

Chapter One

Creation to 1000bce

Part I - The Neolithic Revolution...

Some interesting notes: [Timeline of the Big Bang...](#)[Age of the Universe...](#)
[Formation and Evolution of the Solar System...](#)

- The [Earth](#) is [estimated](#) to have formed about 4.6 billion years ago to the present day.^[1] - its diameter is 7,926 miles and the *Equator* circumference is 24,902 miles - it is 92 million miles from the *Sun* and is tilted 23.4 degrees from upright - it takes 23 hours 56 minutes to spin on its axis and orbits the *Sun* every 365 days plus 6 hours - it has one *Moon* that is 238,857 miles away that orbits it about every 27.3 days...

[History of the World...](#) [End of civilization...](#) [Future of the Earth...](#)

- The [oldest rocks](#) found on Earth are estimated to be almost 4 billion years old - no one is sure when life began but fossils have been found in [rocks](#) that are estimated to be 3.5 billion years old...

["Origin of the Earth and Moon"...](#)[Natural history...](#)

- The [Carboniferous Period](#) occurred from about 354 to 290 million years ago during the late [Paleozoic Era](#). The term "Carboniferous" comes from England, in reference to the rich deposits of coal that occur there. These deposits of coal occur throughout northern Europe, Asia, and Midwestern and Eastern North America. The term "Carboniferous" is used throughout the world to describe this period, although this period has been separated into the [Mississippian](#) (Lower Carboniferous) and the [Pennsylvanian](#) (Upper Carboniferous) in the United States... ([Source](#))
- About 280 million years ago, [Earth](#)'s first land mass, called [Pangaea](#) was formed - all future continents were combined into one "super-continent..."

- About 65 million years ago, the [Atlantic Ocean](#) was forming as the Earth began to finally cool - [India](#) was moving toward modern [Asia](#) - [Australia](#) was still joined with [Antarctica](#)...
- [Australopithecus](#) (Southern Ape) wandered our Earth gathering food stuffs about 4 million years ago...
- [Homo habilis](#) (Handy Man) wandered our Earth with the first tools to assist in “hunting and gathering” food stuffs about 2.5 million years ago - eating scavenged meat provided the nutrients for their brains to evolve...
- [Homo erectus](#) (Upright Man) evolved about 1.5 million years ago and migrated from the African desert Northward into Asia where food stuffs were ample using [stone axes](#) as tools - along with this new bounty came another set of challenges and the need to evolve with the challenges afforded them...
- About 500,000 years ago, the [Ice Age](#) began that split those who had wandered Northward from those who remained in Africa...
- [Homo sapiens neanderthalensis](#) (Neanderthal Man) evolved about 130,000 years ago as the *Ice Age* began to pass - a new type of peoples would emerge that used “imagination” to create plans that would evolve their survival techniques and minimize risk...that would develop the art of sophisticated communication...that would become spiritual in nature...
- [Homo sapiens sapiens](#) (Modern Man - Humans) evolved about 15,000 years ago...
- Although all Humans belong to one *Species*, they are sub-divided into three main groups: [Caucasoids](#) (those associated with the “White” race); [Negroids](#) (those associated with the “Black” race); and [Mongoloids](#) (those associated with the “Asian” race) - the evolution of language and religious beliefs further separated the groups into sub-divisions...

[When Did Humans First Have Sex?...](#)

We find no evidence that [Early Humans](#) were not “[inherently greedy](#)” (nor are they today) and were initially thought to be “[egalitarian](#)” - although Humans had only a few ways of communicating, they knew that banding together was a motivation to their purpose of survival - their needs were simple and they enjoyed the social aspects of those similar to their ways and needs - they [tended](#) to their old and young and looked out for one another - they reproduced naturally and saw that their offspring were similar so they reproduced some more - the elders had status and taught their young the ways of survival, order, and harmony...

Air and water were plentiful, still, a Human’s main concern for surviving was starvation and to avoid being prey - bartering what was available certainly took place amongst groups and cooperation could lead to a peaceful existence - although they did not have money per se, they understood the value of food to those without - to organize production and to distribute goods and services amongst their populations, before [market economies](#) existed, people relied on tradition, top-down command, or community cooperation - loyalty to the group yielded acceptance and those disloyal were driven out - of course, when threatened by others, they banded together more closely as “safety in numbers” was more powerful than being alone and could yield tranquility...

There was no form of agriculture and most foodstuffs were gathered from seasonal plants and leftovers from a stuffed beast - Humans wandered from safe places in the Savannahs to sometimes more risky places where more food was abundant - being a food source themselves, Humans had to develop more sophisticated tactics to survive - again, prejudicial banding together made sense if those wanting to band were similar and trusted - risk was a daily consideration and being inquisitive would lead to a better survival strategy - they were selfish for that survival but learned that working together and sharing bounty could produce better results - however, greed was evident then as certainly hoarding was a natural extension of selfishness...

Note: [Prejudice](#) in this sense implies fear of those who were different - it is a selfish act relating to one’s ability to survive an attack by those wishing to displace or take possessions of one’s valued things - it can be said that groups of like peoples would be ignorant of whether others could assimilate, or not - it wasn’t worth the chance - walk down a dark alley and

see how you feel if there is a group of different souls in your path or coming toward you...

After Humans learned how to make a fire, meat was a treasured food source and Humans were forced to compete with other [scavengers](#) - unless a lucky throw of a rock or a band was able to herd an animal over a cliff - perfecting the art of scavenging was a highly skilled art as the scavenger could sometimes become prey...

Other than Human's hands and feet, their only tools or weapons were rocks, sticks, and dead animal bones - until the spear was invented, Humans had little strength against predators - it was the Humans ability to reason that allowed them to learn from mistakes and survive - there is a strong element of selfishness that is naturally developed after observing a member of a group depart for whatever reason...

Tool and weapon making was probably the first skilled profession - making and keeping a fire was also formidable - the art of "stitching" was perfected by sewing animal skins together to fashion clothing - one can only imagine what a "[needle](#)" fashioned from bone was worth and how the first commerce in clothing developed - there was a great incentive for an entrepreneur to risk one's life in killing a beast for the hide was almost as valuable as the meat...

Art played an integral part in early Human's life - beginning around 20,000bce, outlines of animals appeared on walls and ceilings in the recesses of Paleolithic caves found in northern Spain and central France - pigmented figures were found in caves at [Lascaux](#), France and [Altamira](#), Spain that were created sometime later - communication was learned early as a means of documenting one's life and probably as a warning to others wandering near a groups territory and possessions - this implies that, from the onset, man learned to covet one's piece of society and individuals treasured their views through letting others know that it was their work of art...

Note: It is also clear that males treasured their [women](#) for procreation of one's genes - they made clay statues of women with "pendulous breasts" that signified their infatuation of body parts...

Records from the [19th century BC](#) attest to the existence of an [Assyrian merchant colony](#) at [Kanesh](#) in [Cappadocia](#).^[1]

As noted earlier, probably the first example of “[simple greed](#)” employed by Humans was that of “hoarding” items such as food, clothing, and tools - certainly, many would share their bounty and some would not - in any case, early Human’s nature was to survive and sharing items critical to survival may have been difficult at times?

This does not preclude that early Humans traded objects of value or excess - it is now common to find objects far from their origin - wandering traders would carry as much as their slaves could carry - if one slave perished, it was easy to obtain a replacement...

The leader of the band was usually an elder with the most knowledge of survival and had the unconditional respect of the group - the more friendly contact that was made and the larger bands grew, the more secure they could be and the more “distinct” the peoples became - early Human’s desires became more clear to them where and with whom they lived - they strived to learn and found that knowledge gave one an advantage over others - they learned that communicating knowledge was an important part of their culture - a knowledgeable person could control those who were weaker and had wanton of excesses...

Note: Humans, at one time, probably ate anything to survive, including their own species taking great risks - especially, taking the risk that something might be poisonous - fire improved not only the taste but could kill any bacteria that existed in rotting carcasses - their diet consumed more natural protein than the current diet of most on Earth - they ate all body parts except the hide - [bone marrow and brains](#) provided to get essential fatty acids and other specialty nutrients.....

Initially, everyone in the Clan hunted - as weaponry became more sophisticated, the skill migrated to the males and women were relegated to keeping the family unit together while the males were away - let’s then give the credit to the females as they must have invented farming and the domestication of animals!

Religion would become more sophisticated - there is substantial evidence that leaders and wealthy dead were buried with artifacts and their bodies

painted to ensure “afterlife” - “status” was gaining strength as a measure of [“social differentiation”](#) and the desire to have it would grow naturally...

Note: So here we go with our little chronology about how restless, [esurient Humans will always be migrating](#) and [searching for paradise](#) - just “[over the mountain](#)”, or the “[fountain of youth](#)”, or the “[third planet from the Sun](#)” ...

The current view of the [Paleoindian Indian Period](#) envisions bands of hunters entering the North American continent (circa 13,000 B.C.) by crossing a land bridge that connected eastern Siberia with Alaska. The land bridge was created during the Late Pleistocene by continent-sized glaciers, which, when created, drew water from the oceans' lowering sea levels by some 120 meters. It would appear that these same glaciers prevented these immigrants from expanding into the rest of the North American continent until about 12,000 B.C...

Early Paleoindian (9500bce to 9000bce):

The first subperiod, Early Paleoindian, is characterized by Clovis or Clovis-like large fluted stone points. It is believed that the distribution of these points throughout all the environmental zones in the Southeast represents the initial exploration and colonization of the region. Great mobility of the Paleoindians of this subperiod is suggested by the finding of stone tools and debitage traded or transported by these small bands over hundreds of kilometers from their quarry source. The Southeast, at this time, consisted of three broad environmental zones, running west to east. They were cool-climate boreal forests, temperate oak-hickory-pine forests, and subtropical sandy scrub. The last area was confined to the Florida peninsula and the coastal plain in the Southeast, which extended several kilometers outward from its present location due to the lower sea level. Megafauna of the Late Pleistocene was found in these three environmental zones...

Middle Paleoindian (9000bce to 8500bce)

The second subperiod, the *Middle Paleoindian*, is characterized by a number of fluted and unfluted points, both larger and smaller than Clovis points. The point types of this subperiod in the Southeast are Cumberland, Redstone, Suwannee, Beaver Lake, Quad, Coldwater, and Simpson. This subperiod is viewed as a time when the population was adapting to optimum environmental resource zones instead of randomly moving throughout the Southeast. Concentration on specific zones and resources may account for the variation in the stone points of this sub-period...

([Source](#))

[The First People of Tennessee...](#)

The [Neolithic Revolution](#) was the first “[agricultural revolution](#)” - the transition from nomadic hunting and gathering communities and bands, to agriculture and settlement - it occurred sporadically about 10–12 thousand years ago - there is evidence that sheep were kept on the grassy plains of Iraq about **9,000bce** - there is evidence of farming in Peru in about **8500bce**...

Note: The term refers to both the general time period over which these initial developments took place and the subsequent changes to Neolithic human societies which either resulted from, or are associated with, the adoption of early farming techniques, crop cultivation, and the domestication of animals. ^{[1][2]}

The [Neolithic Revolution](#) is notable primarily for evolving developments in social organization and technology. The changes most often associated with the Neolithic Revolution include:

- an increased tendency to live in permanent or semi-permanent settlements,
- a corresponding reduction in nomadic lifestyles,
- the concept of land ownership,
- modifications to the natural environment,
- the ability to sustain higher population densities,
- an increased reliance on vegetable and cereal foods in the total diet,
- a less egalitarian society with a division of labor between man and woman (including children),

- “specialists” evolved in the trades, arts architecture, and politics,
- nascent "trading economies" using surplus production from increasing crop yields,
- and the development of new technologies (furthering the need for “specialized” tradespersons)...

The relationship of these characteristics to the onset of [agriculture](#), to each other, their sequence and even whether some of these changes are supported by the available evidence remains the subject of much academic debate, and seems to vary from place to place...

The bands of peoples had grown to form [societies](#) that wandered together with more sophisticated tools and weapons - there settlements usually were near a water source, a view of the open territory, and someplace to hide that faced south if danger or bad weather came - as Man could now hunt with a reasonable amount of certainty, he tracked range animals and understood their patterns...

The terms “desire” and “wanton” come further into play with “have-nots” desirous of things others “have” - probably when Humans had to decide a quantitative measure of “what was enough” and the [Sociological Basis of Greed](#)...

Salt was treasured by all - Neolithic settlements were at located at “salt springs” and caravans trekked long distances [trading salt](#) ounce-for-ounce for gold - although not yet an organized form of money, salt was certainly one of the great “wants” of humans - certainly, hoarding took place and a savvy trader who could hold onto his stash until the vale increased would profit nicely - one has to believe that salt traders were powerful influences on the wanton of the masses...

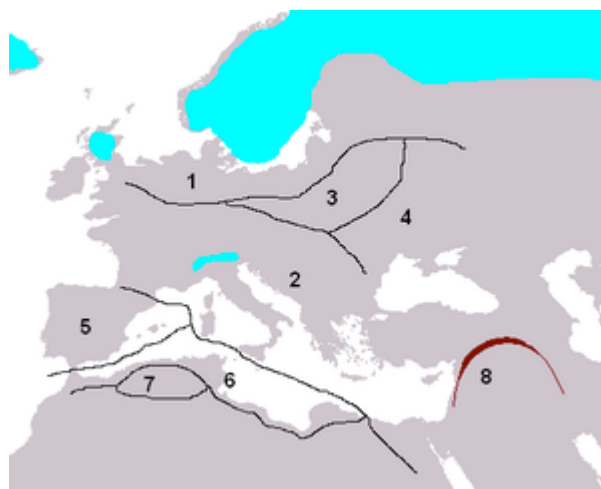
Peoples understood ownership of valuable things, animals, pottery, and weapons - they would leave a “mark” on their possessions to designate it was theirs; and probably aggressively defended their possessions - as no groups could produce all they needed or wanted, it was necessary to either trade or combine resources - if a group had excesses their power to dictate trade increased - logic says that the more intelligent groups made the most advances in early commerce...

The [Neolithic Revolution](#) had many results socially and economically - as more children were born, social classes emerged - a surplus of food meant that hunters could spend more time on other activities - Humans started to notice changes of season and when and how to grow food - the slow process of learning how to use the land brought about many social changes and allowed them to start settling and replace their nomadic hunter gatherer ways with agriculture and villages - as they became more proficient at farming, there became a further surplus of food that allowed a progression of society - of course, failure due to drought, warring, and lack of leadership would cause regression - but, it would become more clear that cooperation amongst the peoples led to more satisfaction, security, and progression...

Some of the earliest settlements started in the fertile valleys around the confluence of the [Tigris](#) and [Euphrates](#) Rivers called the "[Fertile Crescent](#)" - the soil was so rich and friable that it was easily worked by hand and ample rainfall made farming an attractive venture.

Europe and surrounding areas in the 9th millennium bce - Blue areas are covered in ice. (1) [Upper Palaeolithic](#) cultures. (2) [Mesolithic](#) cultures. (3) [Swiderian](#) cultures. (4) [Pontic Tardenosian](#) cultures. (5) [Iberian Capsian](#) cultures. (6) [Oranian](#) cultures. (7) [Lower Capsian](#) cultures. (8) The [Fertile Crescent](#).

([Source](#))



What went on in the [9th Millennium](#) bce...?

Time of the "[Agriculture Revolution](#)"...

Late Paleoindian (8500bce to 7900bce)

The last subperiod, the *Late Paleoindian*, is characterized by Dalton and other side-notched-style points. The replacement of fluted point forms by nonfluted points is believed to reflect a change in the adaptive strategy, away from hunting Late Pleistocene megafauna toward a more generalized hunting of small, modern game, such as deer, and a collecting subsistence strategy within the southern pine forests as they replaced the boreal forests...

