REL 250
Lecture Two

Historical Development and Background

From Prehistoric to Ancient:

Development, Migration, Settlement

Periods of (modern) Human Ancient History

- **Stone Age**
- **Bronze Age**
- **Iron Age**

The Stone Age

I. **Paleolithic** *(upper)* (*c.* 50,000bp - 11,000 BCE) **- *old* *stone***

A. Homo Sapien (*Sapien - c. 250,000bp*)

B. **Behavioral Modernity**:

1. abstract thought
2. symbolic behavior:
    a. art
    b. music
    c. body modification/jewelry

The Stone Age

I. **Paleolithic** *(upper)* (*c.* 50,000bp - 11,000 BCE) - ***old*** *stone*

A. Homo Sapien (*Sapien - c. 250,000bp*)

B. **Behavioral Modernity**

1. **Mesolithic** (*c.* 11,000 - 8000 BCE) - ***middle*** *stone*
2. **Neolithic** (*c.* 8000 - 3000 BCE) - ***new*** *stone*
   a. Agricultural Revolution
   b. First Civilizations

The Bronze Age

IV. **Early Bronze** (*c.* 3000 - 2000 BCE)

A. **Sumeria** - Dynastic Period (*c. 2900-2334 BCE*)

B. **Egypt** - Old Kingdom (*c. 2680-2200 BCE*)

V. **Middle Bronze** (*c.* 2000 - 1500 BCE)

