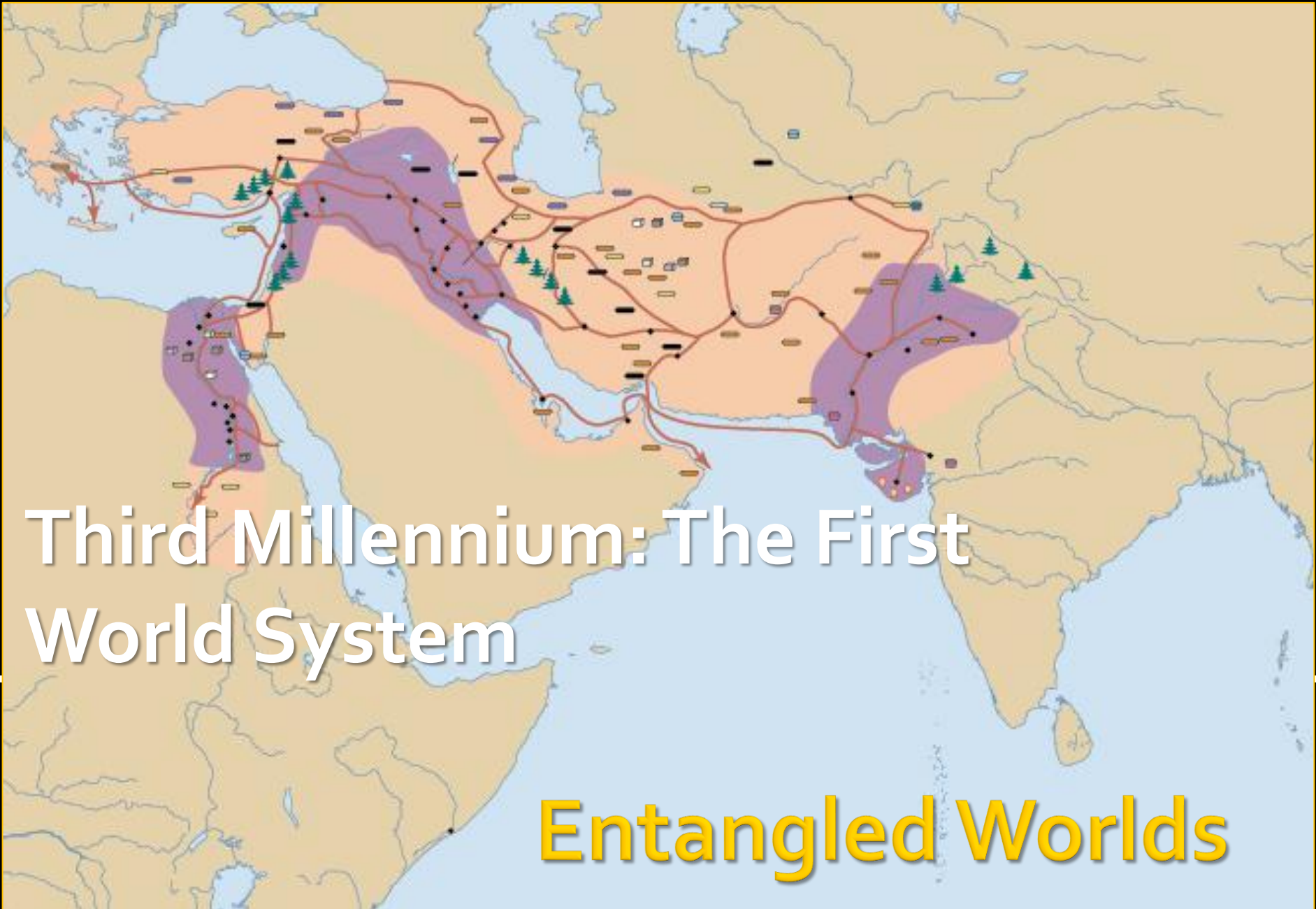


A map of the Eastern Hemisphere (Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia) illustrating the 'Third Millennium: The First World System'. The map features a network of red lines representing trade routes, connecting various regions. Several areas are highlighted in purple, including the British Isles, the Mediterranean coast of Europe, the Red Sea region, and parts of East Africa and Southeast Asia. Numerous small icons are scattered across the map, including green pine trees, yellow rectangular blocks, and small black dots. The text 'Third Millennium: The First World System' is overlaid in white, and 'Entangled Worlds' is at the bottom in yellow.

