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by Ba Ba

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Black Athena Response

Question one

The author's main idea is the explanation of how civilization rose and spread throughout the world. The author explains that civilization was first assembled in Mesopotamia. The author explains that ¹“with the possible exception of writing, all elements of which it was composed- cities, agricultural irrigation, metalworking, stone architecture and wheels for both vehicles and pot-making- had existed before and elsewhere. But this assemblage, when capped by writing, allowed a great economic and political accumulation that can usefully be seen as the beginning of civilization.” (Pg. 12)

The author explains that civilization grew in the 4th Millennium in Mesopotamia at a quick rate. The idea of writing spread to India and other areas in the East Mediterranean way early before it was codified as the cuneiform in the original land. The author notes that ¹“we know that hieroglyphs were developed in the Nile valley by the third quarter of this millennium...” (Pg. 14). ⁴The author notes that “the Egyptian civilization was due to the rich pre-dynastic cultures of Upper Egypt and Nubia whose African Origin is uncontested.” (Pg. 15)

The author continues to argue that civilization was spread to the entire world by the Greeks. This is the same civilization which had originated in Mesopotamia. The author asserts that ²“According to the ‘Ancient Model’, Greek culture had arisen as the result of colonization, around 1500BC, by the Egyptians and Phoenicians who had civilized the native inhabitants. Furthermore, Greeks had continued to borrow heavily from Near Eastern Cultures.” (Pg.1)

Question 2

If I was able to ask the author one question about the thesis, my question would be of the two models proposed for the Greek History, which one does he subscribe to the most? In other words, which one appeals to him the most? Put differently, 'Aryan' or the 'Ancient' model, which one answers the question of the Greek history and the spread of civilization satisfactorily. The main reason for this question is that the author seems to be inclined toward the 'Ancient' model and uses to explain the origin and the spread of civilization in the world. The author seems to understand that one limitation of the 'Aryan' model is that, "...developed only during the first half of the 19th century. In its earlier or broad form, the new model denied the truth of the Egyptian settlement and questioned those of the Phoenicians." (Pg. 1). The author believes to return back to the Ancient Model we ought to revise some of the aspects. I would be interested to know the deficiencies of the Ancient model and some of the revisions that would be needed in the 'Revised Ancient Model'.

Question 3

The most important new learning I received from Black Athena is that civilization originated from Mesopotamia, Egypt. I believed that civilization originated and was spread from Greek by the Romans. It was interesting and educative to learn that the Greek Civilization was greatly affected by the Egyptians and the Phoenicians. It was very interesting to learn that in 1500 BC, the Egyptians, and the Phoenicians colonized Greek and enlightened its native inhabitants. That Greek have and continue to borrow a lot from the Near Eastern Cultures. It was also quite interesting to learn that by the beginning of the 4th millennium Mesopotamia was very vibrant with cities, wheels for making vehicles and pot, metalworking, stone and brick

architecture, and agricultural irrigation. It was also educative to learn that the spread of the ideas of writing was so fast to India and other areas in East Mediterranean way earlier than it could be coded as cuneiform in Mesopotamia.

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