Chert deposits may have attracted Paleoindian groups of this subperiod to specific locales in order to replenish their [stone tools](#). Such a tendency may have constrained these groups to a specific landscape, setting the stage for the intensive regional specialization that characterized the succeeding *Archaic Period*. It is possible that large Paleoindian sites in the Southeast are permanent or semipermanent base camps from which resources of specific territories were exploited. Trade or transportation of stone tools appear to decrease as Late Paleoindian groups relied on local materials for their needs. ([Source](#))

Another settlement was [Jericho](#) in what is now Jordan that was founded by [Stone Age](#) hunters around **8,000bce**

- obviously there had been strife in the area as the settlement was heavily fortified to minimize the impact of raiding bands of nomadic tribes - by this time, Man had evolved from being a basic "savage" to a "barbarian" - [salt](#) was mined and available for trade near this [Dead Sea](#) site - there is little evidence that this was a viable agricultural society for another thousand years or so suggesting that [Jericho](#) was founded primarily as a trading center...

Note: Salt was a most peculiar commodity and, at times of scarcity, could be traded for gold - it was used to pay workers and soldiers who could parlay their stash into many times their tribute - it was the cause of many wars and “[salting the Earth](#)” was a common punitive measure - it was treasured in the bath water for Nobles - when salt traders got a new shipment, flocks of salt lovers would jam the markets - interestingly, it is one of the most common products available to all Humans today and relatively cheap in price...

By this time, the [Edomites](#) had assimilated the [Horites](#), probably cave-dwellers in the area of [Petra](#), Jordan - the area was a natural fortress against nomadic hunter-gatherers and the soft red rock could be chiseled out with stronger rock based tools for shelter...

Thomas notes in his excellent [The Slave Trade](#) that prehistoric graves in Lower Egypt suggest that a Libyan people enslaved a Bushman or Negrito Tribe...

By now, farmers in [Nile](#) and the [Indus Valley](#) were cultivating domesticated wheat, barley, and legumes...

The earliest known fabric was made from [hemp](#) - the stalk of the “[cannabis](#)” plant...

The [Bering land bridge](#) was submerged as ocean levels rose at the end of the [Ice Age](#) - the creatures in the Americas would be isolated from the rest of the world for thousands of years...

Note: One of the weak arguments of taking Indian lands in the Colonial time of North America was that the Indians had not occupied their space for very long and all land was fair game - it would not be until the 1860's that discoveries of artifacts would prove this theory wrong...The [Great Lakes](#) were formed when the [Laurentide ice sheet](#) receded - when this happened, the glaciers left behind a large amount of melt-water (see [Lake Agassiz](#)) which filled up the basins that the glaciers had carved, thus creating the Great Lakes as we know them today - because of the uneven nature of glacier [erosion](#), some higher hills became [Great Lakes islands](#) - the [Niagara Escarpment](#) follows the contour of the Great Lakes between New York and Wisconsin...

The [Nanchoc people](#) of Peru in the Zana River Valley began the cultivation of squash and beans about this time...

Around **7,000bce**, the domestication of livestock and the trading of grains began - simple tokens were associated with different tradable items - clay balls of various shapes and colors represented specific goods (2 round reddish tokens could be a pair of oxen while grain units could be greenish oval ones) - this represented the first account of taking inventory and the valuation of goods depending on demand and seasonality...

*An insincere and evil friend is more to be feared than a wild beast;
a wild beast may wound your body,
but, an evil friend will wound your mind...*
The Buddha

About this time, farmers, in search of more fertile lands, migrated from [Anatolia](#) into southeastern Europe - Humans learned quickly that to toil in the fields, and not to lose the land to invaders, meant to use versatile tools that doubled as weapons...

By this time [bricks](#) were aggressively being fashioned from clay and were becoming a standard for building structures in Turkey at [Çatal Höyük](#) - a craftsman who made good bricks made good profits in trading them for his wanton - it is not improbable that the Masters of the first "volume brick makers" were part of the elite of the society...

The "[Desert Culture](#)" of the "[Southwestern Territory](#)" of the US was evolving - by this time, the [Cochise Culture](#) had spun off and was actively expanding...

Around **6,000bce**, the walls of [Jericho](#) were finished - it was about ten acres and had about 2,000 inhabitants - there was a thirty-foot high defensive tower - people lived in rounded, mud based huts with tanned hides for a roof - grain fields outside of the walls were irrigated and excess crops were used trade...

Farming started to spread around the Mediterranean coastline and in southern Italy and Sicily - man learned that, by teaming up together, he could accomplish more - and that tools and water were a necessary part of agriculture...



Map highlighting the location of [Sicily](#) in [Italy](#) - the largest island in the [Mediterranean Sea](#)...

The craftsmen of this time were probably smelting copper and lead in [Mesopotamia](#)...

The organized collection of seeds began in Asia - the [Chinese](#) led the effort and the list of prized food sources included "[cannabis](#)"...

Some of the oldest civilizations in South America appeared about this time in the coastal provinces of [Chilca](#) and [Paracas](#), and in the highland province of [Callejón de Huaylas](#) in Peru - by this time, chili peppers were cultivated...

By about **5,500bce**, [Flax](#) threads were woven together to create fabric for the first time in Egypt...

Farmers in [Southern Mesopotamia](#) were learning the skill of irrigation - most tribes in this area to central Europe were still nomadic and were developing more specialized distribution of labor and following trade routes - pottery was being developed and a broken pot made a useful tool...

The natives of [Central America](#) were fortunate to have an abundance of wild food helping to balance the diet - squash, cactus, avocado, and chilies were part of their diet - they were nomadic and in periods of drought could exist solely on cacti...

Farming had reached Europe with the [Ertebølle Culture](#) - their settlements fell within the [Atlantic](#) climate period and the [Littorina Sea](#) phase of the [Baltic Sea](#) basin; that is, climate was warmer and moister than today, deciduous forests covered Europe, and the Baltic was at higher levels than today, and was a salt sea, rather than a brackish one or a lake - the Baltic coastline was often flooded to a level of 5m-6m higher than now - [Jutland](#) was an [archipelago](#) - marshes were extensive, with tracts of shallow water rich in fish and the environment itself thus invited settlement. The Ertebølle population settled on promontories, near or on beaches, on islands and along rivers and estuaries away from the dense forests - the environment most like the then range of the [Ertebølle](#) is the [Wadden Sea](#) region of the [North Sea](#) from the [Netherlands](#) to [Denmark](#) - due to chance fluctuations in the sea level during Ertebølle occupation of the coast and subsequently, many of the culture sites are currently under 3m-4m of water...

[Agriculture](#) probably began about this time in the southern parts of North America where the glacial deposits left the most fertile soil and climactic conditions were favorable...

The early Egyptians began to mine [Turquoise](#)...

The desertification of the [Sahara](#) began about this time - it would take about 2,000 years before the inhabitants were forced to relocate entirely...

There is evidence of [rice culture](#) and [basketry](#) in [China](#)...

Note: Interestingly that [South Carolina](#) was a natural place to grow rice in the salt marshes of the Colonial Low Country - it was run by entrepreneurs that could successfully organize [slaves](#) to implement the tenuous procedures and [immense profits](#).....

Australian [Aborigine](#) mythology tells of foreign visitors - paintings on caves...

The original inhabitants of Jerusalem were driven out by the [Canaanites](#)...

The "[Canaanites and Slavery](#)"...

[Somewhere from this period to 2,000bce](#), there was the supposed flood and the courageous effort of Noah to preserve life on Earth with an

infamous [Ark](#) - we do not have any information about the flood, or that is sitting in the ice flows of *Mt Ararat*, but we seriously question whether craftsmen could fabricate the monstrous ship that it would take to house the creatures according to the *Bible* - Christianity, Judaism, and Islam scriptures all cover the event and handed down from the thirteenth Century bce - then the Babylonians, in 275bce, were the first to tell the tale to great extent, followed by the Jews in the first Century ce - the event was enhanced by one Marco Polo telling the tale around Europe from “eye-witness” accounts - many others have followed by probably carrying wood up *Mt Ararat* in search of the golden ring - anyone who goes up [Mt Ararat](#) to find the *Arc* is driven by the same greed that governs those who seek the [Arc of the Covenants](#) - all of the debates about the events in the *Bible* is, of course, enhanced by Darwin, Carter, Knight, and *Life Magazine* in 1960 - so the debate will go on - what is the driver is the “strong desire” for the truth? - how much money have the merchants of Mt Ararat made off of this desire? - it is probably a healthy aspect for those captivated by “profit” and their survival...

Around **4,400bce**, the domestication of [donkeys](#) in Africa and horses in Southwest Asia provided an important new power of transportation and a new means of conducting warfare - by about 4,000bce, in the Steppes of the Black Sea, warriors on horseback overwhelmed foot soldiers - the “[war-horse](#)” was the most valuable commodity on the planet and would be sought by all - those who would raise horses required the fiercest protection from the “have-nots” who were most insatiably desirable of this superior form of power...

4,241bce was the earliest date on the [Egyptian calendar](#)...

What makes [Gold](#) so valuable in the eyes of Humans (the only ones on Planet Earth to do so)?

1. From the time Humans first found its shiny surface resembled the *Sun*, it has been cherished...
2. It doesn't tarnish like its counterparts and is the rarest of all cherished metals...
3. The “King of Metals” is the easiest to form into something precious to the holder...

Gold was probably the first of the metals to be found that would become part of the “set of metals” that were most important to Human evolution - it laid “proud” in streams throughout the area of early man and was the easiest to find - its shiny surface must have captivated the senses of its holder and it makes sense that the rewards for finding more of it were great - a holder of a large amount of gold, if it could be kept safe, could yield more power over another with less, if barter was fairly (?) negotiated - its association with the “spirit of life” and subsequent Gods is well documented - with its value came the struggle to obtain it at great levels; thus the concept of power evolved - great rulers were buried with tons of golden objects and it would be fashioned into every object imaginable - the lust for it became so great that plundering great hoards was an obsession by those without it - those with it would flaunt it to the heights - the vicious circle would evolve through time and “greed for gold” was an insatiable disease with no known natural cure...

Gold is money in its basic form - gold is prized more than money - gold is the only traditional medium of exchange that every country on Earth understands - as we will see, over time, gold has been the most coveted item on Earth and the basis for greed for power...

Note: Gold reached 1,000 U\$ in 2008 - regardless of the price when one is reading this, we use \$1,000 per ounce to show price comparisons in previous times...

By about **4,000bce**, the area around the Persian Gulf had evolved into small “[City-States](#)” - a hierarchical class system was developing with urban peoples that may not farm and a peasant class that only farmed - the “division of labor” saw Men as the main support their families while women tended to the families and mostly worked the fields (unless she became a prostitute and worked the streets) - writing was invented to keep track of surplus goods and to track trades - merchants traveled far and wide in search of goods to trade...

These early “civilizations” had a high-level of social complexity, an organization to manage its business issues, a diverse set of economic conditions, and cultural activities based on a common set of beliefs - it should not be hard to understand that an individual would rise to bond this complexity - it was probably someone who was a religious leader as well such as a “[High Priest](#)” (one who probably had the best chance to become

a King - not unlike those competing for the position of a retiring leader of a Country or business enterprise)...

A formal [class structure](#) would evolve out of these first organized societies - a “ruling class” would administer the leaders direction - a “middle class” made up of specialists, businessmen, and politicians reported to the nobles and supervised the “working class” (most of these peasant types were outside the urban area and also acted as the first line of defense)...

Now that the mostly “light-skinned” peoples were less nomadic, one began to acquire personal possessions - there was a structure for shelter that was a place to house permanent things of value to his family - trade for goods was under a barter system that was probably somewhat regulated by the local business structure - of course, one could always go outside the local structure and trade with other merchants that traveled the lands with goods on their carts and on the backs of enslaved porters in caravans...

The [Fertile Crescent](#) was a “melting pot” for all who desired prosperity and more - the “ebb and flow” of peoples and their culture produced a healthy exchange of ideas, technology, and beliefs - it was a crossroads for evolving commerce and entrepreneurship much as the US is today - we can certainly understand how surplus goods could complicate the wants and desires of the “have-nots” and how the “haves” could exploit others for personal gain...

With the climate and the tools to raise food (dates, grapes, olives, and pomegranates), more food was produced - with surplus food, man could support a larger family - with more peoples to feed came the need for more food - labor shortages certainly occurred and the easiest way to solve that problem was to capture or import enslaved workers - this led to an immense expansion of the population of the [Fertile Crescent](#) and beyond - by 3,000bce the Human population is estimated at 14 million - by 2,000bce, it is estimated at 27 million - by 1,000bce, 50 million - by 500bce, 100 million...

Note: The [olive tree](#), native to Italy, was a symbol of abundance, glory, and peace - its oil was sacred and if one got caught cutting down a tree, well life was short - ships were built to transport olive oil around the Mediterranean - Homer called it “liquid gold” and the historian Pliny taunted Italy’s oil the best - it would become a “pillar” of Hellenic society...

This is about the time that Man learned to store his foodstuffs and was subject to being raided by less fortunate others due to crop failure - our first example of post-history greed comes into play, "[excessive hoarding](#)"...

Paleo-Indian hunter-gatherer societies ([Clovis Culture](#)) lived nomadically in the countryside of North America - [Folsom People](#) flourish throughout the Southwestern US - East of the Appalachians of North America was still underwater (although receding) and giant Megalodon Sharks roamed the waters - there were Woolly Mammoths and Mastodons - if a group could kill one of these beings, life on Earth was great - they could gorge themselves and still trade for wanton and maybe even assimilation; depending on the health of the weaker group...

Editor's Note: A leader of a group had a major decision to make: if I have excess, do I share it for things I want or hoard the excess for my people - a dilemma we face today...

In Egypt, early [sickle blades](#) disappeared and were replaced by hunting, fishing and gathering peoples who used stone tools - the strong desire to feed oneself led Humans to be more resourceful and become one of the "Haves"...

In Mesopotamia, three or more linguistic groups, including [Sumerian](#) and [Semitic](#) peoples share a common political and cultural way of life - people begin to collect wild wheat and barley probably to make malt, then [beer](#)...

The [dog](#) (not usually eaten) and [goats](#) (eaten by many) were in stages of domestication - [dogs](#) were good companions and provided protection and signaled a warning of raids on one's booty - goats were great sources of milk and as a main course...

In prehistoric times there was, as far as historians can tell, no division between medicine, [magic](#) and religion - in the [Stone Age](#) there is evidence of trepanning the skull, and also that parts of the cut skull were used as amulets - study of cave drawings indicates that Mesolithic people utilized a magical law relating to all human activities of the time, by which they made sense of the world - a cave painting in Ariège, France, shows a strange being with human feet and hands and antlers who has been identified as a

'psychiatrist (witch doctor)', but it is not clear how this identification has been made... ([Source](#))

Note: It is fairly obvious that early man did not understand the modern aspects of **greed** that we do today - but, certainly that if an individual possessed something that was in great “desire” by others, that something would be “wanton” by them - if man chose to share, there would be little conflict - but, if man chose to “hoard” or “covet” he was practicing “simple greed” and conflict or suffering was most certain...

"Have compassion for all beings, rich and poor alike; each has their suffering.
Some suffer too much, others too little."

~Buddha

[Bread making](#) dates back to around this time - the first breads were cooked on heated bake stones, many of which survive - the invention of leavened bread (around 5000bce) is attributed to the Egyptians, who made bread from millet and barley and may have discovered fermentation by chance when a piece of dough became sour - in the Middle Ages, the bakery trade developed in diversity and complexity - part of the baker's art is the careful choice of ingredients and the manipulation of factors such as oven temperature, length of baking time, and humidity, all of which affect the crumb, thickness, and quality of bread crust - no other foodstuff is as redolent of myth, rite, and tradition as bread - central to meals until almost the end of the second millennium (more so than meat), it is indeed a [“Global Staff of Life”](#) ...

