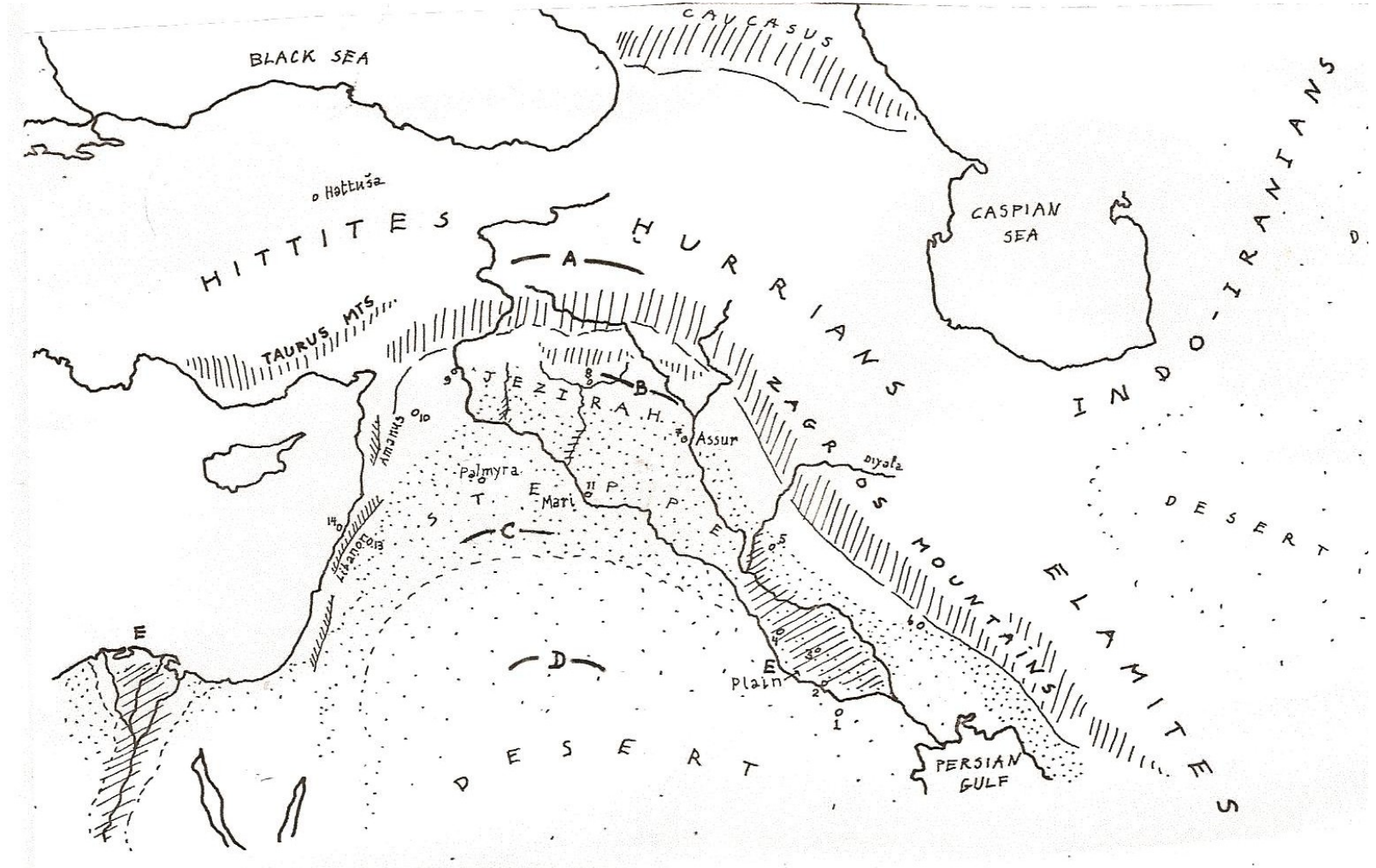


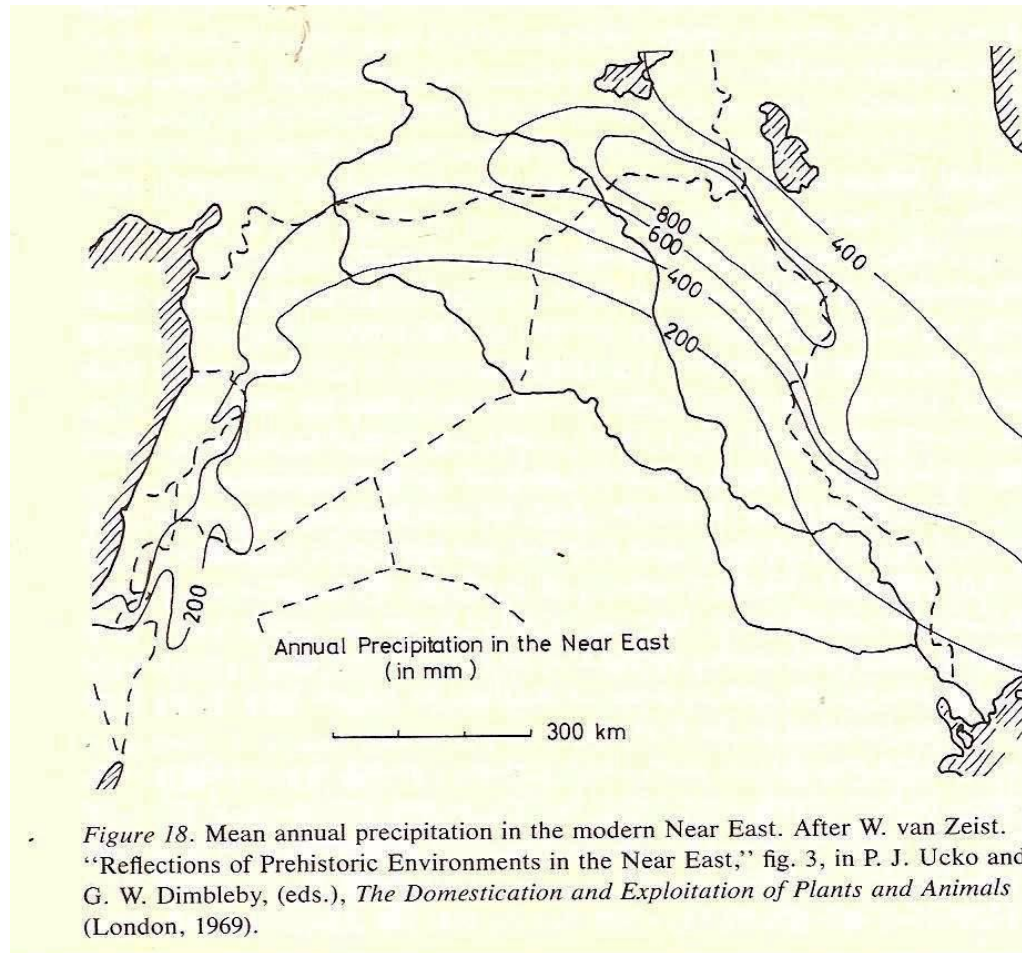
