

# Two Comparative Archaeology Databases

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# Status-and-role Data

- What are the possible **statuses** found in an early state? (found 52)
  - What actual statuses are found in 11 early states?
  - Of the 52, which is also found in 5 non-states?
- What are the possible **roles** people play in an early state?(found 66)
  - What actual roles are found in 11 early states?
  - And perhaps 5 non-states?
  - Which roles are associated with particular statuses?

# Societies in Status-role Study

N = 16

## Primary states

China (Shang)  
Egypt (Old Kingdom)  
Hawai'i(pre-conquest)  
Lower Mesopotamia (Early  
Dynasty)  
Maya (Pre- to Late Classic)

## Secondary states

Aztec  
Benin  
Greece  
Zapotec

Inca  
Japan

## Non-states

Hopi  
Tewa

Iceland  
Iroquois  
Maasai

# Master Database (abridged)

[illegible]

# Preparatory Database 1: China

**Associated territory/dates:** (Early–Late) Shang China 1600–1050 BCE

**Status:** King (*Wang*)

Expected roles	Place in hierarchy	Reports to	Basis of legitimacy	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Rules over a state that covers most of north-central China (Campbell n.d.:3)</li><li>*Travels around the territory (Keightley 1983:537)</li><li>*Delegates authority to territorial governors (Trigger 2003:216)</li><li>*Accepts tribute from lords living outside the capital (Barnes 1999:134)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Top of living beings</li><li>*Gains divine ancestral status upon death</li></ul>	Royal ancestors, chief god	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*Born into ruling clan</li><li>*Oldest son or next oldest brother of king (Feng 2013:103–06; Trigger 2003:149–50)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>*King was not considered "the son of heaven"—the representative of the gods on earth—until the Zhou Dynasty (A. D. Smith, personal communication 6/30/2014)</li></ul>

# Preparatory Database 2: Basic Information

- **Region:** China
- **State:** Late Shang
- **Collected by:** Paula L.W. Sabloff; checked by Adam D. Smith
- **Date:** June 30, 2014
  
- **(1) Time period of the state**
  
- **(2) Location of the state:**
  
- **(3) Is the state widely agreed (by scholars) to be a state?**
  
- **(4) What are the data like for the state?**
  
- **(5) Interpretations of the data**
  
- **(6) A general picture of the state's government and leadership**
  
- **(7) Any additional relevant information:**
  
- **REFERENCES**

# Longue-durée Data

- From the Middle Paleolithic through state formation (Bronze Age in Eurasia)
- Are there geological, climatic, regional, or societal attributes that
  - Must be present
  - Clusterin order for a society to become a state?
- Is there some mathematical ratio between these features and time to state formation?

# Societies in Longue-durée Study

## N = 19

### Western hemisphere

Andean coast  
Andean highlands  
Eastern USA  
Mayan lowlands  
Oaxaca  
Southwest USA  
Valley of Mexico

### Eurasia

China (6 areas)  
Crete  
Cucuteni-Tripolye  
Greece  
Indus Valley  
Japan  
Levant  
L. Mesopotamia

### Africa

Egypt  
Jenne-Jeno  
Nubia

Hawai'i



# Longue-durée Database 1 (abridged)

NUBIA		Upper Paleolithic	Comments	Pre- to Classic Kerma	Comments
A. Dates of tradition (start; end date)					
B. Climate					
C-D. Population characteristics, skeletal evidence					
E. Settlement patterns					
F2. Burial goods (all burials)		0	AW 109: No objects found that could be interpreted as mortuary offerings.	1	FM 148: The dead wore clothing and jewelry that they would have worn in life. EG: Egyptian scarab seal/amulets.
G-H. Domestication of plants, animals					
I, K. Ornaments, pottery, metallurgy					
J4. Pottery uses: Nonutilitarian (display or ritual)		1	FM 200: Pottery was an integral ceremonial component of Nubian culture.	1	FM 200: Pottery was an integral ceremonial component of Nubian culture.
L-M. Artifacts of bureaucracy, conflict					
N1. . Art/ritual artifacts		1	AW 115-116: Rock engravings depict animals & men; one of the largest and best-known finds is at Abka, associated with Qadan and Abkan industries of the Final Stone Age(Upper Paleolithic) and Neolithic, ca. 7000-4500 BCE.	1	EG: Painted funerary chapels depict wild animals, scenes of fishing, and boats with soldiers.
O. Tools	of shell/bone/wood	1	MRB 35: At Jebel Sahaba, a borer and small spatula are the earliest bone tools recovered.	1	PP 228: Bone tool industries.

# Longue-durée Database 2

## Social Organization Attributes

NUBIA	Upper Paleolithic	Comments	Pre- to Classic Kerma	Comments
I. Social organization: simple kin-based, lineage-based, class-based				
II. Political organization: simple chiefdom, paramount chief, city-state, regional state			4	FM 23: Kerma is identified as the capital of the first Nubian Kingdom of Kush; appears in Egyptian records (XII Dynasty). EG: Certainly a state by the Classic Kerma period.
III. Bureaucracy: kin tie to leader, hereditary, merit/education				
IV. Legitimacy of the ruler: merit, divine sanction, inherits			1	PP 228-229: City inhabited by a religiopolitical elite.
V. Purpose of public projects: e.g., natural protection, defense, ritual, administration...			1	OD 50: Kerma's walls were 10 m. high. BC 617: Wall surrounded by dry ditches to prevent undermining.
VI. Mode of production: by kin, class, gender, specialty...				
VII. Delegation of tasks in nonpublic works: e.g., by family, kin group, class			4	PP 228-229: Religiopolitical elite, their servants, and craft specialists, with central functions for Kerma villagers.
VIII.-IX Intersettlement interaction (trade, war, contact...) & types of exchange: e.g., none, barter, market, money				
X. Locus of exchange (widest locus possible): within-group, regional, long-distance			3	PP 228: Trade connections with the C-group and Egypt. FM 120: At its zenith, Kerma traded directly with the Hyksos rulers of the Egyptian delta, during the 2nd intermediate period.
XI-XII. Organization of religious tasks: shaman, priesthood, & religious				

# Questions, problems, opportunities

- Access (audience)
  - Scholars of any field
- Units of analysis
  - Status-and-role: society at a sliver of time (e.g., 1500-1200 BCE)
    - Status, role
  - Longue-durée: occupation of a region over time (to state formation)
    - Attribute (presence/absence or ranking scale)

- Assumptions:
  - Time periods are traditions (i.e., some longer than others)
    - Attribute that appears any time in the tradition is assumed to remain through the end of the tradition
  - Others?
- Hopes:
  - Connect to Turchin et al. database

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