

AP World Classical Civilizations



Classical Civilizations

▶ Emerged in

- The Mediterranean
 - Greeks and Romans
- The Indian Subcontinent
 - Mauryan and the Gupta
- Southwest Asia
 - Persia
- East Asia
 - Qin and the Han
- Americas
 - Mesoamerica; Teotihuacan and Maya. Andean region; Moche



Classical Civilizations: Changes from River Valley Civilizations

- ▶ Size and political strength
 - Ruled larger areas; more complex bureaucracies (who?)
- ▶ More complex cultures
 - Major belief systems emerged (which ones?)
 - Art and literature produced that are classics today
- ▶ More numerous and better written records
 - We know more (what and why?)
- ▶ More complex long distance trade
 - Increased prosperity and spread of goods and ideas (where were the trade routes?)
- ▶ More contact between nomads and sedentary peoples
 - Nomadic groups took over transport of goods (who?)
- ▶ More direct influence on modern civilizations
 - We can trace modern beliefs and practices (what?)



Persia



The Rise of Persia



- ▶ Between Indian subcontinent and SW Asia; traders had crossed lands for years
- ▶ Organized under Cyrus the Great
 - Extended territory from India to the Mediterranean Sea
 - Reached its height under Darius I (into Egypt and Macedonia). Darius established law code based on earlier Mesopotamian codes.

The Rise of Persia: Success of the Empire

- Superior military leadership and organization
- Allowed conquered people to retain customs and laws; used satraps (government representatives)
 - Collected tribute (precious metals)
 - Provided soldiers
 - Kept order
 - Had miniature courts
 - Hereditary positions



The Greeks v. the Persians

- ▶ Rebellions in Ionia (Greeks living in Persian Empire)
- ▶ Darius sent troops, Athens went to aid Greeks
- ▶ Conflicts:
 - Darius sent troops to punish mainland Greeks but were defeated at Battle of Marathon.
 - Xerxes succeeded Darius and a second series of battles results in defeat for Persia; battle of Thermopylae and again in Platea.
- ▶ Persian Wars significance:
 - Sparked decline of Persia
 - Boost to Athens and development of Delian League
 - Athens and Sparta involved in destructive Peloponnesian Wars which weakened all the city-states and leaving them vulnerable to the Macedonians.

The Hellenistic Synthesis



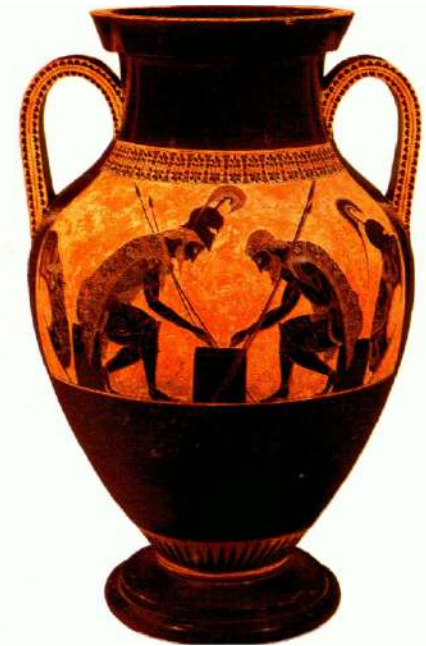
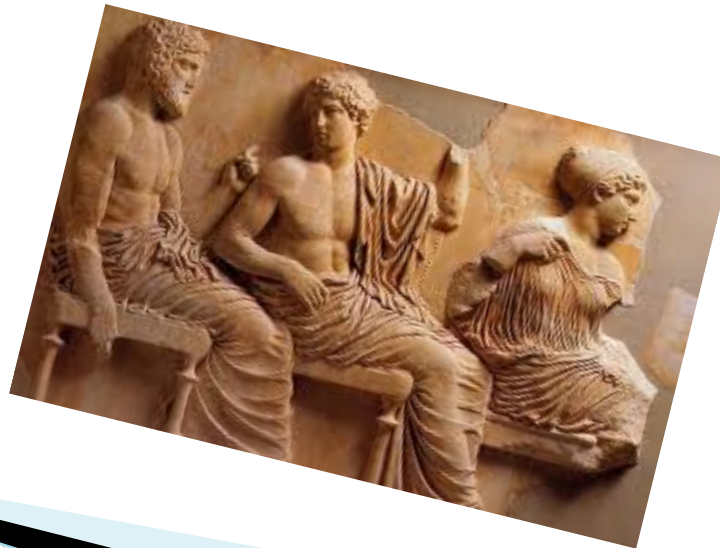
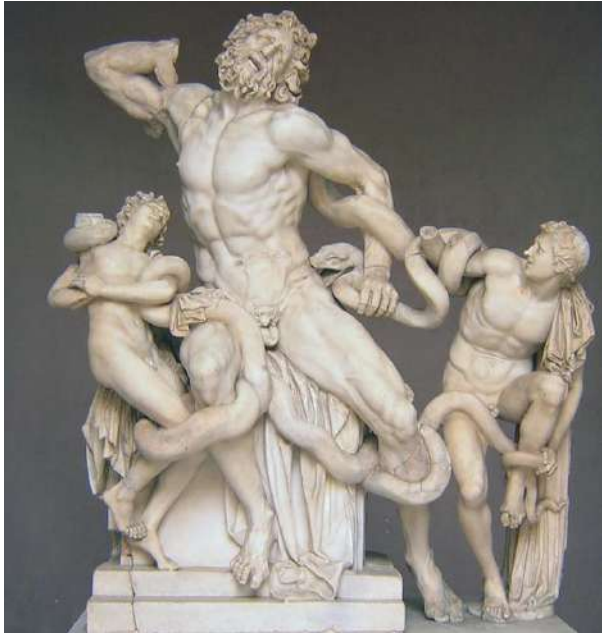
- ▶ Macedonia a frontier state
- ▶ King Phillip II built a powerful military, consolidated his power and turned his attention to the quarreling Greeks
 - Conquered the city-states one by one and brought all of Greece under his control.
 - 20 year old Alexander inherits and becomes a legend
 - Conquers one area after another. Moves Ffrom Greece to Anatolia to Egypt
 - Persia was weak which made it easier for Alexander's troops.

