# Key Concept 2.1

As states and empires increased in size and contacts between regions intensified, human communities transformed their religious and ideological beliefs and practices.

## I. Codifications and further developments of existing religious traditions provided a bond among people and an ethical code to live by.

### A. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Define <strong>MONOTHEISM</strong>.</th>
<th>What is the document that represents the “codification of the Hebrew Scriptures”?</th>
<th>Define <strong>DIASPORIC COMMUNITY</strong>.</th>
</tr>
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**MONOTHEISM**: A belief in a single, omnipotent, and omnipresent God.

**DIASPORIC COMMUNITY**: A group of people who have been forcibly or voluntarily uprooted from their homeland and are dispersed in various locations around the world.

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![Image of Major Religions of the World](image)

**MOSES & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS**

- Moses frees the Hebrews from enslavement in Egypt and leads them to Mt. Sinai where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments.
- **TORAH** (1st Five Books of the Old Testament)
- Foundation of Jewish legal & ethical texts
- Kept on a scroll of parchment

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![Image of Judaism](image)
B. 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.

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion. There were older ones, but they have all since faded into history. Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world. It is focused primarily in the Indian subcontinent. Hinduism is made up of 1,000s of different groups each with a different take on the system. There is no single ruler. There is no single book. Hindus follow the cycle of reincarnation that is governed by Karma. (Freemanpedia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Use the link on Freemanpedia to provide further clarification on the use of Sanskrit.</th>
<th>Use the link on Freemanpedia to provide further clarification early Vedic religions.</th>
<th>What is meant by “multiple manifestations of brahman”?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Explain the importance of dharma and reincarnation in Hindu beliefs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the Rigveda interpretation of the development of the caste system?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who are the untouchables and how do they compare to the Brahmins?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the status of the caste system in India today?</td>
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</table>

In ancient India, the ranked occupational groups were referred to as varnas, and the hereditary occupational groups within the varnas were known as jatis. What are the original four varnas and their associated occupations?
II. **New belief systems and cultural traditions emerged and spread, often asserting universal truths.**

A. The core beliefs 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did Ashoka influence the spread of Buddhism (263-232 BCE)?</th>
<th>What are the Rock and Pillar Edicts?</th>
<th>What are the Four Noble Truths?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

You know how Jesus was Jewish but had a slightly different view of that religion and started his own called Christianity? Well, in India they had a similar guy. His name was Siddhartha Gautama. He was a Hindu prince who sought out to end suffering. He came up with his own 8-fold Path to Enlightenment and left Hinduism behind when he became... The Buddha ("Enlightened One"). (Freemanpedia)
educational institutions to promote Buddhism’s core teachings

Key facts
- Buddhism is **2,500 years old**
- There are currently 376 million followers worldwide
- There are over 150,000 **Buddhists in Britain**
- Buddhism arose as a result of Siddhartha Gautama’s quest for Enlightenment in around the 6th Century BC
- There is no belief in a personal God. It is not centred on the relationship between humanity and God
- Buddhists believe that nothing is fixed or permanent - change is always possible
- The two main Buddhist sects are **Theravada** Buddhism and **Mahayana** Buddhism, but there are many more
- Buddhists can **worship** both at home or at a temple
- The path to Enlightenment is through the practice and development of morality, **meditation** and wisdom.
What is the difference between *Theraveda* and *Mahayana* Buddhism?  

What is the connection between trade and the spread of Buddhism?

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**B. 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.

Confucianism is an Eastern religion/philosophy. Although it is more accurately referred to as a philosophy, books on world religions inevitably include it with other religions from Buddhism to Zoroastrianism. It originated in China but has spread to Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. Most people who adhere to the teachings of Confucius follow Chinese traditional religion, which is a blending of Confucianism, Buddhism, Taoism, and traditional local practices and beliefs.

Click the link for Confucius on Freemanpedia. What does Confucianism emphasize?

What three concepts does Confucius “emphasize”?

Define *Filial Piety* and explain how it would apply to creating a good society?
What role did Mencius play in the early days of Confucianism?

What do the Analects have to say about creating an effective society?

What qualities were important in a ruler according to Confucius?

You may need to research this. How did Han Wudi support Confucianism? Be specific.
C. 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.

Taoism differs from Confucianism by not emphasizing rigid rituals and social order.\[1\] Taoist ethics vary depending on the particular school, but in general tend to emphasize **wu wei** (effortless action), "naturalness", simplicity, spontaneity, and the **Three Treasures**: 慈 "compassion", 儉 "frugality", and 不敢為天下先 "humility".

