

WEEK 2: ORIGINS OF TRADE TO INVENTION OF THE ALPHABET

READING LIST - BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Dixon, et al., 1968, "Obsidian and the Origins of Trade," Scientific American, March, 38-46.

Denise Schmandt-Besserat, 1984, "The Emergence of Recording," American Anthropologist, 871-878.

Karl Polyani, 1957, Trade and Market in the Early Empires, Ch. II, III, V, XVIII; also 1975, "Traders and Trade."

READING LIST - SOURCE MATERIALS

EARLY EMPIRES (Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, India)

Pharaoh Snefru, c. 30th Century BCE, "Early record of International Trade."

Pharaoh Cheops, c. 29th Century BCE, "Early advertisement."

King Hammurabi, c. 20th C. BCE, The Legal Code (selected laws on trade)

Pharaoh Akhenaton, 14th C. BCE, Tel El Amarna Tablets (selected letters on international trade)

Atharva-Veda, c. 11th C. BCE, "A Merchants' Prayer."

The Bible, Old Testament, c. 10th-2nd C. BCE, Genesis 37:25-28, 47:15-26; Exodus 18:13-27; 20:4, 8-9, 15; Leviticus 25:35-37; Deuteronomy 23:19-20, 25:13-15; 1 Kings 5:1-11, 10:14-29; 2 Kings 4:1; Nehemiah 13:16-17, 20; Psalm 15:5; Proverbs 3:13-14, 11:26, 16:11, 20:10, 14, 31:13-15, 24; Ezekiel 27:3-36.

Lao Tzu, 7th C., BCE, The Way of Life, Verses 8, 56.

Confucius, 6th C. BCE, Analects, Bk IV 5, Bk VII 12, Bk XIV 10.

Murashu of Nipur, 5th C. BCE, "Business Documents"

Students of Confucius:

Chen Hsiang 4th C. BCE, "A Conversation about Business."

Chou, 2nd C. BCE, "The Organization of the State."

Ssu-Ma Chien, 2nd C. BCE, selections: "Division of Labor"
and "Law of Supply and Demand"

Anonymous, c. 5th C. ad. "The Value of the Merchant."

Kautilya, c. 150 BCE, Arthashastra. "Economic administration,"¹¹ 74-78; "Trade," 86-89.

Tiruvalluvar, Kural, c. 150 BCE, "Merchants," verse 120; "Wealth," verses 332, 660, 751-760;
"Capital," vs. 449; "Interest," verse 463.