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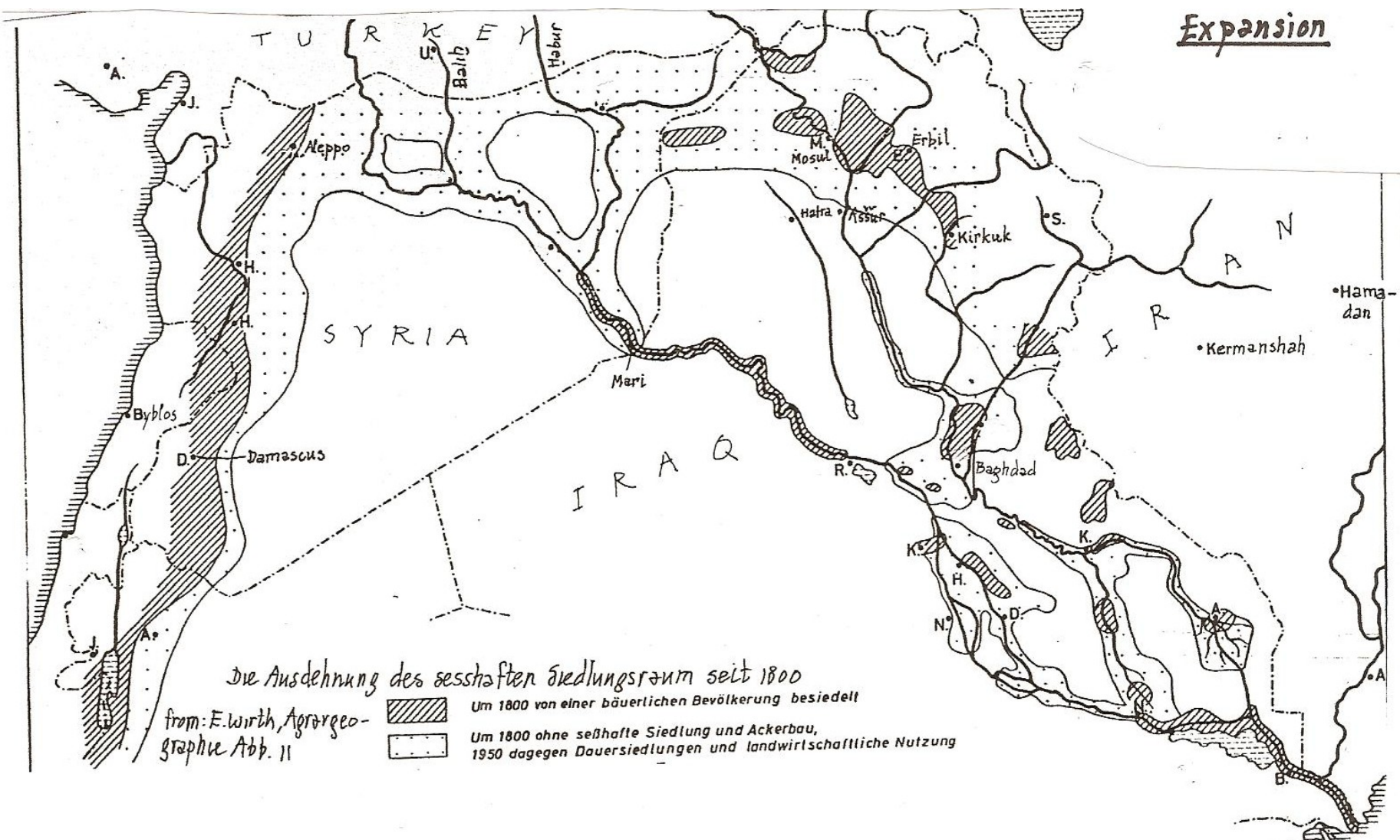
Geographic Zones and Economy



