

Aim: To what extent was Hammurabi's Code a just system of law?

Are each of the following good laws?

If you drive over 55 mph it is a violation punishable by a fine up to \$300

Any person who marries someone who is not of their race shall be guilty of a felony and sentenced to no more than 20 years in prison.

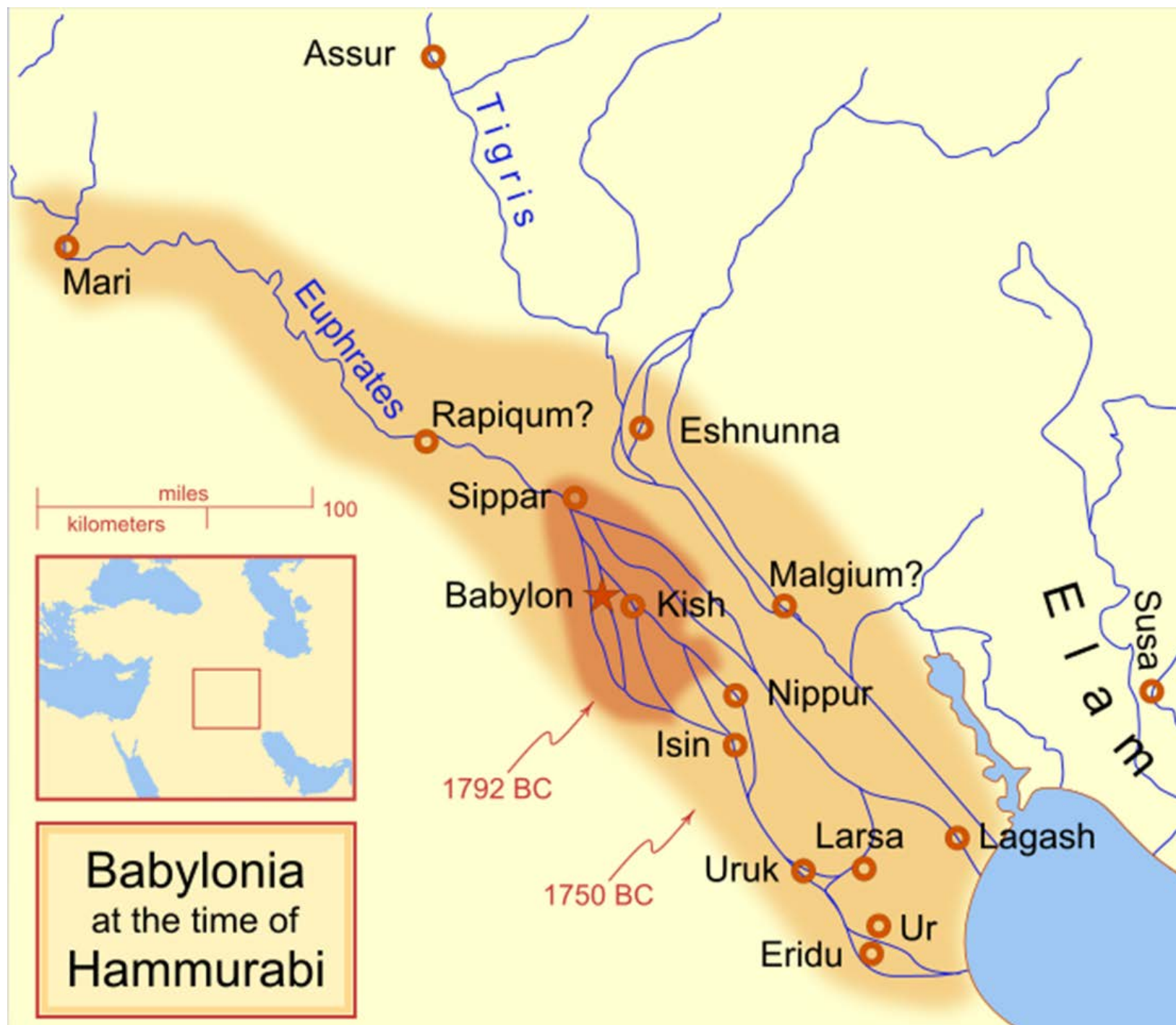
It is unlawful for a businessman to deny service to someone on account of race, gender or sexual orientation. To do so shall be punishable by a fine of \$20,000

- How would you define a good law?
- What is the purpose of punishment?
- Do you think it is important to have written laws?



Characteristics of a Good Law

- Protect people
- Necessary – addressing a problem
- Equal treatment



First Mesopotamian Empires

Sumer (4500 – c. 1900 B.C.E.)

Babylon (1895 B.C.E-539 B.C.E.)



- Ruled by Hammurabi 1792 B.C.E-1750 B.C.E
- Code of Hammurabi (c. 1754 BCE) -Strict Code of Laws - Hammurabi’s greatest achievement –1st written laws
 - Contained 282 laws written by scribes on 12 tablets.
 - “Eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth” type of laws

Empire

- Brings together several peoples, nations, or previously independent states under the control of one ruler.



- A carving at the top of the stele shows King Hammurabi receiving the laws from the god Shamash. The inscription states that King Hammurabi was chosen by the gods of his people to bring the laws to them.
- Stele - a large stone monument