CHAPTER 1
From Human Prehistory to the Early Civilizations

CHAPTER OUTLINE SUMMARY
Introduction
- Stages of early material and social development
- Technological and organizational innovations made possible by agriculture
- Social, political, intellectual, artistic effects of agricultural way of life
- Two main adaptations to diverse ecosystems: farming and pastoral peoples


Human species
- Emerged 2 to 2.5 million years ago
- Spread to every landmass (except polar regions)
- Drawbacks: violence, dependencies of babies, back pain, awareness of death
- Advantages: opposable thumb, sexual drive, omnivorous, expressions, brains, speech
- Paleolithic (Old Stone) Age accounts for two million plus years of human development
- Simple tools: rocks, sticks for hunting and warfare
- Fire tamed about 750,000 years ago
- *Homo erectus* emerged between 500,000 and 750,000 years ago

A. Late Paleolithic Developments
- *Homo sapiens sapiens* originated about 240,000 years ago
  - Bands of hunter gatherers, significant equality between sexes
  - Communication facilitated group cooperation and transmission of technical knowledge
- Greatest achievement of Paleolithic people: sheer spread of species across the earth
  - Migrations out of eastern Africa facilitated by: scarcity, fire, animal skins for clothing
  - Land bridge from Siberia to Alaska facilitated migrations into Americas 30,000 years ago
  - Warmer climates and rising ocean levels eliminated land bridge by 8000 B.C.E.
- Chinese settlers reached Taiwan, the Philippines, and Indonesia 4500 to 3500 years ago

Mesolithic (Middle Stone) Age
- From about 12,000 to 8000 B.C.E.
  - After end of last great ice age
  - Improved tool development aided transportation, housing, fishing, and food preparation
  - Animals domesticated
      - Increases in population resulted in conflict and warfare
      - More dramatic changes occur in Neolithic (New Stone) Age
  - Agriculture, cities, and other foreshadowings of civilization

II. The Neolithic Revolution

Development of agriculture: deliberate planting for later harvest
- Fueled population increase from 6 to 8 million to 100,000 million people in 3000 years
- Gave rise to elaborate social and cultural patterns we would recognize today

Conditions for agricultural development
  - Retreat of last great ice age
  - Climate conducive to improved food supply increases population
  - Population increase prompts search for new, reliable food
  - End of ice age replaced big animals like Mastadons with smaller game in forested areas
  - By 9000 B.C.E. people increasingly turn to wild grains, berries, nuts

The Domestication of Plants and Animals
  - Plants: first by accident, slow development to seed selection and deliberate planting
Animals: (By 9000 B.C.E.) pigs, sheep, goats, cattle for meat, skins, and dairying
Early stage agricultural as well as nomadic societies

A. The Geography of Early Agriculture
Farming initiated in Middle East: arc of territory from present-day Turkey to Iraq and Israel
Began as early as 10,000 B.C.E., advanced rapidly after 8000 B.C.E.
Stimulated by fertility of region, barley and wheat, lack of forests with game
Gradual spread to other areas: parts of India, north Africa, Europe
Independent development in southeast Asia spreading to China, rice cultivation
Spread from Mediterranean coast to west Africa by 2000 B.C.E., local grains, root crops
Independent development in the Americas around 5000 B.C.E., corn cultivation
Meaning of “revolution”
- Dramatic shift towards agricultural societies but not in relation to speed
- Hunting and gathering persisted alongside agriculture
- Took thousands of years to develop and thousands more to spread

B. Patterns of Change
Term “revolution” appropriate in terms of magnitude of change
Agriculture required more regular work than hunting and gathering
Rewards of agricultural life
- Support larger population
- Better food supply
- Settlement with houses and villages
- Domesticated animals provided not only hides but wool for more varied clothing
Agriculture gained ground
- Success hard to deny
- Cleared forests drove out hunters or converted them
- Contagious diseases of settled peoples infected hunter-gatherers without immunities
Some hunting gathering societies persisted
- Small societies in southern Africa, Australia, islands of southeast Asia, northern Japan
- Isolated and unchanged until 100 years ago
- Northern Europeans and south Africans converted about 2000 years ago
- Central America and northern South America developed agriculture about 5000 years ago
- Most of North America hunting-and-gathering, limited agriculture until recent centuries
Herding societies
- Climate conducive to herding as the basic socioeconomic system of central Asia
- Nomadic invaders played vital role linking civilizations until a few centuries ago

C. Further Technological Change
Agriculture basis for rapid change in human societies
Stimulated greater wealth and larger populations, stimulating specialization and innovation
Agriculture required new techniques, knowledge, and tools
- Example: science to understand weather and flooding
- Example: need to store grains and seeds stimulated basket-weaving and pottery
- Example: First potter’s wheel (around 6000 B.C.E.) stimulated better, faster pottery production
Prehistory versus history
- Despite shift to agricultural societies in Neolithic period, technically still “prehistorical”
- Distinction based on concept of recordkeeping associated with writing
- Distinction blurred by current use of tools and burial sites as historical records
Preagricultural—agricultural distinction more to the point
Preagricultural change marked in thousands of years
- Agricultural change marked in decades and centuries
First big change: metal tools introduced in Middle East around 4000 B.C.E.
First copper, bronze soon after
By 3000 B.C.E. metal-working so common in Middle East, referred to as Bronze Age
Stone tools persisted in many parts of the world
Metal working extremely useful to agricultural and herding societies
  Metal hoes improved farming
  Metal weapons superior to stone or wood
Metal-working early specialization
Agriculture freed up labor, metal-working one such result
Specialization does not require innovation but does provide a climate of discovery
Knowledge of metals spread to other parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe
Manufacturing artisans as well as farmers benefited from knowledge of metals
Example: metal tools enhanced woodworking

