

W12 (Week 4, Tuesday)

Summary: What makes
civilisations?

HPAR4010

What makes civilisation?

Dr Katharina Zinn / Dr Thomas Jansen

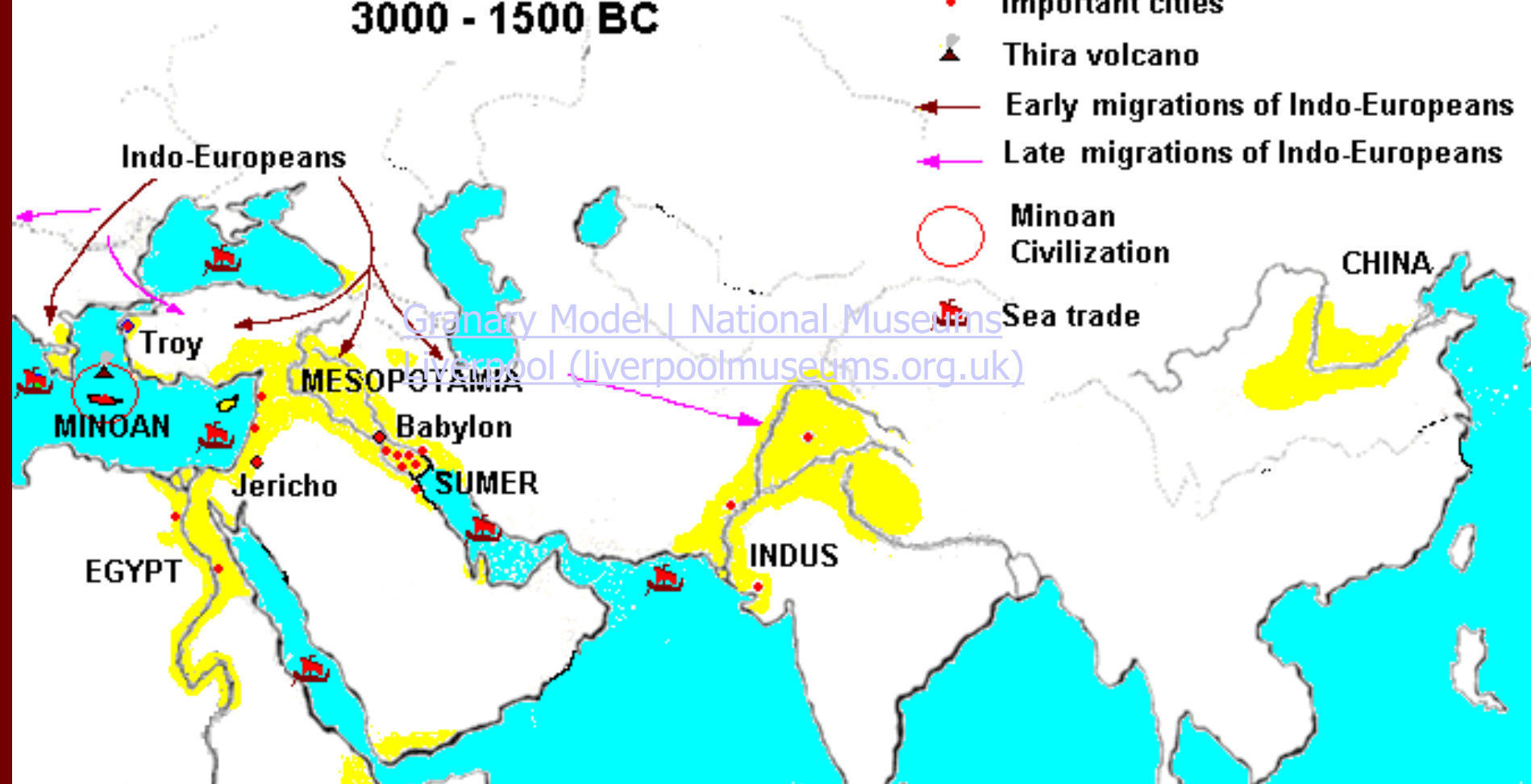
ANCIENT
CIVILIZATIONS
CEREMONY
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VISITORS QUEENS
GODS DEATH
BOOKS
SCIENCE
ROME
STUDY

