

## Mesopotamia: Cradle of Civilization and Cultural Innovation

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History

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### Abstract

The Support of Civilization is Mesopotamia, a locale in Southwest Asia that has been cultivated for in excess of 10,000 years. The main towns on the planet were developed here, and man from this rich nation attempted to make a composing framework. Sumer, the most prominent of the city-states, laid out its language in the district and rose to turn into the principal extraordinary civilization of humanity during the fourth thousand years BC. In around 4000 BC, Sumerian records portray the euphoric impacts of the poppy plant. The accompanying extraordinary civilization was focused in Babylon, and Hammurabi (ruled 1728-1686 BC) was the most notable leader of the Old Babylonian tradition. He made a bunch of regulations known as the Code, which contains 17 regulations connecting with medication, including fulfilling or rebuffing specialists in light of the viability of their medicines.

**Keywords:** Mesopotamia, Cradle of Civilization, Cultural Innovation, Early Cities, Urbanization.

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Greek words mesos, and that signifies "center," and potamos, and that signifies "stream," were utilized by old style authors to allude to the upper part of the Euphrates and Tigris valley. The name is presently utilized by creators to allude to the whole region between these streams, which extends from the Armenian mountains in the south to the Persian Bay and from the Syrian Desert

in the east to the Iranian Plateau. Since the Mousterian (name got from Le Moustier in France) period (roughly 50,000 BC), northern Mesopotamia has been occupied. Afterward, one of the places where settlement in long-lasting networks with a food-delivering economy started was around here. Around 5000 BC, the Neolithic Jarmo site shows this progress. The city of Eridu was laid out around 4000 BC, and Ur was made around 3500 BC. Around 3500 BC, cuneiform composing previously showed up in Sumer. On the eastern Mediterranean coast, Byblos was established around 3100 BC, and trial bronze work likewise showed up. Mesopotamia impacted the cultural development of Egypt, a verifiable country in North Africa, during the Jemdet Nasr stage (around 2900 BC), the blooming age of this culture. The resulting half thousand years (known as the "Early Dynastic Period") saw the rise of Sumerian city states in southern Mesopotamia. The trench framework was worked by the Sumerians, who additionally laid the foundation for Mesopotamian culture's structure for the accompanying two centuries. Semites started showing up in Mesopotamia close to this time from the western desert. Around 2350 BC, Sargon the Incomparable established the primary Semitic realm (the main domain ever), which was focused at Agade and brought about the Akkadian administration.



**Figure 1: Mesopotamia civilization**

The following significant civilization was settled in Babylon, and Hammurabi (ruled 1728-1686 or 1792-1750 BC) was the most notable and strong ruler of the Old Babylonian line. The "Code of Hammurabi" and date-formulae are the principal wellsprings of data about his rule's occasions. Finding various engraved earth tablets from this time span, spreading the word about it truly

outstanding Close to Eastern ancient societies is as yet conceivable. Mesopotamian civilization affected its neighbors during own lifetime as well as in hundreds of years followed. Mesopotamia is obliged to the Hebrew, Greek, Christian, and Islamic societies in various ways. The development of expounding (around 3000 BC) was Mesopotamia's most huge commitment to the world. The content, known as cuneiform, was changed over completely to Akkadian and its Babylonian vernacular and used to safeguard the records of writing and medication on mud tablets, in spite of the way that the Sumerian language didn't keep going for extremely lengthy. A large number of these tablets incorporate a fundamental zoological and natural study of the locale as well as posting regular plants, creatures, and devices. Mesopotamia is additionally liable for the majority different creations, including metallurgy, the wheel, the curve, clock countenances, and standard loads and estimations. Babylonian arithmetic is where the sexagesimal framework, from which we draw our hour long hour, started. The Code of Hammurabi [2] was found in 1902 at the site of the old city of Susa (today in Iran), and it contains the earliest known rules for the act of medication.

### **1.1. The Development of Civilization in Mesopotamia: From Rivers to Cities**

Albeit human civilization has advanced in various areas all over the planet, it at first showed up in the antiquated Center East millennia prior. "We see the primary composition, the principal cities, and the main innovations starting in Mesopotamia," says Kelly-Anne Jewel, a meeting collaborator history professor at Villanova College who has practical experience in old Close to Eastern history and paleohistory. The name Mesopotamia is gotten from the Greek expression signifying "the land between the streams." That is a reference to the Tigris and Euphrates streams, which together give water to a locale that today basically dwells inside the lines of Iraq yet additionally incorporates segments of Syria, Turkey, and Iran.

