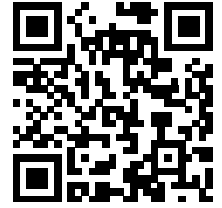


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Understanding Early Middle Eastern Political Systems



In ancient times, the Middle East was a cradle of _____, where the first forms of government emerged. These governments were often ruled by _____, who were seen as divine or semi-divine figures. The _____ and the temple were central to governing, serving both religious and administrative _____. In Mesopotamia, for example, the concept of law was highly developed, with the _____ of Hammurabi being one of the earliest and most complete written legal codes. _____ played a crucial role in these societies, with the government organizing and controlling _____ systems that were essential for crop cultivation. Trade was another key aspect, with _____ establishing and maintaining trade routes that connected various civilizations. The use of _____ for record-keeping and administration was pioneered in this region, enabling the management of _____ and the regulation of commerce. Education was typically reserved for the elite, with _____ being highly valued for their ability to read and write. The military was also a critical _____ of the government, protecting the city-states from external threats and maintaining _____ within. Despite these advancements, most of the population lived under a strict social _____, with slaves and commoners having few _____. These early governments laid the foundation for modern political systems, emphasizing the _____ of law and administration in governing a state. Religion played a significant role in governance, with _____ often performing religious duties alongside their administrative responsibilities.

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