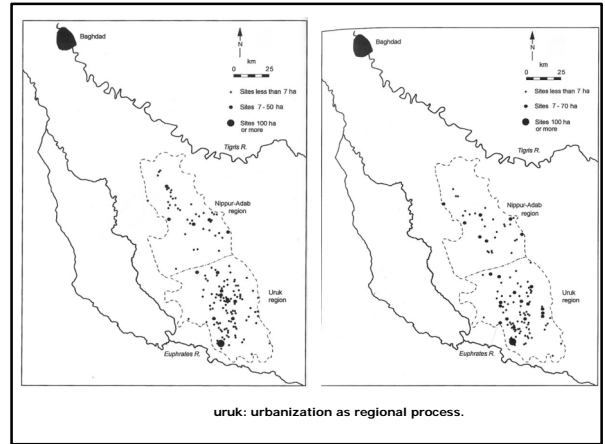
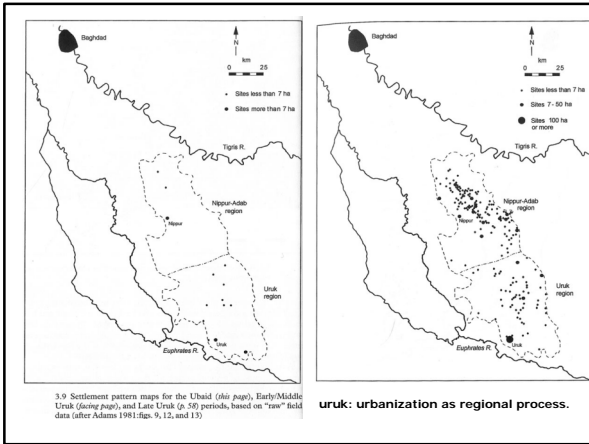


Standard Gilgames epic, Tablets I and XI

He had the wall of Uruk built, the sheepfold [Uruk-the-Sheepfold]
 Of holiest Ennna, the pure treasury [Sacred storehouse].
 See if its wall is not (as straight) as the (craftsman's) string [like a strand of wool],
 Inspect its [...]wall (battlements?), the likes of which none can equal,
 Touch the threshold stone [Take the stairway]-it dates from ancient times.
 Approach the Ennna Temple, the dwelling of Istar,
 such as no later king or man will ever equal.
 Go up on the wall [of Uruk] and walk around,
 Examine its foundation inspect its brickwork thoroughly
 Is not its masonry of baked brick,
 did not the Seven Sages themselves lay out its plans?
 One square mile city, one square mile palm groves,
 one square mile is brick-pits, [and] the [open ground?] of Istar's temple
 Three square miles and the [open ground?] of Uruk it encloses.

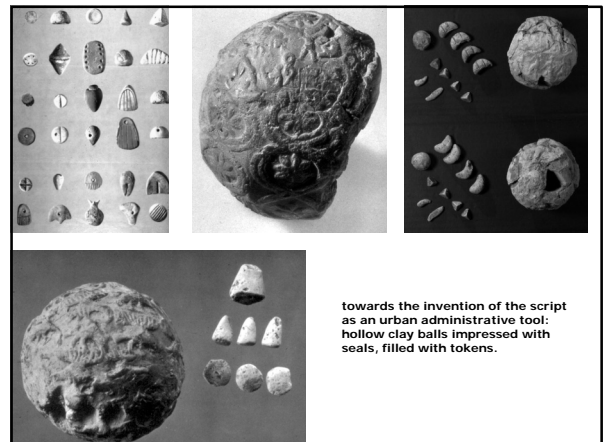
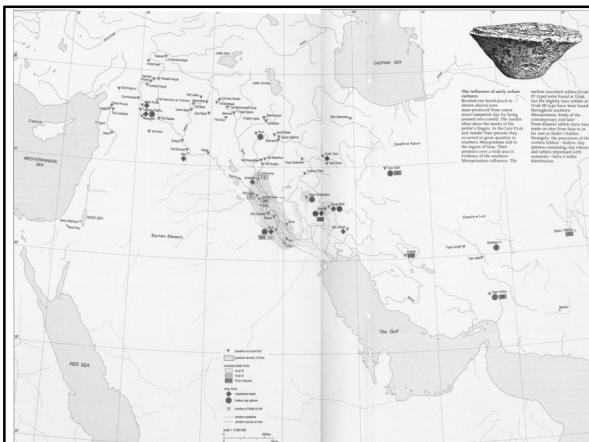