Farmers and Shepherds: Rainfall



Steppe and State: Contraction and Expansion



Use of Steppe: Tribes

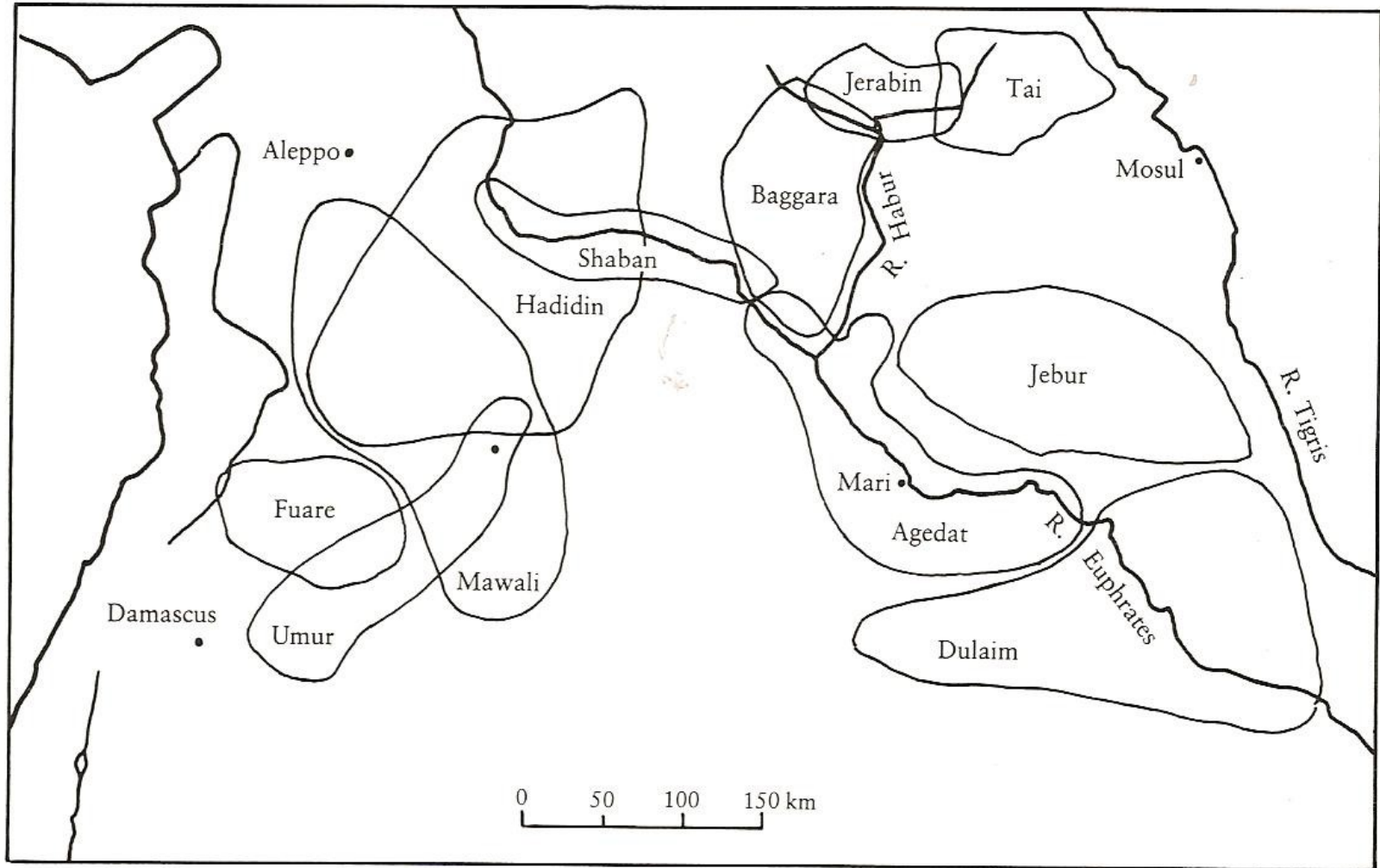
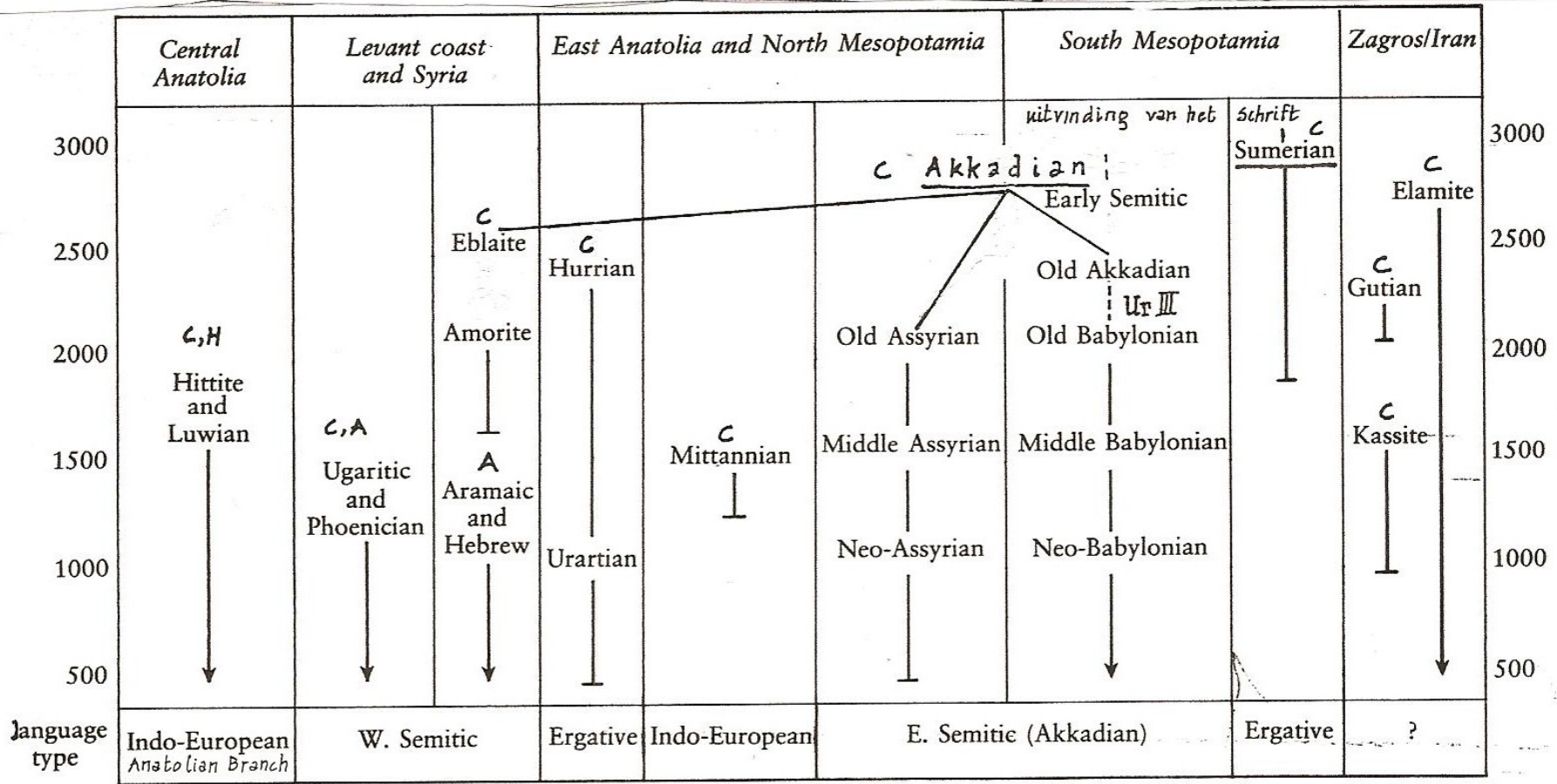


Figure 1:3 Traditional grounds of sheep-rearing tribes in Syria and North Mesopotamia. (After Wirth 1971, Karte 11)

Languages and Scripts

added after Zarnits 1900. 237, fig. 60.

