



Human Geography of Europe



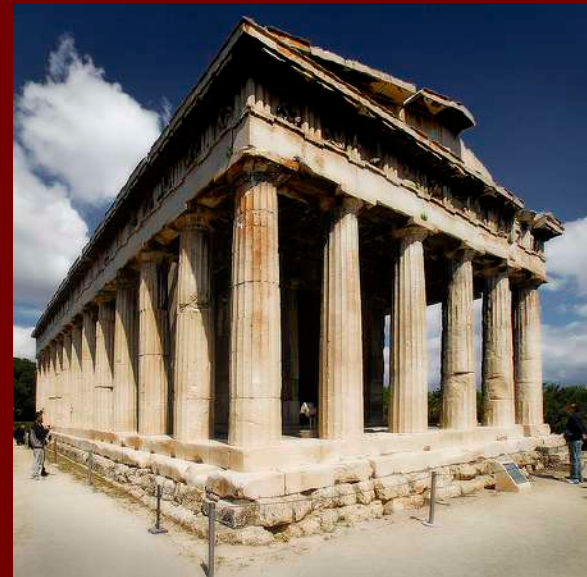
Mediterranean Europe

- The Mediterranean region was home to 2 great civilizations of ancient Europe:

-Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome

- 2 geographic advantages helped the Mediterranean become the region where European Civilization was born:

- 1) The mild climate made survival there easier
- 2) The Mediterranean Sea allowed for overseas trade



Four Forms of Government in Ancient Greece

- **Monarchy:** form of govt. in which the ruling power is in the hands of a single person. This was the case under the Mycenaean's who ruled Greece from 2000 to 1100 BCE.
- **Oligarchy:** Form of govt. in which the ruling power is in the hands of a few leaders. Between 1100 and 800 BCE small groups of people began to share the ruling power This was shared among aristocrats. People lacked full political rights

Four Forms of Government in Ancient Greece

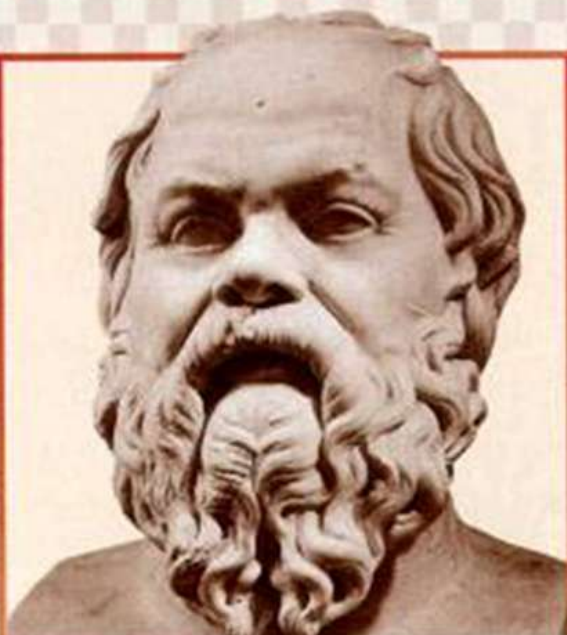
- **Tyranny:** form of govt. in which the ruling power is in the hands of an individual who has seized control, often by illegal means. Tyrannies in Greece first arose during the mid 600s BCE. Many tyrants only ruled for short periods of time.
- **Democracy:** form of govt. in which the ruling power is in the hands of all the people. Democracy developed in ancient Greece around 500 BCE in the city-state of Athens, where many people began to oppose the rule of the tyrants. One important fact. Public officials did not have that much individual power.

The First Democracy

- Ancient Greece left a lasting legacy to modern civilization. The city of Athens developed the first direct democracy.