The advancement of Mesopotamian complex social orders and innovations like composition, unpredictable engineering, and regulatory administrations was enormously impacted by the presence of those waterways. On account of the incessant flooding along the Tigris and Euphrates, the region was especially rich and ideal for raising food crops. Along these lines, it was an ideal area for the Neolithic Unrest, otherwise called the Agricultural Upset, which started off close to quite a while back.

As per Precious stone, albeit this cycle began in Mesopotamia, that upheaval "changed human existence all through the planet." Individuals had the option to settle down and make long-lasting towns since they were training verdure and creatures. At last, these small towns ventured into early cities, which saw the development of numerous civilizational qualities, including populace densities, great design, correspondence, work division, and numerous social and financial layers.

Nonetheless, different causes likewise played a part in the improvement of civilization in Mesopotamia. Specifically, changes in the area's environment and common habitat constrained its occupants to turn out to be more organized to make due.

#### ➤ **Civilizations born along rivers**

The Indus Valley Civilization, Mesopotamia, between the Tigris and Euphrates streams, Antiquated Egypt close to the Nile Waterway, Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates streams, and Old China close to the Yellow and Yangtze waterways all had advanced agricultural frameworks by around 6000 to a long time back. This is with the goal that the sides of the streams, which could likewise offer new water to inundate horticulture, would have prolific soil because of the normal stream floods. It is no mishap that a portion of the world's first civilizations arose in quite a while as horticulture empowered increasingly dense individuals as well as additional particular networks.

#### ➤ **Ancient Mesopotamia**

In spite of the fact that it's not by any means the only spot, Mesopotamia — essentially present-day Iraq and Kuwait — is habitually referenced as the origination of civilization since the absolute most huge early city-states and realms originally showed up there. Its current name, which in a real sense means "a country between two streams," is gotten from the Greek words for center (mesos) and waterway (potamos). The Tigris and Euphrates are those two waterways. Mesopotamia was not just quite possibly the earliest locale to make horticulture, yet it was likewise the gathering point of the Indus Valley and Egyptian civilizations. This brought about a phonetic and cultural mixture that impacted composition, innovation, language, exchange, religion, and regulation.

Antiquated civilizations including the Sumerians, Assyrians, Akkadians, and Babylonians are connected to Mesopotamia. Since various societies communicated with and ruled north of each other for more than thousand years, finding out about this period can a little confound. Contingent upon the period and setting we are thinking about, these names may likewise be associated with city-states, semantic assortments, religions, or domains.

### ➤ **Cradle of Civilization**

Mesopotamia is known as the Cradle of Civilization and is situated in cutting edge Iraq. This ancient region saw the ascent of huge civilizations that lay the preparation for human headway. Mesopotamia led to modern social orders and abundant locales that were the establishment for incredible civilizations. The region known as the "Cradle of Civilization" was where early civilizations thrived and made crucial commitments to the headway of mankind. The profitable environment and vital area of Mesopotamia empowered agricultural turn of events and advanced cultural exchange.

Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Assyrian, and Persian civilizations all had their underlying foundations in Mesopotamia. The accomplishments of these civilizations in organization, writing, math, and engineering impacted later society.

### ➤ *Origins and Evolution of the Cradle of Civilization*

A few interrelated powers consolidated to shape the Cradle of Civilization. The change from settled cultivating gatherings to agrarian social orders was a significant element. Around 10,000 BCE, when farming started to grab hold, individuals had the option to tame the two plants and animals, which prepared for the making of extremely durable settlements and complex networks. These towns arranged the way for a definitive making of complex civilizations.

### ➤ *Characteristics of the Cradle of Civilization*

The Cradle of Civilization was recognized by specific attributes. The presentation of harvest and domesticated animals cultivating by people during the Agricultural Upset, which brought about an expansion in food supply, was critical. The specialization of work, exchange, and the development

of metropolitan focuses were totally made conceivable by this abundance. These early civilizations were likewise described by innovative turns of events, including the advancement of composing frameworks, metallurgy, and refined foundation.

➤ *Contributions of the Cradle of Civilization*

The Cradle of Civilization fundamentally impacted the progression of mankind. The formation of composing frameworks was perhaps of the main achievement. The Egyptians created hieroglyphics in Mesopotamia, while the Sumerians delivered the cuneiform content. These ancient civilizations delivered tremendous engineering works like pyramids and ziggurats. The foundation of administering and general sets of laws laid the basis for coordinated networks. The advancement of stargazing and the wheel, among other logical and numerical disclosures, changed human comprehension and the improvement of innovation. The origination of civilization likewise led to extraordinary imaginative and cultural customs, including writing, music, painting, and model.