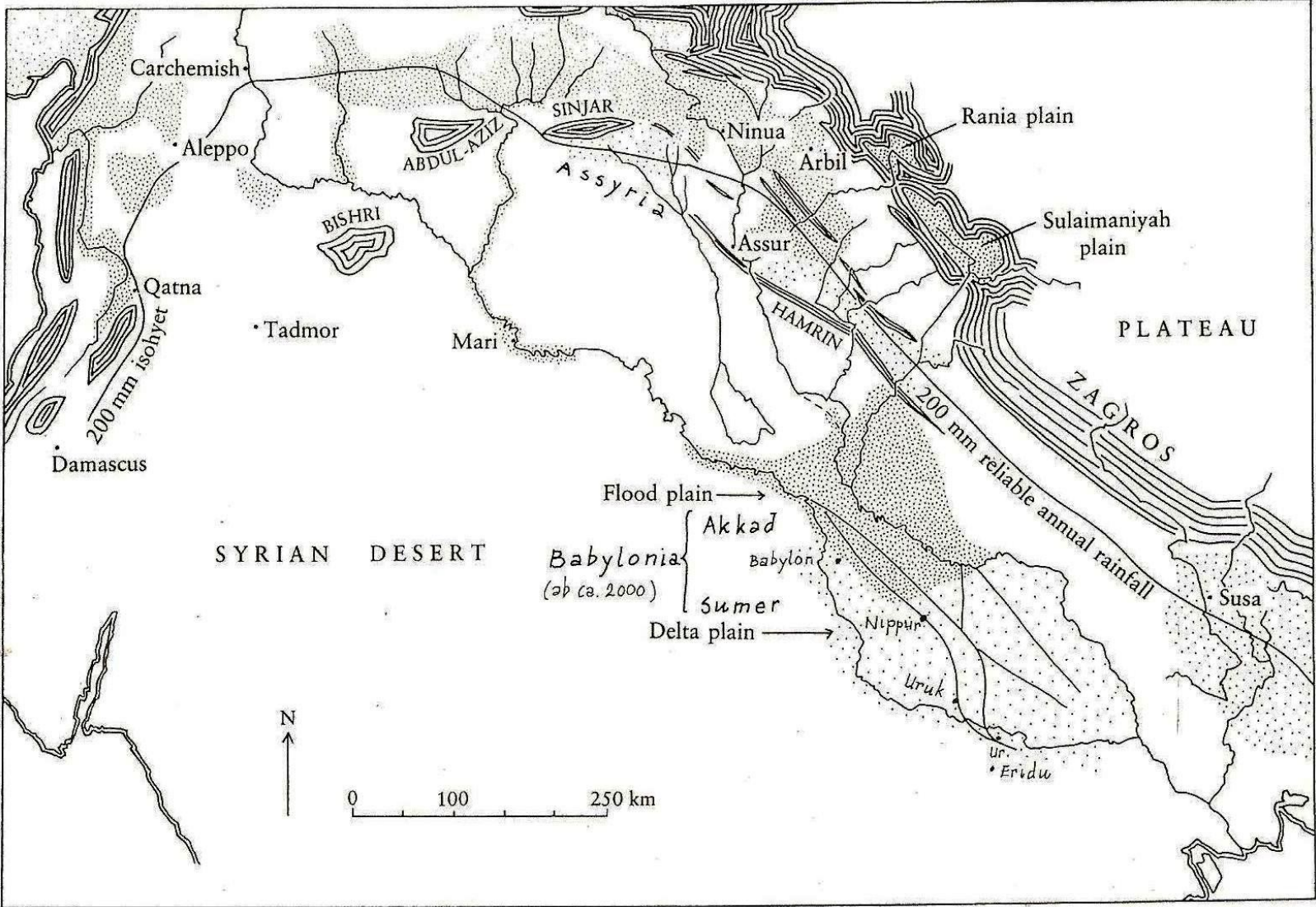


C = Cuneiform H = Luwian Hieroglyphs A = Alphabet

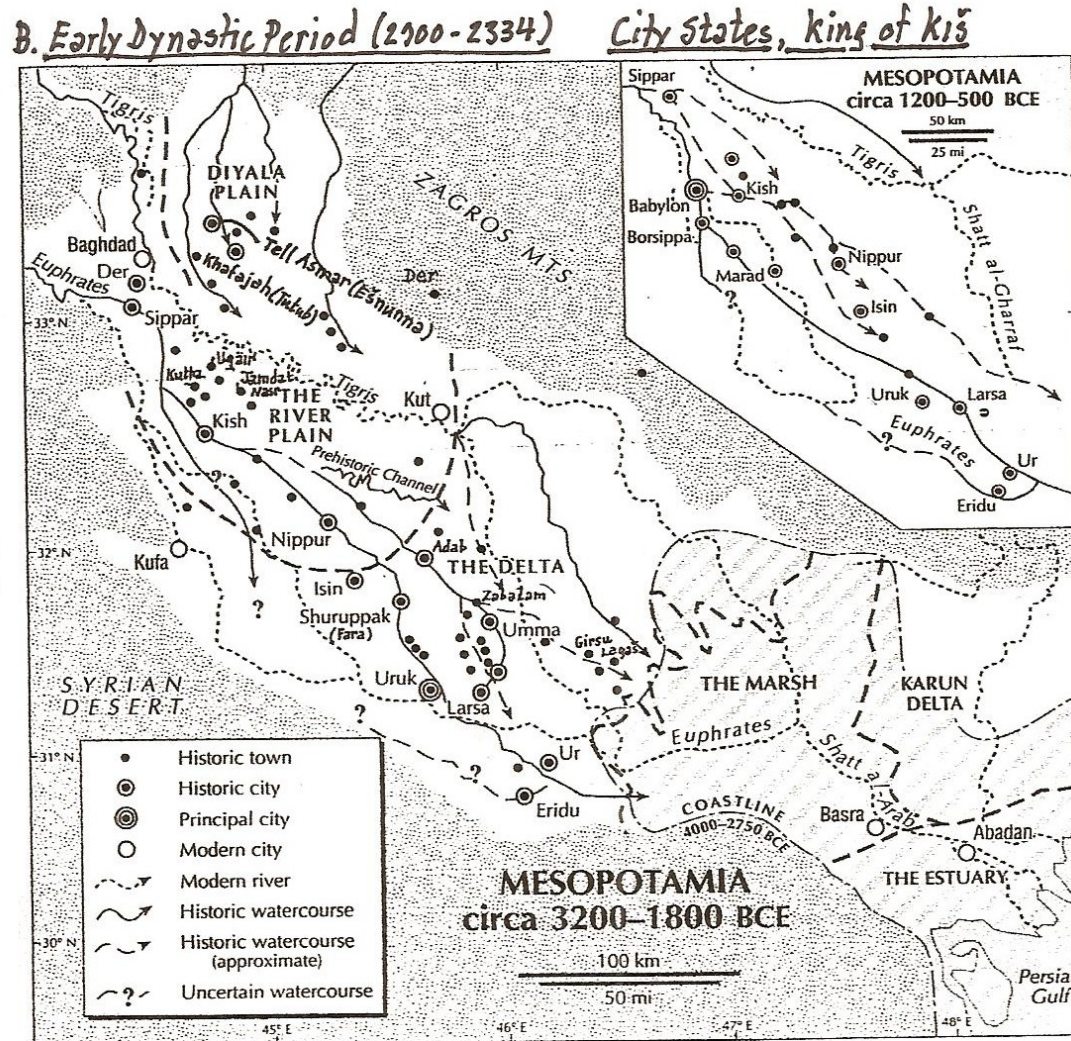
- ⊥ not known to have survived after this time
- ↓ survived after this time
- | descended from or related to

Figure 2:9 Chart of the principal languages of the ancient Near East with their geographical base and genetic relationships.

