



Little Door to the Fourth of December

The Rise of Sargon and Fall of Lugalzagesi (ca. 2375 BCE to 2350/2325¹ BCE)

Lugalzaggisi began his career as city prince of Umma. He defeated and conquered the territories of numerous princes, among them Urukagina of Lakash, Enschakuschana² of Uruk and Ur-Zababa of Kisch. After he united all of Sumer (South Mesopotamia), he extended his dominion to the Mediterranean coast. His rule would last for 25 years.

Around 2325 BCE³, a man named Sargon (in akkadian: Scharrum-kin) defeated Lugalzaggisi militarily and inherited the vast territory. Sargon of Akkad founded the first Semitic dynasty and was later on considered to be the founder of Mesopotamian military tradition. Depending on the version of the Sumerian royal inscription, his reign either lasted 40, 55 or 56 years. Same goes for the date which is normally dated during the years 2343 until 2314 BCE, though other dates have been proposed as well (2307-2253 BCE and 2288 to 2235 BCE).

¹There are little contemporary sources from the early phase of the Akkadian Empire, and the legends surrounding Sargon should only be sparsely used. The primary sources for the reconstruction of the Akkad-era are economic documents and royal inscriptions.

²Names from the German source, hence you see 'sch'.

³Date from the German source as well, the most recent one I've read (2013)



Sources:

Britannica

(<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sargon>)

Geschichte des alten Mesopotamien von Eckart Frahm, S. 116-118 (Reclam Verlag)
History of the old Mesopotamia by Eckart Frahm, p. 116-118 (published by Reclam)