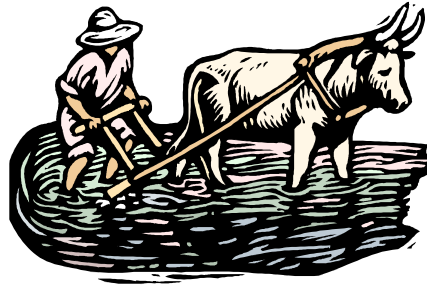


## AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

(BY 8,000 BC)



*No other development produced such a drastic change in society from the dawn of humankind itself, until the Industrial Revolution in the 1800s.*

The Agricultural Revolution involved the **domestication of plants and animals**

- a. Much higher concentrations of plants and animals in one area (than would naturally occur in the wild)
- b. Selective breeding

The Agricultural Revolution had several effects:

### 1. **greater population density**

Anywhere from 10 to 100 times the number of people can be supported by agriculture (than with hunting and gathering)

### 2. **expanding population**

- a. Because of the increase in food supply, more people can be supported,
- b. This increasing population at some point will need to bring more land under cultivation

### 3. **exposure to animal germs**

- a. Many human sicknesses can be traced to animal germs (measles, smallpox, tuberculosis, flu, and malaria)
- b. In the short run, such exposure is bad, but in the long run, it helps develop a more immune population

### 4. **sedentism and private property**

- a. Permanent dwellings are constructed, so the domesticated plants and livestock can be maintained
- b. There is now a strong motive for land ownership (private property), which grants one the right to farm good land, or to claim crops farmed by others

### 5. **specialization**

- a. Agricultural surpluses enable specialization (specialists who can exchange farm tools or clothing for food; bureaucrats who can maintain records; soldiers and rulers)
- b. Specialization therefore encourages trade (you can't eat clay tablets or plows or clothing), not only among residents of one city, but among different cities and regions