



Research & Writing Assignment

The Kingdom of Israel, which existed from around 1000 BCE to 586 BCE, was a politically organized monarchy as a tribal confederation. The first king of Israel, Saul, was chosen by the people and confirmed by the prophet Samuel. After Saul, the kingdom was ruled by King David and his son King Solomon, who established a centralized monarchy and expanded the kingdom's territory and influence.

After the reign of King Solomon, the kingdom split into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. A succession of dynasties ruled the northern kingdom, and frequent changes in leadership and instability characterized its political organization. On the other hand, the southern kingdom was led by the Davidic dynasty and was more politically stable. However, it was subject to invasions and domination by neighboring kingdoms, such as the Babylonians. Throughout its history, the Kingdom of Israel was heavily influenced by religion and the role of the Hebrew prophets in shaping its political

and cultural identity. The priesthood and the judicial system supported the monarchy, and the king was seen as responsible for upholding the laws and commandments outlined in the Torah.

Questions:

1) How does your society resemble other societies in this chapter?

Both societies were organized around a strict hierarchy, with the king at the top, followed by the nobles and commoners. Both placed a high value on family and ancestor worship, with the ancestral spirits being seen as powerful sources of guidance and protection. Both had complex systems of law and justice, with well-defined codes of conduct and punishments for breaking the law. The difference between both is Religious Beliefs: The Kingdom of Israel was monotheistic, while the Shang China kingdom was polytheistic, with many gods and spirits being worshipped. Also, the Kingdom of Israel was a more socially mobile society, with opportunities for people of humble origins to rise to positions of power and influence. At the same time, the Shang China kingdom was more rigidly hierarchical, with limited opportunities for social mobility. While the Kingdom of Israel and the Shang China kingdom had similarities in terms of social hierarchy, family values, and legal systems, they also had distinct differences in religious beliefs, social mobility, and economic structure. These differences helped to shape the unique cultural identities of each society.

1. How is it unique?

The Kingdom of Israel was one of the first societies in the world to embrace monotheism, the belief in a single, all-powerful deity. This marked a significant departure from the polytheistic beliefs of the neighboring civilizations and had a lasting impact on Western religion and culture. The Kingdom of Israel had a well-developed legal system based on the laws and commandments outlined in the Torah, which helped to maintain social order and provide a sense of justice. The society of the Kingdom of Israel was unique in its religious beliefs, legal system, social mobility, strong family ties,

and cultural diversity. These factors set it apart from other societies of the ancient Near East and helped to shape its distinct cultural identity.

Citation:

Israel (no date) *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Available at: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Israel-Old-Testament-kingdom> (Accessed: February 4, 2023).

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