Key Concept 2.1
The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions
As states and empires increased in size, and contacts between regions multiplied, people transformed their religious and cultural systems. Religions and belief systems provided a social bond and an ethical code to live by. These shared beliefs also influenced and reinforced political, economic, and occupational stratification. Religious and political authority often merged as rulers (some of whom were considered divine) used religion, along with military and legal structures, to justify their rule and ensure its continuation. Religions and belief systems also generated conflict, partly because beliefs and practices varied greatly within and among societies.

1. Codifications and further developments of existing religious traditions provided a bond among people and an ethical code to live by.
   - The association of monotheism with Judaism further developed with the codification of the Hebrew Scriptures, which also reflected the influence of Mesopotamian cultural and legal traditions. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Roman empires conquered various Jewish states at different points in time. These conquests contributed to the growth of Jewish diasporic communities around the Mediterranean and Middle East.
   - The core beliefs outlined in the Sanskrit scriptures formed the basis of the Vedic religions — developing later into what was known as Hinduism, a monistic belief system. These beliefs included the importance of multiple manifestations of brahman and teachings about dharma and reincarnation, and they contributed to the development of the social and political roles of a caste system.

2. New belief systems and cultural traditions emerged and spread, often asserting universal truths.
   - The core beliefs preached by the historic Buddha and collected by his followers in sutras and other scriptures about desire, suffering, and the search for enlightenment preached by the historic Buddha and collected by his followers in sutras and other scriptures were, in part, a reaction to the Vedic beliefs and rituals dominant in South Asia. Buddhism branched into many schools and changed over time as it spread throughout Asia — first through the support of the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, and then through the efforts of missionaries and merchants, and the establishment of educational institutions to promote Buddhism’s core teachings.
   - Confucianism’s core beliefs and writings originated in the writings and lessons of Confucius. They were elaborated by key disciples, including rulers such as Wudi, who sought to promote social harmony by outlining proper rituals and social relationships for all people in China.
   - In major Daoist writings, the core belief of balance between humans and nature assumed that the Chinese political system would be altered indirectly. Daoism also influenced the development of Chinese culture.
   
   Illustrative examples:
   - Medical theories and practices
   - Poetry
   - Metallurgy
   - Architecture
   - Core beliefs of Christianity, based on the teachings, divinity and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded by his disciples, drew on Judaism as well as Roman and Hellenistic influences. Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of missionaries, merchants, and many saints through many parts of Afro-Eurasia, and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of Emperor Constantine.
   - Greco-Roman religious and philosophical traditions offered diverse perspectives on the study of the natural world, the connection to the divine, and the nature of political power and hierarchy. Some of these perspectives emphasized logic, empirical observation, and scientific investigation.
   - Art and Architecture reflected the values of religions and belief systems.
   
   Illustrative examples:
   - Hindu art and architecture
   - Buddhist art and architecture
   - Christian art and architecture
   - Greco-Roman art and architecture
3. **Belief systems generally reinforced existing social structures while also offering new roles and status to some men and women.**
   - Confucianism emphasized filial piety.
   - Some Buddhists and Christians practiced a monastic life.

4. **Other religious and cultural traditions continued and in some places were incorporated into major religious traditions.**
   - Shamanism, animism, and ancestor veneration continued in their traditional forms in some instances, and in others were incorporated into other religious traditions.

## Religious Traditions

### Zoroastrianism
- 600s B.C.E, Persian prophet Zarathustra began to preach a monotheistic religion
- pitted good against evil: Ahura Mazda (God of goodness and light) verses Angra Mainyu (forces of evil)
- a savior would aide Ahura Mazda’s ultimate victory, and at the day of judgment, those who had chosen Ahura Mazda would be resurrected and rewarded with eternal life.

### Judaism
- First of monotheistic faiths—spawned Christianity and Islam
- Beliefs: monotheistic
  - afterlife,
  - personal salvation,
  - free will,
  - unique relationship with God,
  - covenant with Hebrew people, obey laws;
  - holy book= Torah
- Similar to Confucianism and Hinduism because they both arose in a specific culture—used to sustain that culture by providing guidelines and moral authority

### Christianity
- Originally practiced by Jewish splinter groups, but quickly spread to non-Jews throughout Roman Empire
- Beliefs: monotheistic
  - Jesus of Nazareth is Son of God,
  - man fell from God’s grace through sin, sins redeemed by death and resurrection of Christ, who is link between man and God,
  - duty to share message of Christ with unconverted
- Spread by disciples of Jesus and Saint Paul throughout Mediterranean world
- appealed to lower class and women due to emphasis on compassion and possible redemption regardless of personal circumstances

### Confucianism
- **The solution: moral example of superiors, proper relationships**
  - Founded by Confucius (551 – 479 BCE)
    - believed his answers could bring an end to warfare
    - key = right kind of leadership to rule China
    - Didn’t write down teachings → disciples wrote *The Analects*
- Ren – appropriate feelings
- Li – correct actions
- Filial piety – respect for one’s parents
Hinduism

- Proper role & relationships → order
- Ruler sets moral example → people learn from ruler
- Five key relationships
  - Ruler to subject, father to son, husband to wife, older to younger brother, friend to friend
- Became most influential philosophy in China
- Ideas used during Han Dynasty → peace
- Spread to Korea and Japan

