



# Polytheism vs. monotheism. A socio-epistemic culture clash

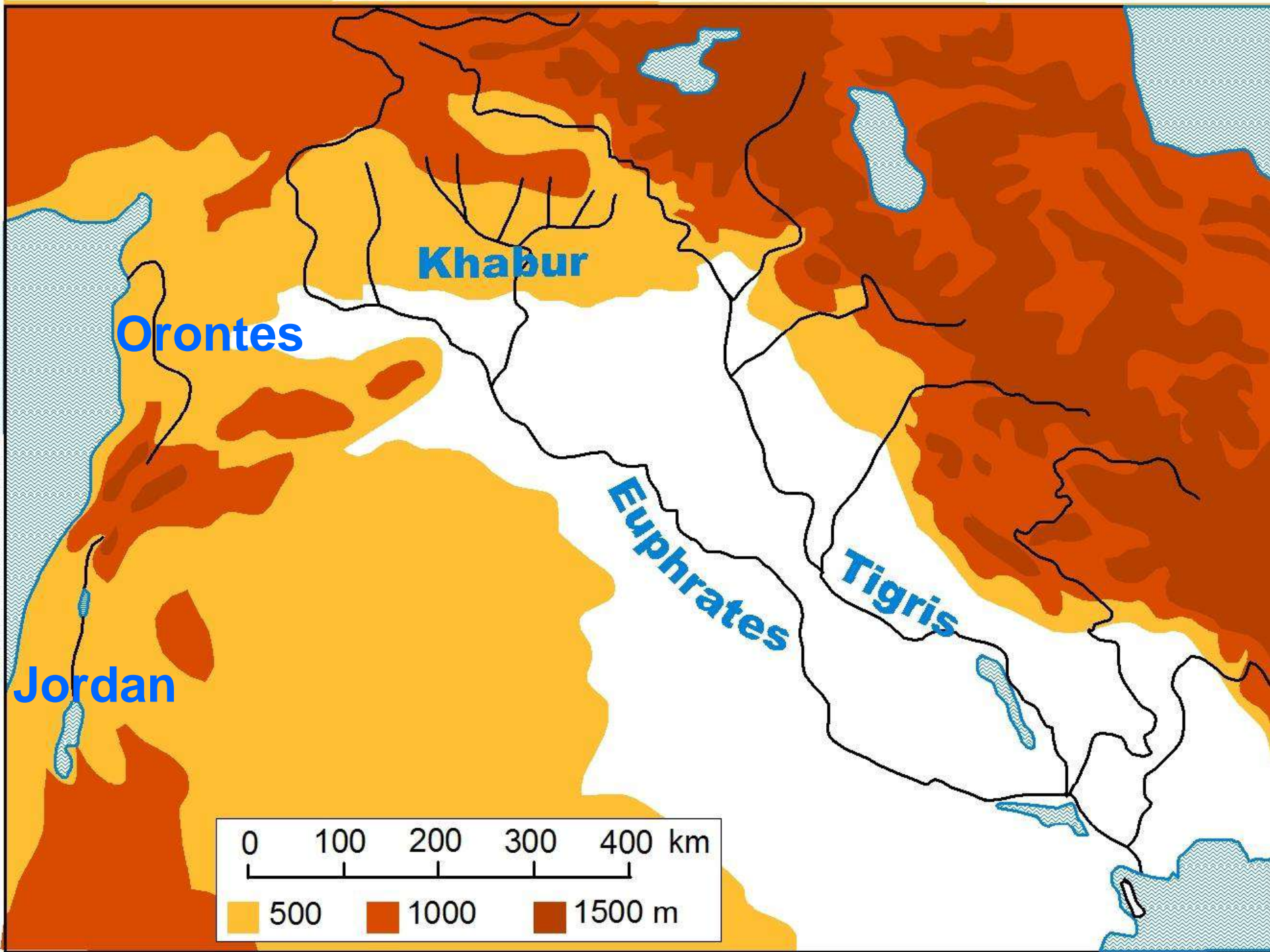
Giorgio Buccellati

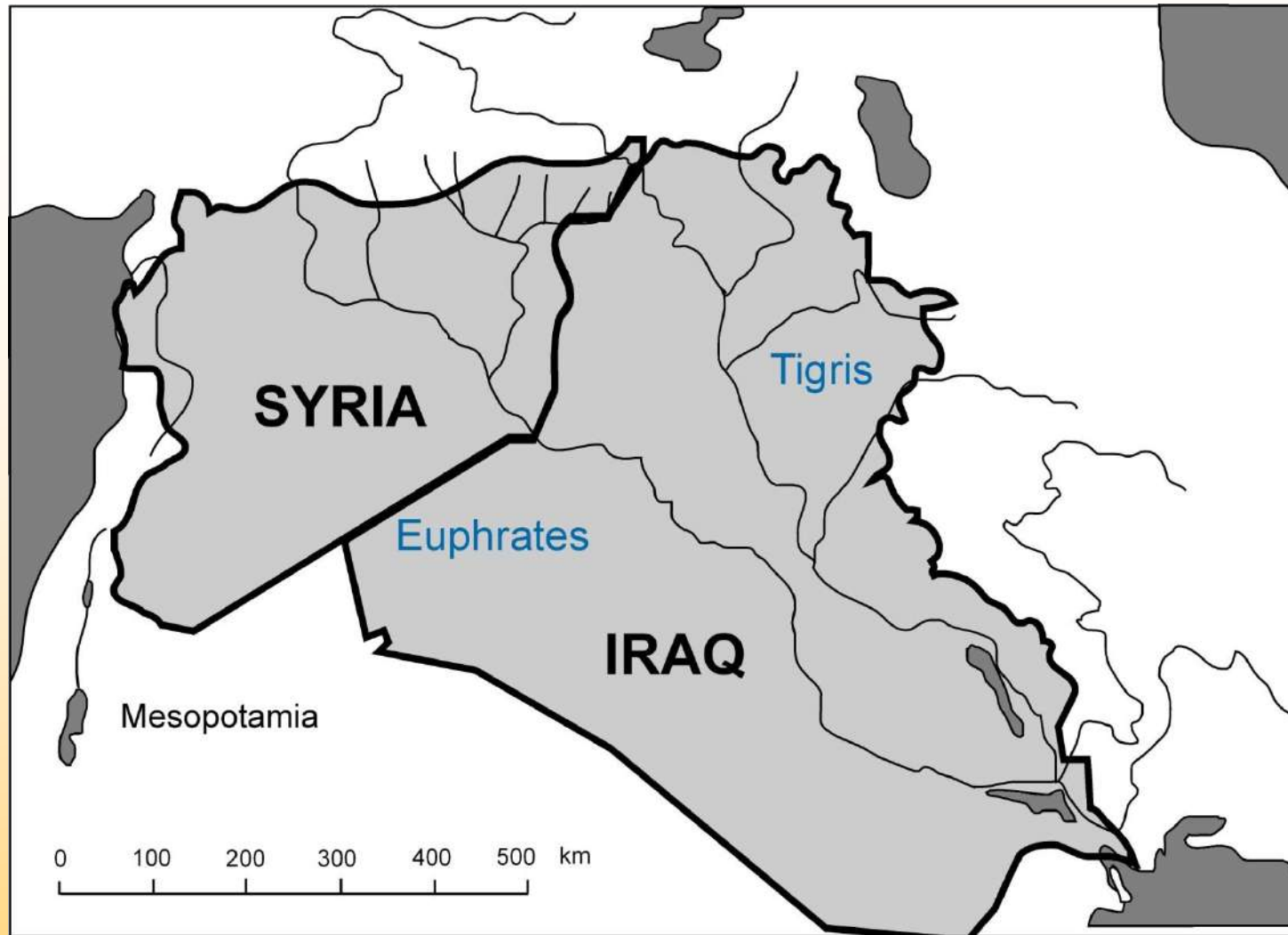
Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, UCLA  
and

