enabled transfer and dissemination of knowledge which allowed people to build on previously acquired advancements

Laws and justice
- written law code came from writing in attempt to establish order in the land between rivers
- also tried to express principles of justice
- (code of hammurabi) cuneiform script on a stone column, highest principles of justice. Regulated everything from family life to physicians fees to building requirements. He wanted to order his society. Expressed social strict hierarchy that Mesopotamian society counted as natural. Specified different penalties for three social orders.
- (women and children) many laws tried to protect women and children from unfair treatment. Limited authority husbands had over households

Indo-Europeans: New contributions in the story of the west
- (indo european languages) language served as the basis for virtually all subsequent European languages
- (mounted warriors) led by a warrior elite who were buried in elaborate graves. Allowed scholars to study the prized possessions and weapons buried with them. Riding on horseback gave them deadly advantages of speed and mobility.
- (contributions) the warriors excelled in battles. Carts and chariots that gave them advantages. Ideals of warriors and elites and worship of gods continued as did the language

Hittites Establish their Empire
- 1650 bce, established kingdom in Asian minor and set up their capital.
- planted crops on fertile lands, irrigated fruit groves and mined the ore rich mountains.
of metal and grains they could import goods from the Middle East and beyond. They needed wood to make seagoing vessels for trade.

Hieroglyphs: Sacred writing
- 3000 bce developed it
- used for forwarding religious and magical power
- accounting purposes
- every sign in their writing represented a real or mythical object and was designed to express the objects power
- series of simple pictures
- scribes simplified it into hieratic or demotic to keep records or write literature.
- papyrus
- (scribes) women scribes but later became restricted to men.

Pyramids and Afterlife
- when there was excess income kings built pyramids; monuments to their glory, prove their greatness
- symbol of power and longevity
- peasants labored on the pyramids
- burial for the kings
- (afterlife) built for tombs for the god kings, houses for their departed spirits. Departed soul was sustained in the tomb by the same food and goods they had sustained in their living bodies
- immortality marked an important contribution to the world of ideas
- (burial rituals) removed internal organs through an incision, placed in vessel of salty solution. Body cavity then placed in pile of natron crystals. Wrapped in linen with resin. Mummy

Changing Political Fortunes
CA 2200-1570 B.C.E