Daoism / Taoism

- **The solution: withdraw from politics into the world of nature**
- Founded by Laozi
- Tao Te Ching—collection of Daoist wisdom – protest movement during Warring States
- Tao – way, way of nature, or way of the cosmos
  - All life is interdependent and should exist in harmony
  - Wu wei – act by not acting → do nothing and problems will solve themselves
- Useless to build institutions to govern men – institutions dangerous
  - Institutions → competition → fighting
  - Ideal state: small, self-sufficient town
- Failed to end warring states but provided escape from proper behavior of Confucianism
- Influenced Chinese medicine, poetry, metallurgy and architecture (feng shui)

Legalism

- **The solution: rules and laws, enforced through a system of rewards and punishments**
- Man is inherently evil → he needs a strong central government with an absolute leader justified harsh reunification of China under Qin Shihuangdi, heavy taxes

Hinduism

- Unlike Chinese religious traditions, Indian religions embraced spiritual and divine
- Originated in India; No one founder – developed over time
- Sacred Texts
  - Vedas: poems, hymns, prayers, and rituals compiled by Brahmins (priests), first orally and then in Sanskrit. Dissatisfaction with the Vedas led to...
  - Upanishads: more mystical, philosophical
- Beliefs
  - Dharma – duties to perform in life
    - Following dharma → world works smoothly
    - Dharma determined by birth and stage in life
    - Follow dharma → good karma
    - Accumulation of good karma → move up in level of samsara in next life
  - Reincarnation – reborn after death
    - Ultimate goal – end cycle of reincarnation by reaching moksha
  - Polytheistic: Brahma – creator, Vishnu—protector, Shiva—destroyer
- Practices
  - Bhakti – personal devotion to a specific deity
- Caste system
  - Four varnas: Brahmins, Ksatriyas, Vaisyas, Shudras, Untouchables (added later) based on concepts of purity and pollution
  - Rankings based on job and on what people come into contact with in their job
  - Only marry within caste to ensure purity
- Hinduism remains important in India and a few areas in S.E. Asia
- Some ideas reformed by Siddhartha Gautama into Buddhism
Buddhism

- Founder—Siddhartha Gautama—563 to 483 BCE
  - Prince who left palace in search of answers to “Why is there suffering?” & “Is there a way out of suffering?”
  - Meditated under a bodhi tree → reached enlightenment → became the Buddha (enlightened one)
- Four Noble Truths
  - All life is suffering
  - Suffering is caused by desire
  - There is a way out of suffering
  - The way out of suffering is to follow the Eight Fold Path
- Eightfold Path: Right understanding, Right livelihood, Right purpose, Right effort, Right speech, Right awareness, Right conduct, Right concentration
- To stop suffering, one must stop desiring → to stop desiring, one must live righteously and follow 8-fold path → this results in nirvana (release from cycle of reincarnation and union with the universe)
- Buddhism & Hinduism
  - Took central ideas of Hinduism and modified
  - no rituals of Brahmans
  - gods and goddesses unnecessary
  - no one is an outcast at birth (challenge caste system)
- Spread
  - Followers of Buddha acted as missionaries – spread esp. to low-caste Hindus and women
  - Mauryan emperor Asoka spread Buddhism → Asia on Silk Road
  - However, Buddhism was absorbed into Hinduism in India
  - Influenced Central Asia, China, Japan Korea, and Southeast Asia
  - Blended with native ideas as it spread → syncretism
- Theravada (Teachings of the Elders): nirvana is a personal quest that few can achieve; Buddha is not divine.
- Mahayana (Great Vehicle): offered help on the way to nirvana, especially from bodhisattvas
  - Bodhisattvas—spiritually developed people who postponed their own journey to nirvana to help those still suffering
  - transformed Buddhism into popular religion of salvation.

Key Concept 2.2

The Development of States and Empires

As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations, sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, the successes of these empires created further problems. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they over-utilized their lands and subjects and when disproportionate wealth became concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.

1. The number and size of key states and empires grew dramatically as rulers imposed political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states.
   - Key states and empires that grew included:
     - Southwest Asia: Persian empires (Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian)
     - East Asia: Qin and Han empires
     - South Asia: Mauryan and Gupta empires
     - Mediterranean region: Phoenicia and its colonies, Greek city-states and colonies, and Hellenistic and Roman empires
2. Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.
   ○ In order to organize their subjects, in many regions imperial rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments, as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies.
   ○ Imperial governments promoted trade and projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including issuing currencies; diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the location populations or conquered populations.

3. Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.
   ○ Imperial cities served as centers of trade, public performance of religious rituals, and political administration for states and empires.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - Persepolis
     - Chang’an
     - Pataliputra
     - Athens
     - Carthage
     - Rome
     - Alexandria
     - Constantinople
     - Teotihuacan
   ○ The social structures of empires displayed hierarchies that included cultivators, laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites, or caste groups.
   ○ Imperial societies relied on a range of methods to maintain the production of food and provide rewards for the loyalty of the elites.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - Corvée labor
     - Slavery
     - Rents and tributes
   ○ Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies of this period.

4. The Roman, Han, Persian, Mauryan, and Gupta empires encountered political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse, and transformation into successor empires or states.
   ○ Through excessive mobilization of resources, erosion of established political institutions, and economic changes, imperial governments generated social tensions and created economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.
   ○ Security issues along their frontiers, including the threat of invasions, challenged imperial authority.