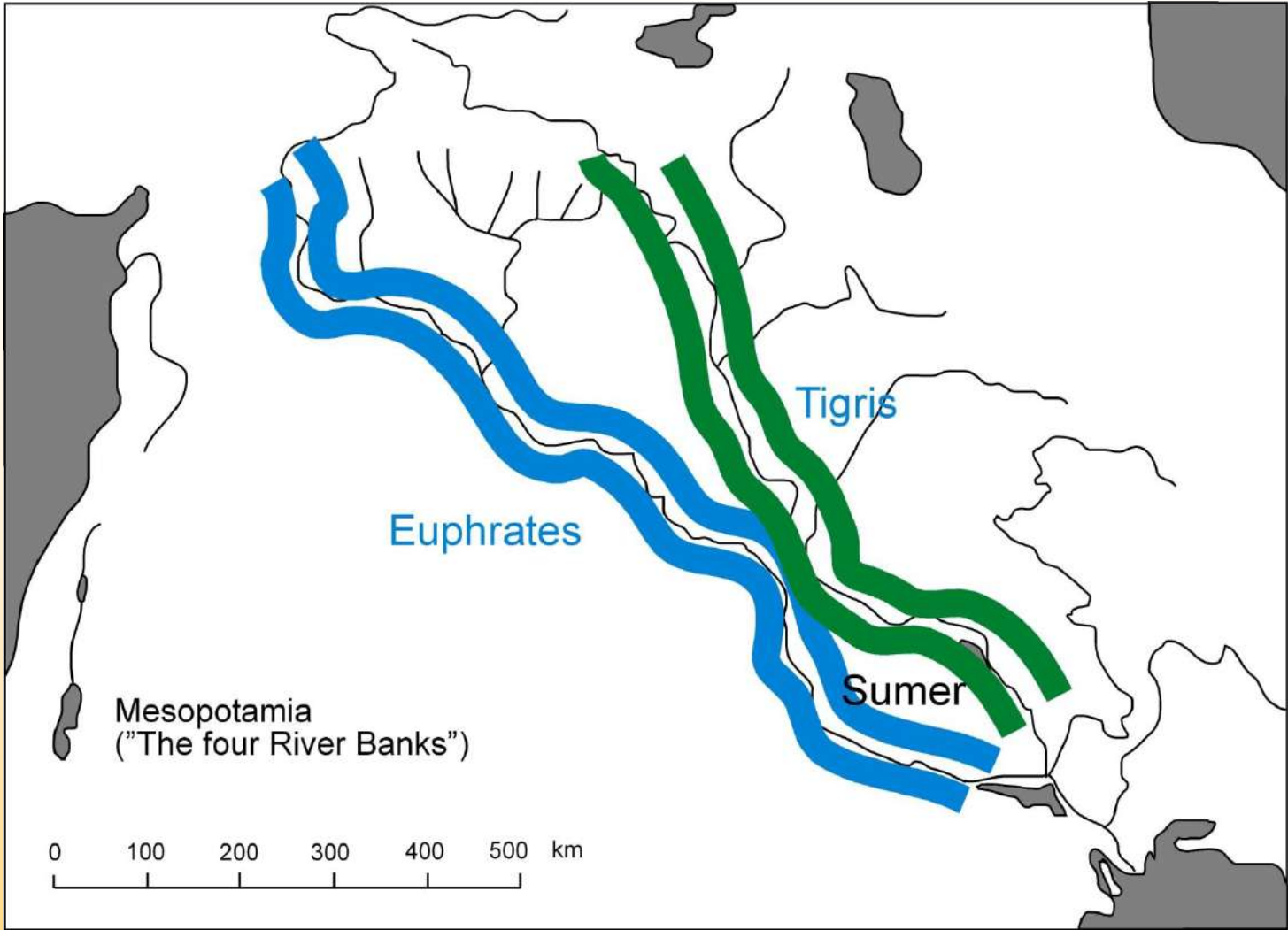
*Cybernetica Mesopotamica*

a research project of the Balzan Foundation

Graz, September 24, 2022

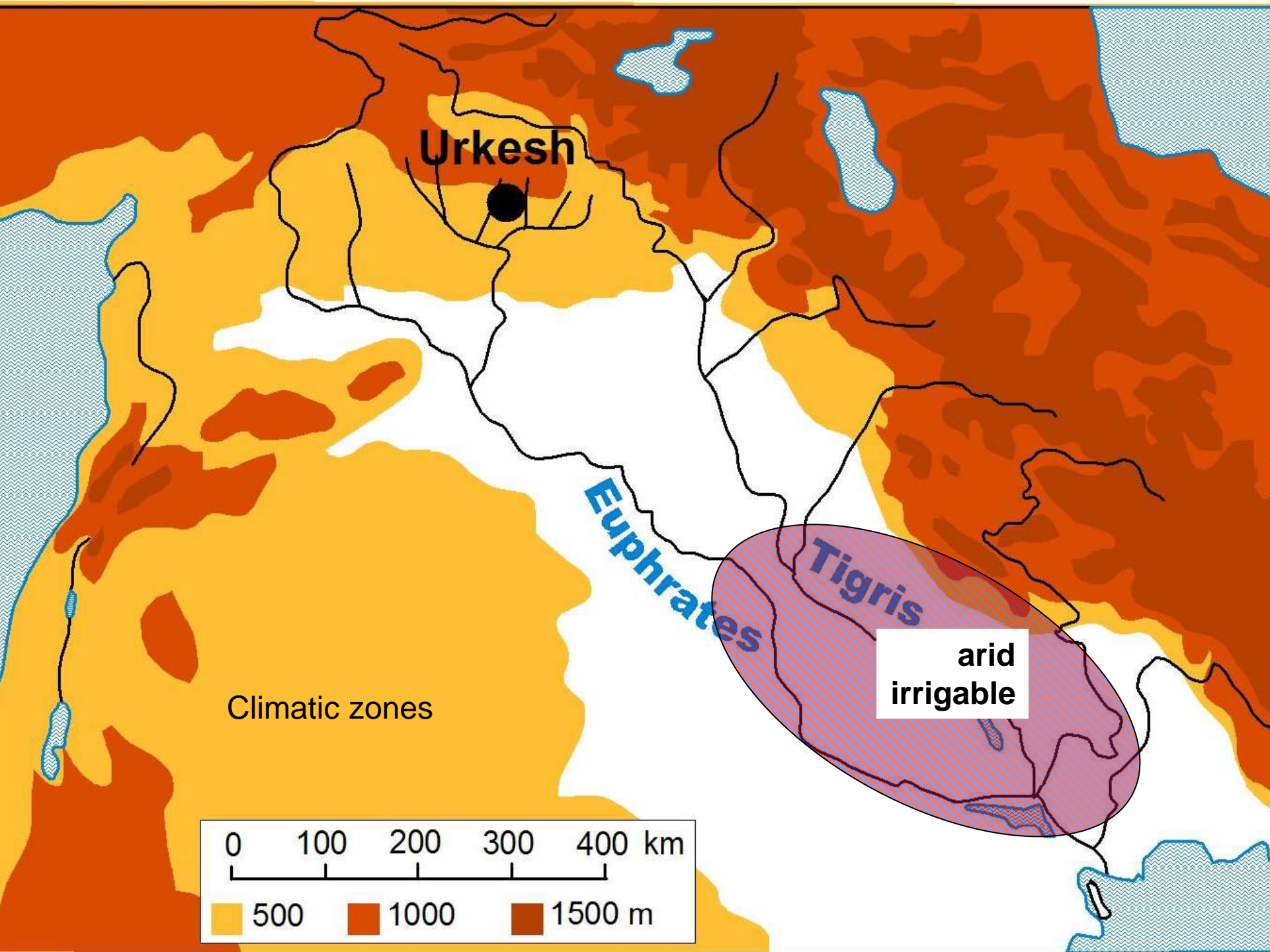








the three regions



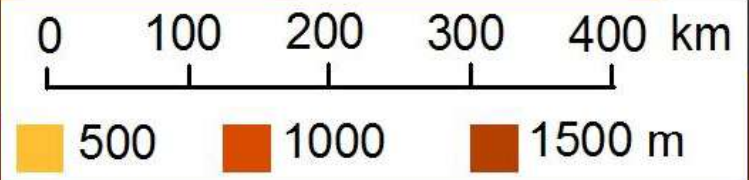
Urkesh

