**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.