The Code of Hammurabi:

Annotated Bibliography

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Group Website
Roth, Martha. "The Codex Hammurabi, Prologue, I.1-49, Read by Albert Naccache."


This audio clip is the recording of Albert Naccache reciting part of the prologue from the Code of Hammurabi. A chart is also provided by the website. This recording gives the listener an idea of how the Babylonian language sounded.

Translation Sources:


This website has a translation of the oldest law code in the world, the Code of Ur-Nammu. It provides an interpretation of the first thirty two laws in this set of laws.


This website contains King’s original translation of the Code of Hammurabi. In addition to the well-known 282 laws on the stele, this website also provides an interpretation of the prologue and epilogue.


❖ This eBook also contains King’s original translation of the Code of Hammurabi. However, unlike the previous website, it helped us gain insight on the layout of the laws, along with the discrimination present in the set of laws.


❖ This website shows Francis Robert Harper’s original translation of the Code of Hammurabi. It differs from King’s translation in a few slight ways, most notably by not mentioning Hammurabi as a white man.


❖ This website contains an English translation of the Code of Ur-Nammu, which predates the Code of Hammurabi by nearly three centuries. It is considered one of the world’s earliest surviving law codes.


❖ This book contains an English translation of the Code of Lipit-Ishtar, another set of laws that was made before the Code of Hammurabi. It’s laws may have influenced
those found in the Code of Hammurabi, but today, only parts of it have been found.
The rest of it has been claimed by history.

Speech Sources

Iraq, Ministry of Culture and Information, State Organization of Antiquities and Heritage,

This speech, made by an Iraqi diplomat, deals with the excavation of the Stele of
Hammurabi. It also mentions the importance of the Code of Hammurabi as a
precedent to other legal systems in today’s world.

Secondary Sources:

Website Sources


This website compares both King’s and Harper’s translations, along with
mentioning how racism is present in King’s analysis of the famous law code.

Claire, Iselin. "Law Code of Hammurabi, King of Babylon." Louvre.fr. The Louvre Museum,
king-babylon>.

This website contains an article about the Code of Hammurabi explaining its
contents and its significance.

This website provides much information regarding the Code of Hammurabi, along with pictures. Close-up and distant pictures, a diagram showing the height of the slab, and a tutorial complete with in-depth interpretations of the various aspects of the Stele of Hammurabi accompany this site.

Eastwold, Watson. "Write Your Name in Cuneiform – Just like a Mesapotamian!"


This website provides information about the writing styles of various Mesopotamian empires. Pictures on the website explain how cuneiform evolved over time, and an interactive allows one to see how to write his or her name in Babylonian cuneiform.


This website gives the physical description of the Stele of Hammurabi, such as its height (2.3 meters) and composition (either basalt or diorite). Furthermore, this website describes the history of the Stele of Hammurabi, including its discovery.


This website provides general information on cuneiform, along with the empires that used utilized it.


<http://www.thenagain.info/WebChron/MiddleEast/Hammurabi.html>.
This website summarizes important events that occurred during Hammurabi’s reign, such as his military campaigns, building of public works, and defensive fortifications.


This video consists of a lesson plan for the Code of Hammurabi. While it did not provide much information for us to use in the website, it did alert us to what the general population knows and does not know about the King Hammurabi, his code, and the Babylonian Empire.


This essay analyzes the historical significance of the Code of Hammurabi, along with its pertinence to and influence on modern law.


This website provides much detail about the Stele of Hammurabi, along with its actual set of laws. The videos found in a separate tab allow for the context of Hammurabi’s rule to be understood.

This website, which contains the written transcript of a lecture, illustrates life in Ancient Mesopotamia, including the Babylonian Empire under King Hammurabi.


This excerpt from an online book gives a wealth of knowledge about Hammurabi, his empire, and his citizens, along with the Code of Hammurabi. It describes the disagreement between the two spellings of Hammurabi’s name and much, much more.

Thompson, James C. "Women in Babylonia Under the Hammurabi Law Code."


This website provides much information on the role of women in ancient Babylonian society. It mentions their rights along with relative social status. Additionally, this website illustrated the amount of rights that people possessed based on their social status. Finally, it discusses the influence of the Code of Hammurabi’s principles on modern law.


This website explains that while the Code of Hammurabi is old, others do predate it, including the Code of Ur-Nammu.

- This website discusses why Hammurabi chose to write his law code, along with details pertaining to the Code of Hammurabi. It also explains in detail the different sections of the Code of Hammurabi, including laws on familial issues, commerce, and punishments. The website introduces the concept of lex talonis, or the law of retribution, along with social class discrimination.

**Video Sources:**


- This video gives a brief background of Mesopotamia and then delves into the Code of the Hammurabi, along with lex talonis and social class discrimination.


- This video examines the early codes of law, mainly from the Mesopotamia and surrounding regions. It also compares and contrasts these codes.