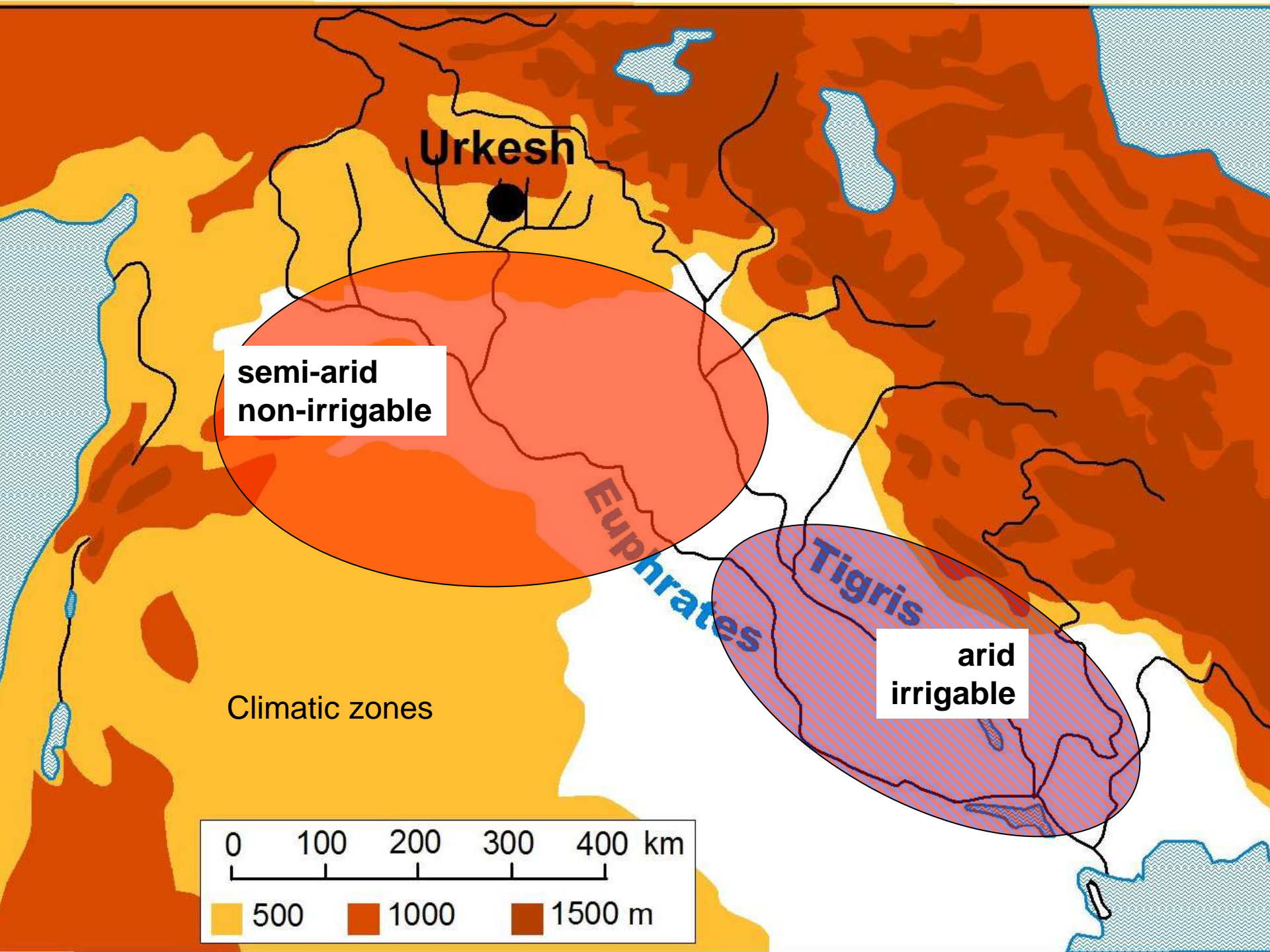
Euphrates

Tigris

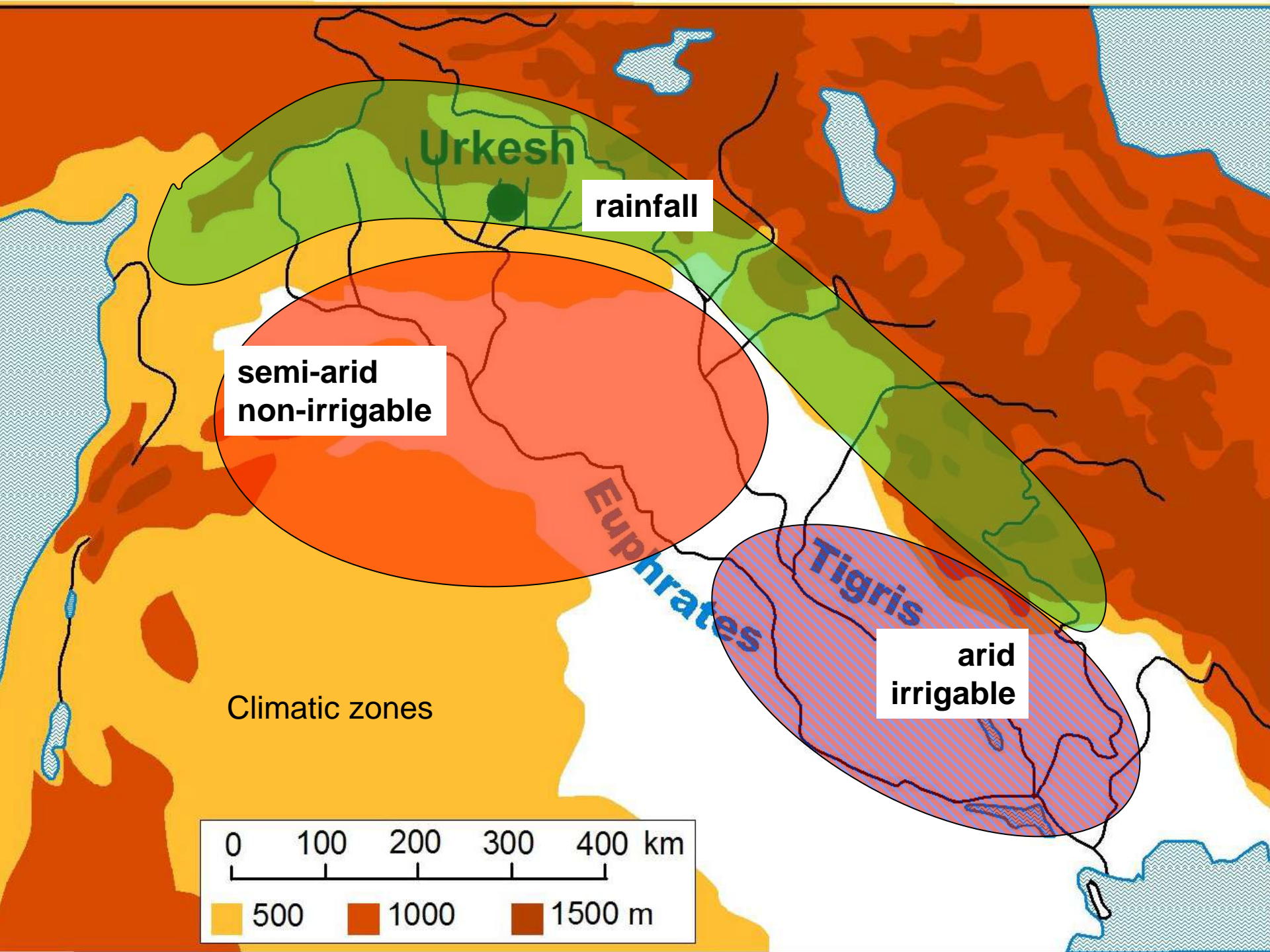
arid  
irrigable

Climatic zones









Urkesh

rainfall

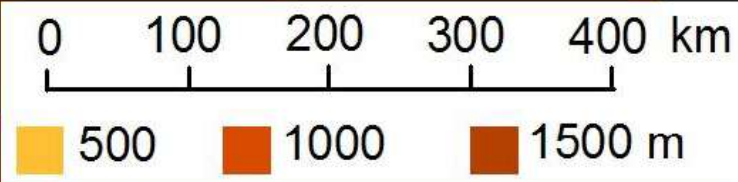
semi-arid  
non-irrigable

Euphrates

Tigris

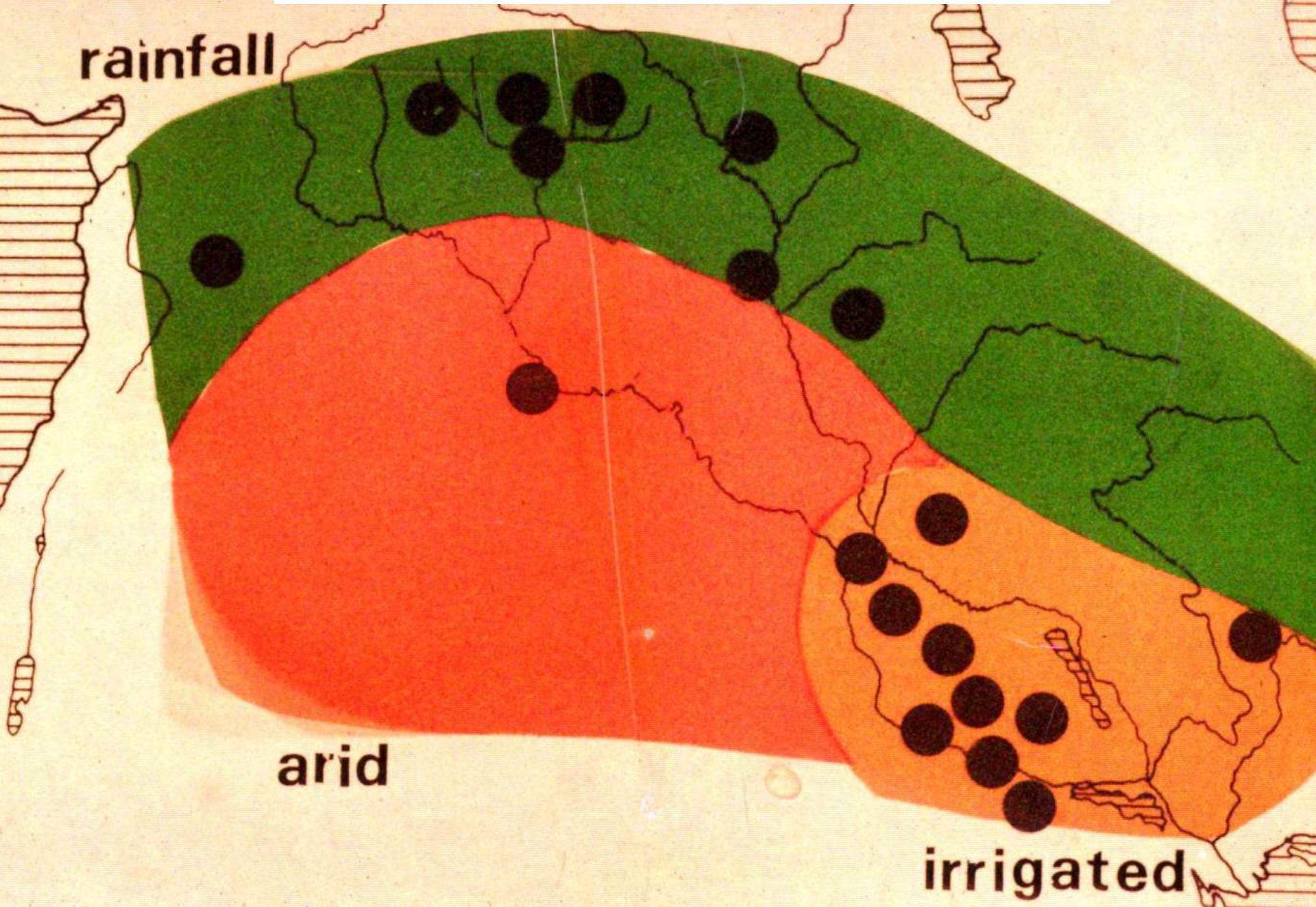
arid  
irrigable

Climatic zones





# Distribution of urban centers



the river oasis  
(*zôr, ah Purattim*)



**Khabur**

**Euphrates**

**Terqa**













Khabur

Euphrates

Terqa

sons of Terqa

sons of the irrigation district (*ugārum*)



Khabur

sons of the left (bank)

