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Foreword

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FOREWORD

This issue of *Comparative Civilizations Review* contains several articles that deal with "civilization" as a system. *Andre Gunder Frank*, Professor of Development Economics and Social Sciences, University of Amsterdam, provides a general survey of the East-West hegemonical shifts that have occurred in world systems over the past millennium, with specific attention being given to the place of Latin America in world system history. Frank argues persuasively that the world system incorporated Latin America into a marginal, subordinate, dependent position in 1492 and its status has experienced increased marginalization over the past 500 years.

*D. Wilkinson*, Professor of Political Science, UCLA, provides the second, and final, installment of his work on "Cities, Civilization and Oikumenes." (Part I appeared in the Fall, 1992 issue of *CCR*). Wilkinson defines civilization as politico-social transaction networks of cities and their populations. The purpose of his work is to examine a set of data regarding the sizes of world cities and to assign the great global cities to one of the fourteen civilizations. Another objective of this work is to illustrate the process whereby thirteen previously autonomous civilizations were successively incorporated into a much larger entity he calls "Central Civilization."

Although it was not by design, the civilizational research of Professor Wilkinson looms large in this issue of *CCR*. *A. Iberall*, who recently retired from UCLA, calls upon the expertise of Wilkinson to aid him in providing a scientific account of the geneses of civilizations. Iberall, a noted physicist, is of the opinion that the various stages in the civilizational process are best viewed as "states" or "phases" of organized matter that behave in a fashion that is analogous to other natural physical systems. An understanding of the gas, liquid, and solid states of other physical systems can be used to explain the natural process taking place within the formation of civilizations. The authors also provide information on the five features that constitute a "polyculture;" the essential, necessary condition for the appearance of civilizations. Iberall provides guidelines for further inquiry into polycultures.
The primary concern of Alice Willard is the pre-capitalistic world-system, and, more specifically, the manifestations of an underlying social structure as found in the Sudannic Empires of West Africa. Once again the ubiquitous David Wilkinson appears as Willard's paper includes a summary of the ongoing debate between Wilkinson, Christopher Chase-Dunn and Thomas Hall regarding the "nature" of the various types of world systems. The author concludes that the Chase-Dunn/Thomas model is more operative in systems research as it provides the researcher greater latitude in the investigation of such things as pare-state societies. This latitude is imperative for the author's second objective, which is to investigate the place of religion in a world system. Willard's attempt to explain the influence of Islam as a political and ideological force shaping West African civilization, the larger trade networks over the northern half of Africa, and the ideological linkages with Asia and Europe is a significant contribution to world systems scholarships.

Alice Willard is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology, The Johns Hopkins University.

Ralph Brauer, formerly Professor of Physiology and Director of the Institute for Marine and Biomedical Research at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, is now Professor Emeritus, UNC-W; Adjunct Professor of Biology, UNC-W; and Executive Director of the Institute for Research on the Interrelation of Science and Culture. Brauer's contribution this issue deals with the role of the camel in shaping both the Bedouin society of the Arabian desert and the urbanized society of the Islamic Empire. The article includes a brief review of the biological characteristics that fitted the camel for its unique role in the deep desert environment. This one domestic animal provided food, transportation, and a basis for military power under conditions no other animal could endure. In the opinion of Brauer, the camel played a vital role in the rise of the Islamic Empire in the seventh century.

The "Forum" section of the journal contains two position papers regarding the recent controversy over the Dead Sea Scrolls. These papers were initially presented in Chicago at the 1992 Annual
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Meeting of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC). James C. Vanderkam, Professor of Theology, University of Notre Dame, provides a brief history of the scrolls and provides insight into difficulties faced by the scholars originally chosen to translate them. Vanderkam also expresses an appreciation of the frustration experienced by other qualified scholars who were denied access to the scrolls for decades. The author also provide information on steps taken by at least two professional societies to try and prevent a repeat of the mistakes made with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Michael O. Wise, a Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago, addresses what he perceives to be some of the major problems related to the extended, limited-access placed on the Dead Sea Scrolls. One of the most deleterious effects of restricted access to the scrolls has been impaired scholarship and an intellectual loss that is impossible to quantify. The insights of two generations of great scholars were lost. Wise also maintains that limited access to the Scrolls has had morally corrosive effects. Those fortunate enough to become part of the "charmed circle" have been able to establish empires by virtue of the lack of potential competition, their ability to manipulate the job market, and sell publication rights to the otherwise restricted documents. Wise is clearly opposed to long term restrictions being placed on historical documents.

David Richardson, Professor Emeritus, comments on John K. Hord's, "Civilization: A Definition: Part II," which appeared in the CCR, (spring, 1992). Richardson indicates several areas in which he finds Hord to have been too circumscribed regarding the limitations placed on what Hord defines as the "core-covenant." Hord needs to give more consideration to intuitions and unconscious sensations.

The Forum section of the Comparative Civilizations Review is intended to encourage discourse among the readership. Comments pertaining to articles published in the CCR reports on "works in progress," position papers on issues of interest to scholars, announcements of special meetings, and other pertinent issues.
brought to the attention of the editor will be considered for publication in the Forum section of the journal.

Those readers interested in submitting material to the Forum, should address their correspondence to Wayne M. Bledsoe, Department of History, University of Missouri-Rolla; Rolla, MO 65401.

Those submitting articles for possible publication in CCR should send three copies to the same address.

—Wayne M. Bledsoe