archaeological time

5000-4000 BC	Halaf period in the Northern Mesopotamia Ubaid period in the South Eridu temple sequence (<i>E-abzu</i>)	
4000-3500 3500-3100	Early Uruk period Late Uruk period Uruk Level IV (<i>Eanna</i> Precinct)	Protoliterate Period
3100-2900	Jemdet Nasr period Uruk Level III (<i>Eanna</i> Precinct)	
2950-2750 2750-2600 2600-2350	Early Dynastic I Early Dynastic II Early Dynastic III	Pre-Sargonic Period

Uruk Period in Southern Mesopotamia and beyond (4000-3100 BC)

- Massive changes in the archaeological landscape: Hierarchization of settlements, at least a settlement systems of cities, mid-sized towns and villages and hamlets.
- At Nippur and Uruk early cities as ceremonial centers. The emergence of the temple as an economic institution.
- New economic, social, political organization, approaching the idea of a "state"?
- New bureaucratic tools: cylinder seals, hollow clay balls, invention of cuneiform writing.
- Monumental architecture at Uruk, innovative building technologies. The idea of the city wall at the end of the Uruk Period.
- Development of a pictorial repertoire of representation, visual narration.
- Division of labour, craft specialization, evidence long distance trade.
- Interregional koine of material culture. The spread of signature aspects of "Uruk" material culture: cylinder seals, Uruk wheel made or mold made, mass produced, undecorated pottery, especially large quantities of beveled rim bowls, particular architectural forms that involve niching. Scholars tried to explain this "Uruk expansion" phenomenon by means of "world systems theory" of Immanuel Wallerstein, or through the idea of "colonization" of marginal landscapes, or as Uruk "enclaves". Are we dealing with a Mesopotamo-centric worldview here?



uruk/warka: first tablets from the storehouses of I nanna.

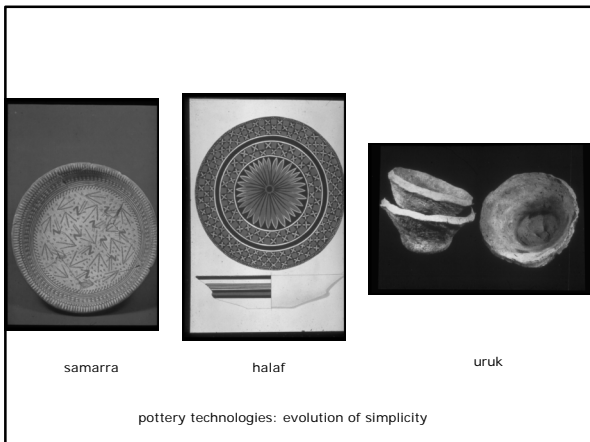
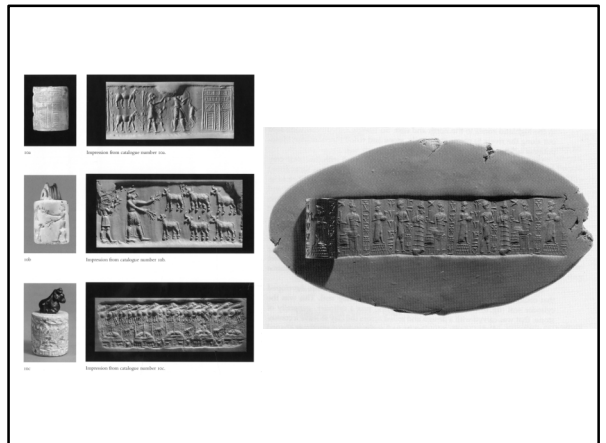


Examples of Uruk IV (above, excavation no. W 7227,a) and Uruk III (below, no. W 14804,a) tablets



Cuneiform writing on clay tablet using a stylus that has a wedge shaped (cuneiform) tip.