**Note: Students should know the location and names of the key empires/states**
## AP Themes
### Classical Empires to 600 C.E.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patterns/Interactions</th>
<th>Political Institutions</th>
<th>Gender/Social Structure</th>
<th>Technological/Economy</th>
<th>Cultural/Intellectual/Religious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assyrians topple Egyptians, Persians eventually gain control and spread across Central Asia and the Middle East. Cyrus allows Jews to return to their homeland. Preservation of ideas from earlier civilizations</td>
<td>Local government – military leader, tax collector, and satrap (governor)</td>
<td>Typical patriarchal societies with Rulers in the upper classes, followed by military, merchants, peasants, slaves. Areas untouched by empire remain in tribal clans (Arabia)</td>
<td>The royal road, four-horse chariots, relief sculpture</td>
<td>Zoroastrianism – monotheistic – competes with early Christian converts. Religious toleration and equality during Persian Empire Romans punish Jews, who enter second phase of Diaspora – leave their homeland for more than 1000 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeks learn from earlier cultures, colonize and spread influence. Wars within (Sparta and Athens) and outside – Persia. Macedonia conquers; Alexander expands and preserves Greek culture. Rome eventually unifies the Mediterranean under one empire. Barbarians: Germanic tribes and Huns invade</td>
<td>City-states – local governments Direct Democracy - Greece Legal system (12 Tables) Military organization – phalanx Local governments in place during the Roman empire, although centralized bureaucracies help to control the area.</td>
<td>Greece: allows equality through democracy, however, women are not considered a part of this structure. Foreigners are also left out. Rome allows foreign citizenship, but again women do not participate in politics. Huge gap between rich and poor leads to discontent. Slaves make up 1/3 of the population</td>
<td>Geometry foundations – Engineering – columns, arch, dome, aqueduct, Roman road system: “All roads lead to Rome”</td>
<td>Polytheism, nature worship - Rise of Christianity Drama, poetry, epics Historians; Philosophers – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle Art turns from idealism to realism. Large monuments to reflect the glory of empire Greco-Roman Legacy Roman alphabet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aryans disrupt and change society. Invasions by Hellenistic kingdoms into northern areas – linguistic diffusion, cultural spread. Greeks and Persians, unification through Ashoka Merchants engage in trade along the Silk Road as middlemen, Indian Ocean trade brings Buddhism to S.E. Asia</td>
<td>Local rulers, government has control of trade in some areas Government employs spies.</td>
<td>Highly structured social divisions – caste system. Restrictive, racially based. Women are lower than men and kept there through the caste system. Patriarchal systems except in southern India, where matriarchies exist</td>
<td>Know the world is round, accurate mathematical calculations – extend Π to four digits, concept of zero, accurate surgery.</td>
<td>Hinduism –absorbs many local gods. Buddhism – state religion during Ashoka’s reign – then fades from India Gupta poetry, drama Art reflects religion Buddhist pillars, monuments, rock shelters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Asia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Qin Dynasty and Han China</td>
<td>Deal with nomadic invasions by constructing the Great Wall.</td>
<td>Dynasties based on the Mandate of Heaven (emperor) Legalism (Qin)</td>
<td>Family important Filial piety Confucianism: Five relationships Peasants in the middle of society Merchants at the bottom Women subjugated through Confucianism Large gulf between rich and poor leads to rebellion</td>
<td>Silk, paper, agricultural improvements: plow, water mills, wheelbarrow, compass, roads, canals, large-scale agricultural improvements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kush, Aksum</td>
<td>Bantu migrations continue. International trade in Aksum – minted coins – Christianity introduced. Camel introduced from Arabia in first century C.E. – many Trans-Saharan Routes established – salt and gold important Indian Ocean trade expands, introduction of bananas</td>
<td>Monarchy in Kush and Aksum Village Chiefs Clans (extended family units) Basic unit: family</td>
<td>Looser gender relations continue. Most societies are based on matriarchal systems.</td>
<td>Spread of iron, terrace farming in some areas, only sub-Saharan written language (hieroglyphs),</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Americas</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Continue with Olmec, Chavin Later: Zapotec, Nazca and Moche arise</td>
<td>Influence of mother cultures evident Trade networks throughout North and Mesoamerica – existence of ball courts, precious gems, stones, and spread of maize cultivation</td>
<td>Religion-based No apparent organization in Chavin culture</td>
<td>Religiously linked rulers</td>
<td>Irrigation and farming techniques (cultivation of maize and potatoes) Domestication of llamas and turkeys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMON FEATURES OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS**

The three areas of classical civilizations developed their own beliefs, lifestyles, political institutions, and social structures. However, there were important similarities among them:

