CHAPTER 2
FIRST CIVILIZATIONS: CITIES, STATES, AND UNEQUAL SOCIETIES
(3500 B.C.E.–500 B.C.E.)
Raherka “INSPECTOR OF THE SCRIBES”

- during Egypt’s Fifth Dynasty
  - 2350 BCE
- w/ wife Mersankh

What made the persons represented in this statue significant in his time?

- a statue with features depicting specific individuals,
  - a quality of early civilization
I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

A. Introducing the First Civilizations

1. Sumer, Egypt, & Nubia, 3500–3000 B.C.E.
2. Norte Chico, 3000–1800 B.C.E.
3. Indus Valley and Oxus, 2200 B.C.E–1700 B.C.E.
4. Xia, Shang, & Zhou, 2200–771 B.C.E.
5. Olmec, 1200 B.C.E.
I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

A. Introducing the First Civilizations
   - Sumer, Egypt, & Nubia, 3500–3000 B.C.E.
     - dynamic city-states of Mesopotamia
     - the first firsts
   - static Egyptian Civ. had a clear territorial base
   - Nubia was distinct from Egypt; iron producer
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A. Introducing the First Civilizations
Norte Chico, 3000–1800 B.C.E.

- coastal area in central Peru
- some twenty-five urban centers
- lacked rainfall, watered from Andean snowmelt
- cities executed specialized productions (cotton nets and fisheries)
- beans and fruit only agriculture (maize much later)
- no walls, seems peaceful
- no writing / pre-quipu
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A. Introducing the First Civilizations

3. Indus Valley and Oxus, 2200 B.C.E–1700 B.C.E.
   - Indus Valley
     - large planned cities and identifiable building style but no monumental architecture
     - standardized weights and measures
     - little indication of a political hierarchy or a centralized state
     - collapse from environmental degradation
     - remnants: religious rituals, yoga positions
   
   - Oxus Valley (Central Asia)
     - culture blending irrigated agriculture and stock raising
     - long-distance trade connections
Visual Source 2.2 Man from Mohenjo Daro
Department of Archaeology and Museums, Karachi, Pakistan
Chapter 2, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, Second Edition
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I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

A. Introducing the First Civilizations

4. Xia, Shang, & Zhou, 2200–771 B.C.E.
   - series of dynasties established cultural and political patterns
   - centralized state, Mandate of Heaven, character-based writing

5. Olmec, 1200 B.C.E.
   - along the Gulf of Mexico
   - establish cultural patterns for centuries in Mesoamerica
   - architectural styles, rituals and ceremonial ball games
Gobi Desert To the North
Jungles in the Southeast
Mountain Ranges to the West
Tian Shan
Pamir
Himalaya
I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

B. The Question of Origins

1. Roots in Agricultural Revolution

   While agriculture was essential to the rise of these civilizations, not all agricultural societies developed into civilizations.

   So…what is the missing factor?
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B. The Question of Origins

2. Growing population density, competition, and subordination
   - Increased population growth led to increased population density
   - Increased need for cooperation and organization on public work projects (irrigation)
     - *increases competition
     - winning societies incorporates losing societies as subordinate classes
I. Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

C. An Urban Revolution

1. Uruk, Mohenjo Daro, Harappa, & Teotihuacán
   - to a non-urbanite, mind = blown
2. Centers of politics, administration, culture, and economics
3. Impersonal and unequal
   - compare to the G&H days

How were urban centers a “different” experience for people who lived in or made contact with them?
What is status?

- What *things* show status today?
II. The Erosion of Equality

A. Hierarchies of Class
   1. Inequalities of wealth, status, & power
      - class distinctions based on access to wealth, social status, and ability to control and use power
   2. Impact of urbanization (loss of equalitarianism)
   3. Elite privileges
   4. Wealth producers
      - commoners produce wealth for minority
   5. Slaves
      - enslaved by war, crime, or debt
II. The Erosion of Equality

B. Hierarchies of Gender

1. Sex versus gender
   - gender refers to the social construction of male and female identities
2. Patriarchal ideal versus reality
3. Origins of Gender Inequality
   - Farm labor, warfare, and property inheritance and lineage
II. The Erosion of Equality

C. Patriarchy in Practice

1. Law and female sexuality
   - concerned with property and inheritance, early laws developed that governed women’s sexual behavior

2. Respectable and non-respectable women
   - ex. Assyrian veil

3. Decline of the goddesses
   - from agricultural/female to wisdom and warfare/male
III. The Rise of the State

A. Coercion and Consent

1. The need for organization
   - irrigation and warfare necessitated an authority for organization
2. Monopoly on the legitimate use of violence
   - state systems reserved the sole right to use physical force
3. Religion and political power
III. The Rise of the State

B. Writing and Accounting

1. Literacy and social status
   - literacy was regarded as almost magical

2. Tracking wealth and property
   - bureaucratic power

WHAT IS PROPAGANDA?
III. The Rise of the State

C. The Grandeur of Kings

1. Lifestyles of the rich and famous
2. Death styles of the elite
IV. Comparing Mesopotamia and Egypt

A. Environment and Culture
   1. Different rivers
   2. Pessimistic Mesopotamia & Optimistic Egypt
   3. Soil health
      - Mesopotamians experienced soil degradation due to overuse; salinization

B. Cities and States
   1. Violent and unstable city-states
   2. Security, stability, and political longevity
IV. Comparing Mesopotamia and Egypt

C. Interaction and Exchange

1. Long-distance trade
   - Trade connected Egypt and Mesopotamia south to Nubia and Punt and east to the Indus Valley civilization

2. Cultural influences
   - diffusion, the Phoenicians

3. Migrations, rivalries, and diplomacy
Connotations

WHAT CONNOTATIONS
GO ALONG WITH THE
TERM CIVILIZATION?
V. Reflections: “Civilization”: What’s in a Word?

A. Debate on terminology
- Many scholars do not use the term “civilization”

B. Ambiguous views of civilization
- Some critics do not believe that civilization was necessarily a good thing

C. Are civilizations solid?
- Some critics points out that there are no clear definitions of civilization or distinctions between civilized and non-civilized societies