

Around 2400-2300BC

- Sargon of Akkad (aka Sargon the great)
 - Ruled from 2334bc, died in 2279bc Time of his rule, his exact birthdate is unknown
 - Name translates roughly to “chosen by god” “rightful ruler”
 - Not his birthname, that is unknown
 - Popular figure in literature and lore of the culture, later stories give him a similar start of life to Moses,
 - abandoned in a basket, left to float down a river
 - Found by a gardener and his wife
 - Made his way into royal court of Kish via means unknown
 - Names himself “King of the four corners of the universe”
 - All writing about him that we have came from centuries later
 - The exact location of his central city (Akkad) was unknown
 - Sargon overthrows the king, becomes the new ruler
 - Charisma keeps him in power as he begins to form his new empire
 - He is Semitic, speaking the Akkadian, not the Sumerian language
 - Not the name at the time, what scholars would later call it
- The king of Ur, Lugalzaggisi, had conquered a few city states at this point, however, he is defeated by Sargon, who would go on to conquer the rest of Mesopotamia and other parts of the surrounding regions
 - I can do better, take a page out of L’s playbook
 - The former Sumerian city states did not bow willingly however, they too had to be reconquered one-by-one
- Erects or restores (the records are unclear) a city state in honor of his patron god, Ishtar, the goddess of war and love
- Institutes the first (rudimentary) postal system
 - Envelopes wrapped in clay (must be broken to open)
- Creates the world's first empire
- Emphasis on trade and unification
 - Once traveled from Akkad to central Turkey to settle a dispute
- Places his most trusted advisors/friends in positions of power in conquered city states
- Places his daughter, Enheduanna, as the high priestess in Ur, ensuring the former powerhouse of the region is following his laid out traditions and customs
- Minor rebellions break out towards the end of his rule due to a variety of factors, none of them are empire threatening
- Succeeded by his son, Rimush, who spent the majority of his reign stamping out rebellions, dies after only nine years in power
 - Rules from 2297-2291

- Possibly killed by his brother, Manishtusu
- Manishtusu spent the beginning part of his reign quelling more rebellions as well
 - Rules from 2271-2261
- Later focused on Architecture, primarily making extravagant temples for the time
- Murdered by his high court in a Caesar-esc fashion (replace knives with clay cylinders)
- Succeeded by Naram-Sin
 - More rebellions
 - Reigned from 2261BC-2224BC
 - More expansion, personally lead his armies to conquer new territory, possibly as far as Egypt
 - “King of the four corners of the universe” except with the implication that he is a deity
 - Considered the greatest of the Akkadian kings, his rule is considered the peak of the empire
 - Story of the myth “Curse of Akkad”
 - Naram-Sin offends the King of the Gods, Enlil
 - As a result, Enlil strip Akkad of its Patron deity and bars all others from entering
 - After 7 years of waiting for a response from the gods, Naram-sin takes matters into his own hands, and attacks the temple of Enlil in Nappur, destroying it
 - As a result the gods send a feral people, the Gutians to sack and destroy Akkad
 - This is a myth, while the temple was destroyed, there is no record that Naram-Sin was the culprit
 - In reality, Naram-Sin was known to be a godly man, he did however raise his image in the temple next to that of the gods.
 - The Gutians did attack and cause the Akkadians quite a bit of trouble for a number of years
- Succeeded by his son, Shar-Kali Sharri who reigned from 2223BC-2198BC he was the last of the Akkadian kings
 - Many more rebellions did take place, however Shar lacked the ability of his predecessors and was unable to keep a shattered empire unified
 - He did rebuild the temple of Enlil in Nappur
 - The Gutians did cause quite a few problems for the Akkadians and are widely considered the primary cause of the empire's fall
- End of the Akkadians: total empire lasted 142 years