

## PRIMARY SOURCE 3

### 3.2 The Code of Hammurabi, pages 21 - 24

The Code of Hammurabi is one of the most helpful windows that we have into examining Babylonian society.

1. The law in the code dealt with who was liable for property damage and helped regulate the inheritance of property. The code 196 says “ if a man put out the eye of another man, his eye shall be put out” and 199 also says “ if he puts out the eye of a man’s slave, or breaks the bone of a man’s slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.” . This is a famous “eye for an eye” judgement and a less well known but similar clause. The Babylonians dealt with crime by means of physical punishment and that their society had slaves, and that punishment for the crime varied with the status of the victims. On other hand, this was a society with class division. Other pieces of the code confirm and extend those conclusions, which fit the general patterns of the early state-level complex societies.
2. The code illustrates that property and ownership were extremely important. The punishment for certain types of theft was death. “Like for an eye for an eye” law, if a slave was harmed, the perpetrator paid a price but did not suffer physical punishment. So I think the code is idealized.