- **Patriarchal family structures** - Like the river valley civilizations that preceded them, the classical civilization valued male authority within families, as well as in most other areas of life.
- **Agricultural-based economies** - Despite more sophisticated and complex job specialization, the most common occupation in all areas was farming.
- **Complex governments** - Because they were so large, these three civilizations had to invent new ways to keep their lands together politically. Their governments were large and complex, although they each had unique ways of governing.
- **Expanding trade base** - Their economic systems were complex. Although they generally operated independently, trade routes connected them by both land and sea.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Civilizations</th>
<th>CULTURE</th>
<th>POLITICS</th>
<th>SOCIAL STRUCTURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Greece**             | ● Most enduring influences come from Athens  
● Valued education, placed emphasis on importance of human effort, human ability to shape future events Interest in political theory: which form of government is best?  
● Celebration of human individual achievement and the ideal human form  
● Age of the philosophers – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle  
● Philosophy and science emphasized the use of logic  
● Highly developed form of sculpture, literature, math, written language, and record keeping  
● Polytheism, with gods having very human characteristics  
● Cities relatively small  
● Great seafaring skills, centered around Aegean, but traveling around entire Mediterranean area | ● No centralized government; concept of polis, or a fortified site that formed the centers of many city states  
● Governing styles varied (Sparta a military state, Athens eventually a democracy for adult males)  
● Athens government first dominated by tyrants, or strong rulers who gained power from military prowess; later came to be ruled by an assembly of free men who made political decisions (early democracy).  
● Both Athens and Sparta developed strong military organizations and established colonies around the Mediterranean. Sparta theoretically equal; wealth accumulation not allowed | ● Slavery widely practiced  
● Men separated from women in military barracks until age 30; women had relative freedom;  
● Women in Sparta encouraged to be physically fit so as to have healthy babies; generally better treated and more equal to men than women in Athens  
● Athens encouraged equality for free males, but women and slaves had little freedom.  
● Neither group allowed to participate in polis affairs.  
● Social status dependent on land holdings and cultural sophistication |
| **Rome**               | ● Perfection of military techniques: conquer but don't oppress; division of army into legions, emphasizing organization and rewarding military talent  
● Art, literature, philosophy, science derivative from Greece  
● Superb engineering and architecture techniques; extensive road, sanitation systems; monumental architecture - buildings, aqueducts, bridges  
● Polytheism, derivative from Greeks, but religion not particularly important to the average Roman;  
● Christianity developed during Empire period, but not dominant until very late  
● Great city of Rome - buildings, arenas, design copied in smaller cities | Two eras:  
● **Republic** - rule by aristocrats, with some power shared with assemblies  
● Senate most powerful, with two consuls chosen to rule, generally selected from the military  
● **Empire** - non-hereditary emperor; technically chosen by Senate, but generally chosen by predecessor  
● Extensive colonization and military conquest during both eras  
● Development of an overarching set of laws, restrictions that all had to obey;  
● Roman law sets in place principle of rule of law, not rule by whim of the political leader | ● Basic division between patricians (aristocrats) and plebeians (free farmers), although a middle class of merchants grew during the empire;  
● Wealth based on land ownership; gap between rich and poor grew with time  
● Patrilineal - male dominated family structure  
● Patron-client system with rich supervising elaborate webs of people that owe favors to them  
● Inequality increased during the empire, with great dependence on slavery during the late empire;  
● Slaves used in households, mines, large estates, all kinds of manual labor |
| **China**              | ● Confucianism developed during late Zhou; by Han times, it dominated the political and social structure.  
● Legalism and Daoism develop during same era.  
● Buddhism appears, but not influential yet  
● Threats from nomads from the south and west spark the first construction of the Great Wall;  
● Clay soldiers, lavish tomb for first emperor Shi Huangdi  
● Chinese identity cemented during Han era: the "Hani"  
● Chinese Han - a "golden age" with prosperity from trade along the Silk Road  
● Inventions include water mills, paper, compasses, and pottery and silk- making; calendar with 365.5 days  
● Capital of Xi'an possibly the most sophisticated, diverse city in the world at the time; many other large cities | ● **Zhou** - emperor rules by mandate of heaven, or belief that dynasties rise and fall according to the will of heaven, or the ancestors. Emperor was the "son of heaven."  
● Emperor housed in the forbidden city, separate from all others  
● Political authority controlled by Confucian values, with emperor in full control but bound by duty  
● Political power centralized under Qin Shi Huangdi - often seen as the first real emperor  
● **Han** - strong centralized government, supported by the educated shi (scholar bureaucrats who obtained positions through civil service exams) | ● Family basic unit of society, with loyalty and obedience stressed  
● Wealth generally based on land ownership; emergence of scholar gentry  
● Growth of a large merchant class, but merchants generally lower status than scholar- bureaucrats  
● Big social divide between rural and urban, with most wealth concentrated in cities  
● Some slavery, but not as much as in Rome  
● Patriarchal society reinforced by Confucian values that emphasized obedience of wife to husband |
**India**

- Aryan religious stories written down into Vedas, and Hinduism became the dominant religion, although Buddhism began in India during this era;
- Mauryans Buddhist, Guptas Hindu
- Great epic literature such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata
- Extensive trade routes within subcontinent and with others; connections to Silk Road, and heart of Indian Ocean trade; coined money for trade
- So-called Arabic numerals developed in India, employing a 10-based system

**Persian Empire**

- Indo-European people with a homeland in today’s Iran
- 500 B.C.: Persian Empire was the largest and most impressive empire
- Expanded under the leadership of Cyrus and Darius into Egypt and India → very diverse
- Religion—Zoroastrianism
  - 600s B.C.E, Persian prophet Zarathustra began to preach a monotheistic religion
  - pitted good against evil: Ahura Mazda (God of goodness and light) verses Angra Mainyu (forces of evil)
  - a savior would aide Ahura Mazda’s ultimate victory, and at the day of judgment, those who had chosen Ahura Mazda would be resurrected and rewarded with eternal life.
- Means of political control
  - elaborate cult of kingship, monarch could only be approached through ritual, ruled by the will of Ahura Mazda
  - effective administrative system, including 23 Persian governors (satraps) with lower-level officials drawn from local authorities
  - general policy of respect for empire’s many non-Persian cultures (allowed Jews to rebuild temple, soldiers wore Egyptian breastplates)
  - infrastructures included: standardized coinage, predictable taxes, canal linking Nile and Red Sea, roads
  - elaborate imperial centers (Susa, Persepolis) with monuments and palaces