The [“wheel”](#) had appeared in Southwest Asia and would progress quickly throughout civilizations - the wheel was a great discovery to ease the need for Man to tote heavy items across greater distances - the cart was the most useful invention to assist Man in greater productivity and the ability to transport his goods to better markets (if he had surplus) - a wheel-maker was in great demand and could barter extremely well for luxury items...

Around 4,000bce, a culture, centered in what is today Eastern Europe, began to use gold to fashion decorative objects - the [gold](#) was probably mined in the [Transylvanian Alps](#) or the [Mount Pangaion](#) area in [Thrace](#) - gold items became highly valued for trade and hoarded in central Europe -

textiles produced from “hemp fibers” appear in Asia and Turkistan - cultivation was done using “light wooden plows... ([Source](#))

Note: By this time, according to [Bernstein](#) (p.171), gold is the most hoarded of all items on Earth...

The city of [Nippur](#) was founded on the [Euphrates](#) - the special seat of the worship of the [Sumerian](#) god, [Enlil](#), ruler of the cosmos subject to [An](#) alone - one of the first [libraries](#) discovered was a temple in the Babylonian town of Nippur, from around the first half of the 3rd millennium BC; the temple had a number of rooms filled with clay tablets, suggesting a well-stocked archive or library...

[Copper](#) was found in abundance in central Europe - it was easily molded with crude tools but proved not to be worth the effort to fashion copper tools for land clearing as the metal is too soft to be viable - this would however, set the stage for the next step - with the discovery of tin, bronze was developed in about 3500bce...

Farming villages sprang up where made could easily till the soil, water was abundant, and the climate was favorable - farming had reached southern [Ukraine](#) by this time...

Communities were forming along the coast in the [Pacific Northwest](#) of North America - the “[Hunter-gatherer](#)” culture is forming in the North American [Plains area](#) - the “[Old Copper Peoples](#)” were evolving the Great Lakes area of North America - Ice-Age mammals were probably close to extinction...

A major climate shift, possibly due to shift in [solar](#) activity, occurred - [glaciers](#) expanded, covering plants - atmospheric temperatures fell to the lowest levels - possibly due to over-farming, the [Sahara](#) began a transformation from a habitable region into a barren desert...

According to the [History Channel](#), about this time, the Day and Year was divided into “time elements” whereby peoples would plan activities to synchronize their lives...

[The History of Clocks and Calendars...](#)

Around **3,800bce**, construction in the [Somerset Levels](#) of [England](#) of the “[Sweet Track](#)”, the World's first known engineered [roadway](#) - it was built during the Neolithic period - the track consisted of crossed poles of ash, oak and lime (Tilia) which were driven into the waterlogged soil to support a walkway that mainly consists of oak planks laid end-to-end...

Around **3,600bce**, was the start of “[Naqada](#) culture” in [Egypt](#) and the beginning of the “Early [Minoan](#)” period on [Crete](#)...

About this time, the “[Bronze Age](#)” began in the Middle East - copper was combined with tin that created a stronger metal that could be used in many tools...

[Chronology of the Bronze Age](#)...

The “[abacus](#)” was invented in China and would be used by the traders of Jericho and “[papyrus scrolls](#)” were used to record transactions and inventory...

Advances in cultivation led to expanded [agriculture](#) and the making of pottery and textiles, and the building of units for storage and housing - increases in wealth led to the formation of tribes and subsequent warring to defend ones self or the expansion of territorial control...

Ownership marks and seals were put on valuables in [Mesopotamia](#)...

According to [Bernstein](#) (p.13), Egyptian tomb paintings show games being played with [Astragali](#)...

In about 3,500 to **3,000bce**, the Egyptians practiced the art of [hammering gold](#) into “leaf” and alloying it with other silver and copper to achieve variations in hardness, color, and the size of objects - they also developed the ability to “cast” gold, using techniques still used in today's jewelry industry - the first appearance of gold jewelry appears in the “[Sumerian](#)” civilization of southern Iraq - the first known instances of using “body art” as jewelry...

Note: Although [gold](#) was sacred to the Egyptians, they certainly knew its power and ability to leverage controls over its allies and enemies - by the

time of the *Middle Kingdom* (c2040bce), gold rings were being circulated amongst the greatest of all traders...

The [Sumerians](#) were the first group to develop a written alphabet - archeologists have discovered thousands of clay tablets with [Sumerian writing cauneform](#) on them - most of the surviving records are of business transactions - the Sumerian writing evolved from an alphabet that was primarily pictographic (picture images) to one that became phonetic...

The city if [Uruk](#) was being developed into a centralized urban center - a “priestly elite” was responsible for keeping the books on stored crops - their accounting system would lead to pictograph writing...

A great meteorite hit the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of [Portugal](#) - mentioned in Assyrian and Babylonian scripts - man developed knowledge of the strength of iron and the relationship of heat and the “melting process” using primitive furnaces...

Note: Certainly, events like this were the basis of “[early religious beliefs](#)” from “fear” and the passing on of tales about the “Gods” who reminded humans periodically of their powers...

The “[sail](#)” was invented for calm water traffic and commerce in the Mediterranean Region expanded as entrepreneurs invested in boats that cut the time of transport...

The alignment of [stone circles](#) appeared indicating Humans were most probably [superstitious](#) and was trying to understand the relationship of the sun and earth’s seasons - it was not understood until the ancient [Greeks](#)... About 3,400bce, the [Sahara](#) Desert was formed from semi-arid [savannah](#), supposedly from over-farming, into complete [desertification](#) - the camel was not here yet so donkeys were the best mode of transportation beyond the foot...

About 3,200bce, [Ancient Egypt](#) began concentrated along the middle to lower reaches of the [Nile River](#) - referred to as the [New Kingdom](#) period - thus began period of great advancement in Egypt - social structure, writing, architecture, and advanced [irrigation techniques](#)...

Sidebar on the “[Nile River Basin](#)”...

The first known [paper](#) was produced in Egypt - the central pulp of papyrus reed was split, dried and glued together - reeds were used the first real “pen” and the first inks contained a gelatin derived from boiled donkey skin, which gave the ink its viscosity, but, also a very unpleasant odor that had to be perfumed with musk oil - the early stages of Egyptian hieroglyphics - clay, bone & ivory tags were used to label boxes...

Note: According to the History Channel, the first written mention of the “[act of sex](#)” between Humans and Animals occurred about this time in the [Fertile Crescent](#)...

A system of formal “[City-States](#)” developed along the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers - the Sumerians developed a loose confederation of the city-states - the states often fought against one another - the opium poppy is cultivated...

[Indus Valley civilization](#) (also known as Harappan civilization or Sindhu-Sarasvati civilization) began in [Harappa](#)...

Around **3,100bce**, King [Menes](#) founded the [first dynasty](#) of Egypt - [Menes](#) united Egypt into a single Kingdom, bringing together what had been, until then, two separate Kingdoms: the “Lower and the Upper” - Menes built the first [dam](#) that helped create a new capital for Egypt at [Memphis](#), in the lower Nile delta - earliest known [Egyptian hieroglyphs](#), beginning of the “[Early Dynastic Period](#)” - [Narmer](#), successor of [Serket](#) and founder of the [First dynasty of Ancient Egypt](#)...

In Genesis 2:10-12, we learn of [The Rivers of the Garden of Eden](#), and “the land of [Havilah](#), where there is gold: and the gold of that land is good” - we have evidence of a gold/silver value ratio in the “[Code of Menes](#)”, the founder of the first Egyptian dynasty - in this code it is stated that “one part of gold is equal to two and one half parts of silver in value” - as far as our research has led us, this is our earliest of a value relationship between gold and silver - as we shall see, this ratio will be one of the most important of all the conditions by which a country would succeed in international relations, war, and prosperity...

A Neolithic settlement was built at [Skara Brae](#) in the [Orkney Islands](#), [Scotland](#) whose elements of culture rivaled any in the “Fertile Crescent” -

“[New Stone Age](#)” peoples in Ireland build the 250,000 ton [Newgrange](#) solar oriented passage tomb...

The “[Kurukshetra War](#)” between the [Pandavas](#) and the [Kauravas](#) occurred in India...

[Varna Necropolis](#) - the oldest gold in the world was found near [Varna Lake](#)...

The Chinese created [medical text books](#) to train new caregivers...

The city of [Troy](#) was founded about this time - the site on the [Hellespont](#) seems to have been a flourishing mercantile city, since its location allowed for complete control of the [Dardanelles](#), through which every merchant ship from the [Aegean Sea](#) heading for the [Black Sea](#) had to pass - evidence of its early riches were recently found by archeologists - its massive walls suggest that it was heavily fortified to defend its prize location...

Man learned that “power over others” and the “ability to control trade” could maximize gain - Man had learned that “[knowledge](#)” had an inherent advantage over those without - he had learned how to act on his capabilities and influence the outcome of business ventures...

[Power](#) had become a desire of all knowledgeable people - man’s actions began to be “judged” as to its origin; thus “morality” came into to play - “power in numbers” by those with common culture attracted others and leaders rose and fell...

The [Five Bases of Power](#)...

Social psychologists French and [Raven](#), in a now-classic study (1959), developed a schema of five categories of power which reflected the different bases or resources that power holders rely upon. One additional base (informational) was later added.

- [Legitimate Power](#)

Legitimate Power refers to power of an individual because of the relative position and duties of the holder of the position within an organization. Legitimate Power is formal authority delegated to the holder of the position. It is usually accompanied by various attributes

of power such as uniforms, offices etc. This is the most obvious and also the most important kind of power.

- [Referent Power](#)

Referent Power means the power or ability of individuals to attract others and build loyalty. It's based on the charisma and interpersonal skills of the power holder. Here the person under power desires to identify with these personal qualities, and gains satisfaction from being an accepted follower. Nationalism or Patriotism counts towards an intangible sort of referent power as well. For example, soldiers fight in wars to defend the honor of the country. This is the second least obvious power, but the most effective.

- [Expert Power](#)

Expert Power is an individual's power deriving from the skills or expertise of the person and the organization's needs for those skills and expertise. Unlike the others, this type of power is usually highly specific and limited to the particular area in which the expert is trained and qualified.

This type of power is further broken down:

- [Information Power](#)

While the difference between expert power and information power is subtle, people with this type of power are well-informed, up-to-date and also have the ability to persuade others. Another difference would be that people with Expert Power are perceived by his/her image of expertise to show credibility (i.e. a qualified doctor in a doctor uniform), while one with Information Power does not have a strict need to 'look the part of a professional', but they must keep up to date with new research, and have confidence in debating, or are persuasive.

- [Reward Power](#)

Reward Power depends upon the ability of the power wielder to confer valued material rewards, it refers to the degree to which the individual can give others a reward of some kind such as benefits,

time off, desired gifts, promotions or increases in pay or responsibility. This power is obvious but also ineffective if abused. People who abuse reward power can become pushy or become reprimanded for being too forthcoming or 'moving things too quickly'.

- [Coercive Power](#)

Coercive Power means the application of negative influences onto employees. It might refer to the ability to demote or to withhold other rewards. It's the desire for valued rewards or the fear of having them withheld that ensures the obedience of those under power. Coercive Power tends to be the most obvious but least effective form of power as it builds resentment and resistance within the targets of Coercive Power.

Around **3,000bce**, [wheels](#) were in widespread use in [Sumer](#) - the [wheels](#) were made of wood and were very heavy - they were used both for transport and on early chariots...

Regular [trade](#) began between Asia and tropical Africa with [Egypt](#) the link for merchants...

About the time of Egypt's [Second dynasty](#) with [Hor-Aha](#) as Pharaoh - the *Divine King* [Narmer](#) had unified [Upper](#) and [Lower Egypt](#), and a new capital was erected at [Memphis](#) - the Egyptians believed in "life-after-death" and would build elaborate tombs for the elite - they began the use of practical [geometry](#) that would not be refined and documented by a Greek called [Euclid](#) until the 3rd Century bce - the waters of the river Nile overflowed every year and wiped out the land boundaries - perhaps geometry was invented because it was necessary to reconstruct the fields for taxation purposes and to tell people where to plant their seeds - [Djer](#), second Pharaoh of Egypt, started to reign...

The [Greek](#) civilization began to emerge - emigrants from the North found the land suitable to scratch out a living...

[Copper](#) was in heavy use, both as tools and weapons, and had reached northward to southern France - there was little tin and man had not yet figured out the proper formula but it brought great wealth to its holder -

whether it was traded with some premium is not known, but, certainly it did not have the luster and appeal of gold...

The "[composite](#)" recurved bows were being used - the rear, or belly, of the bow is reinforced with horn to increase the bow's resistance to bending - its speed and recoil power were increased by adding sinew to the front of the bow - the ends of the bow curved away from the archer when the bow was strung - warriors wore helmets made of alloyed copper...

[Trephination](#) (cutting a hole in the skull) had widespread practice...

Sumerian statuettes were reptilian - period of the [Anunaki](#), who were reptilian...

Migrating westward, the [wheel](#) advanced about this time from [Sumer](#) - probably about the time [trading](#) westward was started and "[crude carts](#)" were developed...

About this time, the [Aleuts](#) and [Inuits](#) began their migration by boat across the Bering Strait to make settlement in Alaska...

The [Red Paint Culture](#) was forming in the Northeastern part of North America...

The [Norte Chico Civilization](#) emerged - building of [Caral](#), the first city in the [Americas](#), was started - the [potato](#) was cultivated in South America - pottery was utilized in Columbia and Ecuador...

["Ancient Weights and Measures"](#)...

Around **2,900bce**, the [Great Pyramid of Cheops](#) at Giza was built - it took 4,000 stonemasons and as many as 100,000 laborers to build the pyramid - the pyramid rose to a height of over 481 feet covering 13 acres and containing over 2 million blocks of granite and limestone weighing an average of 5,000 pounds - there has been debate whether the laborers were slaves or worked in a hierarchical group of an organized, professionally run, company where many were paid in gold, room and board, and beer - regardless, the work required a well organized structure of supervision, administration, and logistics - the forerunner of present day corporations...

[Garlic](#) was not only bestowed with sacred qualities and placed in the tomb of Pharaohs, but it was given to the slaves that built the Pyramids to enhance their endurance and strength. This strength-enhancing quality was also honored by the ancient Greeks and Romans, civilizations whose athletes ate [garlic](#) before sporting events and whose soldiers consumed it before going off to war. .. ([Source](#))

Note: Native to central Asia, [garlic](#) is one of the oldest cultivated plants in the world and has been grown for over 5000 years. Ancient Egyptians seem to have been the first to cultivate this plant that played an important role in their culture...

Indian Civilization began in the [Indus River](#) Valley - most of the peoples of the [Harappan Civilization](#) lived either near or in the city of [Harappa](#) or [Mohenjo-Daro](#) - the [Harappan Civilization](#) was a highly urbanized culture...

Note: It is highly probable that [Egyptian ships](#) traversed the Indian Ocean about this time near present day Somalia...

Beginning of the [Early Dynastic Period I](#) in [Mesopotamia](#) - the [shekal](#) was introduced in [Mesopotamia](#) as a monetary and weight unit - beginning of the "[Mesopotamian Wars](#)" of the [Early Dynastic period](#)...

[Ur](#) became one of the richest cities in [Sumer](#)...

"[Corded Ware](#)" pottery began to appear that was much stronger and could be made in larger batches than the earlier [Pit-Comb Ware culture](#)...

