rest
Inside the tomb / thrown chair
Egyptian Society

- At the top of society is the Pharaoh and his family
- High Priest & Priestesses
- Nobles who fought the wars
- Merchants, scribes and artisans who provided services for the rich and powerful
Life of the Farmer/Social Change

- Most Egyptians were peasant farmers
- Many were also slaves
- Off season peasant men served the pharaoh by laboring on temples, tombs and palaces
- During New Kingdom society grew more fluid as trade & warfare increased
- Foreign conquest brought riches to Egypt
Women

- Enjoyed a higher status & greater independence than women elsewhere
- They could inherit property, make business deals, buy and sell goods, go to court and obtain divorce, manufacture goods, manage farming estates, serve as doctors and enter the priesthood
- They were not confined to the home
- They could not be scribes or hold government jobs
Life in Ancient Egypt

An Egyptian Family at Home

- The flat roof was often used for eating and sleeping.
- Small windows let in little light, keeping the house cool.
- Most Egyptians built their homes with bricks made of sun-dried mud from the Nile River.
- Inside was an entrance hall, a room for social activities, a bedroom, a kitchen and storage space. There was little furniture.
- Grains were stored for making bread or beer.
- Animals were kept in an enclosed yard.

The home of a typical worker or farmer in Ancient Egypt looked something like this.
Lock of Youth / Shoes
Egyptian Learning / Written Records

- **Reading and writing** were very important
- Besides reading and writing they had to
- Have skills in __
- They developed a form of picture writing called **hieroglyphics**
- As language became more complex they added **ideographs** or pictures that symbolized an idea or action
- Over time they developed **demotic** a simpler form of writing for everyday use
- They wrote on a paper like material made from **papyrus** and wrote with **reed pens and ink**
Ancient Hieroglyphics

Oh, for cryin' out loud... you never end a sentence with a bird!
The Rosetta Stone

• Jean Champollion discovered the **Rosetta Stone** which helped him to **decipher** or decode the ancient hieroglyphics

• The stone was flat and black with the same message carved in three forms, **Hieroglyphics, demotic and Greek**

• So by comparing the three he could decode the **hieroglyphics symbols**
Rosetta Stone

t'et ḫn ḫnAusār chent āmentet neter āā neb

“Saiḥ Osiris, at the head of the underworld, god great, lord of
Re-stâu
Re-stâu (i.e., the passages of the tomb).”
Advances in Medicine and Science

- Physicians became skilled at observing symptoms, diagnoses, finding cures, surgery, medicines
- **Priests and astronomers** studied the heavens charting movements of plants and mapping constellations thus developing a calendar
- **Geometry** was used to survey the land and build pyramids and temples and irrigations systems
Arts and Literature

- Paintings, statues, poems, literature, temples, pyramids, tombs give us much information of daily life, trade, farming, religious ceremonies and battles.
- Paintings style of **Frontalism** remained unchanged for thousands of years.
- Crash Course: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3Wvw6BivVI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3Wvw6BivVI)
Chapter Summary Videos

- Mesopotamia Song 3 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84y2q4giihY
- Keith Hughes Mesopotamia 18:39: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiclXLWQk4k
- Keith Hughes Egypt 19 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpb4_K7gMzc
- Keith Hughes Judaism 19 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWsKZ2Xto4Y
- Crash Course Mesopotamia 12 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohXPx_XZ6Y
- Crash Course Egypt 12 min: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3Wvw6BivVI
- Mr. Betts Hatshepsut 5:41: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ynfl4yxISE&list=PLCH8uxPXHDP AJtHZorCO4JUFaL-ycPPvy&index=5