Third Millennium: The First World System

Entangled Worlds

Defining A World System

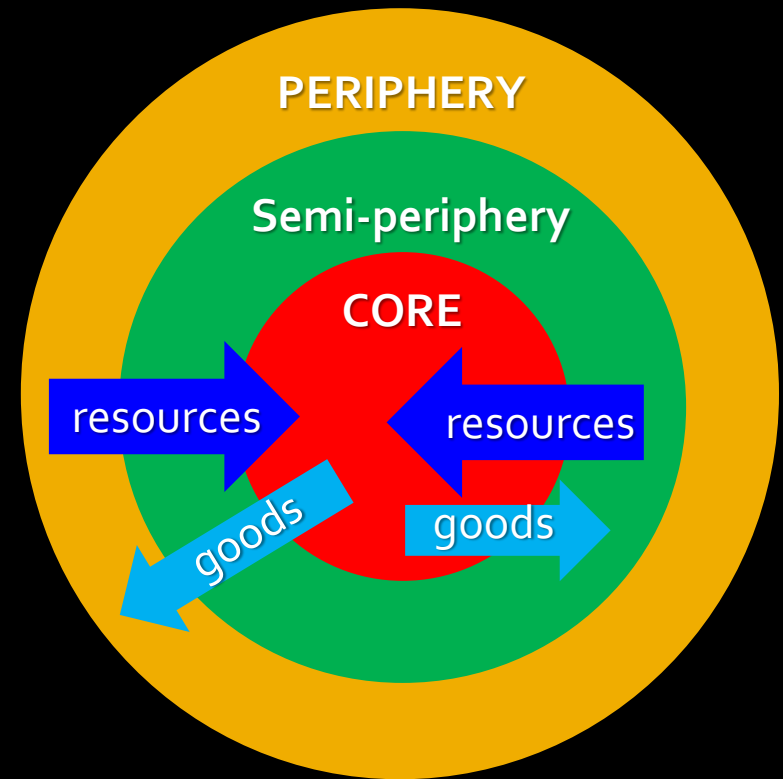
- Concept developed by Wallerstein (1974)
 - Explains/describes development of early capitalist economies in Europe in global context
- Usefulness for ancient world?
- A means to explore long-distance trade
 - Examining how one cultural area becomes dependent on another
 - The movement of materials & goods & the resulting impact on economic & social practice

World Systems Theory

- “large-scale interregional exchange systems” (Stein 1998: 223)
- World system comprises 2 distinct geographic areas: core & periphery
 - **Core:** highly developed economy & political system
 - Accumulation of surplus, specialist craft production for elite consumption & export to periphery
 - **Periphery:** provides raw materials to the core

World Systems Theory

- Allows us to examine the role of traded goods, commodities & materials at different levels:
 - **Macro level** of exchange between regions & peoples
 - **Micro level**: assessing social structuring within individual communities through differential access to & control of imported goods



Concepts of Value

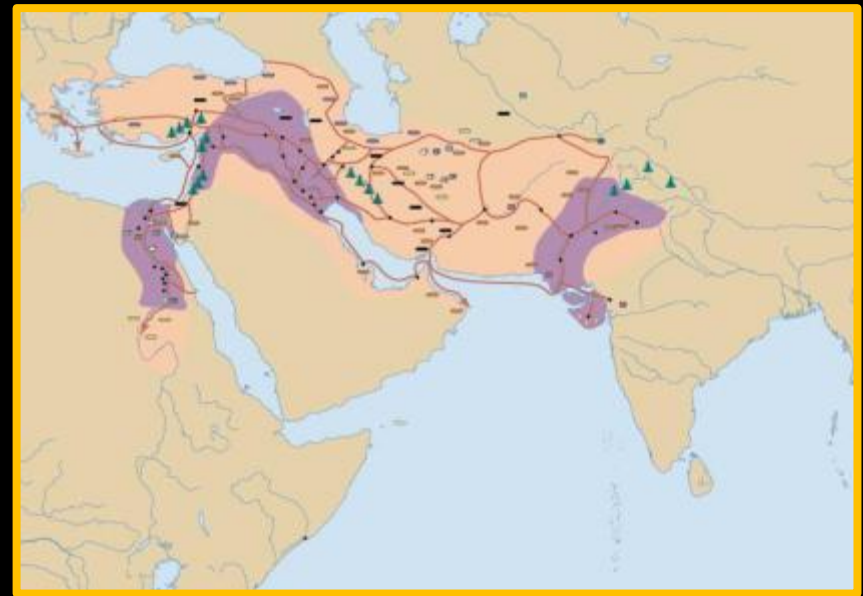
- **Value:** relationship between material goods & social relations
- Reflects the needs, aspirations & ambitions of a social group
- Prestigious (frequently exotic) objects are **ascribed** value & play an active, symbolic role in the **creation of status**
 - Agency of object