**How did Daoism influence Chinese culture in each of the following categories? (Illustrative Examples)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical Theories and Practices</th>
<th>Poetry</th>
<th>Metallurgy</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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</table>

**Architecture**

![Architecture Image](image-url)
D. Core beliefs of Christianity were based on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded by his disciples and their belief in his divinity. Christianity drew on Judaism as well as Roman and Hellenistic influences. Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of missionaries, merchants, and early martyrs through many parts of Afro-Eurasia and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of Emperor Constantine.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briefly summarize the role of Jesus Christ in the founding of Christianity.</td>
<td>This is the biggest religion on earth. There are over 2 billion Christians out there. The whole thing started in the Middle East as a local Jewish carpenter claimed to be the son of god. He was later crucified by the Romans. According to the Christians, he came back from the dead and then went to heaven. This story has had a massive influence on the rest of history. If you live in the United States, you can't miss this story as Christianity is the predominant religion here. This is also (besides Buddhism with Ashoka and Siddhartha) the only religion that requires you to know TWO people in this era: Jesus and Constantine. (FREEMANPEDIA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where do the Christian and Jewish holy texts overlap?</td>
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<td>What role does Jesus’ crucifixion play in the development of Christian thought?</td>
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<td>What is the Gospel and what role does it play in Christianity?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the role of the Pope in Christianity?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What was Constantine the first Roman emperor to do?</td>
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<td>What is the Edict of Milan in 313 CE?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### E. 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.

The core ideas in Greco-Roman philosophy and science emphasized logic, empirical observation, and the nature of political power and hierarchy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What are the four philosophical methods?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the next page are the philosophy summaries that are found on Freemanpedia. In the margin of the page, answer the 9 questions that are found within the text.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Explain the symbolism in the “Allegory of the Cave”.

![Image of Allegory of the Cave](image-url)
PRE-SOCRATICS

ANAXIMANDER

First philosopher to write down his ideas.

*Anaximander of Miletus considered that from warmed up water and earth emerged either fish or entirely fishlike animals. Inside these animals, men took form and embryos were held prisoners until puberty, only then, after these animals burst open, could men and women come out, new able to feel themselves.*

1. Where does ANAXIMANDER say humans come from?
2. What theory is this similar to today?

POST-SOCRATICS

ZENO

334 B.C.-262 B.C.

*Founder of the School of Stoicism*

“In life, an individual man, virtue is the noble good; such things as health, happiness, possessions, are of no account. Since virtue resides in the soul, everything really good or bad in a man’s life depends only upon himself. Therefore every man has perfect freedom, provided he embraces himself from mundane desires.”

6. What other world belief system does this mirror?
7. Briefly describe STOICISM.

8. What does Cicero say the statesmen should focus on?
9. What does he warn the statesmen to stay away from?

WORDS TO LIVE BY...

Meditations from your friendly neighborhood Emperor

Read the following from Marcus Aurelius’ Meditations. Rank the words of advice from the last of the 5 Good Emperors.

Do not let an idle thought take you by the hand.

You are a little soul struggling against a coronavirus. It is not your fault that the waves continually break, but which wave - the one that is not affected by the wind - is the one that is free from worry. You will be able to escape from your own thoughts. The best way toestrope yourself is not to become like the waves.

Every moment think morally as a Roman and a man to do what you have at hand with perfect and simple dignity, and without of humanity, freedom, and justice, free your mind from all other thoughts.

Not to feel arrogant or depressed because your day is packed with wise and noble actions. But to get back up when you fail, to celebrate becoming a human—however imperfectly—and fully embrace the present you’ve embarked on.

Sincerely,

MARCUS AURELIUS

121 CE-180 CE

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Since this is a history course...

HERODOTUS/THUCYDIDES

464 B.C.-445 B.C.
The Greek writer Thucydides (thoo-uh-SID-ee-dees) is credited with writing the first scientific history.

Gods and legends played no role in his history of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, which took place in the late fifth century B.C. After 27 years of conflict, Sparta won and Athens went into decline.

Thucydides wrote only about events that occurred during his lifetime that he could verify through examination of written records and eyewitness accounts. He worked for complete objectivity, and in this way he pioneered the historical method used by historians today.
F. Art and architecture reflected the values of religions and belief systems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>III.</th>
<th>Belief systems generally reinforced existing social structures while also offering new roles and status to some men and women.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Confucianism emphasized <strong>filial piety</strong>. Click on the link for Filial Piety on Freemanpedia. Give specific examples of the importance of Filial Piety in Chinese society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Some Buddhists and Christians practiced a monastic life. Define <strong>monastic</strong>. Use the link provided to summarize monastic life under Buddhism. Use the link provided to summarize monastic life under Christianity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Other religious and cultural traditions continued and in some places were incorporated into major religious traditions.

A. Shamanism, animism, and ancestor veneration continued in their traditional forms in some instances, and in others were incorporated into other religious traditions.

Define **shamanism**. Where was/is it practiced?

Define **animism**. Where was/is it practiced?

Define **ancestor veneration**. Where was/is it practiced?