Around **2,800bce** in [Memphis](#), the Temple of [Imhotep](#), a great Egyptian healer who was deified, became a medical school where patients received sleep therapy, occupational therapy, excursions on the Nile, concerts, dances and painting. There were carefully worded malpractice laws and detailed clinical treatises; however psychiatric theory was largely magical, and successful treatments were attributed to amulets worn or to the patron god... ([Source](#))

The [Sumerians](#) developed a [numbering system](#) based on 12 - crude coins were fabricated for trade...

Egypt was led by Pharaoh [Khasekhemwy](#), then Pharaoh [Sanakhte](#) - the [Third Egyptian Dynasty](#) was founded by Pharaoh [Djoser](#) - his greatest accomplishment, with the help of his architect Imhotep, was the building of the first step pyramids - Imhotep was venerated by later generations of Egyptians not only as an architect, but as a [magician](#), astronomer and the father of medicine - the [Pyramid of Djoser](#) was the first [structure](#) made of stone rather than mud based blocks - it was built for the burial of Pharaoh [Djoser](#) by his Vizier [Imhotep](#) - it was constructed at the [Saqqara](#) necropolis to the northwest of the city of [Memphis](#)...

Note: [Djoser](#) was considered the “model” for all Pharaohs to follow - he was “deified” by the [nineteenth Dynasty](#) of Egypt - [Imhotep](#) was considered to be one of the first persons to practice medicine - history’s first Physician...

The first written record of cannabis use is made in the “Pharmacopoeia” of [Shen Nung](#), the father of [Traditional Chinese medicine](#) - “[Bhang](#)” is an Indian ritual to the God “[Shiva](#)” and is produced based on ancient [Vedic](#) tradition which verified knowledge and unchangeable truth...

Note: The [Peng-Tzao-Kan-Mu](#) described over 40 kinds of salt and its uses - it was also an early primer for those seeking to profit from its extraction from the Earth - most of these methods are in use today...

By this time, [silk](#) was produced in China - the “[potter’s wheel](#)” was invented and “paper thin” pottery was produced...

Note: The [tale](#) which persists is that about 2,640bce a Chinese Empress, Si-Ling-Chi, was watching the glistening amber cocoons that little [worms](#) were spinning in the mulberry trees in the palace gardens - she unwound one of the threads on a cocoon and found that it was one, very long strand of shiny material - fascinated, she pulled strands from several cocoons through her ring to form a thicker thread - eventually, with the help of her ladies of the court, she spun the threads into a beautiful piece of cloth to make a robe for the Emperor, [Huang-Ti](#) - this magnificent material, [silk](#), became known at the “cloth of kings”...

By **2,600bce**, the [Harappan civilization](#) had risen to become a powerful civilization and was expanding - the region was originally inhabited by dark skinned peoples who were quickly assimilated by White Mediterraneans

who probably arrived after migrating from the Tigris and Euphrates River valley - its largest city was [Mohenjo-daro](#) was built around this Old European civilization that lasted until the region was invaded by Indo-European Nordics around 1500bce...

The stash of [gold](#) at [Troy](#) was immense and included fine jewelry and objects of worship - gold metal-working was performed in the [Sumerian capital of Ur](#)...

The [Bactrian camel](#) and [Dromedary](#) were being domesticated...

[Rock drawings](#) at [Rødøy](#) in [Norway](#) showed the [use of skis](#)...

Around **2,500bce**, gold jewelry was buried in the "[Tomb of Djer](#)", the King of the [Third Egyptian Dynasty](#), at [Abydos](#), Egypt...

The earliest recorded Egyptian expedition to Punt was organized by [Pharaoh Sahure](#) of the [Fifth Dynasty](#) (25th century BC) although slaves from Punt are recorded as having been in Egypt in the time of king Khufu of the [Fourth Dynasty of Egypt](#).^[4] - The *Land of Punt*^[1] by the [ancient Egyptians](#), at times synonymous with *Ta netjer*, the "land of the god", ^[2] was a fabled site in the [Horn of Africa](#) and was known for producing and exporting gold, aromatic resins, [African blackwood](#), [ebony](#), [ivory](#), slaves and wild animals.^[3] Information about Punt has been found in ancient [Egyptian](#) records of trade missions to this region

The [Great Sphinx](#) and second [Great Pyramid of Giza](#) were built by [King Khafre](#)...

["Mystery of the Sphinx"](#)...

In Sumer, [helmets](#) of bronze, along with bronze spearheads and ax blades were used by warriors - [metalsmiths](#) begin making maces with ellipsoidal forms to concentrate force at the point of impact to counter the helmet and as the helmet became stronger, the mace head became sharper and [lances](#) began to evolve - 4 wheeled [chariots](#) drawn by four [onagers](#) but which lacked a pivoting front axle...

The smiths accidentally discovered “[wrought iron](#)” as a by-product from hammering copper - the iron residue could be formed into a mass but the product would become mostly ornamental...

[Copper](#) fashioning reached the British Isles - a major source of [tin](#) would quickly lead craftsmen to develop [bronze](#)...

The [Bronze Age](#)...

The construction of the [stone circle](#) at [Stonehenge](#) began and will continue for the next five hundred years - a marvel on its own, but, on *midsummer's day* the rising sun shines along its central axis - little is known if their were religious events held there?...

An urban civilization was developing along the [Indus Valley](#) - it was dominated by the [Harappa](#) and [Mohenjo-Daro](#) peoples and would evolve to about 40,000 - this was mainly a trading center with goods coming from as far away as Mesopotamia and China - this brought three great cultural centers into a strong trading alliance and the demand for goods was increasing - so was the spreading of diseases as it was difficult to hide in these densely populated areas...

Around **2,400bce**, Babylonian scribes baked [clay tablets](#) with arithmetic symbols...

The [Harappan Civilization](#), was at its peak - its heartland lay in the [Indus river](#) valley in [Pakistan](#), but settlements spread as far as the Makran coast, [Baluchistan](#), [Afghanistan](#), eastern [Punjab](#), [Kutch](#) and [Saurashtra](#) - they included cities like [Harappa](#), [Mohenjo-daro](#), [Kalibangan](#), [Dholavira](#), ports like [Lothal](#), [Sutkagen-dor](#) and [Sotka-koh](#) and numerous villages as well...

From the inscriptions found at [Telloh](#), it appears that Lagash was a city of great importance in the Sumerian period about this time - it was at that time ruled by independent Kings, [Ur-Nina](#) and his successors, who were engaged in contests with the [Elamites](#) on the east and the Kings of [Kengi](#) and [Kish](#) on the north - with the [Semitic](#) conquest, it lost its independence, its rulers or [Patesis](#) becoming vassals of [Sargon of Akkad](#) and his successors; but it remained Sumerian, continuing to be a city of much importance and above all, a centre of artistic development - indeed, it was in this period and under the immediately succeeding supremacy of the

kings of [Ur](#), [Ur-Gur](#) and [Dungi](#), that it reached its highest artistic development...

[Early Taxation...](#)

About **2,350bce**, Jericho's wall fell - [King Sargon of Akkad](#) conquered the feuding Sumerian city-states and creates a significant political and economic empire - [Sargon of Akkad](#) rose from the service of the King of Kish - Sargon built Akkad as the new seat of government - Sargon accomplished what no Sumerian had done before: he unified all of the Sumerian cities in one centrally organized empire - Sargon also expanded the Empire to include Persia and Syria, thus ruling from “sea to sea” - the Empire was further extended by his sons and [Enheduanna](#), daughter of Sargon - under his grandson Narmsin, the Empire reached its zenith - the last of Sargon dynasty, [Sharkalisharri](#), ruled until 2219bce when [Akkad fell to the Guti...](#) ([Source](#))

Note: Other than being great warriors and tacticians, the military success of the [Akkadians](#) was the invention of the “composite bow” made of wooden strips and horn - it gave the warriors superior weaponry and the craftsmen who them superior profits - the “arms race” was on not only for superiority but the profit from ingenuity could be immense...

During the course of the [Sixth Dynasty](#), the powers of the Pharaoh [Unas](#) and [Teti](#) decreased - the growing power of the nobility limited the absolute power of the Egyptian Kings - [Piopi](#) and [Piopi II](#) were among the longest reigning Pharaohs of Egypt...

About this time, the trading City of [Ebla](#) was destroyed by [Sargon of Akkad](#) and his grandson [Naram-sin](#), the conquerors of much of Mesopotamia - the trade of lumber and textiles, mostly with Egypt, was conducted with gold and silver [currency](#)...

About **2,200bce** is the date of oldest existing document written on [papyrus](#) in Egypt...

[Mapping](#) of the seas and trade routes allowed brave sea merchants to experiment with the ability to move goods further and quicker...

About the time that a [great drought](#) overtook Egypt - famine and chaos abound - [Harknuf](#), the Governor of the Southern Region of Upper Egypt,

traveled extensively into [Nubia](#) preparing for Egyptian expansion - he led great caravans to trade for slaves to replace those who perished, exotic animals and skins, ebony and ivory, and spices and incense...

The "[End](#) of the [Old Kingdom](#)"...

The supply of tin for [bronze making](#) was not available to most - defensive structures were built to store one's hoard as competition for the land increased...

Civilization in China is said to have begun with the founding of the [Hsia Dynasty](#) in the [Yellow River Valley](#)- knowledge of the [Hsia](#) is limited mostly to a list of the seventeen kings of the *Dynasty*...

[About this time](#), the oldest [Chinese book](#) ([Yh-King](#)) was written - it contains reference to *Cowries* - according to [Angell](#) (p.79), "100,000 *cowries* dead shellfishes being an equivalent for riches..."

About **2,150bce**, after a period of strife between the nobles and the Kings known as the "[Middle Kingdom](#)", King [Mentuhotep II](#) reunited the Kingdom under a new dynasty - during this time, the concept of life after death was extended to everyone, not just royalty...

According to [Angell](#) (p.79), "After the reign of Han, a Prince caused money to be made of stamped Earth united with a strong glue, and taking into his head to put down copper money, he gathered as he could, buried it very deep in the Earth, and killed the workers that were about it, that none might where it was hidden"...

[Naram-Sin](#) died, he was the first Mesopotamian King to claim he was a *God*...

According to [Herrick](#) (p.22), the masses of the *Middle Kingdom* were self sufficient peoples where exports far exceeded imports - about **2100bce**, wandering Semitic tribes called "[Shepard Kings](#)" ([Hyksos](#)) seized the Delta Region and extended their conquests into Middle Egypt - new industries and customs were brought in along with the demand for more exotic goods from Asia - trade relations were established using the Nile and trade routes to Thebes brought gold and incense - foreigners were welcomed, especially the Israelites who would prosper there for the next 500 years...

Traders learned that archiving information recorded on tablets solved many problems of commerce - although we could loosely call them “libraries”, the first formal [library](#) would not be built until about 300bce...

About this time, it was the duty of the King to perform, on a regular basis, [sex](#) with a “goddess” to promote healing of the masses and prosperity for all...

By **2,000bce**, the “[Bronze Age](#)” had transitioned from the “Copper/Stone Age” ([Chalcolithic Period](#)) - bronze tools were more common and carried less of a premium in terms of coveting ones tool and weapons - this “Metal Revolution” brought about increased trade and the interaction of all sorts of entrepreneurs, thieves, professional craftsmen, artists, and Cults - it truly was a “melting pot” of a period...

[History of Ferrous Metallurgy...](#)

By this time, [the earliest of the law codes](#) standardizing weights and measures, transactions and contracts, and criminal penalties for the violations of laws was being developed - outright purchases were based on payments of negotiated amounts of silver or grain; with metal fast becoming the accepted medium of exchange in the Middle East...

The “[Code of Hammurabi](#)” was being developed - earliest of the law codes standardizing weights and measures, transactions and contracts, and criminal penalties for the violation of the Code - outright purchases were based on payments of negotiated amounts of silver or grain; with metal fast becoming the accepted medium of exchange in the Middle East...

Note: The code seemed to concentrate on matters of commerce and was void of a lot of personal matters - it did, however, deal with slavery and prescribed death to anyone helping a slave escape or harbor them - this law would follow the slave until the 19th Century...

In Mesopotamia, according to the [Code of Hammurabi](#) (finalized c1750bce) preserved in Cuneiform clay tablets, priest-physicians dealt especially with mental disturbance which was attributed to demonic possession, whilst 'lay' physicians dealt solely with physical injury - this was the first known division between mental and physical symptoms - these [priest-physicians](#), the [Asu](#),

used psychotherapy, and studied dreams which were regarded as showing the will of the gods - every physician had his own god and every disease its own demon - diseases and drugs were codified, and the doctor was responsible for his patient, whose life story was studied in a holistic approach... ([Source](#))

The Mesopotamians began extracting [petroleum](#) from heating asphalt rock - this process quickly spread and would evolve into an additional weapon that would accompany arrows and subsequently solicit a batch of new weapons based on fire and petro...

Humans first domesticated [camels](#) before 2000bce^{[1][2]} - the [Dromedary](#) and the [Bactrian](#) camel were both still used for milk, meat, and as [beasts of burden](#) - the Dromedary evolved in western Asia, and the Bactrian further to the north and east in central Asia - when someone figured their real worth, the [caravan](#) was instituted and would change the commerce of Africa...

Long distance trading networks were evolving - the majority of trade was transported via the sea - overland trade was much slower but, as demand was increasing, the evolution of the cart and the [domestication](#) of the [donkey](#) and [camel](#) produced a more viable return to send goods further away from the sea - merchants used stamped clay tablets to identify their cargo and avoid problems on the receiving end - trade was responsible for the evolution of writing as receipts and bills of lading were required - writing would also be used to “codify” laws and preserve religious beliefs and tales of the past...

Other than foodstuffs, clothing and bricks, major materials traded included: alabaster, carnelian, copper, dolerite, flint, gold, granite, steatite, timber, tin, turquoise, and weapons - fortified settlements appeared throughout eastern and central Europe that was directly related to economic and social pressure - warring between regions escalated as needs increased and capabilities for warfare were expanded - ships with keels and ribs could transport warriors further, horses were trained for battle, and armament was stronger... ([Source](#))

Note: [Bricks](#) have been found in [Çayönü](#), in the upper Tigris region, and in south east Anatolia close to Diyarbakir between 7,000 and 6,395bce - they came from [Jericho](#) and [Catal Hüyük](#) - the ancient city of Ur (modern [Iraq](#))

was built with mud bricks around 4,000bce - the Bible (Exodus 1:14; 5:4-19) provides the earliest written documentation of brick production—the Israelites made bricks for their Egyptian rulers ([read more](#)) - from archaeological evidence, the invention of the fired brick (as opposed to the considerably earlier sun-dried mud brick) is believed to have arisen in about this time in the Middle East...

Beginning of the earliest period in which the Greeks would make tremendous progress in science, architecture, philosophy, and literature - the [Minoans](#) began to organize themselves into towns on the island of Crete and established a form of government - the Minoans would learned the process of smelting metals for tools and weapons - they constructed semi-permanent structures tying together stone and wood with plaster - they were masters at agriculture and used their surplus crops as trading vehicles - they were a sophisticated lot, as compared to their neighbors, and it can be truly said that the Minoans were the precursor to the Greeks...

The Legendary King [Minos](#)...

Minoan civilization was flourishing and stone palaces at [Knossos](#) and [Malia](#) were built on [Crete](#) - the palaces were designed to help keep the temperature as cool as possible - they also contained indoor plumbing...

The [Mycenaeans](#) arrived from the north and began to control parts of northern Greece - this was the beginning of the period in Greek history written about by Homer, and known as the [Heroic Age](#) - or “[Mycenaean Period](#)” - they would rule with a strong hand from fortified citadels at Mycenae, Pylos, and Athens - they learned much from the Minoans but there trading abilities more centered on piracy...

