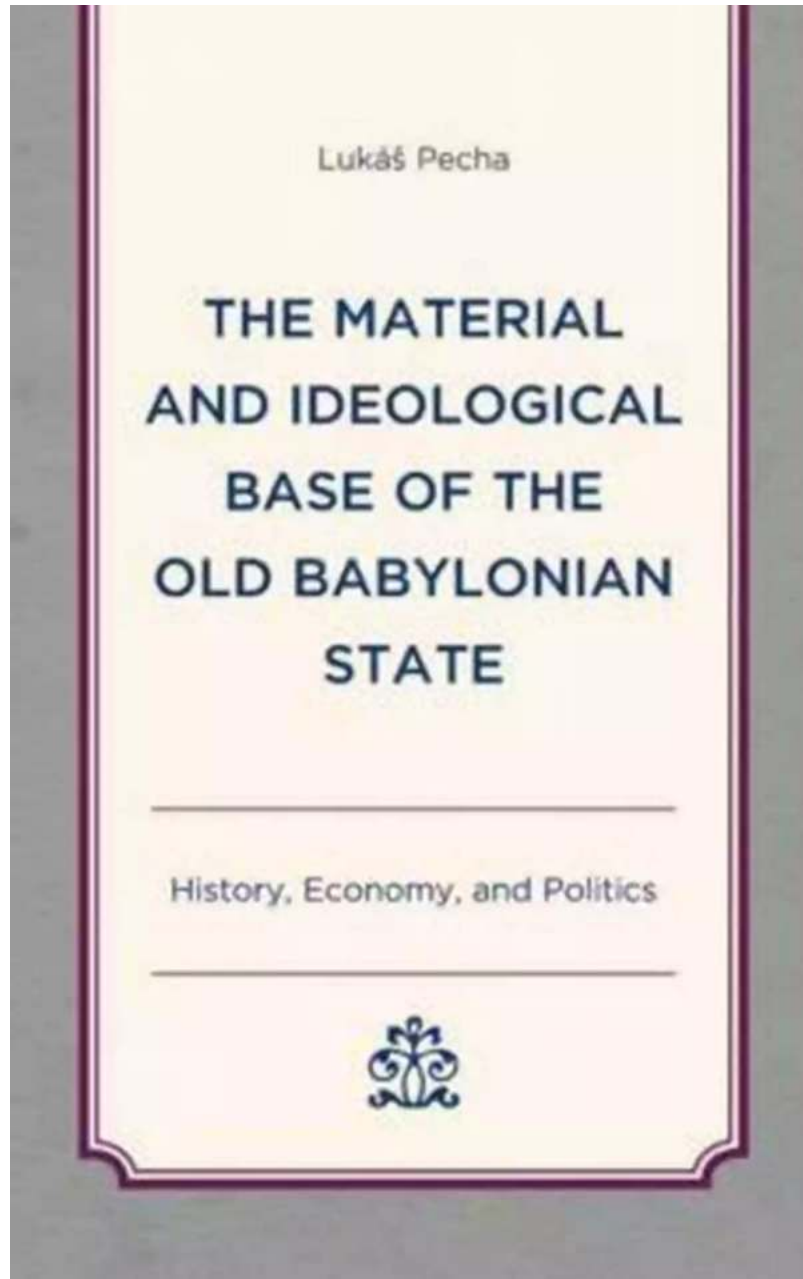


The Material And Ideological Base Of The Old Babylonian State

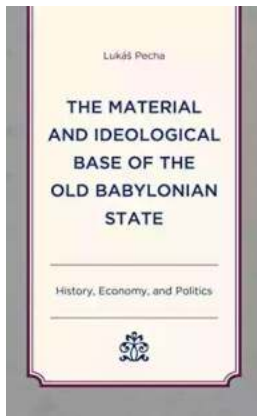


The Old Babylonian State was an ancient civilization that thrived in Mesopotamia from the 18th to the 16th centuries BCE. This article will explore the material and ideological foundations upon which the Old Babylonian State was built, shedding light on its political, economic, and cultural aspects. Understanding these

foundations is crucial to gaining insight into the complexities of this influential civilization.