Third Millennium: Sumerians and Akkadians

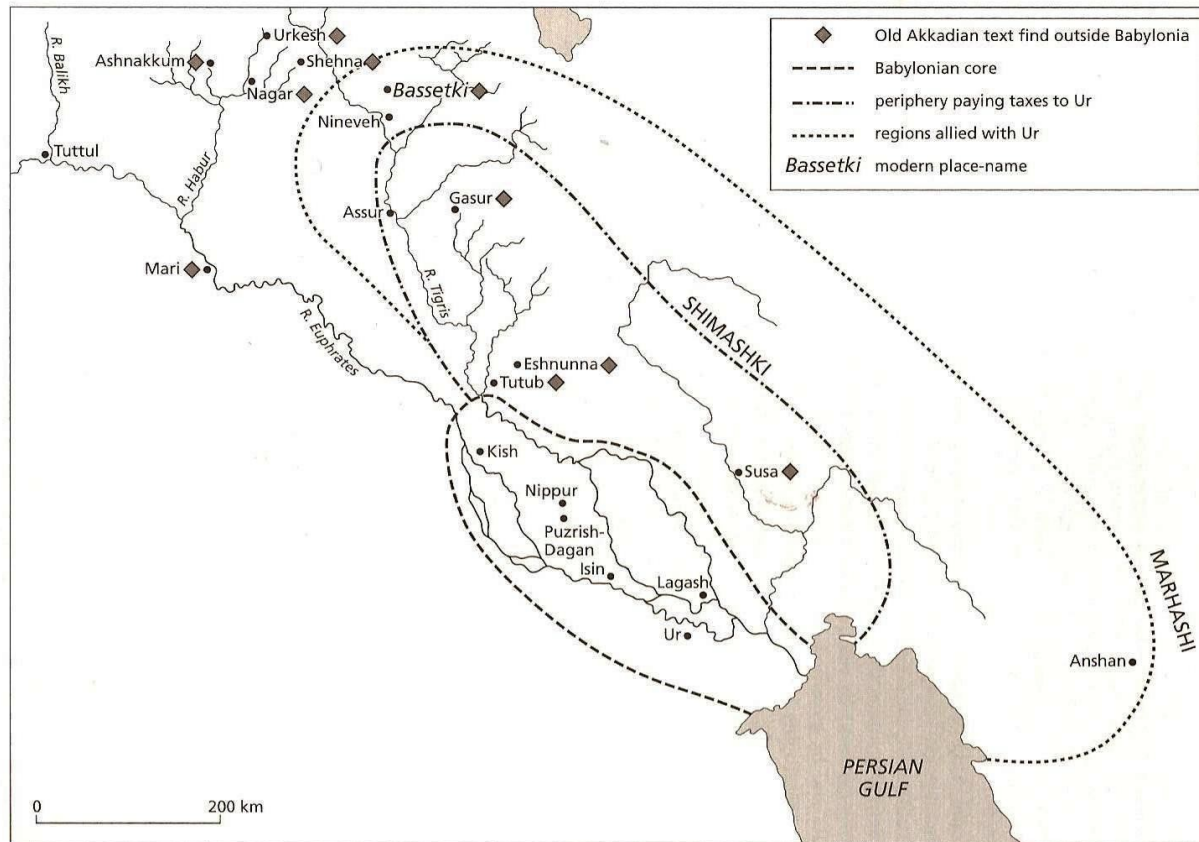


Earlier Third Millennium City States



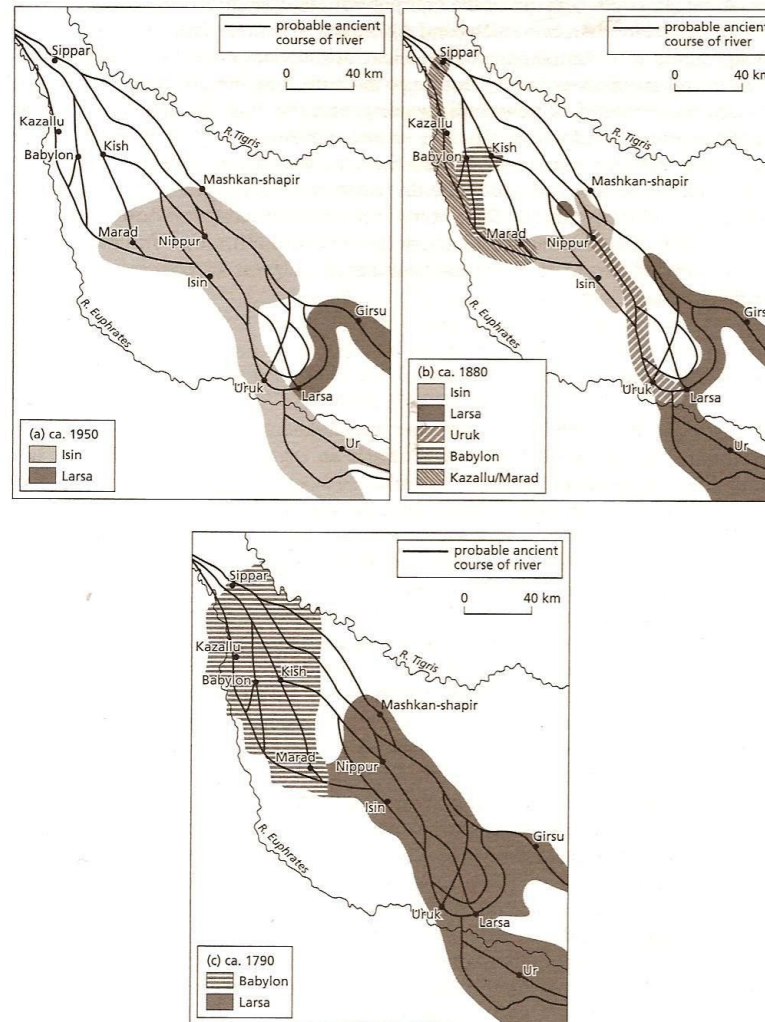
Map 5. Mesopotamia 3200-1800 BCE, identifying the different environmental regions, probable watercourses and coastline, and the location of contemporary towns. The inset map highlights the pattern of around 1200-500 BCE. *From J. Sasson ed., CANE p. 143*

