

## Chapter 1

### I. Opening Vignette

- A. The Hazda of Tanzania are one of the last gathering and hunting societies on earth.
  1. likely to disappear soon
  2. will mark the end of what was universal human existence until 10,000–12,000 years ago
- B. For 95 percent of human history, the means of life was gathering and hunting.
  1. food collection, not food production
  2. has been labeled “Paleolithic” (old stone age) era
- C. It’s wrong to ignore the first 200,000 years of human experience.
  1. archaeology reveals a great deal about these peoples
  2. they settled the planet
  3. they created the earliest human societies
  4. they were the first to reflect on issues of life and death

### II. Out of Africa to the Ends of the Earth: First Migrations

- A. *Homo sapiens* emerged in eastern and southern Africa 250,000 years ago.
  1. stayed there exclusively for about 150,000 years
  2. Africa was home to the “human revolution,” in which culture became more important than biology in shaping human behavior
  3. humans began to inhabit environments not touched by earlier hominids
  4. technological innovation: use of stone and bone tools
  5. hunting and fishing, not just scavenging
  6. patterns of exchange
  7. use of ornaments, perhaps planned burials
  8. between 100,000-60,000 years ago: beginning of migrations out of Africa
    - a. adapted to nearly every environment on earth
    - b. much took place in the difficulties of the last Ice Age
- B. Into Eurasia
  1. humans started migrating into the Middle East around 51,000 years ago
  2. the best evidence of early European settlement comes from southern France and northern Spain
    - a. settlers in northern Europe were pushed southward into warmer areas around 20,000 years ago
    - b. developed new hunting habits, new hunting technologies
  3. the earliest Europeans left hundreds of cave paintings: depictions of animals and humans and abstract designs (maybe early form of writing)
  4. development of new technologies in Ukraine and Russia
    - a. needles, multilayered clothing, weaving, nets, baskets, pottery, etc.
    - b. partially underground dwellings made from mammoth remains
    - c. suggests semipermanent settlement
    - d. creation of female figurines (“Venus figurines”); earliest dated at least 35,000 years ago
- C. Into Australia
  1. humans reached Australia about 60,000 years ago from Indonesia
  2. very sparse settlement; estimated 300,000 people in 1788
  3. development of some 250 languages
  4. still completely a gathering and hunting economy when Europeans arrived in 1788
  5. complex worldview: the Dreamtime
    - a. stories, ceremonies, and art tell of ancestral beings
    - b. everything in the natural order is an echo of ancient happenings
    - c. current people are intimately related to places and events in past
  6. major communication and exchange networks
    - a. included stones, pigments, wood, *pituri* (psychoactive drug)
    - b. also included songs, dances, stories, and rituals
- D. Into the Americas
  1. when settlement of the Americas began is still argued over (somewhere between 30,000 and 15,000 years ago) recent
    - a. mode of migration (Bering Strait or by sea down west coast of North America) also still argued about
    - b. how many migrations and how long they took also argued over
    - c. evidence of humans in southern Chile by 12,500 years ago
  2. Clovis: the first clearly defined and widespread culture of the Americas
    - a. name comes from the Clovis point, a kind of projectile point (ALL OVER NA)
    - b. flourished 12,000–11,000 years ago
    - c. hunted large mammals (mammoths, bison)
    - d. disappeared about 10,900 years ago, at the same time as the extinction of a number of large mammals
  3. next stage: much greater cultural diversity, as people adapted to the end of the Ice Age in different ways
- E. Into the Pacific
  1. the last phase of the great human migration, started ca. 3,500 years ago
  2. migration by water from the Bismarck and Solomon islands and the Philippines
  3. very quick migration over very long distances
  4. migrants spoke Austronesian languages (can be traced to southern China)
  5. settled every habitable area of the Pacific basin within 2,500 years
    - a. also settled the island of Madagascar
    - b. made Austronesian the most widespread language family
    - c. completed initial human settlement of the world ca. 900 C.E. with occupation of Aotearoa (New Zealand)
  6. Pacific settlers
    - a. took agriculture with them, unlike other migrations
    - b. apparently followed a deliberate colonization plan

- c. created highly stratified societies or chiefdoms (e.g., Hawaii)
- d. massive environmental impact on previously uninhabited lands

