



## TASK AND FATE FACTS RULER

Study the Task and Fate Facts for your role each day. The facts will give your clan members information to help complete Tasks and make decisions when confronted by Fate. Be prepared at all times to contribute what you know to help your clan.

### The Struggle of Nomads

Early hunter-gatherers struggled hard just to survive. They constantly competed with other nomads for scarce land, water, and other natural resources. In a hunter-gatherer society people were generally equal. Every member of the clan performed the same job—everyone worked to provide food. Each clan was governed by unwritten customs. Because everyone knew everyone else, they did not need written laws.



### Villages

Eventually the nomads became farmers. They settled in villages. Over time the villages grew into cities. Life became more complex. Living within a city required cooperation and compromise. For the first time in human history, members of the same society were often strangers to one another. Clan or village customs could no longer regulate behavior. City dwellers developed formal rules of behavior (laws). They also developed structures to provide protection and services. These structures became organized government. The most important function of these early organized governments was to protect a reliable food supply.

### City-states

As cities grew into city-states they competed with other city-states. The competition led to conflict and violence. War-like civilizations preyed upon weaker ones. Each city-state turned to a war leader to protect the city and acquire necessary resources. These rulers built massive fortified walls around their cities. The walls protected the people in and around the cities from invaders. The war leaders (rulers) soon took control of all governmental functions. Rulers in Mesopotamia were absolute—they alone made all governmental decisions. The leaders ruled throughout their lifetime. The transfer of power became hereditary. Usually a son would become ruler when his father died. This is known as *patriarchal system*. This passing of power through one family became known as a dynasty. For most civilizations, the rulers were war leaders, but a few were religious leaders.

### Centralized Government

The first task of early governments was to safeguard and maintain vital food supplies. Working together and pooling resources allowed people of the first civilizations to create a much stronger society. Working for the common good developed pride in their cities and strengthened their culture. City rulers established, trained, and equipped armies. They created and enforced laws. They also hired scribes (people who could read and write) to perform clerical and governmental functions. Soldiers and scribes did not produce products that could be sold; they performed services. The rulers invented taxation to pay for these services.