The Hellenistic Synthesis

- ▶ Alexander forced intermarriage between his men and Asian women to forge a new, blended civilization.
- ▶ Named many cities Alexandria.
- ▶ Died at 33; empire fell apart but left huge cultural impact.
 - Spread Greek culture
 - Empire divided into three large states and many Greeks left their homelands to settle, bringing Greek culture and creating cosmopolitan centers
 - Religion
 - Fashion
 - Customs
 - Language
 - Values



Greece



Mediterranean Civilizations: Greece

- ▶ Crete/Minoan civilization
- ▶ Environment not suitable for farming – turned to the sea
- ▶ Replace by Mycenaeans
 - chaotic time – at war w/Troy
 - Aegean enters Dark Age – isolated
- ▶ Seafaring Phoenicians visit and re-establish contact
- ▶ **Marker event: the Phoenician alphabet!
What was different?



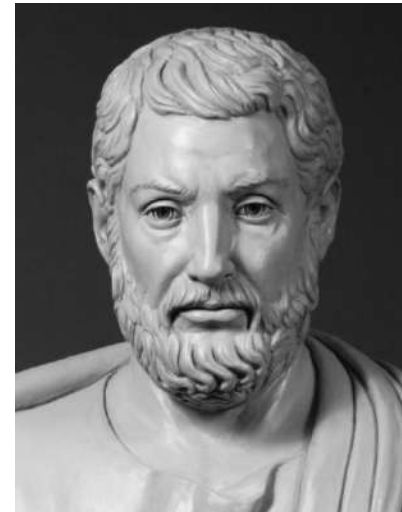
Greece: Political Development

- ▶ Influence of geography
- ▶ Athens and Sparta two main city-states
- ▶ Poleis took many forms
 - Monarchies
 - Oligarchies
 - Aristocracies
 - Democracies
 - Tyrants!



Early Athens

- ▶ Series of forms of governments – democracy emerged 5th c BCE
- ▶ Solon most important oligarch (laws to be written and revised)
- ▶ Cleisthenes wins control after rebellion – experiments w/democracy
 - Town meeting
 - Council of 500
 - Free males only



Early Sparta

- ▶ Rebellions likely influenced the development of military society
- ▶ Servants – helots provided agricultural labor
- ▶ Men were warriors
 - Self-disciplined and obedient/focus on physical fitness



Greece: Economics

- ▶ Barley/olive trees/grapes
- ▶ Trade (coins facilitated trade)



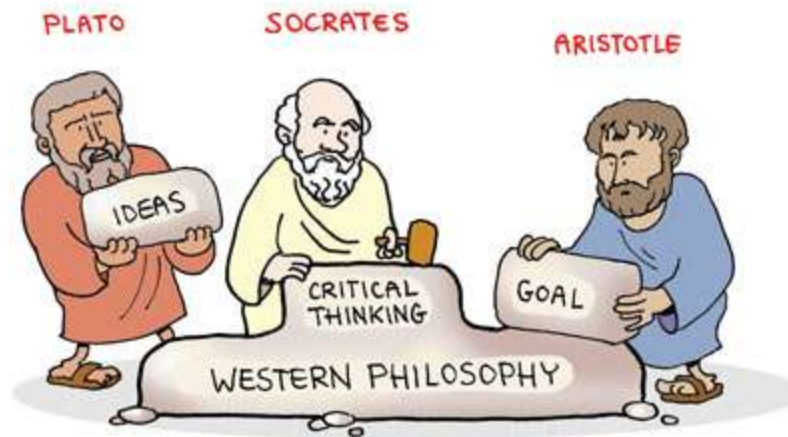
Greece: Social Distinctions



- ▶ Important distinction was citizens and non-citizens
- ▶ Sparta
 - Large number of helots
 - Everyone equal: Simple clothing and no jewelry
 - Homes not adorned
 - Strict educational system
 - Self-sufficiency; luxuries harmful to purity
 - Women free and equal; had great responsibilities (why?)
- ▶ Athens
 - Farmers/aristocrats – distinctions led to discontent and reforms
 - Slave labor used
 - Respectable women confined to home with servants and no political rights