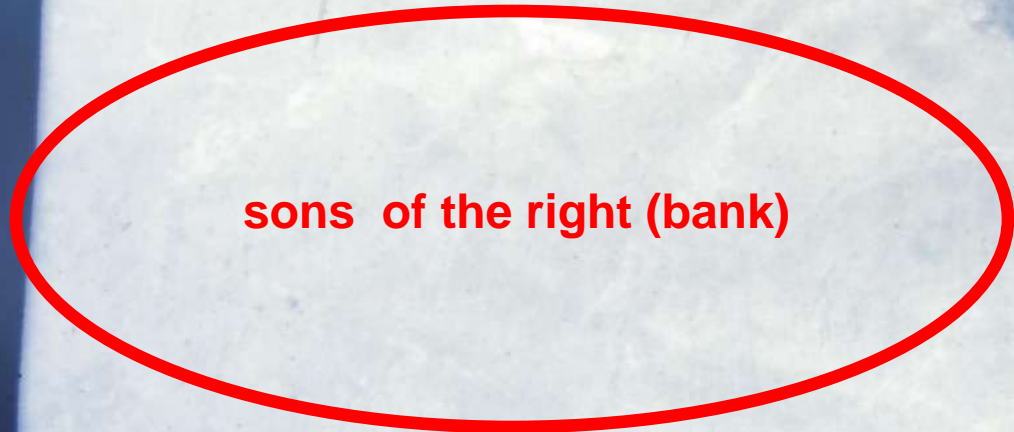
Euphrates

Terqa

sons of Terqa

sons of the irrigation district (*ugārum*)

sons of the right (bank)

















































