

Ancient Egyptian Culture linked the Childe's characteristics in "Understanding Early Civilisations,43" (Trigger,2003).

In Trigger's "Understanding Early Civilizations, 43" he quotes Childe and he provides a list of 10 attributes that define a complex civilisation. Many of these attributes can be applied to the ancient Egyptian culture.

The attribute which applies to Egypt the most in my opinion is the "ruling class exempt from manual labour" (Trigger 2003, 43), this is applicable to the culture as the king would delegate responsibilities to everyone else where as it would be the farmers and the lower working class people doing all the manual labour (Mark, 2017). For example, manual labour was part of life in ancient Egypt as everyone regardless if they had any special skills they all had to participate in the kings building projects (Mark,2017). Moreover, most of the pyramids were built by Egyptian labourers (Mark,2017) which shows that the king wanted to build temples and monuments but would not engage in the manual labour. This can also be linked to Childe's 2nd characteristic that a civilisation must have "craft workers, merchants, officials, and priests supported by surpluses produced by farmers" (Trigger 2003,43). As there were many different specialists and many people had a range of skills which would also create surpluses for trade.

Another important point is that a civilization must have "monumental architecture" (Trigger 2003,43) ancient Egypt has a wide range of monumental structures from many different periods, these include many temples to the gods. This includes one of the earliest pyramids the Saqqara Step Pyramid which was built in the 3rd dynasty for the king Djoser this is important as it was the first one to be built from stone, also he hired the architect Imhotep to take charge of the building process (Mark, 2016) which also links to the characteristic above about the king not being involved with manual labour.

Also, the 18th dynasty city of Akhetaten has many different monumental structures such as the Gem-pa-Aten which was temple that was dedicated to the Aten this was very different to the other temples as this temple more open and light as they would worship the sun disk (Mark,2017). Many call Akhenaten's reign heretic although when looking at Childe's characteristics it Akhenaten's reign was very successful in creating a complex society within the 18th dynasty.

Finally, an interesting point Childe makes is that a culture should have a "resident specialist craftworkers politically as well economically under the control of secular or religious officials" (Trigger 2003, 43) this is particularly interesting as the clergy, priests and priestesses had a lot of power within ancient Egyptian culture. It was

mainly the high priests that held the most power out of the three, these had both political power and religious power, throughout the history of ancient Egypt the priesthoods especially the Priesthood of Amun have been upholding religious traditions such as festivals as well as challenging the king and they also collected wealth and power that equalled the king (Mark,2017). This is highly accurate when looking at this characteristic as the religious specialists especially the high priests had a lot of power politically, economically and religiously.

Trigger writes that Childe's 10 traits are meant to differentiate an early civilisation from a neolithic village (Trigger 2003,43), when comparing these to ancient Egypt it is clear that these traits serve their purpose as they do help differentiate the two and it is very interesting to see this in action.

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