



Evolution of Geographical Thought

**REVISED
EDITION**

**EVOLUTION
OF
GEOGRAPHICAL
THOUGHT**



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SECOND REVISION - PAGE 371

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**FOR UPSC , UGC NET
AND OTHER COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

UPSC / UGC NET

COMPILATION OF LECTURES

ON

GEOGRAPHICAL

THOUGHT

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LECTURE-1

“PRE”

GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

PRE-EXISTING IS THE KEY

MESOPOTAMIANS

PHOENICIANS

EGYPTIANS

SUMMERIANS

CHALDEANS

BABYLONIANS

ASSIRIYANS

TO REMEMBER USE
THIS CODE:

MP

ESC

BA

MESOPOTAMIANS

Mesopotamia (a term of Greek origin meaning "between two rivers") was a region located in the Mediterranean, specifically in the West Asia zone, between **the Euphrates and Tigris rivers**.

Situated in the fertile valleys between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the region is now home to **modern-day Iraq, Kuwait, Turkey and Syria**.

This region was bordered to the northeast by the Zagros Mountains and to the southeast by the **Arabian Plain**



While the region was **widely occupied by humans as early as 12,000 B.C.E.**, historians believe that large civilizations began in Mesopotamia between **4,000 and 3,000 B.C.E.**

Mesopotamia's development in this period was supported by a series of **geographical factors, including rivers and fertile lands.**

Mesopotamia is known as the **cradle of civilization**, due to **two major contributions** that emerged in the region of Sumer (Lower Mesopotamia) in 4000 BC: **the birth of the city** and the **invention of writing.**



The development of the cities began in the Copper Age (5900 BCE - 3200 BCE). This growth was remarkable in the region of **Sumeria**, where the cities of **Eridu, Uruk, Ur, Kish, Nuzi, Nippur and Ngirsu** were born.

The **high level of development and systematization of agriculture** (which included **irrigation**) allowed the growth of large centers and, once the cities were established, they were able to **maintain their prosperity through trade.**

CUNEIFORM WRITING

- ✓ The **cuneiform** was the first written language and developed in Mesopotamia. This communication system was created by the **Sumerians** between the years **5000 a. C.** and **4000 a. C.**
- ✓ **This writing was done in clay;** The characters used were a mixture of **holes and small wedges**, hence the name cuneiform, which means "**wedge-shaped.**"
- ✓ **It is believed that writing was invented because of the trade,** which generated the need to communicate at a distance and to keep a record of the commercial transactions that a city made.

THE WHEEL

The invention of the wheel is attributed to the Mesopotamians.

In 1922, the archaeologist **Sir Leonard Wooley** discovered the remains of two wagons of four wheels in what previously was the **CITY OF UR**; **These are the oldest vehicles that have been found so far.**