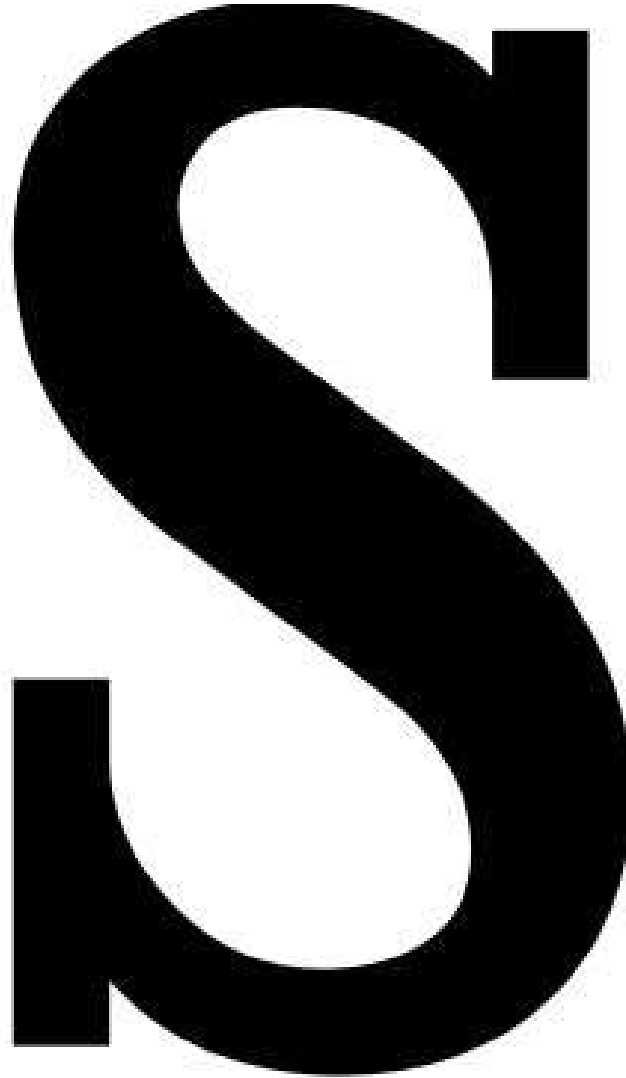


# AP World History - Thematic Overview

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## Social Structures

### Relations among humans

Gender roles and relations  
Family and kinship  
Racial and ethnic constructions  
Social and economic classes

# Development and Transformation of Social Structures (SOC)

This theme is about relations among human beings, how human societies develop ways of grouping their members, and norms that govern interactions between individuals and social groups. Additionally, this theme explores the processes through which social categories, roles, and practices are created, maintained, and transformed.

**EXAMPLE:** The chart to the right shows the social structure of ancient Mesopotamia.

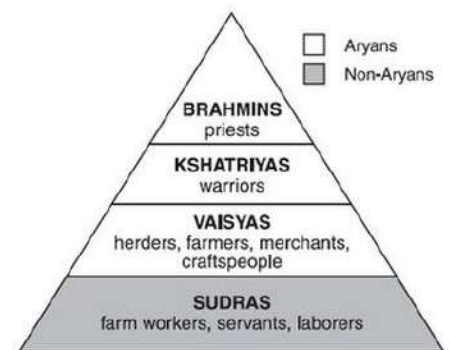


## Learning Objectives:

- **SOC-1** Explain how distinctions based on kinship, ethnicity, class, gender, and race influenced the development and transformations of social hierarchies.
- **SOC-2** Evaluate the extent to which different ideologies, philosophies, and religions affected social hierarchies.
- **SOC-3** Evaluate the extent to which legal systems, colonialism, nationalism, and independence movements have sustained or challenged class, gender, and racial hierarchies over time.
- **SOC-4** Explain how the development of specialized labor systems interacted with the development of social hierarchies
- **SOC-5** Explain how social categories, roles, and practices have been maintained or challenged over time.
- **SOC-6** Explain how political, economic, cultural, and demographic factors have affected social structures over time.

