Babylon and Assyria
Second Millennium

- Competing city states
- Old Elamite Period
  - ca. 2700 - 1900
- Amorites
- ca. 2000 - 1600
  - Semitic language
  - Precursor to Hebrew (?)
Amorite & Elamite
Assyria

• Ashur
  – Name of the city and the god
  – Controlled the tin and copper trade routes

• Shamshi-Adad
  – King of Ashur 1813 – 1781
  – An Amorite who conquered the city
The Rise of Babylon

- Ca. 2000 – 1800 BC
  - Collapse of the Amorites and Elamites.
  - Intercity warfare
- Hammurabi (1792 – 1750)
Hammurabi

- Year 7 – 11
  - Allied with Shamshi-Adad I of Assyria and Rim-Sin of Larsa.

- 1763 – 1760:
  - Conquered Larsa, all of the south and then Assyria.
The Horse

- **Equus (wild horse):**
  - Hunted to extinction in Europe.
  - Equus Cabalus evolved on the Russian Steppe.
  - Domesticated ca. 3000 BC.

- **Early Horses:**
  - Front legs and chest too weak to support a rider.
  - Neck too weak to pull using the collar.
  - Difficult to control until the bit was invented.

- **Equus Onager (wild ass):**
  - Easier to control
  - Stronger
Transportation

- Carts:
  - Drawn by onagers (equus onager)
  - Four solid wheels appear c.3000 BC. In Sumer
- The two-part wheel appears at Ur.
- Chariots:
  - Developed on the Armenian and Cappadocian plateau ca.2000
  - Theory now disputed by Khurt
Early Chariots
Early Chariots
Charioteers

European Model

Equus Caballus Homeland

Dorians c.1200 BC.

Semitic Model

Hittite Empire

Aryans c.1700-1500 BC.

Mycenean Kingdoms

Hyksos Kingdom

Aryans to China c.1400 BC.

Aryans to India c.1500 BC.

Kingdom of the Mitanni

Kassite Kingdom

Semitic c.1525

Hyksos 1674 BC.
Charioteers

- c.2000 BC. (traditional view)
- c.1600 BC. (radical view - Drews)
- Volkerwanderung Theory
  - Entire ethnic group on the move.
  - A peaceful transition and assimilation.
- Mass Invasion Theory
  - Conquering army brings its entire culture with it.
  - Indigenous population ejected or eliminated.
- Warrior Elite Theory (Drews)
  - Small band of warriors invades
  - Indigenous population become serfs
Asshurubalit
1365 BC
Tut Chariot
Hittites

- 1650 – ca. 1200
- Indo-European language
- Anatolian
- Sack of Babylon; 1595 BC
Assyrian Recovery

- Ashur-Ubalit I (1365 – 1330)
- Capital at Nineveh
- Continuous autonomy until 612 BC
- Continuous rivalry with Egypt and Babylon
- Period of decline from ca 1100 – 934 BC
ca. 1300 BC
Sea Peoples

• Old Theory
  – Indo-European invaders from Balkans

• New Theory
  – A pirate culture developing out of Anatolian and Levantine villages
By 1200 BC:

- Hittites destroyed
- Assyrians pushed from the Levant
- Egypt conquered
- Philistines?
Aramaeans

- **Aramaic**
  - Language, not race
  - Semitic language group
  - Levantine clan-based kingdoms
    - Israel
    - Phoenicia
Bronze Age Trade

- Uluburun:
- Shipwreck dated to 14\textsuperscript{th} cent. BC
- Cedar Construction
- Copper and tin enough for 14 tons of Bronze
- Proto-Phoenician?
Phoenicians

- Canaanites:
  - Moved to the Levant ca. 1400-1200 BC
  - Phoenician = purple dye people

- The Levant:
  - Biblos
  - Tyre
  - Damascus
  - Sidon
The Levant

Map of the Levant region, including modern-day Lebanon, Syria, and parts of Jordan, Israel, and Turkey. Key cities such as Damascus, Tyre, and Jerusalem are marked, along with the surrounding seas and rivers.
The Markets

- Assyria and Babylon
  - Wealthy in cereal crops: flax and barley
  - Access to minerals: tin and copper
  - Poor in lumber

- Egypt
  - Wealthy in exotics: ivory
  - Wealthy in cereal crops
  - Poor in lumber
Communication

• Began from a hieroglyphic system
  – One symbol = one word
• Ca. 1500 BC:
• First use of hieroglyphs for phonetic value
• Universality of written symbols
The Alphabet

- **Phoenician**
  - Aleph = ox
  - Beth = House
  - Gimel = Throw
  - Daleth = Door
  - He = Wall
  - Zayin = Sword

- **Greek**
  - Alpha \( \alpha \)
  - Beta \( \beta \)
  - Gamma \( \gamma \)
  - Delta \( \delta \)
  - Epsilon \( \epsilon \)
  - Zeta \( \zeta \)
Neo Assyria

- Ashur-dan II (934-912)
- Ashur-nirari V (754-745)
- Began to re-exert Assyrian influence in the region.
- Aramaic eclipses Akkadian as language of state.
- Established a port on the Mediterranean Sea
- 841 BC; Israel pays tribute to Shalmaneser III
Assyrian Empire
Neo-Babylonian

- Shift from Sumerian to Akkadian
- Expansion of Algebraic arts
- Expansion of trade
- Development of the calendar
  - Astrology and Astronomy
  - Twelve month soli-lunar calendar
  - 360 degrees.
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