

THE KINGS OF UR

The struggles continued until Ur's third dynasty of kings won control over Akkad and Sumer around 2113BC. The Sumerian kings kept their cities, but they had to follow the orders of the King of Ur.

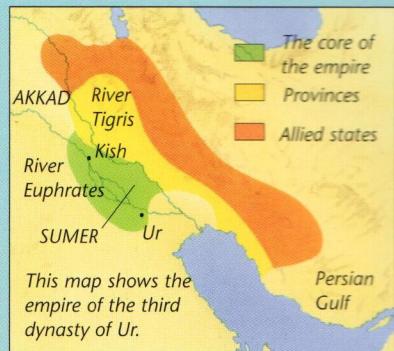
Ur's kings were rich, and they built many magnificent temples and palaces, as well as a system of canals. They also built the great mud brick ziggurat of Ur, part of which still survives today. For a time, the empire prospered.

These soldiers from the army of Ur are fighting against Gutian tribesmen (left).

THE AMORITES

The barren desert on the southern border of Ur's empire was home to several groups of nomads. They kept flocks of sheep and traded their meat and wool for grain, dates, tools and weapons. Under Ur's third dynasty, nomads called the Amorites began edging their way into the rich farmland within the empire. It soon became hard to keep Ur's empire together.

Kings and important soldiers rode into battle in chariots.



THE END OF AN ERA

Around 2006BC, a kingdom called Elam, which had been part of the empire, attacked and demolished Ur. But, more power struggles in the region were yet to come.



INTERNET LINK

For a link to a website where you can see pictures of the ziggurat at Ur and find out more about Mesopotamian ziggurats, go to

www.usborne-quicklinks.com