This theme explores how hierarchical systems of rule have been constructed and maintained over time and the impact of these processes.

This theme encourages the comparative study of different state forms (e.g. kingdoms, empires, nation-states) across time and place and the interactions among them.

**EXAMPLE:** How did government develop out of the early civilizations?
Essential Questions:

- How have different forms of government been constructed and maintained over time?
- How have economic, social, cultural, and environmental contexts influenced the processes of state building, expansion, and dissolution?
- How have conflicts, exchanges, and alliances influenced the processes of state building, expansion, and dissolution?
Different forms of government
○ Kingdoms, empires, dynasties, nation-states

How different kinds of societies need different forms of government
○ Leaders/groups
○ State structures
○ War and conflict
○ Diplomacy/treaties
○ Courts/laws
Politics involves how nations lead themselves and what issues they see as important. What role do politics and government have in your life? How are you influenced by these things? What issues are important to you? What are your goals in life?
The interaction between humans and the environment is a fundamental theme in world history, as the environment shaped human societies, but increasingly, human societies also affect the environment.

**EXAMPLE:** The early Indus River civilizations of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro are believed to have disappeared due to environmental degradation or natural disaster (flood or earthquake).
Interactions between Humans and the Environment

**Essential Questions:**

- How have people used diverse tools and technologies to adapt to and affect the environment over time?
- How and to what extent has human migration and settlement been influenced by the environment during different periods in world history?
- How has the environment changed as a consequence of population growth and urbanization?
- How have processes of industrialization and global integration been shaped by environmental factors and in turn how has their development affected the environment over time?
INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- How the environment changed humans
  - Races, diets, lifespans, migrations, spread of disease
- How humans changed the environment
  - Irrigation, farming, land development
  - Biggest during Industrial Revolution (1700s)
Interactions between the environment and humans are important in this class. Historians consider how the environment affected the population’s development or how the population changed the environment to suit their needs, patterns of settlement, migration (push/pull factors), demographic trends, and the spread of disease. How do you interact with the environment? How does the environment interact with you?