➤ *Legacy and Influence of the Cradle of Civilization*

These ancient civilizations enduringly affected later civilizations and societies. These early civilizations' information and innovations were dispersed through exchange organizations, relocation, and cultural trades. Various ideas and ways of behaving that started in the Cradle of Civilization continued creating and impacting succeeding social orders, going about as an establishment for headways to come. We currently have a superior comprehension of our normal mankind's set of experiences and a more noteworthy appreciation for the variety of old societies because of the protection and investigation of cultural curios from these civilizations.

## **2. The Neolithic Revolution and the Rise of Civilization:**

Neolithic Upheaval, which happened in Mesopotamia around quite a while back, was set apart by the change from migrant ways of life to extremely durable agricultural settlements. The Tigris and Euphrates streams' bountiful water made it more straightforward to develop crops, which expanded food creation and prompted populace improvement and the making of super durable networks.



The establishment for the inevitable development of civilization was set by this commotion, which additionally flagged the beginning of inactive life.

➤ **Early Cities and Urbanization:**

Mesopotamian towns developed into clamoring towns over the long haul, introducing the time of the primary cities. Cities like Uruk, Ur, and Babylon formed into flourishing focuses of business, organization, and cultural exchange. The improvement of particular occupations, social pecking orders, and political organizations were totally worked with by the grouping of individuals in metropolitan regions, which filled in as the establishment for a modern civilization.

➤ **Writing and Communication:**

One of the primary composing frameworks, known as cuneiform, is connected to Mesopotamia. Putting down was at first used for managerial and account saving capabilities prior to turning into a device for correspondence, writing, and verifiable recording. Mesopotamian writing's most prominent work, the epic of Gilgamesh, is a perfect representation of the area's imaginative and scholarly accomplishments.

➤ **Technological and Scientific Innovations:**

Numerical, galactic, and designing accomplishments were made by the Mesopotamians in various spaces. They accomplished remarkable progressions in calculation and math as well as the formation of the sexagesimal number framework. The improvement of modern cosmic schedules was worked with by the investigation of divine bodies. Moreover, their designing ability was shown in their compositional wonders like ziggurats and water system frameworks.

➤ **Legal and Administrative Systems:**

The Code of Hammurabi, quite possibly of the earliest known legitimate regulation, was made in Mesopotamia. This broad group of regulations looked to control numerous features of society, including as exchange, property privileges, and family issues. Managerial frameworks went

through a massive change with the formation of organization to supervise government tasks and execute these guidelines.

➤ **Cultural and Artistic Achievements:**

Mesopotamian culture thrived and impacted later civilizations. The mind boggling figures, alleviation carvings, and stoneware that were normal for the area's specialty addressed their cultural qualities and strict convictions. Sanctuaries committed to various divinities worked as spots of love and backing for artistic expression. Later strict practices in the space were affected by Mesopotamian folklore and ceremonies.

**3. Sargon and the Akkadians**

From 2234 to 2154 B.C., the Akkadian Realm was controlled by the one who is presently known as Sargon the Incomparable. It was viewed as the main multiracial domain with a solid focal power. Sargon's starting points are dark, yet stories guarantee they are tantamount to Moses' in the Good book. He previously filled in as an officer for the lord of Kish, and Sargon himself established the city of Akkadia. At the point when the city of Uruk went after Kish, Sargon vanquished Kish and was motivated to do more triumphs. By utilizing force, Sargon developed his domain by assuming control over Sumer and entering what is all now Syria. Under Sargon, exchange extended beyond Mesopotamia, and design progressed, most strikingly with the rise of ziggurats, level finished off structures with a pyramid shape and steps.

➤ **Gutians**

After the demise of Shar-kali-sharri, the last leader of the Akkadian Realm, in 2193 B.C., Mesopotamia encountered hundred years of disturbance as a few groups battled for control. The Gutian public, a gathering of savages from the Zagros Mountains, were one of these clans. Gutian rule is viewed as an inconsistent one that altogether brought down the domain's possibilities.