The early [Etruscans](#), the [Apennine Culture](#) followed by the “[Iron Age](#)” [Villanovan Culture](#), filtered down from the North into Italy - they would be the first to occupy present day Rome around 1500bce and would be heavily influenced by their neighbors (Greeks) to the East...

Note: [Civilizations](#) that had gold would often flaunt it as it was adorned by everyone who had ever seen it, let alone touched it - it would obsess neighbors to attempt to take away what the other had - whomever had it and could keep it had power and could steer their way through the maize of life much easier than those who did not...

The [Hittites](#) began their migration to the south into Asia Minor - they had superior military capabilities including the “horse-drawn” Chariot...

The Babylonians developed a [mathematical system](#) based on units of 60 - they also divided a circle into a 360 units...

Farmers and herders travel south from [Ethiopia](#) and settle in [Kenya](#)...

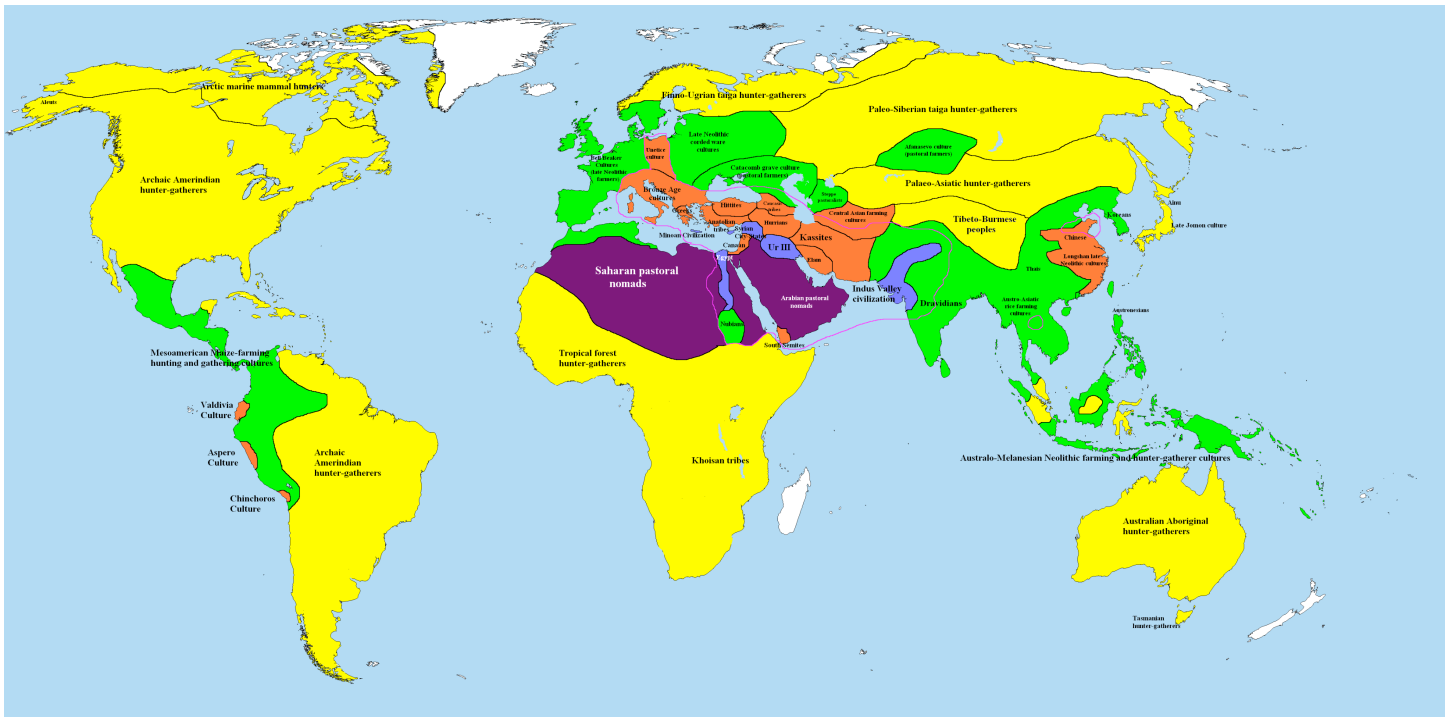
[Mayan](#) Culture beginnings...

The [Native Americans](#) of the [Southwest](#) begin pottery making and maize from the [Andes](#) was a rotational crop in most areas - explorers discovered that wild seed plants growing along river floodplains and could be controlled (that plants could be harvested and used as food, with seeds stored and replanted in prepared garden plots the next year - a squash plant native to North America is propagated by Indians and traded amongst all...

The World in [2,000bce](#)...

Early Humans clearly understood the [value of banding together](#) for safety, survival, [social structure](#), and the value of surplus - their needs were basically the same but their wants were increasing as advancing technology brought him many new and value tools, weapons, and transportation - they were learning to keep track of things important to his survival and profit - certainly, entrepreneurs could extract gains from their efforts and every incentive was present to want more from their efforts...

Humans had migrated to places where they found social aspects they liked - they was building more permanent structures to satisfy his need for shelter - they had learned agriculture and his existence on Earth had increased through his ability to exploit the land more fully - they had domesticated animals for his security and palette - they respected leadership but the organization of governments was weak - taking sides could mean prosperity or death depending on the winds of power...



([Source](#))

Great migrations had occurred and many societies had integrated into city-states that would compete for space and resources - religion would be formed and great Temples would be built to honor their Gods...

Part II - Early Civilizations...

A [civilization](#) is made up of a group of peoples sharing similar culture, an intricate social hierarchy, and a division of labor with people specializing in various aspects of managing and producing goods and services that are needed or wanted by its peoples for consumption, pleasure, or trade - it has an urban core where some individuals are not directly involved with the production of goods, but, they may manage or oversee production - with civilization comes a motive to make profits so one can have more of what

one wants - greed evolved with the progression of needs from wants, being the catalyst...

Social [philologist Gordon Child](#) was the first to explore developments he called the "[Neolithic Revolution](#)" and "[Urban Revolution](#)" in the archeological record, and they are still vital concepts in prehistoric studies - further developments in civilization (Childe did concentrate his attention on Europe and the Near East, despite the occasional excursus) could be explained with reference to the changes in technology that occurred, which were accessible from the archaeological record - to do this, Childe started to use terms like "[Bronze Age](#)" or "[Iron Age](#)" as a way of exploring shifts from one level of material development to another, rather than just for dating...

Child named a number of traits that distinguishes a civilization from other kinds of societies:

- Means of subsistence,
- Types of livelihood,
- Settlement patterns
- Forms of organized government or bureaucracy,
- Social stratification,
- Economic systems,
- Literacy,
- Cultural traits such as the "Arts", etc...

Most of all, a civilization has the ability to write about and document the basic aspects of the society: its rules, business, and its peoples...

By about 2,000bce, there were numerous urban areas around the [Fertile Crescent](#), the [Indus River Valley](#), and to a lesser extent in [Eastern Asia](#) and [Northern Mediterranean](#) - it has become more clear in recent times that there was much interaction between these cities and the sharing of technology and beliefs...

Also, about this time, the [horse](#) had been domesticated for use in agriculture and warfare - this made traders more mobile and powerful - they now had the ability to travel far greater distances in search of commerce and to find a more suitable place to settle...

Nothing prepared Egypt for the eclipse of royal power and poverty that came after [Pepi II Neferkare](#) - he had ruled for more than 90 years (2246 - 2152bce) as the fourth king of the [Sixth Dynasty](#) of the [Old Kingdom](#) - within the span of 20 years, fragmentary records indicate that no less than 18 kings and possibly one queen ascended the throne with nominal control over the country - this was the entire length of the 7th and 8th Dynasties (2150 - 2134bce) - in the last few years of the [Sixth Dynasty](#), the erosion of power of the centralized state was offset by that of provincial governors and officials who became hereditary holders of their posts and treated their regions as their own property...

His reign marked a sharp decline of the [Old Kingdom](#) - as the power of the [Nomarchs](#) (the semi-[feudal](#) rulers of [Ancient Egyptian](#) Provinces) grew, the power of Pharaoh declined - with no dominant central power, local Nobles began raiding each other's territories and the Old Kingdom came to an end within mere decades after the close of Pepi II's reign...

Within a century, [Egyptians](#) had re-invented "[Centralized Government](#)" - the crisis not only reformed the monarchy but also instilled the spirit of social justice and laid the foundation for mercy and compassion as fundamental virtues - it was these concepts that later would be used to spread Christianity and Islam - concepts that eventually led to the overthrowing of monarchs who repeatedly usurped their powers and denied people their religious rights... ([Source](#))

When [Assyria](#) grew into an Empire, it was divided into smaller parts, called [Provinces](#) - each of these were named after their main cities, like Nineveh, [Samaria](#), [Damascus](#) and [Arpad](#) - they all had their own Governor who had to make sure everyone paid their [taxes](#); he had to call up soldiers to war, and supply workers when a Temple was built - he was also responsible for the laws being enforced. In this way it was easier to keep control of an empire like Assyria - although [Babylon](#) was quite a small State in the Sumerian, it grew tremendously throughout the time of [Hammurabi](#)'s rule - it was later called Babylonia, which meant "the gateway of the Gods" and became one of history's greatest centers of learning...

As [City-States](#) began to grow, their spheres of influence overlapped, creating conflict with other City-States, especially over boundaries - these conflicts were recorded in tablets several hundreds of years before any major war - at this point warfare was incorporated into the Mesopotamian

political system, where a neutral City may act as an arbitrator for the two rival Cities - this helped to form unions between cities, leading to regional states.[\[25\]](#)

During [Sumerian](#) times, the [Amorites](#) were a nomadic tribe in the Arabian desert west of the Euphrates, frequently raiding the [Mesopotamian](#) cities, and were regarded as uncivilized by the more settled, crop-growing, Mesopotamians - groups of [Amorites](#) gradually settled in the area and ultimately adopted local culture as it was more suitable than their raiding ways...

Note: About this time, the [Epic of Gilgamesh](#) was crafted - the tale of his restless effort to assert himself against the Gods who disagreed with his views on "intercourse" that would be the cause of the failure of [Humans](#) - the tale would be refined and the most complete version would not be solidified until about 700bce...

The [Babylonians](#)...

Following the collapse of the last Sumerian "[Ur-III](#)" Dynasty around 1950bce at the hands of the [Elamites](#), the [Amorites](#) gained control over most of Mesopotamia, where they formed a series of small kingdoms - during the first centuries of what is called the "Amorite period", the most powerful City-States were [Isin](#) and [Larsa](#), although [Shamshi-Adad I](#) came close to uniting the more northern regions around [Assur](#) and [Mari](#) - one of these Amorite Dynasties was established in the City-State of [Babylon](#), which would ultimately take over the others and form the first [Babylonian Empire](#), during what is also called the "[Old Babylonian](#) Period"...

Under the [Babylonians](#), a type of [feudalism](#) developed - High Priests led a social transition to an orderly bureaucracy with schools that taught the power of knowledge and the ability to predict outcomes of actions by its citizens - there was a layer of Nobles who controlled the commerce of the land and Freeholders who worked under the direction of the Nobles (they could own land) - the lowest level of society were slaves who were commodities themselves - City life revived and [trade](#) flourished - although money was not yet in use, their military strength controlled the barter values and kept things in line - there were organized business structures where principals banded together in a common theme and commerce extended throughout the Mediterranean basin...

[Hammurabi](#) was the sixth king of Babylon - he became the first king of the [Babylonian Empire](#), extending Babylon's control over [Mesopotamia](#) by winning a series of wars against neighboring Kingdoms - [Hammurabi](#) is known for the set of laws called "[Hammurabi's Code](#)", one of the first [written codes of law](#) in recorded history - it regulated all aspects of social life, clearly divided the class structure of all Babylonians, protected the rights of women, set out ethics stands for lawyers and politicians, and established criminal punishment for crimes (many of which were death) - although his Empire controlled all of Mesopotamia at the time of his death, his successors would be unable to sustain that control - but, so began a period of [record keeping](#)...

[Babylon](#) flourishes - it had a modern system of life with canals to irrigate their land for agriculture, indoor toilets, city sewage systems and public restrooms - they had a city-to-city postal system with baked clay letters and envelopes - they had a judicial system where judges wore black robes - they had a system of [commerce](#) that included coined money (banks), receipts, titles, seals, signing and merchant law which evolved into Roman Law - [Priests](#) made loans from their hoard of [gold and silver](#) - the [shipping](#) industry kept Babylon in stock of the newest "wantings" - [slaves](#) were an integral part of Babylonian life with most physical labor performed by males and women slaves were bred with pleasure...

Over the next 200 years, however, the power of [Priests](#) grew weakening central powers of the Empire - military strength was not reinforced and became diminished by numerous attacks from both the North and South - in about 1,550bce, the immense strength of the "horse soldier" led by the [Hittites](#) overwhelmed the weak "foot soldiers" of the [Babylonians](#)...

[Assyrians and Merchant Capitalism](#)...

[Assyria](#) assumed the rest of the [Akkadian Empire](#) and quickly assimilated its citizens - the first inscriptions of Assyrian rulers appear after 2000bce - Assyria then consisted of a number of city states and small [Semitic](#) kingdoms - the foundation of the Assyrian monarchy was traditionally ascribed to [Zulilu](#), the ancestor of [Shalmaneser I](#)...

The [Assyrians](#) inherited an immense problem however - the agricultural needs of Mesopotamia had been slowly depleting its once fertile soil - the land was becoming polluted because of over farming and improper irrigation techniques - salt levels in the soil were rising and production of

crops were diminishing resulting in increasing economic stress for its citizens - hoarding was a necessity to the **greedy**...

All of this would increase the need for [trade](#) and, with the abundance of metals needed for tools and weapons, the Assyrians became "[middle men](#)" and the leading traders north of the Mediterranean - they developed a textile industry that traded for raw material and food - to keep order in this vast arena, the Nobles ran the commerce with an iron fist - however, as long as the King's coffers were amply growing, Assyrians were free to invest and take risk - donkey [caravans](#) traveled hundreds of miles around Anatolia (Iran today) exploiting any who had a need - as long as the King didn't get screwed, maximizing profits by taking risk was truly rewarded in a capitalistic manner...

[Hebrews](#)...

According to the [Old Testament](#), the [Hebrews](#) appear to have been semi-nomadic herders of sheep and goats and occasional farmers, without knowledge of metal working, sophisticated craftsmanship or a written language - like other nomadic herders, they were tent dwellers and migrated around the [Fertile Crescent](#) along with other Semitic tribes - about 1900bce, they settled in [Canaan](#) - they never were able (or wanted to?) to organize probably due to the power of the [Canaanites](#)...

[Abraham](#) was born in the [Chaldean City of Ur](#), [Mesopotamia](#), to [Terah](#), his father. [Josephus](#) - Islamic tradition, and Jewish authorities like [Maimonides](#) all concur that [Ur of the Chaldees](#) was in Northern Mesopotamia - now southeastern [Turkey](#) (identified with [Urartu](#), or claiming Abraham was born in [Urfa](#)), or the nearby [Urkeshe](#), which others identify with "[Ur of the Chaldee](#)" - Abraham migrated to [Haran](#), apparently the classical [Carrhae](#), which lay on the [Balikh river](#), a branch of the [Euphrates](#) - after a short stay, he, his wife [Sarai](#), [Lot](#) (the son of Abram's brother [Haran](#)), and all their followers, departed for [Canaan](#) - His God called Abram to go to "the land I will show you", and promised to bless him and man...

