

Table 1. Southern Mesopotamian (Babylonian) autonomous polities in the West Asian international system, by relative chronology (archaeological periods).¹ From: Claudio Cioffi-Revilla (2004 rev.) “Origins of the international system: Mesopotamia and Wes Asia,” LORANOW Project, Center for Social Complexity, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA 22030, USA. Contact: ccioffi@gmu.edu

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII
	'Ubaid 0	'Ubaid 1	'Ubaid 2	'Ubaid 3	'Ubaid 4	Early Uruk ²	Mid. Uruk	Late Uruk ³	JN ⁴	ED ⁵ I	ED II	ED III	Akkadian	Ur III	Isin-Larsa	Old Babyl.	Kas-site
EMP	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	<u>URU</u> ⁶	<u>URU</u>	∅	∅	∅	<u>URU</u> ⁷	<u>AKK</u> ⁸	<u>UR3</u> <u>URU</u>	∅	<u>BAB</u>	∅
STAT ES	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	URU ???	URU <i>BAD</i> <i>GIR</i> <i>KIS</i> <i>LAG</i> <i>SHU</i> <i>UMM</i> <i>URR</i> <i>ZAB</i>	BAD URU UMM ZAB <i>ERE</i> <i>GIR</i> <i>KIS</i> <i>SHU</i> <i>AGR</i> <i>ERE</i> <i>FAR</i> <i>JEM</i> <i>KHA</i> <i>LAG</i> <i>LAR</i> <i>SUR</i> <i>UBA</i> <i>UQA</i> <i>URR</i>	ADA ESH GIR KIS UMM URU <i>AGR</i> <i>ERE</i> <i>FAR</i> <i>JEM</i> <i>KHA</i> <i>LAG</i> <i>LAR</i> <i>SUR</i> <i>UBA</i> <i>UQA</i> <i>URR</i> <i>ZAB</i>	ADA AKS ESH GIR KHA KIS LAG SHU UMM URR URU <i>AGR</i> <i>BAD</i> <i>ERE</i> <i>FAR</i> <i>JEM</i> <i>LAR</i> <i>SUR</i> <i>UBA</i> <i>UQA</i> <i>ZAB</i>	ADA AKS ESH GIR KHA KIS LAG URR URU <i>AGR</i> <i>BAD</i> <i>ERE</i> <i>FAR</i> <i>JEM</i> <i>LAR</i> <i>SUR</i> <i>UBA</i> <i>UQA</i> <i>ZAB</i>	∅?	AKK LAG UMM URU	BAB ESH ISI KIS LAR LAG SIP TUT URU <i>GIR</i> <i>KIU</i> <i>NER</i> <i>UMM</i> <i>URR</i>	ESH ISI LAR	∅?	
Chiefdoms		Ami Awy Gir Hag Kis Puz Uba Umm Uqa Urr Uru	Ami Awy Gir Hag Kis Puz Uba Umm Uqa Urr Uru	Ami Awy Gir Hag Kis Puz Uba Umm Uqa Urr Uru	Ami Awy Gir Hag Kis Puz Uba Umm Uqa Urr Uru	<i>Gir</i> <i>Kis</i> <i>Urr</i>	???	???					<i>Amo</i>	Amo			
STAT							SUS	MIS	MAR	DER	ASS	ASS	EBL	ARB	ASS	ALE	DER?

ES ELSE- WHER E ⁹								SUS ARS? ¹⁰	EGY	HAM MAR EGY	EBL DER HAM MAR EGY	EBL DER HAM MAR EGY	ELA GUT LUL HUR TUT AMO? EGY HAT DER?	EBL ELA GUT LUL MAR HUR NIN AMO EGY HAT DER?	ALE QAT CAR KAR MAR DER SUS EGY	QAT KAS SUS HAT EGY MIT	HAT EGY
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Notes: See Appendix 1 for abbreviations.

¹ A question mark following a polity code denotes a lesser level of measurement confidence.

² At present there is less information for the Early Uruk and Middle Uruk periods than for Late Uruk. Although a state (empire?) with capital at Uruk existed by the Late Uruk period, it seems that several other pre-Late Uruk polities (e.g., Gir, Kis, Nip, Umm, Urr) evolved into states after the 'Ubaid 4 period, during the Early Uruk and Middle Uruk periods (Algaze 1993: 115–16; 2000: 23–26, et passim.). If so, the era between the end of the 'Ubaid 4 period (ca. 4000 B.C.) and the start of the Late Uruk period (ca. 3500 B.C.) produced the *first interstate system in West Asia*, which also included the polities of Susa and later Choga Mish. In addition, Arslantepe [Ars], Tell-Brak [Bra], Tepe Gawra [Gaw], Tell al-Hawa [Haw], and Hacinebi [Hac] were complex chiefdoms during the Early Uruk period (GMLC 3 period in Rothman 2000b: 11).

³ The political complexity of the Uruk polity during the Late Uruk period was certainly at least that of a *state* (Flannery 1998) and possibly even an *empire* as well (Algaze 1993, 2000). If other states also existed in Southern Mesopotamia during the Late Uruk period (besides Susa [Sus] and Choga Mish [Cho] in the Susiana Plain, Iran), then an interstate system would have existed.

⁴ The Jemdet Nasr (JN) period was the latest era (*terminus ante quem*) by which an interstate system was operating in Southern Mesopotamia.

⁵ Perhaps as many as thirty individual states existed during the ED I–III periods (Postgate 1994: 34).

⁶ Middle and Late Uruk period colonial outposts in Uruk's northern frontier included Godin Tepe, Habuba Kabira-süd, Hacinebi Tepe, Hassek Höyük, Jebel Aruda, Nineveh (?), Tell 'Abr, Tell Brak, Tell Sheik Hassan, and Tiladir Tepe (Algaze 2000).

⁷ Uruk became (once again) an empire during the reign of Lugalzagesi (Cooper 1983: 94–95; Liverani 1988: 195, 197; Postgate 1994: 34–35).

⁸ The Empire of Akkad was not the first empire in West Asia (contra, Liverani 1993). Based on this survey, Uruk was the first empire, either during the Late Uruk period or during the ED III period.

⁹ This set of states outside the Southern Mesopotamian (Babylonian) regional system is incomplete. It is included only to provide a general idea of the political environment of the Southern Mesopotamian international system. Egypt [Egy] is a state from the Egyptian ED period on, corresponding to the JN period in Southern Mesopotamia. The State of Hatti [Hat] formed at ca. 1800 B.C. Both Egypt and Hatti become empires when they govern multi-ethnic societies.

¹⁰ Frangipane (1996: ch.7).