## QUICK SUMMARY

- Relations among humans
  - Gender roles and relations
  - Family and kinship
  - Racial and ethnic constructions
  - Social and economic classes
- Different from “Culture”
  - Social is how we deal with each other
  - Culture is how we deal with our world



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*, Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)

**EXAMPLE:** The chart above shows the social structure of Gupta India. This is the early development of the caste system which is a distinctive characteristic of South Asia (India) throughout most of history.

## KEY VOCABULARY for SOCIAL STRUCTURES

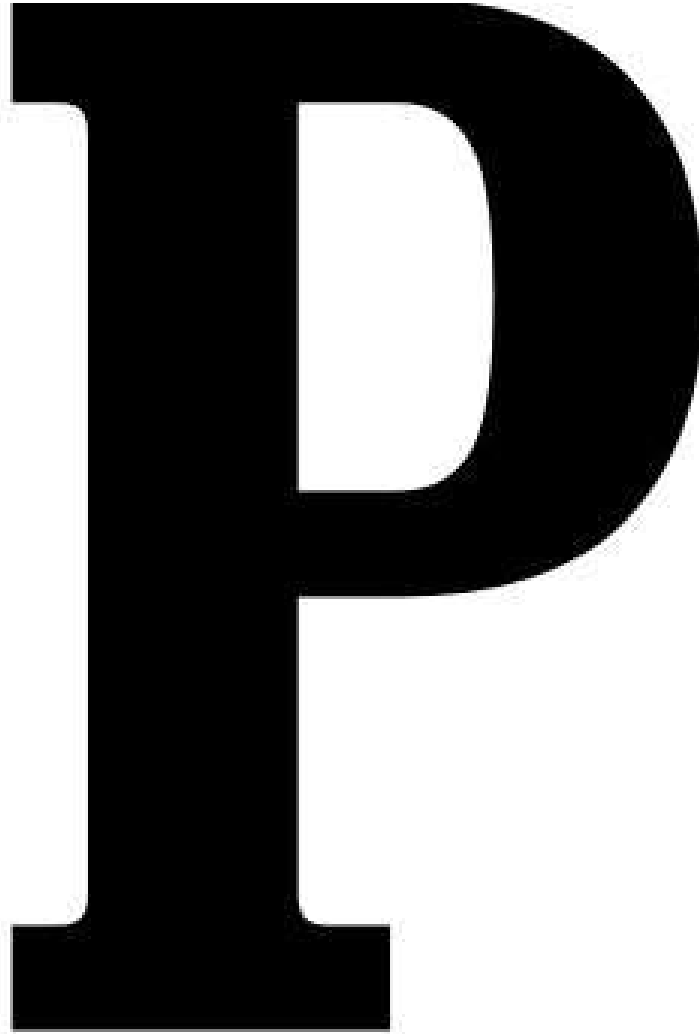
Term	Definition	Historical Example or Picture
Hierarchy		
Stratification		
Egalitarian		
Diversification		
Elites		
Aristocracy		
Middle Class		
Merchant Class		
Working Class		
Patriarchy		
Matriarchy		
Filial Piety		

Caste System		
Guilds		
Minority Group		
Social Mobility		
Meritocracy		
Social Darwinism		
Feminism		

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

Most people are affected by the societies around them as well as the people who make up that society. Who has influenced you? (Remember, not all influences are good. You should think about good and bad influences.) Who are you around the most? How do they influence you?

# AP World History - Thematic Overview

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## Politics

### State Building, Expansion, and Conflict

Forms of government

Leaders / groups

State structures

War and conflict

Diplomacy / treaties

Courts / laws

# ***State Building, Expansion, and Conflict (SB/POL)***

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 governments develop out of early civilizations?