Note: Some time after the birth of [Isaac](#), Abraham was commanded by God to offer his son up as a sacrifice in the land of [Moriah](#) - the patriarch traveled three days until he came to the mount that God taught him - the [near sacrifice of Isaac](#) is one of the most challenging, and perhaps ethically troublesome, parts of the Bible...

The traditional view in [Christianity](#) is that the chief promise made to Abraham in [Genesis 12](#) is that through Abraham's seed, all the people of earth would be blessed - notwithstanding this, [John the Baptist](#) specifically taught that merely being of Abraham's seed was no guarantee of [salvation](#) - he promise in Genesis is considered to have been fulfilled through Abraham's seed, Jesus. It is also a consequence of this promise that Christianity is open to people of all races and not limited to Jews...

Note: The [Roman Catholic Church](#) calls Abraham "our father in Faith," in the [Eucharistic prayer](#) of the [Roman Canon](#), recited during the [Mass](#) (see [Abraham in the Catholic liturgy](#)). He is also commemorated in the [calendars of saints](#) of several denominations...

Note” The [Eastern Orthodox Church](#) commemorates Abraham as the "Righteous Forefather Abraham", with two [feast days](#) in its [liturgical calendar](#)...

Abraham, known as [Ibrahim](#) in Arabic, is very important in [Islam](#), both in his own right as a prophet as well as being the father of [Ishmael](#) and [Isaac](#). [Ishmael](#), his firstborn son, is considered the “Father of the Arabised Arabs”, and Isaac is considered the Father of the Hebrews...

[Minoans, Mycenaeans, and Dorians](#)...

[Minoans](#) were blessed with fertile soil, ample rainfall, and could farm all year long - their most valuable products were olive oil and grapes and they were truly “self-sufficient” farmers - craftsmen manufactured huge storage jars stacked under the palaces to ensure surpluses had minimal spoilage - farmers brought all of their products to the nobility and their individual needs were redistributed based on their contribution and favorability - an excellent way of keeping the masses in check...

Apparently the [Minoans](#) saw no need to fortify [Crete](#) from invasion (unlike [Aegean](#) neighbors) - we can assume that their might kept others at bay? - the Minoans were primarily a [mercantile](#) people engaged in overseas trade - their culture, from 1700bce onward, shows a high degree of organization...

Many historians and archaeologists believe that the Minoans were involved in the Bronze Age's important [tin](#) trade: tin, alloyed with copper apparently

from [Cyprus](#), was used to make bronze - the [decline](#) of Minoan civilization and the decline in use of bronze tools in favor of iron ones seem to be correlated...

The Minoan trade in [saffron](#), the stigma of a mutated crocus which originated in the Aegean basin as a natural chromosome mutation, has left fewer material remains: a fresco of saffron-gatherers at [Santorini](#) is well-known - this inherited trade pre-dated Minoan civilization: a sense of its rewards may be gained by comparing its value to [frankincense](#), or later, to pepper. Archaeologists tend to emphasize the more durable items of trade: ceramics, copper, and tin, and dramatic luxury finds of [gold](#) and [silver](#)...

The [Minoan eruption](#) on the island of [Thera](#) (present day Santorini about 100 km distant from Crete) is estimated to have occurred sometime between 1630 and 1550 BCE. This eruption was among the largest volcanic explosions in the history of civilization, ejecting approximately 60 km³ of material and rating a 6 on the [Volcanic Explosivity Index](#).^{[37][38][39]} The eruption devastated the nearby Minoan settlement at [Akrotiri](#) on Santorini, which was entombed in a layer of [pumice](#).^[40] ...

It is further believed that the eruption severely affected the Minoan culture on Crete, although the extent of the impact has been debated - early theories proposed that ashfall from Thera on the eastern half of Crete choked off plant life, causing starvation of the local population.^[41] - however, after more thorough field examinations, this theory has lost credibility, as it has been determined that no more than 5 millimeters (0.2 in) of ash fell anywhere on Crete.^[42] - recent studies indicate, based on archeological evidence found on Crete, that a massive [tsunami](#), generated by the Thera eruption, devastated the coastal areas of Crete and destroyed many Minoan coastal settlements.^{[43][44][45][46][47]} - the LM IIIA (Late Minoan) period is marked by its affluence (i.e., wealthy tombs, burials and art) and the ubiquity of Knossian ceramic styles^[48] - however, by LM IIIB the importance of Knossos as a regional centre, and its material 'wealth', seem to have declined...

As the [Minoans](#) were a sea power and depended on their naval and merchant ships for their livelihood, the Thera eruption caused significant economic hardship - whether these effects were enough to trigger the downfall of the Minoan civilization is debatable - the Mycenaean conquest of the Minoans occurred in Late [Minoan II Period](#), not many years after the

eruption, and many archaeologists speculate that the eruption induced a crisis in Minoan civilization, which allowed the Mycenaeans to conquer them easily.^[49]

The [Mycenaeans](#) began to arrive from the North about 8,000bce and began to control parts of northern Greece about 2,000bce - this was the beginning of the period in Greek history written about by Homer, and known as the [Heroic Age](#) - or [Mycenaean](#) Period - they would rule with a strong hand from fortified citadels at [Pylos](#), [Thebes](#) and [Mycenae](#) - they learned much from the Minoans but their trading abilities more centered on piracy and raiding neighbors' bounty - the Mycenaeans began to displace the weakened Minoans about the middle of the 14th Century...

The organization of artisanal labor is especially well known in the case of the palace - the archives of [Pylos](#) show a specialized workforce, each worker belonging to a precise category and assigned to a specific place in the stages of production, notably in textiles.

The [textile industry](#) was one of the principal sectors of the Mycenaean economy - the "[Tablets of Knossos](#)" reveal the entire chain of production, from the flocks of sheep to the stocking of the palace storerooms with the finished product, through the shearing and the sorting of the wool in the workshops, as well as working conditions in those workshops - the Palace of [Pylos](#) employed around 550 textile workers and at Knossos there were some 900 - fifteen different textile specialties have been identified - next to wool, flax was the fiber most used...

The [metallurgical industry](#) is well attested at [Pylos](#), where 400 workers were employed - the industry of [perfumery](#) is attested as well and tablets describe the making of perfumed oil using rose, sage, etc. It is known, too, from the archaeology that the workers attached to the Palace included other kinds of artisans: goldsmiths, ivory-carvers, stone carvers, and potters, for example - olive oil was also made there - certain areas of endeavor were turned toward export...

The economic organization of the [Mycenaean Kingdoms](#) known from the texts seems to have been bipartite: a first group worked in the orbit of the palace, while another was self-employed - this reflects the societal structure seen above, but there was nothing to prevent a person working for the palace from running his own business - the economy was

supervised by scribes, who made note of incoming and outgoing products, assigned work, and were in charge of the distribution of rations - the *du-ma-te* seems to have been a sort of supervising quartermaster - the written language had evolved to what is called [Linear B](#) (the basis for modern Greek)...

By the [12th Century bce](#), the Aegean civilization began a period of decline - there was much internal strife due to overpopulation and a weakened control of the seas - also, the [Mycenaeans](#) had their sites set on controlling the rich silver deposits near Troy that was also the crossroads to trade in the [Black Sea](#) - their efforts in destroying Troy significantly reduced the inherent powers of the military and left them ripe for invasion - soon, the iron-wielding [Dorians from Crete](#) would arrive and the Mycenaeans were no match for their might...

The [Shang Dynasty](#)...

The [Shang Dynasty](#) is believed to have been founded by a rebel leader who overthrew the last [Xia](#) ruler somewhere around [1,600bce](#) - its civilization was based on agriculture, augmented by hunting and animal husbandry - the "[Records of the Grand Historian](#)" state that the Shang moved its capital six times - the final and most important move to [Yin](#) in 1350bce led to the golden age of the Dynasty - the term [Yin Dynasty](#) has been synonymous with the Shang in history, and indeed was the more popular term, although it is now often used specifically in reference to the latter half of the Shang...

A line of hereditary [Shang](#) kings ruled over much of northern China, and Shang troops fought frequent wars with neighboring settlements and nomadic herdsmen from the inner Asian [steppes](#) - the capitals, particularly that in Yin, were centers of glittering court life - court rituals to propitiate spirits developed. In addition to his secular position, the king was the head of the [ancestor-](#) and spirit-worship cult - the King often performed oracle bone divinations himself, especially near the end of the dynasty - evidence from the royal tombs indicates that royal personages were buried with articles of value, presumably for use in the afterlife - perhaps for the same reason, hundreds of commoners, who may have been slaves, were buried alive with the royal corpse...

As far back as c. 1500bce, the early [Shang Dynasty](#) engaged in large-scale production of [bronze](#)-ware vessels and weapons.[20] - this production necessitated large labor force that would handle the mining, refining, and transportation of [copper](#), [tin](#), and [lead](#) ores.[20] - the Shang Dynasty royal court and aristocrats required a vast amount of different bronze vessels for various ceremonial purposes and events of religious [divination](#), hence the need for official managers that could provide oversight and employment of hard-laborers and skilled artisans and craftsmen.[20] - with the increased amount of bronze available, the army could become better equipped with an assortment of bronze weaponry, and bronze was also able to furnish the fittings of [spoke](#)-wheeled chariots that came into widespread use by 1200bce...[21]

Apart from their role as the head military commanders, Shang kings also asserted their social supremacy by acting as the high Priest of society and leader of divination ceremonies - as the oracle bone texts reveal, the Shang kings were viewed as the best qualified members of society to offer sacrifices to their royal ancestors, to the [High God Di](#), who in their beliefs was responsible for the rain, wind, and thunder...[21]

The distribution of labor was a vast set of specialized trades - very few were self sufficient in their needs - a common market in the center of cities provided everything one would need - commoners either bartered or sold their wares for [cowry](#) shells whose value was controlled by the Nobles...

[Egypt's New Kingdom...](#)

The "[Second Intermediate Period](#)" marks a period when [Ancient Egypt](#) once again fell into disarray between the end of the [Middle Kingdom](#), and the start of the [New Kingdom](#) - it is best known as when the [Hyksos](#) made their appearance in Egypt, whose reign comprised the [Fifteenth](#) and [Sixteenth Dynasties](#).

The [Pyramids of Egypt](#) were built to house the Pharaohs for eternity, but the stones would fail them - the tombs became a beacon attracting as many robbers as it repelled and Egypt became a land overrun by treasure seekers - there was no stopping the looting and plunder to come - a Pharaoh's tomb was designed to protect his treasure and provide his mummy safe passage through eternity, but the lure of royal treasure was irresistible - despite the royal architect's best efforts the tombs were violated - the great stonewalls could not protect the Kings from the greed in

the hearts of men - the intruders might be simple robbers, members of the Kings own priesthood or even the very builders of the tomb itself - actual trial transcripts found on an ancient papyrus revealed their **greed**...

Note: The first Pyramids were built during the [Third](#) and [Fourth Dynasties](#), were made completely of stone - however, during the [Fifth Dynasty](#) there was a noticeable reduction in size and the change from granite to a poor quality limestone as the main building material - the [Middle Kingdom](#) pyramid construction period showed other changes in techniques - during this time the bricks used to build were actually mud bricks encased in a polished limestone, and were even smaller in size - does this imply that the cost of construction was downsized?...

The brilliant Egyptian [Twelfth Dynasty](#) came to an end around **1800bce**, and was succeeded by the much weaker [Thirteenth Dynasty of Egypt](#) - both ruled from [Itjtawy](#) ("Seizer-of-the-Two-Lands") near [Memphis](#) and [el-Lisht](#), just South of the apex of the [Nile Delta](#) and is notable for the accession of the first formally recognized Semitic king: [Khendjer](#) - the [Thirteenth Dynasty](#) proved unable to hold onto the entire territory of Egypt, and the provincial ruling family in [Xois](#), located in the marshes of the western Delta, broke away from the central authority to form the [Fourteenth Dynasty](#)...

The later Kings of the [Thirteenth Dynasty](#) appear to be only ephemeral monarchs under the control of a powerful line of [Viziers](#), and indeed it has been suggested that the Kingship in this period might have been elective if not actually appointive - one monarch late in the dynasty, [Wahibre Ibiau](#), may have even been a former Vizier...

By about this time, Europe was divided amongst three distinct groups: the warrior ancestors of the [Celts](#) in France, Germany, and the Low Countries, the ancestors of the future [Slavs](#) in Scandinavia, and the [Finns](#) to the North of Russia...

Beginning with the reign of [Sobekhotep IV](#), the power of this dynasty, weak to begin with, deteriorated - the later King [Merneferre Ai \(c.1700bce\)](#) appears to have been a mere vassal of the [Hyksos](#) Princes ruling there; his successors held onto their diminished office until c.1633bce...

Around the time [Memphis](#) and [Itj-tawy](#) fell to the [Hyksos](#), the native Egyptian ruling house in [Thebes](#) declared its independence from the vassal dynasty in [Itj-tawy](#) and set itself up as the [Seventeenth Dynasty](#) - this Dynasty was to prove the salvation of Egypt and would eventually lead the war of liberation that drove the Hyksos back into Asia - the two last kings of this dynasty were [Tao II the Brave](#) and [Kamose](#), whom tradition credited with the final defeat of the Hyksos - with the [Eighteenth Dynasty](#), the "[New Kingdom](#)" began... ([Source](#))

After the [Hyksos](#) were expelled from Egypt about 1570bce by [Ahmose I](#) of Thebes, another "golden age" came about - trade, art and literature were expanded during this period - Ahmose replaced the mercenaries with a formal horse riding military - feeling its oats, Egypt met with much military success, conquering lands such as Nubia to the south, and Israel and Lebanon to the North...

The Pharaoh [Akhenaton](#) is known for his attempt at monotheism - during the reign of [Akhenaton](#) and his Queen [Nefertiti](#), worship of all [Gods](#) except the chosen [God Aten](#) was banned...

The reign of [Ramesses II](#) was filled with many military conquests - many great construction projects were undertaken, including the famous temples of [Abu Simbel](#) - was the third Egyptian pharaoh of the Nineteenth dynasty - he is often regarded as Egypt's greatest and most powerful pharaoh - writers such as Herodotus attributed his accomplishments to the semi-mythical King [Sesostris](#) - he is traditionally believed to have been the Pharaoh of the Exodus - [Ramesses the Great](#) led several expeditions north into the lands east of the [Mediterranean](#) (the location of the modern [Israel](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Syria](#)) - he also led expeditions to the South, into [Nubia](#), commemorated in inscriptions at [Beit el-Wali](#) and [Gurf Hussein](#)...

The early part of his reign was focused on building cities, temples and monuments - he established the city of [Pi-Ramesses](#) in the Nile Delta as his new capital and main base for his campaigns in Syria - this city was built on the remains of the city of [Avaris](#), the capital of the [Hyksos](#) when they took over, and was the location of the main *Temple of [Set](#)*...

The [birth of Moses](#) occurred at a time when [Ramesses II](#) had commanded that all male Hebrew children born be killed by drowning in the river Nile -

the [Torah](#) and [Flavius Josephus](#) leave the identity of this Pharaoh unstated but we will assume it was the time of [Rameses II](#)...

Note: Of course, we need troublemakers - the ancient Egyptians thought Moses was a [troublemaker](#) - the Romans thought the same of [Jesus](#), and the Popes the same of [Martin Luther](#) - [Jean- Jacques Rousseau](#), [Charles Darwin](#), [Sigmund Freud](#)—they all made trouble for those of settled opinion... ([Source](#))

In [ancient Egypt](#), when you stored grain, you would receive a [token](#), which was exchangeable and became a type of [currency](#) - if you returned a year later with 10 tokens, you would only get nine tokens worth of grain, because rats and spoilage would have reduced the quantities, and because the guards at the storage facility had to be paid - so that amounted to a demurrage charge - Egypt was the breadbasket for the ancient world, the gift of the Nile - merchants invested in productive assets that would last forever, like land improvements and irrigation systems...

