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## **Economic models in Ancient Near East economies**

### Input definitions:

- *Economy* – the core is the allocation of goods and resources
- *Model* – theoretical and simplified concept of reality the aim of which is to illustrate mechanisms governing the reality

### Two assumptions:

- we do not treat Near East economy as a whole
- problem with precise statistical data referring to the ancient times

### Models:

- circulations: production, storage, distribution and consumption
- $G=f(P, R, T, I)$ , where  $G$  is global income (produced goods),  $P$  – people,  $R$  – resources,  $T$  – technology and  $I$  – institutions
- cooperation between state (including religious institutions) and private sector
- question of existence of market economy - demand and supply with price or its equivalent as a tool of relation

### Terms and persons to clarify:

- *nmḥ* (*Egyptian*) - people, who had own land and paid taxes to the royal treasure = ἐλεύθερος (*Greek*)
- *tamkaru* (*Akkadian*) - royal clerks who performed long-distance trade for fixed prices
- *embeddedness* - economic behaviour in certain historical and social conditions as well as cultural and even religious ones
- John Maynard Keynes – British economist (1883-1946) - *Keynesianism* idea assumes a great role of the state as the creator of demand

Key problem: correspondence of contemporary economic models with the reality of the ancient Near East

Question of the talk: translation of economic rules current in our times into different realities in the earlier times – continuity vs. change