Proto-Elamite silver bull

Application to Third Millennium

- Considerable evidence for wide-ranging interregional trade routes:
 - Aegean, Anatolia, Egypt, Levant, Mesopotamia, Arabian Gulf, Afghanistan & Indus Valley
- Associated with state formation, urbanisation etc.
- Multiple overlapping systems of core & periphery



Connected worlds of the third millennium

Trade in Mesopotamian Mythology

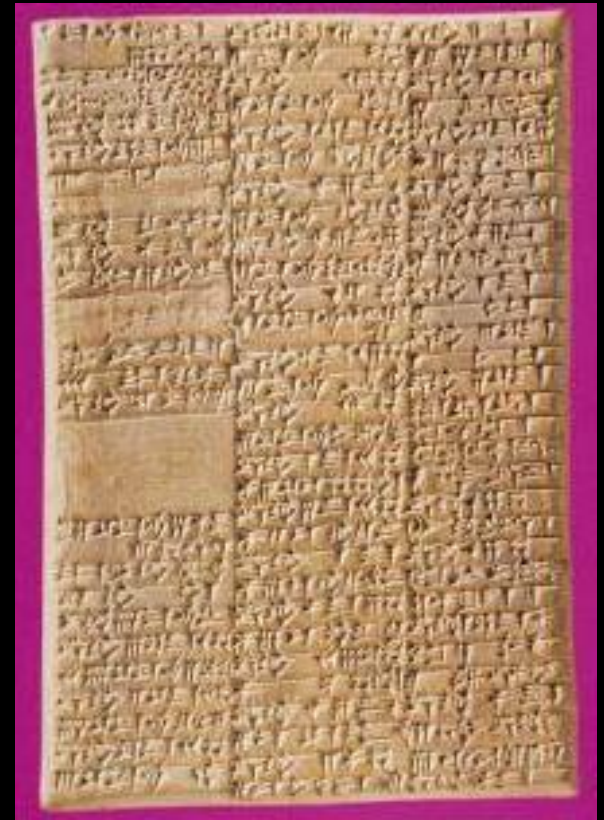
- Enmerkar & the Lord of Aratta:
 - Sent envoy for tribute to the King of Aratta, **behind the seven ranges of mountains**
 - Demanded carnelian, lapis, & other precious materials for the temple of Inanna
- Epic of Gilgamesh (Prelude):
 - “determined to undertake a long journey to the Land of the Cedars”
 - Many references to lapis



Personal adornment,
Royal Tombs of Ur

Early Dynastic Texts

- 2900-2350 BC
- Organisation of early Mesopotamian trade:
 - Ordinary merchants: *damgar*
 - Foreign trader: *gaesh* or *garash*
 - 'the foreign trader brought lapis lazuli & silver from the mountains...'
- By 2nd millennium there is a non-specific term for merchants: *tamkarum*



Early Dynastic trade text

Akkadian Texts

- Inscription of Sargon of Akkad:
 - He (the god Dagan) gave to him (Sargon) the Upper Land: Mari, Irmuti, & Ebla as far as the Cedar Forest (Mt Amanus) & the Silver Mountains (Taurus Mountains)
- Divine legitimisation for conquests not
- Key impetus = economic



Sargon of Akkad

Royal Tombs of Ur

- Mesopotamia: poor in natural resources
- Rulers sourced luxury materials sourced from distance places (Arabia, Indus Valley, Afghanistan, Taurus mountains, Egypt)
- Crafted into high status prestige goods
- Significant cultural influence on surrounding regions & creation of index of value



Ostrich cup



Lapis cup from grave of Pu-Abi

Royal Tombs of Ur



Standard of Ur



Lyre

Mari

- Strategic location on Euphrates:
 - Interface between southern Mesopotamia, Anatolia & Mediterranean (Ebla)
- Culturally belongs to Mesopotamian sphere
 - Mentioned in Sumerian King List
 - Strong trading links



