

**Unit 3 – Mediterranean Society: The Greek and Roman Phase**  
**AP World History – Unit 3 Chapters 10 and 11**  
**Pages 231-287.**

● **Unit 3 – Mediterranean Society: The Greek Phase – Chapter 10 – Pages 231-256.**

**Early Development of Greek Society**

● **Minoan and Mycenaean Societies:**

- Minoan society arose on the island of Crete.
- Between 2200 and 1450 B.C.E., was the center of Mediterranean commerce.
- Minoans exchanged Cretan wine, olive oil, and wool for grains, textiles and manufactured goods.
- Received early influences from Phoenicia and Egypt.
- Mycenaean society: named after important city, Mycenae.
- Indo-European immigrants settled in Greece, 2000 B.C.E.
- They built stone fortresses in the Peloponnesus (southern Greece).
- Because the fortified sites offered protection, they soon attracted settlers who built small agricultural communities.
- Overpowered Minoan society and expanded to Anatolia, Sicily, and Italy.
- Chaos in the eastern Mediterranean after Trojan War (1200 B.C.E.)
- Trojan War

**The World of the Polis**

- Polis: Greek name for city-state.
- Athens and Sparta.
- Sparta and the Messenean War:
- The Spartans annexed all the territory of their neighbor, Messenia.
- The Messenians occupied a fertile plain and the Spartans found themselves with more than enough land to support themselves and their newly conquered people.
- Messenians revolted.
- This was no ordinary revolt, for not only did the Messenians almost win, they almost destroyed Sparta itself.
- Almost defeated, the Spartans were outnumbered 10 to 1, it was only a matter of time before the Messenians would overrun the Spartans.
- So the Spartans turned their city-state into a military state.
- The Messenians were turned into agricultural slaves called helots.
- Feudalism.
- Labor was long and hard and the helots always lived right on the border of subsistence.
- But Spartan society itself changed.
- The military and the city-state became the center of Spartan existence.
- The state determined whether children, both male and female, were strong when they were born.
- Weakling infants were left in the hills to die of exposure.
- At the age of seven, every male Spartan was sent to military school.
- These schools taught toughness, discipline, endurance of pain (often severe pain), and survival skills.
- At twenty, after thirteen years of training, the Spartan became a soldier.
- They did not surround themselves with luxuries, expensive foods, or opportunities for leisure.
- The ideology of Sparta was oriented around the state.
- The individual lived (and died) for the state.

- Their lives were designed to serve the state from their beginning to the age of sixty.
- Spartan society was divided into three main classes:
- Native Spartan.
- Foreign people who served as a kind of buffer population between the Spartans and the helots.
- Helots.
- Spartan women:
- Spartan women were taught reading and writing.
- They were also expected to be able to protect themselves.
- A Spartan girl's education was equally as brutal as the men's; many athletic events such as javelin, discus, foot races, and staged battles were also for both sexes.
- Marriage for a Spartan woman was an almost non-ceremonial event.
- The woman was abducted in the night by her suitor.
- Her head was shaved.
- She was made to wear men's clothing and lie on a straw pallet in the dark.
- From there on she would meet with her husband for almost entirely procreative reasons.
- Any Spartan man could abduct a wife, which led to a system of polyandry (many husbands, one wife or vice versa) in Sparta.
- Spartan women had many rights that other Greek women did not have.
- Namely, they could own and control their own property.
- They could also take another husband if their first had been away at war for too long.
- Athens:
- Established a government based on democratic principles.
- In 508 B.C.E., Cleisthenes instituted a new political organization whereby the citizens would take a more forceful and more direct role in running the city-state.
- He called this new political organization *demokratia*, or democracy – rule by the entire body of citizens.
- He created a Council of Five Hundred which planned the business of the public assemblies.
- Membership on the Council was for one year but it was possible to serve a second term.
- A minimum of 250 new members had to be chosen every year and it has been suggested that 35-45% of all Athenian citizens had experience on the Council.
- Around 460 B.C.E., Pericles used the power of the people in the law courts and the Assembly to break up the Council of Five Hundred.
- Under Pericles, ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY came to mean the equality of justice and the equality of opportunity.
- Only free adult males played a role in public affairs.
- Foreigners, slaves, and women had no direct voice in government.