### III. The Ways We Were

#### A. The First Human Societies

1. societies were small, bands of 25–50 people
2. very low population density (because of available technology)
  - a. very slow population growth
  - b. perhaps 10,000 people in world 100,000 years ago
  - c. grew to 500,000 by 30,000 years ago
  - d. reached 6 million 10,000 years ago
3. Paleolithic bands were seasonally mobile or nomadic
  - a. moved in regular patterns to exploit wild plants and animals
  - b. since they moved around, they couldn't accumulate goods
4. societies were highly egalitarian
  - a. perhaps the most free people in human existence
  - b. did not have specialists, so most people had the same skills
  - c. relationships between women and men were far more equal than in later societies
5. James Cook described the gathering and hunting peoples of Australia as tranquil and socially equal
6. Paleolithic societies had clearly defined rules
  - a. men hunted, women gathered
  - b. clear rules about distribution of meat from a kill
  - c. rules about incest and adultery

#### B. Economy and the Environment

1. gathering and hunting peoples used to be regarded as “primitive” and impoverished
  - a. modern studies point out that they worked fewer hours
  - b. wanted or needed little
  - c. but life expectancy was low (35 years on average)
2. alteration of natural environments
  - a. deliberately set fires to encourage growth of certain plants
  - b. extinction of many large animals shortly after humans arrived
  - c. gradual extinction of other hominids, like the Neanderthals (Europe) and Flores man (Indonesia)

#### C. The Realm of the Spirit

1. it is difficult to decipher the spiritual world of Paleolithic peoples
  - a. lack of written sources
  - b. art is subject to interpretation
  - c. contemporary gathering and hunting peoples may not reflect ancient experience
2. Paleolithic peoples had a rich ceremonial life
  - a. led by part-time shamans (people especially skilled at dealing with the spirit world)
  - b. frequent use of psychoactive drugs to contact spirits
3. apparent variety of beliefs
  - a. some societies were seemingly monotheistic
  - b. others saw several levels of supernatural beings
  - c. still others believed in an impersonal force running throughout the natural order
  - d. Venus figurines make some scholars think that Paleolithic religion was strongly feminine, with a great goddess
  - e. many peoples probably had a cyclical view of time

#### D. Settling Down: “The Great Transition”

1. gradual change as populations grew, climates changed, and peoples interacted
2. collection of wild grains started in northeastern Africa around 16,000 years ago
3. last Ice Age ended 16,000–10,000 years ago
  - a. followed by a “global warming” period
  - b. richer and more diverse environment for human societies
  - c. population rise
  - d. beginnings of settlement
4. settlement led to societal change
  - a. larger and more complex societies
  - b. storage and accumulation of goods led to inequality
5. settling-down process occurred in many areas 12,000–4,000 years ago
  - a. Jomon culture in Japan
  - b. Scandinavia, Southeast Asia, North America, Middle East
  - c. bows and arrows were invented independently in Europe, Africa, and Middle East
6. the process of settlement was a major turning point in human history

### IV. Comparing Paleolithic Societies

#### A. Both the San and the Chumash preserved their ancient way of life into modern times.

#### B. The San of Southern Africa

1. northern fringe of the Kalahari Desert (present-day Angola, Namibia, Botswana)
2. 50,000–80,000 San still live in the region
3. part of the Khoisan language family, inhabited southern Africa at least 5,000 years
  - a. gathering and hunting way of life, with stone tools
  - b. remarkable rock art, going back 26,000 years
  - c. most of the Khoisan peoples were absorbed or displaced by Bantu-speaking peoples
4. The San (Ju/'hoansi) still practiced their ancient life with few borrowings when anthropologists started studying them in the 1950s and 1960s