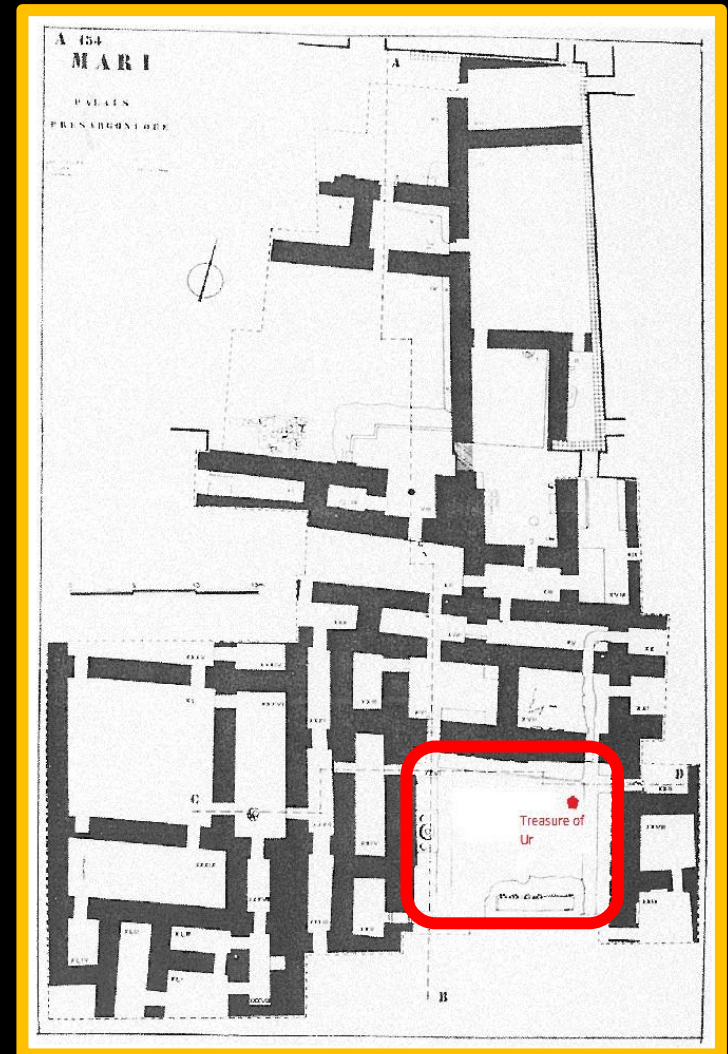
Mari "Standard"



Statue of King
Eabl-il

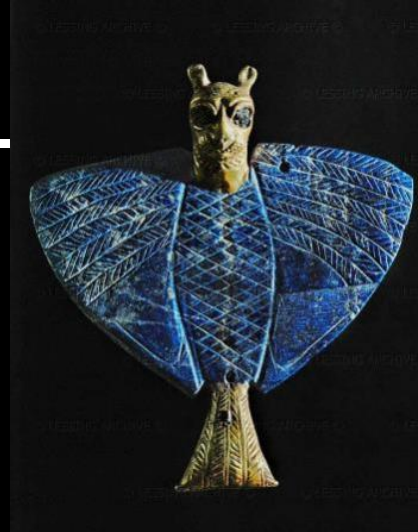
Mari: “Treasure of Ur”

- Structured deposit: jar containing 100+ precious objects of various materials (carnelian, lapis, shell, gold, ivory)
 - Personal adornment
 - Cylinder seals
 - Bead with votive inscription naming Mes-ane-pada
 - Figures (bronze & ivory)
- Cultural & economic links with ancient Ur



"Treasure of Ur"

- How to interpret deposit?
 - Gift exchange: why cached?
 - Inalienability: referencing legendary ruler of Ur Dynasty I
 - Some items in circulation over long period(s)



Jewellery from "Treasure of Ur"



Mes-ane-pada bead

Ebla Archives

- Metals trade: large quantities of gold & silver in circulation
 - “1740 *minas* of gold present” (estimated at 870 kg)
 - Records an annual outlay of 3796 *minas* of silver (c.2000 kg)
- Trading with Carchemish, Byblos, Mari, Harran



Archives in situ

Ebla Production

- Crafted objects made from stone & precious materials
 - Gold leaf applied to statues
 - Inlays of lapis lazuli, steatite, limestone & carved shell
- Quantities of raw materials stored in Administrative Quarter & adjacent workshop unit in P₄
 - 22kg + of unworked lapis lazuli