#### Greece and the Larger World

- Greek Colonization:
- Increasing population strained the resources available in the rocky and mountainous Greek peninsula.
- Between 850 B.C.E. and 600 B.C.E., they founded more than 400 colonies.
- The most popular sites were Sicily and southern Italy.
- Marseilles in southern France.

- <http://www.mhhe.com/bentley3ch10maps>
- These colonies provided merchants with fertile fields that yielded an agricultural surplus.
- Access to copper, zinc, tin, and iron ores of central Italy.
- Greek colonies in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea:
- These settlements offered merchants access to rich supplies of grain, fish, furs, timber, honey, wax, gold, and slaves captured in southern Russia.
- Unlike their counterparts in other lands, the Greeks did NOT build a centralized imperial state.
- Colonies often did not take guidance from the polis, but charted their own course.
- The Persian Wars:
- After the Persian Wars, the poleis created an alliance known as the Delian League to discourage further Persian actions in Greece.
- Because of its superior fleet, Athens became the leader of the alliance.
- Athens supplied the military force, others contributed financial support, which went to the Athenian treasury.
- These contributions financed Athenian democracy, construction projects.
- Resentment from the other poleis because the Persian threat had ended.
- Result:
- Peloponnesian War – Athens v. Sparta.
- By 404 B.C.E. the Spartans had forced the Athenians to unconditional surrender.
- Hegemony in the Greek world passed to Sparta, Thebes and Corinth.

#### The Macedonians and the Coming of Empire

- The kingdom of Macedon, a frontier state north of peninsular Greece.
- Philip of Macedon (reigned 359-336 B.C.E.) brought Greece under control.
- Alexander of Macedon succeeds Philip at age twenty and begins conquests.
- By 331 B.C.E., controlled Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia.
- Invaded Persian homeland and burned Persepolis, 331 B.C.E.
- Crossed Indus River by 327 B.C.E., army refused to go farther.
- Died in 323 B.C.E. at age of thirty-three.
- Hellenistic Empires: Alexander's realm was divided into Antigonid, Ptolemaic, Seleucid.
- Antigonid empire: Greece and Macedon.
- The Ptolemaic empire: Egypt--the wealthiest.
- The rulers did not interfere in Egyptian society.
- Alexandria, capital at mouth of the Nile.
- Cultural center: the famous Alexandria Museum and Alexandria Library.
- The Seleucid empire: largest, Persia.
- Greek and Macedonian colonists flocked to Greek cities of the former Persia.
- Colonists created a Mediterranean-style urban society.

#### The Fruits of Trade: Greek Economy and Society

- The geography of the Greek peninsula posed difficult challenges for its inhabitants:
- Mountainous terrain.
- Rocky soil.
- Yielded only small harvests of grain.
- Southern Balkan mountains hindered travel and communication.
- Much of Greece was more accessible by sea than by land.
- Early Greek society depended heavily on maritime trade.

- Trade and commerce flourished resulting in population growth and more colonies.
- Production of olive oil and wine, in exchange for grain and other items.
- Led to broader sense of Greek community.
- Pan-Hellenic Festivals:
- Relating to all Greek peoples or a movement to unify them.
- Greeks from all parts gathered periodically to participate in festivals that featured athletic, literary, or musical contests.
- Olympic Games.
- Established a sense of collective identity.
- Family and Society:
- Patriarchal society was the norm.
- Women could not own landed property but could operate small businesses.
- Priestess was the only public position for women.
- Sappho: Talented female poet wrote poems of attraction to women.
- Instructed young women in music and literature at home.
- Critics charged her with homosexual activity (not acceptable for women).
- Slavery: private chattel, property of their owners.
- Worked as cultivators, domestic servants.
- Educated or skilled slaves worked as craftsmen and business managers.

