

## Ch. 2C – The Rise of the State

(What you need to know...for follow up you can read the book for additional information or clarification)

### **1. Define the term "STATE"**

**Organized principles, structures, and systems that emerged in cities and larger territories. Often led by a ruler or authority figure who employed other specialists to exercise control and maintain power. In the modern world a state can be specified as a nation, country, sovereignty, federation, kingdom, republic, confederation.**

2. [HYPOTHESIS] **What were the sources of state authority in the first civilizations?** (think about; Where do governments or political organizations gain their power or legitimacy? Why do humans organized and develop governments, what is in it for the people?)

- [ECON] coordinate and regulate **TRADE/COMMERCE**
- [POL / ECON] finance, construct, and maintain **INFRASTRUCTURE**
- [POL - MIL] defense and conquest by **MILITARY**
- [POL - LEG] judge internal disputes in a **COURT SYSTEM**
- [SOC] draw influence and support from upper class or **ARISTOCRACY**
- [ECO] accumulate wealth and **RESOURCES** (land, food, \$, supplies, troops)
- [REL] ordained by God through **DIVINE RIGHT or MERIT**

### **Writing and Accounting: Record Keeping**

3. Directions: Watch the short video two times (link below) and record notes on significant and relevant information. (Note the additional information you pick up simply watching it a second time.)

<http://www.history.com/shows/mankind-the-story-of-all-of-us/videos/writing>

- Every civilization needs a system of writing to store knowledge and pass information on to the next generations
- Historical disagreements over why writing was invented in Egypt and Mesopotamia concurrently? (at the same time)
  - Religious Reasons = for kings and priests to write down traditions, practices, rituals, etc
  - Economic Reason - for practical reasons in dealing with taxes, trade, prices, census information, etc.
- Writing was a natural Invention and progressed from...
  - Chinese pictographs to Egyptian hieroglyphs = easy to see and read, but too many symbols to recognize, too time consuming

- Phoenician Alphabetic Writing = used sounds with fewer letters allowing larger vocabulary, more accuracy, greater efficiency
- Spreads to other civilizations through diffusion, borrowed by any civilizations who came into contact with them
- Scholars, Historians, educated elite emerge
- Civilizations are able to record the beliefs, ideas, and actions of their people

4. **Does writing in these First Civilizations appear to have been a series of independent inventions or does it appear to have diffused from one civilization to the next?**

- Historians are often interested in whether an invention, like writing comes from diffusion, which is the spread of an invention outwards from a specific location, or from independent invention, which is typified by the emergence of clearly different version of the same invention at the same time in a variety of places. The more diverse inventions are, the more likely each is to be an independent invention rather than a result of diffusion.
- The different types of writing from Cuneiform (Sumerian), Hieroglyphs (Egypt), to Quipu (Andes), and Pictographs (China and India) demonstrate that these systems were independent inventions because of their highly varied characteristics. Yet, the more advanced systems allowed for fewer letters along greater efficiency and accuracy.

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4. [QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT] Does writing in these First Civilizations appear to have been a series of independent inventions or does it appear to have diffused from one civilization to the next?