Greece: Cultural Characteristics

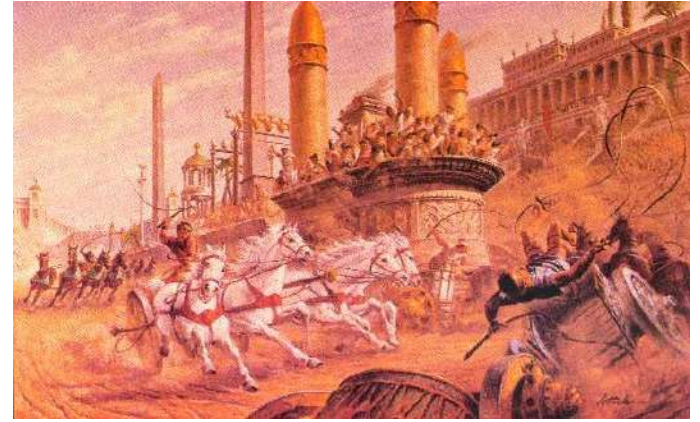
- ▶ Polytheistic
- ▶ Focus on secularism (how is this similar to Confucianism?)
- ▶ Natural law – gods don't cause natural phenomena
- ▶ Philosophers pose ethical questions to seek truth
 - Socrates
 - Plato
 - Aristotle



Overall Achievements during Classical Age

- ▶ Termed Hellenic Culture (Greek name for homeland– Hellas)
- ▶ Sculptures
 - Reflect the Greeks' value of the individual and influence later concepts of beauty and perfections
- ▶ Major Art forms:
 - Drama
 - Lyric poetry
 - Architecture





Rome



Mediterranean Civilizations: Rome

- ▶ Development influenced by Greece but had unique characteristics
- ▶ Latin language
- ▶ Influence spread from N. Europe to SW Asia to N. Africa
 - Dominated the area for more than 700 years
 - Brought diverse peoples together
 - Contact w/nomadic people who contributed to downfall



Rome: Political Development

- ▶ Etruscans established city-states c. 800 BCE
 - (writing not deciphered)
- ▶ Rome – legend of Romulus and Remus
 - Subject to Etruscan rule
 - 509 BCE gained independence and established a republic
 - Under Augustus 31 BCE – 14 CE became an empire
 - Fall – 476 CE (east 1453 CE)



Rome: Political Development

▶ Republican Form of Government

◦ Senate

- Most important ruling body/controlled political decisions
- Patricians – aristocrats (positions went to their sons)
- Led by two consuls (initially for 1 year term but over time this changed)
 - Could veto the other
 - Usually military men and fiercely competitive
 - Held great sway over the republic

◦ General Assembly

- Plebeians – commoners (90% of the population)
- Had little power; eventually allowed to have representatives called tribunes
 - Elected by the people
 - Controlled by Senate eventually



Rome: Political Development

- ▶ Triumvirate (rule of three)
 - Julius Caesar – charismatic patrician and general
 - Crassus – wealthy
 - Pompey – rival general to Caesar
- ▶ Caesar declares himself dictator, assassinated by senators; Ides of March (44 BCE)
- ▶ Civil war erupts



Rome: Political Development



- ▶ Augustus Caesar:
 - Nephew of Julius Caesar; Octavian
 - Battles Mark Antony for control of Rome
 - Victorious at Battle of Actium (31 BCE)
- ▶ Senate declares him Augustus Caesar – establishing the Roman Empire.
 - Kept the title consul but basically ruled the empire for 40 years (Senate grateful to him for saving Rome)
 - Preferred title **princeps** (first citizen)
 - Overhauled military, economy, government

Rome: Political Development

▶ Augustus – accomplishments

- Equites – merchants and landowners who helped run the empire (civil service)
- Codified Roman law and added Law of the Twelve Tables
- Created network of officials to hear cases and administer the law
- Reformed military – reduced size/professional soldiers
- Army became force to build roads and public works
- Navy to combat pirates in the Mediterranean

▶ Reforms ushered in the Pax Romana

- Empire reached its largest extent
- Period of peace and prosperity
- Borders stabilized
- Trade thrived