#### The Cultural Life of Classical Greece

- Rational thought and philosophy.
- The formation of Greek cultural traditions: philosophy based on human reason.
- Socrates (470-399 B.C.E.): "An unexamined life is not worth living."
- Encouraged reflection on questions of ethics and morality.
- Was condemned to death on charge of corrupting Athenian youths.
- Human reason was more important than wealth or fame.
- Plato (430-347 B.C.E.): A zealous disciple of Socrates.
- The theory of *Forms and Ideas*--world of ideal qualities.
- His *Republic* expressed the ideal of philosophical kings.
- Aristotle (384-322 B.C.E.): Plato's student.
- Devised rules of logic to construct powerful arguments.
- Philosophers should rely on senses to provide accurate information.
- Legacy of Greek philosophy:
- Plato and especially Aristotle were influential in later Christian and Islamic thinking.
- Art & Architecture
- Greek artists portrayed the human figure in idealized realism.
- Paintings and sculptures show humans in the perfect form.
- Greek architects build elaborate buildings using marble and the Greek column.
- The most famous example of Greek architecture is the Parthenon in Athens.
- Many buildings around the world today use Greek architectural ideas.
- Math & Science
- Greek mathematician Pythagoras, developed a formula to calculate the relationship between the sides of a right triangle, a method still in use today.
- Aristarchus, a Greek astronomer, discovered that the earth rotated on its axis, and revolved around the sun.
- Eratosthenes discovered that the earth was round, and accurately calculated its circumference.
- Euclid wrote a book called *The Elements*, which is the basis for modern geometry.

- A Greek scientist named Archimedes tried to use science for more practical matters, he showed how the use of a lever and pulley system could lift just about any weight.
- **Medicine**
- Hippocrates, a 5th century BCE physician, studied the causes of illnesses and experimented with various cures.
- He is also credited with creating a set of ethical standards for doctors called the Hippocratic Oath.
- Popular religion and Greek drama:
- Greek deities: Zeus and scores of subordinate deities.
- **Who's Who in Greek Mythology:**
- Aphrodite Goddess of Love
- Dionysus God of Wine
- Eros God of Love
- Hades God of the Underworld
- Helios God of the Sun
- Odysseus Trojan Warrior
- Poseidon God of the Sea
- Zeus King of Gods
- Various types of religious cults; Cult of Dionysus most popular.
- Its members would intoxicate themselves with wine, and this utter inebriation was considered to be actual possession by Dionysus.
- They would engage in orgies and the like, and, sometimes, violence.
- Added excitement was provided by sacramental communion with the god in the eating of the flesh and drinking of the blood identified with him.
- Understandably, this cult was spectacularly popular:
- It spread from Greece, to Egypt, to Rome, to Italy in the course of a couple hundred years.
- Drama was performed at annual theatrical festivals.
- Great tragedians explored the possibilities and limitations of human action.
- Video: Tragedy and *Oedipus Rex*.
- Comic drama took delight in lampooning the public figures.
- In the Athenian democracy, the public opinion of voters was remarkably influenced by the political satire performed by the comic poets at the theaters.
- Early Greek literature was in the form of plays developed for religious ceremonies.
- Famous writers, such as Aeschylus and Sophocles, wrote tragedies and comedies about human conflict and interaction between the gods and man.
- These stories were very popular, and became the basis for modern literature.
- The Greeks were also the first historians.
- Herodotus, known as the Father of History, wrote books chronicling historical events, such as the Persian War.
- 3 schools of thought:
- Epicureans: identified pleasure as the greatest good.
- Skeptics: doubted certainty of knowledge.
- Stoics: taught individuals duty to aid others and lead virtuous lives; all humans belonged to a single, universal family.
- Religions of salvation spread through trade routes.
- Mystery religions promised eternal bliss for believers; like Cult of Osiris.
- Speculation about a single, universal god emerged.