III. Civilization
Agriculture the basis of building larger, more stable human communities
An exception: Mesolithic fishing villages along the lakes of Switzerland
Most hunting peoples moved in groups of tribes composed of 40 to 60 people
Hunting societies could not settle permanently without game running out
Some agricultural peoples remained unstable by employing the “slash and burn” method
  Definition: burning an area, cultivating crops until soil is depleted, moving on
  Example: People of the American South until 150 years ago
Herding peoples of central Asia, Middle East, Sudan, and elsewhere moved in tribal bands

A. Settled Societies
The major agricultural regions involved permanent settlements
Advantages: houses, wells, etc. built to last for generations
Key incentive for stability in Middle East, China, parts of Africa, India: irrigation devices to channel river water into fields
Settled villages—groupings of several hundred people—useful
  Advantageous to regulate river’s flow, build and maintain irrigation ditches and sluices
  Advantageous for defense
Characteristic pattern of residence from Neolithic period until our own day
Neolithic settlements spread in agricultural societies, as late as 1500 B.C.E.
Example: Çatal Hüyük
c. 7000 B.C.E., southern Turkey
Large (32 acres), lavish décor in buildings, religious images common, some trade
By 1500 B.C.E., engaged in production activities such as tools and jewelry
Political and military specializations emerged with growth of linked cities and villages
  Emergence of kings with divine status
By 3000 B.C.E., Çatal Hüyük identified as civilization
Characteristics of civilization appeared as early as 6000 or 5000 B.C.E.
Origins of civilization around 3500 B.C.E. in Middle East along Tigris and Euphrates rivers
  Northern Africa (Egypt) soon after
  Northwestern India along Indus river around 2500 B.C.E.
  These three civilizations had some interaction
  Two separate civilizations developed later in China and in Central America

B. Defining Civilization
(1) Inclusive definition: enough economic surpluses to form divisions of labor and a social hierarchy involving significant inequalities
(2) Narrower definition: formal political organizations or states as opposed to family or tribes
Most civilizations characteristically produced huge kingdoms or empires
Most civilizations depend on significant cities
  City a center of wealth, power, politics, ideas, art, intellectual activity, manufacture, trade
Most civilizations developed writing
First in Middle East around 3500 B.C.E., Cuneiform (writing with wedgelike characters)
Advantages: government messages, records, tax management, contracts, treaties
More elaborate political structures emerge as a result
Substantiates value of collecting data, building on the past, and gaining wisdom
Encourages notion of organized human inquiry
Broad literacy irrelevant for growth of civilizations, not common until under 200 years ago
History of civilization covers the history of most people as civilizations ruled most people
Civilized or not civilized
If defined narrowly, hunting, nomadic, and some agricultural societies not civilizations
Too few resources or stability or lack of writing and strong political organization
Long history of the civilized looking down on others
Example: Greeks called non-Greeks “barbarians”
Incorrect to view history as a divide between civilization and primitive nomads
Civilization not a synonym for “good”
Civilizations incur greater class, caste, ruler—ruled divisions, slavery, war, gender inequalities
Nomadic or hunter-gatherer people depend on word of mouth communications
Tends to promote intense social regulation, veneration of elders, less strict child rearing
Historical role of hunter-gatherers and nomads
Hunter-gatherers became increasingly isolated
Nomadic herding people flourish with aid of technologies in riding and weaponry
Nomads had major role in world trade and developing contact among settled peoples
Significance of civilizations
Technological, political, artistic, intellectual changes for large populations
Environmental impact such as deforestation, erosion, flooding due to agriculture and mining
Early river valley civilizations pilot tests of new social organizations
Consistent process of development and spread of civilization only begins about 1000 B.C.E.
C. Tigris—Euphrates Civilization
First civilization in Middle East—Mesopotamia
Developed: writing, law, trade, religion, money, elaborate architecture, city planning
By 4000 B.C.E. farmers familiar with copper, bronze, and had invented the wheel
They had a pottery industry and developed artistic forms
Irrigation required coordination of communities leading to complex political structures
By 3500 B.C.E. the Sumerians had developed the first real civilization
Achievements of the Sumerians
Alphabet and writing (cuneiform)
Astronomy, numerical system
Religion
Professional priests, rituals, shrines
Ziggurats first monumental architecture
Polytheism (gods in aspects of nature)
Patron gods, earth from water, flood story, gloomy afterlife
Legacy carried into Old Testament influencing Judaism, Christianity, Islam
Political and Social Organization
City-States
Establish boundaries
State religion
Courts
Kings
Defense, war
Priests
With kings, administer state land and slaves