Rome: Economic Development and Social Distinctions

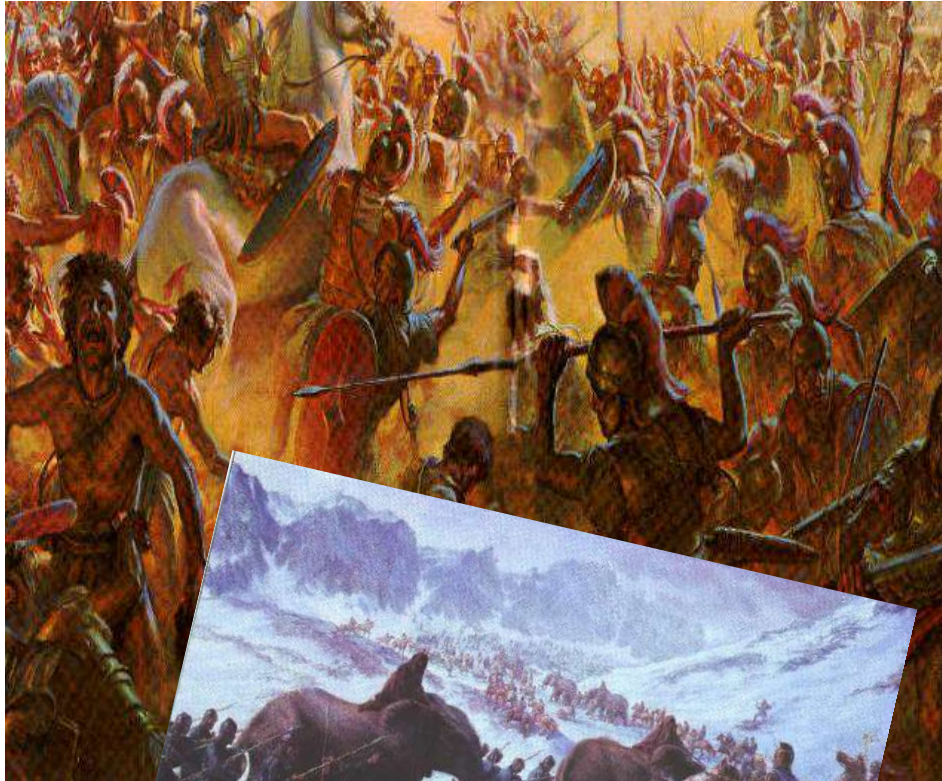
- ▶ Aristocrats controlled large plots of land worked by tenant farmers
- ▶ Many farmers also served in military
- ▶ Elite – patricians
- ▶ Commoners – plebeians
- ▶ Paterfamilias had complete authority over family and tied to other groups through patron–client relationships
 - Patrons – men of wealth and power
 - Clients – turned to patrons and in return gave military service, labor, and political support. Interconnected in webs of inequality – tensions between the classes
- ▶ Roman Forum was the center of business

Rome: Economic Development and Social Distinctions

- ▶ Upper-class women were strictly watched by father, husband, sons
 - More rights than Greek women – many supervised family business and estates and were educated and outspoken.
- ▶ Slavery
 - Slave labor indispensable
 - Households
 - Craft production
 - Gangs of slaves used in mining and on large estates



Rome: Punic Wars



Carthage had controlled the Western Mediterranean.

Series of wars – Rome burned the city of Carthage, salted the earth, and took control of the lands.

New Roman province of North Africa

Breadbasket of Rome

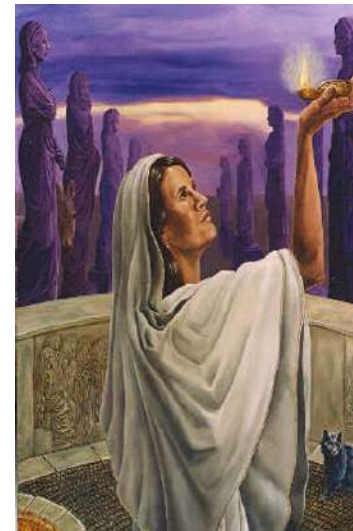
Rome: Culture

- ▶ Greek influence in philosophy, science, arts
- ▶ Roman contributions
 - Bureaucratic administration
 - Finance
 - Engineering
 - Law (flexible system of laws)
 - Concept of court decisions as a precedent
 - Equality of all citizens should be the goal
 - Judges interpret the law to determine how to apply it
 - Natural law – all born with basic rights



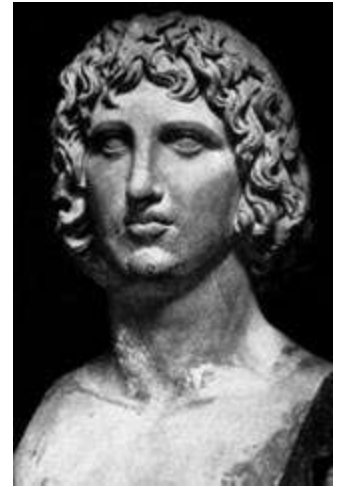
Rome: Arts, Literature, and Religion

- ▶ Greek influence so great that it led to debates: What were ROMAN values?
 - Result of many Greek servants working for wealthy families
 - Greek tutors for children of the wealthy
 - Similarity of religions between cultures (essentially same gods and goddesses)
 - Similar to Greeks – gods not looked to for ethical guidance (could not grant immortality – i.e. Gilgamesh)
 - Romans – stoicism (service to the state and community was highest calling)



Rome: Arts, Literature, and Religion

- ▶ Literary contributions—not as numerous as the Greeks
- ▶ Virgil ties the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* to Roman history; becomes the official version of the founding of Rome.
- ▶ Roman literary works helped spread Latin; works read for centuries after the empire fell.
- ▶ Valued oratory skills and ethical philosophy (tended to be more practical – copied Greek sculpture)



Rome: Engineering

- ▶ Roads built for marching armies and to facilitate trade
- ▶ Aqueducts to carry water to urban areas
- ▶ Roman baths – meeting places
- ▶ Hadrian's Wall – empire in defensive mode



Rome: The Long Decline

- ▶ Continuing problem was the uncertainty over the emperor's succession
- ▶ Economic problems after series of weak, corrupt, incompetent emperors in the 3rd century (Diocletian stopped the slide temporarily)
- ▶ Struggles over land distribution (large estates and slave labor took over most free land)
- ▶ Borders:
 - Pressures from nomadic peoples raiding across the borders
 - Defense of a long border far from capital city (cost was high)
- ▶ Trade declined
- ▶ Epidemic disease
- ▶ Constantine
 - moved capital to the east (better connections for trade and to escape threat of attacks by nomads)
 - Move ultimately sacrificed the western provinces to the Germanic peoples

Rome: Who was Cleopatra?