Late Uruk ca. 3100	Jemdet Nasr ca. 3000	ED III ca. 2400	Ur III ca. 2000	Old Assyrian ca. 1900	Old Babylonian ca. 1700	Middle Assyrian ca. 1200	Neo-Babylonian ca. 600	meaning of archaic sign
								SAG "head"
								NUNDA "ration"
								GI ₂ "disbursement"
								AB ₂ "cow"
								APIN "plow"
								KI "locality"



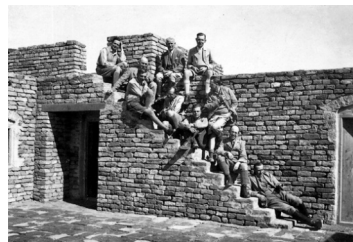
samarra

halaf

uruk

pottery technologies: evolution of simplicity

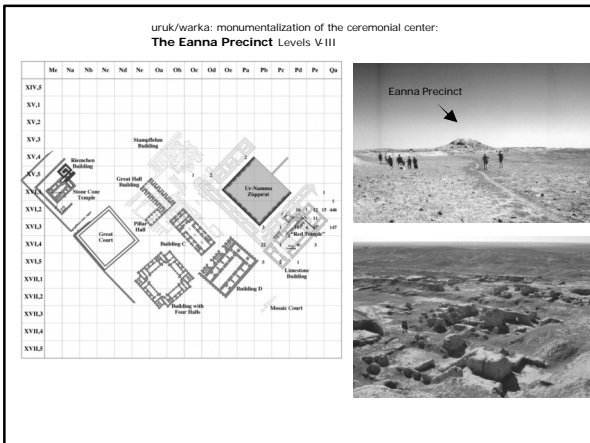
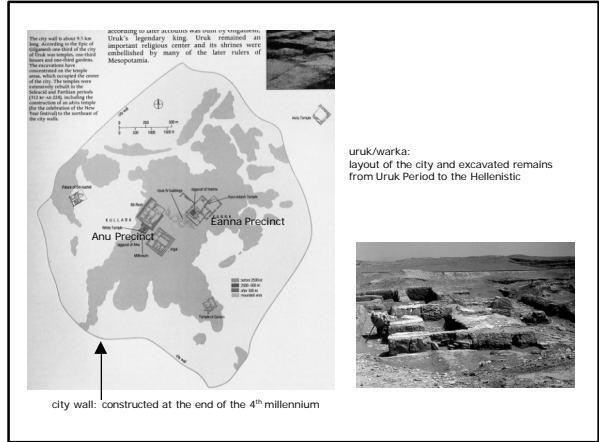
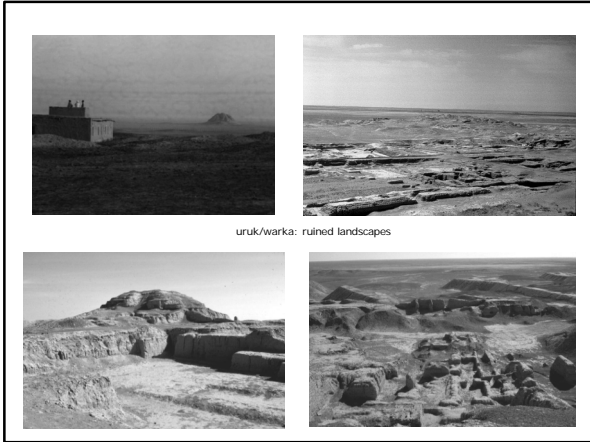
social actors of the past



uruk: its archaeologists AD 1934.

