

Chapter III

First Civilizations: Cities, States, and Unequal Societies

3500 B.C.E.-500 B.C.E.

1. How were the new civilizations different from the earlier agricultural villages, pastoral societies, and chiefdoms?

Something New: The Emergence of Civilizations

1. Where and when did the first civilizations emerge?

2. What was unique about each of the initial six civilizations?
 - Sumer—
 - Egypt—
 - Norte Chico—
 - Indus Valley—
 - China—
 - Olmecs--

3. What explanations are given for the rise of civilizations?

4. How does Robert Carneiro approach the question of the rise of civilizations?

5. What was the role of cities in the early civilizations?

The Erosion of Equality

1. In what ways was social inequality expressed in early civilizations?

2. In the rival Mesopotamian cities, what was the role of female and male slaves?

3. Describe slavery in all of the First Civilizations.

4. Compare the practice of slavery in ancient times from region to region.

5. In what ways have historians tried to explain the origins of patriarchy?

6. How did Mesopotamia and Egyptian patriarchy differ from each other?
 - **Mesopotamia:**

 - **Egypt:**

The Rise of the State

7. What were the sources of state authority in the First Civilizations?

8. Compare and Contrast Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.

Mesopotamia	Egypt
Political:	Political
Environment:	Environment:
Culture:	Culture:

9. In what ways were Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations shaped by their interactions with near and distant neighbors?

Reflections: “Civilization”: What’s in a Word?

1. What are the reservations some scholars have with the term “civilization?”

Explain the significance of each of the following:

Quipu—

Oracle bones—

Mandate of Heaven—

Harappa/Mohenjo Daro—

Code of Hammurabi—

Cuneiform—

Hieroglyphs—

Epic of Gilgamesh—

Osiris—

Hebrews—

Phoenicians—

Nubia—

Hittites—

Hyksos—