The Material Base

The material base of the Old Babylonian State consisted of its economic resources, infrastructure, and administrative systems. The region's fertile soil, irrigated by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, allowed for agricultural productivity. The surplus generated from farming sustained the population and formed the backbone of the state's economy.



The Material and Ideological Base of the Old Babylonian State: History, Economy, and Politics

by William Hare (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 3543 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 381 pages
Hardcover : 270 pages
Item Weight : 1.22 pounds
Dimensions : 6.14 x 0.63 x 9.21 inches





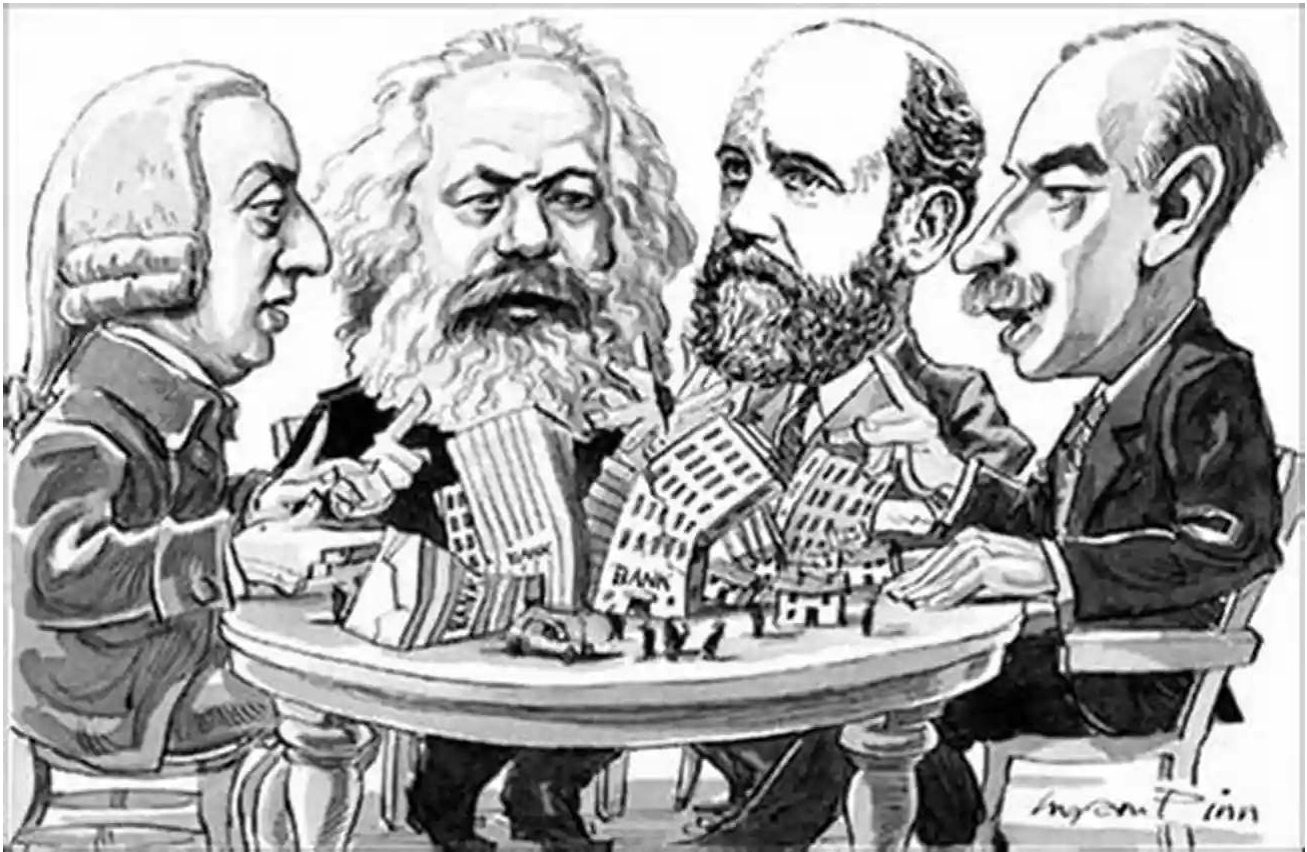
Moreover, the state established an extensive canal system for irrigation, ensuring the controlled distribution of water to agricultural lands. These canals not only supported farming but also facilitated trade and transport, as boats could navigate along their routes. The prosperity generated by the agricultural surplus and trade laid the groundwork for urban development and complex economic systems.

