**CHAPTER 2**

***Early Civilizations, 3500–600 b.c.e.***

**Questions**

2.1 What were the main features of civilization as a form of human organization?

2.2 What did the river valley civilizations have in common?

2.3 How did Mesopotamian and Egyptian political structures compare?

2.4 How did Mesopotamian and Egyptian religions compare?

2.5 Why do we know less about Harappan civilization than about Egypt?

2.6 How does early China illustrate the main features of river valley civilizations?

2.7 How did conditions in the Americas differ from those in Asia and North Africa during the formation of early civilizations?

2.8 How and why did the early civilization period come to an end and what where the main religious changes introduced by Judaism?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. Civilization**

First developed in Mesopotamia, after about 3500 B.C.E.

Spread to other places and developed independently in China and Central America

Four distinctive features of civilizations:

1. Develop economic surplus and distribute that surplus unequally
2. Develop formal governments with bureaucracies
3. Develop or acquire writing
4. Develop large and important urban centers

Disagreement between scholars on the definition of civilization

Objections often center on the connotation that civilization is better than other forms of human organization

**II. Tigris—Euphrates Civilization**

First civilization in Middle East—Mesopotamia

Developed: writing, law, trade, religion, money, elaborate architecture, city planning

By 4000 B.C.E., farmers familiar with copper, bronze, and had invented the wheel

They had a pottery industry and developed artistic forms

Irrigation required coordination of communities leading to complex political structures

By 3500 B.C.E., the Sumerians had developed the first real civilization

Achievements of the Sumerians

Alphabet and writing (cuneiform)

Astronomy, numerical system

Religion

Professional priests, rituals, shrines

Ziggurats first monumental architecture

Polytheism (gods in aspects of nature)

Patron gods, earth from water, flood story, gloomy afterlife

Legacy carried into Old Testament influencing Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Political and Social Organization  
 City-States  
 Establish boundaries

State religion

Courts

Kings

Defense, war

Priests

With kings, administer state land and slaves

Slavery

Warfare ensured supply of slaves

Variable existence, slaves could purchase freedom

Commerce

Agricultural prosperity

Irrigation, wheeled carts, fertilizers

Silver means of exchange, first money, facilitated trade

Defense

Region a constant temptation for invaders

Difficult to defend

Fell to Akkadians who continued Sumerian culture

Period of decline, followed by Babylonian rule

Babylonians

Extended own empire, bringing civilization to other parts of Middle East

Hammurabi

Law Code establishing courts, duties, rights, punishments

Invasions persisted, fragmentation followed

Semitic peoples and languages came to dominate but continued culture of the conquered

Greatest turmoil between 1200 and 900 B.C.E., favoring smaller, regional kingdoms

After 900 B.C.E., Assyrians, then Persians, created large new empires in the Middle East

**View the Closer Look on MyHistory Lab: Enemies Crossing the Euphrates to Escape Assyrians**

**III. Egyptian Civilization**

Civilization formed by 3000 B.C.E. along Nile River

Benefited from trade and technological influence of Mesopotamia

Very different society and culture then Mesopotamia

Less open to invasion

Unified state for most of its history

Economy more government-directed, smaller business class

Government

Pharaoh, powerful king, intermediary between gods and men

Pharaohs built pyramids (splendid tombs) for themselves from 2700 B.C.E. onward

Continuity

Despite some disruptions, Egyptian civilization basically intact until after 1000 B.C.E.

Spread into Sudan, impact on later African culture

Interaction with African kingdom of Kush

Cultural achievements

Science and alphabet less developed than Mesopotamia

Math more advanced and influential than Mesopotamia

Art lively, colorful; architecture influential

**Read the Document on MyHistory Lab: An Egyptian Hymn to the Nile**

**Read the Document on MyHistory Lab: Egyptian Folk Tale, c. 2000 b.c.e.**

**IV. Egypt and Mesopotamia Compared**

Egypt more stable and optimistic than Mesopotamia

Egypt emphasized strong central authority, Mesopotamian politics shifted over a substructure of regional city-states

Mesopotamia developed more technological improvements and had wider ranging trade contacts

Social status of women likely higher in Egypt

Both civilizations emphasized social stratification, featured a powerful priestly group, emphasized astronomy and mathematics, and left important heritages in their regions and adjacent territories

**V. River Valley Civilization in India**

Civilization formed by 2500 B.C.E. along Indus River

Large cities: Harappa and Mohenjo Daro, buildings had running water

Traded with Mesopotamia

Developed own alphabet and artistic forms

Reasons for Harappa’s fall remain unclear

Invasions by Indo-Europeans, environmental issues, and natural calamities destroyed much

1. After Harappa’s Fall

Fall led to long transitional period, sometimes called the Vedic and Epic ages

1500–700 b.c.e.: Aryan migrations

Aryans gradually converted to agriculture

Developed a series of literary epics and important religious works: Vedas, Mahabharata, Ramahyana, Upanishads

Aryan ideas and social forms increasingly influential

**Watch the Video on MyHistory Lab: The Aryans in India**

**Read the Document on MyHistory Lab: Selections from the Rig-Veda**

**VI. China**

Developed independently along Yellow River (Huanghe), later contact with India and

Middle East

By 2000 B.C.E., irrigation, advanced technology, science, music, intellectual life, pottery,

writing (ideographic)

By 1000 B.C.E., introduced iron and working with coal

Shang kingdom laid foundations for Chinese civilization by 1500 B.C.E.

Silk manufacturing developed

Ancestor worship began

Shang rulers directed important rituals

A. The Zhou Dynasty

Shang followed by the Zhou (flourished 1029–700 b.c.e.)

Ruled through alliances with landed families

Zhou innovations

Encouraged settlers to move south

Claimed “mandate of heaven”

Promoted cultural unity

Fall of the Zhou

Political fragmentation and the arrival of new migrating peoples ended the Zhou dynasty

**View the Closer Look on MyHistory Lab: A Bronze Axe Head from the Shang Dynasty**

**VII. Early Civilizations of the Americas**

Distinctive conditions in the Americas

Few animals available for domestication

Civilizations developed without the use of metals for tools and weapons

Contact between civilizations complicated by need to travel through climate zones

Agriculture developed between 7000 and 5000 b.c.e.

Many groups continued to combine agriculture with hunting

Agriculture contributed to development of more complex social and cultural forms

A. The Olmecs

Around 1500 b.c.e., Olmecs established first American civilization

Olmec innovations

Irrigation

Cities

Writing system

Monumental architecture

Calendar

Olmec state

Hereditary elite

Elaborate religion

Wide trade network

Reasons for Olmec collapse about 800 b.c.e. unclear

B. Chavín and the Andean World

Geography of the Andes

Challenges and opportunities

Between 1800 and 1200 b.c.e., more complex society emerged

Irrigation

Large ceremonial structures

Pottery making expanded

Chavín de Huantar

Located in highlands of Peru

Chain art and religion spread and influenced region

Chavín decline around 300 b.c.e. was followed by a long period of political decentralization

**View the Closer Look on MyHistory Lab: The Basalt Olmec Heads**

**VIII. The End of the River Valley Period**

A. The Heritage of the River Valley Civilizations

Lasting impact

Monuments like pyramids

Inventions

Wheel

Tamed horse

Alphabets and writing implements

Mathematical concepts like square root

Calendar

Functional monarchies and bureaucracies

These are the foundations of all later civilizations

All of the pioneering civilizations were in decline by 1000 B.C.E.

Dividing line between early and later civilizations, especially in India

India: much ignorance of link between early and later civilizations

China: definite connection between Shang and all that followed

Claim that Western civilization originated in Middle East and Egypt not precise and difficult to evaluate

B. New States and Peoples around 1000 b.c.e.

Connection between early and later civilizations found in smaller cultures

Regional cultures influenced by Mesopotamians and Egyptians

Often flourished while larger civilizations were in decline

Became influential in their own right

Kush

Strongly influenced by Egypt

Conquered Egypt but were driven out by Assyrians

Traditions continued in later kingdom of Ethiopia

Phoenicians

Simplified writing, devised 22 letter alphabet, predecessor of Latin and Greek

Improved Egyptian numbering, set up colonies and trading centers around Mediterranean

Lydians first introduced coined money

C. Judaism

Jews most influential of smaller Middle Eastern groups

Semitic, influenced by Babylonians, settled around Mediterranean around 1200 B.C.E.

Introduced monotheism

Single God guided destinies of the Jewish people

Priests and prophets defined and emphasized this belief

History of God’s guidance of his people, basis for the Hebrew Bible

Jewish religion and moral code survived foreign rule from 772 B.C.E. to Roman conquest in 63 B.C.E.

Judaism survives to this day, also basis of Christianity and Islam

Durability sustained by lack of interest in converting non-Jews

Jewish God increasingly abstract, less humanlike

Represents basic change

God: powerful, rational, just

Linked ethical conduct and moral behavior

Religion a way of life not a set of rituals and ceremonies

Greatest impact when Jewish beliefs were embraced by proselytizing faiths

**CHAPTER 3**

***Classical Civilization: China***

**Questions**

3.1 How did the sequence of dynasties in classical China build a successful empire?

3.2 What were the distinctive features of China’s political system under the Han?

3.3 What was the relationship between Confucianism and Daoism?

3.4 How did Confucianism affect Chinese social and family structure?

3.5 What were the most important complexities in classical Chinese society?

Chapter Outline

**I. Patterns in Classical China**

A. The Zhou dynasty

Zhou contributions to Chinese politics and culture

Extended the territory of China by taking over the Yangzi River

Heightened cultural focus on central government

Asserted “mandate of heaven”

Promoted cultural unity

Political crisis at end of Zhou empire prompted philosophers to consolidate and define Chinese culture

During the Warring States period (402–201 b.c.e.), the Zhou system disintegrated

B.Qin Dynasty

Qin Shi Huangdi (First Emperor) deposed the last of the Zhou

Consolidated China in 35 years; unification by 221 b.c.e.

Resistance crushed, warriors disarmed

Upper classes forced to live in capital Xianyang

Regional provinces, emperor appointed bureaucratic oversight

Great Wall

3000 miles protecting north border

Wide enough for chariots

Largest construction in history

Forced labor conscripted by bureaucracy from peasantry

National census to calculate tax revenue and labor service

Common writing, coinage, weights and measures

Promoted new manufactures like silk; new irrigation projects

Attacked possible subversives, burned books, killed

Died in 210 B.C.E., massive peasant revolts erupted

Peasant leader established Han dynasty in 207 B.C.E.

C. The Han Dynasty

400 years, until 220 C.E.

Rounded out basic political and intellectual structure

Maintained Qin centralization, reduced brutality

Expanded territory: Korea, Indochina, central Asia

Direct contact with India, Parthian Empire in Middle East

Parthians conduit for trade with Roman Empire

Established peace and prosperity

Improved bureaucracy, formal training, Confucian emphasis

Promoted Confucian culture, built shrines to Confucius

Cultural supplement to government action

Declined after first 200 years; central control weakened; Huns invaded, took over

Between 220 and 589 C.E., chaos before restoration of order

Political and cultural structures from classical period endured

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Sima Qian, The Life of Meng Tian, Builder of the Great Wall**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Li Si and the Legalist Policies of Qin Shi Huang**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: The Terra-Cotta Army of the First Qin Emperor**

**II. Political Institutions**

Qin and Han: strong, distinctive government

Qin: stressed central authority

Han: stressed powers of bureaucracy

Political structure explains how such a vast territory could be ruled

After classical period, framework streamlined, but never fundamentally altered

Key elements of Chinese political structure:

Strong local units, family ties, ancestor worship for wealthy landowners

Ancestor worship less frequent among common folk, village ties important

Landed nobles provided courts of justice and military organization

Qin and Han additions:

Attacks on local warrior-landlords

Single law code

Centralized tax authority

Appointment of regional governors answerable to emperor

Regional governors appointed officials of smaller regions

Imperial ministries: finance, military, justice, etc.