Slavery
Warfare ensured supply of slaves
Variable existence, slaves could purchase freedom

Commerce
Agricultural prosperity
Irrigation, wheeled carts, fertilizers
Silver means of exchange, first money, facilitated trade

Defense
Region a constant temptation for invaders
Difficult to defend
Fell to Akkadians who continued Sumerian culture
Period of decline, followed by Babylonian rule

Babylonians
Extended own empire, bringing civilization to other parts of Middle East
Hammurabi
Law Code establishing courts, duties, rights, punishments

Invasions persisted, fragmentation followed
Semitic peoples and languages came to dominate but continued culture of the conquered
Greatest turmoil between 1200 and 900 B.C.E., favoring smaller, regional kingdoms
After 900 B.C.E., Assyrians, then Persians, created large new empires in the Middle East

D. Egyptian Civilization
Civilization formed by 3000 B.C.E. along Nile River
Benefited from trade and technological influence of Mesopotamia

Very different society and culture than Mesopotamia
Less open to invasion
Unified state for most of its history
Economy more government-directed, smaller business class

Government
Pharaoh, powerful king, intermediary between gods and men
Pharaohs built pyramids (splendid tombs) for themselves from 2700 B.C.E. onward

Continuity
Despite some disruptions, Egyptian civilization basically intact until after 1000 B.C.E.
Spread into Sudan, impact on later African culture
Interaction with African kingdom of Kush

Comparative achievements with Mesopotamia
Science and alphabet less developed
Math more advanced and influential
Art lively, colorful; architecture influential
Concept of afterlife more pleasant

E. Indian and Chinese River Valley Civilizations
Civilization formed by 2500 B.C.E. along Indus River
Large cities: Harappa and Mohenjo Daro, buildings had running water
Traded with Mesopotamia
Developed own alphabet and artistic forms
Invasions by Indo-Europeans and natural calamities destroyed much
Harappa writing still not deciphered
Not enough evidence to claim much about culture or influence on subsequent Indian culture
Indo-European migrants combined early Indian culture with their own

F. The Great Cities of the Indus Valley

Hundreds of miles apart but very similar layout and construction

Precise grid pattern, walled city and buildings of kiln-dried bricks

Inference: considerable coordination of labor power required

Large, well-fortified citadels

Inference: strong ruling class

Citadels possibly sanctuaries when attacked and community centers in peacetime

Structures appear to have included assembly halls, places of worship, and public baths

Citadel at Mohenjo Daro appears to have had a cloister housing priests nearby

Citadels had granaries nearby

Inference: ceremonial, preparation for shortages, regulation of grain production, sale

Complex agricultural system

Irrigation inferred

Cultivation of wheat, rye, peas, cotton, possibly rice

Animals domesticated

Fish dietary staple

Trade and contact

Harappa cities major trading centers

Trade enhanced with use of riverboats and ox carts

Jade from China

Jewels from Burma

Harappa stone seals manufactured in Indus region found in Mesopotamia

Seals used by merchants to ensure crates and urns remain unopened during transport

Inference: trade highly developed

Despite contact, did not adopt superior tools, weaponry of Mesopotamian metal-workers

Inferences: conservative, resistant to change, vulnerable to invasion

Harappa representations of mother goddesses and horned god found in Sumer and Persian Gulf

Inference: extensive trade of commodities throughout urban centers of Mesopotamia

Religion

Rule by priestly class functioning as intermediaries between populace and fertility gods

Demise of early Indus River Valley civilization

Short term disasters: flooding, earthquakes

Long-term climatic changes: shift in monsoon and temperature patterns, desertification

Urban centers abandoned

Invaders settle or take over

Evidence in changed pottery style, loss of town planning, quality of building

Inference: priestly elite lost control over artisans and laborers

Some invaders were Aryan herders

Replaced irrigation and agricultural development with cattle-raising

Economic decline followed shift away from crop cultivation

Evidence suggests violence a possible contributing factor in decline

Result possibly of flight from invaders or flooding

Three primary factors precipitating decline

Environmental changes

Related administrative decline

Nomadic migrations

G. Early Civilization in China

Developed independently along Yellow River (Huanghe), later contact with India and Middle East.
By 2000 B.C.E., irrigation, advanced technology, science, music, intellectual life, pottery, writing (ideographic)
By 1000 B.C.E., introduced iron and working with coal
Shang
  Shang kingdom laid foundations for Chinese civilization by 1500 B.C.E.
  Originally nomads, conquered Yellow River region establishing kingdom
  Horseback, chariots, bronze weapons
  Non-Shang subjects foot soldiers
  Warfare involved amased troops and hand-to-hand combat
Ruled by strong kings and system of vassalage to build empire
King intermediary between supreme being, Shangdi, and mortals
Kingdom viewed as center of world
Dominion all of humankind
Kings responsible for affairs of state, fertility of kingdom, well-being of subjects
Sizeable bureaucracy
System of vassalage providing land tenure, tribute, military service, administrative duties
  Common people provided labor and produce
Rituals, oracles, sacrifices
  Performed by rulers and nobility
  Purpose: fertility, avert or appease natural disasters, good crops, large families, etc.
  Sacrifices of grains, incense, wine, animals offered in elaborate cast bronze vessels
  Ritual ceremonies and contests offered human sacrifice
  Oracles—sacred people who could prophecy—performed by shamans
    Consulted for harvests, warfare, travel, marriages, etc.
  Ritual objects basis of artistic expression
Writing
  Shaman interpretation of patterns on bones or tortoise shells led to inscribing on them
  Standardization of designs evolved into consistent written character set
  Enlarged, simplified and stylized over time
  From bones and bronze, to bamboo slips, silk scrolls, wooden plates
  China invented paper in the 1st century C.E.
  Elaborate array of pens and inks
  Writing basis of Chinese culture
    Unified otherwise very diverse peoples, languages, regions into one common identity
    Began with elites but filtered into artisan and cultivating classes

