# Early River Valley Civilizations

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# Problem 1: Border Security

The Ur III Dynasty court couldn't pay their soldiers due to the progressive lack of grain and grain tax. It also made the people of the Sumerian civilization hungrier and decreased their ability to defend themselves.

The Amorites trespassed into Sumer. Because of their lack of soldiers and decreased ability of self defense, they couldn't do a lot to prevent this from happening.

# Pros and Cons of Their Solution

- With the growing loss of land in Sumer, Shu-Shin became desperate to come up with a solution to stop the trespassing Amorites.
- He had a large, 170 mile wall built around their border to keep the Amorites out.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| <ul><li>The wall would discourage a lot of the Amorites from trying to come into Sumer.</li><li>It would establish borders.</li></ul> | <ul><li>Building a large wall takes a lot of time and resources.</li><li>Some determined Amorites could find a way to climb over the wall.</li></ul> |

# Our Solution

- Shu-Shin could have slaves to protect the border rather than waste time and resources to build a wall that isn't as effective as other solutions.
- They would stand at the border with weapons to defend Sumer from the Amorites.
- Slaves don't require pay, so this would solve the issue with lack of money.

- To fix the famine issue, they could find another easy to grow food to use as a substitute for grain.
- They could farm more barley and beans to make up for their wheat loss.
- This would give them more energy to defend themselves.
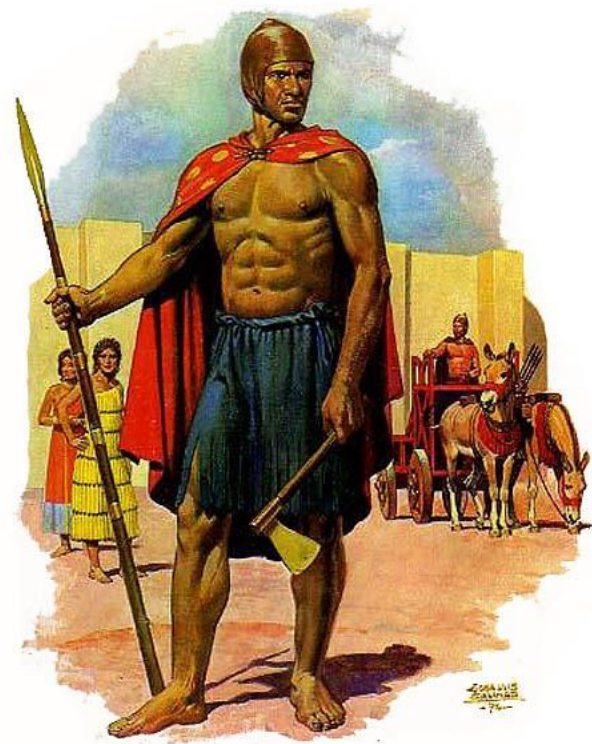
# Pros and Cons of Our Solution

| Pros | Cons |
|------|------|
| <ul><li>It wouldn't waste as much time and resources as building a wall would.</li><li>They could have protection against the Amorites without worrying about money to pay them.</li><li>Finding other crops to farm as a part of their main diet would give them more food and would end their famine.</li></ul> | <ul><li>The Amorites could be stronger than the Sumerians or have better weapons.</li><li>They might not have access to enough barley and beans to make it part of their main diet or it might not grow as well as wheat.</li></ul> |

# Conclusion

In conclusion, having slaves protect the borders of Sumer would be a better solution than building a wall. It would require less time and resources to achieve and maintain, and it would most likely be more effective.

Replacing grain with other crops to farm as part of their main diet would be the most effective way to end their famine. If they relied on crops other than grain, the scarcity of grain wouldn't impact them as much.

# Problem 2: Environmental

When people first moved into the fertile crescent, they learned how to grow food off the ground, the people of the Mesopotamia area planted and grew wheat, barley, dates, and many different herbs and spices. Thus a civilization grew along the two rivers

the number of people grew, and so did their problems

"weed-fallowing" was used to allow weeds with deep roots to grow, lowering the water table and allowing salt to wash back down beneath the topsoil.

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1. Experiment different farming methods
2. increase trade with neighboring empires for food and supplies
3. The people of Sumer can go back to hunting animals and gathering nuts, berries, fruits.. etc



THE FIRST DAY OF THE YAM CUSTOM.

