

around 5,200 years ago, Uruk in Southern Mesopotamia, was probably the first city the world had ever seen, housing more than 50,000 people within its six miles of wall. Uruk's agriculture made prosperous by sophisticated irrigation canals, was home to the first use of middleman trade intermediaries & cooperative trade network. Set the pattern that would endure for the next 6000 years.

Matt Ridley, Humans: Why They Succeeded
Wall Street Journal, May 22, 2010, accessed
December 20, 2010