Later Third Millennium: Akkadian and Neo-Sumerian Empires



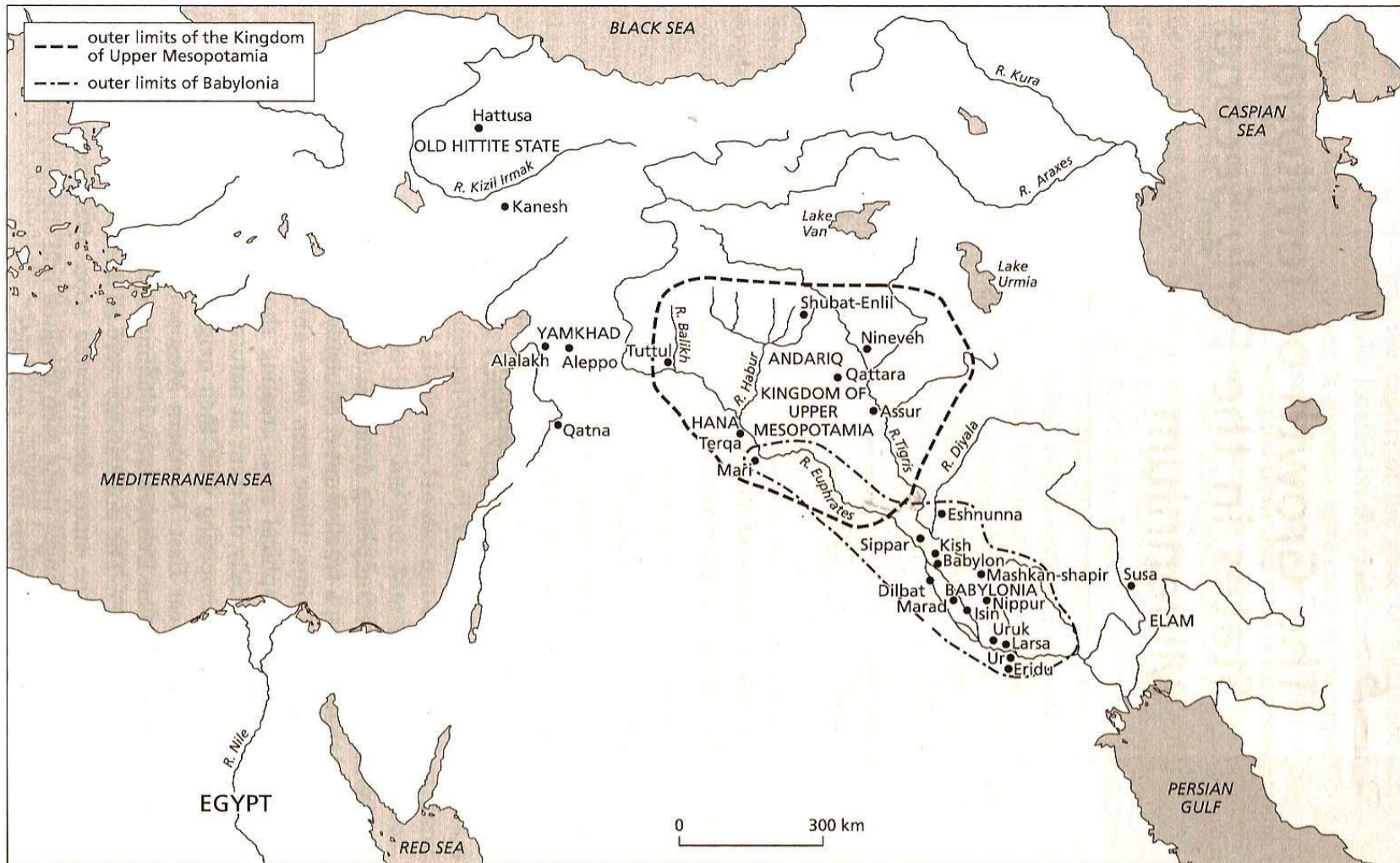
Map 4.1 The Old Akkadian and Ur III states (after Piotr Steinkeller, "The Administrative and Economic Organization of the Ur III State: The Core and the Periphery," in Mc Guire Gibson and R. D. Biggs, eds., *The Organization of Power: Aspects of Bureaucracy in the Ancient Near East* (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1987), p. 38)