the steppe

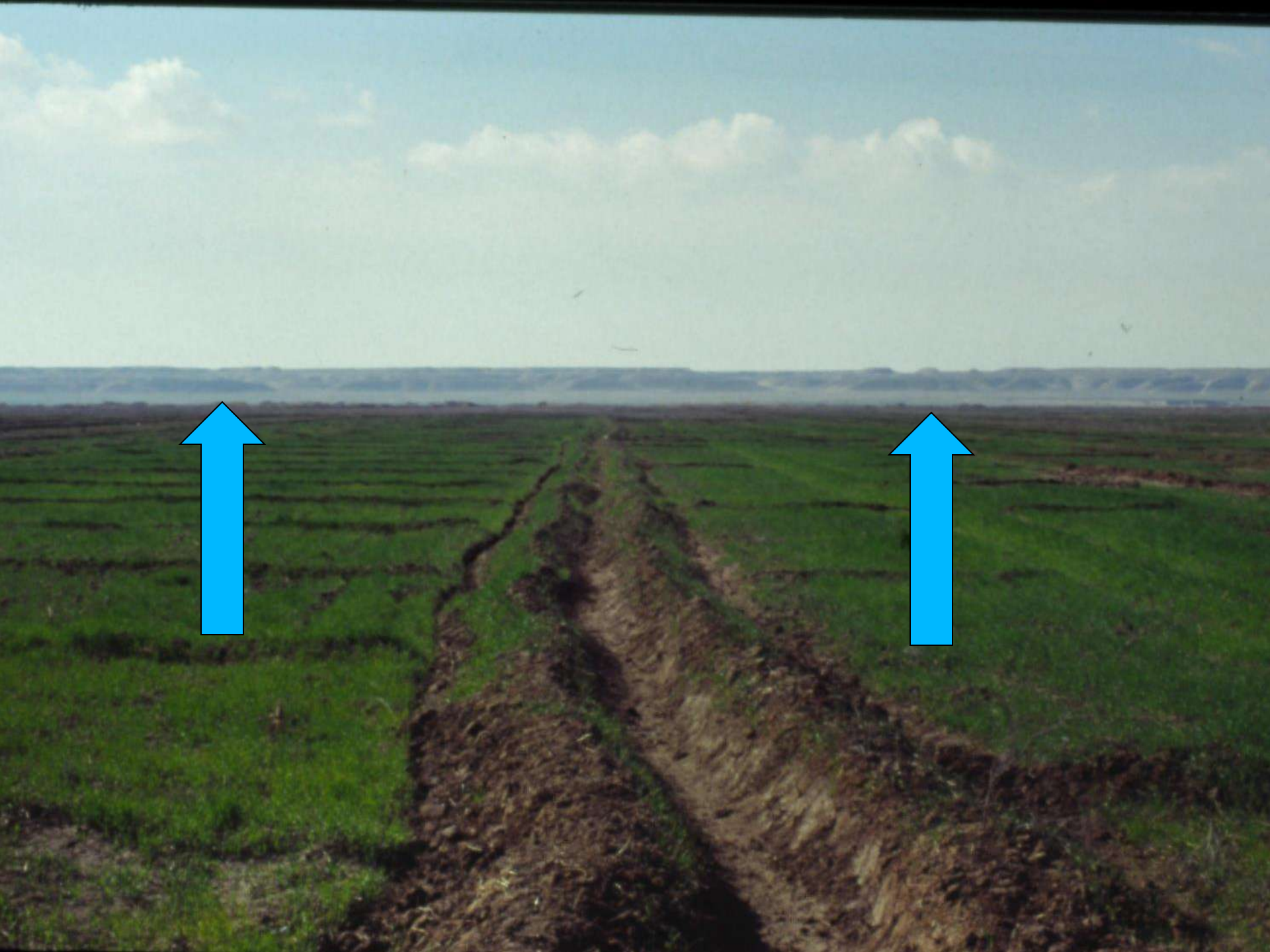


































































wells and springs





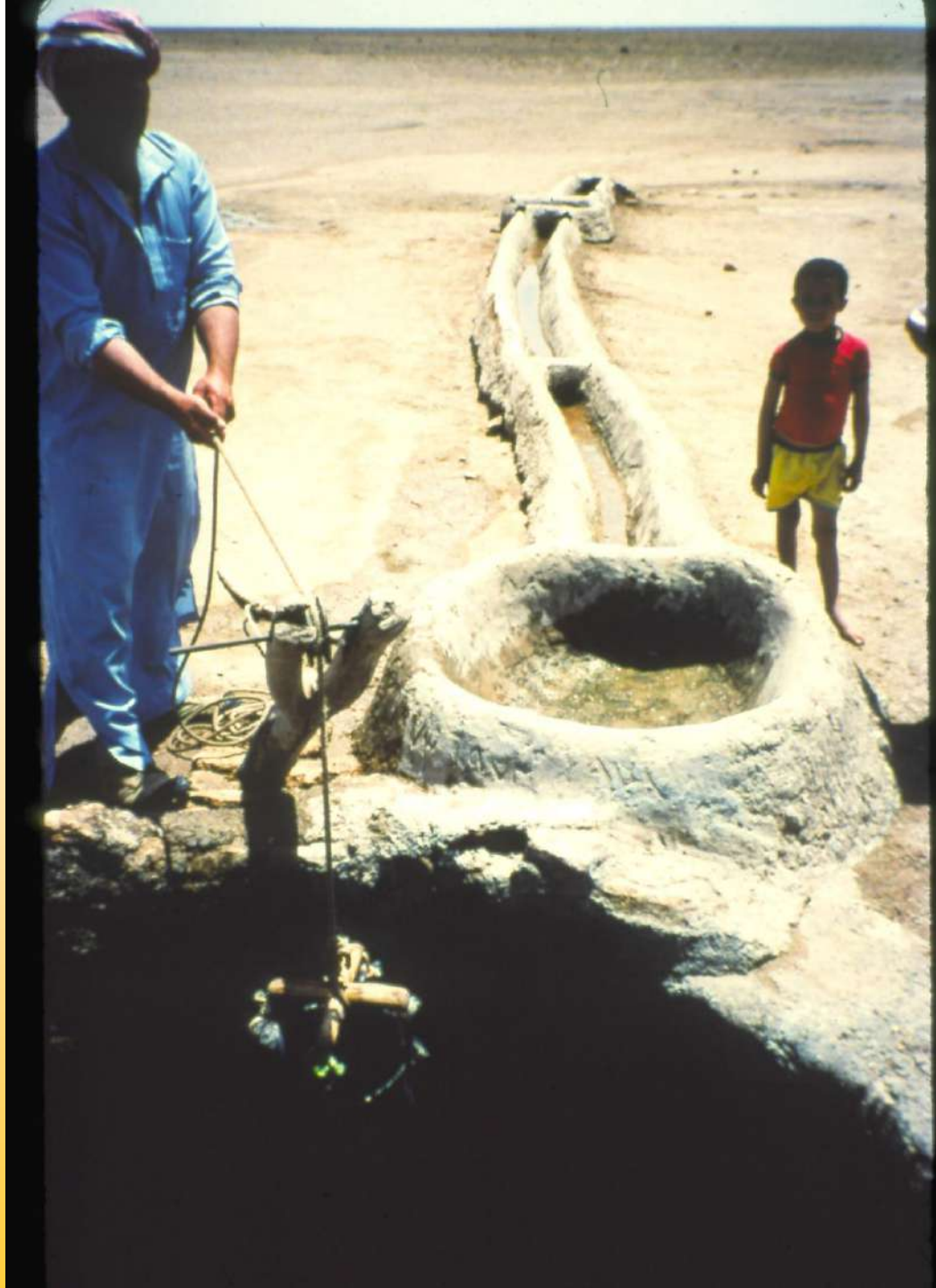














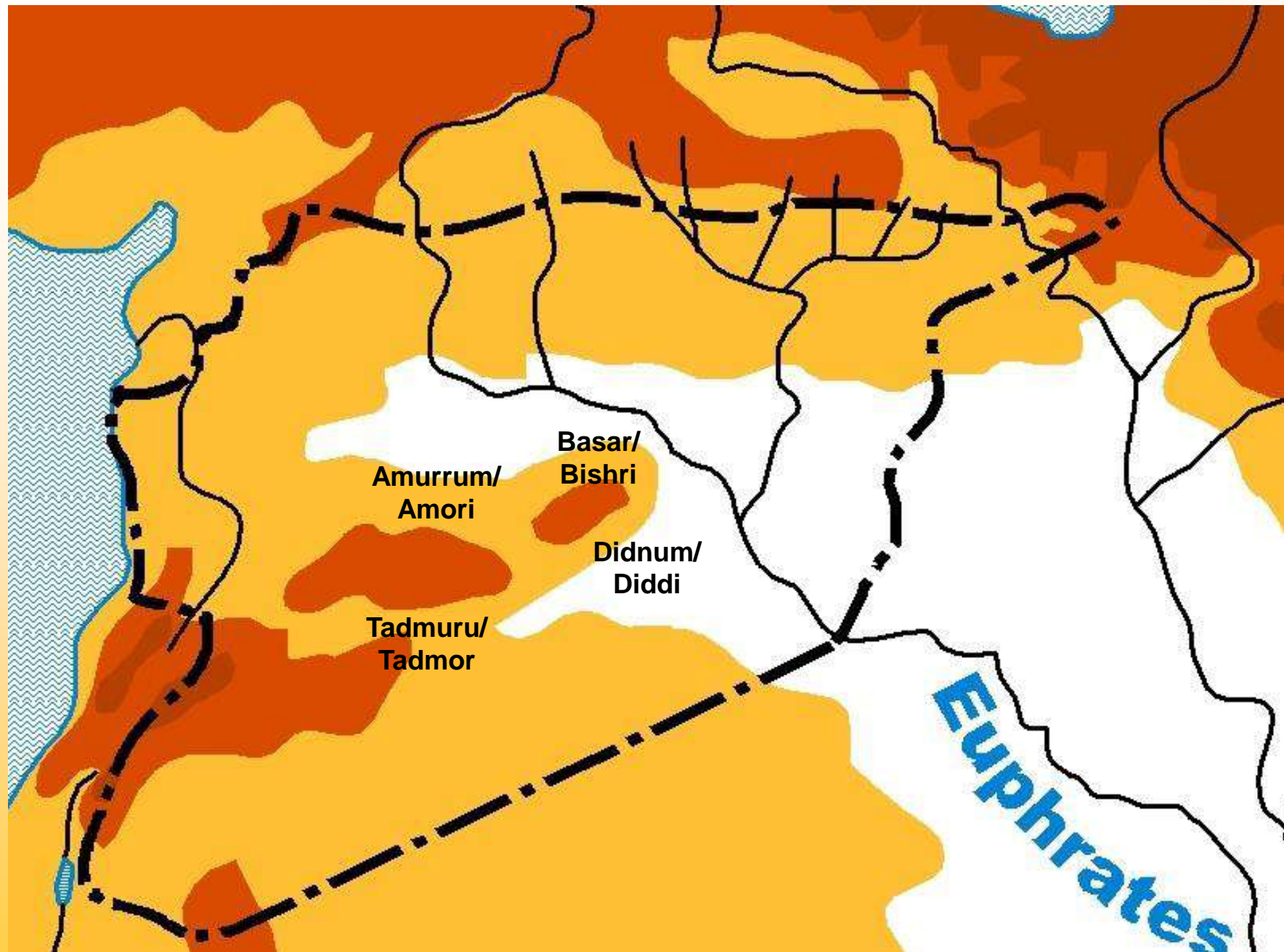
















the agro-pastoralists

1. the animals



































the agro-pastoralist

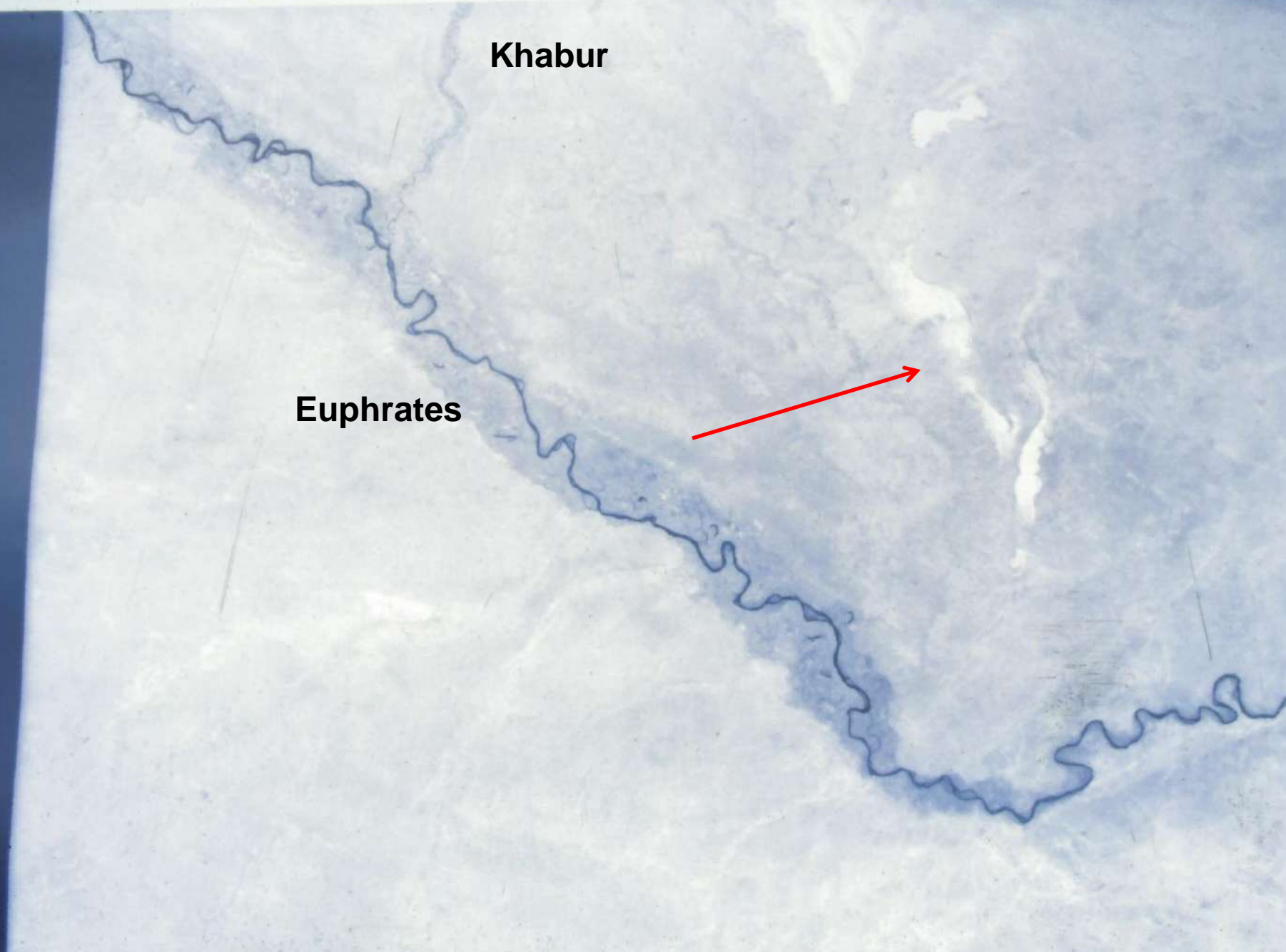
1. the animals

2. salt production



**Khabur**

**Euphrates**















# the agro-pastoralist

1. the animals
2. salt production
3. daily life

































1  
Un problema  
mesopotamico  
(2200-1600 a.C.)

# the Amorites

MEDEDELINGEN DER KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE  
AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN, AFD. LETTERKUNDE  
NIEUWE REEKS — DEEL 28 — No. 6

BRIEF DES BISCHOFS VON ESAGILA  
AN KÖNIG ASARHADDON

BENNO LANDSBERGER

N.V. NOORD-HOLLANDSCHE UITGEVERS MAATSCHAPPIJ - AMSTERDAM - 1965

*To Giorgos as token of  
friendship in spite of . . . . .*

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*Jan. 6, 66.*

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*Handwritten signature*

*Jan. 6, 66.*

BR  
AN

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*Handwritten signature*

*Jan. 6, 66.*

BEN

BRIEF DES BISCHOFS VON ESAGILA  
AN KÖNIG ASARHADDON

N.V. N



# BISHRI



**THE PALMYRENE AND THE JEBEL BISHRI**

■ 0-250	■ 750-1000
■ 250-500	■ 1000-1250
■ 500-750	■ 1250-1500

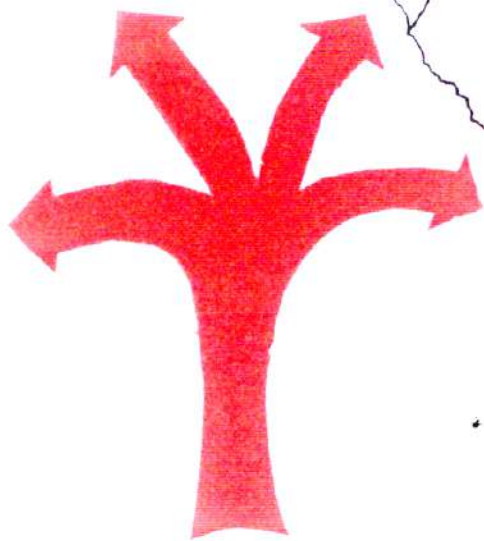
Scale: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

NOT MAPPED

- 1. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 2. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 3. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 4. QASR EL-HAR GHARBI
- 5. AIN EL-BEIDA
- 6. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 7. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 8. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 9. TEL M. AL-DAMUS
- 10. JARF AL-JAY
- 11. TEL ALEWY
- 12. TEL HALAWA
- 13. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 14. TEL EL-BIATA
- 15. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 16. PALMYRA
- 17. TEL EL-BIATA
- 18. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 19. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 20. PALMYRA
- 21. TEL EL-BIATA
- 22. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 23. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 24. PALMYRA
- 25. TEL EL-BIATA
- 26. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 27. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 28. PALMYRA
- 29. TEL EL-BIATA
- 30. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 31. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 32. PALMYRA
- 33. TEL EL-BIATA
- 34. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 35. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 36. PALMYRA
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- 38. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 39. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 40. PALMYRA
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- 42. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 43. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 44. PALMYRA
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- 46. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 47. TEL ED-DAMUS
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- 49. TEL EL-BIATA
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- 60. PALMYRA
- 61. TEL EL-BIATA
- 62. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 63. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 64. PALMYRA
- 65. TEL EL-BIATA
- 66. TEL JOUASSIAH
- 67. TEL ED-DAMUS
- 68. PALMYRA
- 69. TEL EL-BIATA
- 70. TEL JOUASSIAH



