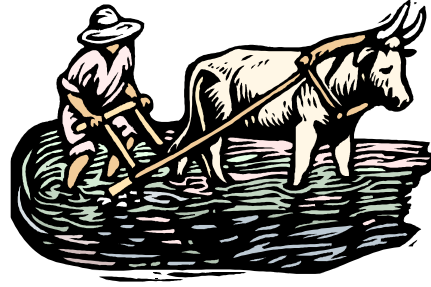


AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

(8,000 BC ONWARD)



No other change in society produced such a drastic change in human society from the dawn of humankind itself, until the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s.

The Agricultural Revolution involved the **domestication of plants and animals**

- a. Selective breeding
- b. Much higher concentrations of plants and animals in one area (than would naturally occur in the wild)

The Agricultural Revolution had several effects:

1. Greater population density

- a. Anywhere from 10 to 100 times the number of people can be supported by agriculture (than with hunting and gathering)

2. Expanding population

- a. Because of the increase in food supply, more people can be supported,
- b. although soon, the population will reach the limits, and new settlements will be sent out to bring more land under cultivation

3. Exposure to animal germs

- a. Many human sicknesses can be traced to animal germs (measles, smallpox, tuberculosis, flu, and malaria).

4. Private property and inequality

- a. Agriculture is labor-intensive (plowing, sowing, maintaining, and harvesting the plants), and unlike hunting, you can force people to do agricultural work. This introduces a financial motive to retain serf or slave labor forces
- b. There is now a strong motive for land ownership, which brings wealth

5. Specialization

- a. Agricultural surpluses enable specialization (specialists who can exchange farm tools or clothing for food; bureaucrats who can maintain records; soldiers and rulers)
- b. Specialization therefore encourages trade (you can eat clay tablets or plows or clothing), not only among citizens of one community, but between different regions. This trade encourages even more specialization