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WHI.3b,3c

Characteristics of the FOUR EARLY RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS:

Social Patterns:

- * Hereditary rulers (dynasties).
- * Rigid social class system.
- * Slavery was a common practice throughout the world.

Political Patterns:

- * World's first organized political states (city-states, kingdoms, empires).
- * Government was often centralized. Political leader was usually the religious leader as well.
- * Law and order was maintained through written law codes (Ten Commandments and Code of Hammurabi are examples).

Economic Patterns:

- * Bronze and iron (metals) are used to make tools and weapons.
- * Better plows and use of irrigation in agriculture increases productivity.
- * Trade increases along rivers and in the seas.
- * The World's first cities emerge and people begin to specialize in certain jobs.

Religious Patterns:

- * Polytheism (belief in many gods) was practiced by most early river valley civilizations.
- * Monotheism (belief in one god) was practiced by the Hebrews.

Language and Writing:

- * Pictograms were earliest form of writing.
- * Egypt = Hieroglyphics Sumer = Cuneiform Phoenicians = First alphabet