

Aim: How did Hammurabi affect life in Ancient Babylon?

I. Fall of Sumer

- Sumer was conquered by Saragon of Akkad.
- Saragon created the world's first major empire
- The empire he created lasted for approximately 200 years.

II. Babylonian Empire

1. After the Akkadians, Mesopotamia fell into chaos
2. 1792 BCE Hammurabi stabilized Mesopotamia and created the Babylonian Empire.
3. Hammurabi created the first law code based on an "eye for an eye"
4. The punishment fit the crime and was based on social rank. (A slave's punishment would be worse than a noble's).
5. Ex. If a nobleman puts out another nobleman's eye, his eye shall be put out.
6. Ex. If a slave put out a nobleman's eye, the slave shall be put to death.
7. In Babylon slaves were considered property
8. People were innocent until proven guilty

III. Nebuchadnezzar II

1. From 1500-610 BCE Mesopotamia was divided and controlled by numerous civilizations
2. Nebuchadnezzar II became the new king of Babylon around 610
3. He stabilized Mesopotamia and named his people the neo-Babylonians
4. He rebuilt Babylon into a great city
5. Nebuchadnezzar is portrayed in the Book of Daniel for his conquests of Judah and Jerusalem
6. He favored architecture (Tower of Babel)
7. He also built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for his wife
8. After Nebuchadnezzar's death Babylon was ruled by weak rulers.
9. Babylon fell to Cyrus the Great as the head of the combined armies of Media and Persia.