**Learning Objectives:**

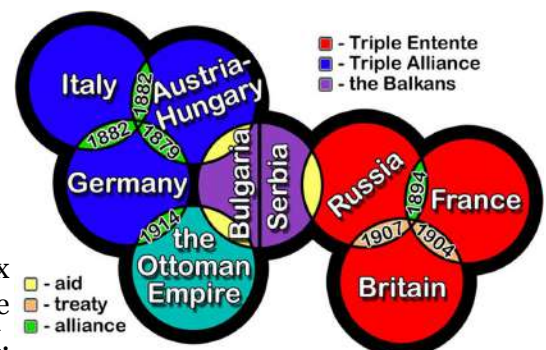
- **SB-1** Explain how different forms of governance have been constructed and maintained over time.
- **SB-2** Explain how and why different functions and institutions of governance have changed over time.
- **SB-3** Explain how and why economic, social, cultural, and geographical factors have influenced the processes of state building, expansion, and dissolution.
- **SB-4** Explain how and why internal and external political factors have influenced the process of state building, expansion, and dissolution.
- **SB-5** Explain how societies with states and state-less societies interacted over time.
- **SB-6** Explain the political and economic interactions between states and non-state actors over time.



## **QUICK SUMMARY**

- 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

**EXAMPLE:** The chart to the right shows the complex alliance system that was in place in Europe before the start of WWI.



## KEY VOCABULARY for STATE BUILDING (SB/POL)

Term	Definition	Historical Example or Picture
Civilization		
City-State		
Divine Right		
Kingdom		
Empire		
Nation / Nation-State		
Agrarian		
Autocracy		
Theocracy		
Constitutional Democracy		
Monarchy		
Colonialism		

Imperialism		
Communism		
Fascism		
Bureaucracy / Bureaucrat		
Law Code / Legal Code		
Mandate of Heaven		
Diplomacy		
Caliphate		
Nationalism		

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

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?



# AP World History - Thematic Overview



## 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

# Interaction Between Humans and the Environment (ENV/INT)

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).



## Learning Objectives:

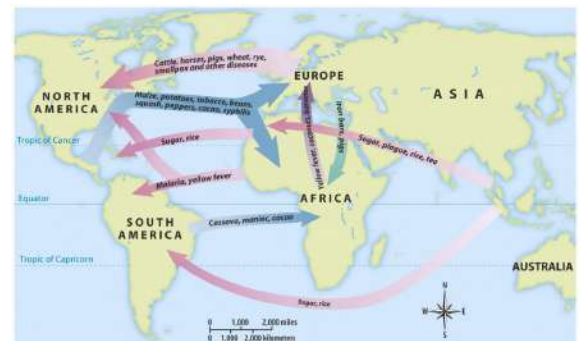
- **ENV-1** Explain how different types of societies have adapted to and affected their environments.
- **ENV-2** Explain how environmental factors, disease, and technology affected patterns of human migration and settlement over time.
- **ENV-3** Evaluate the extent to which migration, population, and urbanization affected the environment over time.
- **ENV-4** Explain how environmental factors have shaped the development of diverse technologies, industrialization, transportation methods, and exchange and communication networks.
- **ENV-5** Evaluate the extent to which the development of diverse technologies, industrialization, transportation methods, and exchange and communication networks have affected the environment over time.



## QUICK SUMMARY

- 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)

**EXAMPLE:** The map to the right shows the diffusion of crops and diseases.



## KEY VOCABULARY for INTERACTIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT (ENV/I)

Term	Definition	Historical Example or Picture
Nomad		
Pastoralist		
Agriculture		
Natural Resources		
Demographics		
Domestication of Animals		
Irrigation		
Overgrazing		
Metallurgy		
Deforestation		
Desertification		
Qanat System		

Plague		
Diaspora		
Crop Yield		
Migration		
Urbanization		
Columbian Exchange		
Industrialization		
Green Revolution		
Epidemic vs. Pandemic		

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

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?

# AP World History - Thematic Overview

# C

# Culture

## Development and Interaction of Cultures

*Spreading of beliefs, actions, and knowledge between and within societies:*

Religion and philosophy  
Art / music / literature  
Architecture  
Technology  
Education

*Diffusion: spread of culture from one society to another*

# *Development and Interaction of Cultures*

## *(CUL)*

This theme explores the origins, uses, dissemination, and adaptation of ideas, beliefs, and knowledge within and between societies and how the processes of adopting or adapting new belief and knowledge systems are complex and often lead to syncretic (fusion of) cultural forms and practices.