The Ideological Base

The Old Babylonian State's ideological base encompassed its religious beliefs, legal frameworks, and social structures. Religion played a central role in governing the Babylonian society. The state's rulers were believed to have divine

authority, acting as intermediaries between gods and humans. Temples and priests held significant influence, with rituals and offerings conducted as a means to maintain harmony with the gods.

Law and justice were also crucial components of the Old Babylonian State's ideology. Hammurabi's Code, a prominent legal code formulated during this period, outlined the principles of justice and served as a foundation for maintaining societal order. It aimed to protect the rights of individuals and provide equitable resolutions to conflicts.



Additionally, social structures within the Old Babylonian State had a hierarchical nature. The ruler or king held supreme power, followed by nobles and landowners. Below them were merchants, artisans, and farmers, with slaves occupying the lowest strata of society. This hierarchical arrangement was

reinforced by the belief in divine order and served to maintain stability within the state.

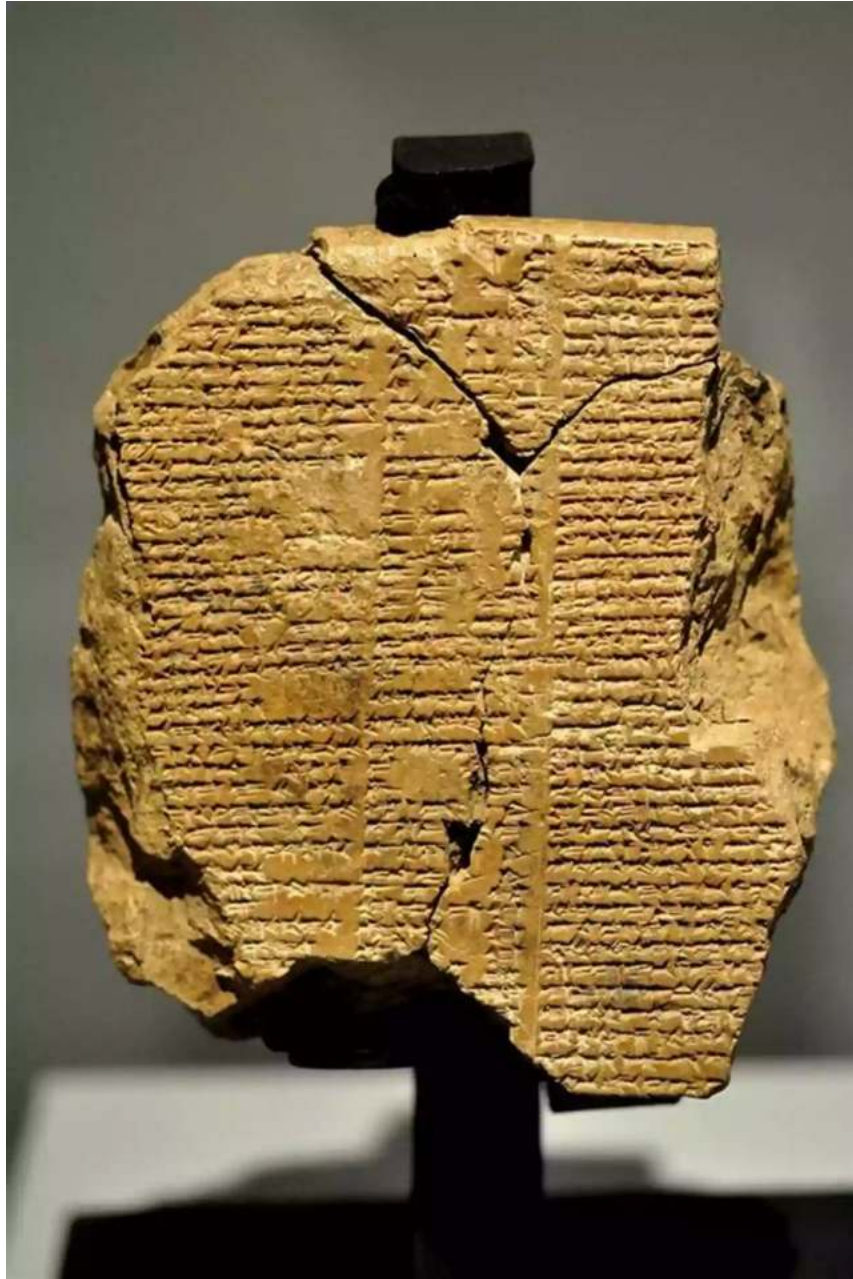
Political Organization

The Old Babylonian State had a centralized political structure, in which the ruler exercised supreme authority. The king's roles encompassed political, religious, and military functions. The ruler's power was consolidated through royal marriages, alliances, and conquests, ensuring the stability and expansion of the state.

The state administration consisted of appointed officials who managed various sectors such as taxation, agriculture, justice, and defense. The king relied on a network of administrators to uphold the state's governance and maintain its cohesion.

Cultural Development

The Old Babylonian State thrived culturally as well, with significant advancements in art, literature, and science. The development of cuneiform writing allowed for the recording and preservation of knowledge. Epic poems, such as the famous "Epic of Gilgamesh," provided insights into the society's beliefs, traditions, and legends.