IV. The Heritage of the River Valley Civilizations
Lasting impact
  Monuments like pyramids
Inventions
  Wheel
  Tamed horse
  Alphabets and writing implements
  Mathematical concepts like square root
  Calendar
  Functional monarchies and bureaucracies
These are the foundations of all later civilizations
All of the pioneering civilizations were in decline by 1000 B.C.E.
Diving line between early and later civilizations, especially in India
A. Heritage of Early Civilizations
  India: much ignorance of link between early and later civilizations
  China: definite connection between Shang and all that followed
Claim that Western civilization originated in Middle East and Egypt not precise
Romans emulated god-like king but other political forms less apparent
City-states persisted in Middle East
Ideas about slavery may have been passed on
Specific scientific achievements passed from Egypt to Greece, especially math
Techniques passed on but perhaps not concepts
Hard to assess continuity regarding ideas like humankind’s relationship with nature
Can measure continuity of art and architecture
Mesopotamian art and Egyptian architecture influenced the Greeks
Greeks influenced European and Muslim cultures

B. New Societies in the Middle East
Connection between early and later civilizations found in smaller cultures
Regional cultures influenced by Mesopotamians and Egyptians
Often flourished while larger civilizations were in decline
Became influential in their own right
Phoenicians
Simplified writing, devised 22 letter alphabet, predecessor of Latin and Greek
Improved Egyptian numbering, set up colonies and trading centers around Mediterranean
Lydians first introduced coined money

C. Judaism
Jews most influential of smaller Middle Eastern groups
Semitic, influenced by Babylonians, settled around Mediterranean around 1200 B.C.E.
Introduced monotheism
Single God guided destinies of the Jewish people
Priests and prophets defined and emphasized this belief
History of God’s guidance of his people, basis for the Hebrew Bible
Jewish religion and moral code survived foreign rule from 772 B.C.E. to Roman conquest in 63 B.C.E.
Judaism survives to this day, also basis of Christianity and Islam
Durability sustained by lack of interest in converting non-Jews
Jewish God increasingly abstract, less humanlike
Represents basic change
God: powerful, rational, just
Linked ethical conduct and moral behavior
Religion a way of life not a set of rituals and ceremonies
Greatest impact when Jewish beliefs were embraced by proselytizing faiths

D. Assessing the Early Civilization Period
Legacy that flourished, persisted, and spread across Europe, Africa, Asia
Basic tools
Intellectual concepts like mathematics and writing
Political forms
Break between institutions of early and later civilizations
Fairly firm break in India resulting from climatic shifts, invasions, political decline
China, an exception, relatively continuous forms flow from early to later civilization
Middle East break from riverine civilizations to following Persian and Greek empires
Middle East smaller cultures provided bridge, producing new inventions and ideas
Significant theme: proliferating contact against backdrop of fierce local identity
Increased diversity of languages and cultures across planet
Concurrent increased trade/contact between groups
By 1000 B.C.E., Phoenicians traded with Britain, Egypt traded with China
Civilization an integrating force at the regional level
Unique development of civilizations, only sporadic contact between them
Smaller identities persisted

Shared features of early civilizations
  Cities, trade, writing, etc. meeting common basic definition of civilization

Diversity of civilizations
  Each civilization unique in its processes, beliefs, attitudes, styles, etc.
CHAPTER 2
Classical Civilization: China

Chapter Outline Summary
Introduction
Kung Fuzi (Confucius)

late Zhou era, 500s B.C.E.
Quest to become advisor to the ideal ruler
Among many wandering scholars
Attracted disciples

Analects, collected sayings
Political, social philosophy foundational for China through the ages
Idealized strong rulers, centralized administration, educated elite
responsible for well-being of subjects
Ethical, not religious, system encompassing duties, manners for family
as well as state
Art, music, calligraphy

Chapter Focus

Conditions for rise of Confucianism
Teachings of Legalism, Daoism, Buddhism
Fluctuations in thought with various dynasties and political systems
Persistence of Confucianism in 20th century
Influence throughout Asia from Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and elsewhere
Aspects of Confucianism captivated major thinkers in Europe and

I. Establishment of Political Order

Break down of dynastic control between 8th and 3rd centuries B.C.E.
Yellow and Yangzi river basins, north China plain
Multiple states, nomadic raids and settling, assimilation
By 221 B.C.E., warrior, Shi Huangdi, unified territory under Qin dynasty
A tyrant, died in 210 B.C.E.; son less capable
Two peasants lead revolt, topple Qin in 207 B.C.E.