- ▶ Last queen of Egypt
 - Direct descendant of Alexander the Great's general Ptolemy
 - Greek by descent
 - Maneuvered to form alliances with powerful Romans
 - Gave birth to Julius Caesar's child; wanted him to be heir and rule Rome
 - Married Mark Antony and sided with him in wars with Octavian
 - Suicide by asp



Qin and Han China



China: Qin and Han



- ▶ As Rome rose, China recovering from Warring States Period (end of Zhou)
- ▶ Three belief systems emerge in response to how to solve China's problems
 - Legalism – humans naturally evil and will only obey through force
 - Daoism – avoid useless struggles and follow the Dao, the path. Turn to nature; focus on acceptance and individual retreat from society.
 - Confucianism – emphasize importance of hierarchical, harmonious relationships for an orderly society. Family is the foundation that serves as a model.



Taoism



Confucianism

China: The Qin Dynasty



- ▶ Qin leaders responded enthusiastically to Legalism
- ▶ Used strict rule to dominate neighbors in western China
- ▶ Iron weapons helped army defeat other states until it controlled China
- ▶ King declared himself “First Emperor” or Shi Huangdi (ruled 221 – 210 BCE)
- ▶ Dynasty didn’t last long but is significant in regard to the development of the Chinese state

China: The Qin Dynasty

▶ Shi Huangdi

- Centralized bureaucracy
- Used legalist doctrine to strip power from nobles
- Divided China into administrative provinces with administrators he controlled
- Built roads to facilitate communications and move armies
- First fortifications of the Great Wall
- Tomb of the terra cotta soldiers
- Sentenced Confucians who complained to death
- Burned the books of philosophy, ethics, history and literature

- Harsh but strengthened China
 - Standardized laws and currencies
 - Mandated that the Shang script be used – common script for communication

- Revolts after his death paved the way for the Han Dynasty

China: the Han Dynasty

Political Development

- ▶ Liu Bang brought China quickly under control
- ▶ Strong ruler who chose able bureaucrats
- ▶ Han organized and controlled through nonhereditary bureaucracy (similar to Rome)
- ▶ Family hierarchy the basis for government structure (owe obedience to the emperor)
- ▶ Mandate of Heaven
- ▶ Confucian values



China: the Han Dynasty

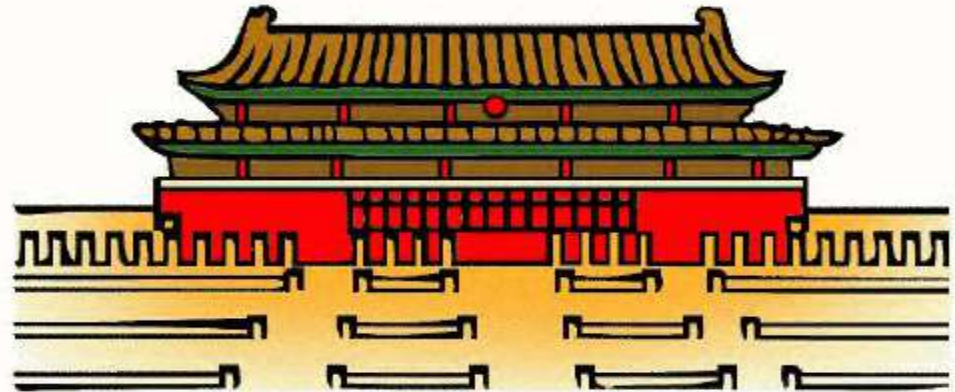
Political Development



- ▶ Han Wudi
 - Powerful ruler
 - Nobles had to divide land between sons to break up large estates (checked the lords power)
 - Centralized power in government
- ▶ Han rulers expanded the frontiers and increased trade (increased contact with other peoples)
- ▶ Nomadic people to the north a threat; easily get around the early fortifications of the Great Wall
- ▶ Wudi's forces defeated the nomads and annexed their land
- ▶ Parts of Korea and SE Asia came under Han control

China: Economic Developments and Social Distinctions

- ▶ Thriving urban empire – 30% of people in towns and cities
- ▶ Forbidden City
 - Administrative buildings and houses of aristocrats and scholar gentry surround
- ▶ Canals built/road systems expanded for trade
- ▶ Silk most important export

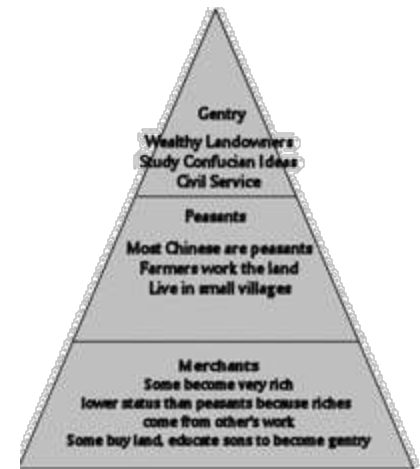


China: Economic Developments and Social Distinctions

- ▶ Merchants looked down upon
- ▶ Shi – scholar bureaucrats or mandarins had higher status under Han than Qin
- ▶ Han rulers promoted Confucianism