**Greek Civilization**

- Limited geography led to innovation in transportation, governance
- Collection of city states; polis shared culture and identity, often came into conflict
- Athens: political, commercial, and cultural center of Greece, democracy
- Sparta: agricultural and highly militaristic region, universal military training, women had more rights
- Social classes: citizens (adult males), free people, slaves (widespread)
- Polytheistic, but gods possessed human failings
- Events—Greek History
  - Persian Wars: Greek victories at Marathon and Salamis
  - Golden Age of Pericles
    - Delian League—alliance system
    - Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
    - comedies, tragedies, architecture, math, science, Homer
  - Peloponnesian War—431 BC
    - Sparta’s allies became Peloponnesian League
    - Spartan victory due to plague, defeat of navy
  - Philip of Macedon (359-336 BC) invaded Athens
  - Alexander the Great!
    - conquered Persian emperor → Indus River; divided empire into…
    - Antigonid (Greece and Macedon)
    - Seleucid (Bactria and Anatolia)
    - Ptolemaic (Egypt)
  - Important because spread Hellenistic culture throughout known world, thus preserving culture of Athens/Sparta and connecting region with uniform law and trading practices
  - Ptolemaic Empire became wealthiest (Alexandria, library)
Roman Civilization

- Geography—
- Alps and sea provide some protection, but relatively central location
- Roman Mythology: polytheistic, Greek origin
- Social Structure: Organized and Patriarchal
  - Patricians (land-owning nobles), plebeians (free), and slaves—sim. to Greece
  - Pater familias (oldest male) had a lot of power over family
  - Women subservient to men, but could own property
  - Great reliance on slavery (up to 1/3 of population)
- Government: representative republic (Senate, Assembly, 2 consuls)
  - Later, basis for USA gov’t, more stable than Greece direct democracy
  - Twelve Tables of Rome codified Roman law (“innocent until proven guilty”)
- Roman Military Domination
  - Punic Wars with Carthage (264 to 146 BC)
    - Rome won 1st
    - nearly lost 2nd (Hannibal invaded via Alps, had to return to defend home)
  - 3rd: Rome attacks and burns Carthage
  - also fought Gauls and Spaniards
  - warfare helped spread culture; extensive road network, aqueducts and navy to connect empire
- Collapse of Republic and Rise of Imperialism
  - Unrest due to increase in slavery (displaces small farmers, overcrowding in cities), devalued currency (inflation), and fighting politicians→ Senate weakened
  - First triumvirate: Pompey, Crassus, Julius Caesar
  - Second triumvirate: Octavius, Marc Antony, Leidus
  - Octavius becomes Augustus Caesar, officially ending Republic and beginning Empire
  - Pax Romana—rule of law, common coinage, civil service→ stability, peace, prosperity
  - Achievements: literature (Virgil’s Aeneid), architecture (Colosseum), science (Ptolemy)
  - Compare: Pax Romana with Golden Age of Greece, Gupta, others
- Christianity
  - Paganism was official state religion of Roman Republic
  - Christianity and Judaism were tolerated with limits
  - Jewish resistance to Roman control led to its suppression
  - Nero began persecuting Christians→ failed to stop spread
  - Constantine issued Edict of Milan in 313, ending persecution
  - 391: Christianity became official religion of empire

Classical China

A. Zhou Dynasty
   - Feudal, decentralized authority
   - Zhou weakened and could no longer keep order
   - 7th century BCE – 221 BCE – no strong central government – Era of Warring States
   - The question—“How to restore the order and tranquility of previous times?”
   - Three different answers— Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism

B. Qin Dynasty (221 to 209 BCE)
   - State of Qin had already developed effective bureaucracy, army, agriculture; adopted Legalism as governing philosophy
   - Qin Shihuangdi (“First Emperor”) defeated other states in 10 years; expanded to Vietnam, Korea
   - negative: brutal rule, executed opponents, thousands of laborers died building Great Wall
   - positive: Great Wall of China, standardized laws, currency, writing, measures
C. Han Dynasty
   - less harsh, Confucianism replaces Legalism as governing philosophy
   - ethnic Chinese intermarried with natives as empire expanded
   - Emperor Wu Ti (Wudi) 141-87 BCE
     - establishes a Confucian Academy for training imperial bureaucrats: beginning of Chinese civil service system (exams, merit), based on teachings of Confucius
   - Huns invaded from North Asia→repelled by Emperor Wu Ti (warrior emperor), also enlarged size of empire
   - Silk Road trade thrives, brings Buddhism to China
   - Invention of paper and calendars

Classical India

A. Review and Intro—Indian Politics
   - Empire played a less prominent role in India
   - Harrappa: exquisitely planned cities, but lacked central political authority
   - Indus River valley abandoned c. 1500 B.C.E for Ganges River.
   - Why? Migration, Aryan invasions
   - classical Indian civilization emerges c. 600 B.C.E.
   - astonishing ethnic, culture, and linguistic diversity as varieties of peoples migrated from Central Asia across mountain passes in the northwest
   - what united them as a culture? religion—Hinduism, social organization—caste system

B. Mauryan Empire (321 BC to 184 BC)
   - Chandragupta Maurya—founder, unified smaller Aryan kingdoms
   - large military force (600,000 infantry; 9,000 elephants; 30,000 cavalry)
   - civilian bureaucracy, spies to provide rulers with local information
   - Arthashastra (The Science of Worldly Wealth) articulates pragmatic, amoral political philosophy for Mauryan rulers sometimes advocating brutal measures to “preserve the state and the common good”
   - state operated many industries (spinning, mining, shipbuilding)
   - financed complex apparatus with taxes on trade, animals, and land
   - Ashoka Maurya—268-232 BCE
     - Grandson of Chandragupta Maurya
     - Converted to Buddhism, tried to rule as moral, enlightened ruler
     - spread Buddhism to SE Asia
     - Rock and Pillar Edicts—left record of thoughts
   - Wealth from trade with Rome and China, military power
   - Decline from economic problems and invasions from NE

