

# AIM: The Development of Civilization and the Emergence of “complex institutions” During the Urban Revolution

## ORGANIZED CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS

Structure was needed to keep order among large settled populations as well as overseeing food supplies and the maintenance of things like irrigation systems. The type of government that would oversee society would vary.

## Emergence of CITIES

Surplus food produced in the fertile river valleys caused a drastic increase in population. Small villages of the Neolithic Era develop into large cities of sometime 5,000 to 10,000 or more people.

## SPECIALIZATION OF LABOR

Food surpluses, along with the growing complexity of society necessitated the need for people to do other things besides farm—and they were able to do it. Individuals could no longer do everything needed to survive. Artisans, craftsmen, and merchants develop.

## WRITING SYSTEMS

Forms of writing were needed to meet the demands of a more complex society. Information is becoming too great and diverse. Record keeping of trade, business, and historical events, as well as laws needed to be written or “codified.”

# CHARACTERISTICS OF CIVILIZATION

## SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

As jobs, roles, and positions become more specialized and take on different levels of importance in society, there is an assigned status that becomes related to them.

## CODIFIED LAW

With larger populations came the need for specific written laws to keep order in society.

## COMPLEX RELIGIONS

Formed as a way to perhaps explain events and occurrences and death, seek protection, or try and ensure luck or bountiful harvest, belief systems/religions develop. Polytheism rules the ancient early civilized world (except Hebrews and Judaism) and priests and religious leaders often wield great power.

## TECHNOLOGY

Increased sophistication develops with new tools and skills. Most technology confined to agriculture, travel, and weaponry. Sometimes brought through trade, war, or general diffusion. Think metals:  
Copper—Bronze—Iron

## ART and ARCHITECTURE

Art expressed the beliefs and values of a civilization. Styles vary. Art was often used to impress visitors and people about the beauty and power of the society or its leaders. Individual art could signify wealth and status. “Monumental” architecture (eg. Pyramids) denoted a powerful and highly centralized society.

## ADVANCED ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Increased specialization and contact with others leads to new forms of production and distribution. Money systems start to develop.

## PUBLIC WORKS

Although costly, leaders would order these built to aid and benefit the society at large. These could be walls, road, or irrigation—also known as infrastructure. These projects suggest wealth, stability, and an organized and centralized government.