A. Strong Bureaucracy

End of Han period: 130,000 bureaucrats, 0.2 percent of population

Emperor Wu Ti instigated civil service exams

Chinese literature, law: scholar-bureaucratic tradition

Established schools: most candidates from upper classes, not all

Bureaucracy functioned as check on arbitrary imperial authority

Bureaucracy continued into 20th century, outlasted the empire itself

B. Role of the State

Military: no consistent development by Han period as China not expansionist

Judicial: local authorities managed crime and legal disputes

Intellectual life: research in astronomy, maintaining historical record

Primary keeper of Chinese beliefs: Confucian philosophy, values

Economy: direction over production of iron and salt

Standard currency, weights, measures encouraged trade throughout empire

Public works: canals, irrigation systems

Grain, rice storage to control supply, prices; manage unrest or bad harvests

Individual effect: taxes, period of labor service, code of law, threat of punishment

Invaders like Huns could topple dynasty but devise a better system of government

**III. Religion and Culture**

Belief system linked with political structure

Upper-class values:

Good life on earth

Obedience to state

Little speculation about God

Tolerant of beliefs if no contradictions with political loyalties

Zhou rulers believed in god/gods but no attention to nature of a deity

Primary belief in harmony between earth/heaven and harmonious earthly life

Rituals to unify society, avoid individual excess

Upper classes engaged in exercises, archery; venerated ancestors

Chopsticks invented to encourage polite habits, tea introduced

Emergence of philosophies to reduce conflict, inform lasting Chinese culture

A. Confucianism

Confucius (Kong Fuzi) means “Kung the philosopher”

Lived approximately from 551 to 478 B.C.E.

Life of travel, teaching, preaching political virtue and good government

Believed in divine order but did not speculate about it, not a religious leader

Dominant values of Chinese civilization secular system of ethics not religious

Virtues:

Respect social superiors, including fathers, husbands as leaders of family

Moderate behavior

Veneration for custom, ritual, tradition

Leaders at all levels should seek wisdom

With virtuous leadership, sound political life should follow

Sayings captured in *Analects*

Han dynasty revived Confucian order, learning, teaching, ethics, literature

Confucianism premised on individual responsibility for behavior

Personal restraint, proper socialization, respect for family, compassion

Leaders expected to be paragons of virtue

Education central

Rulers:

Moral rectitude, humility, kindness, eager to learn

True happiness in doing good for all

B. Legalism

Alternative during Qin and early Han periods

Disdain for Confucianism

Valued pragmatism, authoritarianism, force

Believed humans to be evil by nature, requiring restraint and discipline

Proper state: military rule, people labor, educated discourse or courtesy frivolous

Never popular, did attach to Confucianism, justifying strong-arm tactics

Proved adaptability, integration of Chinese belief systems

Confucianism never single belief in China

Most appealing for upper class with time to spend on learning, manners

Broader adoption oriented to taste for ritual and manners

Peasants gravitated to polytheistic beliefs, honoring conciliatory spirits

Gradual integration of spiritual beliefs with Confucian values

C. Daoism

More religious philosophy, arose around same time as Confucianism

Appealed to upper class interested in spirituality

Accepted Chinese understanding of harmony, added sense of nature’s mystery

Introduced durable division in Chinese religious, philosophical culture

Daoism furthered by Laozi in 5th century B.C.E., never widely exported

Stressed nature contains divine impulse that directs all life

Retreat from society

Contemplate the life force: *Dao*, “the way of nature”

Daoist ethics, harmony with nature:

Humility, frugality

Political activity and learning irrelevant

General condition of the world not important

Following Han collapse:

Daoism also Buddhism from India, guaranteed no religious unity in China

Daoism politically compatible with Confucianism

D. Literature, Art, Science

Literature

Five Classics (begun in early Zhou period, edited during time of Confucius)

Historical treatises, speeches, political materials

Discussion of etiquette and ceremonies

Classic of Songs: 300 poems on love, joy, politics, family life

Literary tradition: mastery, elaboration, recitation of Five Classics

Basis of civil service exam

Art

Decorative: detail, craftsmanship, precision, geometry

Calligraphy and carving: bronze, pottery, jade, ivory, silk screens

Architecture: a few palaces and the Great Wall

Lack of unifying religion discouraged monumental structures

Science

Emphasis on practicality, predictability

Accurate calendar based on 365.5 days developed by 444 B.C.E.

Calculated movement of Saturn, Jupiter; sunspots; 1500 years before Europe

Improvements in instrumentation, example: kind of seismograph

Medicine: precise anatomical knowledge, principles of hygiene

Mathematics

How things work; example: music and advances in acoustics

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Confucius: Selections from the *Analects***

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Confucian political philosophy: an excerpt from Mencius**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: The Way of the State**

**IV. Economy and Society**

Divide: literate, landholder gentry (2%) and masses of subsistence peasants

Peasants: dues, service to lords; depended on intense mutual cooperation

Property: village or extended family, not individual in Southern rice region

“Mean” people: unskilled labor like rough transport, low status

Social status: inherited by generation; talented peasants access to education, rise

A. The Confucian Social System

Three main social groups

Top, landowning aristocrats, educated bureaucrats (mandarins)

Next, laboring masses: peasants, urban artisans (on estates or independent)

Bottom, unskilled (performers included here), required to wear green scarves

Household slaves existed, but their numbers were few, no slaves for production

B. The Han Capital at Xi’an

Urban growth continued under the Han

Xi’an established pattern for Chinese imperial cities

Strong city walls

Population of 100,000 to 250,000

C. Trade and Technology

Trade increasingly important in Zhou and Han dynasties

Luxuries: silks, jewelry, leather goods, furniture

Food exchange between wheat and rice growing regions

Merchant class arose, copper coins, trade with India; but trade not focal point

Confucian emphasis on learning and political service

Technology advancements

Improved agricultural implements:

Ox-drawn plows introduced around 300 B.C.E.

Han period, collar improved for draft animals; centuries before others

Pulleys, winding gear to bring iron ore to surface

Iron tools

Lamps

Watermills

Paper

Remained dependent on agriculture

Higher productivity and population led to larger cities and manufacturing

Small-shop artisans, manual methods, increased output of textiles, tools, and porcelain

Interest in improved techniques

Artisans only a minority of the population

C. Gender and Family Life

Tight family organization

Solidified economic, social, political life

Importance of unity

Authority of husbands and fathers

Confucian saying: “there are no wrongdoing parents”

Law courts did not prosecute parents who injured or even killed a child

Law courts would punish a child who scolded or attacked a parent

Wives expected to be obedient to husbands

Little friction

Restraint a virtue

Harmony a virtue

Women subordinate but had own roles and potential influence

Power through sons or as mothers-in-law of younger women brought into home

Hierarchy of children for all social classes

Primogeniture (first born son inherits property and position)

Boys superior to girls

**V. A Distinctive Mixture**

Technology, religion, philosophy, political structure evolved with little outside contact

Worldview:

Civilized island surrounded by barbarians; some trade with India, Middle East

Neither had a need, nor desire, to learn from others

No desire to teach others

Buddhism from India, during and after Han decline, notable exception

Chinese isolation and cultural pride theme across the ages

A. Social and Cultural Links to Politics

No sharp division between public/private, political/social; China a single whole

Confucian view of government as an extension of family relationships captures worldview

B. Complexities in Classical China

Endemic tensions and disparities

Confucianism and Daoism could cohere but also engendered mutual disdain

Confucianism and policing

Confucian belief in human goodness, importance of mutual respect, ceremony

Not always compatible with stern punishments used as general warning in society

Presumption of guilt, subject to torture before trial

Practiced alternating torture with benevolence to gain confessions

Represents concurrent but not entirely compatible assumptions

**KEY TERMS**

**Shi Huangdi:**first emperor of China; founder of Qin dynasty.

**Qin:** dynasty (221–207 b.c.e.)founded at the end of the Warring States period.

**Han:**dynastysucceeding the Qin ruled from 202 b.c.e. to 220 c.e.

**Zhou:**originally a vassal family of the Shang; possibly Turkic-speaking in origin; overthrew Shang and established 2nd Chinese dynasty (1122–256 b.c.e.).

**Great Wall:** Chinese defensive fortification built to keep out northern nomadic invaders; began during the reign of Shi Huangdi.

**Confucius:** major Chinese philosopher born in 6th century b.c.e.; sayings collected in *Analects*; philosophy based on the need for restoration of social order through the role of superior men.

**CHAPTER 4**

***Classical Civilization: India***

**Questions**

4.1 How did India’s geography affect the characteristics of classical society in India?

4.2 What were the main political phases in classical India?

4.3 Why was the state less important in classical India than in classical China?

4.4 What was the relationship between Hinduism and Buddhism?

4.5 What were the main features of the caste system?

4.6 What was India’s trading position in the classical world?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. The Framework for Indian History: Geography and Culture**

Buddhist, Brahmin rivalry shaped social hierarchies and gender roles

Mauryan Empire, India’s first empire, shaped by Buddhist teaching

Invasion, political fragmentation until Gupta empire in 4th c. C.E.

Gupta reasserted Brahmin control, Hinduism

Period of scientific, artistic, literary, philosophical, and architectural achievement

Contrast with China

Indian focus on religion, social structure, Hindu way of life

Political structure less cohesive, less important

Unique cultural developments: religion, science, economics, family life

Similarities with China

Agricultural imperative: survival, village life, local allegiance, patriarchy

Great cities, extensive trade, social and economic complexity

Formal intellectual life, schools and academies

A. Formative Influences

Geography

Closer to other civilizations than China

Influences from Middle East, Mediterranean, Persia

Topography

Himalayan barrier to East Asia

Passes in northwest link to Middle East

Divisions in subcontinent:

Two river regions: Indus and Ganges (agriculture)

Mountainous north (herding)

Mid-continent mountains and Deccan plateau

Southern coastal rim (trading, seafaring)

Considerable economic, racial, linguistic diversity

Climate

Most of India, especially river plains semitropical

Monsoon rains variable

Sometimes flooding, drought, starvation

Good years supported two harvests and large population

B. Brahman Culture

Aryans developed a series of epics which would become the literary language of the new culture

Caste system emerged, “Varna” means Aryan social class, in order:

Kshatriyas (warrior, governing class)

Brahmans (priestly class)

Vaisyas (traders and farmers)

Sudras (common laborers)

Untouchables (performed reviled tasks, became a reviled people)

At first, Kshatriyas top class, during Epic Age Brahmans replaced them

Gradually, caste hereditary, intermarriage punishable by death

Jati, subgroups, also tied to occupation and social station by birth

Aryan gods and goddesses

Regulated nature, possessed human qualities

Similar to other Indo-European traditions, but developed into lasting religion

Nature not just set of gods but a divine force

By end of Epic period, religion combination of rituals, beliefs, and mysticism

Gautama Buddha built a religion on this mysticism

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Gupta Sculpture Lokanatha**

**II. Patterns in Classical India**

By 600 B.C.E., formative period at an end

Cities and trade grew

Sanskrit furthered literary culture

Irregular pattern to political eras

Northwest border allowed for landmark invasions

16 major states in the plains of northern India

One empire of size: Magadha

327 B.C.E., Alexander the Great invaded, created border state of Bactria

A. The Mauryan Dynasty

322 B.C.E. Chandragupta Maurya seizes power

He and successors build unified empire

Not sure what he borrowed from Persia or Alexander

Established:

Large armies, thousands of chariots and elephant-borne troops

Substantial bureaucracy

Postal system

Autocratic

Became a religious ascetic

Passed empire to son

Ashoka (269–232 B.C.E.)