- This video examines the life of Hammurabi, along with the Babylonian Empire. It mainly focuses on his conquests of Mesopotamia.
This video analyzes the context in which the Babylonian Empire existed. It also describes the concept of *lex talonis*, and more generally, the Code of Hammurabi.

This video illustrates the achievements of the Babylonian Empire and its most famous ruler, King Hammurabi.

This video illustrates the background of the Babylonian Empire both before, during, and after Hammurabi’s reign. It also describes the geography and history of the kingdom.

This video provides a wealth of information about the Code of Hammurabi. It initially states the significance of law and introduces how Hammurabi was a pioneer in the modern field of justice. The video then goes on to explain the punishments found in the law, social class discrimination, and then general facts about the contents of the Stele of Hammurabi.
This video details the reign and conquests of King Hammurabi. Portions of it are used throughout our website to supplement the textual information present.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_w5NGOHBgtw>.

This video analyzes the Stele of Hammurabi as found in the Louvre Museum. It describes the discovery of the Stele of Hammurabi and the importance of the set of laws, among other things.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sohXPx_ZZ6Y&list=PL8I6CO_s8bYugBAbg5f1v-YyGanoTuTBd>.

This video illustrates the different punishments present in the Code of Hammurabi, such as the penalty for constructing a faulty house.


This video analyzes the history of writing, including the beginnings of cuneiform and its early uses in the ancient world.


This video analyzes the various parts of the Code of Hammurabi, along with its historical significance. In other words, it shows why the Code of Hammurabi is a turning point in history.
This video illustrates the various examples of social stratification present in the Code of Hammurabi.


This video details the origins of cuneiform, along with its many uses. It also provides an example of different sounds from the Babylonian Empire adapted to cuneiform.

Book Sources:


This book provides information on the various empires present throughout Mesopotamia’s history. Hammurabi’s reign and unification of the region, along with several early law codes, are discussed in depth.


This book, which incidentally happens to be our world history textbook, provides an early history of Mesopotamia, including the rise and fall of several major empires. In the beginning of the book especially, the dominance of the Old Babylonian Empire and Neo-Babylonian Empire, along with the rule of Hammurabi and the creation of his law code, is asserted. The influence of other major civilizations is also discussed in detail.

- This book illustrates the daily lives of ancient Mesopotamian peoples, including Hammurabi’s Babylonians. With this story, our group was able to look inside the daily lives of the citizens of this great empire.


- This book chronicles the history of Mesopotamia from the Sumerians to the Persians. More importantly, the book describes virtually everything regarding the Old Babylonian period, including the location of Babylon, a summary of Hammurabi’s life, his conquests and death, and the ultimate fate of the city.


- This book contains numerous maps, pictures, and diagrams regarding Babylonian life. At the end is a timeline which summarizes the major events that happened during the empire’s existence. The Code of Hammurabi, along with Hammurabi’s reign and the fall of the empire are discussed in great detail in this book.


- This comprehensive historical record contains numerous details on the life of King Hammurabi. It discusses his conquests, the legacy of his legal code, and other aspects of his life and accomplishments. This nonfiction book is especially useful as it is the first comprehensive English biography of King Hammurabi.

This book incorporates information from a wide variety of sources, such as the comments of notable historians, in order to effectively communicate the history of the empires of Mesopotamia. In regards to Babylon, the life of Hammurabi and the development of the empire are explained. Furthermore, in the back of the book, additional sources of information are listed, and we used some of these in order to more effectively create our website.


This volume is packed with information about life in the Babylonian Empire. Some of the topics that this book discusses include the development of the empire, technological advancements, and its legacy.


This book focuses on the major aspects of the various empires in Mesopotamia, including the lives of the commoners and the rise of each kingdom. Furthermore, a brief summary of each of the major empires present in Mesopotamia is provided in this book.

**Journal Sources**


This journal entry gives information on the use of slaves in Babylon. It also show how people can become slaves if they violate the Stele of Hammurabi as well as the discrimination imposed against slaves compared to wealthy noblemen.

- This journal entry provides information on the historical significance of the Code of Hammurabi along with how society burgeoned with its implementation.


- This journal entry compares earlier Sumerian law codes with the Code of Hammurabi, emphasizing how much more in-depth and influential the latter is.


- This journal entry reveals the personality of King Hammurabi, as well as details about his reign. Additional comments on the legal code provide information on its content and justness.


- This journal entry simplifies some of the laws in the original code of Hammurabi. It also provides interpretations of these rules and gives the citizens' input on the nature of the laws.
<http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/yjlh/vol24/iss1/3>.

This online journal mainly focuses on the Law Stele of Hammurabi, otherwise known as the Code of Hammurabi. It states its current whereabouts, along with its discovery and the legacy of the 282 laws listed.

Newspaper Sources

This newspaper explains some of Hammurabi’s laws and the difference between his legal code and those that predate it.

Image Sources

This image provides a picture of the book written by L. W. King translating the various laws in the Code of Hammurabi.