- a. use some twenty-eight tools, including digging stick, leather garment for carrying things, knife, spear, bow and poisoned arrows, ropes, and nets
  - b. men hunt, women do most of gathering
  - c. adequate diet
  - d. short workweek, with even labor division between men and women
  - e. uncertain and anxious life, dependent on nature
5. San society characterized by mobility, sharing, and equality
    - a. basic unit is band of 10–30 people, connected to other bands
    - b. many people claimed membership in more than one band
    - c. frequent movement to new territory
    - d. no formal leaders, priests, or craft specialists
    - e. very complex social relations
    - f. high value given to modesty, cooperation, equality
    - g. e.g., “insulting the meat”: a hunter is expected to disparage his accomplishment
    - h. complex system of unequal gift exchange
  6. relative equality between the sexes
    - a. free sex play between teenagers
    - b. most marriages are monogamous
    - c. frequent divorce among young couples
  7. frequent conflict over distribution of meat; rivalries over women
  8. belief system:
    - a. Creator god, *Gao Na*, is capricious
    - b. lesser god, *Gauwa*, is destructive but sometimes assists humans
    - c. *gauwasi* (spirits of dead ancestors) are most serious threat to human welfare
    - d. evil influences can be counteracted with *n/um*, a spiritual potency that can be activated in “curing dances”
    - e. state of warfare with the divine
- C. The Chumash of Southern California
1. indicate a later Paleolithic stage than the San, with permanent villages
  2. Chumash lived near present-day Santa Barbara, California
    - a. richer environment than the San
    - b. perhaps 20,000 when the Spaniards arrived in the sixteenth century
    - c. Chumash created new society after 1150 C.E. in response to violence and food shortages
  3. central technological innovation: the planked canoe (*tomol*)
    - a. ability to make and own tomol led to social inequality
    - b. stimulated trade between the coast and islands
    - c. made deep-sea fishing possible
  4. living conditions were more elaborate than the San
    - a. round, permanent, substantial houses (for up to 70 people)
    - b. a market economy, despite being gathering and hunting peoples
    - c. beginning of class distinctions (e.g., bearskin capes, burials)
    - d. emergence of a permanent, hereditary political elite
  5. Chumash largely solved the problems of violence in the region
- V. Reflections: The Uses of the Paleolithic
- A. The study of history is about those who tell it today, not just about the past.
    1. views of the past reflect our own smugness or disillusionment
    2. Paleolithic era is sometimes regarded as a golden age
      - a. admired by feminists, environmentalists, antimaterialists
    3. scholars have looked to the Paleolithic era in questioning explosive population and economic growth of recent past
    4. gathering and hunting peoples of today have looked to Paleolithic era in an effort to maintain or recover their identities
  - B. A basic question: “What have we lost in the mad rush to modernity?”
  - C. Nobody can be completely detached when studying the past.

## Chapter 2

### I. Opening Vignette

- A. In the past two centuries, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of farmers worldwide.
  1. United States an extreme case: only around 5 percent of Americans, many of them over 65 years old, were still on farms in 2000
  2. great increase in the productivity of modern agriculture
- B. The modern retreat from the farm is a reversal of humanity’s first turn to agriculture.

### II. The Agricultural Revolution in World History

- A. Agriculture is the second great human process after settlement of the globe.
  1. started about 12,000 years ago
  2. often called the Neolithic (New Stone Age) or Agricultural Revolution
  3. deliberate cultivation of plants and domestication of animals
  4. transformed human life across the planet
- B. Agriculture is the basis for almost all human developments since.
- C. Agriculture brought about a new relationship between humans and other living things.
  1. actively changing what they found in nature rather than just using it
  2. shaping the landscape
  3. selectively breeding animals
- D. “Domestication” of nature created new mutual dependence.
  1. many domesticated plants and animals came to rely on humans

- 2. humans lost gathering and hunting skills
- E. There was an “intensification” of living: getting more food and resources from much less land.
  - 1. more food led to more people
  - 2. more people led to greater need for intensive exploitation

