The Empires of Persia
APWH – Chapter 7

The Formation of Classical Societies (Setting the Stage for Key Concept 2.2)

- Between 500 BCE – 500 CE
  - High degrees of ____________ organization
  - Extended authority over extremely __________ regions
  - Especially influential ____________ traditions
  - Legacies have ____________ and influenced billions of people

- Common Challenge
  - Administering vast territories without advanced technologies in ____________ and ____________
  - ____________ government, law, and taxation
  - Built roads and transportation ____________
  - Encouraged ____________ and ____________
  - Promoted _______ through religious, social, or cultural beliefs

- Expansion
  - Powerful ____________
  - Challenge of creating ____________ out of ____________ rule
  - Heavy ____________ and ____________ requirements often led to rebellion and civil war

- Trade
  - Vast system of ____________ and ____________
  - Economic ____________ within and between societies
  - The Silk Roads
    - Also contributed to the spread of ____________

- Cultural and Religious Traditions
  - Offered moral, religious, political, and social ____________
  - Trade routes increased cultural ____________

The Rise and Fall of the Persian Empires

- Beginnings
  - Arose out of southwestern __________
  - Under the shadow of Mesopotamia
  - Absorbed ____________ and ____________ coming out of central Asia
  - Four ruling dynasties created an enormous empire for more than a
    ____________
• The Achaemenids
  – 558–330 BCE
  – ________________ (the Medes and the Persians) migrated from central Asia to Persia
  – Mostly ________________ with limited agriculture
  – Considerable ________________ power
  – Skilled ________________ and expert ________________
  – Organized in ________________ but had leaders who collected taxes and paid ________________ to Mesopotamia

  • Cyrus the Achaemenid
    – Outstanding military ________________
    – 558 BCE became king of the Persian tribes
    – 553 BCE led a rebellion against his Median overlord
    – 548 BCE all of Iran under his control as he looked to expand
    – Within 20 years the empire stretched from ________________ to ________________’s border
    – Mortally wounded in 530 BCE

  • Cyrus’ son conquered ________________ in 525 BCE
  • Darius (a younger relative) extended the empire further
    – To the ________________ in the east
    – To the ________________ in the west
    – From ________________ in the north to the first cataract of the ________________ river in the South
    – Population of ________________

  • Darius as a leader
    – ________________ his administration
    – Built a magnificent new capital at ________________
    – Balanced ________________ control and ________________ administration
    – ________________ (governors) oversaw 23 administrative and tax districts (satrapies)
    – Almost all other administrative posts were filled by ________________ officials, not necessarily Persians
    – Military officers maintained ________________ over satraps
    – Imperial ________________ (“the eyes and ears of the king”) traveled the empire collecting intelligence and checking records
    – Regular, formal ________________ levies
    – Issued ________________ for tax payments and trade
    – Standardized laws; ________________ local laws with the legal principles of the empire
    – ________________ (90 days to travel by caravan)
    – ________________ service and ________________ stations
– Political stability made large public works projects possible
  – Underground canals (______________) for enhanced agricultural production
  – ___________ metallurgy became common

– Cyrus and Darius had practiced ____________ and respect for the values and culture of those they ruled

– Xerxes (Darius’s successor)
  – Imposed his own values on _____________ lands
  – Caused resentment

– The Persian Wars
  – 500-479 BCE
  – ______________________ (living in Anatolia) rebelled against Persian rule
  – Rebellion was put down but efforts to extend control in to Greece
    _____________ miserably

– Alexander of Macedon (Alexander the Great)
  – Invaded Persia in 334 BCE
  – Celebrated his success in Persepolis but a ________ destroyed the city
  – Alexander portrayed himself as a legitimate Achaemenid ________________
  – Died before making a huge impact

**The Seleucids**

– 323-83 BCE
  – When Alexander died, his chief generals __________ his land into three large realms
  – Seleucus was given the choicest realm
  – Founded new cities
  – Attracted __________ colonists
  – Faced __________ from native Persians
    – Satraps often revolted
    – Lost their holdings in northern __________
  – Parthians took over Iran during the 3rd century BCE
  – __________ empire conquered the rest by 83 BCE

**The Parthians**

– 247 BCE – 224 CE
  – Retained many of the customs and traditions of __________ peoples from the __________ of central Asia
  – Organized in clans instead of a central government
  – Skillful warriors
    – Stronger __________ and metal __________
– Portrayed themselves as enemies of the Seleucids and __________ of Persian rule
  – Governed through satraps
  – Employed Achaemenid techniques of administration and taxation
  – Lavish capital
– Not as __________ (satraps/clan leaders often rebelled)
– Roman pressure weakened the empire until __________ rebellion brought it down

– The Sasanids
  – 224-651 CE
  – Claimed __________ from the Achaemenids
  – Provided strong rule
  – __________ actively (brought crops from Indian and China)
  – Constant conflict with the __________ empire in the east and the __________ and __________ empires in the west
  – Arab warriors killed the last Sasanid ruler in 651 CE and incorporated it into the __________ empire (adopted many Persian administrative and cultural traditions)