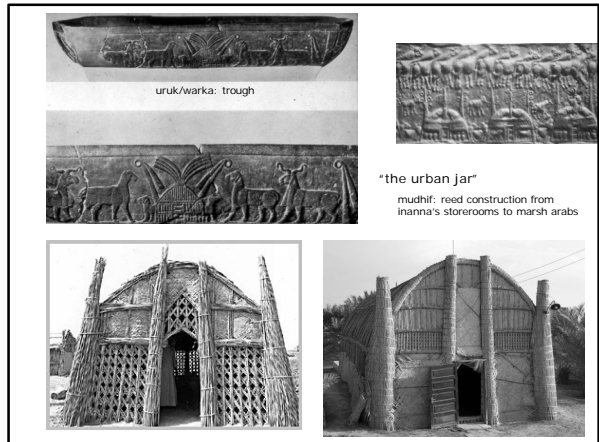
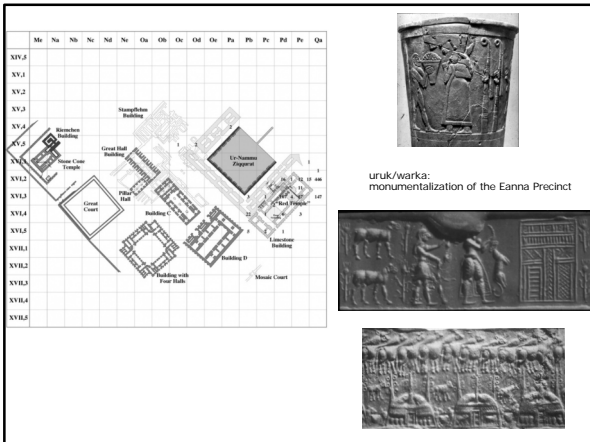


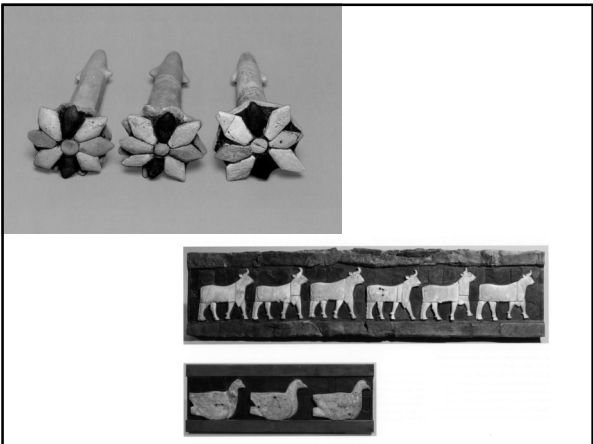
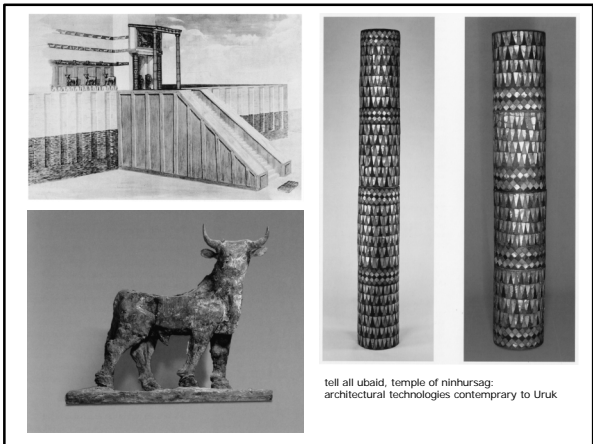
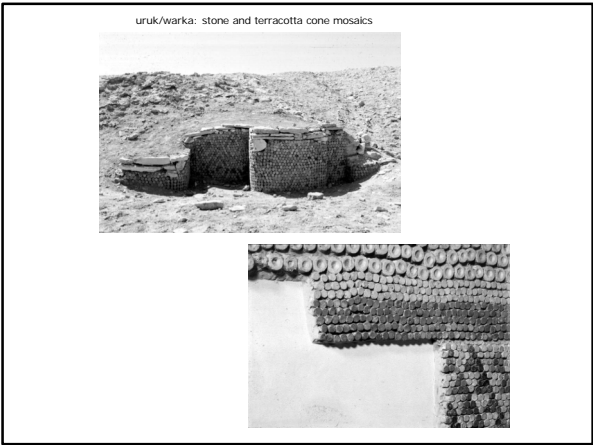
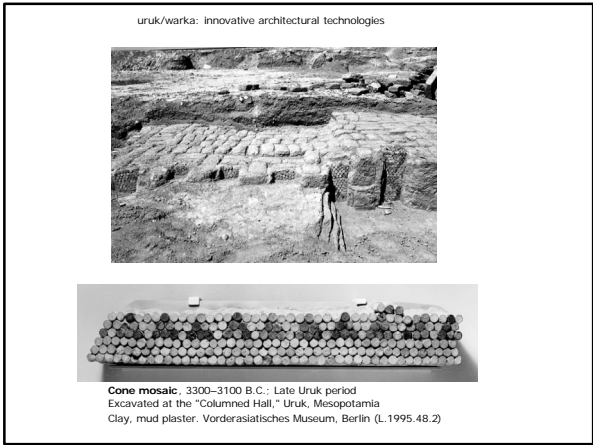
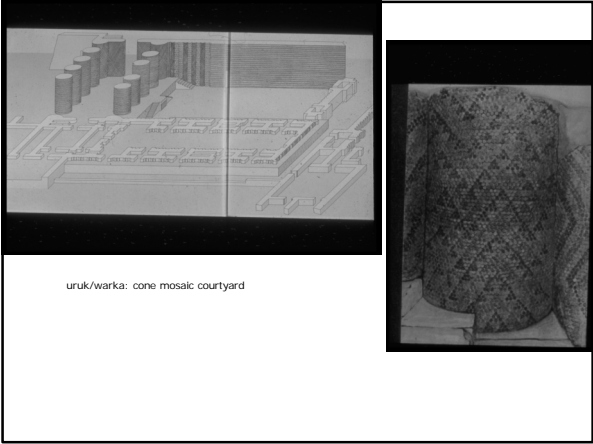
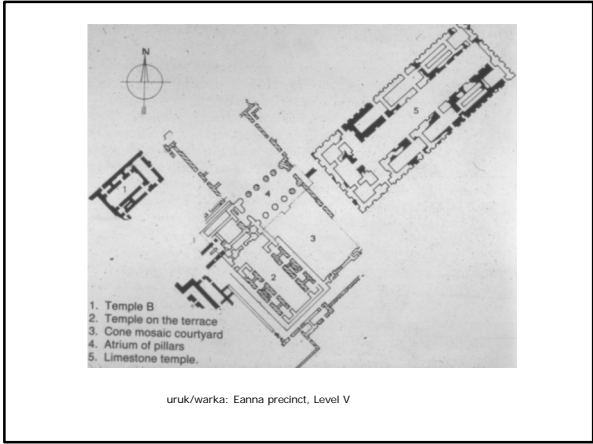
uruk: its "priest king?" 4th millennium BC