# Pros and cons/consequences/solution

| pros | cons |
|------|------|
| 1.      Different methods of farming are to be used | 1.      Food will only be planted every other year |
| 2. The previous techniques are to be modified which expands the use of technology in the early age. | 2. The people of Sumer and its surrounding city-state will experience famine every other year |
| 3. The number of farmers/people planting and or hunting and gathering food will increase | 3. Stricter tax burdens and the bureaucracy of Shulgi will fall |
|  |  |

# Chosen Solution

The solution I chose is that the people of Sumer and its surrounding city-state will journey to the neighboring kingdoms to seek for food. I chose this over going back to hunting and gathering because nature's sources are only limited, considering that the population of the city is high. This will increase trade and make more use of the present trade routes. This solution may also bring expansion to the city of Sumer. One problem is that this may cause war between the two empires.
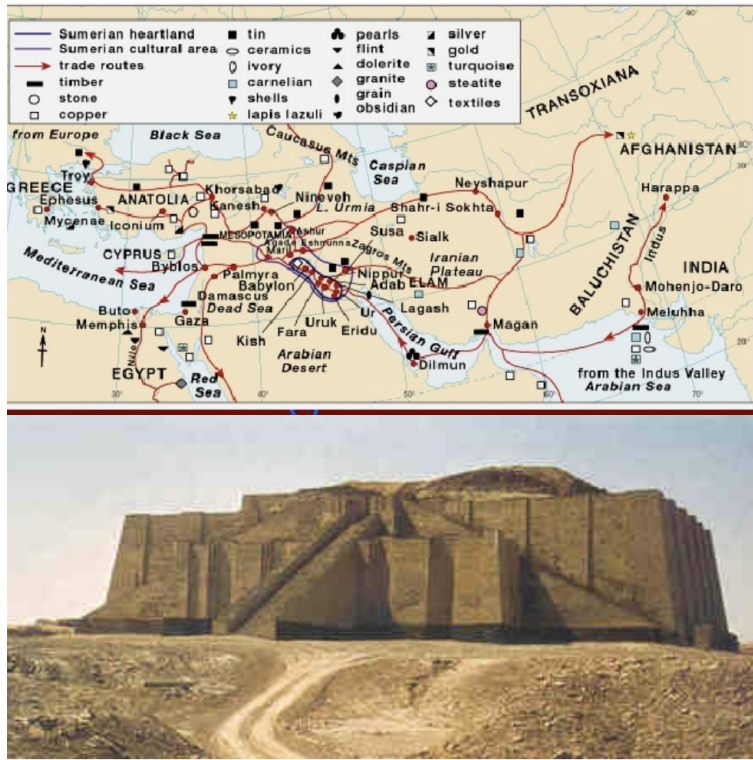
# Problem 3:International Divisions

Ibbi-Sin commanded Ishbi-Erra went out to the city of Isin and Kazallue to fetch grains and meat for their narrowing collection of food.

Instead of returning with the supplies, Ishbi-Erra sent a letter demanding money, soldiers, and boats, or he would not return.

This was obviously a concern for the entire Kingdom of Sumer. They could let Ishbi-Erra extort them or they could find another alternative solution to help their city.

# Possible Solutions



1. Send another member, possibly a merchant or landowner of the civilization to fetch resources.
2. Send more money and resources to Ishbi-Erra like he asked of them.
3. Start moving people out of the city to protect them from famine and other diseases and illness.

# Pros and Cons if Solutions

1.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • You would not be extorted, and able to receive resources.<br>• Sick people/children don't have to travel.<br>• The city can continue to run and work to get the community running again. | • The other member may disobey, and leave you without resources.<br>• Might take too much time to get supplies needed.<br>• Not having supplies can result in illness in the community. |

2.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Ishbi-Erra will come back sooner than sending another member<br>• Giving him more man power should make the process faster<br>• Everything would return to how it originally was. | • He may try to extort you again.<br>• He may take the supplies and return with a lesser amount, or no amount at all of the supplies.<br>• He may take the supplies given to him and not return at all. |

# Pros and Cons

3.

| Pros | Cons |
| --- | --- |
| ● It will protect civilians from famine. <br> ● Lets them have more resources and lets them move out of the area that doesn't have enough resources for them to live on. <br> ● Makes it easier to travel to trade areas due to them living closer to these areas. | ● The road is long and hard. <br> ● Elders and Children have a better chance of contracting diseases when they are on the road for long periods of time. <br> ● The cities that they would live in or near are overcrowded which could act as a concern for the entire community. |

# Conclusion



Our solution is to let Ishbi-Erra extort them. If what he's saying is true he will more than likely arrive earlier than a new group leaving and getting back with supplies. The trip is long and hard and making another group go, or the entire community would be unfair. Also, by the time a new group left, and came back people in the community would likely be dead due to lack of resources. There is always a chance that they will not arrive back though at the same time.