A. **Egypt** - Middle Kingdom (*c. 2050-1650 BCE*)

B. **Minoan** Civilization (*c. 1900-1400 BCE*)

VI. **Late Bronze** (*c.* 1500 - 1200 BCE)

A. **Egypt** - New Kingdom (*c. 1550-1070 BCE*)

B. **Mycenaean** Civilization (*c. 1600-1100 BCE*)

The Iron Age

VII. **Early Iron** (*c.* 1200 - 900 BCE)

A. Greek Dark Age

B. Massive Near-Eastern Migration

VIII. **Middle Iron** (*c.* 900 - 600 BCE)

A. Greek Archaic Age

B. Assyrian Empire

IX. **Late Iron** (*c.* 600 - 300 BCE)

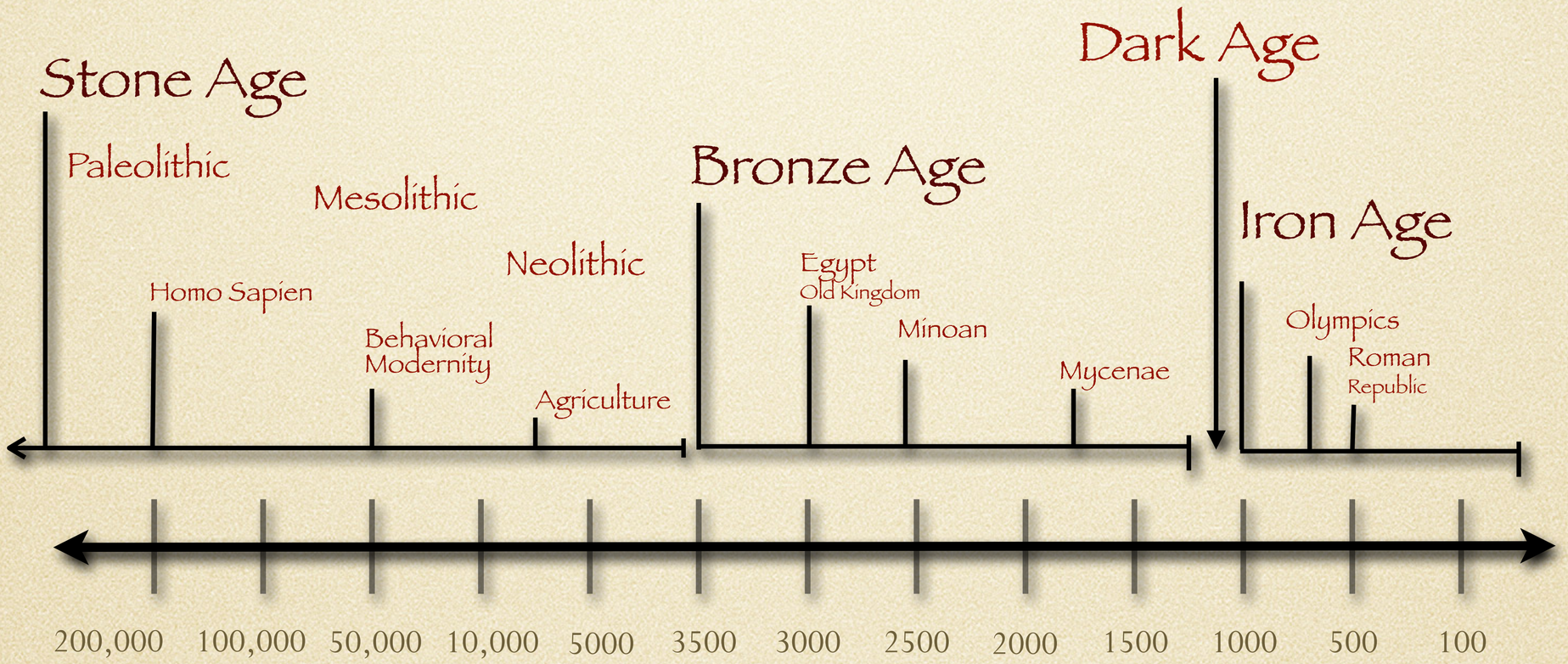
A. Persia - Achaemenid Empire

B. Greek Classical Age

Prehistoric to Historic

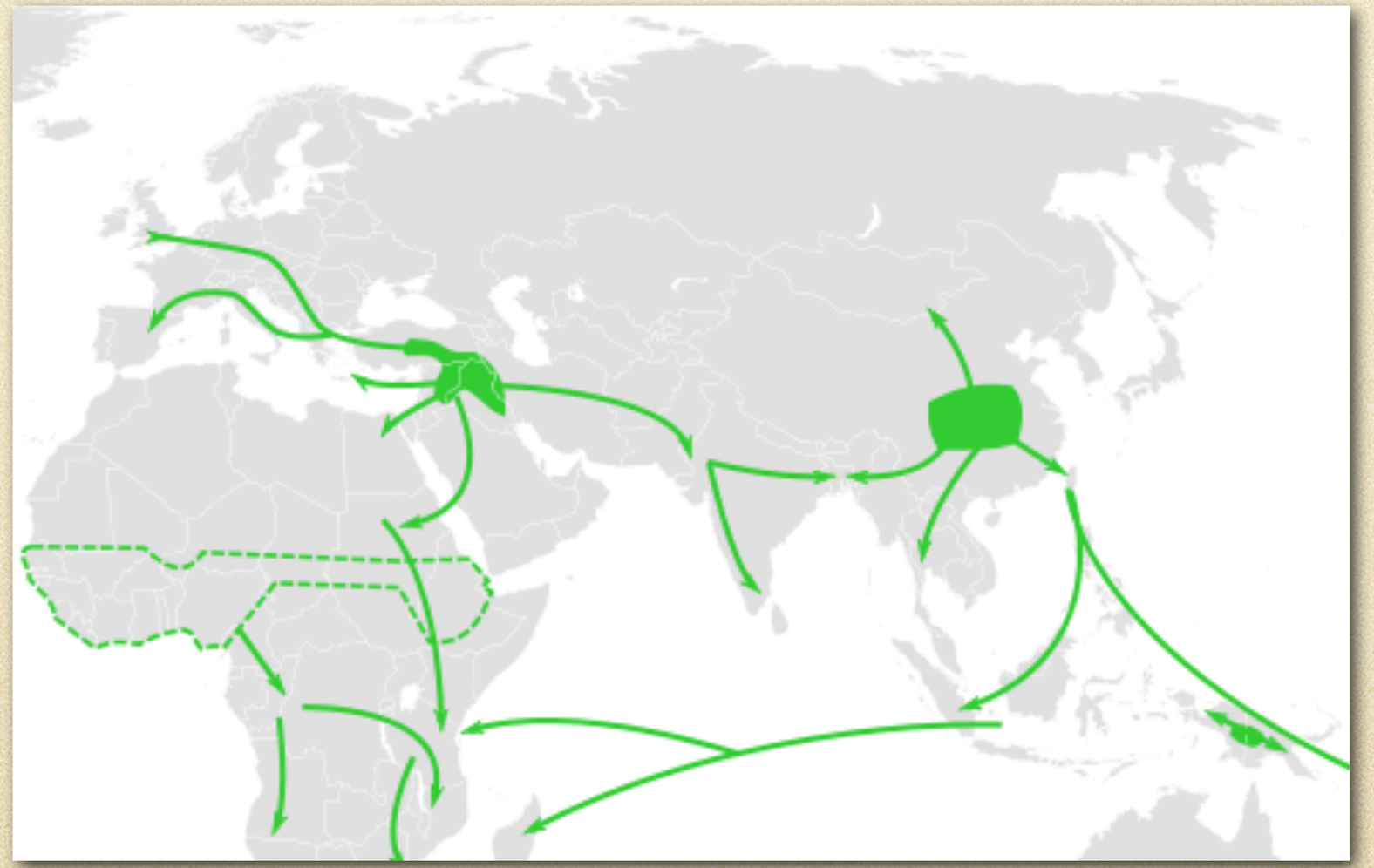
- **Stone Age** -
  - *upper* Paleolithic (*c.* 50,000bp - 11,000 BCE)
  - Mesolithic (*c.* 11,000 - 8000 BCE)
  - Neolithic (*c.* 8000 - 3000 BCE)
- **Bronze Age** -
  - Early Bronze (*c.* 3000 - 2000 BCE)
  - Middle Bronze (*c.* 2000 - 1500 BCE)
  - Late Bronze (*c.* 1500 - 1200 BCE)
- **Iron Age** -
  - Early Iron (*c.* 1100 - 900 BCE)
  - Middle Iron (*c.* 900 - 600 BCE)
  - Late Iron (*c.* 600 - 300 BCE)