This picture gives yet another view of the entire Stele of Hammurabi. We used it as a base to create an interactive about the physical qualities of the Stele of Hammurabi.


This is another picture of the Tower of Babel and how Babylon flourished under Hammurabi’s rule.


This picture illustrates the extent of the Babylonian Empire. We used it to create an interactive describing a few qualities of the kingdom.


This photograph of a balance and gavel are symbolic of the legal impacts of the Code of Hammurabi. It was the basis for an interactive that we created to discuss the importance of the Code of Hammurabi on modern law.


This painting depicts Hammurabi’s arrival into court. As his ministers and citizens are kneeling down to him, it shows their immense respect for him.


This image of the Stele of Hammurabi is the foundation for an interactive that we created describing the different types of laws in the Code of Hammurabi.

❖ This image of a clay tablet is preserved at the Louvre Museum and contains a translation of the Code of Hammurabi.


❖ This image provides an interesting side-view of the Stele of Hammurabi. We used it to create an interactive about the different translations of the Code of Hammurabi by Francis Harper and L. W. King.


❖ This picture is a close-up of the cuneiform inscribed upon the Stele of Hammurabi. It is read from top to bottom.


❖ This picture depicts the bas relief on the Stele of Hammurabi. We can see Shamash, the Sun God, giving Hammurabi his law code.


❖ This picture shows the cuneiform that is inscribed on the Stele of Hammurabi at the Louvre Museum in Paris.
"Cuneiform tablet with a bilingual hymn [Seleucid]" (86.11.286a) In *Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000–.

http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/86.11.286a. (October 2006)

❖ This image provides a picture of what a portion of the Code of Lipit-Ishtar might have looked.


❖ This painting depicts a scene in which Hammurabi returns from one of his many successful military campaigns.

*Hammurabi and his Code*. Digital image.


❖ This picture represents the civilians of Babylon reading the Stele of Hammurabi and becoming aware that this law code will promote justice throughout the land.


<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/images/visitors_service/hammurabi02_large.jpg>.

❖ This image of the Stele of Hammurabi provides a view of the stone with two information placards next to it.


<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e8/Prologue_Hammurabi_Code_Louvre_AO10237.jpg>.
This picture shows the remains of an ancient tablet that has the Code of Hammurabi inscribed on it.


This map depicts the extent of the Babylonian Empire, along with its cunning neighbors. We used it as a basis for an interactive detailing Hammurabi’s conquests.


This image provides a close-up of the Code of Hammurabi, revealing the cuneiform language chiseled onto the basalt stele.


This map shows the modern-day boundaries of Iraq and the ancient boundaries of Mesopotamia.


This image shows a bust of Hammurabi, allowing the viewer to picture a physical description of the great king.

- This image provides a glimpse of the Stele of Hammurabi, along with a close-up of the cuneiform writing.


- This image provides an idea of what a sculpture or bas-relief from the time of King Ur-Nammu may have looked. We used it as the basis for an interactive about the background of the Code of Ur-Nammu.


- This map shows the difference in land area of the Babylonian Empire before and after Hammurabi’s reign.


- This picture provides a view of the bas-relief atop the Stele of Hammurabi in close detail.


- This photograph of a Stele of Ur-Nammu depicts a scene in which Ur-Nammu is making an offering to Namar, the Moon God.
The Stele of Hammurabi. Digital image.


❖ This bas relief depicts Hammurabi with his hands over his mouth, indicating that he is a mere servant of God transferring His laws to the people of Babylon.

The Stele of Hammurabi at The Louvre. Digital image.

<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_N6IFoS5MzpI/TPkBWrM9u5I/AAAAAAAAAMg/kcQ9ACDrqMU/s1600/SteleOfHammurabi.jpg>.

❖ This picture shows the Stele of Hammurabi at the Louvre Museum in France.


❖ This picture depicts the Babylonia Tower of Babel that mysteriously vanished. Archaeologists have not been able to pinpoint its exact location.

Miscellaneous Sources


❖ This online dictionary was used to obtain the definitions for the vocabulary words in the key terms section of our website.


❖ This program was utilized to convert multimedia clips online to MP4 files.
This online dictionary was used to obtain the definitions for the vocabulary words in the key terms section of our website.


This piece of computer software cut and trimmed audio clips to suit our purposes.


This piece of computer software aided us in cutting videos to comply with the NHD rules.


This piece of computer software allowed us to create the collage found in the home page of our website. We also created banners and cropped photos with it.


This website allowed us to list, categorize, and analyze numerous laws in the Code of Hammurabi. It also provides a means of looking at these laws in many different ways, whether it be with the traditional flashcards to various games.


This website let us create our own interactives using a picture found on the internet as a base. Upon starting our website, we discovered that not many diagrams and
charts which fulfilled our purpose could be found. As a result, we turned to this website to create the perfect interactive for the appropriate webpage.


- This software allowed us to crop videos we found to below forty-five seconds to comply with the rules. Using videos from YouTube and other various sources, we were able to make MP4 files which were later added to our website.