### Mediterranean Society: The Greek and Roman Phase

- Unit 3 – Mediterranean Society: The Roman Phase – Chapter 11 – Pages 259-287.

#### From Kingdom to Republic

- Romulus and Remus: legendary twins rescued by a she-wolf; founded Rome in 753 B.C.E.
- The Etruscans dominated Italy eighth to fifth centuries B.C.E.
- The kingdom of Rome was on the Tiber River.
- The river made it easy to travel to and from the sea.
- The Tiber is very shallow near Rome.
- Seven hills surround Rome.
- The hills make it harder for invaders to approach the city and served as lookout areas for the Romans.
- Rome is also close to excellent farmland and an abundance of wood and stone.
- The patricians were the noble families of Rome.
- In 509 B.C.E., a group of patricians expelled the Etruscan king and decreed that Rome would be a republic.
- Republican constitution included two consuls: civil and military.
- Consuls were elected by an assembly dominated by the patricians.
- Senate advised the consuls and ratified major decisions.
- Both Senate and consuls represented the interests of the patricians.
- A republic is a form of government with elected officials.
- The patricians elected senators to serve their interests.
- The senate selected two people to serve as Consuls in place of the Etruscan king.
- The plebeians were the merchants, farmers, and artisans of Rome.
- They were allowed to vote, but only Patricians were allowed in the senate.
- In 471 B.C.E., the plebeians elected a tribune.
- Ten men represented the plebeians against any political oppression by the consuls or the patricians.
- By 287 B.C.E., the laws passed by the plebeians were binding for all Romans, including the patricians.
- The senate met in the Forum, a marketplace in the valley among the hills that surround Rome.
- The senators would rule on the military and foreign affairs, but the tribunes protected the rights of the plebeians.
- When a tribune objected to a law, he would shout "veto."
- If enough tribunes objected, they could stop the law from passing.
- The Romans fought three wars against Carthage, a city on the north coast of Africa.
- The wars are known as the Punic Wars because *Puncia* was the Roman name for Carthage.
- The first war was fought over Sicily, an island controlled by Carthage in the Mediterranean Sea off the southwest coast of the Italian peninsula.
- In 265 B.C.E., Sicily was richer than any other land in the area and a perfect target for the Roman army.
- The Romans won the war and forced Carthage to give up Sicily.
- A generation after the first war, Rome attacked Carthage a second time, but a young Carthaginian general named Hannibal nearly captured Rome.
- The Romans expected Carthage to attack from the sea, but Hannibal commanded an army from land Carthage controlled in modern Spain.

- Hannibal led his army in a daring and difficult journey over the Alps while riding on elephants.
- Hannibal's army might have defeated the Romans, but Hannibal returned home to defend his native land when Roman soldiers invaded Africa in 202 BC.
- The Roman army defeated Hannibal in Africa and won the second Punic War.
- Carthage was no longer in a position to hurt Rome after the second Punic War, but in 149 B.C.E., Roman leaders decided to destroy Carthage.
- Rome defeated Carthage after almost three years of war.
- After a siege in 146 B.C.E. the Romans went from house to house slaughtering the people of Carthage.
- They sold the remaining citizens into slavery, burned Carthage's harbor, and poured salt on the Carthaginian farmland.