C. Gupta Empire (320 to 550 CE)
   - Chandra Gupta—founder
   - More decentralized than Mauryan; peace and prosperity of Gupta enabled pursuit of art and science
   - Golden Age: math (pi and 0), decimal system and 1-9→diffused to Arabs and became known as Arab numerals
   - Hinduism as dominant religion→Indian women lost rights (child marriages)
   - extensive trade with Indochina, Sri Lanka, Burma
   - Collapsed under pressure of White Huns
Americas in the Classical Era
- lacked the large populations, cultural interactions, domesticated animals, and ironworking technologies
- Mesoamerica: varied geography (microclimates) contributed to linguistic and ethnic diversity and distinct, competing cities and states.

A. The Maya (250 to 900 C.E.)
- achievements: concept of zero, complex mathematical calculations, astronomy (predict eclipses), art, writing, pyramids, plazas, temples
- environment: significantly altered landscape, elaborate irrigation --> flourishing agriculture --> exploding population, elites and artisan classes
- politics: no unified empire, city-states ruled by divine rulers, largest was Tikal
- Mayan decline was sudden and mysterious: long-term drought (result of erosion/deforestation?) --> famine, epidemic, and war (result of increased scarcity?)
- did not suffer invasion or internal rebellion (unlike Rome and China)

B. Teotihuacan
- located in Valley of Mexico
- built c. 150 B.C.E. to plan (did not evolve haphazardly), 8 square miles
- about 200,000 people at peak, largest urban complex in Americas (#6 in world)
- Street of the Dead: grand homes of elites; Temple of Feathered Serpent: remains of 200 sacrificial victims found
- grid-like pattern of streets had apartments for artisans, separate section for foreigners
- few images of particular rulers, but exerted political influence over surrounding areas, evidence of long-distance trade
- mysteriously collapsed in 650 C.E., 1000 years later Aztecs dub it “city of the gods”

Africa in the Classical Era
- imported previously domesticated sheep, goats, chickens, horses, camels
- no common cultural identity in this time because of environmental diversity and size
- more disease, most tropical, poorer soil
- geopolitics: shaped by interaction with Europe and Asia

● A. Case Study: Axum
- highly productive, plow-based agriculture
- Red Sea and Indian Ocean trade, commerce taxes
- huge stone obelisks
- King Ezana adopts Christianity around time of Constantine
- expands into Mecca, 571 C.E.
- decline was result of erosion, deforestation, rise of Islam, different trade routes

Fall of Civilizations
Recall that all of the river-valley civilization areas experienced significant decline and/or conquest in the time period around 1200 BCE. A similar thing happened to the classical civilizations between about 200 and 600 CE, and because the empires were larger and more connected, their fall had an even more significant impact on the course of world history. Han China was the first to fall (around 220 CE), then the Western Roman Empire (476 CE), and finally the Gupta in 550 CE.

SIMILARITIES
Several common factors caused all three empires to fall:
  ❖ Attacks from the Huns - The Huns were a nomadic people of Asia that began to migrate south and west during this time period. Their migration was probably caused by drought and lack of pasture, and the invention and use of the stirrup facilitated their attacks on all three established civilizations.
  ❖ Deterioration of political institutions - All three empires were riddled by political corruption during their latter days, and all three suffered under weak-willed rulers. Moral decay also characterized the years prior to their respective falls.
Protection/maintenance of borders - All empires found that their borders had grown so large that their military had trouble guarding them. A primary example is the failure of the Great Wall to keep the Huns out of China. The Huns generally just went around it.

Diseases that followed the trade routes - Plagues and epidemics may have killed off as much as half of the population of each empire.

DIFFERENCES
Even though the empires shared common reasons for their declines, some significant differences also may be seen.

- The Gupta's dependence on alliances with regional princes broke down, exhibiting the tendency toward political fragmentation on the Indian subcontinent.
- Rome's empire lasted much longer than did either of the other two. The Roman Empire also split in two, and the eastern half endured for another 1000 years after the west fell.
- The fall of empire affected the three areas in different ways.
  o The fall of the Gupta probably had the least impact, partly because political unity wasn't the rule anyway, and partly because the traditions of Hinduism and the caste system (the glue that held the area together) continued on after the empire fell.
  o The fall of the Han Dynasty was problematic for China because strong centralized government was in place, and social disorder resulted from the loss of authority. However, dynastic cycles that followed the dictates of the Mandate of Heaven were well defined in China, and the Confucian traditions continued to give coherence to Chinese society.
  o The most devastating fall of all occurred in Rome. Roman civilization depended almost exclusively on the ability of the government and the military to control territory. Even though Christianity emerged as a major religion, it appeared so late in the life of the empire that it provided little to unify people as Romans after the empire fell. Instead, the areas of the empire fragmented into small parts and developed unique characteristics, and the Western Roman Empire never united again.

