

Gordon Childe aspects of complex civilisations → Urban Revolution

1. 'In point of size the first cities must have been more extensive and more densely populated than any previous settlements.' (p. 9)
2. 'In composition and function the urban population already differed from that of any village ... full-time specialist craftsmen, transport workers, merchants, officials and priests.' (p. 11)
3. 'Each primary producer paid over the tiny surplus he could wring from the soil with his still very limited technical equipment as tithe or tax to an imaginary deity or a divine king who thus concentrated the surplus.' (p. 11)
4. 'Truly monumental public buildings not only distinguish each known city from any village but also symbolise the concentration of the social surplus.' (p. 12)

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5. 'But naturally priests, civil and military leaders and officials absorbed a major share of the concentrated surplus and thus formed a "ruling class".' (pp. 12–13)
6. 'Writing.' (p. 14)
7. 'The elaboration of exact and predictive sciences – arithmetic, geometry and astronomy.' (p. 14)
8. 'Conceptualised and sophisticated styles [of art].' (p. 15)
9. 'Regular "foreign" trade over quite long distances.' (p. 15)
10. 'A State organisation based now on residence rather than kinship.' (p. 16)