➤ **Ur-Namma**



The city of Ur tried to establish a tradition for another domain around 2100 B.C. After Utu-hengal, the leader of the city of Uruk, vanquished the Gutians, Ur-Namma, the ruler of the city of Ur, reestablished Sumerians to control. The Code of Ur-Nammu, the earliest known code of regulation, showed up under Ur-Namma. Elamites and Amorites both went after and eventually vanquished Ur-Namma in 2004 B.C.

#### **4. The Babylonians**

The Amorites held onto power and established Babylonia, picking Babylon as its capital. The most famous of these lords, Hammurabi, who controlled from 1792-1750 B.C., was viewed as a god. Hammurabi needed to amplify the domain, and there was essentially consistent battling among the Babylonians.

The Code of Hammurabi, which was made in 1772 B.C., is Hammurabi's most notable commitment.

As well as recording the standards so anyone might be able to see, Hammurabi additionally ensured that everybody in the domain complied with the very set of regulations and that nearby lead representatives didn't lay out their own. To ensure that each resident reserved the option to get similar degree of equity, the rundown of regulations likewise included proposed punishments.

The Elamites assumed command over Ur around 1750 B.C. This victory flagged the finish of Sumerian culture along with the Amorite success.

#### **5. The Hittites**

Around 1595 B.C., the Hittites, who were situated in Anatolia and Syria, crushed the Babylonians. The Hittites made a significant commitment to refining, empowering further developed weapons that permitted them to additionally extend their domain. In the end, their endeavors to remain quiet about the innovation were fruitless, and different domains had the option to rival them. Soon after terminating Babylon, the Hittites pulled out, and the Kassites seized over. Their territory saw the appearance of migrants from India and Europe, and transport was accelerated by the work of ponies with chariots and trucks. They began in the mountains east of Mesopotamia.

After a couple of ages of matchless quality, the Kassites surrendered their exceptional culture and permitted themselves to be absorbed into Babylonian culture.

## **6. The Persian Empire**

In 539 B.C., Cyrus II of Persia ousted Nabonidus and assumed command over the realm. Because of his low fame, Mesopotamians didn't ascend to safeguard Nabonidus during the intrusion. Following a continuous fall in cuneiform use and other cultural identifiers, it is accepted that Babylonian culture reached a conclusion under Persian mastery. The majority of Mesopotamia's extraordinary cities had evaporated when Alexander the Incomparable stifled the Persian Domain in 331 B.C., and the area's way of life had well before been retained. At last, the Romans in A.D. 116 and Arabic Muslims in A.D. 651 vanquished the region.

## **7. Mesopotamian Gods**

The religion of Mesopotamia was polytheistic, with many minor divine beings notwithstanding a couple of significant divine beings. The three essential divinities were Enlil (Ellil), the lord of the earth, tempests, and agribusiness, who likewise governed over destinies, Anu (Sumerian: An), the sky god. Ea (Sumerian: Enki), the lord of shrewdness and witchcraft, was the third divinity. In both the Gilgamesh Epic and the Incomparable Flood story, Ea is the maker and safeguard of humankind. In the subsequent story, the god Enlil endeavored to wipe away mankind by causing a flood after Ea formed individuals from mud. Humankind was saved when Ea made the people develop an ark. The Nursery of Eden, the Incomparable Flood, and the development of the Pinnacle of Babel were major Mesopotamian strict customs that advanced into the Holy book and affected both Christianity and Islam. Assuming this story appears to be recognizable, it ought to.

Most of what we are familiar these divine beings and goddesses comes from earth tablets that depict Mesopotamian strict exercises and convictions. Each Mesopotamian city had its own supporter god or goddess. A 1775 B.C. painted earthenware plate portraying either the goddess Ishtar or her sister Ereshkigal, alongside nighttime animals, is a fine illustration of the multifaceted nature of Babylonian craftsmanship.

The Sumerian civilization is credited with a few firsts, including the world's initially composed language, court framework, schools, precepts, libraries, bronze, composing, visionary signs, division of time into hours and minutes, and various innovative progressions.

## **8. The Akkadian Empire**

No one knows about the personality of Sargon, who laid out the Akkadian Realm, nor the site of the well known city of Akkad. Sargon considered himself the child of a unidentified dad and a sanctuary priestess. Anything that his genealogy, Sargon laid out the initial genuine domain through success and authority over all of Mesopotamia, as well as bits of Syria, Iran, Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey, and maybe Cyprus. His administration went on for the accompanying 140-150 years and incorporated his children Rimush and Manishtusu as well as his grandson Naram-Sin.

