

AP* EDITION

THE WESTERN HERITAGE

Ninth Edition



SINCE 1300

Donald Kagan
YALE UNIVERSITY

Steven Ozment
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Frank M. Turner
YALE UNIVERSITY



Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

THE WEST BEFORE 1300



- **EARLY HUMANS AND THEIR CULTURE**
The Paleolithic Age • The Neolithic Age
- **EARLY CIVILIZATIONS TO ABOUT 1000 B.C.E.**
Mesopotamian Civilization • Egyptian Civilization • Palestine and the Religion of the Israelites
- **THE GREEKS**
The *Polis* • Greek Political Philosophy and the Crisis of the *Polis* • The Empire of Alexander the Great
- **ROME**
The Republic and Expansion in the Mediterranean • From Republic to Empire • The Principate and the Empire • Christianity • Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
- **EUROPE ENTERS THE MIDDLE AGES**
The Byzantine Empire • The Rise of Islam • New Importance of the Christian Church • Charlemagne • Feudal and Manorial Society
- **CHURCH AND STATE IN THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES**
The Division of Christendom • The Rise of Towns • The Crusades • The Rise of New Monarchies • Universities and Scholasticism
- **IN PERSPECTIVE**

KEY TOPICS

- The earliest history of humanity, including the beginnings of human culture in the Paleolithic Age, the agricultural revolution and the shift from food gathering to food production, and the emergence of civilization in the great river valleys of the Near East and Asia
- The ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt
- The great Near Eastern empires, 1500–539 B.C.E.
- The emergence of Judaism
- The difference in outlook between ancient Near Eastern civilization and ancient Greek civilization

History, in its two senses—as the events of the past that make up the human experience on earth and as the written record of those events—is a subject of both interest and importance. We naturally want to know how we came to be who we are and how the world we live in came to be what it is. But beyond its intrinsic interest, history provides crucial insight into present human behavior. To understand who



The Winged Victory of Samothrace. This is one of the great masterpieces of Hellenistic sculpture. It appears to be the work of the Rhodian sculptor Pythokritos, about 200 B.C.E. The statue stood in the Sanctuary of the Great Gods on the Aegean island of Samothrace on a base made in the shape of a ship's prow. The goddess is seen as landing on the ship to crown its victorious commander and crew. The Nike of Samothrace, goddess of victory. Marble figure (190 B.C.E.) from Rhodos, Greece. Height 328 cm, MA 2369, Louvre, Dpt. des Antiquités Grecques/Romaines, Paris, France. Photograph © Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY

we are now, we need to know the record of the past and to try to understand the people and forces that shaped it.

For hundreds of thousands of years after the human species emerged, people lived by hunting, fishing, and collecting wild plants. Only some 10,000 years ago did they learn to cultivate plants, herd animals, and make airtight pottery for storage. These discoveries transformed them from gatherers

to producers and allowed them to grow in number and to lead a settled life. About 5,000 years ago humans learned how to control the waters of great river valleys, making possible much richer harvests and supporting a further increase in population. The peoples of these river valley societies created the earliest civilizations. They invented writing, which, among other things, enabled them to keep inventories of food and other resources.

They discovered the secret of smelting metal to make tools and weapons of bronze far superior to the stone implements of earlier times. They came together in towns and cities, where industry and commerce flourished. Complex religions

took form, and social divisions increased. Kings—considered to be representatives of the gods or to be themselves divine—emerged as rulers, assisted by priests and defended by well-organized armies. ■



EARLY HUMANS AND THEIR CULTURE

Scientists estimate that the earth may be as many as six billion years old and that creatures very much like humans may have appeared three to five million years ago. Our own species, *Homo sapiens*, probably emerged some 200,000 years ago, and the earliest remains of fully modern humans date to about 90,000 years ago.

Humans, unlike other animals, are cultural beings. **Culture** may be defined as the ways of living built up by a group and passed on from one generation to another. It includes behavior, material things, ideas, institutions, and beliefs.

