

THE ANCIENT CITY
Anthropology 3510
Fall 2019

Ancient Cities With Independent Research Potential
(Other than the cities discussed in class)

Africa

Great Zimbabwe Monumental Late Iron Age (1000-1400 CE) southwest African city with palace and monumental "royal enclosure."

China

Erh-li-tou (Erlitou) Early city with two large "palaces", Henan Province, 1900-1500 BCE.
Yinxu (or, Anyang) Shang Dynasty capital, 1554-1045 BCE. Lots of information.

Egypt

Hierakonpolis (or, Nekhen) Early Dynastic/Old Kingdom walled town, painted tombs, 3100-2600 BCE.
Deir-el-Ballas New Kingdom royal city, ca. 1650-1550 BCE.

Europe

Knossos Minoan capital, Crete, ca. 2000 BCE. Dense settlement, palaces, Europe's oldest city.
Gournia Minoan site, ca. 1800 BCE, that's been getting some attention for offering the best idea of what the towns of this ancient civilization looked like.
Oppida Fortified Iron-age towns conquered by Julius Caesar. Do they qualify as urban??
Trypillian Mega-Sites "Emergent" cities in the Ukraine, some of which contained as many as 3,000 structures and were possibly inhabited by 20,000 to 46,000 people.

India/Pakistan

Dholavira Smaller early Indus city, 2650-2100 BCE. Important trade center with interesting glyphs and possible astronomical alignments.
Anuradhapura Sri Lankan late capital city, 400 BCE-1100 CE. Pilgrimage site, planning centered on Citadel.
Vijayanagara Late imperial capital, ca. 1500 CE. Vast fortified complex, ca. 500,000 population.

Mesoamerica

La Venta Olmec capital, 900 BCE. Small resident population, altars, colossal human heads, layout on cardinal directions.
Tres Zapotes Uniquely long-lived Olmec and Post-Olmec city, 900 BCE-900 CE. Known for a novel form of governance based on cooperative rule.
Nixtun Early gridded Maya city, 600-300 BCE.
Monte Alban Hilltop city in Oaxaca, 0-500 CE. Relationship with Teotihuacan??
Copan Well studied Classic Maya capital, 500-900 CE. Distinctive style...and ethnic identity??
Tikal Classic Maya major capital, peak 700-800 CE. Heavy cosmological dimension, including placement of reservoirs, population 40-60,000.
Palenque Classic Maya city, 600-700 CE. Recent mapping project, houses and workshops. Famous for the Tomb of Pacal the Great.

Chichen Itza	Late Classic Maya city, 600-900 CE. Variety of architectural styles. A multicultural city??
Xochicalco	Late Classic hilltop city, 700-900 CE, population about 20,000. Strong affinities with Teotihuacan.
Sayil	Late Classic Maya city in the Yucatan, 800-900 CE, population 10,000. Well-mapped. Distinctive de-centralized polity??
Tula	Large Toltec capital, peak 900-1150 CE. Fills the space between Teotihuacan and Tenochtitlan.
Mayapan	Late Postclassic Maya capital, 1220-1420 CE. Population ca. 16,000. A Classic Maya city built on the cheap??

Near East

Tell Brak	Newly discovered early city, in northern Mesopotamia. Surprisingly early: 3800 BCE.
Ur	Early Sumerian city, including royal cemetery. Dates back to 3800 BCE. Great Ziggurat; very centralized. Lots of information.
Uruk	Earliest city, 3500 BCE. Remodeled 3000 BCE. Population 50-80,000.
Khafajah	Early town, 3000-2500 BCE. Temple precinct with crafts, residential areas. Excavated in 1930s.
Nippur	Early city, 3000-2500 BCE. Good residential excavations.
Titris Hoyuk	Early example of formal urban planning, ca. 2500 BCE. First master planned city?
Erbil (Arbil, Arbela)	Ancient citadel, around 2300 BCE. Recent studies.
Hattusa	Hittite walled capital, 1600-1200 BCE. Layout on cosmological principles?
Mashkan-shapir	Walled town, 1820-1720 BCE. Recent fieldwork. Single stratum, so relatively uncomplicated archaeological context.
Ugarit	Levant trading city, 1420-1200 BCE. Many publications in French.
Nineveh	Huge, cosmopolitan Assyrian capital, glory days ca. 700 BCE. Location of "Hanging Gardens" previously thought to be in Babylon.

North America

Pueblo Grande	Hohokam site, ca. 800 CE. Urban or not?
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SE Asia

Bagan	Large sprawling Buddhist center, Burma, 900-1400 CE.
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South America

Chavin de Huantar	Ritual center with circular plaza, 1200-750 BCE.
Moche	Large coastal city, 200 BCE-600 CE. Rich burials, sacrifices, two giant temples.
Cahuachi	Nasca culture town, 200-600 CE. Ceremonial? Urban or not?
Chan Chan	Coastal city, 850-1470 CE. Large walled royal compounds. Population 30,000.
El Purgatorio	Capital city of the Casma culture, inhabited from ca. 700-1400 CE.
Huanuco Pampa (Wanuku Pampa)	Inka administrative city, 1470-1532.