**EXAMPLE:** The ancient Egyptians were polytheistic - believing in many gods who controlled nature



### Learning Objectives:

- **CUL-1** Explain how religions, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies originated, developed, and spread as a result of expanding communication and exchange networks.
- **CUL-2** Explain how religions, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies affected political, economic, and social developments over time.
- **CUL-3** Explain how cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of culture, technologies, and scientific knowledge.
- **CUL-4** Explain how technological and scientific innovations affected religions, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies over time.
- **CUL-5** Explain how the arts are shaped by and reflect innovation, adaptation, and creativity of specific societies over time.
- **CUL-6** Explain how expanding exchange networks shaped the emergence of various forms of transregional culture, including music, literature, and visual arts.

### QUICK SUMMARY

- Spreading of beliefs, actions, and knowledge between and within societies
  - Religions and philosophy
  - Art / music / literature
  - Architecture
  - Technology
  - Education
- **Diffusion** – spread of culture from one society to another

**EXAMPLE:** Angkor Wat (to the right) is one of the largest religious complexes in the world. Located in Cambodia, it was originally a Hindu temple but gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple.



## KEY VOCABULARY for CULTURE (CUL)

Term	Definition	Historical Example or Picture
Religion		
Religion vs. Belief Systems		
Philosophy		
Ideology		
Polytheistic vs. Monotheistic		
Monumental Architecture		
Reincarnation		
Ancestor Veneration		
Monasticism		
Animism		
Syncretism		
Schism		

Ethnic Enclaves		
Government Propaganda		
Pop Culture		

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

Religion, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies often play an important role in how societies function. Include details on your religion/belief system. Do you practice a religion? If so, how does it influence you? If not, where do you see religious influence around you? (Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. We're just trying to think like historians.)

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

Historians often look at what art, education, and intellectual influences on societies as well as what intellectual products (art and literature, inventions, etc) they produce. What have been the biggest influences on your intellectual development? (Consider people, classes, books, movies, etc.)



# AP World History - Thematic Overview



## Economics

### Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems

*Major transitions in trade:* From bartering to regional trade to long-distance trade

*Economic systems:* Agricultural, pastoral, industrial

*Labor systems:* Forced labor, farmers, capitalism, socialism

# ***Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems (ECON)***

This theme surveys the diverse patterns and systems that human societies have developed to produce, distribute, and consume desired goods and services across time and place.

**EXAMPLE:** Ancient Chinese coins dating back to the earliest Chinese dynasties. China was also the first to use paper money 1,400 years ago.



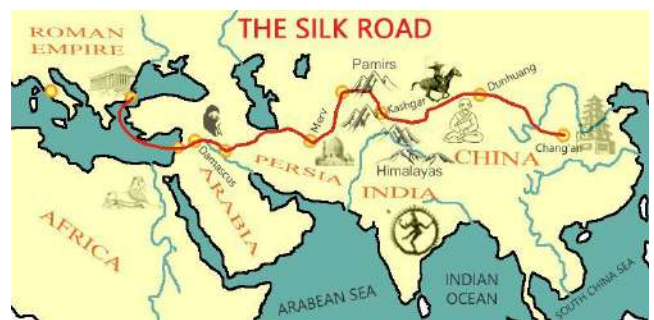
## **Learning Objectives:**

- **ECON-1** Explain how technology shaped economic production and globalization over time.
- **ECON-2** Explain the causes and effects of economic strategies of different types of communities, states, and empires.
- **ECON-3** Explain how different modes and locations of production and commerce have developed and changed over time.
- **ECON 4** Explain the causes and effects of labor reform movements.
- **ECON-5** Explain how and why labor systems have developed and changed over time.
- **ECON-6** Explain how economic systems and the development of ideologies, values, and institutions have influenced each other.

## **QUICK SUMMARY**

- Major transitions in trade
  - From bartering to regional trade to long-distance trade
- Economic systems
  - Agricultural, pastoral, industrial
- Labor systems
  - Forced labor, farmers, capitalism, socialism

**EXAMPLE:** The map to the right shows the Silk Road, one of the most important trade routes in history before the modern era.