Grandson of Chandragupta

Bloody extension of empire

Conversion to Buddhism

Dharma, law of moral consequences, ethical guide to unify empire

Promoted Buddhism

Honored Hinduism, built shrines

Buddhist missionaries to Middle East Hellenistic kingdoms, Sri Lanka

Instructed officials in humane treatment, goal of moral welfare

Trade and communication improvements: roads, inns, wells

After Ashoka

Ashoka’s style of government of limited impact

Buddhist current persisted

Regional kingdoms resurfaced

Kushans, invaders from northwest, adopted Buddhism

Foreign association discouraged Indians from the religion

By 185 B.C.E., empire ended

B. The Guptas

Kushan state collapsed by 220 B.C.E.

Gupta built empire by 4th century C.E.

Allowed autonomy of elites

Two centuries of political stability

Overturned by Huns in 535 B.C.E.

Basic political pattern of classical age:

Empires alternating with regional rule

Economic, cultural advance without interruption

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Emperor Ashoka, from the Edicts of Ashoka**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath**

**III. Political Institutions**

Persistent political features

Regionalism

Diverse political forms

Autocratic kings and emperors

Aristocratic assemblies

Political base of empires shaky

Mauryan rulers

Depended on armies, feared betrayal

Gupta Empire

Claimed Hindu gods appointed them

Established tax system

Locally ruled with deference to Gupta Empire

Gupta representative at each ruler’s court

No single language imposed

Sanskrit promoted among educated classes, but no effect locally

Little bureaucracy

Promoted some public works like roads

Spread uniform law codes

Sponsored universities, art, literature

Gupta golden age of achievement

Gupta age not singular for political theory or institutions

Kautilya, Chandragupta’s minister, wrote a political treatise on efficient authority

No political theory of value or service like Confucianism

No political ethics like Greece or Rome

Why no political theory or ethical system in India?

Importance of local units of organization

Caste rules

Castes

Interpreted by priests

Regulated social relationships

Regulated work roles

Same function as government structures in other cultures

Basis of public order

After Epic Age, more and more complex subgroups

Defined groups one could eat with or marry within

Hereditary principle

Not possible to rise above one’s caste

Could drop, if marrying down or working below level

Upward mobility possible within a caste

Means of integrating diverse populations without integrating their cultures

Promoted tolerance

Avoided slavery, untouchables scorned and poor but not owned

Politically, loyalty was to caste

Caste regulated details of behavior

Detailed political administration rendered less necessary

**IV. Religion and Culture**

Indian civilization rested largely on widely-shared cultural values

Hinduism gained ground on Buddhism under Guptas

Provided cultural cement across languages and castes

Incorporated variety

Did not displace minority religions

Still major religion of India

Prominent cultural tradition independent of political systems or regimes

Rational scientific cultural legacy

A. The Formation of Hinduism

Gradual development

Origin in Vedic and Epic Ages

Melding of polytheism, ritual, and mystic divine principles

Some developments in reaction to Buddhism and Islam

Hinduism incorporated:

Ritual, ceremony

Unity of individuals with all-embracing divine

Political and economic goals (artha)

Worldly pleasures (karma)

Many paths of worship, tolerance, fluidity

Early Hinduism called “*Brahmanism*” due to emphasis on brahman leadership, ritual

Hindus call their religion “*Dharma*” meaning, moral path

Gods changed from natural to abstract representations

Varuna was god of the sky and became guardian of ideas of right and wrong

Increased emphasis on gentle, generous behavior

*Upanishads*: shallowness of worldliness, favored contemplation of world spirit

Each creature’s soul part of universal spirit

Attacked brahman focus on correct practices, rituals, ceremonies, rewards

Hinduism embraced tension between mystical and prosaic

By 1st century C.E., Hinduism a more formal religion

Shared doctrines of brahman priests and mystics (gurus)

Holy essence or divine principle (*brahma*) incorporates all living things

Several gods are divine aspects of brahma

Vishnu: the preserver

Shiva: the destroyer

Divine soul more important than world of the senses

Life’s quest: seeking union with divine soul

May take many lifetimes, reincarnation

Bodies die, souls do not, they pass to other humans or animals

The caste trajectory depends on goodness of life

Many good lives earn the soul full union with brahma

Suffering ceases

Channels for a good life:

Renouncement of the world, practice of mediation and yoga (means “union”)

Rituals and rules of the brahmans

Proper ceremonies

Prayers

Dietary habits

Treating cows as sacred

Devotions to lesser gods and local deities

Symbolic sacrifices

Epic poems key texts and shared ethics:

Moral law of dharma guide for worldly and spiritual goals

Focus on consequences

Need to act: serving family, making a living, armed duties

Honor, duty, pleasure, compatible with spirituality

Less prescriptive than Christianity and Islam

Hinduism accommodated variety of expressions, practices, beliefs

Consistent distinction between good and evil behavior

Reinforced castes, promising hope for each to achieve a higher level

Sustained through priests, and gurus

B. Buddhism

Prince Siddharta Gautama, born 563 B.C.E.

Questioned the fairness of life in context of poverty and suffering

Lived as Hindu mystic

After 6 years, felt he found the truth

Took to wandering life, asceticism

Beliefs regarding Hinduism

Accepted spiritual truth like reincarnation

Denied other beliefs such as caste

Truth as he saw it: Buddhism

Material world a snare warping human relationships and causing pain

All things decay, holding to youth, health, life itself, source of suffering

Salvation from release from self, door to nirvana

Self-regulation and pursuit of holy life, individual effort

Contrast with Hinduism

Denied spiritual value of castes, rituals, priests

Spread of Buddhism

Example and teaching of monks

Monks organized in monasteries, but preached throughout world

Growth in India spurred by Ashoka

Buddha increasingly seen as divine

Focus on contemplation, charity, piety

Brahman opposition in India, especially under Guptas

Ashoka and Kushan missionary success

Sri Lanka, China, Korea, Japan

Other religions dissenting from Hinduism emerged, too

Religion not the only intellectual development in classical age

Legal writing prominent

Kamasutra “laws of love” written in 4th century C.E.

C. Arts and Sciences

Literature

Gupta period

Epics written down in Gupta period

Story collections, *Panchatranta*

*Sinbad the Sailor* and other well-known adventure stories

Classical stories often secular

Emphasis on imagination and excitement

Sometimes included gods

Drama

Romantic adventures

Contemporary films follow this tradition

Science

Gupta period

University center of Nalanda

Attracted students across Asia and Indian brahmans

Lecture halls, libraries, observatory, model dairy

Religion, philosophy, medicine, architecture, agriculture

The Greek Interlude, Alexander the Great, 327 B.C.E.

Contact with Hellenistic world improved mathematics and astronomy

Astronomy

Aryabhatta, important astronomer

Length of solar year

Mathematical measurements

Accurate circumference of the earth—and indicated it is round

Daily rotation of earth on axis

Predicted, explained eclipses

Developed a theory of gravity

Telescopic proof of seven planets

Medicine

Bone settings

Plastic surgery

Inoculation against smallpox, using cowpox serum

Stress on cleanliness in hospitals, including sterilization of wounds

Promotion of ethical standards

Understanding of astronomy, medicine, similar in West only in modern times

Mathematics

“Arabic” numbering (West learned of Indian system through Arabs)

Zero

Decimals

Negative numbers

Square roots

Table of sines

Value of pi, more accurate than Greeks

Art

Stupas, shrines to Buddha sponsored by Ashoka

Move to stylized representations of human form under Guptas

Sculpture, painting

People, animals, nature

Religious values

Spontaneity and imagination more prominent than in China or West

**V. Economy and Society**

Effect of caste system

Low-castes few rights, servants easily abused

Upper-castes constrained largely by ethics rather than law

Village leaders charged to limit interference from landlords

Family life

Patriarchal

Rights of women increasingly limited

As agricultural technologies improve, women’s roles circumscribed

Hindu debate if women had to be reincarnated as men before advancing

Marriage unions, economic arrangements arranged by parents

Women also recognized

Epics recognized women’s independent contributions

Stories of strong-willed women and goddesses

Stories celebrated female emotion and beauty

Emphasis on loving relationships and sexual pleasure

Expectation that husband and wife enjoy mutual support

*Marabharata* epic called a man’s wife his truest friend

Children

Indulged in early years

With increased age, expected to participate as a worker

General expectation of aid to older family members

Family emotional as well as economic unit

Economy

Rivaled China in technology

Briefly surpassed China’s upper classes in prosperity

Developments in chemistry

Best steel in the world

Most superior iron making until a few centuries ago

First to manufacture textiles: cotton, calico, cashmere

Artisan guilds and shops

Trade

Greater emphasis on merchants, trade than China or Mediterranean

Merchants

High caste status

In North, wide travel across Asia, Middle East

In South, Tamil sea trade with Middle East, Roman Empire

Traded silks, cotton, dyes, drugs, gold, ivory

Brought back pottery, wine, metals, gold, some slaves

Southern trade with Southeast Asia like Malaysia

Manufactured goods and culture

Caravan trade developed with China

Gupta Empire known for its wealth as well as religious and intellectual life

Wealth relegated to small upper class

Most people lived on margins of subsistence

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Cast(e)aways? Women in Classical India**

**VI. Indian Influence and Comparative Features**

Classical India huge influence on other parts of the world

Comparatively the greatest of influencing civilizations

Dominated Indian Ocean, waters of southern Asia, much travel

Not political domination

Influence by way of goods, intermarriage, cultural ideas and artifacts

Thailand, Burma, parts of Indonesia, Vietnam

Buddhism and Indian art expanded into China

Buddhist missionaries in the Middle East introduced ideas

Affected Greeks and Roman Stoics

Through them, affected Christianity

Classical civilization in India lasted longer than in China or Rome

After Gupta fall, enduring religion, culture, social and family network

Civilization could survive long periods of foreign domination

A. China and India Compared

Contrasts demonstrate diversity, vitality of classical age

Art and poetry

China: restrained

India: dynamic, sensual style

Religion

China: religion and philosophy, separate spheres

India: unified religion, tolerant of minority beliefs

Political, social structure

China: centralized governance, bureaucratic

India: organized through strict caste system

Cultural emphasis

China: more materialist, despite Daoist influence

India: more otherworldly

Science

China: practical orientation

India: practical too, but went further in mathematics

Similarities between China and India

Agricultural societies

Large peasant class

Close-knit villages

Cities, merchant activity secondary role

Political power in hands of estate owners

Taxed peasantry

Patriarchal family structure

Differences other than the political, cultural, artistic

China:

Emphasis on restraint, etiquette in family life

Village control often succumbed to estate owner pressure

Trade advanced by government

India:

More emotional expectations in family interactions

Village control over land stronger than China

Trade advanced by merchants

**KEY TERMS**

**Buddha:** creator of a major Indian and Asian religion; born in the 6th century B.C.E.; taught that enlightenment could be achieved only by abandoning desires for earthly things.

**Alexander the Great:** successor of Philip II; successfully conquered the Persian empire prior to his death in 323 B.C.E.; attempted to combine Greek and Persian cultures.