#### From Republic to Empire

- In Rome, patterns of land distribution caused serious political and social tensions.
- Conquered lands fell largely into the hands of wealthy elites.
- The wealthy organized enormous plantations known as *latifundia*.
- Employed slave labor.
- Operated at lower costs.
- Relations between the classes became strained (200-100 B.C.E.)
- The Gracchi brothers worked to limit the amount of conquered land that any individual could hold.
- Had little success.
- Both were assassinated.
- Gracchi brothers incident shows the constitution of the Roman republic, originally designed for a city-state, was NOT suitable for a large empire.
- Why?
  - A. –
  - B. – Army was intensely loyal to generals.
- Civil war.
- Julius Caesar:
  - Caesar sought the office of consul in 60 BC.
  - He had recently returned from Spain where he served a year as governor.
  - The two consuls at the time were Crassus and Pompey, the leaders of the war against the slave revolt.
  - Rather than become involved in a struggle, Caesar convinced Crassus, Pompey, and the Roman Senate to name him a third consul.
  - This coalition of three equal rulers later became known as the First Triumvirate.
  - When Caesar's year-long term as consul ended, he used his influence to get himself appointed governor of Gaul.
  - Gaul was a territory northwest of the Italian peninsula.
  - He led an army that captured most of Western Europe.
  - Caesar's successes on the battlefield made him the most popular man in Rome.
  - In 49 BC, the Senate ordered Caesar to return to Rome, but to leave his army behind.
  - Caesar feared that his opponents would destroy him, so he ignored the order and marched his army back to Rome.
  - Caesar's orders clearly told him not to bring his army across the Rubicon River.
  - When he marched the army across the river, he knew he faced an important decision.

- Caesar knew that if he obeyed the senate and disbanded his army, his career would be over.
- But if he marched his troops across the river, the Senate would order Pompey and his army to retaliate.
- Caesar's army seized control of Italy while Pompey and his army fled to Greece.
- Caesar hunted Pompey and defeated his army.
- Pompey then escaped to Egypt with Caesar in pursuit.
- When Caesar arrived in Egypt, the ten-year-old king of Egypt, Ptolemy XIII, presented Caesar with Pompey's decapitated head.
- The Roman people admired Caesar as a war hero and a strong leader.
- In 46 B.C.E., named himself dictator of Rome.
- Caesar used his power to make many changes in Rome, often without approval from the Senate.
- He instituted the Julian calendar of 365¼ days.
- Caesar's calendar is closely related to the calendar we use today.
- The month of July is named in honor of Caesar.
- Launched large scale building projects in Rome.
- Appointed some Gauls to the Roman senate.
- Extended Roman citizenship to peoples in the imperial provinces.
- Seized land from the conservatives and distributed it to his army veterans.
- The Roman senators were outraged at Caesar's power and popularity.
- On March 15, 44 BC, Caesar was met by a mob of sixty senators who stabbed the dictator to death.
- A year after Caesar's murder, the Senate selected Octavian, Lepidus and Marc Antony to lead the republic in the Second Triumvirate.
- Octavian was Caesar's teenage grandnephew.
- Marc Antony led the Roman army in Egypt, where he met and fell in love with Cleopatra.
- Defeated at the Battle of Actium.
- Both committed suicide.
- Octavian brought civil conflict to an end.
- Senate bestowed title "Augustus", 27 B.C.E.
- Created a new standing army under his control.
- Continuing expansion and integration of the empire.
- Roman expansion into Mediterranean basin, western Europe, down Nile to Kush.
- *Pax Romana*, Roman Peace, for two and a half centuries.
- Well-engineered Roman roads.
- Postal system.
- Roman law-tradition: Twelve Tables (450 B.C.E.).

#### Economy and Society in the Roman Mediterranean

- Trade and urbanization.
- Owners of *latifundia* focused on specialized production for export.
- Grain in North Africa, Egypt, and Sicily found its way to the large cities of the empire.
- Mediterranean trade.
- Sea lanes linked ports of the Mediterranean from Syria to North Africa.
- Roman navy kept the seas largely free of pirates.
- The Mediterranean became a Roman lake.
- *Mare nostrum* ("our sea").
- The city of Rome.