Kusarikkum of steatite,
gold leaf & wood



Unworked lapis lazuli

Old Kingdom Egypt

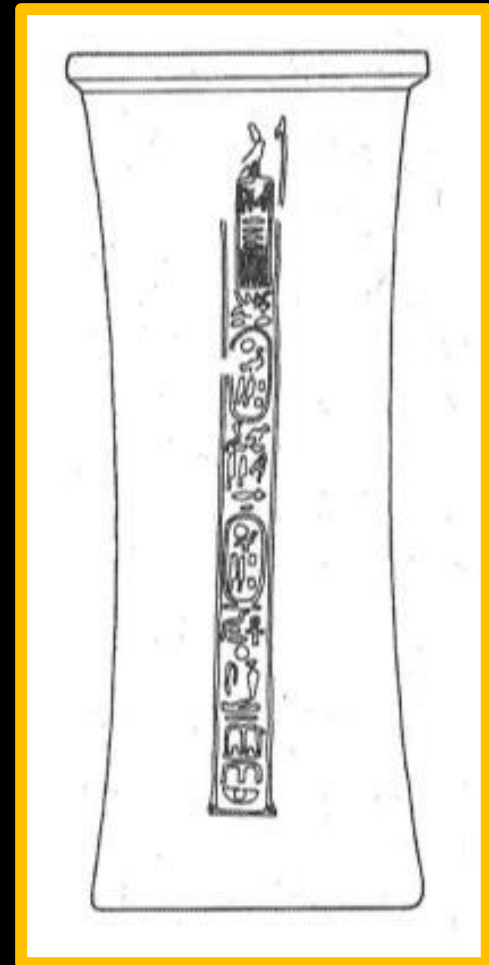
- Primarily in contact with Byblos & bypassed southern Levant
- Byblos: source of cedar
- Dynasty 5 relief illustrating return of *kbn* boats from Byblos:
 - Sea-faring vessels used for the transport of timber
- Autobiography of Iny:
 - Sent to Byblos for lapis, silver, tin



Tomb relief of Iny
Dynasty 6 Saqqara

Egyptian Objects from Byblos

- Primarily stone vases, some with royal name inscriptions:
- Ultimate status marker, which could only be owned through a gift of the king
 - Concentration dating to Dynasty 6, especially Pepi I & II
- Concentration at the Baalat-Gebal temple:
 - Offerings by Egyptians?
 - Gift exchange between royal rulers?



Stone vase with royal inscription

Old Kingdom Egypt & Ebla

- Small number of royal stone vases from Palace G:
 - Chephren & Pepi I
 - Some in circulation over long period
- Byblos = intermediary between Egypt & Ebla?
 - Lapis & silver to Egypt
 - Stone vases & linen textiles to Ebla
- Byblos to be identified with DULu in Eblaite texts



Fragment of Pepi I stone vase

Egyptian Royal Named Objects

- What was the significance of the addition of an Egyptian royal name to an object?
 - Enhances power of the object, by association with a powerful ruler – inalienability
 - Political statement: public display of Egyptian power & authority in gift exchange
- Royal name stone vases restricted to elite contexts & are rare
 - Usually on monumental jars – considerable investment or resource
 - Reserved for highest grade of export

Periphery: Alaca Höyük

- Group of 13 intact “royal” tombs
 - Grave goods: rich range of symbolic items & elite prestige objects:
 - First evidence for major polity in central Anatolia:
- “a king who commander the wealth & power to obtain precious imported materials, to control quality craftsmen who could transform these into sumptuous elite & religiously charged artifacts” (Muscarella 2003: 278)



Gold jug, Tomb B

Periphery: Anatolia & NE Aegean

- EB II Troy & Poliochni:
 - Proto-urban metalworking centres
- Both with significant & comparable metalworking hoards:
 - Accumulation of wealth
 - Major trading centres
- Links to jewellery from Ur?
- Core of northern Aegean cultural world & periphery in wider Near Eastern terms



Troy hoard A



Poliochni earring

Periphery: Prepalatial Crete

- Sporadic exchanges & strict control of imports
- Knossos: privileged access to imports
 - Raw materials: ivory, gold, semi-precious stones
 - Occasional high-status finished objects: Egyptian stone vases, Syrian & Mesopotamian cylinder seals



Knossos: Old Kingdom stone vase



Cylinder seal,
Archanes

Summary

- Wide-ranging & overlapping trade networks developed in Near East in 3rd millennium:
- Two main cores providing main impetus for traded goods: Egypt & southern Mesopotamia
- Development of shared cultural milieu throughout the region & shared index of value
- Specialist crafting important cornerstone of urbanised communities
- Associated with emergence of elites in the periphery: spread of urbanised cultures & consumption of the exotic