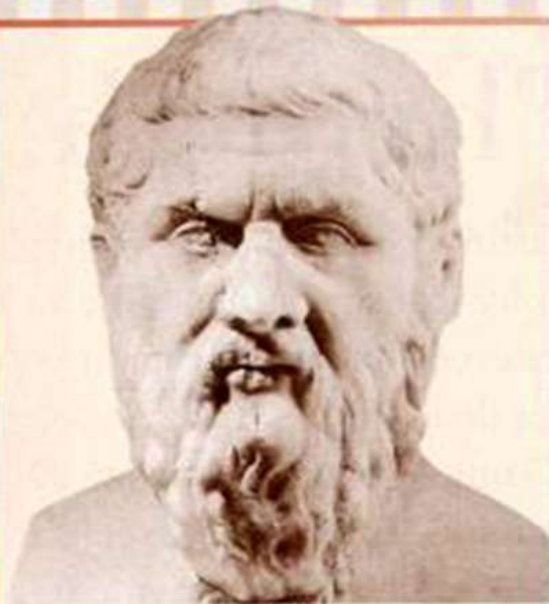


HISTORY MAKERS



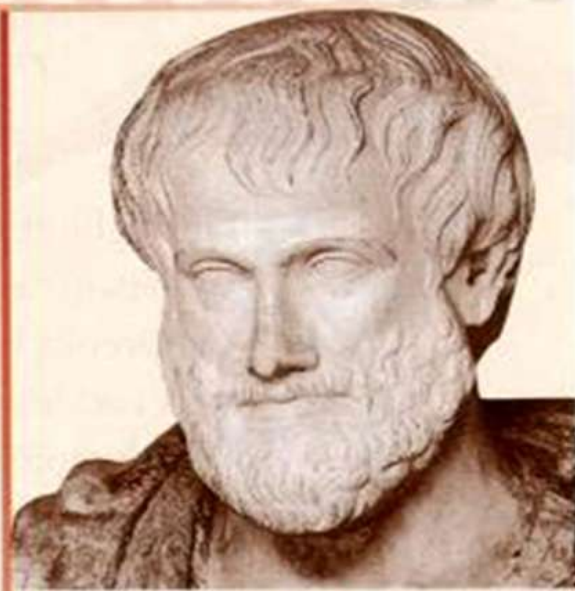
Socrates
469–399 B.C.

Socrates was one of the most powerful thinkers in history. He encouraged his students to examine their beliefs. Socrates asked them a series of leading questions to show that people hold many contradictory opinions. This method of teaching by a question-and-answer approach is known as the *Socratic method*. He devoted his life to gaining self-knowledge and once wrote, "There is only one good, knowledge; and one evil, ignorance."



Plato
427–347 B.C.

Born into a wealthy Athenian family, Plato had careers as a wrestler and a poet before he became a philosopher. He studied with Socrates. After his teacher died in 399 B.C., Plato left Greece and traveled to North Africa and Italy. He later returned to Athens and founded a school called The Academy in 387 B.C. The school lasted for approximately 900 years. It was Plato who once stated, "Philosophy begins in wonder."



Aristotle
384–322 B.C.

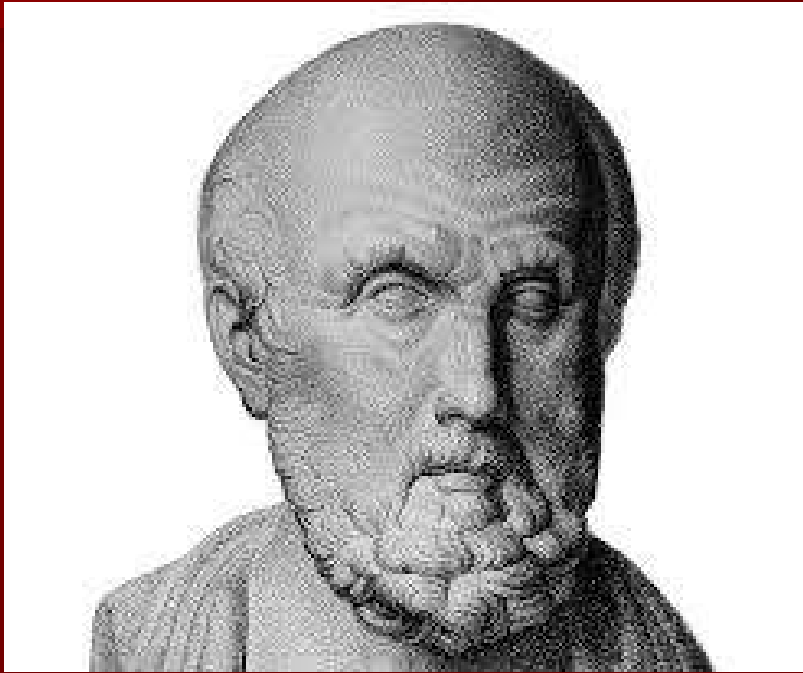
Aristotle, the son of a physician, was one of the brightest students at Plato's academy. He came there as a young man and stayed for 20 years until Plato's death. In 335 B.C., Aristotle opened his own school in Athens called the Lyceum. The school eventually rivaled the Academy. Aristotle once argued, "He who studies how things originated and came into being . . . will achieve the clearest view of them."