Prehistoric to Historic



BCE *- Before the Common Era*

The Genesis of Civilization:
The Agricultural Revolution
c. 8000 BCE



Geography

- Mesopotamia
- Egypt
- China
- Harappa

Geography

the Flood Plane

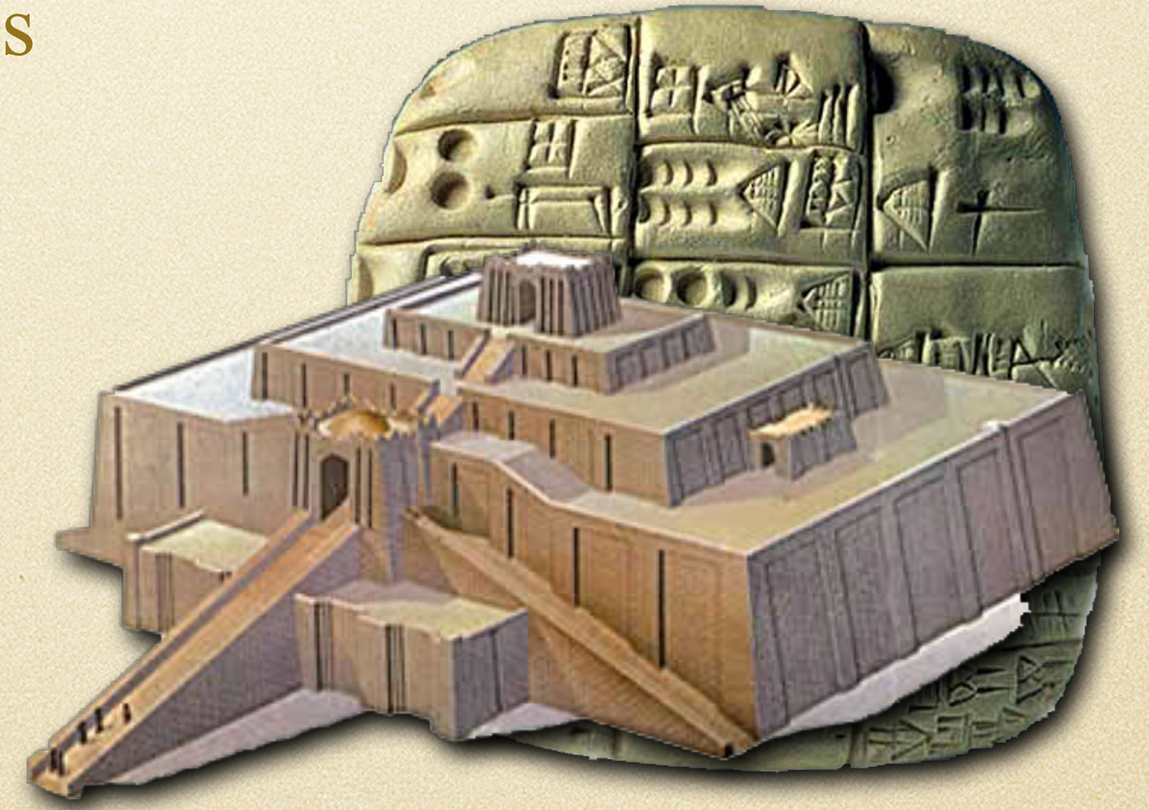
- Mesopotamia - **Tigris/Euphrates**
- Egypt - **Nile**
- China - **Yellow River**
- Harappa - **Indus River**