THE PALEOLITHIC AGE

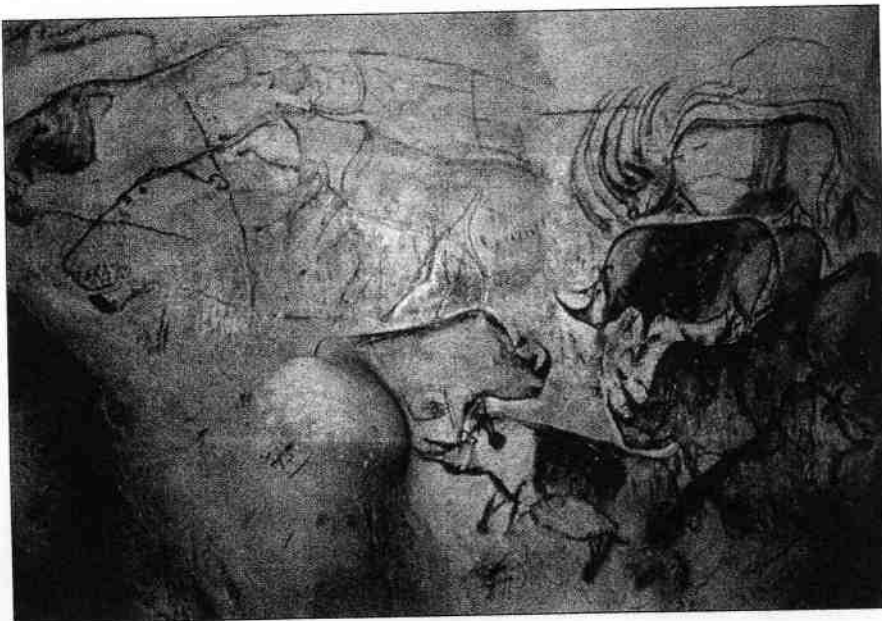
During the earliest period in human experience, the Paleolithic (from Greek, "old stone") Age, which lasted from the earliest use of stone tools some 1,000,000 years ago to about 10,000 B.C.E., people were hunters, fishers, and gatherers, but not producers, of food. They learned to make and use increasingly sophisticated tools of stone and of perishable materials like wood; they learned to make

and control fire; and they acquired language and the ability to use it to pass on what they learned. Evidence of Paleolithic culture has been found in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Evidence suggests human life in the Paleolithic Age was probably characterized by a division of labor by sex. The men engaged in hunting, fishing, making tools and weapons, and fighting against other families, clans, and tribes. The women, less mobile because of childbearing, gathered nuts, berries, and wild grains, wove baskets, and made clothing. Women gathering food probably discovered how to plant and care for seeds. This knowledge eventually made possible the coming of the Age of Agriculture—the Neolithic revolution.

THE NEOLITHIC AGE

Some 10,000 years ago, parts of what we now call the Middle East began to shift from a hunter-gatherer culture to a settled agricultural one. Because the shift to agriculture coincided with advances in stone tool technology, this period is called the Neolithic (from Greek, "new stone") Age. The important invention of pottery made it possible to store surplus liquid and dry foods. Cloth came to be made from flax and wool. Crops required constant



In Chauvet cave, near Avignon, France, Paleolithic artists decorated the walls with exquisite drawings of animals. Jean Clottes/Corbis Sygma
Photo News

care from planting to harvest, and so the Neolithic people built permanent buildings, usually in clusters near the best fields.

Neolithic agricultural villages and herding cultures gradually replaced Paleolithic culture in much of the world. Then, beginning first about 4,000 years before the Christian era in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in the region called Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), later in the valley of the Nile River in Egypt, and somewhat later still in the Indus Valley in India and the Yellow River basin in China, another major shift occurred. This shift was marked by the appearance of urban centers, the mastery of smelting and with it the techniques for making metal tools and weapons, and the invention of writing. These traits—urbanism, metallurgy, and writing—are defining characteristics of the form of human culture called *civilization*. At about the time the earliest civilizations were emerging, someone discovered how to smelt tin and copper to make a stronger and more useful material—bronze. The importance of this technological development is reflected in the term *Bronze Age*.



