The Akkadian Empire

“The Best Empire”

Good morning! (afternoon) Thank you all for your hospitality today. My name is Sophia Waldmire, but you might know me as Sophie. I have been sent by my former college, UC Berkeley to talk about the Mesopotamian empires. I want to thank the University for inviting me to speak in front of all of you. Today I will be talking about which Mesopotamian empire has the most accomplishments, but first, a backstory. In high school I took advanced classes and graduated with a 4.8 GPA. I then decided I wanted to be a lawyer, so I went to law school. After a few years or so in law school, I realized that it was not my cup of tea. Instead, I went to Egypt to study the pyramids. I know that studying pyramids and being a lawyer are two completely different things, but that’s just how I roll. However, when that trip was over, I started researching more about all of the Mesopotamian empires. I know that the four Mesopotamian empires are the Akkadians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Neo-Babylonians. Who would end with the best accomplishments? Is it the Hanging Gardens of Babylon? Is it the Assyrian aqueducts? Or is it the Babylonians granting rights to women and slaves? No! It is the Akkadian King Sargon uniting northern and southern Mesopotamia. As I leave you today, I hope that I have convinced you that the Akkadians are the best Mesopotamian empire. Thank you!

First, the Akkadian empire was so great due to its strong leader, Sargon. Sargon led his people as a king and as a military general. He created an empire through powerful military instruction by teaching soldiers to fight in tight formations. Sargon also used his military skills and tactics to win territory for his empire. To control his empire, he used smart political strategies. He made it harder for people to rebel by destroying the walls of cities. In addition, Sargon made sure that the governors of city-states were loyal to him at all
times. He would replace them with his own men if they did not obey him in that manner. Sargon was the first king to implement the rule of his sons ruling after his death.

Secondly, King Sargon ruled his empire for 56 years. He made the city of Agade in northern Mesopotamia the empire's capital during that time. The city of Agade got built up with tributes. People in Sumer had extraordinary irrigation systems and techniques. They also had a system of cuneiform writing to record information. Although they called them by different names, people even worshiped the same gods and goddesses. Religion remained central to the social order.

Some might argue that the Mesopotamian empires are all good. Let's take a look at them and maybe it will change your mind. First, the Babylonians were extremely unfair. If someone did a crime, their punishment was based on their wealth. If someone was poor, they would get their wrists cut off. If someone was rich, they would only have to pay a fine. Next, King Nebuchadnezzar was very wasteful. He made the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for his wife. He used so much water to keep it nice. Another thing is that it was only for his wife. No one could tour or see it. Finally, the Assyrians were barbaric people. They were definitely sadists. The Assyrians would cut off people's heads. They used the heads for necklace and on the top of spears.

So. Have I convinced you yet? Do you think the Akkadian empire is the best one? The military was surely extraordinary. The soldiers were very strong and could fight in tight formations. They had to use walls to protect themselves and fight. Now, our military is better than ever. We have planes to attack other people instead of using walls. It is much easier to attack people with planes. All in all, the great deeds of the Akkadians were truly magnificent as they are now.

By Sophie Waldmire #27