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**.
- **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.

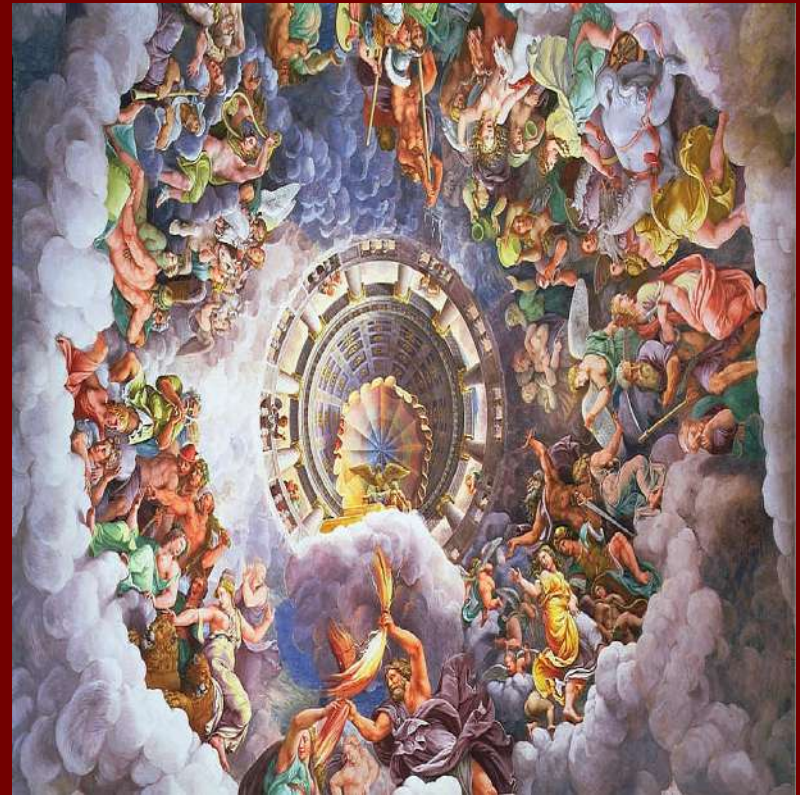
Medicine

- **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**.



Religion

- Polytheistic
- Greeks used myths and gods to explain nature
- Mt. Olympus- home of the gods
- Supreme god - Zeus
- Greeks held festivals to honor gods, i.e. Olympic Games





ANCIENT ROME

ROME

The Roman Republic/Empire

- In 338 B.C. Ancient Rome came to power. The territories it controlled became known as the Roman Republic/Empire
- Romans adapted Greece's democratic government and created the first Republic
- As the Roman Empire grew it gained territories as far away as Southwest Asia in a region known as Palestine, which included Jerusalem, the city where Jesus was born.



Rome's Beginnings

■ Mythical Version:

- ~ Trojan prince Aeneas discovers Latins while searching for new homeland
- ~ The legend of Romulus and Remus explains the creation of Rome

■ Historical Version:

- ~ Latin people settled on the Palentine Hill in Rome
- ~ Etruscans conquered the Latins; ruled harshly
- ~ Rome was ruled as a monarchy for over 200 years
- ~ Romans overthrew the Etruscan kings and established a Republic in 509 BCE

The Decline of the Republic: Julius Caesar

- **Celebrated Roman general and statesman.**
- **Formed a Triumvirate with Crassus and Pompey**
- **A battle for control results in a civil war**
- **Caesar won and declared himself “dictator for life” (46-44 BCE)**
- **Est. social reforms giving assistance to the poor and re-distributed land**
- **Est. the Julian Calendar- used through the 17th century**
- **Expanded the Roman Republic by invading Gaul, Britain, Libya, Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor**

Assassination of Julius Caesar

- **Many criticized his king-like status, citing an ancient law that anyone trying to be king should be killed**
- **A group of Senators plotted to kill Caesar at the Senate building**
- **On March 15, 44 BCE, Caesar was stabbed by multiple Senators**
- **A second triumvirate was formed by Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus – divided the Roman world in 3 parts**
- **Octavian defeated the others and became the sole ruler of Rome**
- **He was renamed Augustus Caesar & the 1st emperor of Rome**