This statue of Gudea, city ruler of Lagash after the fall of the Akkadian empire, shows him as a pious Sumerian ruler. It was carved of very hard imported black stone. A brief historical inscription is visible on his cloak. Gudea built a major temple to a local deity at Lagash, Ningirsu, and describes the work, step by step, in one of the longest Sumerian poems known today. Gudea. Statue from Telloh. 2140 B.C.E. Iraq Museum. Baghdad, Iraq. Copyright Scala/Art Resource, NY

where the rich alluvial plains made possible the production of unprecedented food surpluses (see Map I-1). Its founders, the Sumerians, controlled the southern part of the valley (Sumer) close to the head of the Persian Gulf by the dawn of history, around 3000 B.C.E. While the Sumerians were fighting with their neighbors and among themselves for supremacy in the south, immediately upstream from them a people speaking a Semitic language (that is, a language in the same family as Arabic and Hebrew) established themselves. Making their capital at Akkad, near a later city known to us as Babylon, they soon absorbed Sumerian culture.

Despite a brief Sumerian resurgence about 2100 B.C.E., internal dissensions and an invasion by a Semitic people called the Amorites put an end to the Sumerians as an identifiable group. About 1900 B.C.E., the Amorites gained control of the region, establishing their capital at Babylon. Toward 1600 B.C.E., the Babylonian kingdom fell apart under the impact of invasions from the north and east by the Hittites and the Kassites. The Hittites were only a raiding party who plundered what they could and then withdrew to their home in Asia Minor. The Kassites stayed and ruled Mesopotamia for five centuries.

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS TO ABOUT 1000 B.C.E.

MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILIZATION

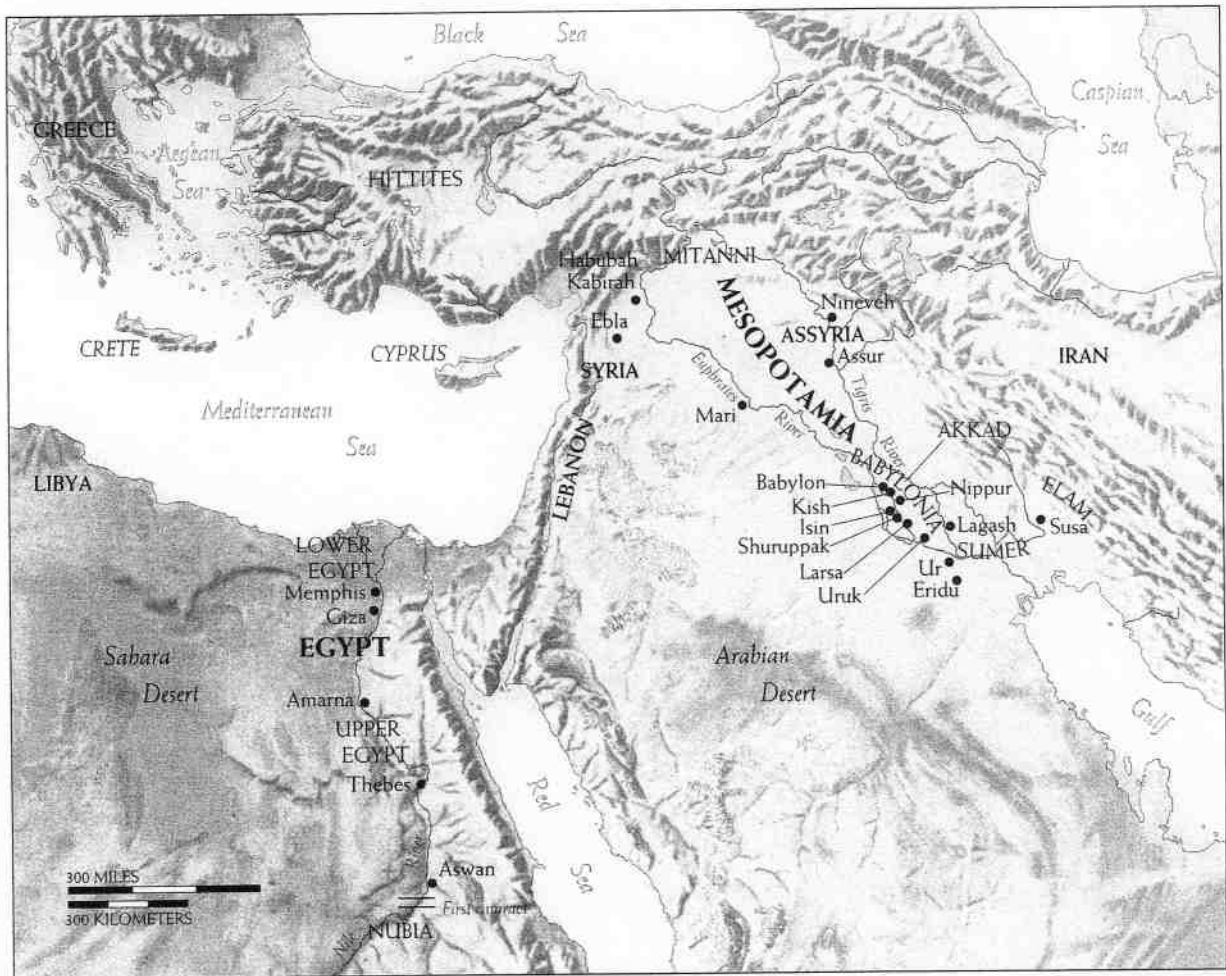
The first civilization appears to have arisen in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the area the Greeks and the Romans called Mesopotamia,

