

**WORLD HISTORY-1
MODULE II-BRONZE AGE
CIVILIZATIONS**



**TOPIC- THE LAW CODE OF
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- Hammurabi is famous for the list of law known as Hammurabi's code
- It was supposed to have been to him by Shamash, the God of the sun and of Justice
- He gathered the legal customs and practice of the Babylonian city-states and fashioned them into systematic code of laws
- The laws were engraved on a piece of stone 8 feet in height
- There many laws dealing with the army
- Right of soldiers on campaign were carefully safeguarded
- Officers who exploited them were severely punished
- Some of the laws are very enlightened and modern
- It was based on the conception of 'Eye for an Eye and a tooth for a tooth'
- The code contained laws on trade and business as well as family life



- Merchants were punished for dishonesty
- There were provision regarding marriage- legal contract
- Divorce was permitted by the code
- There was a well organized judicial system with magistrate's courts, judges courts and also a court of appeal
- A final appeal could be made to the king
- There were also trials by ordeal
- Hammurabi was a benevolent despot who wanted to be like a real father to his people
- He built a big new canal and improved the management of the irrigation system
- There was a flourishing trade



- Hammurabi was a great administrator
- Many letters written on clay tablets by the king to his officials, have been discovered
- They contain instructions which prove that the king was taking personal interest in administrative matters