Four reconstructions

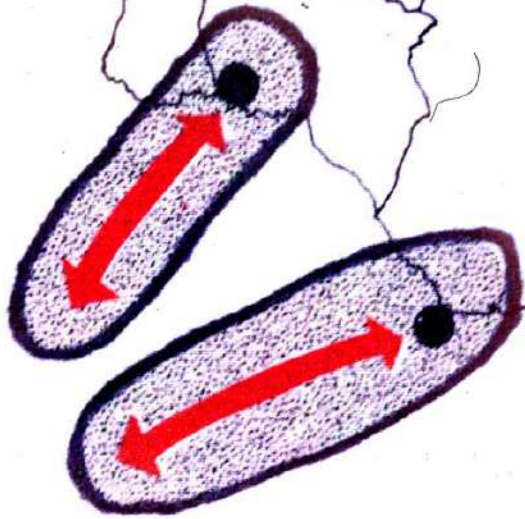


INVASIONS



**INFILTRATION**





**DIMORPHIC STATE &  
ENCLOSED NOMADISM**

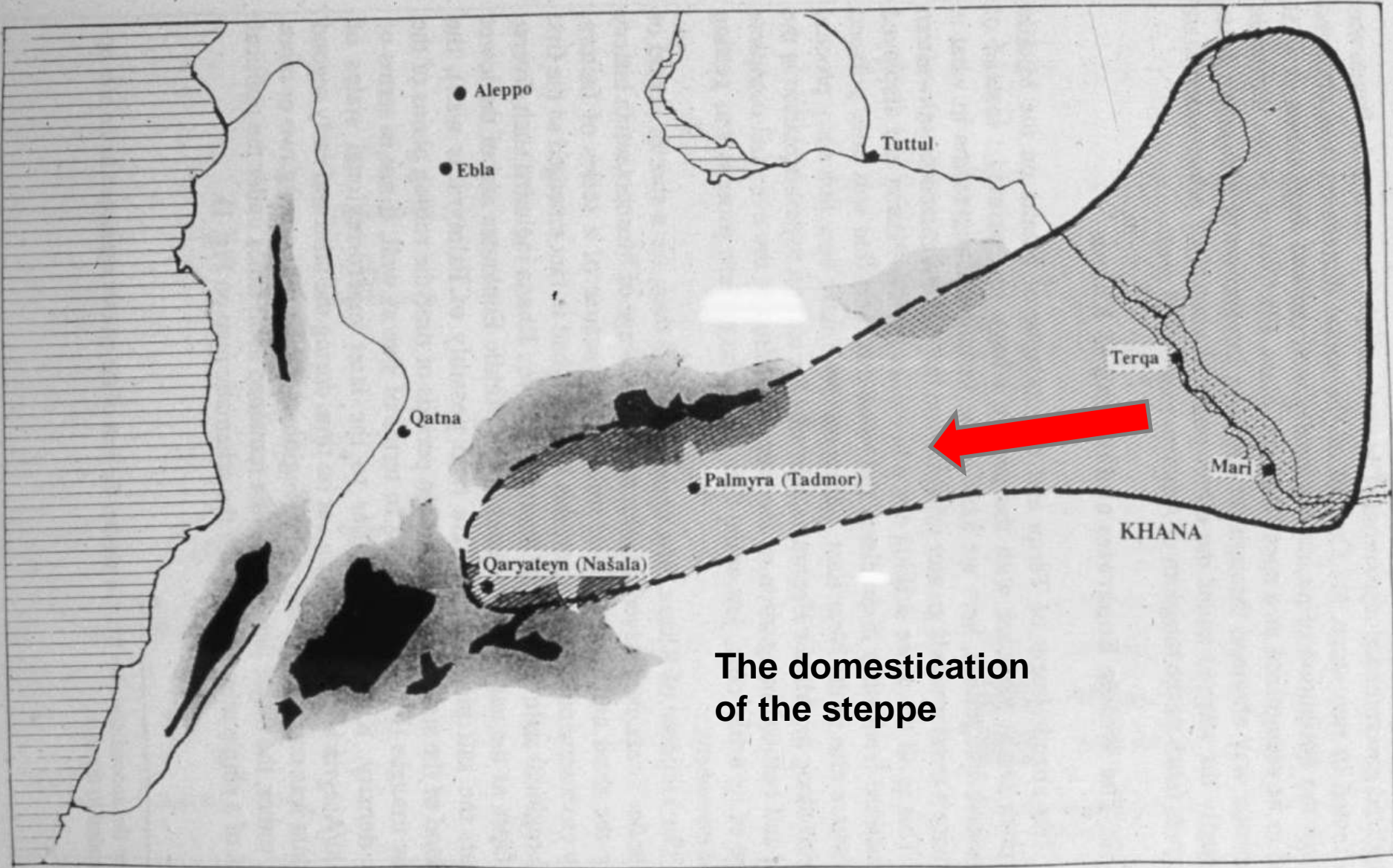


**NOMADIZATION**





**NOMADIZATION**  
**SPLINTER GROUPS**



● Aleppo

● Ebla

Tuttul

● Qatna

Terqa

Mari

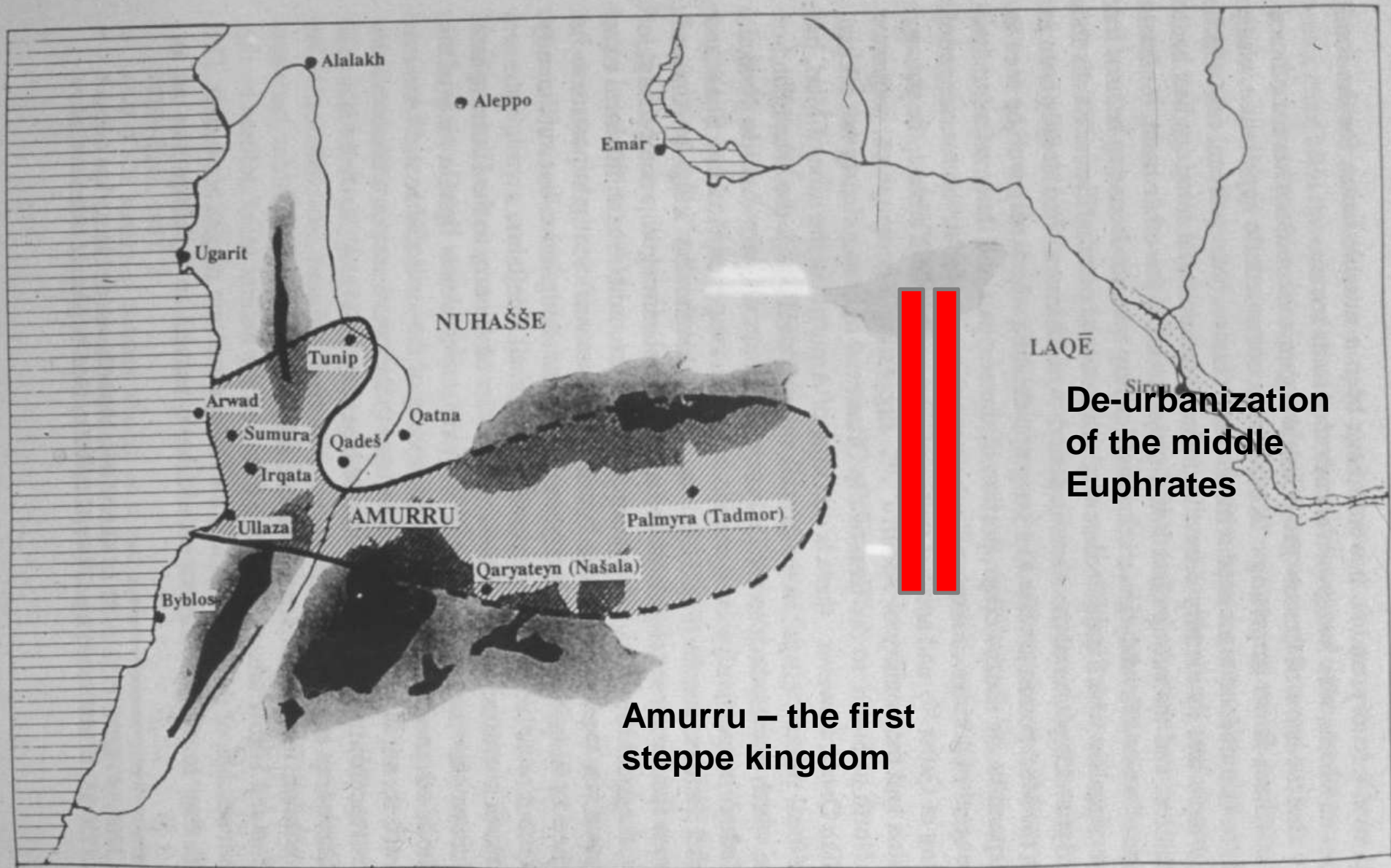
● Palmyra (Tadmor)

● Qaryateyn (Našala)

KHANA

**The domestication  
of the steppe**





**De-urbanization  
of the middle  
Euphrates**

**Amurru – the first  
steppe kingdom**