[Prices, Wages, and Payments in Ancient Egypt](#)...

*Envious **greed** must govern to possess and ambition must possess to govern...*

Ancient Egyptian Proverb

[Slavery in Ancient Egypt](#)...

By around 1900bce, [Minoan](#) culture reached its high point - there was a central government - Minoans began trading with other peoples both around the Aegean and as far away as Egypt - "Minoan commerce was so widespread and complex that it required the keeping of written records" (AHOTW - p.69) - there is some evidence that the Minoans successfully collected tribute from many surrounding peoples but these small island cities would be conquered by the 12th Century bce...

1870bce was about the time of Pharaoh [Sesostris III](#) - he sought to expand Egypt southward into Nubia in an attempt to control the hoard of gold there - the Middle Kingdom reached the pinnacle of its might under his son, and co-ruler, [Amenemhat III](#)...

The [Hittite Empire](#) in [Anatolia](#) began around **1800bce** with the conquering of a number of cities - the city-state of Ashur had extensive contact with cities on the [Anatolian](#) plateau - the Assyrians established “merchant colonies” in [Cappadocia](#), e.g., at [Kanesh](#) (modern [Kultepe](#)) - these Colonies, called [Karum](#), the Akkadian word for 'port', were attached to Anatolian cities, but physically separate, and had special tax status - they must have arisen from a long tradition of trade between [Ashur](#) and the [Anatolian](#) cities, but no archaeological or written records show this - the [trade](#) consisted of metal (perhaps lead or tin; the terminology here is not entirely clear) and textiles from Assyria, that were traded for precious metals in Anatolia...

Records from the 19th century bce attest to the existence of an [Assyrian](#) merchant colony at [Kanesh](#) in [Cappadocia](#) ^[1]...

By this time, [Babylon](#), capital of [Babylonia](#) was the largest city of the known world, taking the lead from [Thebes](#), capital of [Egypt](#) - by **1,760bce**, Babylonia gained political hegemony over northern Mesopotamia and would threaten the boundaries established by Egypt...

Sensing the declining power of the native Egyptian dynasties, the [Hyksos](#) had invaded Egypt from Syrian Palestine - the [Hyksos](#) established their capital at [Avaris](#) and ruled as if they were Egyptian Pharaohs, but the Hyksos did introduce new ideas into Egypt - they taught the Egyptians how to make bronze and cast the material for tools and weapons - they also brought with them the horse-drawn chariot and introduced the [composite bow](#) into the Egyptian arsenal...

About the time that [Jacob](#), grandson of [Abraham](#), being driven by famine led his people into Israel - he elevated [Ephraim](#) and [Manasseh](#) to the same status as his sons, creating the twelve [Tribes of Israel](#)...

The [Greeks](#) used defensive bronze armor, slashing swords and thrusting spears...

By about **1650bce**, a script was being developed by the [Minoans](#) on Crete, the center of the [Minoan](#) civilization and its great palace at [Knossos](#) with 1300 rooms - they were very prosperous peoples and had a monopoly on the trade network from Troy to Egypt and Sicily to Syria - they were also

master ship builders with the capability for longer voyages bypassing some less viable ports...

Donald A. MacKenzie, [MYTHS OF CRETE & PRE-HELLENIC EUROPE](#)

The [Mycenaeans](#) were an established civilization and had control of the [metal](#) mines of Greece and [Italy](#) - they were busting at the seams and plans were being laid for expansion in the Eastern Mediterranean...

About the earliest date that the [Minoan eruption](#) occurred that was described by [Plato](#)...

Around **1600bce**, the [Hittites](#) destroyed Babylon dividing [Mesopotamia](#) once again amongst rival factions whose greed for its riches was insatiable...

1595bce is considered the start of the "[Middle Babylonian](#)" Period and the fall of Babylon by [Kassite Dynasty](#) - the transformation of Southern [Mesopotamia](#) into a territorial State, rather than a network of allied or combative Temple-Cities, made Babylonia an international power - [Kassite](#) Kings established trade and diplomacy with [Assyria](#), [Egypt](#), [Elam](#), and the [Hittites](#), and the Kassite royal house intermarried with their royal families - there were foreign merchants in Babylon and other Cities, and Babylonian merchants were active from Egypt (a major source of [Nubian](#) gold) to Assyria and Anatolia - Kassite weights and seals, the packet-identifying and measuring tools of commerce, have been found in as far as [Thebes](#) in Greece, in southern [Armenia](#), and even in a shipwreck off the southern coast of today's Turkey...

The foundations for the [New Kingdom](#) of Egypt would be established by the [Pharaoh Ahmose](#) - he was a member of the [Theban](#) royal house, and son of King [Tao II Seqenenre](#) and brother of King [Kamose](#), the last King of the [Seventeenth Dynasty](#) - he would thrust the [Hyksos](#) out of the Nile Delta in **c1570bce** - the period of the New Kingdom is best known as the time during which Egypt created a true Empire - Egyptian wealth reached unparalleled heights - Hebrews were enslaved to support the wealthy - conflict with the [Hittites](#) and the control of Palestine would dominate their concerns - a new capital would be completed at [Thebes](#) by about **1530bce**...

About this time, to escape from Egyptian oppression, the [Hebrews](#) invented [Matzo](#) - unable to take the time to leaven their bread properly, they held their flattened bread dough up to the sun - this would become the basis for the [Hebrew diet](#) for many years...

[Cecrops](#) rebuilt [Athens](#) following the great flood of [Deucalion](#) and the end of the "[Golden age](#)" - he becomes the first of several [Kings of Athens](#) whose life account is considered part of [Greek mythology](#) - the [slave markets](#) at Chios, Rhodes, and Delos were thriving but none equaled of Ephesus...

The [Hittites](#) began smelting iron - considered the end of the "[Middle Bronze Age](#)" although they attempted to conceal their process but, alas, no patents were given then...

The city of [Mycenae](#), located in the northeast [Peloponnesus](#), came to dominate the rest of [Achaean](#), giving its name to [Mycenaean](#) civilization...

[Egypt](#) started to conquer [Nubia](#) and the [Levant](#) - the Nubians were an excellent source for gold, cattle, and slaves...

By about **1500bce**, economic pressures by the [evolving societies](#) in the [Indus Valley](#) began to grow - by now, [society](#) was becoming more stratified and "distinct" classes of peoples were emerging including: warriors, soldiers, Priests, lay peoples, scribes, craftspeople, farmers, and raw laborers (usually enslaved peoples) - it took a thousand years but man finally learned to manipulate wrought iron the process of "[quenching](#)" - military tactics evolved quickly when iron was introduced to weaponry; being more militaristic was now self evident...

[The Peoples of North America](#)...

With superior tools, land owners could now expand the land use for [farming](#) as they could more easily remove trees, rocks, and hard soils - they could now shear sheep easier and cut cloth - they invented the "[lathe](#)" that would allow for turning wood stock for the handles of tools and superior weapons...

About this time, an independent network of trade was beginning to form into what would be eventually be called the "[Silk Road](#)" - it would

interconnect through various regions of the Asian continent mainly connecting [Chang'an](#) (today's [Xi'an](#)) in [China](#), with [Asia Minor](#) and the [Mediterranean](#) and extend over 8,000 km (5,000 miles) on land and sea...

[Egypt](#) started to conquer [Nubia](#) and the [Levant](#) - the Nubians were an excellent source for gold, cattle, and slaves - the immense gold-bearing regions of [Nubia](#) made Egypt a wealthy nation, as gold becomes the recognized standard medium of exchange for international trade - the price of an ox was one of the first items to be traded by standard weight of gold - the Shekel, a coin originally weighing 11.3 grams of gold, would become a standard unit of measure for commerce - it contained a naturally occurring alloy called [electrum](#) that was approximately two-thirds gold and one-third silver...

New gold discoveries in the region of [Nubia](#) make Egypt a wealthy nation and gold becomes the recognized standard medium of exchange for trade - the "[Shekel](#)", a coin originally weighing 11.3 grams of gold, is used as a standard unit of measure throughout the Middle East - the coin contained a naturally occurring alloy called [electrum](#)...

Egyptian, [Hittite](#), Kassite, and Palestinian [chariots](#) were very light and sophisticated and are drawn by two or three horses with chest girths secured by poles and yokes - armor of overlapping scales of bronze laced together or sewn onto a backing of padded fabric is used in Mesopotamia, Syria, and Egypt - the Egyptians were still using bindings and rivets for their axes - the ax had developed into the [sickle sword](#), a bronze sword with a curved concave blade and a straight thick handle...

According to [Bernstein](#) (p.13), [Hatshepsut](#), the fifth [Pharaoh](#) of the [Eighteenth Dynasty](#) died around **1458bce** - she had an insatiable appetite for gold - she was fond of gilding her face with a mixture of gold and silver dust...

The [Phoenicians](#) developed their [alphabet](#) - [Cadmus](#), who founded the city of [Thebes](#), brought back 15 Phoenician letters into Greece - being coastal peoples, the Phoenicians were natural seafarers - they were blessed with abundant forests so the resources for shipbuilding were at hand - their rocky soil was unsuitable for farming so they had to trade for their food - their skills and the abundance of food in Egypt made for a natural partnership and their understanding of business relationships led to many

discoveries (glass making, cloth dyeing, and casting metals) - [regular trade networks](#) were established and they got used to an abundant lifestyle...

By 3,000bce, [maize](#) had been fully developed in [Mexico](#) - by 1,500bce, it had crossed the Rio Grande and would become "[hybridized](#)" to adapt to the different climate and growing season - they had learned how the crop depleted the soil and rotation was utilized - metal tools were utilized for farming...

Note: South of the [Rio Grande](#), the effort to produce a crop was very labor intensive and was performed by males - to the North, the effort was less labor intensive and was performed by females as an extension of gathering while males concentrated on hunting and warring...

c1450bce: Latest approximate date of the [destruction](#) of [Thera](#), on which [Atlantis legends](#) are probably based, caused a huge desecration of the [Cretan civilization](#) - this would lead to the succession of the area by the Mycenaeans who would adopt and expand on the capabilities of the [Minoans](#) - by now they were a formidable lot with superior powers due to the use of horses, chariots, and were master sailors who ruled the trade and piracy on the Aegean - they conquered Knossos and destroyed the great palace - the first "Greeks" would develop the Cities of [Argos](#), [Corinth](#), [Sparta](#), [Athens](#), and [Thebes](#) - they would flourish until the superiority of the iron sword would cause their downfall in about 1100bce...

About the time (see 1280/1263bce) [Moses](#) led the [Exodus](#) of the [Hebrews](#) ([Jews](#)) out of slavery from [Egypt](#) to the land of [Israel](#) - the Hebrews were nomadic herders and had been enslaved by the powerful Egyptians (p.21 - GP) - shortly after the Exodus, the nation receives the [Torah](#) at [Mount Sinai](#)...

Around **1,400bce**, [Mycenaeans](#) conquered northern [Greece](#) and border of [Anatolia](#) - the culture of the Minoans was quickly adopted by the Mycenaeans who were loosely organized by common views but ruled by a local Prince-like group of peoples in towns - the topography of the [Greek](#) mountains allowed for these towns to exist peacefully with the sea being the main concern for safety - the [olive oil trade](#) was their mainstay - there were splintered groups of mercenaries that went along with the highest bidder and they fought amongst themselves making short-lived alliances...

[Agriculture of Ancient Greece...](#)

For sake of taking a stand, we feel that the earliest writings of what would become the *Bible* were written about [1400bce](#) - the word "[gold](#)", or a derivative, is mentioned [430](#) times in the *Bible*...

The great palace at [Knossos](#), rebuilt by the Mycenaeans, was destroyed again by an earthquake and fire - the center of the Greek civilization was moved to the mainland...

By about **1350bce**, the [Babylonians](#) took the lead in [analyzing](#) the [purity of gold](#) using the "[fire assay](#)" process...

King [Tutankhamun](#) began his rule at 9 years of age in **1333bce** - he was one of the few Kings worshiped as a god and honored with a cult-like following in his own lifetime ^[5]...

About **1323bce** was the death of Pharaoh [Tutankhamun](#) - the young Egyptian boy King was interred in a pyramid tomb laden with gold, his remains laid in an extravagant gold anthropoid "[sarcophagus](#)"...

Around the time of [Seti I](#) in **1320bce**, we find the creation of the first [gold treasure map](#) now known to us - in the Turin Museum is a papyrus and fragments that describes the location of gold mines, where the miners' quartered, and roads leading to the mines...

According to [Bernstein](#) (p.10), about the time of Moses - the Jews around Mt Sinai had ample amounts of gold and made it into items of worship...

c1300bce: [Cecrops II, King of Athens](#), died after a reign of 40 years and was succeeded by his son [Pandion II](#) - who would later be driven into exile from [Athens](#) by the sons of Cecrops II's brother (or possibly nephew) [Metion](#), so that Metion could take power - [Pandion II](#) fled to [Megara](#), where he married the King's daughter and eventually inherited the throne - after his death, [Pandion II](#)'s sons returned to Athens and drove out the sons of Metion...

About this time the [Mycenaean pirates](#) became organized into what became know as the "[sea peoples](#)" and, if they weren't playing mercenaries, went about raiding weaker, under-defended towns - they

became successful and would begin a “[reign of terror](#)” throughout the [Mediterranean](#)...

Note: The [origins](#) of the [Sea Peoples](#) are uncertain. The Philistines may have been one group of [Sea People](#). During the 12th CBC the [Sea Peoples](#) occupied the entire coast of the Levant. They [Sea People](#) possibly embarked from Greece, but they are also described as attacking Greece... ([Source](#))

The “[Sea Peoples](#)”...

Destruction of [Troy](#) VIIa - most likely one of the candidates (see 1200 and 1184bce) for a historical event underlying the legendary “[Trojan War](#)”...

Around **1273bce**, the [decisive war](#) between the Egyptians and the Hittites for the control over Syria took place in the spring of the fifth year of the reign of [Ramses II](#). The “[Battle of Kadesh](#)” resulted from the defection of Amurru to Egypt. While the Hittites wanted to bring Amurru back into their fold, the Egyptians tried to protect their new vassal. Using Karkemish as a base for their operations, the Hittites decided Kadesh offered the best opportunities for the coming battle. [Muwatalli](#) had called on his allies, among them [Rimisharrinaa](#), king of [Aleppo](#)... ([Source](#))

Note: When [Helen](#), the wife of Menelaus, was abducted by [Paris](#) of [Troy](#), [Agamemnon](#) was the commander of the [Achaean](#)s in the ensuing “[Trojan War](#)” - upon his return home, he was murdered by his wife Clytemnestra...

Around this time, the [City of Troy Six](#) was destroyed by fire - most probably is the [source](#) for [Homer's Iliad](#)...

Considered the height of the [Mycenaean period](#) - trading networks were established from [Levant](#) to Sicily - they were “seafaring” traders - they had fortified palaces and highly trained military - however, they were under constant duress due to the class structure of the elite and the poor - signs that would repeat itself throughout time - their rule would fail about 1100bce...

The [Mycenaeans](#) formed an [alliance](#) with the Sicilians, Sardinians, Lycians, and others - they went on great raids without regard to whom they were raiding - they were so successful that raiding became a way of life - they

drove the common man to the hills for safety who built small settlements out of stone leaving the herds in the valleys - each settlement had a view of the sea so as much warning as possible could be gained - Egypt was the prize and around this time and the “[sea peoples](#)” went against the [Pharaoh Merneptah](#)...

About **1230bce**, [Tukulti-Ninurta I](#) of Assyria defeated the [Kassite](#) King [Kashtiliash IV](#) and gained control of [Babylonia](#) for seven years...