- ▶ MARKER EVENT: University for scholars, examination system to identify the best candidates for jobs (only men)
 - Based on knowledge of Confucian texts
 - Only the sons of the wealthy had time to study and prepare
 - Positions mostly to scholar gentry and aristocrats
 - Hereditary from father to son

China: Social Distinctions



▶ Three main social classes:

- Scholar Gentry
 - Linked to the shi. Status based on large estates and govt positions. Homes in city and countryside; wealth passed down through family.
- Ordinary, but free, citizens
 - Peasants; some had significant amount of land. Most lived well but others forced to work for landlords. All required to spend certain number of days each year on public works; could be forced to join army.
- The underclass
 - Includes many peoples; non-Han Chinese, bandits, beggars, vagabonds.
 - Less slavery than in Rome

China: Economic Developments and Social Distinctions

- ▶ Artisan and manufacturing class grew during Han but didn't receive high status
- ▶ New inventions
 - Brush pen and paper facilitated work
 - Water mills for agriculture
 - Rudders and compasses for ships
 - New mining techniques for iron and copper
- ▶ Trade expanded but status of merchants remained low
- ▶ Patriarchal – arranged marriages. Women subordinate.

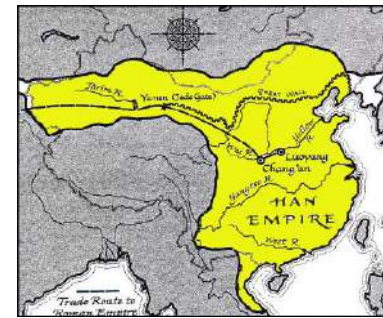
China: Han Culture and Science

- ▶ Decorative arts – bronze and ceramic figures, bowls, vases, jade and ivory carvings, woven silk screens
- ▶ Calligraphy
- ▶ Historical record keeping important
- ▶ Mathematics, geography, and astronomy valued
- ▶ Acupuncture

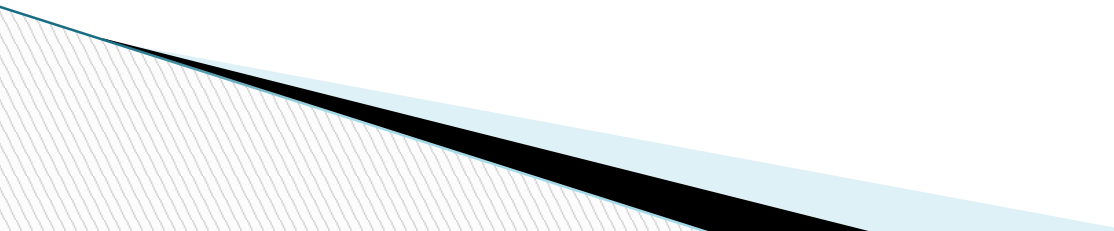


China: Decline of the Han

- ▶ Lasted for 400 years; in decline the last 200 years
 - Nomadic invasions
 - Issues defending long borders
 - Land distribution problems
 - Local nobles gaining power
 - Official corruption and inefficiency in government
 - Peasant uprisings
 - Han suffered the ill effects of the dynastic cycle and a period of chaos ensued after the fall for 135 years.



Comparison: Rome and Han

- ▶ Huge empires with long borders to defend
 - ▶ Walls
 - ▶ Chain of forts and garrisons
 - ▶ Time, effort, and money spent to defend borders from nomadic attacks (both failed)
 - ▶ Economies based on agriculture
 - ▶ Grew into wealthy urban-based societies
 - ▶ Land ownership issues between peasants and aristocrats
 - ▶ Peasants rebelled when reduced to tenant farmer status
 - ▶ Spread out from homogeneous core to encompass diverse peoples
 - ▶ Created cultural unity among conquered people
 - ▶ Delegated ruling authority to local officials
 - ▶ Competent bureaucracy allowed the empires to thrive for years
- 



India



Classical India

- ▶ By 1000 BCE Aryans had migrated and began to settle in the Himalayan foothills and the Ganges River
 - By 500 BCE all the way to the Deccan plateau
- ▶ Caste System
 - Varna (color) referred to social classes
 - 4 main varnas
 - Brahmins – priests and scholars – sprang from Purusha’s mouth)
 - Kshatriya – warriors and govt officials from Purusha’s arms
 - Vaishya – from Purusha’s thighs – landowners, merchants, and artisans
 - Shudra – from Purusha’s feet – common peasants and laborers
 - Varnas later subdivided into jati with their own duties and rituals. Each jati had little contact with each other; members intermarried and followed same occupations as their ancestors.