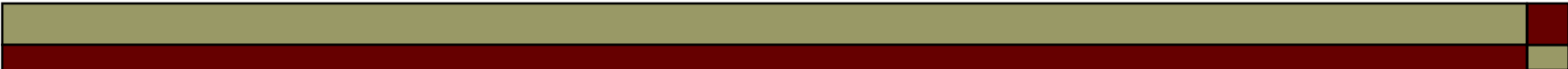
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Ancient Civilizations of the Old World

3000 - 1500 BC

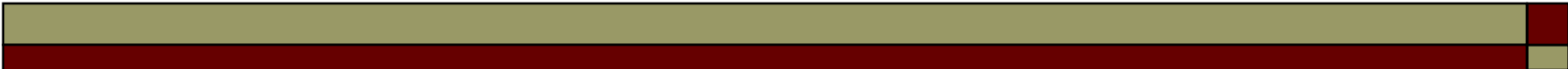
-  Civilized areas
-  Important cities
-  Thira volcano
-  Early migrations of Indo-Europeans
-  Late migrations of Indo-Europeans
-  Minoan Civilization
-  Sea trade





What did we look at?

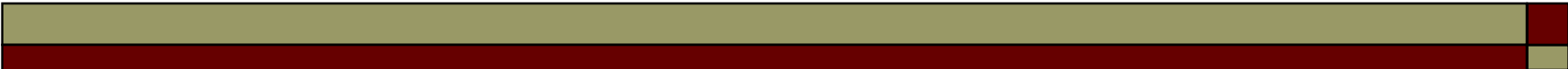
- ❑ (loosely) the characterisation of *early civilisations* as given by Trigger (2003):
 - A. Socio-political Organization
 - B. Economy
 - C. Cognitive and Symbolic Aspects
- ❑ Based on a wide array of sources: texts, material culture
- ❑ How to interpret both?



Let's discuss at the end of the module

- ❑ Did your perceptions change?
- ❑ What would you answer now?

❑ DISCUSS



Childe (1950): Definition of early civilisation

- Large urban centres
- Craft workers, merchants, officials, priests (supported by surplus of farmers)
- Primary producer paying surplus to deity / divine ruler
- Monumental art and architecture
- Ruling class exempt from manual labour
- Recording information
- Exact practical science
- Writing
- Resident specialist craft workers (under control of ruling class)
- Social solidarity under pre-eminence of temples / funerary cults
- Dominant and permanent state organisation

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Civilisation:**
- ❑ the stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced
- ❑ the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization
- ❑ the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area
- ❑ the comfort and convenience of modern life, regarded as available only in towns and cities

Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Society:**
- ❑ the community of people living in a particular country or region and having shared customs, laws, and organizations
- ❑ Origin: mid 16th century (in the sense 'companionship, friendly association with others'): from French *société*, from Latin *societas*, from *socius* 'companion'

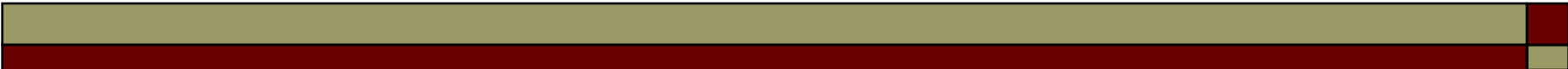
Definitions? Definitions! – Oxford dictionary

- ❑ **Culture: applicable for Humanities**
- ❑ the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively
- ❑ the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society
- ❑ the attitudes and behaviour characteristic of a particular social group