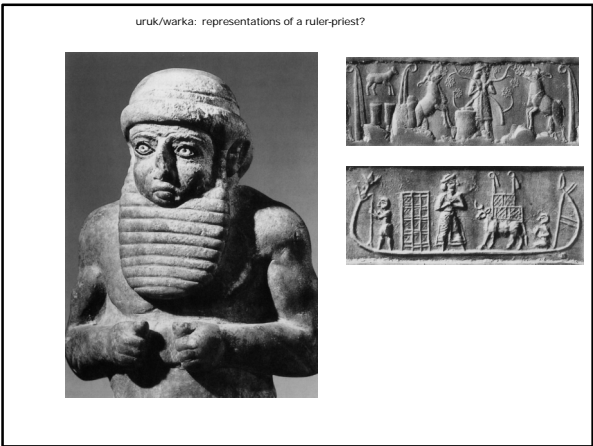
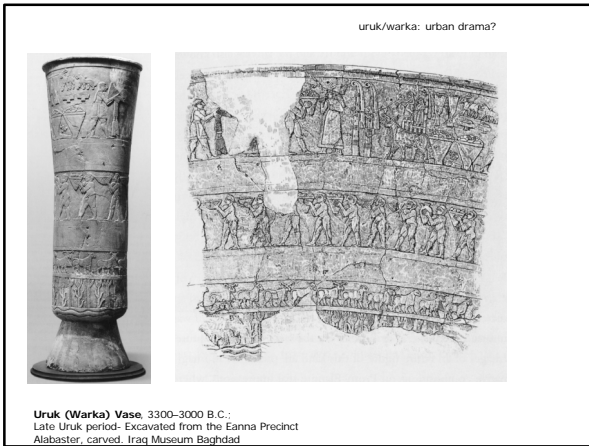
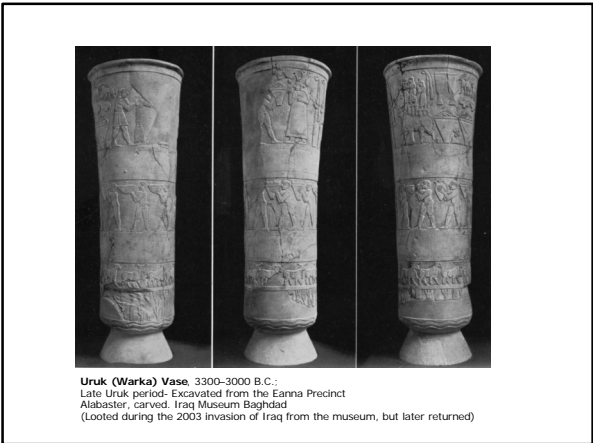
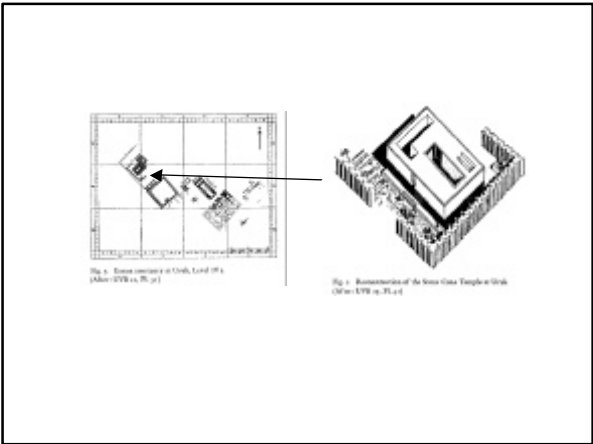
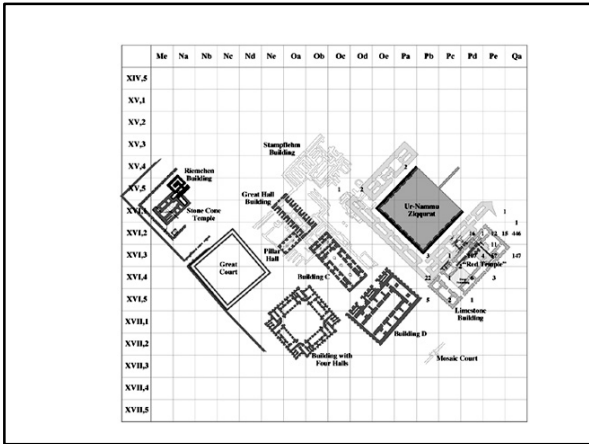