Rise of Han dynasty, Han lasts for 400 years
Consolidated and extended Chinese civilization
Largest, most effective bureaucracy in pre-industrial world
Civil service exams, professional administration
Effective creation of Chinese identity: “sons of Han”
Identity sustaining during periods of war, invasion, internal conflict
Han dynasty collapsed in 3rd century C.E.

A. Cultural Traditions

China first great classical society
Isolation: growth with only limited invasions, development of unique
identity
Shang collapse; able to build on their advances, especially technologically
Shang and Zhou intellectual heritage

Basic harmony of nature
Every yin has its opposite yang, example: male/female, hot/cold, etc.
Individual expectation to relate to that nature, not an outsider to it
Worldview intrinsic, unifying force to diverse Chinese philosophies
Government, philosophy, economy, family, individual intended to blend as whole

II. Patterns in Classical China
China has clearest link with its past
Pattern set in motion from classical period
Dynasties: families of kings
  Initiate rule of family with strong institutions and economy
  Followed by weaker leaders, tax revenue loss, increase in social divisions
  Internal rebellions, sometimes invasions, hasten decline
  New family dynasty emerges from a general, invader, or peasant rebel
Chinese cyclical conception of history contrasted with Western linear conception
A. The Zhou dynasty
  Three dynasties of Classical period: Zhou, Qin, Han
  Zhou (1029 to 258 B.C.E.), flourished until about 700 B.C.E.
  Feudal practices: system of vassalage for land tenure, revenue, military service
  Period of decline: regional lords more powerful, invasions
  Zhou contributions
    Extended territory into Yangzi area, became core “Middle Kingdom”
    Diversified agriculture, wheat and rice; promoted population growth
    Promoted centralized authority, claimed Shang origins
    Lasting concept of legitimacy
      Imperial authority “Mandate of Heaven”
      Emperors “Sons of Heaven”
    Banned human sacrifice
    Mandarin: common cultural currency across dialects, languages
  Late 6th and early 5th centuries B.C.E.: period of turmoil as well as cultural creativity
  Rise of Confucianism and other lasting cultural beliefs
  Between 402 and 201 B.C.E., period known as “Era of the Warring States”
B. Qin Dynasty
  Shi Huangdi “the tiger,” regional lord deposed the last of the Zhou
  Consolidated China in 35 years; unification by 221 B.C.E.
  Resistance crushed, warriors disarmed
  Upper classes forced to live in capital Xianyang
  Regional provinces, emperor appointed bureaucratic oversight
  Great Wall
    3000 miles protecting north border
    Wide enough for chariots
    Largest construction in history
    Forced labor conscripted by bureaucracy from peasantry
  National census to calculate tax revenue and labor service
  Common writing, coinage, weights and measures
  Promoted new manufactures like silk; new irrigation projects
  Attacked possible subversives, burned books, killed
  Died in 210 B.C.E., massive peasant revolts erupted
  Peasant leader established Han dynasty in 207 B.C.E.
C. The Han Dynasty
  400 years, until 220 C.E.
  Rounded out basic political and intellectual structure
  Maintained Qin centralization, reduced brutality
  Expanded territory: Korea, Indochina, central Asia
  Direct contact with India, Parthian Empire in Middle East
    Parthians conduit for trade with Roman Empire
Established peace and prosperity
Improved bureaucracy, formal training, Confucian emphasis
Promoted Confucian culture, built shrines to Confucius
   Cultural supplement to government action
Declined after first 200 years; central control weakened; Huns invaded, took over
Between 220 and 589 C.E., chaos before restoration of order
Political and cultural structures from classical period endured

III. Political Institutions
Qin and Han: strong, distinctive government
   Qin: stressed central authority
   Han: stressed powers of bureaucracy
Political structure explains how such a vast territory could be ruled
After classical period, framework streamlined, but never fundamentally altered
Key elements of Chinese political structure:
   Strong local units, family ties, ancestor worship for wealthy land-owners
   Ancestor worship less frequent among common folk, village ties important
   Landed nobles provided courts of justice and military organization
Qin and Han additions:
   Attack on local warrior-landlords
   Single law code
   Centralized tax authority
   Appointment of regional governors answerable to emperor
   Regional governors appointed officials of smaller regions
   Imperial ministries: finance, military, justice, etc.