Early Religion and Culture: Emergence of Hinduism

- ▶ Vedic Age – 1500 BCE – 500 BCE after the Vedas, religious text passed down (hymns, songs, prayers, and rituals).
- ▶ Rig Veda most important
 - Reflects conflicts between Aryans and Dravidians and identify various gods
 - Upanishads – Aryan religion blended with Dravidians in late Vedic Age– beliefs came to be known as Hinduism



Early Religion and Culture: Emergence of Buddhism

- ▶ Siddhartha Gautama
 - Born to Kshatriya family
 - Left family to seek meaning of life; experienced enlightenment that became foundation of Buddhism
 - Buddha – the Enlightened One



Classical India: the Mauryan Dynasty



- ▶ Geography of India very diverse; people politically fragmented
- ▶ People also separated by jati
- ▶ Mauryan Dynasty came to rule large part for 300 years; began with Chandragupta Maurya
- ▶ Began in Magadha
- ▶ Grandson Ashoka converted to Buddhism
 - shocked by bloodshed
 - Turned to peace/tolerance/non-violence
 - Father of his people
 - After his death India returned to fragmented kingdoms

Classical India: the Gupta Empire

- ▶ Also began in Magadha; Chandra Gupta
- ▶ Smaller than Mauryan
- ▶ Drew tribute from subjects (this gave region warrior elite a great deal of autonomy)



Theatre State

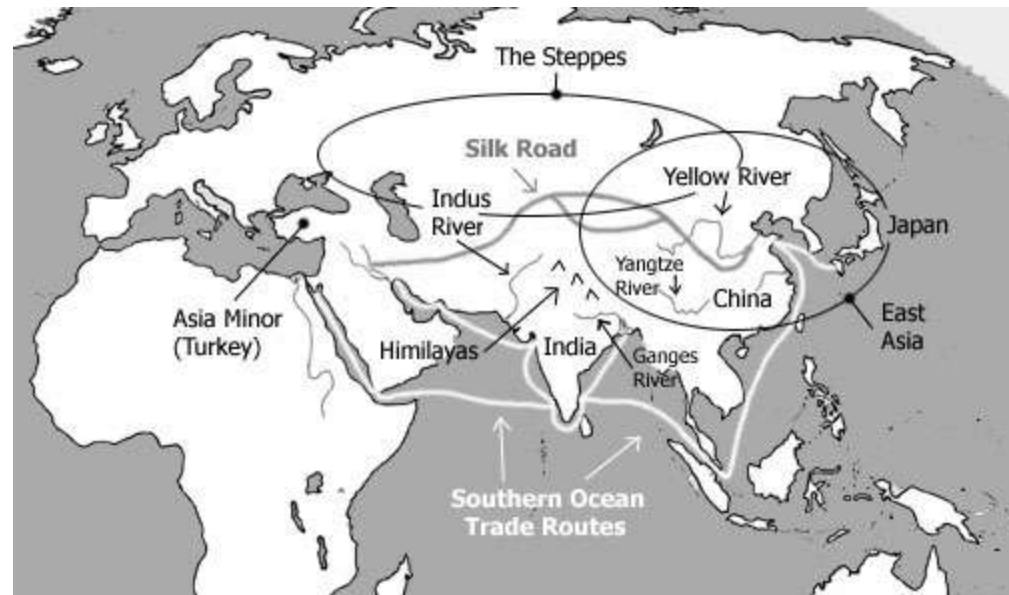
- ▶ Persia and Gupta
 - Awe subjects into remaining loyal to ruling family
 - Ruler took title King of Kings
 - Required tribute
 - Fantastic palaces and grounds to impress



Gupta capital of Pataliputra

Classical Civilizations

Trade Patterns and Contacts



Transregional Trade Patterns and Contacts

- ▶ Intensification and expansion during this period
- ▶ Often controlled by nomads
- ▶ Regions of the world becoming increasingly dependant on one another
- ▶ Three large networks develop
 - Silk Road
 - Indian Ocean Trade
 - Saharan Trade



Transregional Trade Patterns and Contacts: The Silk Road

- ▶ Extended from Xi'an in China to eastern Mediterranean late 2nd C BCE
 - General Zhang Jian discovered heavenly horses that were better than those bred in China across the Tarim Basin
 - Chinese had many goods to trade; found something they could trade for
- ▶ Tarim Basin connected to numerous trade routes
 - Traders going west
 - Peaches, apricots, cinnamon, ginger, spices, and silk
 - Traders going east
 - Alfalfa, grapes, pistachios, sesame, and spinach
 - Other goods travelled – i.e. Stirrup
- ▶ Pastoral nomads supplied animals to transport goods and food/drink for caravans in addition to protection from bandits.
- ▶ Goods, ideas, customs, and religions traveled the roads

Transregional Trade Patterns and Contacts: The Indian Ocean Maritime Systems

- ▶ People already traded along the Red Sea and along the Arabian Peninsula but we see routes connect to create vast trade network.
 - Products include: ivory (Africa, India, Mesopotamia), frankincense and myrrh (S. Arabia), pearls (Persian Gulf), spices (India and SE Asia), manufactured goods and pottery (China)
- ▶ Traveled in three legs:
 - SE China to SE Asia
 - SE Asia to E. India
 - W. India to Red Sea and E. Africa



Transregional Trade Patterns and Contacts: The Saharan Trade

- ▶ Sahara previously a barrier but this changed with the introduction of the camel
- ▶ Traded desert salt for kola nuts and palm oil from the south
- ▶ Extensive trade routes connected different areas of Sub-Saharan Africa; easy to tie into E. African trade