The Rise of Christianity

- **Judea was a province of Rome; Jews were banned from living in Jerusalem**
- **Jesus went to Jerusalem and began preaching his message**
- **Roman and Jewish leadership saw Jesus as a threat & he was crucified**
- **The new faith began as a sect of Judaism based on the belief that the messiah had been resurrected**
- **Became a separate religion as it was spread to the pagan world**
- **Paul traveled widely to spread the faith - incorporated old pagan traditions with new Christian traditions**
- **Christians were persecuted by until the 300s CE**
- **Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity (312 CE) & issues the Edict of Milan (313 CE)**
- **Emperor Theodosius makes Christianity the official religion of the entire empire (392 CE)**

Decline of the Empire

- **Problems in the empire:**
 - ~ **Political Instability**
 - ~ **Economic Decline**
 - ~ **Social Issues**
 - ~ **Barbarian Invasions**
- **Constantine moved the capital to the city of Byzantium and renamed it Constantinople**
- **After the death of Theodosius, the eastern part of the Roman Empire became known as the Byzantine Empire**
- **Barbarian invasions by the Visigoths, Huns, and Vandals led to the fall of Rome in the late 400s CE**
- **Led to a dark age in Europe; lack of a strong central govt.**

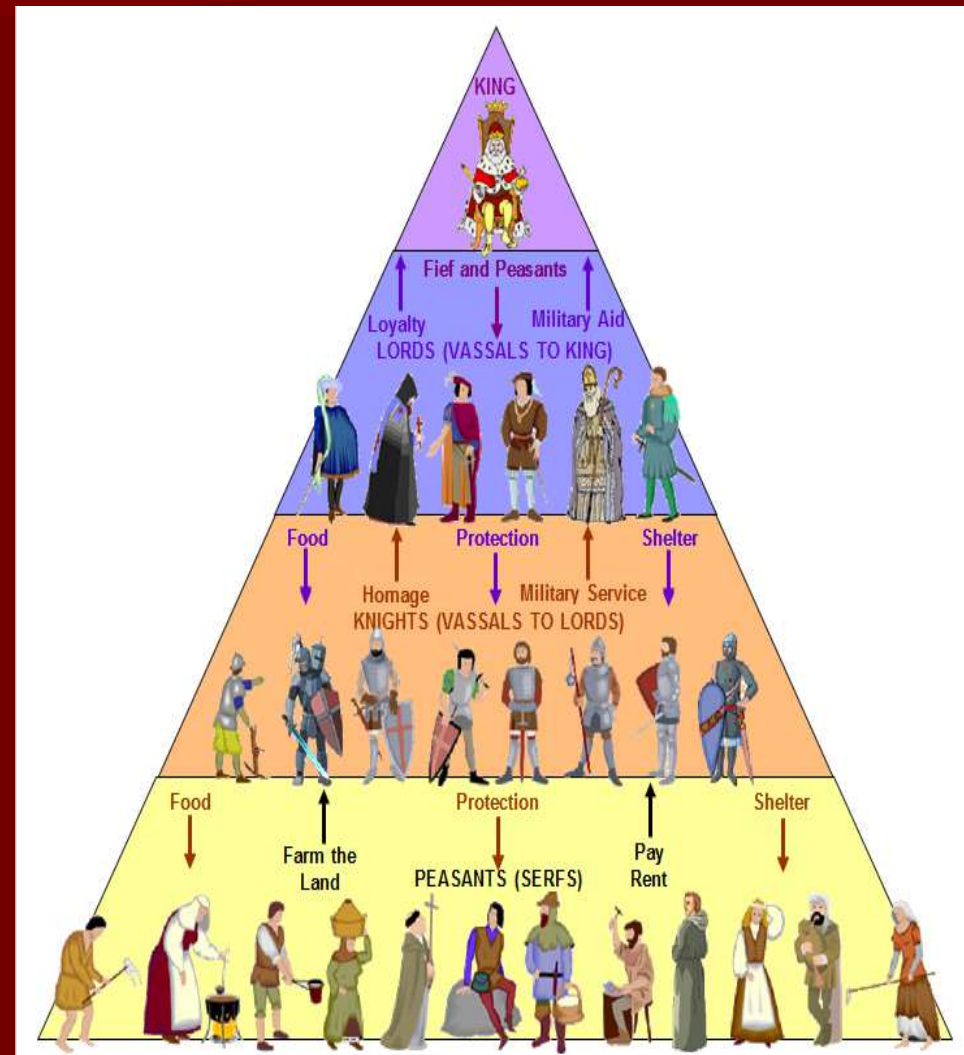
The Germanic Invasions, AD 378-439



This map shows the breakdown of the Roman frontier in the late fourth and early fifth centuries CE. Great cities including Augusta Treverorum (modern Trier) and Rome itself were sacked by invading barbarian forces. Historians debate the reasons for what happened, but one of them was the rise of the Huns in Central Asia. As they moved westwards, they pushed against the various Germanic and Gothic tribes. These, in turn, looked for refuge and plunder inside the Roman Empire.

