

Questions

Central Historical Question:

What can we learn about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code?

Document A: Religion

1. According to this document, where did Hammurabi get his power as king?
2. Monotheistic or Polytheistic?
 - a. According to this document, was Babylonia a monotheistic society (belief in one god) or a polytheistic society (belief in many gods)?
 - b. How do you know this from Hammurabi's Code?
3. According to this document, what is the goal of Hammurabi's Code?

Document B: Economy

1. Working the fields: Summarize laws 42-43 in your own words.
2. The dams: Summarize laws 53-54 in your own words.
3. Type of Economy
 - a. According to this document, do you think most people in Babylonia made money in cities or in the country?
 - b. How do you know this from Hammurabi's Code?

Document C: Society

1. Laws 196-199 discuss putting out the eye of “another man,” a “free man” and a “slave.”
 - a. According to this document, whose eye was worth the most?
 - b. According to this document, whose eye was worth the least?
 - c. How do you know?
2. Equality
 - a. According to this document, was everyone equal in Babylonia?
 - b. How do you know this from Hammurabi’s Code?
 - i. Evidence 1:
 - ii. Evidence 2:
3. Women
 - a. According to law 138, what happens to a dowry if a man leaves his wife?
 - b. What does this suggest about the position of women in Babylonian society?

Summary

What are some of the limitations of Hammurabi's Code as evidence of life in Babylonia?

What other sources might help us to better understand life in Babylonia?

Use evidence from the historical documents you read to answer the central historical question by completing the sentences below:

What can we learn about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code?

Historians can learn a lot about Babylonia from Hammurabi's Code. According to the Code, Babylonian religion was _____

According to the Code, the Babylonian economy was based on _____

According to the Code, Babylonian society was structured around _____
