

# Discussion Group

- ~~water~~ • The role of water/river/coasts of the early civilizations
  - trade, agriculture, communication
- basis of civilizations
  - Economic surplus, irrigation systems, around the equator, mild climates

~~in the~~

"Geographical determinism"

geography determines how civilization evolves

Problems: over ~~populated~~ populated  
 Inequalities caused by hierarchy and possible overpopulation  
 warfare

Diamond — Geographical determinist?  
 (Pruman) — yes, geography & agriculture were  
 critical to development  
 Europe supported domesticated animals,  
 Africa didn't.

Small pox — ~~Europe supported enough people that brought~~

We seem to agree that geographical determinism

- technology was created and refined because the environment ~~not~~ required it.
- Natural resources, ones first benefit the advancement of technologies and civilization

• Mesopotamia — Gilgamesh

↳ kings, demi-gods, kings were viewed as ideal  
 who came up with kings being part god?

who believed that the kings were gods? did everyone believe it?

Surplus can lead to materialism - Brenan  
inequalities

Slavery - race is an expansion issue, as the empire grows, the  
race changes. (Mesopotamia had middle eastern slaves, etc.)

Hammurabi - economy & society

↳ society has an eye for an eye (literally)

↳ hierarchy commoners vs. elites

↳ capital punishment

Economy

↳ a banking system

↳ accounting system (Dari)

↳ currency

↳ ~~reaso~~ socioeconomic hierarchy