### **➤ Sargon the Great**

From 2334 to 2279 B.C., Sargon's rule was set apart by a progression of military tasks. He set off to repress the globe as it was known at that point, starting in northern and southern Mesopotamia. He began by eliminating the ruler of Umma, Lugalzagesi, who had recently involved the city-provinces of Sumer. Sargon's adjustment of the realm made it conceivable to assemble streets, improve water system frameworks, and increment admittance to significant exchanging courses. He additionally set up the domain's mail framework.

Sargon administered for quite a long time until dying normally. His activities and life enlivened stories that were described for a thousand years after his passing. While the Sumerians went against the domain while Sargon was alive, they raised him to the situation with a semi-divine after his passing.

### **➤ Sargon's Sons Rimush and Manishtusu**

The accompanying lord to climb was Rimush in 2279 B.C. Cities all through Sumer revolted after Sargon's passing, and Rimush went through his early years suppressing uprisings and restoring request. Moreover, he drove an effective endeavor against Elam (a locale of current Iran), taking the wealth of that land back to Akkad. Before his destruction in the year 2271 B.C., Rimushruled

for quite some time. Some accept that he was killed by his sibling Manishtusu, who succeeded him as ruler.

In spite of the fact that Manishtusu's rule saw the concealment of uprisings too, he is best perceived for manufacturing business relations with Egypt and developing the Ishtar Sanctuary in Nineveh. He managed for quite some time prior to being killed in a royal residence plot in 2255 B.C.

### ➤ **Naram-Sin**

In 2261 B.C., Manishtusu's child Naram-Sin took command of the public authority. The best ruler of the Akkadians, he controlled the realm for the accompanying 36 years. As well as battling and triumph, he kept the domain's control and expanded exchange. Naram-Sin composed his name with an image that signified divine nature to become god.

As indicated by "The Scourge of Agade," a story from days of yore, a ruler once attempted to pressure the divine beings into responding to his inquiries, which upset them. The divine beings deserted this ruler, who history specialists accept to be Naram-Sin. The account then portrays Naram-Sin walking on the extraordinary god Enlil's sanctuary in the sacred city of Nippur and annihilating it. Naram-Sin's self-exaltation excessive arrogance is said to have maddened the divine beings to the place where they severed contact with Mesopotamia. Naram-Sin generally raised sanctuaries as opposed to annihilating them. Nonetheless, it is actually the case that fights and starvation destroyed the Akkadian domain long after his standard. In Mesopotamia, a bleak time started.

While Naram-Sin's standard was quiet and, surprisingly, splendid, not long after his passing in 2224 B.C., the realm began to self-destruct. Shar-Kali-Sharri, his replacement, battled during his entire rule as the realm was taken over by Elamites, Ammorites, and attacking Gutians. The Gutian Attack ensured the Akkadian domain fell in 2193 B.C. regardless of the wide open being crushed by starvation and dry spell.

### ➤ **King Hammurabi and His Code of Law**

With the rule of the incomparable Lord Hammurabi, an Amorite sovereign and the 6th in his line, Babylon accomplished its most memorable apogee. From Syria, the Amorites moved toward the east into Mesopotamia. They were a semi-migrant race. Just four cities made up the realm of Babylon during the standard of Hammurabi's dad: Babylon, Kish, Borsippa, and Sippar. That began to change when Hammurabi climbed to the privileged position, yet step by step from the beginning.



**Figure 2: King Hammurabi**

The initial not many long stretches of Lord Hammurabi's rule were given to his most memorable significant inspiration, which was to better the existences of his subjects by improving water system and farming (consistently a first concern for Mesopotamian rulers), invigorating the city's strongholds, and building public regions, streets, and sanctuaries. His most memorable deed was a celebration, the undoing of individuals' obligations, which normally acquired him ubiquity with the general population.

The Elamites were a gathering who lived quickly toward the east of Mesopotamia in what is currently cutting edge Iran. To fight the Elamites, Hammurabi shaped a coalition with rival city Larsa in Babylon, which they did. Then, at that point, Hammurabi embraced a procedure that he would habitually utilize: he broke the collusion, quickly framed organizations with other city-

states, and afterward attacked Uruk and Isin, cities under Larsa's influence. Afterward, Hammurabi vanquished Larsa legitimate as well as Lagash and Nippur. Damming up a city's water supply and keeping the water until the city submitted was another normal technique. Hammurabi started his tactical endeavors towards the north and west subsequent to dealing with southern Mesopotamia, and did as such until, in 1755 B.C., he had vanquished all of Mesopotamia.

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