

The Code of Hammurabi (unknown author 1792-1750)

1. What provisions of the Code reflect the hierarchical structure of Babylonian society? Can you map particular provisions onto the Framework pyramid diagram of state-level of Agrarian societies?

Answer: During the creation of Hammurabi's laws, social classes were divided into three parts. The upper class was called the Awilum, the middle class was the Mushkenum, and the lower class was called Wardum. Each of Hammurabi's codes were made for these three classes or family members or workers who have committed a crime and are deemed capital punishment. For example, at Law 38, it mentions that if a husband wishes to separate from his wife, he would need to give her purchase money she brought from her father's house and goes on to talk about giving her one mina of gold if there were no purchase money in law 39. In law 40, it talks about if he were a free man, he would have to pay the one third of gold. This explains the differences between different people paying for different amounts of gold.

2. What cultural values does the Code express? Is the Code idealized or realistic?

Answer: The Code expresses strict order and justice to the people. This explains that many of the laws a while ago were very idealistic, because of the strictness in Hammurabi's laws.