### III. Comparing Agricultural Beginnings

- A. The Agricultural Revolution happened independently in several world regions.
  - 1. Fertile Crescent of Southwest Asia
  - 2. several areas in sub-Saharan Africa
  - 3. China
  - 4. New Guinea
  - 5. Mesoamerica
  - 6. the Andes
  - 7. eastern North America
  - 8. all happened at about the same time, 12,000–4000 years ago
  - 9. scholars have struggled with the question of why agriculture developed so late in human history
- B. Common Patterns
  - 1. Agricultural Revolution coincided with the end of the last Ice Age
    - a. global warming cycle started around 16,000 years ago
    - b. Ice Age was over by about 11,000 years ago
    - c. end of Ice Age coincided with human migration across earth
    - d. extinction of some large mammals: climate change and hunting
    - e. warmer, wetter weather allowed more wild plants to flourish
  - 2. gathering and hunting peoples had already learned some ways to manage the natural world
    - a. “broad spectrum diet”
    - b. development of sickles, baskets, and other tools to make use of wild grain in the Middle East
    - c. Amazon: peoples had learned to cut back some plants to encourage growth of the ones they wanted
    - d. Australians had elaborate eel traps
  - 3. women were probably the agricultural innovators
  - 4. gathering and hunting peoples started to establish more permanent villages
    - a. especially in resource-rich areas
    - b. population growth perhaps led to a “food crisis” – can’t just move away
  - 5. agriculture developed in a number of regions, but with variation
    - a. depended on the plants and animals that were available
    - b. only a few hundred plant species have been domesticated
    - c. only fourteen large mammal species were domesticated
- C. Variations
  - 1. the Fertile Crescent was the first to have a full Agricultural Revolution\*
    - a. presence of large variety of plants and animals to be domesticated
    - b. transition to agriculture triggered by a cold and dry spell between 11,000 and 9500 B.C.E.
    - c. transition apparently only took about 500 years
    - d. much more societal sophistication (mud bricks, monuments and shrines, more elaborate burials, more sophisticated tools)
  - 2. at about the same time, domestication started in the eastern Sahara (present-day Sudan)
    - a. the region was much more hospitable 10,000–5,000 years ago
    - b. domestication of cattle there about 1,000 years before Middle East and India
    - c. in Africa, animals were domesticated first; elsewhere, plants were domesticated first
    - d. emergence of several widely scattered farming practices
    - e. African agriculture was less productive than agriculture in the Fertile Crescent
  - 3. separate development of agriculture at several places in the Americas
    - a. absence of animals available for domestication
    - b. only cereal grain available was maize or corn
    - c. result: replacement of gathering and hunting with agriculture took 3,500 years in Mesoamerica – only 500 in Mesopotamia
    - d. Americas are oriented north/south, so agricultural practices had to adapt to distinct climate zones to spread

### IV. The Globalization of Agriculture

- A. Agriculture spread in two ways:
  - 1. diffusion: gradual spread of techniques and perhaps plants and animals, but without much movement of human population
  - 2. colonization or migration of agricultural peoples
  - 3. often both processes were involved
- B. Triumph and Resistance
  - 1. language and culture spread with agriculture
    - a. Indo-European languages probably started in Turkey, are spoken today from Europe to India
    - b. similar process with Chinese farming
    - c. spread of Bantu language in southern Africa
    - d. similar spread of Austronesian-speaking peoples to Philippines and Indonesian islands, then to Pacific islands
  - 2. the globalization of agriculture took about 10,000 years
    - a. did not spread beyond its core region in New Guinea
    - b. did not spread in a number of other regions
    - c. was resisted where the land was unsuitable for farming or where there was great natural abundance
  - 3. by the beginning of the Common Era, gathering and hunting peoples were a small minority of humankind

\*AG MAP p 58/59

- C. The Culture of Agriculture
  - 1. agriculture led to much greater populations

2. changes in world population
  - a. 10,000 years ago: around 6 million people
  - b. 5,000 years ago: around 50 million people
- c. beginning of Common Era: around 250 million people
3. farming did not necessarily improve life for ordinary people
  - a. meant much more hard work
  - b. health deteriorated in early agricultural societies
  - c. new diseases from interaction with animals
  - d. the first epidemics appeared due to larger communities
  - e. new vulnerability to famine, because of dependence on a small number of plants or animals
4. new constraints on human communities
  - a. all agricultural people settled in permanent villages
  - b. the case of Banpo in China (settled ca. 7,000 years ago)
    - houses, storage pits, rice, pigs\*\*\*\*
5. explosion of technological innovation
  - a. pots
  - b. textiles
  - c. metallurgy
6. “secondary (of animals) products revolution” started ca. 4000 B.C.E.: a new set of technological changes
  - a. new uses for domesticated animals, including milking, riding, hitching to plows and carts
  - b. only available in the Eastern Hemisphere
7. deliberate alteration of the natural ecosystem
  - a. removal of ground cover, irrigation, grazing
  - b. evidence of soil erosion and deforestation in the Middle East within 1,000 years after beginning of agriculture

