

# **WORLD HISTORY-1**

## **MODULE II-BRONZE AGE CIVILIZATION**



**TOPIC-LEGAL SYSTEM IN MESOPOTAMIAN  
CIVILIZATION**

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- Sumerian civilization was the first in world history to develop a legal system, which has left relevant influences on the latter civilizations of Mesopotamia
- Law is a distinct phenomenon and retribution that is administered by a central authority
- The first legal document was prepared in Cuneiform
- The main Sumerian god of law and justice was Shamash, but all other Gods were also responsible for the protection of law
- The Patesi was the chief of Justice and law giver
- The oldest known law code is believed to have been proclaimed about 2100 BCE
- It is a 'code' as it is a collection of law
- The oldest collection of Sumerian law was originated in the city of Ur and



- It had been given by Ur-Nammu around 2100 BCE, the founder of the third dynasty of Ur
- It was discovered in 1952 by the Dutch Sumerologist, F.R.Karuss.
- It consisted 40 short paragraphs and punishable acts mainly referred to personal injuries, slave issues, and marital problems and agricultural disputes
- Another legal system was the ‘Law of Lipit-Ishtar’ of about 1930 BCE, which deals primarily with laws of marriage, family and property
- The laws of Lipit-Ishtar was given by the ruler of Amoritecity of Isin located in the northern Mesopotamia
- The ‘Laws of Eshnunna’ was another set of laws prevailed around 1720 BCE in the city of Eshnunna, located on the east of Tigris river
- It primarily deals with theft and related offences,sexual offences, bodily



- Injuries, damages caused by a goring ox and other comparable cases.
- All the sumerian laws can be defined neither as codification in true sense, nor as customary rules that had simply been collected nor written down
- They all later paved way for the codification of laws in the 'Hammurabi's Code in the later period in Babylonia
- It modelled in the existing laws, but the largest law code assembled
- It was inscribed on a slab of over 6 ft. high in the city of Babylon
- It was also written in Cuneiform script