History Essay

What exactly makes a great civilization? The civilization will need to satisfy several factors. However, a clear and precise definition of the word “great” has to be stated. First of all, the civilization has to be located in a proper in a good geographical location with abundance of land, water, food, etc. This would allow the people of the certain civilization to have space to plant crops as well as have a free flow of water. Besides this, the civilization has to have a good and efficient government. The government will be able to run the country and make good decision to help the civilization prosper. A civilization would also need to have a religion and the people have to be strongly religious. This will let the civilization seem more complete. Of course the civilization would also need a form of writing so that people can communicate with one another and also have a common language. Of course, it would also need to have a social structure to help to differentiate the commoners from the higher class people and have a form of science or art. Basically, if a civilization fulfills all of these factors, it could be considered as a great civilization.

Mesopotamia was a very prosperous and great civilization and there were several reasons why the civilization was so successful. One of the main reasons was because the people of Mesopotamia were very religious. They believed that their world was being controlled by the Gods, Goddesses, demons as well as monsters. There was thought to be many gods ruling everything in the worlds ranging from trees to pottery. People believed that every city in Mesopotamia was ruled by a different God or Goddesses and their families. The Gods were thought to live in large temples and were looked after by the Priests with special rituals. There were also smaller temples where the civilians could make offerings. Finally, Demons were created by the gods with human bodies and animal heads while monsters were a mixture of animals and birds. They could be evil or good. Being able to have a common religion allowed the civilisation to come together and have a common bond with one another while respecting the Gods as well. Without complex beliefs, Mesopotamia would definitely not be as successful as it was.

Besides complex beliefs, a good writing system also played a big part to help Mesopotamia prosper. The people of Mesopotamia were thought to have invented the earliest form of writing, which appeared ca.3500B.C. .Clay tablets were unearthed by archaeologists at the site of Tell Asmar in Iraq. The writing on the tablets displayed simple pictures, or pictograms, which most likely represented an object or an idea. Due to the fact that lines and curves were difficult to draw on clay, Mesopotamians reduced pictograms into wedge-shaped signs before pressing it into clay with a reed stylus. This was called cuneiform. This great technological advance enabled the Mesopotamians to carry news and ideas to be carried to far places without a need to rely on a messenger. Besides these examples, cuneiform script was used for many other purposes like identifying property or signing contract. Having a common language allowed the people of Mesopotamia to communicate with each other fluently and strengthen their bonds with one another. Therefore, the writing system also played a role in the Mesopotamian civilisation.

Lastly, the government also played a huge role in helping the Mesopotamian city. The government of Mesopotamia was very similar to democracy. A group of people were elected in the assembly hall to run as Government by the civilians in Mesopotamia. They later called themselves Lugals and also considered themselves similar to god. They provided military support, established laws as wells as leadership. They also helped to oversee building projects. Soon, the civilisation was being divided into provinces and was ruled by governors. A government would help to maintain order in the country and manage the civilisation. Without the government, the whole civilisation would definitely be in chaos and the civilisation would not be able to run well. Therefore, Government was also need to make such a good civilisation.

First paragraph:

<http://www.coursework.info/AS_and_A_Level/History/Other_Historical_Periods/What_makes_a_great_civilisation_L911705.html>

Second paragraph:

<http://www.mesopotamia.co.uk/gods/home_set.html>

Third paragraph:

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/OI/MUS/ED/TRC/MESO/writing.html>

Fourth paragraph:

<http://ancientmesopotamia.wetpaint.com/page/Government+and+Law>