## V. Social Variation in the Age of Agriculture

### A. Pastoral Societies

1. some regions relied much more heavily on animals, because farming was difficult or impossible there
2. pastoral nomads emerged in central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, the Sahara desert, parts of eastern and southern Africa
3. relied on different animals in different regions
  - a. horses were domesticated by 4000 B.C.E.; encouraged the spread of pastoral peoples on Central Asian steppes
  - b. domesticated camels allowed human life in the inner Asian, Arabian, and Saharan deserts
4. no pastoral societies emerged in the Americas

### B. Agricultural Village Societies

1. most characteristic form of early agricultural societies, like Banpo or Jericho
  - like hunter/gatherer but sedentary
  - no hierarchies
2. maintenance of equality and freedom (no kings, chiefs, bureaucrats, aristocrats)
3. Çatalhöyük, in southern Turkey – maybe earliest city
  - a. population: several thousand
  - b. dead buried under their houses
  - c. no streets; people moved around on rooftops
  - d. many specialized crafts, but little sign of inherited social inequality
  - e. no indication of male or female dominance
4. village-based agricultural societies were usually organized by kinship, group, or lineage
  - a. performed the functions of government
  - b. the Tiv of central Nigeria organized nearly a million people this way in the late nineteenth century
5. sometimes modest social/economic inequality developed
  - a. elders could win privileges
  - b. control of female reproductive powers

### C. Chiefdoms

1. chiefs, unlike kings, usually rely on generosity, ritual status, or charisma to govern, not force
2. chiefdoms emerged in Mesopotamia sometime after 6000 B.C.E.
3. anthropologists have studied recent chiefdoms in the Pacific islands
4. chiefdoms such as Cahokia emerged in North America (St. Louis)
5. distinction between elite and commoner was first established

## VI. Reflections: The Legacies of Agriculture

- A. Agriculture is a recent development in world history.
  1. was an adaptation to the unique conditions of the latest interglacial period
  2. has radically transformed human life and life on the planet more generally
- B. One species, *Homo sapiens*, was given growing power over other animals and plants.
- C. Agriculture also gave some people the power to dominate others.

## Chapter 3

### I. Opening Vignette

- A. The contrast between “artificial” life as a “civilized” city dweller and the spacious freedom and imagined simplicity of earlier times still resonates today.
- B. “Civilizations” are a relatively recent phenomenon in human history, made possible by the surpluses produced by the Agricultural Revolution.
- C. The distinctive features of civilizations are:
  1. cities with monumental architecture and populations in the tens of thousands
  2. powerful states that could compel obedience and wage large-scale warfare

3. much greater inequality in economic function, wealth, and social status

## II. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

### A. Civilization was a global phenomenon

1. six major civilizations and some smaller manifestations

Map on 88

1. Olmecs (Mexico)
2. Sumer (Tigris/Euphrates) (Iraq)
3. Shang (Yellow River) (China)
4. Harappa/Mohenjo-Daro (Indus) (Pakistan/India)
5. Egypt (Nile)
6. Norte Chico (Andes, Peru)

2. scattered around world
3. developed after 3500 B.C.E.

### B. Introducing the First Civilizations

1. one of the earliest civilizations emerged in Sumer (in southern Mesopotamia) between 3500 and 3000 B.C.E.
  - a. first written language – cuneiform
  - b. appearance of Egyptian civilization in Nile River Valley (northeast Africa) and smaller Nubian civilization to its south at about the same time
2. Norte Chico (central coastal Peru), emerged between 3000 and 1800 B.C.E.
  - a. twenty-five urban centers
  - b. Norte Chico differed in several ways from Mesopotamia and Egypt – examples?
  - c. unusually self-contained; only import was maize, derived from Mesoamerica
3. Indus Valley civilization in Indus and Saraswati river valleys of present-day Pakistan/India arose between 3000 and 2000 B.C.E.
  - a. elaborately planned cities (grids) and standardized weights, measures, architectural styles, and brick sizes
  - b. written script that remains thus far undeciphered
  - c. unlike other civilizations, it generated no palaces, temples, elaborate graves, kings, or warrior classes
  - d. scholars remain uncertain as to how society was organized; theories include a series of small republics, rule by priests, or an early form of the caste system
  - e. environmental degradation led to the collapse of this civilization by about 1700 B.C.E., but several aspects of its culture shaped later Indian societies
4. around 2200 B.C.E., a First Civilization took shape in China
  - a. from the start, China was defined by the ideal of a centralized state
  - b. the Xia, Shang, and Zhou dynasties enlarged the Chinese state
  - c. ruler was the “Son of Heaven,” an intermediary between heaven and earth
  - d. early written language with oracle bones as early documents
  - e. China has maintained impressive cultural continuity into modern times
5. The Olmec produced a First Civilization much later (around 1200 B.C.E.) on coast of Gulf of Mexico, near present-day Veracruz Mexico