Domestication

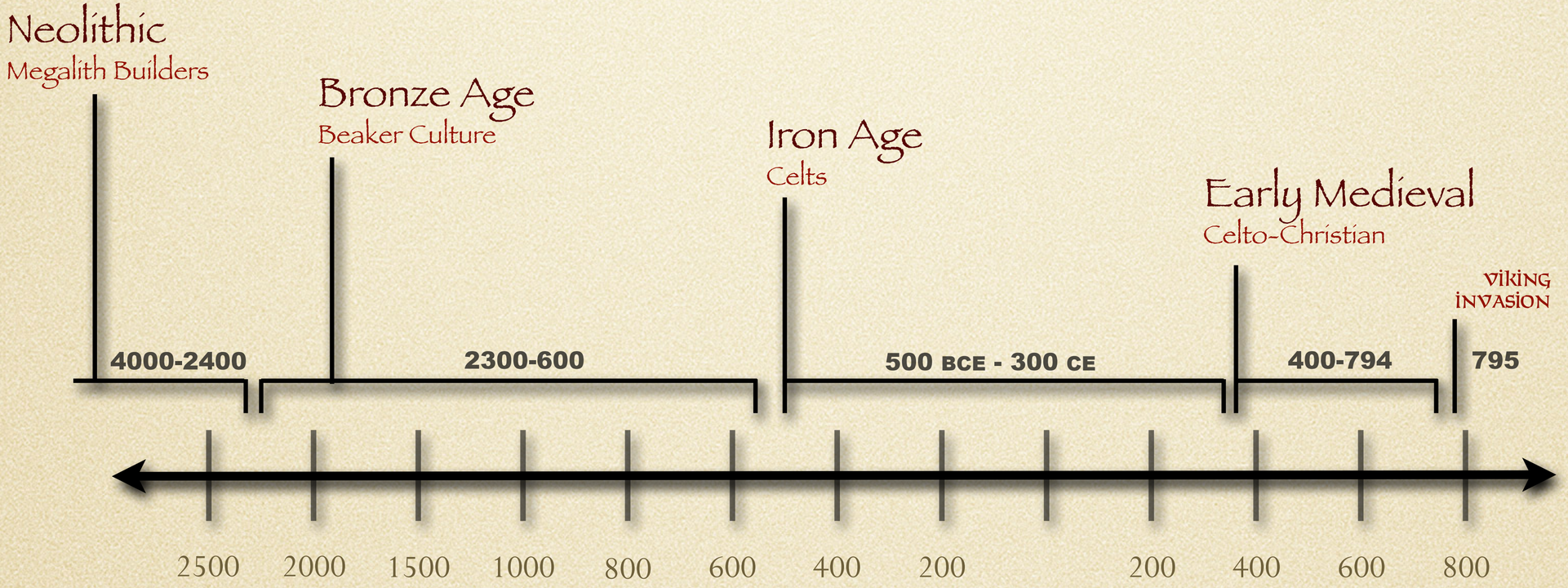
- Animals
- Cereals

The Consequences

- Settlement (*persistent habitation*)
- Counting/Mathematics
- Writing
- Social Stratification



A Timeline of Early Irish History



BCE *- Before the Common Era*

CE *- The Common Era*