COMMON CONSEQUENCES
The fall of the three empires had some important consequences that represent major turning points in world history:

- Trade was disrupted but survived, keeping intact the trend toward increased long-distance contact. Trade on the Indian Ocean even increased as conflict and decline of political authority affected overland trade.
- The importance of religion increased as political authority decreased. In the west religion, particularly Christianity was left to slowly develop authority in many areas of people's lives. Buddhism also spread quickly into China, presenting itself as competition to Confucian traditions.
- Political disunity in the Middle East forged the way for the appearance of a new religion in the 7th century. By 600 CE Islam was in the wings waiting to make its entrance onto the world stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Han Dynasty, 300 BCE - 300 CE imperial expansion beyond military control, especially pressure of Xiong Nu nomadic groups</th>
<th>period of disunity; rise of Buddhism; continuation of Confucian bureaucratic model; Sui and then Tang dynasty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roman Empire, 100 BCE - 471 CE imperial expansion beyond military control, especially pressure of Hun nomadic groups</td>
<td>rise of Christianity; creation of Byzantine empire; feudalism in Latin West; rise of Arab caliphates</td>
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## Class/Social Systems:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social structures a</th>
<th>Social stratification</th>
<th>Family structure</th>
<th>Roles of women</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **The caste system in Indian subcontinent** | Major castes:  
- brahmin -- priests  
- merchants  
- farmers  
- untouchables | patriarchal and patrilineal | ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries  
Rare cases of women rulers. |
| **Major slave systems** | Slaves could not be citizens in ancient Greece or Rome.  
In all agricultural societies, slavery or serfdom was a common last resort for farmers in debt or in need of military protection. | Under Islam, the mother's status determined if the child was free or slave. | Female slaves were usually for domestic work, but in large empires female slaves might be brought in the household of the elite to bear children.  
Under Islam, the mother's status determined if the child was free or slave. |
| **Confucian social hierarchy** | Rulers -- hereditary unless overthrown and challenger gains "mandate of heaven"  
Civil servants selected by examination (this system is begun during the Han dynasty)  
Farmers  
Craftspeople  
Merchants | patriarchal and patrilineal | Ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries.  
Rare cases of women rulers. (e.g. Empress Wu during the Tang dynasty) |
| **Patriarchal family structures and trends in Latin West and Byzantium** | Roman Catholic Church for Latin West (remember -- power of sacrament)  
- Rulers (lords/kings)  
- knights  
- serfs  
- merchants in cities  
Byzantine emperors and Orthodox  
- patriarch  
- merchants  
- peasants  
- slave soldiers (Mamluks) | patriarchal and patrilineal | Ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries.  
Rare cases of women rulers. |
| **Pastoral groups and other non-urban societies (some Bantu)** | head of clan, tribe, lineage shepherds, horse, yak, llama, and camel breeders and trainers craftspeople slaves | combination of matriarchal and patriarchal  
matriarchal and patrilineal | Women included in political decision-making and major economic activities, including war sometimes |

### Hinduism
1. Brahmins (scholars/priests)  
2. Ksatriyas (warrior/ruling class)  
3. Vaisyas (professional class – merchants, land owners, etc.)  
4. Shudras (servant class – laborers, servants, etc.)  
5. Untouchables (outcasts)

### Confucianism
1. Scholar gentry  
2. Peasants  
3. Merchants  
4. Warrior and others (such as theater performers)
Key Concept 2.3
Emergence of Interregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

With the organization of large-scale empires, the volume of long-distance trade increased dramatically. Much of this trade resulted from the demand for raw materials and luxury goods. Land and water routes linked many regions of the Eastern Hemisphere. The exchange of people, technology, religious, and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals, and disease pathogens developed alongside the trade in goods across extensive networks of communication and exchange. In the Americas and Oceania, localized networks developed.

1. Land and water routes became the basis for interregional trade, communication, and exchange networks in the Eastern Hemisphere.
   - Many factors, including the climate and location of the routes, the typical trade goods, and the ethnicity of people involved, shaped the distinctive features of a variety of trade routes, including Eurasian Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan caravan routes, Indian Ocean sea lanes, and Mediterranean sea lanes.

2. New technologies facilitated long-distance communication and exchange.
   - New technologies permitted the use of domesticated pack animals to transport goods across longer routes.
   - Innovations in maritime technologies, as well as advanced knowledge of the monsoon winds, stimulated exchanges along maritime routes from East Africa to East Asia.

3. Alongside the trade in goods, the exchange of people, technology, religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals, and disease pathogens developed across extensive networks of communication and exchange.
   - The spread of crops, including rice and cotton from South Asia to the Middle East, encouraged changes in farming and irrigation techniques.
     
     **Illustrative examples:**
     - The qanat system
     - A variety of water wheels (noria, sakia)
     - Improved wells and pumps (shaduf)
   - The spread of disease pathogens diminished urban populations and contributed to the decline of some empires, including the Roman and Han.
   - Religious and cultural traditions — including Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism — were transformed as they spread partly as a result of syncretism.

Trade Routes

- **The Silk Road** - This overland route extended from western China, across Central Asia, and finally to the Mediterranean area. Chinese silk was the most desired commodity, but the Chinese were willing to trade it for other goods, particularly for horses from Central Asia. There was no single route, but it consisted of a series of passages with common stops along the way. Major trade towns appeared along the way where goods were exchanged. No single merchant traveled the entire length of the road, but some products (particularly silk) did make it from one end to the other.

- **The Indian Ocean Trade** - This important set of water routes became even more important in later eras, but the Indian Ocean Trade was actively in place during the classical era. The trade had three legs: one connected eastern Africa and the Middle East with India; another connected India to Southeast Asia; and the final one linked Southeast Asia to the Chinese port of Canton.

- **Saharan Trade** - This route connected people that lived south of the Sahara to the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Berbers, nomads who traversed the desert, were the most important agents of trade. They carried goods in camel caravans, with Cairo at the mouth of the Nile River as the most important destination. There they connected to other trade routes, so that Cairo became a major trade center that linked many civilizations together.
Sub-Saharan Trade - This trade was probably inspired by the Bantu migration, and by the end of the classical era people south of the Sahara were connected to people in the eastern and southern parts of Africa. This trade connected to the Indian Ocean trade along the eastern coast of Africa, which in turn connected the people of sub-Saharan Africa to trade centers in Cairo and India.