A. Strong Bureaucracy
   End of Han period: 130,000 bureaucrats, 0.2 percent of population
   Emperor Wu Ti instigated civil service exams
      Chinese literature, law: scholar-bureaucratic tradition
      Established schools: most candidates from upper classes, not all
   Bureaucracy functioned as check on arbitrary imperial authority
   Bureaucracy continued into 20th century, outlasted the empire itself

B. Role of the State
   Military: no consistent development by Han period as China not expansionist
   Judicial: local authorities managed crime and legal disputes
   Intellectual life: research in astronomy, maintaining historical record
      Primary keeper of Chinese beliefs: Confucian philosophy, values
   Economy: direction over production of iron and salt
      Standard currency, weights, measures encouraged trade throughout empire
      Public works: canals, irrigation systems
      Grain, rice storage to control supply, prices; manage unrest or bad harvests
   Individual affect: taxes, period of labor service, code of law, threat of punishment
   Invaders like Huns could topple dynasty but devise a better system of government

IV. Religion and Culture
Belief system linked with political structure
Upper-class values:
   Good life on earth
   Obedience to state
   Little speculation about God
   Tolerant of beliefs if no contradictions with political loyalties
Zhou rulers believed in god/gods but no attention to nature of a deity
Primary belief in harmony between earth/heaven and harmonious earthly life
Rituals to unify society, avoid individual excess
Upper classes engaged in exercises, archery; venerated ancestors
Chopsticks invented to encourage polite habits, tea introduced
Emergence of philosophies to reduce conflict, inform lasting Chinese culture

A. Confucianism
Confucius (Kong Fuzi) means “Kung the philosopher”
Lived approximately from 551 to 478 B.C.E.
Life of travel, teaching, preaching political virtue and good government
Believed in divine order but did not speculate about it, not a religious leader
Dominant values of Chinese civilization secular system of ethics not religious
Virtues:
  - Respect social superiors, including fathers, husbands as leaders of family
  - Moderate behavior
  - Veneration for custom, ritual, tradition
  - Leaders at all levels should seek wisdom
With virtuous leadership, sound political life should follow
Sayings captured in *Analects*
Han dynasty revived Confucian order, learning, teaching, ethics, literature
Confucianism premised on individual responsibility for behavior
  - Personally restraint, proper socialization, respect for family, compassion
  - Leaders expected to be paragons of virtue
Education central
Rulers:
  - Moral rectitude, humility, kindness, eager to learn
  - True happiness in doing good for all

B. Legalism
Alternative during Qin and early Han periods
Disdain for Confucianism
Valued pragmatism, authoritarianism, force
Believed humans to be evil by nature, requiring restraint and discipline
Proper state: military rule, people labor, educated discourse or courtesy frivolous
Never popular, did attach to Confucianism, justifying strong-arm tactics
Proved adaptability, integration of Chinese belief systems
Confucianism never single belief in China
  - Most appealing for upper class with time to spend on learning, manners
  - Broader adoption oriented to taste for ritual and manners
  - Peasants gravitated to polytheistic beliefs, honoring conciliatory spirits
  - Gradual integration of spiritual beliefs with Confucian values

C. Daoism
More religious philosophy, arose around same time as Confucianism
Appealed to upper class interested in spirituality
Accepted Chinese understanding of harmony, added sense of nature’s mystery
Introduced durable division in Chinese religious, philosophical culture
Daoism furthered by Laozi in 5th century B.C.E., never widely exported
Stressed nature contains divine impulse that directs all life
  - Retreat from society
  - Contemplate the life force: Dao, “the way of nature”
Daoist ethics, harmony with nature:
  - Humility, frugality
  - Political activity and learning irrelevant
General condition of the world not important
Following Han collapse:
  Daoism also Buddhism from India, guaranteed no religious unity in China
  Daoism politically compatible with Confucianism
D. Literature, Art, Science
  Literature
    Five Classics (begun in early Zhou period, edited during time of Confucius)
    Historical treatises, speeches, political materials
    Discussion of etiquette and ceremonies
    Classic of Songs: 300 poems on love, joy, politics, family life
    Literary tradition: mastery, elaboration, recitation of Five Classics
    Basis of civil service exam
  Art
    Decorative: detail, craftsmanship, precision, geometry
    Calligraphy and carving: bronze, pottery, jade, ivory, silk screens
    Architecture: a few palaces and the Great Wall
      Lack of unifying religion discouraged monumental structures
  Science
    Emphasis on practicality, predictability
    Accurate calendar based on 365.5 days developed by 444 B.C.E.
    Calculated movement of Saturn, Jupiter; sunspots; 1500 years before Europe
    Improvements in instrumentation, example: kind of seismograph
    Medicine: precise anatomical knowledge, principles of hygiene
  Mathematics
    How things work, example: music and advances in acoustics
V. Economy and Society
  Divide: literate, landholder gentry (2%) and masses of subsistence peasants
  Peasants: dues, service to lords; Depended on intense mutual cooperation
  Property: village or extended family, not individual in Southern rice region
  “Mean” people: unskilled labor like rough transport, low status
  Social status: inherited by generation; talented peasants access to education, rise
A. The Confucian Social System
  Three main social groups
    Top, landowning aristocrats, educated bureaucrats (mandarins)
    Next, laboring masses: peasants, urban artisans (on estates or independent)
    Bottom, unskilled (performers included here) required to wear green scarves
    Household slaves existed, but their numbers were few, no slaves for production
B. Trade and Technology
  Trade increasingly important in Zhou and Han dynasties
    Luxuries: silks, jewelry, leather-goods, furniture
    Food exchange between wheat and rice growing regions
    Merchant class arose, copper coins, trade with India; but trade not focal point
    Confucian emphasis on learning and political service;
  Technology advancements
    Improved agricultural implements:
      Ox-drawn plows introduced around 300 B.C.E.
      Han period, collar improved for draft animals; centuries before others
      Pulleys, winding gear to bring iron ore to surface
      Iron tools
      Lamps
      Watermills
Remained dependent on agriculture
Higher productivity and population led to larger cities and manufacturing
Small-shop artisans, manual methods, increased output of textiles, tools, and porcelain
Interest in improved techniques
Artisans only a minority of the population