**Himalayas:** mountain region marking the northern border of the Indian subcontinent.

**monsoons:** seasonal winds crossing Indian subcontinent and southeast Asia; during summer bring rains.

**Sanskrit:** the classical and sacred Indian language.

**Varnas:** clusters of caste groups in Aryan society; four social castes—brahmans (priests), warriors,

merchants, and peasants; beneath four Aryan castes was group of socially untouchable Dasas.

**Indra:** chief deity of the Aryans; depicted as a colossal, hard-drinking warrior.

**Chandragupta Maurya:**founder of the Mauryan dynasty, the first empire in the Indian subcontinent; first centralized government since Harappan civilization.

**Mauryan:** dynastyestablished in Indian subcontinent in 4th century B.C.E. following the invasion of Alexander the Great.

**Ashoka:** grandson of Chandragupta Maurya; extended conquests of the dynasty; converted to Buddhism and sponsored its spread throughout his empire.

**dharma:** the caste position and career determined by a person’s birth; Hindu culture required that one accept one’s social position and perform their occupation to the best of one’s ability in order to have a better situation in the next life.

**Kushans:** see Kush, Chapter 3.

**Guptas:** dynasty that succeeded the Kushans in the 3rd century C.E., which included all but southern Indian regions; less centralized than Mauryan Empire.

**Kautilya:** political advisor to Chandragupta Maurya; wrote political treatise.

**gurus:** originally referred to as brahmans, who served as teachers for the princes of the imperial court of the Guptas.

**Vishnu:** the brahman, later Hindu, god of sacrifice; widely worshipped.

**Shiva:** Hindu god of destruction and reproduction; worshipped as the personification of cosmic forces of change.

**reincarnation:**the successive rebirth of the soul according to merits earned in previous lives.

**nirvana:**the Buddhist state of enlightenment; a state of tranquility.

***Kamasutra*:** written by Vatsayana during Gupta era; offered instructions on all aspects of life for higher-caste males, including grooming, hygiene, etiquette, selection of wives, and lovemaking.

**stupas:** stone shrines built to house relics of the Buddha; preserved Buddhist architectural forms.

**scholar-gentry:** Chinese class created by the marital linkage of the local land-holding aristocracy with

the office-holding shi; superseded shi as governors of China.

**CHAPTER 5  
*Classical Civilizations in the Middle East and Mediterranean***

**Learning Objectives**

5.1 Why was the rise of Persia such an important development in the early part of the classical period?

5.2 What changes occurred between the Greek and Hellenistic periods in the eastern Mediterranean?

5.3 What were the causes of Roman expansion?

5.4 What are the main issues in defining the Greek and Roman political legacy?

5.5 What was the relationship between Greek and Roman culture?

5.6 How did the social structures of the classical Mediterranean and classical China compare?

5.7 What were the main legacies of classical Mediterranean societies?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. The Persian Tradition**

550 B.C.E., Cyrus the Great

The Persian Empire: northern Middle East into northwest India

Conquered peoples retained culture such as cuneiform

Advanced iron technology

Enormous impact

Political Styles and Innovations

Emphases

Toleration of diversity

Authoritarianism

Little power sharing

Centralization of laws, tax collection

Unified infrastructure

Paved roads

Connecting Indian border with Mediterranean and Egypt

Movement for commerce and troops

Regularly spaced inns, rest and change of horses

Postal service

Growth of new trans-regional trade

Centralized bureaucracy

Control of officials in distant regions of empire

Oversight of tax collection

Zoroasterianism

Zoroaster (630–550 B.C.E.)

Revised Sumerian polytheism

Introduced monotheism

Banned intoxicants and animal sacrifice

Doctrines

Life a battle between two divine forces: good and evil

Individual salvation a free choice of God over evil

Last judgment

The righteous gain heaven, “House of Song”

The evil gain eternal pain

Spread widely among emperors and population alike

Enormous effect on Judaism, Christianity, Islam

Small groups of Zoroastrians survive today

Distinctive painting and architecture, spread beyond borders

Durability

Long period of peace, prosperity in Middle East

Conquests included North Africa and Indian River valley

At height, empire of 14 million people

Persia proper (present day Iran) 4 million people

Persian language and culture survived Hellenistic period

Persian states persisted in east

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Persepolis: A Royal City**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: The “Cyrus Cylinder”**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Zoroastrianism: An Ancient Religion in Modern Times**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Darius the Great: Ruler of Persia**

**II. Patterns of Greek History**

A. Greece

River valley civilizations spread to Greek islands

Greeks Indo-European people

By 2000 B.C.E., Crete showed influence of Egypt

By 1400 B.C.E., Mycenae on Greek peninsula

Influenced by Crete

Memorialized by Homer, Trojan War

Waves of invaders

Destroyed by 800 B.C.E.

Stages of Greek Development

800 B.C.E.–600 B.C.E.

Mountainous terrain

Rapid rise of city-states

Tyranny of one

Aristocratic council

Extensive trade

Common cultural forms

Common written language, derived from Phoenician alphabet

Shared celebrations

Olympic Games

Two leading city-states

Sparta: military aristocracy, slave population

Athens: commercial, use of slaves, proud of artistic, intellectual leadership

500 and 449 B.C.E.

Sparta, Athens, smaller states together defeated Persian invasion

During and after this period, high point of Greek, especially Athenian, culture

Period of colonization

Eastern Mediterranean

Southern Italy

5th Century B.C.E.

Rule of Pericles in Athens

Aristocrat

Democratic political structure

Citizens assemblies

Elected officials

Passed laws

Pericles ruled by negotiation, influence

Constrained further expansion

Could not prevent war between Athens and Sparta

431–404 B.C.E.

Peloponnesian Wars

338 B.C.E.

Philip II of Macedon conquered Greek city-states

Son, Alexander the Great, extended Macedonian Empire

Middle East, Persia, into India, through Egypt

Alexander died at age 33 after 13 years of conquest

Successor states ruled regionally

Hellenistic period

Extended, consolidated Greek art and culture

Blended with Middle Eastern forms

Trade flourished

Scientific centers flourished like at Alexandria

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Alexander and Darius at the Battle of Issus**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Plutarch on Alexander the Great**

**III. Patterns of Roman History**

Represents final stage of classical Mediterranean civilization

1st century C.E., Rome subjugated Greece and Hellenistic kingdoms

Origin of Roman state

Local monarchy in central Italy around 800 B.C.E.

509 B.C.E., aristocrats drove out monarchy

Established Roman Republic

Republic

Regional conquests

Expansion

Punic Wars 264 to 146 B.C.E.

Carthage

Hannibal

Rome seized western Mediterranean, including Greece and Egypt

Political instability

Ambitious generals

Rebellion of the poor

45 B.C.E. Julius Caesar defeated adversaries in civil war, ends Republic

27 B.C.E. Augustus Caesar triumphed, instituted structure of Roman Empire

200 years of peace, prosperity to Mediterranean world and up into Europe

180 C.E. marks beginning of slow fall for next 250 years

Invaders overturned the government in Rome in 476 C.E.

Manifestation of decline

Trade levels fell

Birth rate fell

Government less effective

Two strong emperors: Diocletian and Constantine

313 C.E. Constantine tried to unite empire under Christianity

In west, government local

Empire unable to supply order or justice

Armies filled with non-Romans

Inability to defend against influx of invaders

Similar timing, experience as Gupta India and Han China

Summary

Mediterranean civilization built on earlier cultures

Took firm shape in Greek city-states

Introduced diverse political forms

Commercially based economy

Colonies

Decline of city-states

Macedonian conquest

Formation of Hellenistic world from Middle East to Egypt

Roman Republic

Distinguished by political virtue, stability

Embarked on conquests

Replaced Republic with Empire

Empire controlled

Mediterranean

Western, southeastern Europe

North Africa

200 years of peace, prosperity, glory

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: A Roman Warship**

**IV. Greek and Roman Political Institutions**

Politics extremely important

“Politics” derived from “polis,” the Greek word for city-state

Athenian and Roman concept of “the good life”

Political participation

Discussing affairs of state

Geopolitical influence

City-states surrounded by several hundred square miles

Relatively small

Intense local identification, sense of ownership

Concern for rights and obligations

Civic military duty

Even under Empire

Local city-states relatively autonomous

Pride in Roman citizenship

Concept of active citizenship unique to Mediterranean civilization

No unifying set of political institutions to rival imperial China

Diverse political forms, comparatively more similar with India

Later societies, reflected on diverse Mediterranean political forms

Monarchy not preferred

Rule by “tyrants” common

“Tyranny” a Greek term

Effective rulers

Promoted public works

Protected common people from abusive aristocracy

Hellenistic kings adopted these attributes

Roman generals adopted these attributes

A. Greece

Democracy (derived from Greek *demos,* “the people”)

Alternative political form

5th century B.C.E. Athens

Rejected aristocratic rule and tyrants

Direct democracy

General assemblies

All citizens members

Those present made all major decisions of state

Met every 10 days

Executive officers, judges

Chosen for brief terms

Subject to review by assembly

Chosen by lot

Women had no political rights

Half of adult males not citizens

Slaves

Foreigners

Not like today

Did elicit widespread political participation and devotion

Embodied democratic principles consistent with today

Pericles led Athens during period of highest glory

Weakness of direct democracy apparent during Peloponnesian Wars

Majoritarian politics

Pursuit of reckless policy for private ends

Aristocratic assembly the most common political structure

Deliberations established guidelines for state policy

Check on executive power

Sparta an example

Military aristocracy

Imposed rigorous military service on elites

Power over large slave population

Pericles in Athens was an aristocrat

“Aristocracy” derives from Greek “rule of the best”

Belief in class capable of political virtue

B. Rome

Roman Republic

Constitutional attempt to reconcile political forms

Reliance on principle of aristocracy

Citizen assemblies

Elect magistrates

No legislative action

Magistrates

Represent interests of common people

Senate

Legislative body

Composed mainly of aristocrats

Executive offices

Composed of senators

Two Consuls

Shared primary executive power

Dictator

Appointed during crises

Ideal of public service

Cultivated in Senate

Eloquent public speaking

Interest in the general good

Classical Mediterranean political theory

Aristocratic political culture

Political participation

Political ethics

Duties of citizens

Importance of incorruptible service

Political skills like oratory

Cicero, senator and author of political theory

Contrast with Confucianism

Greater emphasis on participation in deliberative bodies

Greater emphasis on analysis of political forms

Roman Empire

Retained strong local autonomy

Outright overthrow of distant rule, exceptional

Example, dissolution of Jewish state in 63 C.E.

Response to major local rebellion

General tolerance for local customs and religions

Preserved Senate, though more as form than content

Strong, well-organized army

Codified, equitable law

Roman Law

Greek precedent

8th century B.C.E. Athens

Balance between property rights and needs of the poor

Access to law courts, administered by fellow citizens

Roman precedent

450 B.C.E., Twelve Tables

Restraint on upper-class arbitrary action

Shared legal principles between wealthy and commoners

Roman Law of Roman Empire

Principle of rule of law not of individuals

Steadily took over role of fathers, landholders in some instances

Principle that law should be flexible to circumstance without varying widely

Principle that common sense should prevail

Principle of law as primary regulator of social life

Expansion of citizenship

Roman-appointed judges

Uniform laws

Unified property and commercial law

Principle that officials are subject to the law

Principle that law should be fair and reasoned

Government functions

Concentration on system of courts and the military

Securing supplies of grain

Public works

Roads, harbors for military transport and commerce

Stadiums, public baths

City of Rome

Over 1 million inhabitants

“Bread and circuses” policy

Gladiators and other entertainments

Cheap food

Colonies of Romans also given theaters, stadiums, baths, etc.

