Sumer and Akkad

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What is Sumer and Akkad?

- Sumerians: the first known people to settle in Mesopotamia
- Over 7000 years ago
- Akkadians: Followed the Sumerians, creating the world’s first empire
Timeline

5400 BC
The City of Eridu is founded.

5000 BCE - 1750 BC
Sumerian civilization in the Tigris-Euphrates valley.

5000 BC
Evidence of burial in Sumer.

4500 BC
The City of Uruk founded.

4500 BC
The Sumerians built their first temple.

4100 BC - 2900 BC
Uruk Period in Sumer.

3600 BC
Invention of writing in Sumer at Uruk.

3000 BCE
Sumer civilization in Mesopotamia use gold in jewellery manufacture.
Timeline

2334 BC - 2218 BC
The Akkadian Empire rules Sumer.

2150 BC - 1400 BC
The Sumerian Epic of Gilgamesh written on clay tablets.

2100 BC
The Reign of Utu-Hegal at Uruk in Sumer and creation of Sumerian King List.

2055 BC - 2047 BCE
Utu Hegel's reign over Sumerian and Akkadian cities.

1772 BC
The Code of Hammurabi: One of the earliest codes of law in the world.

1750 BC
Elamite invasion and Amorite migration ends the Sumer and Akkad civilization.
Sumerian Civilization

- Dates: 2500 BC
- Population: Uruk - the largest city in the Sumerian rule had a population 50,000-80,000. A rough estimate of the Sumerian total population may have been 0.5 million-0.8 million.
- Sumerians developed many things that remain part of modern life such as writing, timekeeping, irrigation and cities.
Sumerian Civilization

The Sumerian location was located in the Southern parts of Mesopotamia between the Tigris and Euphrates river, in the area that later became Babylonia and is now southern Iraq from around Baghdad to the Persian.

Sumerians were non-semitic peoples and spoke a language isolate.
Government

Sumerians founded a “classic standard” with which all future Mesopotamian states compared themselves. In tradition, the “ensi” was the highest functionary of the Sumerian city-states.
Government

Some evidence suggests that by the end of the Uruk period, beginning the Early Dynastic period, some cities united for purposes of trade or for building manpower (in numbers), however these affiliations were informal and did not persist.
Economy

Like other early civilizations, they entirely depend on agricultural systems, including irrigated farmlands of southern Iraq and rain fed agriculture located at northern Iraq. Sumer and Akkad had surplus of agricultural products but was in shortage of other resources like metal ores, timber and stone, which all of them had to rely on imports.
Belief and earliest gods

In theory each state was protected and worshipped a particular god. This defined and identified each city and the Sumerian civilization.

● Ziggurat of Ur

Three-storied, 15m (49 ft) high building constructed from mud bricks in the form of pyramidal graduated terraces. It formed a complex of temples and included the royal palace and was a shrine of the moon god Nanna, the patron deity of Ur. Another practical function of the ziggurat was for security. Since the shrine was accessible only by way of three stairways, a small number of guards could prevent non-priests from spying on the rituals at the shrine on top of the ziggurat. Each ziggurat was part of a temple complex that included a courtyard, storage rooms, bathrooms, and living quarters, around which a city was built.
Culture

- Pottery was very plentiful and common, bowls, and dishes were various.
- Head dresses was worn on the head, beds and chairs were used with carved legs resembling an ox.
- Tools such as knives, saws and drills were all known. While spears, bows and daggers were used for war.
Akkadian Empire

Date:2334 B.C.- 2154 B.C.

The akkadian empire was bound together by roads, along which there was a regular postal service. The Akkadians had the same religion as the Sumerians who believed in mythology and different gods. They lived in northern Mesopotamia while the Sumerians lived in the south. The akkadians had a similar government and culture as the Sumerians, but they spoke a different language. The government was made up of individual city and states. Each city had its own ruler that controlled the city and the surrounding areas.
Economy

The situation of Akkad is similar to the former Sumer Civilization.

- producing large amount of agriculture surplus
- seasonal economy
- depended on rainfall in the north and irrigation in the south
Military

During 3000 to 2316 B.C., Sargon the Great united all of Sumer into a single state. This period was marked by almost **constant wars** among the major city-states and against foreign enemies. Foreign enemies of the southern city-states were the Elamites, the peoples of northern Iran. The conflict between Sumerians and Elamites probably extended back to Neolithic times, but the first recorded instance of war between them appeared in 2700 B.C. The **almost constant occurrence of war among the city-states of Sumer for two thousand years boosted the development of military technology and technique far beyond that found elsewhere at the time.**
Military

The stele demonstrates that the Sumerian troops fought in phalanx formation, organized six files deep, with an eight-man front, somewhat similar to the formation used in Archaic Greece. **Fighting in phalanx requires training and discipline, and the this suggests that the men in this battle were professional soldiers.** City-states provided for the maintenance of 600-700 hundred soldiers on a full-time basis. The presence of a well-crafted helmet indicated a **major development in military technology** that was so effective that it drove the mace from the battlefield.
Military

Sumerian invention of the chariot ranks among the major military innovations in history. They were usually a four-wheeled vehicle (although there are examples of the two-wheeled variety in other records) and required four onagers to pull it. At this early stage of development the chariot probably was not a major offensive weapon because of its size, weight, and instability. Other ancient Sumerian archaeological sources portray additional examples of important military innovations. A carved conch plate shows the king of Ur armed with a socket axe. The development of the bronze socket axe remains one of Sumer's major military innovations, one that conferred a significant military advantage.
Religion

The Akkadian had linguistic and cultural exchange with the Sumerian peoples for generations. Sumerian mythology and religious practices were rapidly integrated into Akkadian culture, blending with the original Akkadian belief systems. Sumerian deities developed Akkadian counterparts. The Sumerian god An, for example, developed the Akkadian counterpart Anu; the Sumerian god Enki became Ea; and the Sumerian gods Ninurta and Enlil remained very much the same in the Akkadian pantheon.

Akkadian god Ea seated on a throne with two streams of water erupting from his shoulders.
Fall of the Akkadian Empire

The Akkadian Empire started to crumble during the reign of Shar-kali-sharri, the son of Naram-Sin. By the end of his reign the invasion of barbarians of the Zagros Mountains known as "Gutians" lead to the collapse of the Empire. Some speculate that a bad harvest, climatic changes also contributed to the decline.
Innovations and Inventions

The Abacus
An operator tool used for mathematical calculation.
It also showed that they developed a numerical system.

Bassetki Statue
The copper Bassetki Statue, cast with the lost wax method, testifies to the high level of skill that craftsmen achieved during the Akkadian period.
The End
Thank you!!