

المرحلة الثانية

النص 3

الجزء 1

Civilization of the Middle East

It is the opinion of most archaeologists that civilization first developed in the Middle East, where, of all regions of the world , natural conditions offered the greatest assistance to man in his changeover from a life of nomadic wandering as a hunter to settled occupation of the soil. The regular rise of the three larger rivers, Nile, Euphrates, and Tigris; annual renewal of soil fertility by the deposition of a layer of silt; and the generally warm climate, favourable both to the growth of a rich plant life, and to the

activities of man himself, were all special inducements to the adoption of a way of life based on agriculture.

Until recently, many archaeologists took the view that civilized communities first arose in Egypt, though only a very short time before a similar development in Mesopotamia: a more recent opinion is now that the earliest advances may have taken place in Mesopotamia.