Particularly important for Romans stationed far away, such as in England

Official religion

Religious festivals

Reinforced loyalty to state

Other religions tolerated as long as not in conflict with state loyalty

Attacks on Christians

Irregular

Result of Christian refusal to pay respects to state

Chief political legacies of Mediterranean world

Localism

Fervent political interests

Intense loyalty to the state

Diversity of political systems

Preference for aristocratic rule

Importance of law

Unusually elaborate and uniform set of legal principles

Sheer accomplishment of Roman Empire

Unifying a region never before or since bound together

There was attention to careful legal procedures

There was no clear definition of individual rights

With the exception of first 200 years of Roman Empire, war not uncommon

Sometimes, emphasis on duty to state could lead to a totalitarian framework

Sparta such an example

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Aristotle, The Creation of the Democracy in Athens**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Livy, The Rape of Lucretia and the Origins of the Republic**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Polybius: “Why Romans and Not Greeks Govern the World”**

**V. Religion and Culture**

Greeks and Romans did not create world religion

India, Persia, some extent China, did

Christianity arose, developed during Roman Empire

Spread eased by Roman infrastructure and peace

Religion itself not a product of Greco-Roman culture

Would become influenced by Greco-Roman world

Of historical importance only after Empire began its decline

Greco-Roman religion

Spirits of nature as gods and goddesses involved in human affairs

Greek and Roman pantheons differently named, but much the same

Pantheon reflected natural phenomena, occupations, literature, history

Political importance of ceremonies to the gods

Foretelling future

Bringing good harvests, etc.

Greco-Roman religion had a this-world, human orientation

Stories like soap operas

Engendered literary tradition

Common heritage with India

Gods and goddesses

Expression of human passions and foibles

Symbols of inquiry into human nature

Focus on manipulating human affairs and meanings

Different from Indian interest in higher planes of spirituality

Lack of spirituality divided Greco-Roman population

Ordinary people drawn to mystery religions coming out of Middle East

Provided greater solace in times of difficulty

Sense of contact with the divine

Upper classes dissatisfied with lack of ethical content

Established moral philosophies

Moral systems such as Aristotle’s in Greece, Cicero’s in Rome

Focus on personal moderation, balance in human behavior

Stoics emphasized inner moral independence, discipline, and bravery

Various moral systems were major contributions

Developed independently from religion

Later blended with Christianity

Philosophy and Science

Classical philosophy and political theory

Emphasized powers of human thought

Socrates in Athens (b. 469 B.C.E.)

Question conventional wisdom

Chief duty: improvement of the soul

Athenian government thought he was undermining loyalty

Gave Socrates choice of suicide or exile

Socrates chose suicide

Legacy: rational inquiry demands skeptical questioning

Greek interest in rationality

Some similarity with Confucianism

Greater emphasis on questioning and abstract speculations

Carry over into inquiry concerning physical nature

No radically new scientific findings from Greece or Rome

Focus on rational order

Speculations concerning universal structure

Mathematical constructs

Greek, Hellenistic work in geometry impressive

Theorems of Pythagoras

Hellenistic scientific advancement, especially from Middle East and Egypt

Anatomy

Galen on medical treatment

Euclid on geometry

Ptolemy on sun’s rotation around the earth

Contradicted Middle Eastern knowledge

Became standard Western belief for extended period

Roman science

Taught Greek and Hellenistic science at school

Roman engineering unique achievements

Roads

Aqueducts

Arches

Art and literature conveyors of Greco-Roman values

Religion inspired art

Human-centered qualities themes

Realistic portrayals

Beauty of the human form

Gods as foils for explorations into human nature

Sappho, female Greek poet, around 600 B.C.E.

Dance and music vital to festivals but precise styles not well-preserved

Drama central role in culture

Comedies and tragedies

Emphasis on tragedies

Human reason, balance precarious virtues

Humans easily ensnared in emotion and uncontrollable consequences

Sophocles’ Oedipus, term still used as a psychological condition

Epic tradition

*Iliad, Odyssey* attributed to Homer in the 8th century B.C.E.

Virgil used epic form to link Roman and Greek histories and myths

Rome contributed to poetic form

Demonstration of richness of Latin language

Dramas performed for thousands of people

Visual arts

Sculpture

Example: Phidias in 5th century B.C.E. Athens

Romans continued heroic-realist tradition

Architecture

Greeks invented “classical” architecture

Monumental construction

Square or rectangular

Columned porticos

Doric, Ionic, Corinthian columns

Filled with sculptures

Roman engineering

Grander scale

Domes

Uses in Rome:

Public everyday spaces: temples, baths, marketplaces

Private homes: villas around courtyards

Structures for popular entertainments: chariot races, gladiators

Roman style blended with Christianity during the later empire

Greeks also pursued ceramics

Romans also pursued painting

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Vitruvius, “On Symmetry” from The Ten Books on Architecture**

**VI. Economy and Society in the Mediterranean**

Politics and formal culture urban phenomena

Majority of Greeks and Romans were farmers

Local rituals and festivals

Tied to concerns like harvest

Concerns for an afterlife

Free farmers owned their land

Substantial population in Greece and Rome

Constant tension with large landholders

Attempts to appropriate land

Force free farmers into tenancy

Issue of free farming

Shaped politics between tyrants and aristocrats

Shaped politics between democrats and aristocrats

Decline of Roman Republic

Result of too many farmers’ dependency on large landowners

Lost ability to vote freely

A. Agriculture and Trade

Greek and much Italian soil unsuitable for grain though grain necessary

Shifted production to olives and grapes

For cooking and wine

Forced conversion to market economy

Capital investment needed

Adequate sales needed to purchase life’s necessities

Reason so many farmers went into debt

Gave advantage to large landholders

Production to scale

Greater access to capital

Commercial agriculture chief reason to establish empire

Greeks, especially Athens, established colonies to gain access to grain production

Traded olive oil, wine, manufactured products, silver

Rome, sought its granary in Sicily and then North Africa

Heavy grain cultivation in North Africa led to soil depletion

Accounts for later reduced agricultural fertility

Trade key concern

Private merchants transported goods

Governments invested in regulatory practices and infrastructure

Luxury items from craftsworkers embellished upper-class lifestyles

Desired luxury items from India and China

Western disadvantage as their products were cruder

Exported animal skins, exotic African animals, precious metals

Status of merchants

Higher than China

Less than India

In Greece, merchants usually foreign

In Rome, clearly recognized but not fully accepted as patricians

B. Slavery

Slaves key ingredient of classical economy

Athens

Justified in Aristotle’s philosophy

Households

Silver mines, especially brutal condition

Sparta

Agricultural work

Rome

Households

Tutoring children of elites

Cultured Greeks highly valued

Mines

Agricultural work

Steady spread from final years of Republic

Theme

Slaves necessary

Slaves come from conquered territories

Increased need for military expansion

Technology

Greek improvements

Shipbuilding

Navigation

Roman improvements

Engineering urban living, troop movements, etc.

Little interest in agricultural or manufacture improvements

Upper-class interests in politics and art

Slave labor inhibited need for efficiency

Family

Tight patriarchal family structure

Women had vital economic functions in farming and agricultural households

Upper class Roman women influential in households

In law and culture, women inferior

Female infanticide practiced

Potential drain on family economy

Husbands had considerable rights over wives

Roman law modified traditional family controls

Many Greek and Roman women active in business

Women could control urban property, even if only a minority share

Generalizations

Few can be made, as the classical Mediterranean world was diverse

Many people lived as farmers in the manner of their ancestors

Tempting to remember only urban achievements

These exerted the greatest influence on later ages

Ordinary life had its own influence

Posed own challenge, opportunity for new movements like Christianity

C. Pressing the Environment

Rome’s economy had serious environmental consequences

Air pollution

Garbage

Lead poisoning

Deforestation

Over-grazing and over-farming

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Aristotle on Slavery**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Slaves in the Roman Countryside**

**VII. Toward the Fall of Rome**

Fall not like Han China

No disruption, revival pattern of civilization

Fall not like Gupta India

No central religion to link civilizations

Further complications

Collapse not uniform across territory

No single civilization rose to claim mantle of Greco-Roman world

No across-the-board maintenance of institutions or values

Greco-Roman world would live on, but selectively

A. A Complex Legacy

600 years of Persia, Greece, Hellenistic period

600 years of Rome

Greek legacy

Political ideas

Art and philosophy

Not politics

Not religion

Complication in North American appropriation of Greco-Roman world

Self-conscious roots in U.S. Constitution and theory of framers

Public buildings copied from classical models

Western education steeped in Greco-Roman history

However, no straight line between worlds

Greater direct line with Middle Eastern legacy

Many revivals and modifications before Greek science impacted Europe

Democracy did not spread out of Greece

Complication regarding Persia

Hellenistic conquest mutual cultural exchange

Greek forms introduced in Persia

Persian bureaucracy, centralization copied by Hellenistic kings

Zoroastrianism gained wider range of influence

Judaism, Christianity, Islam influenced

No tidy homogenization

Later Persian kings reasserted Persian ways

Middle East point of exchange between merchants and cultures

**KEY TERMS**

**Cyrus the Great:**(c. 576 or 590–529 B.C.E.); founded Persian Empire by 550 B.C.E.; successor state to Mesopotamian empires.

**Zoroastrianism:** Persian religion that saw material existence as a battle between the forces of good and evil; stressed the importance of moral choice; a last judgment decided the eternal fate of each person.

**Olympic Games:**one of the pan-Hellenic rituals observed by all Greek city‑states; involved athletic competitions and ritual celebrations.

**Pericles:** Athenian political leader during 5th century B.C.E.; guided development of Athenian Empire.

**Peloponnesian War:** war from 431 to 404 B.C.E. between Athens and Sparta for domination in Greece; the Spartans won but failed to achieve political unification in Greece.

**Philip of Macedonia:**ruled Macedon from 359 to 336 B.C.E.; founder of centralized kingdom; conquered Greece.

**Hellenistic:** culture associated with the spread of Greek influence and intermixture with other cultures as a result of Macedonian conquests.

**Roman Republic:**the balanced political system of Rome from circa 510 to 47 B.C.E.; featured an aristocratic senate, a panel of magistrates, and popular assemblies.

**Punic Wars:** three wars (264–146 B.C.E.) between Rome and the Carthaginians; saw the transformation of Rome from a land to a sea power.

**Carthage:**founded by the Phoenicians in Tunisia; became a major empire in the western Mediterranean; fought the Punic wars with Rome for Mediterranean dominance; defeated and destroyed by the Romans.

**Hannibal:** Carthaginian general during the second Punic War; invaded Italy but failed to conquer Rome.

**Julius Caesar:**general responsible for the conquest of Gaul; brought army back to Rome and overthrew republic; assassinated in B.C.E. by conservative senators.

**Caesar Augustus:** (63 B.C.E.–14 C.E.) name given to Octavian following his defeat of Mark Antony and Cleopatra; first emperor of Rome.

**Diocletian:** Roman emperor from 284 to 305 C.E.; restored later empire by improved administration and tax collection.

**Constantine:** Roman emperor from 312 to 337 C.E.; established second capital at Constantinople; attempted to use religious force of Christianity to unify empire spiritually.

**Polis:**city-state form of government typical of Greek political organization from 800 to 400 B.C.E.

**Direct democracy*:*** literally, rule of the people—in Athens, it meant all free male citizens; all decisions emanated from the popular assembly without intermediation of elected representatives.

**Senate:** assembly of Roman aristocrats; advised on policy within the republic; one of the early elements of the Roman constitution.

