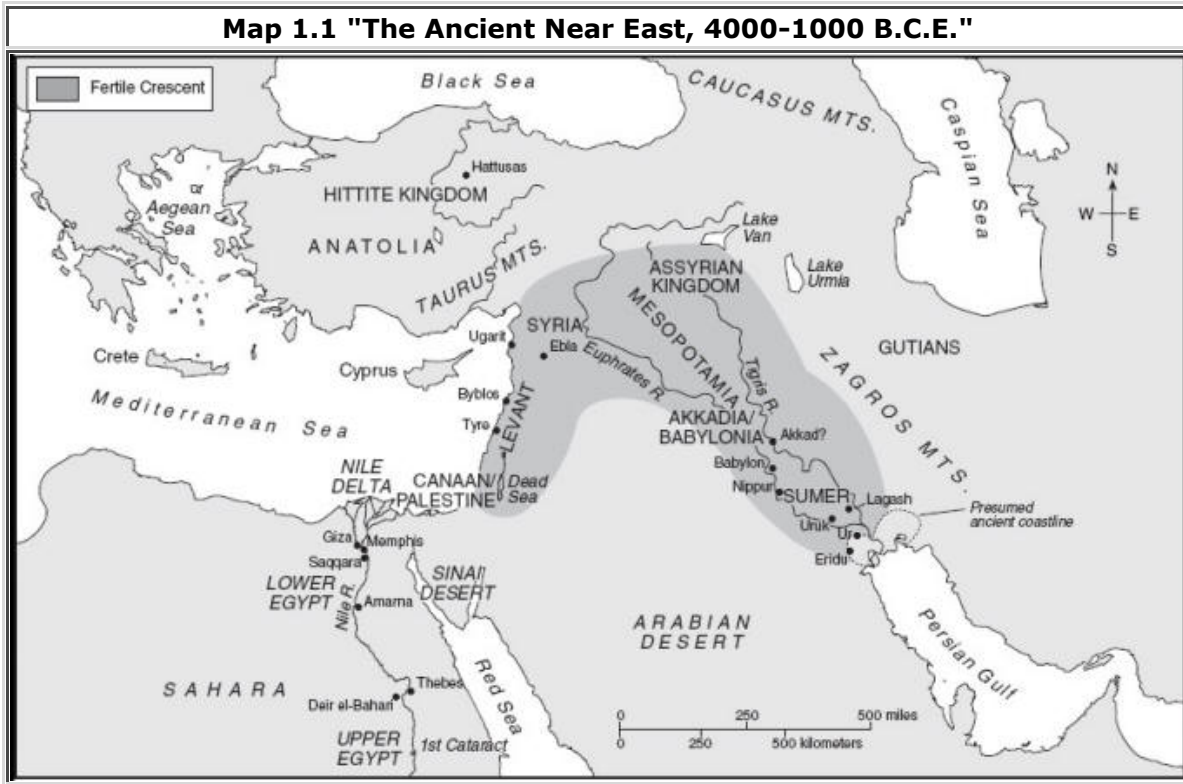


Maps 2: History - Ancient Period
HUM 213 Historical Overview

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 http://web.cocc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum213/Maps/Maps2HistoryAncient.htm

Ancient Middle East & Mesopotamia



<p>c. 8500 - 8000 BCE</p>	<p>"[D]omestication of wild plants and animals was accomplished in Mesopotamia around 8500 B.C.E., well before any other nascent civilization" ("Mesopotamia: The Formation of Cities and the Earliest Literatures"; emphasis added). According to recent archeological evidence, ". . . people living near the present-day city of Jericho near the Dead Sea were some of the first human beings to practice agriculture," and "Signs of equally ancient town life have been found at a place called Catal Huyuk in [present-day] Turkey" [Anatolia], where people may have "first practiced irrigation and domesticated animals" (Kort 7; emphasis added).</p>
<p>c. 4000? BCE Great Flood stories</p>	<p>Archeological evidence was found (in 1929) of a possible great flood "at Ur, near the Persian Gulf, in the delta of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers" (Davis and others [Book 1] 21; emphasis added). "Stories of a great flood or deluge often seen as a warning or punishment have appeared in all parts of the world except Africa": for example, stories of a great flood appear in the Epic of Gilgamesh, ca.1800 BCE; and in the later Hebrew Book of Genesis, ca. 900 BCE (Davis and others [Book 1] 21; emphasis added).</p>
<p>c. 3500 - 3000 BCE</p>	<p>Thriving cities were established in Mesopotamia along the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers, and in Egypt along the Nile River (Davis and others [Book 1] 2). The Middle East is not all desert: "Rivers allowing for productive agriculture were the key factor in the settling of cities" beginning some 6,000 years ago ("Geography: An Ancient and Modern Crossroads"). In the "Fertile Crescent" (<i>the crescent-shaped region shaded in Maps 1.1 and 1.3</i>), the Tigris and Euphrates River waters enabled the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia to</p>