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
- conquest <5.1 ka
- Akkadians & Assyrians

SW Asia & the “Fertile Crescent”
- Natufian 9.7 ka → Uruk city-states 6 ka!

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

Mesopotamia = “land between the rivers”
- Mesopotamia and Southwest Asia
  - Zagros Foothills
  - Levantine Corridor

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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Tigris (in East), Euphrates (in West)

N. Mesopotamia

S. Mesopotamia

Sumeria

precipitation v. irrigation
Hassunan 8-7.2 ka
- small farming villages with 100s of people
  - wheat, barley, sheep-goat, cattle
  - 80% of diet
- small scale trade
  - turquoise, carnelian, copper
- limited social differentiation
- small rooms around central plazas

Samarran < 7.5 ka
- small-scale irrigation (Choga Mami)
- defensive walls (Tel es-Sawwan)
- prestige goods in burials
- T-shaped buildings

T-shaped buildings (Tell es-Sawwan)
lineage houses → granaries → temple prototype?

Halafian 7.5-6.7 ka
- settlements ca. 4ha
- polychrome pottery
  - geometric, naturalistic
- dry farming wheat, barley
- cattle, sheep-goat, dog
- native copper
- some control of resources from hinterland

Samarran alabaster prestige goods
- Halafian “tholos” from Fistikli Höyük
  - circular (domed?) buildings
  - Burials of VIPs
  - initially granaries → ceremonial/ritual buildings → temple precursor?
  - simple chiefdoms?

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- S. Mesopotamia =
  - Sumeria
- Ubaid 6.5-6 ka
  - many small sites & few 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!
    - Major internal differentiation of functions

**Eanna Precinct: bureaucrat specialists**

**White Temple Ziggurat**
- 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

bronze axe and mold, 2700 BC, Khirbat Hamra Idfan, Jordan

\[\text{'}Ubaid Period\rightarrow \text{Uruk Period}\]

- city-state =
  - political authority confined to city
  - competition acute between city-states
  - individual rulers exercise ambition through city-state; trade in prestige goods
  - warfare systematic → durable bronze weapons at end of Uruk Period

- city-state =
  - formal trade-networks (fewer options?)
    - development of merchant class
    - ethnic co-residence
    - globalization is not new…

\[\text{'}Ubaid Period\rightarrow \text{Uruk Period}\]