[Aegeus](#), [King of Athens](#), received a false message that his designated heir [Theseus](#), his son by [Aethra](#) of [Troezena](#), was dead - Theseus had been sent to his overlord [Minos](#) of [Crete](#) as an offering to the [Minotaur](#) - [Medus](#), Aegeus' only other son (by [Medea](#) of [Colchis](#)), had been exiled in Asia and would become the legendary ancestor to the [Medes](#) - believing himself without heirs the [King](#) commits [suicide](#) after a reign of 48 years - he was succeeded by Theseus, who was actually still alive - the [Aegean Sea](#) was named in his honor...

According to [Homer](#) in the [Iliad](#), the time of the “[Trojan War](#)” was about **1,200bce** - King Agamemnon led the Mycenaeans to conquer the city of Troy in the southwestern part of Hellespont ([Dardanelles](#)) on the Turkish coast with the goal of obtaining control of the [Black Sea](#) trade route...

By 1200bce, the [Egyptians](#) had mastered the art of beating gold into leaf to extend its use, as well as alloying it with other metals for hardness and color variations - they also start casting gold using the “[lost-wax technique](#)” that today is still at the heart of jewelry making - unshorn sheepskin is used to recover gold dust from river sands on the eastern shores of the Black Sea - after [sluicing](#) the sands through the sheepskins, they are dried and shaken out to dislodge the gold particles - the practice is most likely the inspiration for the “Golden Fleece”... ([Source](#))

Note: [Jason](#) was the son of [Aeson](#), the rightful king of [Iolcus](#) and the leader of the [Argonauts](#), who sought the “[Golden Fleece](#)” - the Greek myth makes more sense when you realize that the fleece that it refers to is the sheep's fleece used in the recovery of [fine placer gold](#)...

The violence that occurred in the Mediterranean from about 1,200bce left the Assyrians in a poor state - as the [Hittite Empire](#) collapsed from onslaught of the [Phrygians](#) (called [Mushki](#) in Assyrian annals), Babylon and

Assyria began to vie for [Amorite](#) regions, formerly under firm Hittite control. When their forces encountered one another in this region, the Assyrian king [Ashur-resh-ishi I](#) met and defeated [Nebuchadnezzar I](#) of Babylon...

By this time, [cowry shells](#) were the medium of exchange in China - they would go on to produce "[mock](#)" shells from metal and had holes in the middle so they could be worn around the neck to let others know one's wealth...

In this strange period of the "[sea peoples](#)", the Greek culture took a long stable rest - there were little, if any, records produced, nor art, nor any significant architecture - it was like a disease of the mindset that fell over Greece - life would go on, however, and, once commerce began again with the revival of trade in the ninth century bce, would eventually bring about the classical Greece we all know of today...

Was There a [Trojan War](#)?

[Whether or not](#) there was a [Trojan War](#) around **1180bce**, we are not positive - it does make sense, however, that, regardless of the name, any [City](#) that is in control of trade from England to the Baltic will be under the eyes of those who wish to [take control](#) of the current leadership and reap the bounty that passed by it...

By about **1150bce**, the period of the [Mycenaean](#) collapse in Greece due to civil unrest and the ruling class was replaced by local rulers content to avoid adventure - with the "sea peoples" defeated at sea by the Egyptians and Hittites, the weakened Greeks were ripe for conquest - so to come are the [Dorians](#), but when?

The son of [Ashur-resh-ishi I](#), [Tiglath-Pileser I](#) was an [Empire builder](#) during the "[Middle Assyrian Period](#)" - in **1120bce**, he crossed the [Euphrates](#), capturing [Carchemish](#), and defeated the [Mushki](#) and the remnants of the Hittites; even claiming to reach the [Black Sea](#) - he advanced to the [Mediterranean](#), subjugating [Phoenicia](#), where he hunted wild bulls - he also marched into Babylon twice, assuming the old title "King of Sumer and Akkad" - although he was unable to depose the actual King in Babylonia...

Collapse of [Hittite](#) power in [Anatolia](#) with the destruction of their capital [Hattusa](#) by a new movement of Indo-European barbarians whose leader

was the [Phygians](#) - this would effectively void the Hittite monopoly on iron technology and with great speed became widespread - in addition, with the decline of Egyptian might, the [Semitic](#) peoples of [Syria](#) and Palestine ceased being in the direct conflict of the struggle of rival imperialistic powers until their demise to the Assyrians in 722bce...

It is presumed that many of these “migrating peoples” would settle along the Mediterranean and some became known as [Philistines](#) - although limited, they had knowledge of the use of iron and an iron sword could crush a bronze shield - they would take over the area now known as [Gaza](#) and become hired mercenaries by Egypt and an arch enemy of the Israelites mission to settle in the “[promised land](#)”...

By this time, the [camel](#) was domesticated by fully nomadic [Arabian Desert tribes](#) - caravans were now able to increase commerce across the great desert...

By this time, “[pounded hot iron](#)” was made into sharp swords...

[First Artisan Labor Strike](#)...

A naval battle was fought between the Mycenaean “[sea peoples](#)” and the Egyptians who realized that the might of the warriors would be diminished at sea - the Egyptians were superior at sea against these land based [mercenaries](#) - many of the best became hired [mercenaries](#) against the [Israelites](#)...

[Ramses III and the Sea Peoples](#)...

Beginning about this time, there was much destruction in the [Peloponnese](#), [Crete](#) and other places throughout the Mediterranean, involving the destruction of the “[Bronze Age](#)” Mycenaean civilization and the beginning of the “[Greek Dark Ages](#)” - Peloponnesian cities burned or destroyed include [Corinth](#), [Olympia](#), [Sparta](#) and [Mycenae](#) - even cities not burned, such as [Athens](#), went into a prolonged period of decline - many cities were reduced to villages or abandoned - the written record for this period is nonexistent, due to the abandonment of the [Linear B](#) script - traditionally, this has been attributed to an invasion by the Dorians, but more recently, there is evidence that they migrated south into the Peloponnesus and the

[Aegean](#) during the Dark Ages instead of invading at the beginning of this period...

[Tin](#) is the key to [bronze](#), an alloy of tin and [copper](#) - tin was mined easily in England and increased commerce for the Islands fortunate...

By **1100bce**, the [canoe](#) was in regular use by the eastern tribes in North America to navigate the great rivers - a system of trails for trading and migratory hunting was developed that followed the [great bison movements](#)...

About this time, the [New Kingdom](#) in [Egypt](#) started to come to an end...

[Tiglath-Pileser I](#) of [Assyria](#) crossed the [Euphrates](#), capturing [Carchemish](#), defeated the [Mushki](#) and the remnants of the [Hittites](#) and advanced to the [Mediterranean](#), subjugating [Phoenicia](#) - Assyria had difficulties with keeping the trade routes open - unlike the situation in the "[Old Assyrian Period](#)", the [Anatolian](#) metal trade was effectively dominated by the [Hittites](#) and the [Hurrians](#) - they also controlled the Mediterranean ports while the [Kassites](#) controlled the river route south to the [Persian Gulf](#)...

The [Philistines](#) would engage the Israelites in the "[Battle at Ebenezer](#)" and would capture the [Ark of the Covenant](#) - this would prove to be a mistake as a great pestilence followed and they would return it with haste - Samuel would assume the role of Judge and the search for a King of the Jews to lead them would begin...

[The Collapse of Mycenaean Palatial Civilization and the Coming of the Dorians](#)...

The [Dorians](#) from the northwestern part of the Greek mainland began their invasion of the [Greece](#) Peloponnesus (southern peninsula) - the [Dorian invasion](#) was aided by superior weaponry based on their knowledge of "fashioning iron", they flooded the south and decimated their wealthy neighbors - welcome! - considered the beginning of the end of the reign of the [Mycenaean civilization](#) after being weakened by civil unrest and destruction due to earthquakes and the evolving society - considered the "[Dark Period](#)" in ancient Greece - many of the Mycenaean Colonies would be abandoned as they fled from persecution, trade diminished, and poverty had overtaken the peoples - writing began to disappear...

The [Dorians](#) and the Destruction of the “[Bronze Age](#)” in Greece...

Beginning of the [proto-Villanovan Culture](#) in [Northern Italy](#)...

[Phoenician ships](#) began to appear on the Mediterranean Sea challenging the [Sea-Kings from Crete](#) and would evolve to control trade until the Assyrians came on the scene about 750bce - they set out in search of metals and set up a Colony on [Cyprus](#) - they would found [Gades](#) (Cadiz) and then [Carthage](#), that would become a power in its own right...

The [Phoenicians](#) developed an [alphabet](#) that will become the basis for all modern European [alphabets](#)...

[Iron](#) was used for the first time in Austria and the use of iron would quickly spread throughout Europe - the first part of the “[Iron Age](#)” in Europe was known as the “[Hallstatt Period](#)”...

Around **1091bce**, small squares of gold were legalized in [China](#) as a form of money...

The end of the “[New Kingdom](#) of Egypt” and the beginning of the [Period of Decadence](#) about **1090bce** - this coincided with the end of dynasty of the [Ramesids](#) - Egypt entered a long period of turmoil and foreign conflict - the year of the [Hyena](#), there was a collapse in [Egypt](#)'s economy leading to the emergence of [tomb robbers](#) - because of this, it was also the last year that the [Valley of the Kings](#) was used for burial...

Around **1070bce**, the [Assyrian Empire](#) collapsed under the assault of [Arameans](#) and [Babylonians](#) - the [Assyrian Empire](#) reasserted itself under the reign of [Assurdan II](#)...

In **1069bce**, [Ramses XI](#) died, ending the [Twentieth Dynasty](#) - he was succeeded by [Smendes I](#), who founded the [Twenty-first Dynasty](#)...

In **1068bce**, [Codrus](#), legendary [King of Athens](#), dies in battle against [Dorian](#) invaders after a reign of 21 years - [Athenian](#) tradition considers him the last [King](#) to have held absolute power - modern historians consider him the last King whose life account is part of [Greek mythology](#) - he was succeeded by his son [Medon](#)...

About **1053bce**, [Zhou kang wang](#) died - [Zhou zhao wang](#) became King...

Around **1051bce**, after anointed by [the great Prophet and Judge Samuel](#), [Saul](#) would become the first King of [Israel](#) - though a bloody period defending Israel, it was justified in the minds of Israelites that their effort had a *divine* purpose and were righteous acts - Saul brought the loosely confederated semi-nomadic tribes together to better defend itself against the powerful Philistines - [David](#), a young shepherd, became a court favorite and, after his conquest of the Philistine giant, [Goliath](#), a national hero - Saul gave [David](#) a command of a division of troops and repeatedly trounced the Philistines - Saul feared David and David went into exile with the Philistines...

Sidebar on [Saul](#)...

About **1050bce**, the [Philistines](#) captured the [Ark of the Covenant](#) from Israel in battle...

In **1046bce**, [Zhou Wu Wang](#) overthrows the Chinese King [Di Xin](#) and founds the [Zhou Dynasty](#) (1046-249bce)...

About **1044bce**, on the death of [Smendes I, king of Egypt](#), he is succeeded by two co-regents, [Psusennes I](#) and [Neferkare Amenemnisu](#)...

1027bce is traditional date for the end of the [Shang Dynasty](#) in China - the tribe of Chou, under the leadership of Wu Wang defeated the Shang dynasty - they established the [Zhou dynasty](#) which became the longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history - the Chou continued the central administration of the Shang - they included individual principalities called "[guo](#)", the Chinese word for a "city surrounded by a wall..."

c1025-1020bce: [Saul the King](#) becomes the first King of the [Israelites](#) - [Prophet Samuel](#) of the ancient Israelites - Saul unified the [Israelites](#)...

1015bce: [Heremon O'Neil](#), in a race to be the first man to touch the soil of Ireland, cut off his hand and hurled it ashore - hence, he became the first King Of Ireland and the coat of arms of "[The Red Hand of Ulster](#)"...

c1010bce: [Saul the King](#), the first King of the Israelites, and his son Jonathon were killed by the Philistines at the "Battle of [Mount Gilboa](#)" - Saul

was succeeded by [David](#), who returned from exile and took the Israelites from warriors to citizens of a true Kingdom - although this effort was aided by a diminishing period for the Egyptians and Mesopotamians and the Philistine monopoly of iron smelting, none-the-less, it was a magnanimous one - through David's leadership, he expanded Israel's territory into Syria and Egypt - [David](#) led the capture of [Jerusalem](#) from the Canaanites and made it Israel's capital in about 995bce...

Note: The [tactics](#) used against the Philistines at the battle fought at [Michmash](#) by Saul and Jonathon were remembered by a British commander in WWI and repeated successfully against the Turks...

c1002bce: Death of [Zhou zhao wang](#) and [Zhou mo wang](#) becomes King of the Zhou Dynasty of China in 1001bce...

[“Unsolved problems in Egyptology”](#)...

The 1st millennium BC encompassed the [“Iron Age”](#) and saw the rise of successive [Empires](#) - the [Neo-Assyrian Empire](#), followed by the [Achaemenids](#)...

The [Brits](#) had decimated their forests in their **greed** for [iron](#)...

In Greece, [“Classical Antiquity”](#) begins with the colonization of [Magna Graecia](#) in Asia Minor and peaks with the rise of [“Hellenistic Period”](#) - the close of the millennium would see the rise of the [Roman Empire](#) and the assimilation of Greek culture and Roman might...

The [Phoenicians](#) became the [maritime](#) power in the [Aegean Sea](#) based in the [Levant](#)...

In South Asia, the [Vedic civilization](#) blends into the [Maurya Empire](#)...

The early [Celts](#) dominated Central Europe while Northern Europe is in the [“Pre-Roman Iron Age”](#)...

The [Scythians](#) dominate Central Asia...

In [China](#), [Spring and Autumn Period](#) sees the rise of [Confucianism](#) - toward the close of the millennium, the [Han Dynasty](#) extended Chinese

power towards Central Asia, where it borders on [Indo-Greek](#) and [Iranian](#) states...

The [Indo-Aryan peoples](#) had established themselves in [Punjab](#) and were gradually expanding dominance in Northern India - iron had appeared and tools were fashioned to [irrigate land](#) for the [cultivation of rice](#)...

[The Myth of the Aryan Invasion of India](#)...

The [Maya civilization](#) rose in Central America...

The religions of [Judaism](#), [Zoroastrianism](#), [Hinduism](#) ([Vedic religion](#) and [Vedanta](#)), [Jainism](#) and [Buddhism](#) advance their development...

Greco-Roman Europe, India and China see the rise of [literature](#)...

[World population](#) would triple in the course of the millennium, reaching some 170 million people at its close...

Note: In [Unholy Business: A True Tale of Faith, Greed and Forgery in the Holy Land](#) (NYC: Collins; 2008), the author, Nina Burleigh, uncovers the trail followed by forged biblical antiquities, from illegal excavations in Israel to a world-class museum in Canada...

It is the "[Woodland Period](#)" in North America and the Native Americans are moving eastward - hunting, fishing, and gathering methods of raising food are now common - the use of stones for grinding food is evident - many Woodland peoples used [spears](#) and [atlatls](#) until the end of the Period, when they were replaced by [bows and arrows](#) - the major technological advancement during this period was the widespread use of [pottery](#) (the origin of which began in the late Archaic period) and the increasing sophistication of its forms and decoration - the increasing use of [agriculture](#) also meant that the [nomadic](#) nature of many of the groups was supplanted by permanently occupied villages, although intensive agriculture did not really begin until the "[Mississippian Period](#)"...

The purpose of all the major religious traditions is not to construct big temples on the outside, but to create temples of goodness and compassion inside, in our hearts...

~H.H. The 14th Dalai Lama

This Page Intentionally Left Blank for Notes