**Consuls:** two chief executives of the Roman republic; elected annually by the assembly dominated by the aristocracy.

**Aristotle:** Greek philosopher; teacher of Alexander; taught that knowledge was based upon observation of phenomena in material world.

**Cicero:**conservative senator and Stoic philosopher; one of the great orators of his day.

**Stoics:** Hellenistic philosophers; they emphasized inner moral independence cultivated by strict discipline of the body and personal bravery.

**Socrates:** Athenian philosopher of later 5th century B.C.E.; tutor of Plato; urged rational reflection in moral decisions; condemned to death for corrupting minds of Athenian young.

**Sophocles:** Greek writer of tragedies; author of *Oedipus Rex*.

***Iliad*** **and *Odyssey*:**Greek epic poems attributed to Homer; defined relations of gods and humans that shaped Greek mythology.

**CHAPTER 6**

***The Classical Period: Directions, Diversities, and Declines by 500 C.E.***

**Learning Objectives**

6.1 What were the main similarities and differences between Africa and the Americas by the early centuries C.E.?

6.2 What were the main differences in the process of decline in classical China and in classical India?

6.3 What were the causes of decline in the Roman empire?

6.4 How did the organization of Christianity reflect its complex relationships with the Roman empire?

**Questions**

**I. Beyond the Classical Civilizations**

Changes in Classical Period

Northeastern Africa

Japan

Northern Europe

The Americas

Stage set for later links

A. Developments in Africa’s Kush and Its Heritage

Southern Nile, Egyptian border

Independent existence by 1000 B.C.E.

Writing based on hieroglyphics

Center of iron working

Conquered Egypt by 750 B.C.E.

Divine kingship

Major cities

Defeated by Axum, c. 300 C.E.

Axum fell to Ethiopia

Axum and Ethiopia traded with eastern Mediterranean until fall of Rome

Jewish merchants introduced Judaism, Ethiopian Jews still exist

Greek merchants introduced Christianity, 4th century C.E.

End of Roman empire trade, end of extensive contacts

Growth of independent Christian church

Growth of world’s oldest continuous monarchy

Influence on sub-Sahara Africa

Not entirely known

Iron-working spread, expanding agriculture

Divine kingship appeared elsewhere

Not clear if related to Kushites

Kushite writing did not spread

Sub-Sahara Africa north of great jungles up to 500 B.C.E.

Extension of agriculture

Village life, similar to today

West Africa

Regional kingdoms formed toward end of classical period

First: Ghana

Trade with southeast Asia 100 C.E.

Spurred development of root crops

Spurred agricultural development

Spurred growth of kingdoms

Difficulties of expansion south

Dense vegetation

Diseases afflicting livestock

B. Japan and Northern Europe

Japan, 200 C.E.

200,000 years of migration from Korean peninsula ceased

Extensive agriculture

Tribal

Chiefs

Tribal gods, ancestors

Social differentiation

Iron-working

By 400 C.E.

Regional states

Brought in scribes from Korea

Shintoism national religion by 700 C.E.

Worship of political rulers

Worship of nature, especially god of rice

Different from major classical religions and philosophies

Nationalization of politics between 400 and 600 C.E.

Basis of imperial house

Emperor worship

Onset of contacts with China

Northern Europe

Teutonic/Celtic/Slavic peoples

Modern Germany, England, Scandinavia, eastern Europe

Loosely organized regional kingdoms

Some, succumbed to Roman Empire

At empire’s end, regionalism reemerged

No written language

Exception where Latin had been imported

Agriculture primitive

Hunting

Scandinavian skills in sailing

Expanded trade, pillaging after 600 C.E.

Religion, gods and rituals to placate nature

Later, influenced by Christianity

No unification

Until about 1000 C.E., most backward region of world

C. The Americas

Olmec civilization 800 to 400 B.C.E.

Foundation for later civilizations

Central America

No writing

Massive pyramid religious structures

Maize cultivation, potatoes, other crops

Statues, icons of jade

Accurate calendar

Origins, end unknown

No trace after 400 B.C.E.

Artistic, religious influence on successor civilizations

Successors

Developed hieroglyphic alphabet

Built city of Teotihuacan for trade, worship

Migration, regional wars

Maya civilization emerges from 400 C.E. onward

Olmec, successors in Central America equivalent of river valley civilizations of Asia, Middle East

Similar civilization developed in Andean region of South America

Precursors to the Inca

Two early centers of civilization in the Americas

Developed in isolation from developments elsewhere

Lacked advantages of contacts: copying, reacting, etc.

Lacked technologies like wheel and iron working

Ahead of European development

Polynesia

1000 B.C.E., population of Polynesian islands

400 C.E., population of Hawaiian islands

Outrigger canoes

Brought pigs

Adapted local plants

Powerful local kings

Caste system

In sum, classical period for areas outside China, India, Mediterranean

Expanding agriculture

Early civilizations

Early contacts

Folded into world history after classical period

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: The Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan**

**II. Decline in China and India**

200 to 600 C.E., all three civilizations collapsed entirely or in part

Nomadic invasions

Rome fell to Germanic invaders

Germanic invaders were harassed by Asiatic Huns

Other Huns overran Gupta India

Similar nomads toppled Han China

Prior internal problems afflicted Rome and China

Guptas had not resolved region’s tendency to political fragmentation

A. Decline and Fall in Han China

Han decline in 1st century C.E.

Central control diminished

Bureaucratic corruption

Local rulers arbitrary

Free peasants over-taxed

Lost land

Became day laborers

Sold children into service

Daoist revolutionary effort

Yellow Turbans

184 C.E., revolution

30,000 students attack decadence

Disease devastated population, perhaps cut in half

Population drop

Prosperity drop

Imperial court: intrigue, civil war

Inability to push back invaders

Han fell

Three centuries of chaos

Regional rulers, weak dynasties

Buddhism imported

Threatened cultural unity

Only case of cultural import until 20th century

Late 6th century

Drove out invaders in the north

Sui dynasty reunited China

618, Tang dynasty

Glorious period

Confucianism and bureaucratic system revived

Signs from previous period

Buddhist minority

New styles in art and literature

No permanent disruption

Structures of classical China strong

Invaders had assimilated Chinese traditions

B. The End of the Guptas: Decline in India

Decline less drastic than Han China

Gupta control over local princes weaker by 5th century

Huns invaded in fifth century

Integration of Huns

Indian warrior caste

“Rajput” regional princes

Cultural development

Buddhism displaced by Hinduism

Devi: mother god

High prosperity

7th century Muslim invaders

Little outright conquest

Some conversion to Islam

Strengthened Hinduism

Emotionalism

Hindi vernacular

Distracted from science, math

Took control of Indian Ocean

India remained prosperous

Reduced Indian commercial dynamism

Empire gone

Hinduism and caste system remained strong

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: A Buddhist Pilgrim of the Seventh Century**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: A Tang Painting of the Goddess of Mercy**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: From the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea: Travel and Trade in the Indian Ocean**

**IV. The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire**

A. Wide-Ranging Signs of Decline

180 C.E. symptoms of decline

Population declined

Army recruitment difficult

Arbitrary, brutal emperors

Economic hardship

Tax revenues less

Pervasive despondency

B. Causes of Roman Decline

Constitutional crises

Weak emperors

Army intervention in politics

Plagues

Southern Asia trade introduced diseases

Epidemics decimated population

Rome went from 1,000,000 to 250,000

Consequences

Economic life deteriorated

Non-Roman army recruits (Germanic soldiers)

Need to pay soldiers

Little tax revenue

Spiral of decline

Cultural decline: cause or consequence?

Upper class devoted primarily to leisure

No more political devotion

No more economic vigor

Little cultural creativity

No new art or literary styles

No inventions, discoveries

Focus on textbooks

Simplified compendia

Added superstitions

Fewer children

Only area of cultural dynamism

Christian theologians

Could Rome have withstood plagues and invaders?

Cultural decline already was underway

Difficult times require vigorous cultural elites

C. The Process of Roman Decline

Course of decline

Political and economic decentralization

People sought military and judicial protection locally

Foreshadowed European manorial system

Estate system reduced Imperial authority

Estates sought self-sufficiency

Less trade

Cities shrank

Less revenue

Vicious circle

Attempt at recovery

Diocletian (284–305)

Economic regulation

Increased administration

Emperor worship

Persecution of Christians

Constantine (312–337)

Capital at Constantinople

Christian unity

Toleration

Adopts Christianity himself

Eastern Empire remained effective, unified

Christianity spread

East/West split worsened conditions in west

Attempts to regulate economy

Reduced production

Decline in tax revenues

Army deterioration

5th century Germanic invasions

Welcomed by many

Germanic invaders never more than 5% of population

Germanic kingdoms in western Roman territory by 425

Last Roman emperor deposed, 476

D. Attila the Hun

Attila the Hun (406–453)

Organized loose kingdom that extended from Germany to China

Invaded France in 451

Contributed to Rome’s collapse

E. Patterns of Decline?

Comparison with China, India

No shared political culture

No bureaucratic traditions

No strong unifying religion

Christianity and Islam too late

F. Results of the Fall of Rome

Mediterranean unity ended

Split into 3 zones

Byzantine Empire

North Africa and the southeastern shores of the Mediterranean

Western portion of empire: Italy, Spain, and points north

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Eusebius of Caesarea, selections from the Life of Constantine**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Sidonius Apollinaris, Rome’s Decay and A Glimpse of the New Order**

**IV. The Development and Spread of World Religions**

End of classical period not just about decay and collapse

200 to 600 C.E., rise of world’s major religions

Seeking solace

Plagues

Political instability

Changed religious map

Christianity surged throughout Mediterranean with demise of Rome

Buddhism surged into eastern Asia

600, Islam emerges as the most dynamic force for next centuries

Religion reshaping world

Spread widely

Crossed cultural and political boundaries

Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam later

Emphasis on spirituality

Devotion to piety

Hope of afterlife

Importance of divine power

Responded to political instability and poverty

Conversion

Hundreds of thousands of people

Asia, Europe, Africa

Effect

Maintaining larger religious claims

Syncretism: blend of old with new

Localized religious experience

A. Christianity Compared with Buddhism

Started smaller, grew bigger; one of two largest world faiths

Role in formation of eastern and western European civilizations

Similar emphasis on salvation and guidance by saints

Crucial differences

Christian church structure, copy of Roman Empire

Christian premium on missionaries, conversions

Christian insistence as the one truth, intolerance

B. Early Christianity

Context

Rigidity of Jewish priesthood

Many Jewish reform movements

New interest in Messiah

New interest in afterlife for the virtuous

Jesus of Nazareth

Crystallized reform movement ideas

Believed to be Messiah

Sent by God to redeem human sin

Gentle and charismatic

Preached, gathered disciples

No expectation of new religion

Disciples believed in resurrection

Second Coming signified end of world, judgment

Second Coming didn’t happen

Disciples fanned out, began preaching

Supporters in various parts of Roman Empire

Tenets

One loving God

Virtuous life: dedication to God and fellowship

Worldly concerns secondary

“Christ” Greek for “God’s anointed”