Late Uruk period (3600-3100 BC)
is chronologically divided in the Eanna district as:

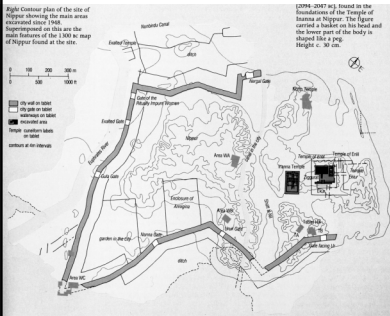
Late Uruk V, ca 3600-3500 BC
Late Uruk IVc
Late Uruk IV b
Late Uruk IVa. ca 3200-3100 BC







Nippur : cities and imagination



Nippur Kassite map superimposed with topography and excavated areas.

Nippur Kassite map of the city on clay tablet.



1 **tùr me nun-e ba-dù-a-bi**
after the cattle-pen had been built for the foremost rituals —

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

2 **líl-e a-gin₇ íb-sìg ki-bi me-na gi₁-gi₄**
how did it become haunted? when will it be restored?

3 **še-eb na-ám-tar-ra ba-mar-ra-ri**
(where) once the brick of fate had been laid—

4 **me-bi a-ba-a in-bir-re a-še-er ba-da-tab**
who scattered its rituals (*me*)? the lamentation is reprised:

5 **ŠID nibru^{ki} èš dur-an-ki-a**
The storeroom of Nippur, shrine Duranki

6 **líl-e a-gin₇ íb-sìg ki-bi me-na gi₁-gi₄**
how did it become haunted? when will it be restored?

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

12 **úru zi šà-sù-ga a-gin, ba-an-[dù]**
how did the true city become empty

13 **giš-hur kal-la-bi šu-pe-el-la ba-a[b-dug₄]**
its precious designs have been defiled!

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

1 **tùr me nun-e ba-dù-a-bi**
after the cattle-pen had been built for the foremost rituals —

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)