Early Civilizations

The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, and Urban Societies

SUMMARY:
- From about 5,000 years ago, urban societies developed laying the foundations of the first civilizations.
- The term civilization is normally used to designate societies with cities and powerful states.
- While there were many differences between civilizations, they also shared important features.
- In early civilizations, many people to hunt and forage, often mixing those activities with farming or herding.

What is a civilization?
- All civilizations have certain characteristics. These include:
  - large centers
  - monumental and unique art styles
  - written
  - systems for territories
  - a complex division of
  - the division of people into classes

TRENDS
- Trends that began to emerge in the Neolithic Revolution became even stronger in the early civilizations.
  - Society became more into clearly different socio-economic classes
  - Human impact on the environment became more
  - Government and military institutions became larger and more
  - institutions became larger and more complex
  - increased
  - grew more powerful as they became increasingly wealthy
  - The gap between the rich and the poor grew
  - The relative of men and women diverged more noticeably (most societies became)

The First Four
- Developed in river valleys scattered around the earth.
  - Mesopotamia (Southwest Asia) – Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
  - Egypt – Nile River
  - China – Huang He (Yellow) River
  - India – Indus River
- Two others developed in Mesoamerica and the Andes but they were not tied closely to a major valley.
- All six developed ways of life that would heavily successor civilizations in their regions.
- They are known as "core and foundational" civilizations.
**The Fist States**

- States were powerful new systems of _______ that mobilized ___________ labor and resources over large areas.
  - The first states emerged in Mesopotamia and Egypt.
  - Rulers of early states often claimed ____________ connections to power.
  - Rulers also often enjoyed _____________ support
- As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated had greater access to ________________, produced more surplus food, and experienced growing populations, enabling them to undertake territorial ________________ and conquer surrounding states.
  - Example: The ____________ had access to iron

**Early Urban Societies**

- Cities with ________________ building structures developed out of agricultural settlements
  - Civilization = term used by historians to describe societies that have cities
    - First cities (Mesopotamia and Nile Valley) = 6000 years ago
    - Buildings made of ___________ and ____________ bricks
    - Multi-story buildings by stacking bridges in an _________ (root of architecture)
    - Some buildings had religious and/or civic (government) importance
      - ________________ in Mesopotamia
      - ________________ in Egypt
    - Elites (royalty) had ________________ for themselves (AP World refers to this as monumental architecture)
      - ________________ commissioned statues, carvings, and other elaborate artwork to decorate their palaces
- Cities had both political and religious leaders who usually worked together to ________________ social order
  - Sometimes it was the ________________ person
  - ________________ were imposed to pay for construction of protective walls
  - Writing for record-keeping of supplies
    - ________________ in Mesopotamia
    - ________________ in Egypt
    - Phoenicians eventually establish our early ________________
- Legal codes were ________________ and enforced by the courts to maintain order
  - **Code of Hammurabi** was the most well-known
    - Lex talions = “an eye for an eye”
- Over time, cities that had close ________________ to each other, a common ________________, and common religious ________________ began to unite to form ________________
  - Led by kings who claimed authority from the gods
  - Empires were built and expanded through ________________
- First literature emerged in this time
  - ________________ stories and stories explaining the meaning of life were common
  - **Epic of Gilgamesh** – addressed questions of life and death and explored human relationships
  - **Rig Veda** (Indus River Valley) and **The Book of the Dead** (Egypt) sought to explain ________________ themes of origins and destiny
- Nonsettled groups (pastoralists) __________________ technology, goods, and ideas among settled societies  
  - Nomadic people who herded domesticated animals (central Asia, Arabian peninsula, and Africa)  
- Social __________________ emerged  
  - Elites (rulers and religious leaders)  
  - Craftspeople, merchants, and laborers  
  - Slaves  
  - Tended to be __________________  
  - Women attained __________ through marriage or supervising young ruling sons  
- Religions developed in this era carried over into later periods  
  - __________________ (Indus River Valley) is probably the world's oldest religion  
  - Influenced by the Aryans of Central Asia  
  - The Vedas were the religious texts  
  - Hindu faith adheres to the belief in ________ overall god-spirit, but believes that it reveals itself to humanity in many ____________  
  - Although most religions from this era were _______________ (believing in many gods), two stand out as monotheistic  
  - _______________ in Southwest Asia  
  - _______________ from Central Asia

