

King Hammurabi of Babylon: The Lawgiver of the Ancient World

King Hammurabi of Babylon was one of the most important rulers in the history of the ancient world. He is best known for his famous law code, which was one of the first written laws in history. The Code of Hammurabi was a major advance in the development of law and justice, and it has had a lasting impact on the legal systems of many countries around the world.

The Early Life of Hammurabi

Hammurabi was born in the city of Babylon around 1810 BC. He was the son of King Sin-muballit, who ruled Babylon from 1812 to 1793 BC. Hammurabi was a member of the Amorite dynasty, which had ruled Babylon for over a century. The Amorites were a Semitic people who had migrated to Babylonia from the Syrian desert.



King Hammurabi of Babylon: A Biography (Blackwell Ancient Lives Book 2) by Cat Cora

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Hammurabi was a well-educated man. He was schooled in the traditional Babylonian curriculum, which included studying cuneiform, mathematics, astronomy, and law. Hammurabi was also a skilled administrator. He served as a provincial governor for several years before he became king.

The Reign of Hammurabi

Hammurabi became king of Babylon in 1792 BC. He inherited a kingdom that was facing a number of challenges. The Babylonians were constantly threatened by their neighbors, including the Elamites to the east and the Kassites to the north. Hammurabi also had to deal with internal problems, such as corruption and social unrest.

Hammurabi was a strong and determined leader. He quickly began to address the challenges facing his kingdom. He reformed the government, strengthened the military, and expanded the territory of Babylon. Hammurabi also promoted trade and commerce, and he encouraged the arts and sciences.

One of Hammurabi's most important achievements was the creation of a new law code. The Code of Hammurabi was a comprehensive set of laws that covered a wide range of topics, including criminal law, civil law, and family law. The code was based on the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." This meant that the punishment for a crime should be equal to the harm that was caused.

The Code of Hammurabi was a major advance in the development of law and justice. It was one of the first written laws in history, and it had a lasting impact on the legal systems of many countries around the world. The code is still studied today by students of law and history.

The Legacy of Hammurabi

Hammurabi died in 1750 BC after a reign of 42 years. He was succeeded by his son, Samsu-iluna. Hammurabi's legacy is still felt today. He is remembered as one of the greatest rulers in the history of the ancient world. The Code of Hammurabi is still considered to be one of the most important legal documents in history.

King Hammurabi of Babylon was a remarkable ruler who made a significant contribution to the development of law and justice in the ancient world. His Code of Hammurabi was a major advance in the development of written law, and it has had a lasting impact on the legal systems of many countries around the world. Hammurabi is a reminder that even in the ancient world, there were great leaders who were committed to justice and fairness.



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