Levant & Anatolia
  – Jerrico & Çatalhöyük
N. Mesopotamia
  – Hassunan 8-7.2 ka
  – Samarran < 7.5 ka
    • small-scale irrigation
    • T-shaped buildings
  – Halafian 7.5-6.7 ka
    • copper & “tholoi”
    – gradual coalescence?
S. Mesopotamia = Sumeria
  – Ubaid 6.5-6 ka
    • Eridu Ziggurat 5.7 ka
  – Uruk Period 6-5.2 ka
    • rapid urbanization
    • city-states: Uruk, Eridu, Ur...
    • bronze technologies
• Sumerian world system
  – city-states =
    • formal trade networks
    • competitive instincts?
    • ethnic co-residence
• territorial conquest <5.1 ka
  – Akkadians & Assyrians

Mesopotamia = “land between the rivers”

SW Asia & the “Fertile Crescent”

proto-ubran chiefdom (?)
  • Levant: Jericho, Israel, 9.5-8 ka (PPNB)
proto-urban Neolithic village

- Anatolia: Çatalhöyük, Turkey
  - 10,000 people, 2000 families, 1000 rooms, but little social differentiation within community → “overgrown village”

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precipitation v. irrigation

- Hassunan 8-7.2 ka
  - small farming villages with 100s of people
    - emmer & einkorn wheat, barley, sheep-goat, cattle
  - small scale trade
    - turquoise, carnelian, copper
  - limited social differentiation
  - small rooms around central plazas

- Umm Dabaghiyah, N. Iraq, early Hassunan
• Samarran < 7.5 ka
  – small-scale irrigation (Choga Mami)
  – defensive walls (Tel es-Sawwan)
  – prestige goods in burials
  – T-shaped buildings
    • lineage houses ➔ granaries ➔ temple prototype?

• Halafian “tholos” from Fistikli Höyük
  – circular (domed?) buildings
  – initially granaries transformed into ceremonial/ritual buildings ➔ temple precursor?

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• Halafian 7.5-6.7 ka
  – settlements ca. 4ha
  – polychrome painted pottery with geometric, floral and naturalistic designs
  – dry farming wheat, barley
  – cattle, sheep-goat, dog
  – some use of native copper
  – some control of resources from hinterland
  – simple chiefdoms?
    • degree of inheritance of rank is disputed

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• S. Mesopotamia =
  – Sumeria
• Ubaid 6.5-6 ka
  – small sites with larger
    regional ceremonial centers
  – barley, dates, cattle, sheep
  – Eridu Ziggurat peak 5.8 ka
    • Ubaid → Uruk Period
    • town centered on rapidly
      growing “Ziggurat”
      – stepped pyramid & temple
      – 5000 people by 4600 BC
  the tell & Ziggurat at Eridu

Ziggurat at Eridu
rebuilt 18 times in Ubaid and Uruk Periods

• Uruk 6-5.2 ka
  – rapid urbanization
    • villages abandoned in favor
      of life in cities
    • population growth?; drought?
      warfare?
    • new technologies: bronze,
      writing
  – Uruk (“Erech”)
    • largest of several “city-states”
    • at apex, 9.5km long city wall,
      450ha, ~50,000 people!
    • White Temple ziggurat
      – storage and redistribution…
    • Eanna “precinct”
      – scribe specialists?

plan map of Uruk

White Temple Ziggurat, formerly Ubaid center Kullaba
storage & redistribution of resources
precinct of elite religious class
Uruk, Eanna Precinct
New Technologies: writing! Uruk Period ca. 6 ka

Sumerian “tokens” or *bullae* record economic transactions through a combination of pictographs and phonetic symbols

New Technologies: Bronze

- an alloy of copper and some other metal (usually tin)
- accidental discovery of smelting while high-temperature firing of ceramics?
- extremely hard and durable
- major impact on farming technologies and weapons of war!
- immediately following Uruk Period < 5.1 ka

• city-state =
  - political authority is confined primarily to the boundaries of the urban form
  - competition becomes acute between well-defined city-states
    - individual rulers begin to exercise their ambition through the city-state; trade in prestige goods
    - warfare becomes more systematic; with the help of durable bronze weapons at end of Uruk Period
  - trade-networks are formal (fewer options?)
    - development of merchant class
    - ethnic co-residence
    - globalization is not new…