big stone heads!

- a. cities arose from competing chiefdoms and produced elaborate ceremonial centers
  - b. created the first written language in the Americas by about 900 B.C.E.
  - c. culture influenced later civilizations in Mesoamerica, including the Maya and Teotihuacán
6. other smaller civilizations also flourished
    - a. Nubian civilization south of Egypt was distinctive and independent
    - b. city of Sanxingdui in China arose separately from the more well-known Shang Dynasty

### C. The Question of Origins

1. First Civilizations had their roots in the Agricultural Revolution
2. First Civilizations tended to develop from earlier, competing chiefdoms that already had some social rank and economic specialization
3. process was gradual and evolutionary
4. why did some chiefdoms develop into civilizations and others did not?
  - a. one argument: the need to organize large-scale irrigation projects (archeologists have found that these projects appeared long after civilizations began)
  - b. another argument: the needs of elite groups, warfare, and trade all played roles as well
  - c. Robert Carneiro’s argument: population density created competition, especially when agricultural land was limited

competition leads to innovation, technology, warfare, trade

5. the creation of the First Civilizations was quick by world history standards but was an unconscious undertaking for those involved
6. all First Civilizations relied on highly productive agriculture

### D. An Urban Revolution

1. cities were one of the most distinctive features of First Civilizations
2. the scale, layout, and specialized industries of cities would have impressed visitors from villages
3. cities lay at the heart of all First Civilizations because they were:
  - a. political/administrative capitals
  - b. centers of cultural production—art, architecture, literature, ritual, and ceremony
  - c. places of local and long-distance exchange
  - d. centers of manufacturing activity
4. cities produced new societies with greater specialization and inequality

## III. The Erosion of Equality

### A. Professional and craft specialization marked early urban life.

### B. Hierarchies of Class

1. first Civilizations had vast inequalities in wealth, status, and power

2. civilizations multiplied and magnified inequalities that already existed in complex gathering and hunting societies and agricultural chiefdoms
3. these new levels of inequality represent one of the major turning points in the social history of humankind
4. upper classes:
  - a. enjoyed great wealth
  - b. avoided physical labor
  - c. had the finest in everything
  - d. occupied the top positions in political, military, and religious life
5. free commoners formed the vast majority of the population and included artisans of all kinds, lower-level officials, soldiers and police, servants, and farmers
  - a. their surplus production was appropriated to support the upper classes
  - b. some members of these classes recognized and resented their situation

#### Chinese rats metaphor

6. slaves were at the bottom of social hierarchies everywhere
  - a. slavery and civilization seem to have emerged together
  - b. first-generation slaves were prisoners of war, criminals, and debtors
  - c. worked in fields, mines, homes, and shops
  - d. more rarely, they were sacrificed
  - e. slavery varied from place to place

#### More in Mesopotamia than Egypt and Indus

- f. most ancient slavery differed from the recent American variety – not based on race

#### C. Hierarchies of Gender

1. civilizations everywhere undermined the earlier and more equal relationships between men and women

#### coded laws of infidelity favored men

2. women in horticultural societies remained relatively equal to men

#### Horticulture – only dealing w/ plants (Ag is plants and animals)

#### Often used interchangeably

3. but patriarchy gradually emerged in First Civilizations
  - a. more intensive agriculture with animal-drawn plows and large dairy herds favored male labor over female
  - b. patriarchy also developed in civilizations without plow agriculture, such as Mesoamerica and the Andes
  - c. David Christian: the declining position of women was a product of growing social complexity