- Wealth of the city fueled its urban development.
- Statues, pools, fountains, arches, temples, stadiums, aqueducts, elaborate sewer system.
- First use of concrete as construction material.
- Rome attracted numerous immigrants.
- Attractions: baths, pools, gymnasia, circuses, stadiums, amphitheaters.
- Chariot races.
- Circus Maximus (250,000).
- Roman Colosseum (50,000).
- Battles to the death.
- Family and society in Roman times.
- The *pater familias*--eldest male of the family ruled.
- Authority to:
  - Arrange marriages.
  - Punishment.
  - Sell them into slavery.
  - Execute them.
- Middle aged women wielded considerable influence within their families.
- Many women supervised family business and wealthy estates.
- Strict limits on inheritance.
- Wealth and social change.
- Newly rich classes built palatial houses and threw lavish banquets.
- Cultivators and urban masses lived at subsistence level.
- Poor classes became a serious problem in Rome and other cities.
- No urban policy developed, only "bread and circuses."
- Slavery-one-third of the population.
- Spartacus's uprising in 73 B.C.E.
- Spartacus escaped and organized an army of 70,000 rebellious slaves.
- The Roman army dispatched eight legions, comprising more than 40,000 well-equipped, veteran troops, to quell the revolt.
- Urban slaves saw better conditions and possibility of manumission.
- It was common, though not mandatory, for masters to free urban slaves when they reached 35 years of age.

#### The Cosmopolitan Mediterranean

- Roman historian – Tacitus.
- Roman deities:
  - gods, goddesses, and household gods.
  - Jupiter – King of the Gods.
  - Neptune – lord of the seas.
- Greek influence—Stoicism.
- Appealed to Roman intellectuals.
- Prominent school of moral philosophy in Rome.
- Cicero (106-43 B.C.E.) persuasive orator and writer on Stoicism.
- Pursuit of justice was the individual's highest duty.
- Scorned those who became wealthy and powerful through unjust means.
- Religions of salvation gave sense of purpose and promised afterlife.
- Roman roads served as highways for religious spread.
- Mithraism was popular with Roman soldiers--men only.
- Mithras was a god closely identified with the sun and light.
- Roman soldiers serving in Anatolia encountered the cult of Mithras and adapted it to their interests.

- They associated it with military virtues such as strength, courage, and discipline.
- Offered hope for purposeful moral behavior.
- Afterlife – union with Mithras himself.
- Cult of Isis – Most popular before the rise of Christianity.
- Both men and women.
- Egyptian goddess as a benevolent and protective deity who nurtured her worshipers and helped them cope with the stresses of life.
- Judaism and early Christianity.
- Monotheistic Jews considered state cults to be blasphemy.
- The Essenes, sect of Judaism; Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Jesus of Nazareth.
- Charismatic Jewish teacher, taught devotion to God and love for human beings.
- Attracted large crowds through his wisdom and miraculous powers.
- The teaching "the kingdom of God is at hand" alarmed the Romans.
- Crucifixion in early 30s C.E.
- Became "Christ," or "the anointed one."
- The New Testament and the Old Testament became the holy book of Christianity.
- Paul of Tarsus was principle figure in spread of Christianity.
- Rapid growth of early Christianity.
- Strong appeal to lower classes, urban population, and women.
- Became the most influential faith in the Mediterranean by the third century C.E.
- Decline of the Roman Empire:
- Early symptoms.
- Mercenaries.
- Contrast between rich and poor.
- Inflation.
- Decline in population due to disease and food shortage.
- The decline of the Roman Empire took place over many years.
- Its final collapse was the result of worsening internal problems, the separation of the Western Empire from the wealthier Eastern part, and outside invasions.
- In 330 C.E., Constantine moved the capital from Rome to Byzantium, in what is now Turkey.
- Strategically located for trade and defense purposes.
- The city eventually took the name Constantinople.
- In 444 C.E., the Germanic Huns united under a powerful chieftain named Attila.
- With his 100,000 soldiers, he terrorized both halves of the empire.
- Attila died in 453 C.E., however, the Germanic invasions continued.
- The eastern half of the empire, which came to be called the Byzantine Empire, not only survived, but flourished.
- It preserved the great heritage of Greek and Roman culture for another 1,000 years.
- Empire fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 C.E.
- The last Roman emperor, a 14-year-old boy named Romulus Augustulus, was ousted by German forces in 476 C.E.
- After that, no emperor even pretended to rule Rome and its western provinces.