Comparison: Technology

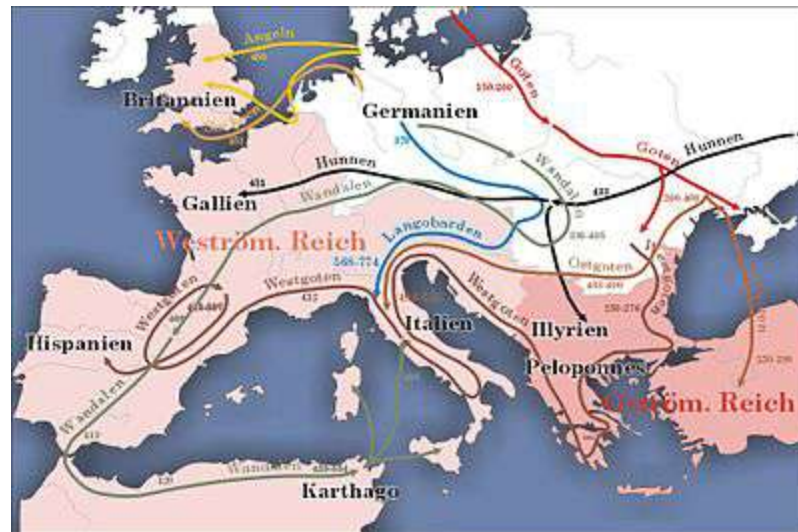
- ▶ Calm – sails had to be designed to catch the winds; large, square sails were developed
- ▶ Ships with three tiers of oars to move the vessels (Greek trireme)
- ▶ Ships nailed together
- ▶ Ships stayed near shore due to unreliable winds
- ▶ Strong seasonal monsoons – used lateen sail; triangular for maneuverability.
- ▶ No need for oars
- ▶ Smaller boats w/planks tied by palm fibers
- ▶ Ships traveled long distances across water

Mediterranean Sea

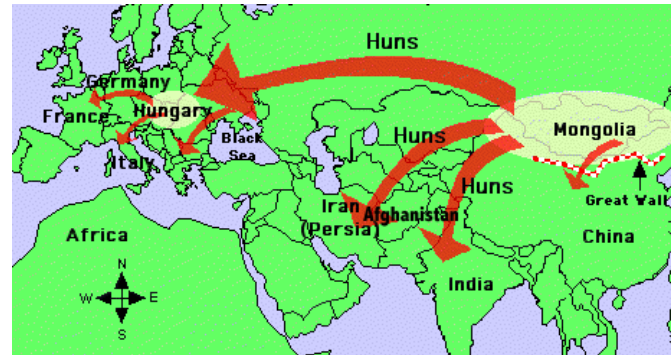
Indian Ocean

Classical Civilizations

Significant Migrations



Huns



- ▶ Late 4th C CE
- ▶ Westward migration from homeland in central Asia
- ▶ Probably related to drought and competition for grazing lands
- ▶ Attila organized people into a great attacking army
 - Hungary, Roman frontiers in the Balkans, Gaul, northern Italy
 - Late 5th C into India. Gupta treasury exhausted and their empire collapsed.

Germanic People

- ▶ As Huns moved in the Germanic people were displaced.
 - Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Franks, Angles, Saxons, and Vandals began to move.
- ▶ Huns had showed the weaknesses of the Romans, Germanic groups took advantage
- ▶ Romans encouraged groups to fight each other but over time they settled and created their own kingdoms which evolved into European countries.
 - Franks – France
 - Angles and Saxons – England

Bantu



- ▶ Most likely from area around the southern part of the Sahara
- ▶ Began to move about 2000 BCE possibly to desertification
- ▶ Traveled and retained their customs and language
- ▶ Language spread and combined with others
- ▶ Gradual process
 - Introduced agriculture, iron metallurgy, and Bantu language to most regions of Sub-Saharan Africa by 600 CE

Polynesians



- ▶ Peopling of the islands in Oceania was remarkable
- ▶ Gradual between 1500 BCE and 1000 CE
- ▶ Came from mainland Asia and expanded to Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa
- ▶ Used great double canoes w/platform between. Triangular sails.
- ▶ No written records
 - Accounts from early sailors and oral tradition

Late Classical Period

The Fall of Great Empires



The Fall of Great Empires

- ▶ Between 200 and 600 CE Rome, Han, Gupta collapsed all or in part
 - Attacks by nomadic groups; Huns affected all and their movement caused a domino effect.
 - Serious internal problems; difficulty maintaining control over vast lands and couldn't hold empire together. Rome and Han China also saw disputes between large landowners and peasants cause instability and unrest.
 - Problems of interdependence; as one weakened the trade routes became vulnerable, economic resources not available. Diseases spread along the trade routes.

The Fall of Great Empires

- ▶ Rome did not retain identity after it fell
- ▶ China and India lost political unity but both eventually reorganized into major world powers. Fall was not a fatal blow to the civilizations.
- ▶ Why?
 - Political power not the only 'glue' holding people together
 - Belief systems important sense of identity and Islam is on the horizon
 - Christianity came too late to be a unifying force in Rome (Hinduism/India – Confucianism/China)