KEY EVENTS AND PEOPLE IN MESOPOTAMIAN HISTORY

- ca. 3500 B.C.E. Development of Sumerian cities, especially Uruk
 - ca. 2800–2370 B.C.E. Early Dynastic period of Sumerian city-states
 - ca. 2370 B.C.E. Sargon establishes Akkadian dynasty and empire
 - ca. 2125–2027 B.C.E. Third Dynasty of Ur
 - ca. 2000–1800 B.C.E. Establishment of Amorites in Mesopotamia
 - ca. 1792–1750 B.C.E. Reign of Hammurabi
 - ca. 1550 B.C.E. Establishment of Kassite Dynasty at Babylon
-

EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION

While a great civilization arose in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates, another, no less important, emerged in Egypt. The center of Egyptian civilization was the Nile River. The Nile alone made life possible in the almost rainless desert that surrounded it. Each year the river flooded and covered the land, and when it receded, it left a fertile mud that could produce two crops a year. The construction and maintenance of irrigation ditches to preserve the river's water, with careful planning and organization of planting and harvesting, produced agricultural prosperity unmatched in the ancient



Map I-1 **THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST** There were two ancient river valley civilizations. While Egypt was united into a single state, Mesopotamia was long divided into a number of city-states.

world. The Nile also served as a highway connecting the long, narrow country and encouraging its unification. Nature helped protect and isolate the ancient Egyptians from outsiders. The cataracts, the sea, and the desert made it difficult for foreigners to reach Egypt for either friendly or hostile purposes.

The more-than-3,000-year span of ancient Egyptian history is traditionally divided into thirty-one royal dynasties. The first was founded by Menes, the unifier of Upper and Lower Egypt; the last was established by Alexander the Great, who conquered Egypt in 332 B.C.E. The unification of Egypt was vital because, even more than in Mesopotamia, the entire river valley required the central control of irrigation.

In the Old Kingdom (2700–2200 B.C.E.), royal power was absolute. The pharaoh, as he was later called (the term originally meant “great house” or “palace”), governed his kingdom through his family and appointed officials removable at his pleasure. The peasants were carefully regulated, their

movement was limited, and they were taxed heavily, perhaps as much as one-fifth of what they produced. Luxury accompanied the king in life and death, and he was raised to a remote and exalted level by his people. Such power and eminence cannot be long sustained by force alone. The Egyptians worked for the king and obeyed him because he was a living god on whom their lives, safety, and prosperity depended. He was the direct source of law and justice, and so no law codes were needed. In such a world, government was merely one aspect of religion, and religion dominated Egyptian life.

By the time of the Third Dynasty (ca. 2125–2027 B.C.E.), the pharaohs had achieved full supremacy over all of Egypt, imposing internal peace and order and overseeing a period of great prosperity. The capital was at Memphis in Upper Egypt, just above the delta. The king was regarded not as a mere representative of the gods but as a god himself. The land was his own personal possession, and the people were his servants.