Medieval Europe

- Lasted for 1,000 years between 500-1500 ACE.
- Previously known as the “**Dark Ages**” because the invaders destroyed all works of art and education stopped. However, the green revolution took place as well as other technological innovation.
- Between 900-1400, **Feudalism** became the political, economic, and social structure of Europe.
- Absolute Monarchies and the Roman Catholic Church amassed enormous power.



The Crusades

- The region of Palestine was officially Muslim. The leaders of the Roman Empire wanted the region to become Christian since it was originally the birth place of Jesus Christ.
- In 1096, European Christians launched the Crusades, a series of wars to take Palestine away from the Muslims.
- This led to the spread of Christianity throughout Europe, and became Rome's official religion.



The Renaissance

- The Renaissance, which began in Italy, was a time of renewed interest in learning and the arts that lasted from the 14th – 16th centuries.
- This period of time was inspired by many Italian classical artists and writers.
- Renaissance ideas began in Italy, but eventually spread throughout the rest of Europe.



The Reformation

- During the Renaissance, almost all of Europe was under the law of the Catholic Church.
- At this time, the Catholic Church was very corrupt and scholars began questioning its authority.
- In 1517, a German man named Martin Luther published 95 statements that criticized church practices that he believed were wrong.
- This began the Reformation, a period of time when many Christians broke away from the Catholic Church and started Protestant churches.



Western Europe

- France and Germany are the dominant countries in Western Europe.
- They are the 2 largest countries in Western Europe, and their access to resources, ports, and trade routes helped them to build productive economies.



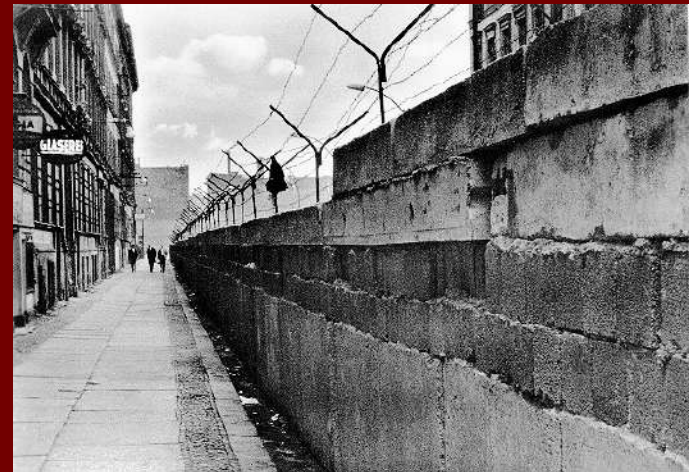
Eastern Europe

- Eastern Europe is considered to be the cultural crossroads of Europe.
- Since ancient times, people moving between Europe and Asia (traders, migrants, armies, etc.) have passed through this region.
- Because the region is an important crossroads, many world powers have tried to control it.



Germany Divided

- After WWII and the Holocaust, Germany was split into 2 nations and the Berlin Wall was built:
 - West Germany was allied with non-communist Europe
 - East Germany was allied with communist Soviet Union
- It wasn't until 1989 that East Germany completely opened the Berlin Wall and the 2 Germanys reunited under a democratic government.



The Soviet Union

- The Soviet Union controlled Eastern Europe for 4 decades under communist rule.
- By the late 1980's, the Soviet Union gained a new leader named Mikhail Gorbachev, who gave Eastern Europe more freedom.



Challenges in Eastern Europe

- Since gaining independence, many Eastern European countries have struggled with economic growth and political freedom.
- Eastern Europe is much less developed than the rest of Europe, since it was under Soviet rule for so many years.
- Eastern European minority groups have often faced discrimination. Throughout history, Jews have suffered from anti-Semitism, which is discrimination against Jewish people.
- To obtain true democracy, Eastern Europeans need to overcome old hatreds and work together.