

# Government Notes

Write all notes that are in red

# Government-

Several separate independent city-states arose in Mesopotamia. These included Ur, Sumer, Assyria, and Babylon. The ruler of each city-state claimed to hold **absolute power**.

At different periods of history one city conquered the others and ruled over Mesopotamia. **When kings conquer other city-states, it is called an empire, which is a group of countries under one ruler's control. The ruler is called an emperor.**



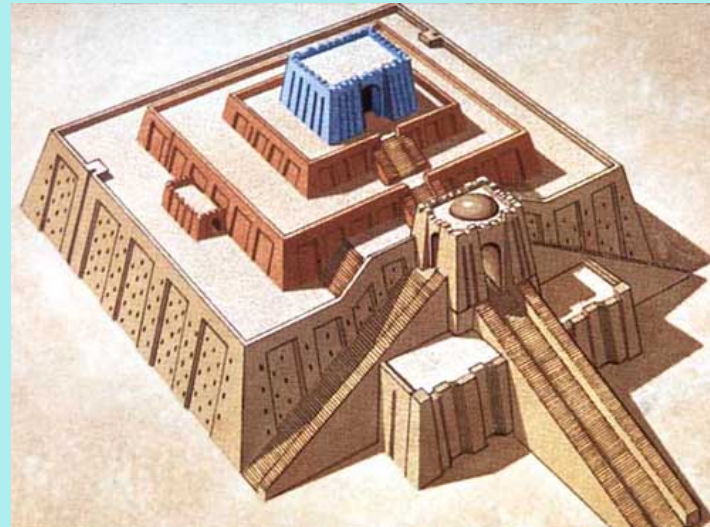
Why did we need a government?

- Keep order
- Create laws
- Settle disputes
- Run the army (protection)
- Look over building projects

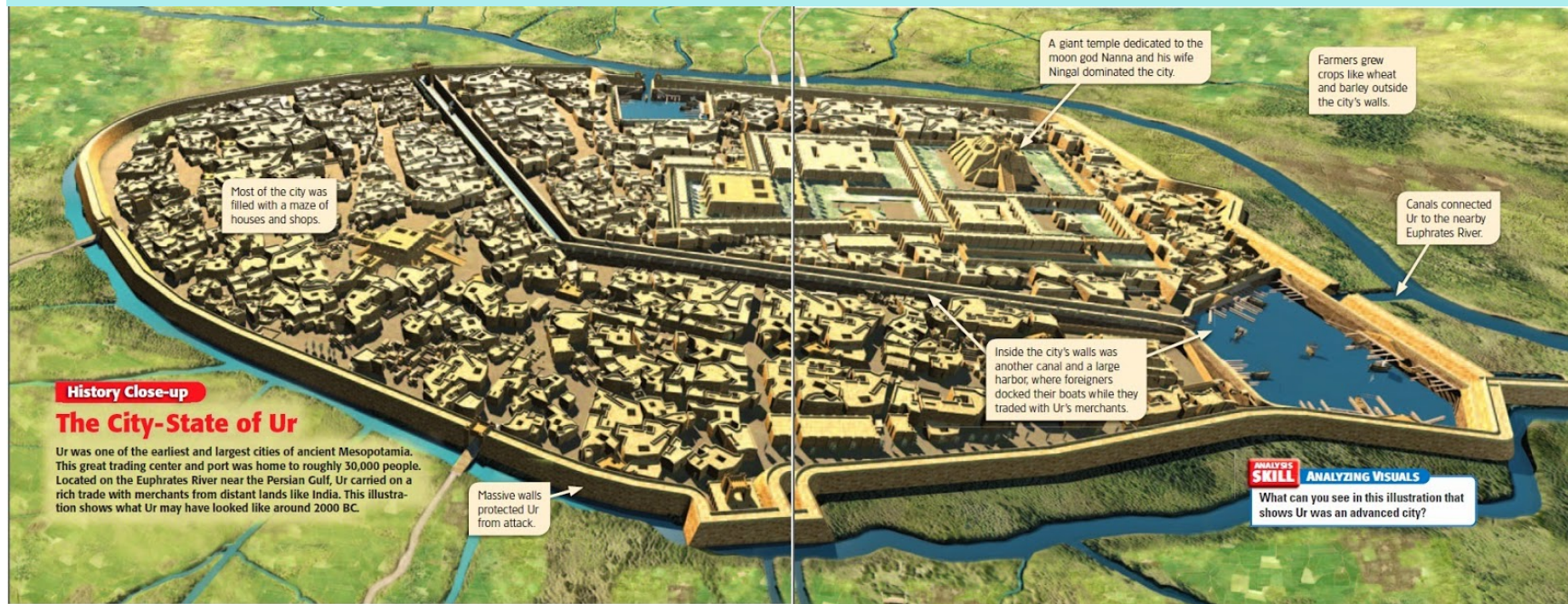


Large numbers of people began to live together so **leadership** became more important to help with **conflicts** and coordinate **large projects**.

- Rulers became responsible for organizing the labor needed to build **temples** and large-scale **irrigation projects**
  - › Other leaders created **laws** that helped **resolve problems**
- Settlements could either be...
  - under control of an **empire**
  - OR
  - function as an **independent city-state**



# CITY-STATE



City-states were surrounded by mud flats and patches of scorched desert. The harsh landscape made it hard to travel by land and communicate with other groups. This meant that each city was largely cut off from its neighbors.