Christ’s sacrifice to prepare humanity for afterlife

Belief, good works, discipline of the flesh lead to heaven

Rituals, Christ’s Last Supper, lead to same goal

Appeal

Greek and Roman gods sterile

Simple life and spiritual equality appealing especially to poor

Early fervor and rituals appealing

Spread

Roman Empire, ease of travel

Europe, Middle East, Persia, Axum, Ethiopia

Paul of Tarsus

Shift from Jewish reform to independent religion for all

Church structure: local groups selecting elders; city bishop

Parallel of provincial government structure

Doctrine

Writing, collecting work of disciples

New Testament of the Christian Bible

C. Christianity Gains Ground

Periodic persecutions

Christianity Gains Ground

10% of empire by 300

Constantine converts

Legalized Christianity

State interference

Invites new troubles

Easier to spread

West

Decaying empire, increases appeal of faith

Chaos freed bishops

Centralized bishopric, pope in Rome

Independent church

East

Imperial control, way of life

Two different church organizations east/west

Beliefs held in common

Trinity: Father, Son (Christ), Holy Ghost

Emphasis on single belief: anti-heretical, no competition

Formal theology

Augustine and others

Elements of classical philosophy

Christian belief

Addressed nature of free will, sin, punishment, faith

Brought rational thought together with faith

Syncretism

Example: Christ’s birth made to coincide with winter solstice

Practices

Mysticism in the Middle East

Monasticism in the West

Benedict

Appealed to peasants

Developed Benedictine Rule

Spread to other monasteries and convents

Benedictine Rule

Discipline of work, study, prayer

Focused piety

Avoid divide between the saintly and the ordinary

Cross-class/cross social-group appeal

Like Hinduism in this respect

Appealed to elites and peasants alike

Equal importance of male and female souls

Men and women worshipped together

Big differences from classical Mediterranean culture

Otherworldly

Rituals

Spiritual equality

Relationship to state secondary

Anti-slavery, pro-brotherhood (later slavery, new context)

Respect for work

Sexual restraint

Classical values preserved (aside from church organization and some philosophy)

Roman architectural styles, though simplified

Latin, language of church in west

Greek, language of church in east

Monastic libraries preserved classical and Christian learning

D. The New Religious Map

Most people believe in one of the great faiths

Shift away from polytheism

Raised new social questions

Facilitated global trade

E. In the Wake of Decline and Fall

By 600 C.E., the major civilizations looked very different from classical world

Change uneven

Classical heritage used by different successor civilizations in different ways

**KEY TERMS**

**Axum:**a state in the Ethiopian highlands; received influences from the Arabian peninsula; converted to Christianity.

**Ethiopia:** kingdom located in Ethiopian highlands; replaced Meroë in first century C.E.; received strong influence from Arabian peninsula; eventually converted to Christianity.

**Sahara:** desert running across northern Africa; separates the Mediterranean coast from southern Africa.

**Shintoism:** religion of the early Japanese court; included the worship of numerous gods and spirits associated with the natural world.

**Teotihuacan:** site of classic culture in central Mexico; urban center with important religious functions; supported by intensive agriculture in surrounding regions; population of as many as 200,000.

**Maya:** classic culture emerging in southern Mexico and Central America contemporary with Teotihuacan; extended over broad region; featured monumental architecture, written language, calendrical and mathematical systems, highly developed religion.

**Inca:** group of clans centered at Cuzco that were able to create an empire incorporating various Andean cultures; term also used for leader of empire.

**Polynesia:**islands contained in a rough triangle with its points at Hawaii, New Zealand,

and Easter Island.

**Yellow Turbans:**Chinese Daoists who launched a revolt in 184 C.E., promising a golden age to be brought about by divine magic.

**Sui:**dynasty succeeding the Han; grew from strong rulers in northern China; reunited China.

**Tang:** dynasty succeeding the Sui in 618 C.E.

**Harsha:** ruler who followed Guptas in India; briefly constructed a loose empire in northern India between 616 and 657 C.E.

**Rajput:**regional military princes in India following the collapse of the Gupta Empire.

**Devi:** mother goddess within Hinduism; devotion to her spread widely after the collapse of the Gupta and encouraged new emotionalism in religious ritual.

**Islam:** major world religion having its origins in 610 C.E. in the Arabian peninsula; meaning literally “submission”; based on prophecy of Muhammad.

**Diocletian:**Roman emperor (284–305 C.E.); restored later empire by improved administration and tax collection.

**Constantine:**Roman emperor (321–337 C.E.); established his capital at Constantinople; used Christianity to unify the empire.

**Byzantine Empire:** eastern half of the Roman Empire; survived until 1453; retained Mediterranean, especially Hellenistic, culture.

**Augustine (Saint):** North African Christian theologian; made major contributions in incorporating elements of classical philosophy into Christianity.

**Coptic:** Christian sect in Egypt, later tolerated after Islamic takeover.

**Mahayana:** version of Buddhism popular in China; emphasized Buddha’s role as a savior.

**Bodhisattvas:**Buddhist holy men who refused advance toward *nirvana* to receive prayers of the living to help them reach holiness.

**Jesus of Nazareth:** prophet and teacher among the Jews; believed by Christians to be the Messiah; executed c. 30 C.E.

**Paul:** one of the first Christian missionaries; moved away from insistence that adherents of the new religion follow Jewish law; use of Greek as language of Church.

**Pope:** Bishop of Rome; head of the Catholic church in western Europe.

**Council of Nicaea:** Christian council that met in 325 C.E. to determine orthodoxy with respect to the Trinity; insisted on divinity of all persons of the Trinity.

**Benedict of Nursia:**founder of monasticism in the former western half of the Roman Empire; established the Benedictine rule in the 6th century.

**CHAPTER 7**

***The First Global Civilization: The Rise and Spread of Islam***

**Learning Objectives**

7.1 What were the major ways in which the city of Mecca interacted with the bedouin tribes that lived in the desert areas around it?

7.2 Which aspects of Muhammad’s religious message do you think accounted for its powerful appeal to both urban dwellers and nomadic peoples in Arabia and beyond?

7.3 What were the key factors that made possible the rapid Arab conquests in the Middle East and Central Asia and North Africa?

7.4 In what ways was the Islamic religion a faith that elevated the status and opportunities of women, and what were the constraints on this process?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. Desert and Town: The Harsh Environment of the Pre-Islamic Arabian World**

Bedouins

Camel herding

Agriculture

A. Clan Identity, Clan Rivalries, and the Cycle of Vengeance

Grouped into tribes  
Shayks  
Free warriors  
Rivalry

B. Towns and Long-Distance Trade

Entrepots

Mecca

Umayyad clan

Quraysh tribe

Ka’ba

Medina

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Medina**

C. Marriage and Family in Pre-Islamic Arabia

Women had important roles

Polygyny, polyandry

D. Poet and Neglected Gods

Animism, polytheism

Including Allah

**II. The Life of Muhammad and the Genesis of Islam**  
 Banu Hasim clan  
 Orphaned  
 Mecca

Khadijah  
 Revelations, 610  
 Via Gabriel

A. Persecution, Flight, and Victory

Ka’ba gods threatened

Invited to Medina, 622

*Hijra*

Returned to Mecca, 629

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: The Holy Qur’an**

B. Arabs and Islam

*Umma*

C. Universal Elements in Islam

Five Pillars

Acceptance of Islam

Prayer  
Fasting during Ramadan  
Payment of *zakat*  
*Hajj*

**II. The Arab Empire of the Umayyads**  
 Death, 632  
 Succession struggle

A. Consolidation and Division in the Islamic Community

Abu Bakr

Ridda Wars

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Al-Tabari and Ibn Hisham from “The Founding of the Caliphate”**

B. Motives for Arab Conquest

Conversions  
Booty

C. Weaknesses of the Adversary Empires

Sasanian Empire  
Zoroastrianism  
Dynasty ended, 651  
Byzantium

D. The Problem of Succession and the Sunni-Shi’a Split

Uthman

Third caliph  
Murdered

Ali

Rejected by Umayyads  
Siffin, 657  
Loses support  
Assassinated, 661

Son, Hasan, renounces caliphate

Son, Husayn

Killed, Karbala, 680  
Sunni – Umayyads  
Shi’a – Ali’s descendants  
Mu’awiya

Caliph, 660

E. The Umayyad Imperium

Push west

Stopped at Poitier, 732  
Retain Iberia

F. Converts and “People of the Book”

*Malawi*, converts

*Dhimmi*, people of the book

Jews, Christians

Later Zoroastrians and Hindus

G. Family and Gender Roles in the Umayyad Age

Islamic ideas prevailed at first

H. Umayyad Decline and Fall

Revolts

Merv

Abassid revolt

750, Umayyads defeated by Abassids

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Harun al-Rashid and the Zenith of the Caliphate**

**III. From Arab to Islamic Empire: The Early Abassid Era**  
 Sunni rule  
 Repressed Shi’a  
 Baghdad

New capital

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Sunni versus Shi’ite: Letter from Selim I to Ismail I**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Baghdad: City of Wonders**

1. Islamic Conversion and Mawali Acceptance

Integration of new converts into Islamic community

Efforts to make new converts

Acceptance of non-Arab Muslims as equals

Most converts won over peacefully

B. Town and Country: Commercial Boom and Agrarian Expansion

Urban expansion

*Ayan*

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Al-Hariri, Assemblies (Maqamat)**

C. The First Flowering of Islamic Learning

Building

Mosques, palaces

**CHAPTER 8**

***Abbasid Decline and the Spread of Islamic Civilization to South  
and Southeast Asia***

**Learning Objectives**

8.1 What were the major sources contributing to the decline of the Abbasid dynasty?

8.2 Discuss the major advances in the arts and sciences that occurred in the Islamic world in the late-Abbasid period.

8.3 How did Hindu religious leaders and organizations counter the considerable appeal of Sufi missionaries and their efforts to win converts in South and Southeast Asia from the 10th through the 16th centuries?

8.4 Beyond the Sufis, who were the major agents and were the motivations for conversion to Islamic religion in South and Southeast Asia in this same era?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. The Islamic Heartlands in the Middle and Late Abbasid Eras**

Abbasid Empire weakened, 9th–13th centuries

Peasant revolts

Al-Mahdi (775–785)

Shi’a unreconciled

Succession not secure

1. Imperial Extravagance and Succession Disputes

Harun al-Rashid

Son of al-Mahdi

*The Thousand and One Nights*

Barmicides

Persian advisors

Death followed by civil war

al-Ma’mun

B. Imperial Breakdown and Agrarian Disorder

Civil unrest

Caliphs build lavishly

Tax burden increased

Agriculture suffered

C. The Declining Position of Women in the Family and Society

Seclusion, veil

Polygyny

D. Nomadic Incursions and the Eclipse of Caliphal Power

Former provinces threatened Abbasids

Buyids, Persia

Took Baghdad, 945

Sultans

Seljuk Turks

1055, defeated Buyids

Sunnis

Shi’a purged

Defeated Byzantines, Egypt

E. The Impact of the Christian Crusades

1096, Western European Christian knights

Small kingdoms established

Saladin retakes lands

Last in 1291

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: A Muslim View of the Crusades: Beha-ed-Din, Richard I Massacres Prisoners after Taking Acre, 1191**

**II. An Age of Learning and Artistic Refinements**

Urban growth

Merchants thrive

A. The Full Flowering of Persian Literature

Persian, the court language

Administration, literature

Arabic in religion, law, sciences

Calligraphy

Firdawsi

*Shah-Nama*

Epic poem

Sa’di

Omar Kayyan

*Rubaiyat*

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: The Rubaiyat (11th c. c.e.) Omar Khayyam**

B. Achievements in the Sciences

Math

Built on Greek work

Chemistry

Experiments

Al-Razi

Al-Biruni

Specific weights

Medicine

Hospitals

Courses of study

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Islamic science and alchemy: page from “The Lanterns of Wisdom and the Keys of Mercy”**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Ibn Battuta, selections from the Rihla**

