The Rise & Fall of the Akkadian Empire

By L. Faucher
What was the Akkadian empire? Where was it?

- The Akkadian empire was the first empire to exist in the known world, lasting from 2334 B.C.E to 2154 B.C.E.
- The empire ruled over many other cities at this point in time, including most (if not all) of the mesopotamian cities.

The map (Right) shows what area and what cities the Akkadian empire ruled over during its reign.
- The Akkadian empire was located in ancient Mesopotamia.
- The empire later became what is now known as the modern Middle East.

The map (below) is a map of the Akkadian empire's geographic location during ancient Mesopotamian times.

The map (left) is where the Akkadian empire ruled compared to modern countries and places.
What began the Akkadian empire?

- The Akkadian empire was made by Sargon of Akkad (Right) in 2334 B.C.E.
- Akkad (Right) was known as the seat of the Akkadian empire.
- Sargon built his empire on the idea of controlling the known world.
- Some will argue that the Akkadian empire started in the city Sumer (Right).
How was the empire ruled? What was life like?

- The very first ruler of the Akkadian empire was Sargon of Akkad (Right).
- The empire was ruled by a monarchy (Bottom) similarly to several Mesopotamian city-states such as Akkad and Sumer.

[Diagram: Administrative hierarchy in the Old Akkadian period]

- Army:
  - šagina
  - nu.banda/Captain
- Urban households:
  - énsi
- Empire officials:
  - šabra é
  - šabra
- Mid-level officials:
  - ša.dub.a, etc.
  - nu.banda, ugula
- Dependent laborers:
  - guruš, géme
● According to studies, an Akkadian civilization may have looked something like this (Right) with a sort of rounded honeycomb towards the castle/temple.

● Works like this (Left) are found around the ancient Akkadian empire. This could show us what normal Akkadian life may have looked like.
What did the Akkadian empire achieve?

- The most obvious thing that the Akkadian empire achieved was being the very first empire in known history!

- Little actually know this but the Akkadian empire was the very first civilization to have any form of postal service!

- The empire even had a form of "highway" binding cities together.

The cuneiform (above) is an example of Akkadian post!
The Akkadians even had their own battle strategies, revolutionizing how wars were fought. This picture (Above) shows what some of the Akkadian battle formations may have looked liked.
Why did the empire decline? How did it end?

- The Akkadian empire first started its decline when there were many rebellions and attacks against the empire.
- The new emperors of the empire were struggling to keep the empire together which assisted in the decline.
- The empire’s main rival was a group called the Gutian.
- After several attacks from the Gutian, the Akkadians lost the empire to the Gutian in 2154 B.C.E.
THE END
Bibliography

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