## KEY VOCABULARY for ECONOMIC SYSTEMS (ECON)

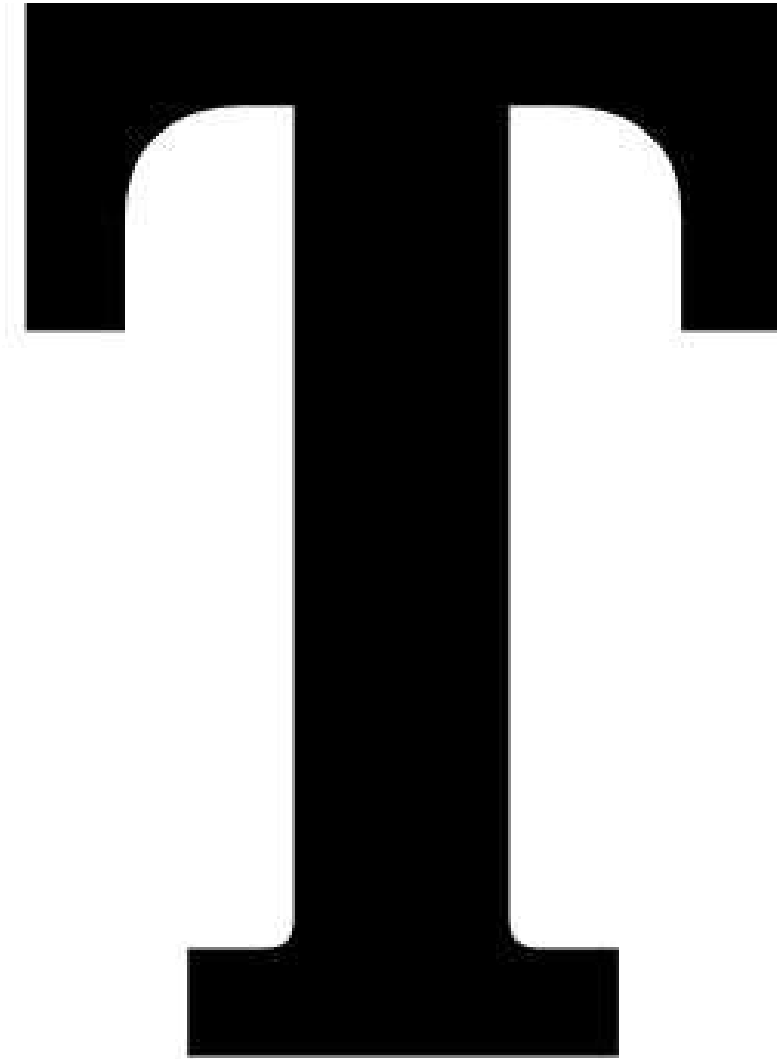
Term	Definition	Historical Example or Picture
Hunter-Forager		
Pastoralist		
Agriculture		
Subsistence Farming		
Cash Crops		
Specialization of Labor		
Luxury Goods		
Bills of Exchange		
Artisans		
Merchants		
Coerced Labor		
Chattel Slavery		

Military Obligations		
Industrialization		
Mercantilism		
Export Economies		
Capitalism		
Socialism		
Liberalism		
Markets		

**Conceptual Thinking** *(response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)*

All societies have some sort of economic system. Most produce and trade products with other societies. Consider your economic status. How do your parents' jobs or lack of jobs affect you? (Economics can have big consequences. Think about the time you spend with your parents along with the money they bring to the family.) What career do you see yourself in someday? How do you plan to achieve that economically? How will this career affect your future economically?

# AP World History - Thematic Overview



## Technology and Innovation

# ***Technology and Innovation***

This is a new theme in AP World History this year and we won't have the details of what it entails until we get back to school in August. However, here are some ideas to get you thinking...

***Technology - making and using tools to change the natural state of the environment - isn't an instant global event. Innovation and technological development tends to happen independently in different regions and then is spread along trade routes from their place of origin. This theme will likely focus on the effects of technology on societies over time.***

## ***Conceptual Thinking*** (response should be in a complete, well-developed paragraph)

Not all technology has wires and electricity. Changing the way you plow your fields, grow food, fight disease, make swords, or design a car is also technology. Think about five inventions that really matter to you. (They don't have to be things you use every day.) Why do they matter to you?