

MEASURING TIME IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

I. From Agricultural Surplus to Divisions of Labor

1. FIRST DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN PASTORAL vs. FARMERS
2. SECOND DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN CULTIVATORS AND EXPERTS—HANDICRAFTSMAN
3. THIRD DIVISION OF LABOR MARKS RISE OF CIVILIZATIONS: Origin of a class called MERCHANTS

II. Characteristics of Civilizations

1. Origins of the State: what is a “state”?
 1. Organize production
 2. Organized irrigation system around a river valley
 3. Control distribution
 4. Regulate life (i.e. laws)
 5. **Essentially, it’s a socio-economic police force
 6. **How do rulers collect revenue?

i. tolls and taxes

2. Ecology of Civilizations
 - a. WARM and DRY climate, DRY soil, SEASONAL FLOODING and IRRIGATION
 - b. Large areas of FERTILE SOILS
 - c. Nile: Floods banks biannually and regularly
 - d. Yellow River and Yangtze River: Unpredictable flooding and harsh climate
3. WRITING
 - a. Egypt: Hieroglyphics
 - b. Sumer/Mesopotamia: Cuneiform
 - c. China: Logogram

- d. India/Harappan: can't be deciphered

III. Outcomes of Civilization

- 1. Development of social and economic differences (distinct classes)
- 2. NOT every participated in DECISION MAKING
- 3. Origins of Religion: In Egypt, kings were LIVING GODS
- 4. Origins of Urban Culture: first cities in the world
- 5. Origins of writing

IV. Overview of Major River Valley Civilizations

EGYPT:

- 1) Egypt and "Race" Theory
- 2) Role of Women in Ancient Egypt
 - 1. Upper Class—Equal to men
 - i. Owned property
 - ii. Able to Divorce
- 3) Working class/Poor
 - 1. HOW DID THEY LIVE? NOT NEARLY AS MUCH EVIDENCE BUT...
 - i. CROWDED CITIES
 - ii. INCENSE TO REDUCE VERMIN
 - iii. FECES TO BURN FOR FIRE...
 - iv. THE TOMBS ALSO SHOW HOW THE AVERAGE PEOPLE LIVED WHO FORMED TEMPORARY MAKESHIFT COMMUNITIES WHILE WHOLE FAMILIES WERE BROUGHT TO LIVE WITH ESSENTIALLY CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND SLAVES

2. Slavery

i. HOW DID SLAVERY WORK?

1. AT ANY GIVEN POINT, A PARTICULAR SLAVE COULD BE CONTRACTED BY DIFFERENT UPPER CLASS PEOPLE TO WORK FOR A PARTICULAR PERIOD OF TIME...PEOPLE COULD TRADE OFF OR SELL SLAVES TO ONE ANOTHER

3. Time

i. How was time measured?

1. LIFESPANS OF PHARAOHS

4. Education and Knowledge

i. SCRIBES: AN UPPER CLASS OCCUPATION THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR RECORDING INFORMATION

ii. EGYPTIAN MATHEMATICS: FOR MEASURING LAND BOUNDARIES AND NILE FLUCTUATIONS

5. Religion

i. Theocracy—the “God King”

6. Three major Phases of Egypt development

i. Old Kingdom

ii. Middle Kingdom

iii. New Kingdom

7. CROPS: WHEAT, BARLEY...THEY MADE BEER AND EVEN KIDS DRANK IT...

8. BEGAN 3000BCE and extended until ABOUT 300 BCE WITH INVASION FROM ALEXANDER OF MACEDON/GREECE

9. MAJOR CITIES: MEMPHIS, THEBES

INDUS VALLEY/HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION:

1. DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGE—ONLY PARTIALLY DECIPHERED TO THIS DAY
2. NO EVIDENCE OF A MILITARY
3. HEIGHT FROM 2500BCE TO 2000 BCE
4. Major city: Harappa

CHINA:

1. A GENERIC TERM: SHOULD INCLUDE SURROUNDING AREAS LIKE KOREA AND EVEN JAPAN THOUGH A DEFINITE CIVILIZATION ALONG/bETWEEN the YELLOW AND YANGTZE RIVERS IS CHINA
2. HISTORY OF SOYBEAN:
 1. KOREA 10,000 YEARS AGO
 2. CHINA
 3. FIRST THE XIA DYNASTY
 4. THEN THE SHANG DYNASTY
 5. THEN THE ZHOU DYNASTY: HIGHLAND HERDERS LIVING AMONG THE BARBARIANS/MONGOLS

MESOPOTAMIA: SUMERIANS: 4000 BCE

1. THE CITY-STATE: FIRST CITIES IN THE WORLD
 1. UR
 2. AKKAD
 3. SUMER
 4. BABYLON
2. CODE OF HAMMURABI
 1. King Hammurabi of Babylon
 2. First set of laws that is preserved
3. Sumerian Slaves:
 1. Foreigners and prisoners of War
 2. In Sumerian: Mountain woman = slave woman because slave women taken from mountains
 3. Criminals who lost their freedom
 4. Some willingly became slaves to pay back their debts then got back their freedom