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**Key Migrations of this Period**

**Indo-European Migrations**

- The Mesopotamians developed relationships with diverse groups ____________ the Middle East.  
- The most significant of these were Indo-Europeans whose migrations across ____________ profoundly affected world history.  
- Indo-Europeans were originally ________________ from the Russian steppes (just north of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea).  
- They domesticated ________________ about 4000 BCE and once they obtained ____________ and ____________ from the Mesopotamians, they devised carts and chariots.  
- With horse power and speed (great ____________ advantage), the Indo-Europeans spread widely across Eurasia.  
- They considered themselves ________________ and called themselves "nobility" or ____________.  
- As the Indo-European population increased, they spread further away from their homelands.  
- Intermittent migrations occurred over ________________ years of early history.
• The ________________, an Indo-European group, spread into the Middle East and conquered regions as far away as Egypt.
  ○ They adopted the cuneiform writing and the polytheistic gods of Mesopotamia.
  ○ They greatly refined iron metallurgy and introduced the ________________.
• Some also went as far as western ____________.
• Many went to Europe, invading the British Isles and the Baltic region as well as the more central areas of Europe.
  ○ They depended upon agriculture or herding but did not build large states.
  ○ However, ________________ dominated the areas north of the Mediterranean in trade, religion, and agriculture.
• They also spread into ____________.
  ○ Unlike the Celts, they soon built ________________ states (the Medes, Persians, and Aryans)
• Primary legacy = their language which is the ancestor to most ____________ languages and ____________
  ○ Linguists discovered that languages of Europe, southwest Asia, and India featured remarkable similarities
    ■ Father (English)
    ■ Vater (German)
    ■ Padre (Spanish)
    ■ Pater (Greek)
    ■ Pater (Latin)
    ■ Pitar (Sanskrit – ancient India)
  ○ The Indo-European family of languages is based on ________________ regions
  ○ It’s not possible that the similarities developed independently
    ■ Had to be descendants of ancestors who spoke a common language and migrated from their original homeland
  ○ Languages then evolved

**Bantu Migrations**

• Bantu-speaking peoples are presumed to have migrated into most regions of ________________ and established ________________ communities.
• Bantu: means “______________”
• Originated in what would be modern Nigeria in ________ Africa around 4000 BCE
• Earliest speakers settled along rivers and cultivated yams and oil palms.
  o Ability to travel by ______________
  o Growing population due to agriculture
• 1000 BCE – began to spread across Africa, inhabiting most of the regions south of the _____________.
• Their progress was not in mass migrations but ______________ and ______________ spurts of migration over time.
• Development of _______ metallurgy increased the rate of migration
  o Used iron to clear ______________ and prepare soil for agriculture
• Today - over __________ variations of original Bantu language
  o ______ million speakers
  o Similar to Indo-Europeans in that they spread language as they moved
• Migration brought new __________ and domesticated __________ to wide regions of Africa
• Lived in agricultural communities of several ______________ individuals ruled by chiefs.
  ______ sets – groups of individuals about the same age who wielded considerable political and military power
• Evidence of early ______________ – believed in a creator god
• But primarily worshipped their ancestors and local spirits
  o Keep them happy to avoid disaster
• Great ______________ among populations; much adaptation of other religions over time

**Aryan Migration**

• ______________ → depended on their cattle.
• ______________ → horse-drawn chariots.
• Aryans, ______________-skinned invaders from the north
  o Dravidians, ______________-skinned sedentary inhabitants of Harappa
• Color Bias ⇒ Socio-Economic Implications
• Difficulty of theory: no ______________ of large-scale military conquest
• Pastoral economy: sheep, goats, horses, cattle
  o Vegetarianism not widespread until many centuries later
• Religious and Literary works: The Vedas
  o ______________: sacred tongue
  o ______________: everyday language, evolved into Hindi, Urdu, Bengali
  o Four Vedas (wisdom), most important Rig Veda
    ■ 1,028 hymns to gods