Trade—Intro
- Classical period saw great expansion of long distance trade → increased movement of goods & ideas
- Han Empire secured trade through Central Asia
- Mauryan Empire declined but regional states provided stability
- Romans kept the Mediterranean safe for trade and travel

Silk Roads
- Originated during Han with nomadic diplomatic mission to Central Asia
- Diplomatic mission failed but silk brought as gifts was very popular, as were horses brought back from Central Asia
  - Began in Changan → Mongolia → Turkestan → N or S around Taklamakan Desert → S.E. through India or Central Asia → Roman Empire
  - One merchant almost never made the entire journey → caravan routes using relay trade
- Buddhism spread along silk roads → monasteries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Silk</th>
<th>Glassware</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spices</td>
<td>Jewelry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>Bronze Goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearls</td>
<td>Wool and Linen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral</td>
<td>Olive Oil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivory</td>
<td>Gold and Silver Bullion</td>
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Indian Ocean
- Sea Lanes of the Silk Road
- Guangzhou (S. China) → South China Sea → Islands of S.E. Asia → India → Arabian Sea → Persian Gulf
- Malay and Indian sailors
- Religion and culture spread across the seas (like on land on Silk Road)
- Merchants spread Buddhism → S.E. Asia & Hindu cults of Shiva & Vishnu
- Monsoon winds – regular seasonal wind patterns facilitated trade. Merchants could sail one way during winter & return during summer

C. Mediterranean Sea
- “Roman Lake” – surrounded by Roman Empire
- Syria → Spain → N Africa
- No pirates = thriving, growing trade

D. Spread of Disease
- Locations—2nd and 3rd centuries in Han and Roman Empires
- Causes—Trade & cultural interaction
- Diseases—smallpox, measles, bubonic plague
- Impact—No immunity or medication
  - 2nd century Roman Empire witnessed a 25% population decline
  - Economic and social change
  - Trade between empires declined → more regional focus
MAJOR MIGRATIONS

- **Phoenicians** - By about 2000 BCE this small group of seafaring people from a coastal area of the eastern Mediterranean Sea had set up colonies in North Africa and southern Europe. Pressured by both lack of space in their homeland and desire for prosperity from trade, the Phoenicians traveled widely over the entire Mediterranean area. To facilitate their trading, they simplified the cuneiform system, producing an alphabet with 22 characters that was far easier to learn and use. Not only did the Phoenicians spread their maritime skills, but their alphabet became the basis of alphabets in Greece, Rome, and eventually for many modern languages.

- **Israelites** - According to Judaism, the Israelites actually originated about 2000 BCE in the Mesopotamian city of Ur with the founder of the religion, Abraham. Abraham and his family migrated to the eastern Mediterranean, where they settled in a land they called Canaan. The Jews were distinctly different from other people of the area because they were monotheistic, believing in only one god. They later migrated to Egypt to escape a spreading drought. There they became slaves, and under their leader Moses, they returned to Canaan where they eventually formed the kingdom of Israel. The Jewish religion greatly influenced the people that they contacted, although it did not actively encourage conversion of non-Jews. Jewish beliefs and traditional stories were written down and later became basic to Christianity and Islam. The religion stressed the importance of prayer, worship, and good behavior; tenets that have become characteristic of many other monotheistic religions.

- **Aryans** - These herding peoples originated in the Caucasus area, but they began migrating in many directions about the mid-2nd millennium BCE. Waves of Aryan migrants invaded the Indian subcontinent, decimating the cities of the Indus Valley. The Aryans remained a nomadic people for many years, but eventually pushed eastward, settling in the fertile Ganges River area as agriculturalists. The Aryans imposed their caste system on the natives, a complex social structure with strict social status differences and virtually no social mobility. Their stories also became the basis for Hinduism.

- **Huns** - 300-400s C.E.; originated in the Gobi Desert (China) and moved to what we now call Hungary; Pushed the natives out and the natives (Goths) started to move into Roman Empire. Attila the Hun invaded Gaul (France) in 451, but they were pushed back. They then invaded Rome in 453, but Attila died and the Hun Empire quickly collapsed.

- **Germanic Peoples** - found from the Black Sea to the Rhine. In 476, Odoacer, a Visigoth, officially became the leader of Rome.
ART & ARCHITECTURE REFLECTED THE VALUES OF RELIGIONS AND BELIEF SYSTEMS

ARTS:

ARCH:

REQUIRED EXAMPLES OF MAJOR CLASSICAL TRADE ROUTES:

- EURASIAN
- SILK ROADS
- TRANS-SAHARAN
- INDIAN OCEAN
- MEDITERRANEAN SEA
5 Pieces of Artwork to Know

1. **Parthenon**, 438 BCE (ATHENS)
2. **Sanchi Stupa**, 290 BCE (INDIA)
3. **Great Wall**, 220 BCE (CHINA)
4. **Terra Cotta Army**, 210 BCE (CHINA)

5 Documents to Know

1. **Tao Te Ching**, 550 BCE, Lao Tzu (CHINA)
2. **12 Tables**, 451 BCE (ROME)
3. **Lessons for Women**, 80 CE, Ban Zhao (CHINA)
4. **Sermon on the Mount**, 90 CE (ROME)
5. **Code of Justinian**, 529 CE, Justinian (BYZANTINE)