#### While women are in the home, men get higher positions in society

#### Women – home, men – public

- d. the association of women with nature because of their role in reproduction may also have played a role

#### historians think men created cultures and women stayed at home doing nothing

- e. warfare may also have contributed to patriarchy

#### women POWs

- f. private property and commerce also may have played a role
  - i. need to restrict female sexual activities to assure inheritance by *father's* offspring

#### D. Patriarchy in Practice

1. Gerda Lerner: emergence of patriarchy in Mesopotamia
  - a. written law codes codified patriarchal family life
  - b. regulation of female sexuality was central

#### Divorce easier for husband

#### Father was the offended side in a rape

- c. women in Mesopotamia were sometimes divided into two sharply distinguished categories, protected by men = veil, not protected = no veil

- d. powerful goddesses of Mesopotamia were gradually replaced by male deities – think of most gods/goddesses you know about

2. Egyptian patriarchy gave women greater opportunities than in most First Civilizations, including ability to:
  - a. own property and slaves
  - b. administer and sell land
  - c. make their own wills
  - d. sign their own marriage contracts
  - e. initiate divorce

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3. royal women occasionally wielded political power as regents for their sons or, more rarely, as queens in their own right

4. Egyptian statues and love poetry suggest affection between sexes

#### love is counter to patriarchy how?

### IV. The Rise of the State

#### A. States were central to the organization and stability of First Civilizations.

#### B. Coercion and Consent

1. the state fulfilled a variety of roles in coordinating and regulating the First Civilizations, including:
  - a. organizing irrigation systems
  - b. adjudicating conflicts
  - c. defense

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- b. adjudicating conflicts

- c. defense

2. the state served the needs of the upper classes by:
  - a. protecting the privileges of the elites
  - b. requiring farmers to give up a portion of their product to support city people (TAXES)
  - c. demanding labor on large public projects

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3. the state frequently used force to secure its will

4. force was not always necessary because the state often claimed that its authority was normal, natural, and ordained by the gods
  - a. rule by divine right – (right to rule, given by god)
  - b. deference to religion restrained or even undermined the right to rule, as in the rule of Chinese emperors by the Mandate of Heaven – (if king is bad to the ppl, gods will remove him) – contract between ppl and king

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- b. deference to religion restrained or even undermined the right to rule, as in the rule of Chinese emperors by the Mandate of Heaven – (if king is bad to the ppl, gods will remove him) – contract between ppl and king

### C. Writing and Accounting

1. writing provided support for the state and emerged in all of the First Civilizations except the Andes (though some scholars now regard their knotted strings, or quipus, as a kind of writing)
2. writing sustained the First Civilizations by:
  - a. defining elite status and conveying prestige on those who wrote
  - b. allowing some commoners to join the elite through literacy
  - c. providing a means for propaganda
  - d. providing a means to keep accurate accounts and complex calendars
  - e. giving weight to regulations and laws
3. writing also served functions beyond the state
  - a. fostered literature, philosophy, astronomy, mathematics, and history
  - b. sometimes threatened rulers

Shihuangdi!!!!

### D. The Grandeur of Kings

1. source of state authority
2. monumental residences and temples

ziggurats, pyramids, statues

Olmec heads

3. luxurious dress
4. elaborate burials

## V. Comparing Mesopotamia and Egypt

### A. Environment and Culture

1. both depended on rivers, but were very different
  - a. erratic and destructive flooding in Mesopotamia
  - b. Nile flooded more predictably and less destructively
2. Mesopotamia was less geographically isolated than Egypt
  - a. Mesopotamia was vulnerable to external attack
    - b. Egypt was usually protected from external attack  
Had seas, deserts, cataracts (rocky rivers) and mountains to protect them
3. many scholars see a relationship between physical setting and culture
  - a. more negative Mesopotamian worldview seems to reflect its precarious and violent environment
  - b. Egyptian worldview reflected the more stable, predictable, and beneficent environment in which it took shape

both about being protected by geography

4. environmental impact of rising population
  - a. in southern Mesopotamia, deforestation, soil erosion, and salinization of the soil weakened Sumerian city-states, leading to foreign conquest and the northward shift of Mesopotamia's cultural centers
  - b. Egypt built a more sustainable agricultural system that contributed to the remarkable continuity of its civilization

