Government in Ancient Mesopotamia

Mesopotamia, meaning the land between two rivers, had a bit of an unusual government during its time. By 3000 B.C., the region of Mesopotamia known as Sumer, became filled with many city-states. Each city state was separate from the others. So, each one had its own government, and there was no central government.

Later, by about 2340 B.C., the king of the Akkadians, named Sargon, was able to conquer all of Mesopotamia. He set up the world’s first empire, which means that there were many different lands under one ruler.

Next, during the 1800s B.C., the city of Babylon was built. It became the new center of trade. One of its kings, Hammurabi, conquered land around Babylon and built the Babylonian Empire. He created a system of laws called the Code of Hammurabi, and the entire empire followed them.

Finally, the strongest government in Mesopotamia came when the Assyrians conquered Mesopotamia. The Assyrian kings divided their empire into provinces. The king would choose government leaders for each province. Roads were built to connect all parts of the empire. There were even government soldiers posted at stations along the roads to protect travelers.