

# **Chapter 2**

## **The Emergence of Cities**

# ***The Origin of Cities***

- **Understanding social forces leading to population change based on**
  - **Requirements for Urban Settlements**
    1. **Sufficient and surplus of food and other necessities**
    2. **Social organization guaranteeing appropriate social use of surpluses**

# ***The Origin of Cities* (cont.)**

- **Geographic Diversity**
  - **Mesopotamia**
  - **Egypt**
  - **Indus Valley (Pakistan)**
  - **China—Yellow River Basin**
  - **Central and South America—Valley of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru**

# ***The Agricultural Revolution***

- **End of Pleistocene epoch, circa 9,000 B.C.**
- **Marks beginning of the Neolithic era, the “New Stone Age”**
- **Environmental change**
  - **Fertile valleys**
  - **Capacity to grow food crops**

# ***The Agricultural Revolution* (cont.)**

- New conditions favorable to community organization**
- Technology advances**
  - Tools**
    - Axes, hoes, sickles, and blades**
  - Animal husbandry and use of domestic animals**
    - Transportation**

# ***The (First) Urban Revolution***

- **Childe's requirements for an early city:**
  1. **Larger permanent settlements**
  2. **Social classes; diversity of social functions of labor**
  3. **Taxation and capital accumulation based on surplus**

# ***The (First) Urban Revolution***

## **(cont.)**

- 4. Large public buildings / symbol of surplus and wealth**
- 5. Ruling class: priests, civil & military leaders**
- 6. Systems of recording and exact science**
- 7. Written language with writing techniques (supported exact and predictive sciences)**

# ***The Urban Revolution* (cont.)**

- 8. Specialists in artistic expression supported by surplus**
- 9. Long distance trade to support industry & religions**
- 10. Social organization based on residence**



# ***Sumerian Cities***

- **Multiple city-states**
  - **5,000 to 25,000 inhabitants**
  - **Walled, heavily fortified**
  - **Ziggurats: monumental religious structures in city center**
  - **Surrounding commercial areas**
  - **Courtyard housing**

# Knowledge of Sumer

- **Religious text**
  - **Old Testament reference**
    - **Book of Genesis, chapter 11**
- **Accurate archaeology**
  - **Dating 3500 B.C. to 1800 B.C.**
  - **Physical remains and artifacts**

# ***Trade Theory and the Origin of Cities***

- **Jane Jacobs' Theory:**
  - **Primary function of Urbanized Cities**
    - **Promotion of trade and commerce**
  - **Supplemental functions**
    - **Center for animal and crop production and distribution**
    - **Agricultural as support for trade, not primary purpose of trade**

# ***SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS AND THE EMERGENCE, DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLINE OF EARLY CITIES***

- **“Ozymandias” written by Percy Bysshe Shelley**
  - **Dramatizes the importance of social and cultural factors for the origin, development, and decline of the early cities**

# ***Religion in Early Cities***

- **Religion**
  - **Cohesive element central to sense of community**
  - **Predates advances in agricultural production**

# **The Rise of the City**

- Those who live in the towns and cities are dependent upon those who work the land**
- The urban elite must provide a hierarchy for the management of production and control of wealth**
- Leads to new socioeconomic classes: military, political, and administrative elites**

# The Rise of the City (cont.)

- **Impediments to growth**
  - **Diffusion of culture**
    - **Diversity as a dividing factor**
  - **Sanitation**
    - **High morbidity/mortality rates as result of little or no sanitary considerations**
  - **Lack of medical knowledge to cope with sanitation and disease issues**
  - **Natural disasters and impact on concentrated populations**

# Summary

- **Balance of probability factors**
  - **Ecological change promotes agricultural development**
  - **Surpluses allow social and cultural reorganization into urban concentrations**



# Summary (cont.)

- **Emergence of larger social and cultural organization**
  - **Specialization**
  - **Differentiations of functions of labor**
  - **Hierarchical power structures**

**All of these factors are components of the urban revolution**