Art and architecture flourished during this period too. The construction of monumental buildings, such as ziggurats and palaces, showcased the state's wealth and power. Intricate artworks, including clay tablets, cylinder seals, and statues, depicted scenes of daily life, mythology, and religious rituals.

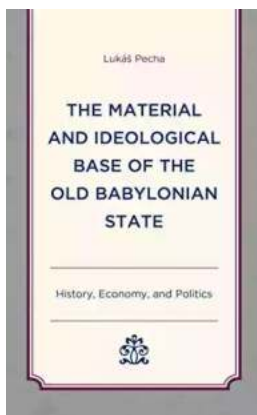
The Old Babylonian State was built upon a robust material base of agriculture, trade, and infrastructure, which fueled its economy and urban development. Its

ideological base was rooted in religious beliefs, legal frameworks, and social hierarchies that provided stability and governance. With a centralized political organization and significant cultural achievements, the state left an indelible mark on ancient history.

Studying the material and ideological foundations of the Old Babylonian State allows us to grasp the complexities of this ancient civilization, understanding the intricate dynamics that shaped its political, economic, and cultural spheres.

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This book describes and analyzes the economic and administrative structure as well as the ideological background of the Old Babylonian state ruled by the First Dynasty of Babylon (1894–1595 BC).

The study of these issues is based on the analysis of written sources of various types, mainly of royal inscriptions, economic and administrative documents, legal records (contracts, court procedures as well as law codes and royal edicts), letters and year names.

The book focuses on the activities that the Old Babylonian state performed in the field of economy, administration, politics and ideology. Primarily, the book brings an analysis of the political and economic role of the Old Babylonian state and it pays attention to the various levels of activities of the king himself as well as of other persons who were part of the state administration. The author delimits the fields of competences of various state officials as well as reconstructs mutual relations among persons on various levels of the state administration. As the Old Babylonian state maintained close relations also to other economic and administrative subjects (such as temples and private persons), the book also reconstructs the relations between the state and those subjects.



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