Early Second Millennium: Babylonia



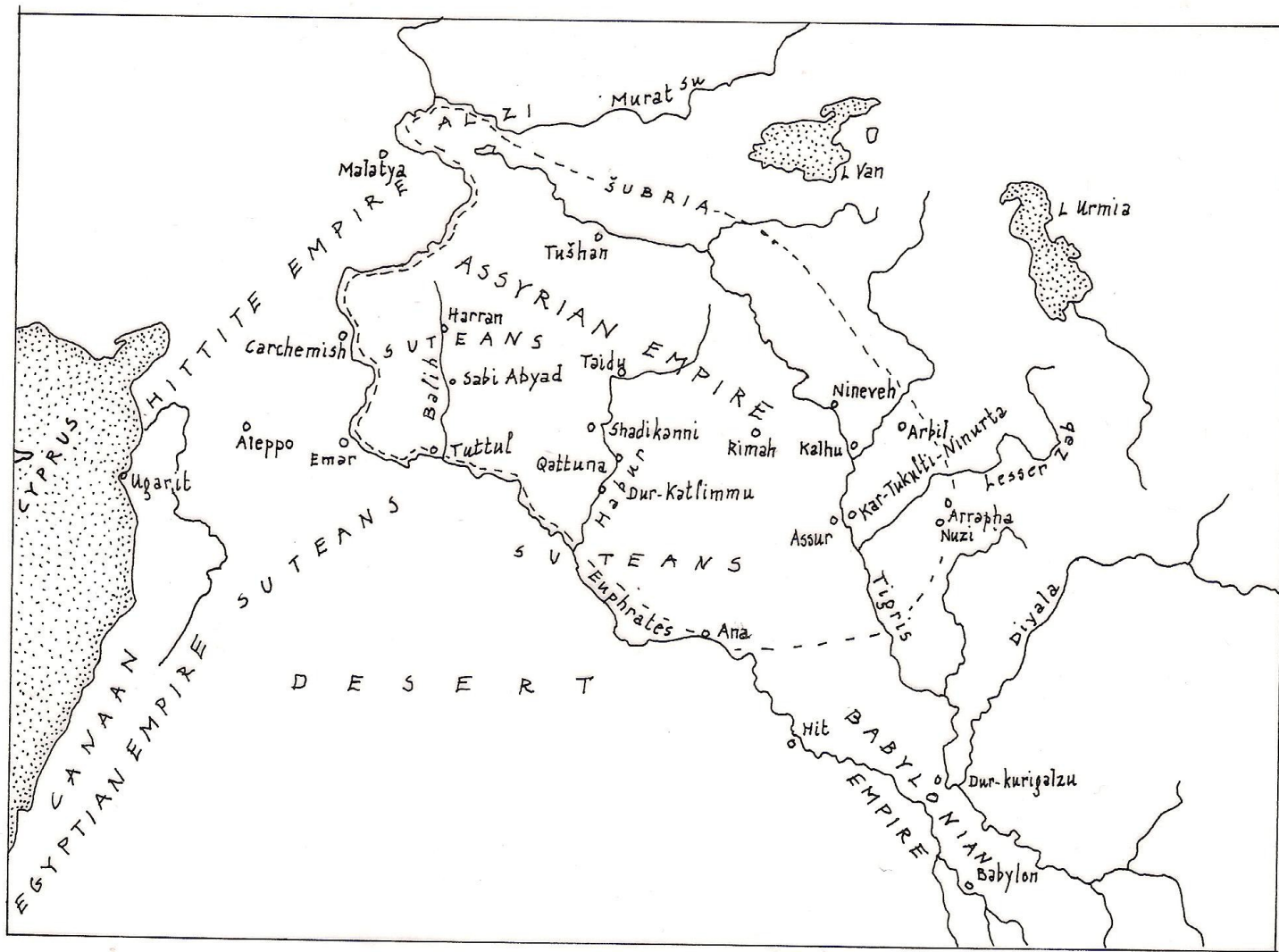
Map 5.1 The political division of Babylonia in the first centuries of the second millennium (after Michael Roaf, *Cultural Atlas of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East* (Oxford: Equinox, 1990), p. 109)

First Half Second Millennium: Babylonian and Assyrian Empires



Map 6.1 Territorial states of the early second millennium

Late Bronze Age: Middle Assyrian Empire



○ Assyrian Empire at the beginning of the 12th century BC

Late Bronze Age: Final Stages

1350

Mittanni's power dwindles: Suppiluliuma takes over their Syrian possessions, and makes Mittanni East of the Euphrates into a vassal state. Assyria regains strength (Aššur-uballiṭ I), and takes over part of Mittanni's Eastern possessions (Nuzi). Under Echnaton (Amarna period) Egypt's power in the Levant weakens, and Ugarit and Amurru become vassals of Suppiluliuma (ca. 1340)

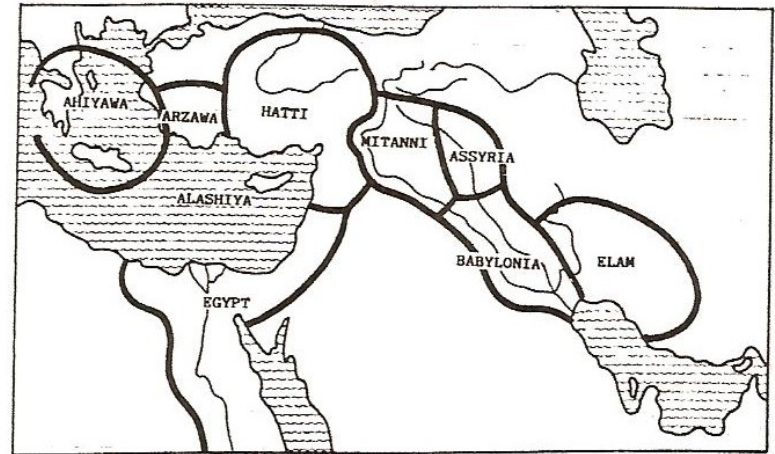


Fig. 3: The Near Eastern Political System ca. 1350 B.C.