C. Gender and Family Life
Tight family organization
Solidified economic, social, political life
Importance of unity
Authority of husbands and fathers
Confucian saying: “there are no wrongdoing parents”
Law courts did not prosecute parents who injured or even killed a child
Law courts would punish a child who scolded or attacked a parent
Wives expected to be obedient to husbands
Little friction
Restraint a virtue
Harmony a virtue
Women subordinate but had own roles and potential influence
Power through sons or as mothers-in-law of younger women brought into home
Hierarchy of children for all social classes
Primogeniture (first born son inherits property and position)
Boys superior to girls

VI. How Chinese Civilization Fits Together
Politics and culture meshed well, especially after emergence of Confucian bureaucracy
Economic innovation not disruptive
Family structure closely linked to political and cultural goals
Technology, religion, philosophy, political structure evolved with little outside contact
Worldview:
Civilized island surrounded by barbarians; some trade with India, Middle East
Neither had need or desire to learn from others
No desire to teach others
Buddhism from India, during and after Han decline, notable exception
Chinese isolation and cultural pride theme across the ages

A. Social and Cultural Links to Politics
Unity not just a matter of government action
Bureaucracy trained corps with common ideals not just political tasks
Distinctive artistic styles, poetry, literary tradition contributed
Governance, ideals, beliefs, aesthetics linked
Link between politics and economy
Political stability over large fertile land aided economic growth
Economy aided by direct government role in agriculture and industry
Strong economy provided high tax revenue
Economics encouraged practical science
Social hierarchy, harmony, family obedience, respect reinforced political system
No sharp division between public/private, political/social; China a single whole

B. Complexities in Classical China
Endemic tensions and disparities
Confucianism and Daoism could cohere but also engendered mutual disdain
Confucianism and policing
Confucian belief in human goodness, importance of mutual respect, ceremony
Not always compatible with stern punishments used as general warning in society
  Presumption of guilt, subject to torture before trial
  Practiced alternating torture with benevolence to gain confessions
  Represents to concurrent but not entirely compatible assumptions
Elites and the masses divided economically and culturally
  Some sharing, especially with growth of Confucianism
  Upper class concern for public welfare mitigating force
  Recurrent, often violent, protest arose during difficult times
However, symbiosis of different aspects of Chinese civilization enduring
Contrasts with India, for example, a dynamic but more disparate society

Global Connections
A. Classical China and the World
  Short Qin and 400-year Han dynasties established basics of Chinese civilization
  Civilization lasted thousands of years, longest in history
  One of the most creative and influential civilizations
  Productivity of land and peasantry provided for:
    One-fifth of total human population from 1st century B.C.E. to today
    Flourishing cities
    One of history’s largest, most creative elites
  One of history’s largest, best run bureaucracies
  Technological pioneers disseminated later across Eurasia and northern Africa
    Compass, paper, watermills, porcelain
    Expanded, diversified communications, productivity, art, elegance
    Chinese merchants, central Asian nomads introduced inventions to world
    Japan, Rome, Middle East, England
  China directly involved in world trade patterns
    Chinese silk valued elsewhere
    Trade in silk and other luxuries generated network of roads: the Silk Road
    Han dynasty actively pursued trade with west
    Most trade carried by nomadic merchants
    Spurred attention to sea routes over Indian Ocean
    Huge influence over central Asia to the Pacific, 2000 years
CHAPTER 3
Classical Civilization: India

CHAPTER OUTLINE SUMMARY
Introduction
Ajanta and Ellora
Cave temples
Constructed in stages last centuries B.C.E. through the 8th century C.E.
Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism coexisting
Ramayana,
Nature of society, everyday life, and popular culture
Visualize more than a millennium of history
Brahman-dominated society which emerged in the kingdoms of Aryan migrants
Rise of Buddhism in the 6th century B.C.E
Rise and political fragmentation of Maurya dynasty
Competition among different schools of Buddhism, Brahmanism, and other sects
Breakthroughs of Gupta empire 4th to the mid-6th centuries C.E
India a core civilizations of the preindustrial world

Chapter Focus
Collapse of Harappa around 1500 B.C.E.
Aryans, new foundation between 1500 and 500 B.C.E.
Kingdoms of the Gangetic Plains
Kings claim divine descent
Cultivation and cleared forests affected climate change
Complex ritual divisions, restrictions, social hierarchy, Vedic priests dominant force
6th century B.C.E. many dissenters, Buddhist challenge