### B. Cities and States

1. the political systems of Mesopotamia and Egypt differed sharply
2. Mesopotamia for its first thousand years was organized into a dozen or more separate city-states
  - a. each city-state was ruled by a king
  - b. 80 percent of the population lived in city-states for protection
  - c. environmental devastation and endemic warfare ultimately led to conquest by outside forces after about 2350 B.C.E.
  - d. these outside powers built large territorial states or bureaucratic empires encompassing all or most of Mesopotamia
3. Egypt
  - a. around 3100 B.C.E., several earlier states or chiefdoms merged into a unified territory that stretched some 1,000 miles along the Nile
  - b. for 3,000 years, Egypt maintained its unity and independence with few interruptions
  - c. most Egyptians lived in agricultural villages, perhaps because of greater security
  - d. the pharaoh, a god in human form, was the focus of the Egyptian state
  - e. from 2200 to 2000 B.C.E., anarchy; when state was restored, pharaohs never regained their old power

### C. Interaction and Exchange

1. Egypt and Mesopotamia frequently interacted
2. Egypt's agriculture benefited from interaction
3. Mesopotamian models may have influenced Egypt's step pyramids and system of writing
4. Egypt's "divine kingship" seems to have been derived from central or eastern Sudan
5. both Mesopotamia and Egypt carried on extensive long-distance trade
  - a. Mesopotamian sea trade with the Indus Valley civilization as early as 2300 B.C.E.
  - b. Mesopotamian trade with Anatolia (Turkey), Egypt, Iran, and Afghanistan
  - c. Egyptian trade in the Mediterranean and Middle East
  - d. Egyptian trade in Nubia and along the East African coast
6. Mesopotamian and Egyptian cultural influences moved along trade routes
  - a. Hebrews migrated from Mesopotamia to Palestine and Egypt early in their history

Eye for an eye in Old Testament – from Hammurabi

- b. Phoenicians (in present-day Lebanon) were commercially active in the Mediterranean basin
- c. some Indo-European peoples settled in north-central Anatolia
- d. sustained contact between Nubia and Egypt
- e. in the Mediterranean basin
7. Mesopotamia and Egypt were also influenced by their neighbors
  - a. Indo-Europeans brought horse-and-chariot-based armies to Mesopotamia; Indo-European Hittites conquered the Babylonian empire in 1595 B.C.E.
  - b. the Hyksos invaded using chariot-based armies and ruled Egypt between 1650 and 1535 B.C.E.



- c. Mesopotamians and Egyptians adopted chariot technology
- d. arrival of the Hyksos spurred further innovations in Egypt
- 8. by 1500 B.C.E., Egypt had become an imperial state
  - a. rule over non-Egyptian peoples in both Africa and Asia
  - b. regular diplomatic correspondence with Middle Eastern empires

**VI. Reflections: "Civilization": What's in a Word?**

- A. Some scholars have reservations about the use of the word "civilizations" to describe the cultures studied in this chapter.
- B. Modern assessments of the First Civilizations reveal a profound ambiguity.
  - 1. they gave us inspiring art, profound reflections on life, more productive technologies, increased control over nature, and writing
  - 2. but they also produced massive inequalities, state oppression, slavery, large-scale warfare, the subordination of women, and epidemic disease
  - 3. some scholars prefer more neutral terms, such as complex societies, urban-based societies, or state-organized societies.
- C. Scholars object to the term "civilization," because it implies more clear-cut boundaries from other societies than was actually the case.
  - 1. aside from elites, most of the people living in the First Civilizations probably defined themselves more by occupation, clan, village, city, or region than as a member of some larger "civilization"
  - 2. First Civilizations lacked clear borders
  - 3. unclear line between civilizations and other kinds of societies
- D. This book continues to use the term because:
  - 1. it is so deeply embedded in our way of thinking about the world
  - 2. no alternative concept has achieved widespread usage
  - 3. we need to make distinctions among different kinds of human communities
- E. But in using this term, we must remember:
  - 1. historians use "civilization" as a purely descriptive term designating a particular type of human society—one with cities and states—without implying any judgment or assessment, any sense of superiority or inferiority
  - 2. it is used to define broad cultural patterns in particular geographic regions while recognizing that many people living in those regions may have been more aware of differences and conflicts than of those commonalities