- Functioned like **independent** kingdoms
- Had their own **central government** and **cultural characteristics**

independent city-states

- Ur
- Sumer
- Assyria
- Babylon

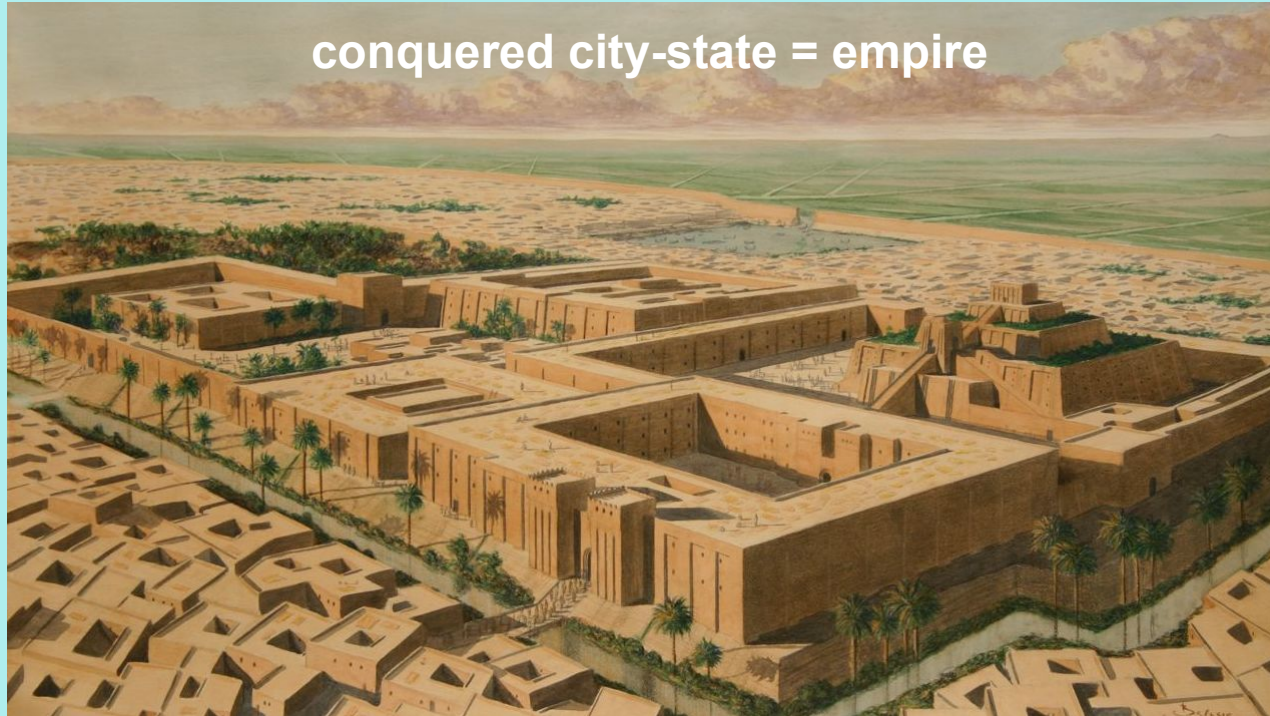
conquered city-state = empire

### Sumerian City-State Ur



# EMPIRE

conquered city-state = empire



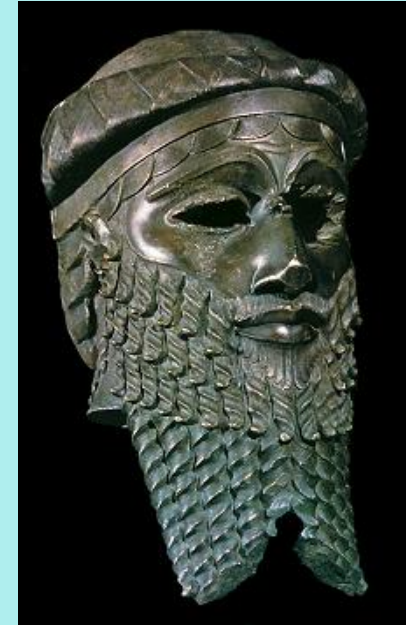
- Leaders were picked by the **emperor**
- Laws were created by the **central government**
- The emperor would spread his culture over the entire **region**

## World's First Empire?

\*Sargon ruled the kingdom of Akkad in northern Mesopotamia.

\*He was **AMBITIOUS** and started to take over southern Mesopotamia a.k.a. **SUMER!**

\*This new empire lasted over 200 years!!



## What did a city-state and an empire have in common?

- Army for **defense**
- **Taxes** on citizens
- **Laws**
- **Trade** with others



## Hammurabi

powerful Amorite king who ruled from 1792 to 1750 B.C. - extended empire across Mesopotamia, Fertile Crescent - appointed governors, tax collectors, judges to control lands - watched over agriculture, trade, construction



## Hammurabi's Code

Hammurabi was a king who ruled in ancient Babylon (a city-state in Mesopotamia) about 1750 B.C. In 1901, some French archaeologists working in Iran uncovered a stone pillar that had nearly 300 laws of Babylonian society written on it in ancient cuneiform. From these laws, in which are known as the Code of Hammurabi, historians have learned much about this ancient culture. It is believed these laws were given to Hammurabi by the god, Shamash.

*The earliest examples of the idea of the accused being considered innocent until proven guilty.*

## Attachments

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[brown-mountain-peaks.svg](#)