1220

Under the XIXth dynasty Egypt tries to reoccupy its former Levantine possessions, and thus threatens to damage Hittite interests in the region. After the indecisive battle of Qadeš (1275, Ramses II and Muwatalli II) the two powers conclude an enduring peace (1259, Ramses II and Hattušili III). Assyria (Adad-nerari I) first makes the remainder of Mittanni East of the Euphrates into a vassal state, and then (Salmanassar I) incorporates it into its empire; Tukulti-Ninurta defeats the Babylonians (Kaštiliaš IV), and briefly unites the two countries. Ca. 1175 the LBA ends in total catastrophe (invasions of Sea Peoples, Kaskaens, and Phrygians).

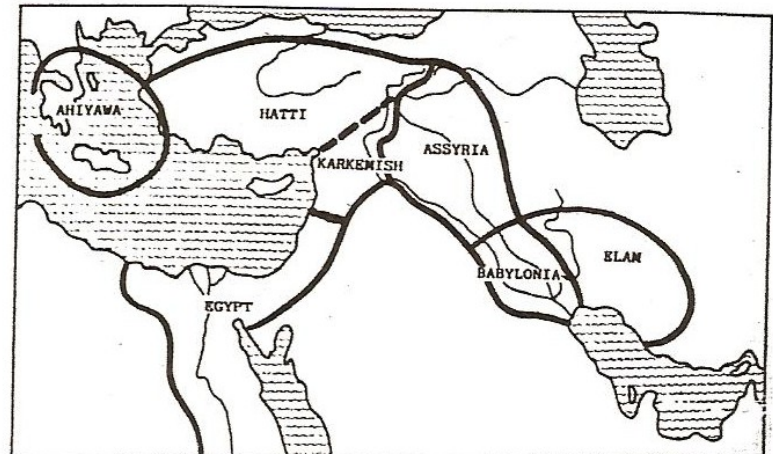
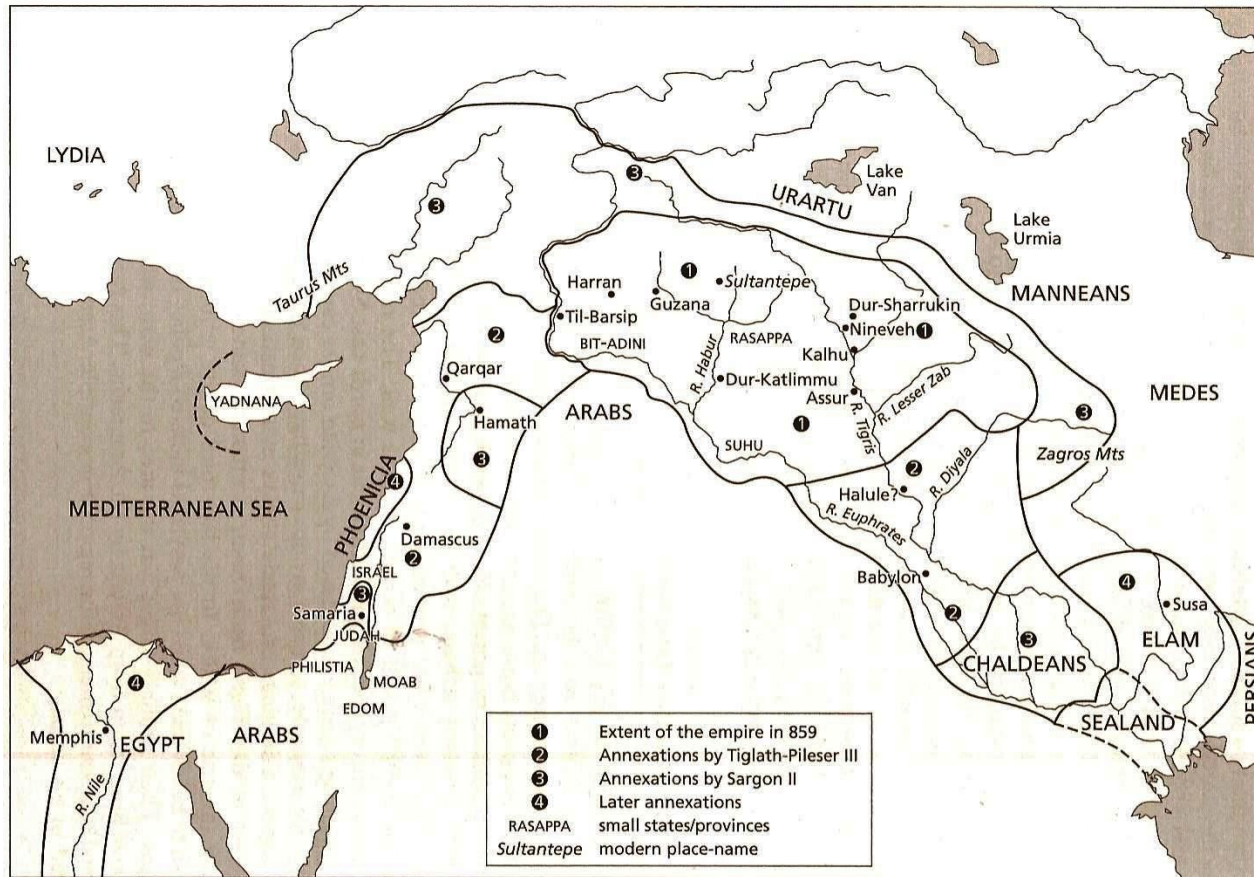


Fig. 4: The Near Eastern Political System ca. 1220 B.C.

Iron Age: Neo-Assyrian Empire



Map 12.1 Phases in the expansion of the Assyrian empire (after Mario Liverani, *Antico Oriente* (Rome and Bari: Laterza, 1988), p. 793)

The End of Cuneiform: Cyrus and Alexander