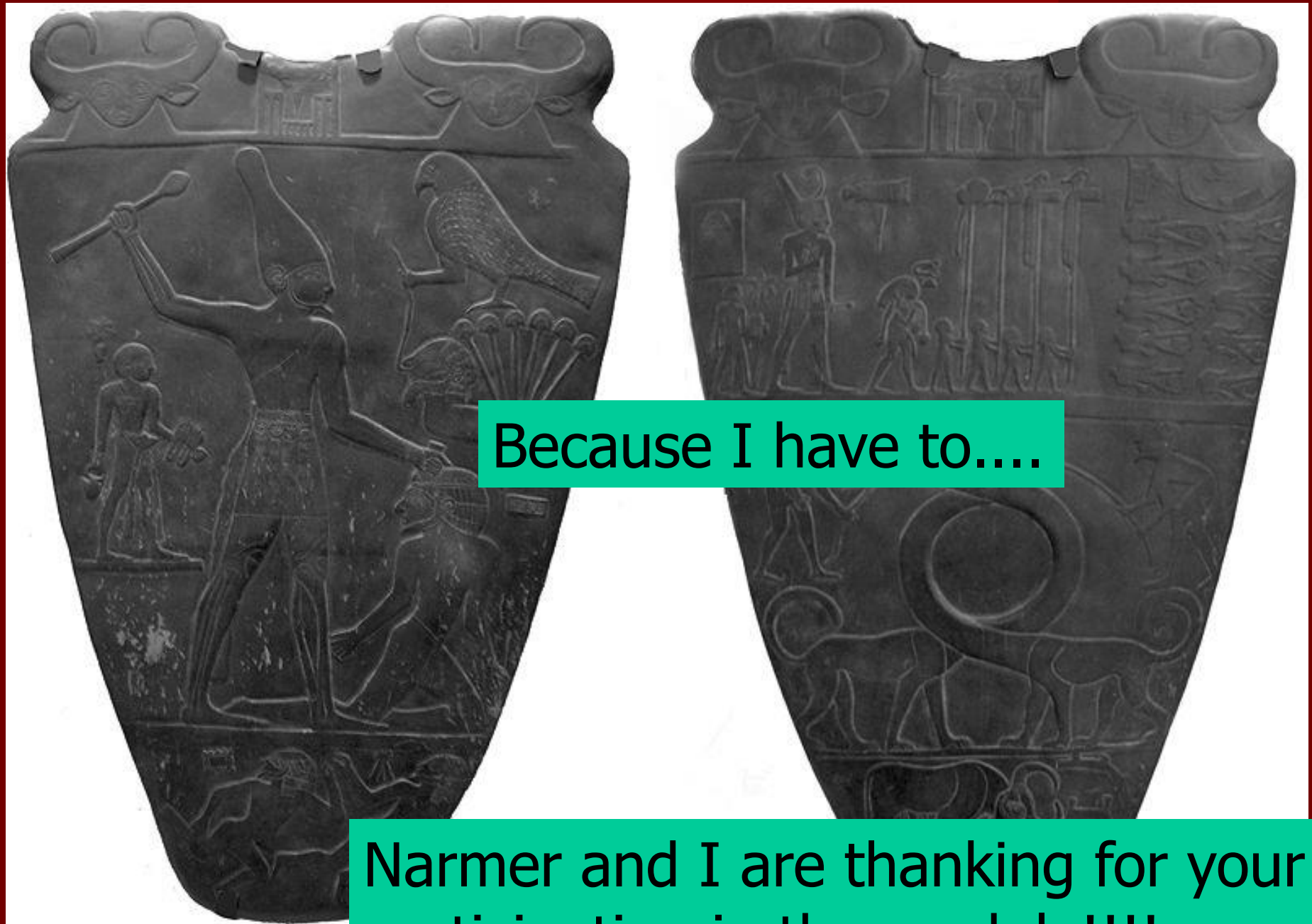
Complex Societies

- ❑ How did human societies evolve?
- ❑ Why develop from small groups based on face-to-face cooperation, to huge anonymous societies of today?
- ❑ Why is there so much variation in the ability of different human populations to construct viable states?
- ❑ Is statehood positively correlated with political stability, institutional quality, and income per capita?



Complex societies

- ❑ **complex society** = a social formation
- ❑ sometimes otherwise described as a formative or developed state
- ❑ main criteria of complexity are:
 - Extent of a division of labour
 - Specialisation of members of society (particular activities)
 - Depend on others for goods and services
 - Existence of a system regulated by custom and laws
 - population size of a human community: the larger the population, the more complex the society



Because I have to....

Narmer and I are thanking for your participation in the module!!!!