C. Religious Trends and the New Push for Expansion

*Sufis*

Mysticism

*Ulama*

Conservative

Against outside influence

Greek philosophy rejected

Qur’an sufficient

Al-Ghazali

Synthesis of Greek, Qur’anic ideas

Opposed by orthodoxy

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Science and Mathematics: Al-Ghazzali, “On the Separation of Mathematics and Religion”**

D. New Waves of Nomadic Invasions and the End of the Caliphate

Mongols

Chinggis Khan

Hulegu

1258, Baghdad fell

Last Abbasid killed

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Giovanni Di Piano Carpini on the Mongols**

**III. The Coming of Islam to South Asia**

By 1200, Muslims rule much of north, central

Conflict between two different systems

Hindu religion v. Muslim monotheism

Muslim egalitarianism v. Indian caste system

A. Political Divisions and the First Muslim Invasions

First Muslims as traders, 8th century

Attacks led to invasion

Muhammad ibn Qasim

Umayyad general

Took Sind, Indus valleys

Indians treated as *dhimmi*

1. Indian Influences on Islamic Civilization

Science, math, medicine, music, astronomy

India influenced Arab scholars

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: A World Traveler in India (1300s) Ibn Battuta**

C. From Booty to Empire: The Second Wave of Muslim Invasions

10th century, Turkish dynasty established in Afghanistan

Mahmud of Ghazni

Began invasion of India

Muhammad of Ghur

Persian

State in Indus valley

Thence to Bengal

His lieutenant, Qutb-ud-Din Aibak

Formed state at Delhi

Delhi sultanate ruled for 300 years

D. Patterns of Conversion

Converts especially among Buddhists, lower castes, untouchables

Also conversion to escape taxes

Muslims fled Mongols, 13th, 14th centuries

E. Patterns of Accommodation

High-caste Hindus remained apart

Muslims also often failed to integrate

F. Islamic Challenge and Hindu Revival

*Bhakti*

Devotional cults

Emotional approach

Caste distinctions dissolved

Shiva, Vishnu, Kali especially

Mira Bai, Kabir,

Songs in regional languages

G. Stand-off: The Muslim Presence in India at the End of the Sultanate Period

Brahmins v. ulama

> Separate communities

**IV. The Spread of Islam to Southeast Asia**

Shrivijaya

A. Trading Contacts and Conversion

Trading leads to peaceful conversion

Sufis important

Started with Sumatran ports

Malacca

Thence to Malaya, Sumatra, Demak (Java)

Coastal cities especially receptive

Buddhist elites, but population converts to Islam

B. Sufi Mystics and the Nature of Southeast Asian Islam

Mystical and animist strains

Retention of pre-Islamic beliefs and practices

Women retained stronger position

Merging of Islamic and pre-Islamic culture

**KEY TERMS**

**lateen:** triangular sails attached to the masts of dhows by long booms or yard arms; which extended diagonally high across the fore and aft of the ship.

**al-Mahdi:** third Abbasid caliph (775–785); failed to reconcile Shi’a moderates to his dynasty and to resolve the succession problem.

**Harun al-Rashid:** most famous of the Abbasid caliphs (786–809); renowned for sumptuous and costly living recounted in *The Thousand and One Nights*.

**Buyids:** Persian invaders of the 10th century; captured Baghdad; and as sultans, through Abbasid figureheads.

**Seljuk Turks:**nomadic invaders from central Asia; staunch Sunnis; ruled from the 11th century in the name of the Abbasids.

**Crusades:**invasions of western Christians into Muslim lands, especially Palestine; captured Jerusalem and established Christian kingdoms enduring until 1291.

**Saadin:** (1137–1193); Muslim ruler of Egypt and Syria; reconquered most of the crusader kingdoms.

**Ibn Khaldun:** great Muslim historian; author of *The Muqaddimah*; sought to

uncover persisting patterns in Muslim dynastic history.

***Shah-Nama*:** epic poem written by Firdawsiin the late 10th and early 11th centuries; recounts the history of Persia to the era of Islamic conquests.

**ulama:** Islamic religious scholars; pressed for a more conservative and restrictive theology; opposed to non-Islamic thinking.

**al-Ghazali:**brilliant Islamic theologian; attempted to fuse Greek and Qur’anic traditions.

**Mongols:**central Asian nomadic peoples; captured Baghdad in 1258 and killed the last Abbasid caliph.

**Chinggis Khan:** (1162–1227); Mongol ruler; defeated the Turkish Persian kingdoms.

**Hulegu:** grandson of Chinggis Khan; continued his work, taking Baghdad in 1258.

**Mamluks:** Rulers of Egypt, descended from Turkish slaves.

**Muhammad ibn Qasim:** Arab general who conquered Sind and made it part of the Umayyad Empire.

**Mahmud of Ghazni:**ruler of an Afghan dynasty; invaded northern India during the 11th century.

**Muhammad of Ghur:**Persian ruler of a small Afghan kingdom; invaded and conquered much of northern India.

**Qutb-ud-din Aibak:** lieutenant of Muhammad of Ghur; established kingdom in India with the capital at Delhi.

**bhaktic cults:**Hindureligious groups who stressed the importance of strong emotional bonds between devotees and the gods or goddesses—especially Shiva, Vishnu, and Kali.

**Mir Bai:** low-caste woman poet and songwriter in bhaktic cults.

**Kabir:** 15th-century Muslim mystic who played down the differences between Hinduism and Islam.

**Shrivijaya:**trading empire based on the Malacca straits; its Buddhist government resisted Muslim missionaries; when it fell, southeastern Asia was opened to Islam.

**Malacca:**flourishing trading city in Malaya; established a trading empire after the fall of Shrivijaya.

**Demak:** most powerful of the trading states on the north Java coast; converted to Islam and served as a dissemination point to other regions.

**CHAPTER 10**

***Civilization in Eastern Europe: Byzantium and Orthodox Europe***

**Learning Objectives**

10.1 What was the relationship between the Byzantine Empire and the earlier Roman Empire and what were the main similarities and differences?

10.2 How does the Byzantine Empire fit the theme of state building and expansion?

10.3 Why did the two major regional versions of Christianity part? How significant was the split?

10.4 What were the main commonalities among societies that developed in eastern Europe during the postclassical period?

10.5 What kinds of imitation affected Russia’s development in the postclassical period?

**Chapter Outline**

**I. Civilization in Eastern Europe**

Two major postclassical Christian civilizations

Centered on Rome and Constantinople

Close relations with Islamic world

Played major roles in long-distance trade

A. The Power of the Byzantine Empire

Maintained high levels of political, economic, and cultural activity

Strong connection to Roman Empire

Shaped cultural development of Balkans and western Russia

Major agent of interregional trade

Similarities between eastern and western Europe

Christian missionaries

Monotheism

Struggle for political definition

Trade and contact with major civilizations

Greco-Roman legacy

Differences between eastern and western Europe

Different versions of Christianity

Little mutual contact

East more developed than West, with greater involvement in international trade

**II. The Byzantine Empire**

Emperor Constantine

4th century c.e., Constantinople

Empire divided

Capitals at Rome and Constantinople

Greek language

Official language from 6th century

A. Justinian’s Achievements

Justinian

Attempted reconquest of Italy

Slavs, Persians attack from east

Building projects

Hagia Sophia

Legal codification

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Emperor Justinian**

B. Arab Pressure and the Empire’s Defenses

Center of empire shifted to east

Constant external threats

Arab Muslims

Bulgars

Defeated by Basil II, 11th century

C. Byzantine Society and Politics

Emperors resembled Chinese rulers

Court ritual

Head of church and state

Sophisticated bureaucracy

Opened to all classes

Provincial governors

Economic control

Regulation of food prices, trade

Silk production

Trade network

Asia, Russia, Scandinavia, Europe, Africa

Arts

Creativity in architecture

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: A Holy Emperor: Basil II**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: Hagia Sophia**

**II. The Split Between Eastern and Western Christianity**

A. The Schism

Separate paths

Patriarch Michael

1054, attacks Catholic practice

Mutual excommunication, pope and patriarch

B. The Empire’s Decline

Period of decline from 11th century

Seljuk Turks

Took most of Asian provinces

1071, Manzikert

Byzantine defeat

Slavic states emerged

Appeal to west brought crusaders

1204, Venetian crusaders sacked Constantinople

1453, Constantinople taken by Ottoman Turks

1461, empire gone

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Chronicle of the Fourth Crusade (12th–13th c.) Geoffrey de Villhardouin**

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Nestor-Iskander on the Fall of Constantinople (1450s)**

**III. The Spread of Civilization in Eastern Europe**

Influence through conquest, conversion, trade

Cyril, Methodius, to Slavs

Cyrillic script

A. The East Central Borderlands

Competition from Catholics and Orthodox Greeks

Catholics

Czechs, Hungary, Poland

Regional monarchies prevailed

Jews from Western Europe

**IV. The Emergence of Kievan Rus’**

A. New Patterns of Trade

Slavs from Asia

Ironworking, extended agriculture

Mixed with earlier populations

Family tribes, villages

Kingdoms

Animistic

6th, 7th centuries

Scandinavian merchants

Trade between Byzantines and the north

c. 855, monarchy under Rurik

Center at Kiev

Vladimir I (980–1015)

Converts to Orthodoxy

Controlled church

**Read the Document on MyHistoryLab: Ibn Fadlan’s Account of the Rus’**

**View the Closer Look on MyHistoryLab: The Baptism of Vladimir**

B. Institutions and Culture in Kievan Rus’

Influenced by Byzantine patterns

Orthodox influence

Ornate churches

Icons

Monasticism

Art, literature dominated by religion, royalty

Free farmers predominant

*Boyars*, landlords

Less powerful than in the West

C. Kiev

Leading City of Kievan Rus’

Location facilitated both defense and control of regional trade

Religious center

Important economic hub

1200: population of 50,000

D. Kievan Decline

Decline from 12th century

Rival governments

Succession struggled

Asian conquerors

Mongols (Tartars)

13th century, took territory

Traditional culture survived

E. The End of an Era in Eastern Europe

Mongol invasions usher in new period

East and West further separated

**KEY TERMS**

**Hagia Sophia:**great domed church constructed during reign of Justinian.

**Belisarius:** (c. 505–565); one of Justinian’s most important military commanders during the attempted reconquest of western Europe.

**Greek fire:** Byzantine weapon consisting of mixture of chemicals that ignited when exposed to water; used to drive back the Arab fleets attacking Constantinople.

**Bulgaria:** Slavic kingdom in Balkans; constant pressure on Byzantine Empire; defeated by Basil II in 1014.

**icon:** images of religious figures venerated by Byzantine Christians.

**Cyril and Methodius:** Byzantine missionaries sent to convert eastern Europe and Balkans; responsible for creation of Slavic written script called Cyrillic.

**Kiev:**commercial city in Ukraine established by Scandinavians in 9th century; became the center for a kingdom that flourished until the 12th century.

**Rurik:** legendary Scandinavian, regarded as founder of Kievan Rus’ in 855.

**Kievan Rus’:** the predecessor to modern Russia; a medieval state that existed from the end of the 9th to the middle of the 13th century; its territory spanned parts of modern Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.

**Vladimir I:** ruler of Kiev (980–1015); converted kingdom to Orthodox Christianity.

**Russian Orthodoxy:** Russian form of Christianity brought from Byzantine Empire.

**Yaroslav:** (975–1054); Last great Kievan monarch; responsible for codification of laws, based on Byzantine codes.

**boyars:** Russian landholding aristocrats; possessed less political power than their western European counterparts.

**Tatars:** Mongols who conquered Russian cities during the 13th century; left Russian church and aristocracy intact.