# Problem 4: International

When Ibbi-Sin was on the throne for two years other cities started to rebel.

They did not pay tribute to the Sumerians which angered Ibbi-Sin.

The refused to acknowledge Ibbi-Sin as their ruler at all, and broke free from his reign.

This was an obvious concern for Ibb-Sin and he is trying to find options which will make the cities obey him again.

# Why the Cities are Rebelling and Pros and Cons

Why the Cities are Rebelling?:

  The cities are more than likely rebelling due to unfair and unjust tactics and ideas that Ibbi-Sin is putting forth without any using the rest of the cities ideas.

  They are upset with having to pay tribute, and the empire is not truly united. They want a say in what occurs in their community.
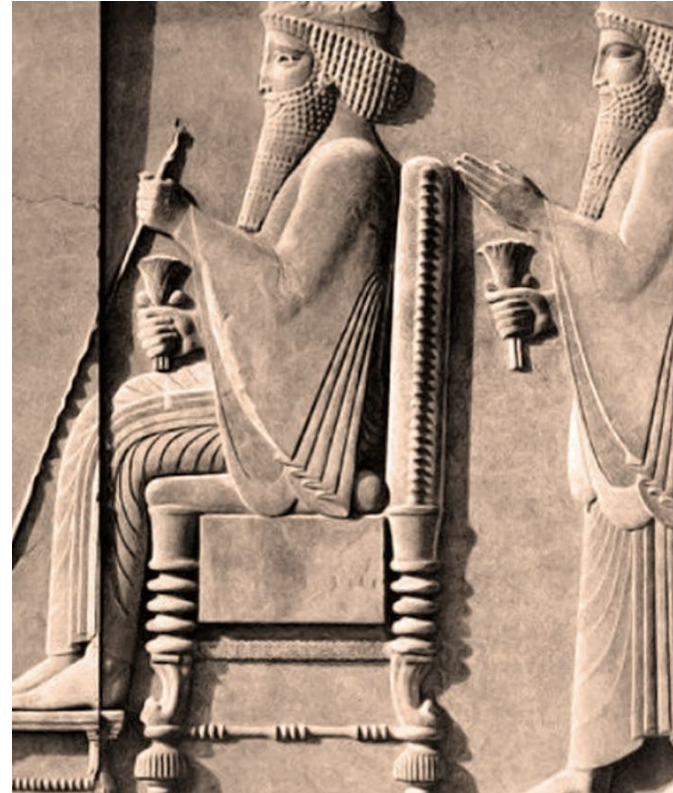
| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| <ul><li>It allows Ibbi-Sin to create new rules and regulations that he believes are better and stronger for the community.</li><li>It allows Ibbi-Sin to have a better relationship with the cities, and develop better bonds.</li><li>Ibbi-Sin has the ability to take time to better develop the community.</li></ul> | <ul><li>Ibbi-Sin not being in control of the empire can create some problems when it comes to outbreaks of fighting and other problems.</li><li>This also makes it easier for crimes to take place in the community.</li><li>Not having a ruler can make other problems arise.</li></ul> |

# Possible Solutions to Restore Kingdom

1. Instate rulers in each individual city to create something like a democracy. This will allow each city to have its own ideas and takes on the community.
2. Give things and tools to the community to help them with their daily lives. This will give them more hope in having Ibbi-Sin as a ruler.

# Pros and Cons of Solutions/Possible solutions

1.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Having a Democracy will make it easier for Ibbi-Sin to get along with other cities.<br>• Mayor-like people within each city allow control within the communities. | • Ibbi-sin does not have as much power as he would if he instates a democracy<br>• Trade or other elements would be no longer be able to be controlled<br>• Since the groups have power collectivity they could overpower Ibbi-sin |

2.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Will allow cities to trust you more<br>• Establish a good bond or community between groups | • They may take the resources and then not allow them to<br>• They may combine resources, and go against you, while trying to overrun you. |

# Chosen Solution

We combined the two possible solutions. Ibbi-Sins best choice would be to give each city and community supplies, and instate a mayor/like figure within each city. Establishing a democracy is the best way Ibbi-Sin to stay in power.