I. The Framework for Indian History: Geography and a Formative Period
Buddhist, Brahmin rivalry shaped social hierarchies and gender roles
Mauryan Empire, India’s first empire, shaped by Buddhist teaching
Invasion, political fragmentation until Gupta empire in 4th c. C.E.
Gupta reasserted Brahmin control, Hinduism
Period of scientific, artistic, literary, philosophical, and architectural achievement

Contrast with China
Indian focus on religion, social structure, Hindu way of life
Political structure less cohesive, less important
Unique cultural developments: religion, science, economics, family life

Similarities with China
Agricultural imperative: survival, village life, local allegiance, patriarchy
Great cities, extensive trade, social and economic complexity
Formal intellectual life, schools and academies

A. Formative Influences
Geography
Closer to other civilizations than China
Influences from Middle East, Mediterranean, Persia

Topography
Himalayan barrier to East Asia
Passes in northwest link to Middle East
Divisions in subcontinent:
Two river regions: Indus and Ganges (agriculture)
Mountainous north (herding)
Mid-continent mountains and Deccan plateau
Southern coastal rim (trading, seafaring)
Considerable economic, racial, linguistic diversity

Climate
Most of India, especially river plains semitropical
Monsoon rains variable
Sometimes flooding, drought, starvation
Good years supported two harvests and large population

B. The Great Epics
Formative period between Indus River Valley civilization and revival of full civilization
Called Vedic and Epic Ages
Vedic Age between 1500 and 1000 B.C.E.
Nomadic Aryans increasingly turn to agriculture
Extend to Ganges River valley
Literary epics, sacred texts called Vedas form the historical record
Began orally, then written in Sanskrit
“Veda” means “knowledge” in Sanskrit
First epic, Riga-Veda, 1028 hymns dedicated to Aryan gods

Epic Age between 1000 and 600 B.C.E.
Mahabharata
Ramayana
Upanishads
Mahabharata and Ramayana deal with real and imagined battles
Upanishads more mystical and religious
Epics demonstrate increased settlements, political structure

Village chiefs, patriarchal and extended family structure
Caste system emerged, “Varna” means Aryan social class, in order:
Kshatriyas (warrior, governing class)
Brahmans (priestly class)
Vaisyas (traders and farmers)
Sudras (common laborers)
Untouchables (performed reviled tasks, became a reviled people)

At first, Kshatriyas top class, during Epic Age Brahmans replaced them
Gradually, caste hereditary, intermarriage punishable by death
Jati, subgroups, also tied to occupation and social station by birth

Aryan gods and goddesses
Regulated nature, possessed human qualities
Similar to other Indo-European traditions, but developed into lasting religion
Nature not just set of gods but a divine force
By end of Epic period, religion combination of rituals, beliefs, and mysticism
Gautama Buddha built a religion on this mysticism

II. Patterns in Classical India
By 600 B.C.E. formative period at an end
Cities and trade grew
Sanskrit furthered literary culture
Irregular pattern to political eras
Northwest border allowed for landmark invasions
16 major states in the plains of northern India
One empire of size: Magadha
327 B.C.E., Alexander the Great invaded, created border state of Bactria

A. The Rise and Decline of the Mauryas

322 B.C.E. Chandragupta Maurya seizes power

He and successors build unified empire
Not sure what he borrowed from Persia or Alexander
Established
Large armies, thousands of chariots and elephant-borne troops
Substantial bureaucracy
Postal system

Autocratic
Became an religious ascetic
Passed empire to son

Ashoka (269—232 B.C.E.)

Grandson of Chandragupta
Bloody extension of empire

Conversion to Buddhism

Dharma, law of moral consequences, ethical guide to unify empire

Promoted Buddhism
Honored Hinduism, built shrines

Buddhist missionaries to Middle East Hellenistic kingdoms, Sri Lanka
Instructed officials in humane treatment, goal of moral welfare
Trade and communication improvements: roads, inns, wells

After Ashoka

Ashoka’s style of government of limited impact
Buddhist current persisted
Regiona kingdoms resurfaced
Kushans, invaders from northwest, adopted Buddhism
Foreign association discouraged Indians from the religion
By 185 B.C.E., empire ended

B. The Guptas

Kushan state collapsed by 220 B.C.E.
Gupta built empire by 4th century C.E.

Allowed autonomy of elites
Two centuries of political stability
Overturned by Huns in 535 B.C.E.

Basic political pattern of classical age:
Empires alternating with regional rule
Economic, cultural advance without interruption

III. Political Institutions

Persistent political features

Regionalism
Diverse political forms

Autocratic kings and emperors
Aristocratic assemblies

Political base of empires shaky
Mauryan rulers

Depended on armies, feared betrayal

Gupta Empire

Claimed Hindu gods appointed them
Established tax system
Locally ruled with deference to Gupta Empire
Gupta representative at each ruler’s court
No single language imposed
Sanskrit promoted among educated classes, but no effect locally
Little bureaucracy
Promoted some public works like roads
Spread uniform law codes
Sponsored universities, art, literature
Gupta golden age of achievement
Gupta age not singular for political theory or institutions
   Kautilya, Chandragupta’s minister, wrote a political treatise
      On efficient authority
   No political theory of value or service like Confucianism
   No political ethics like Greece or Rome
   Why no political theory or ethical system in India?
      Importance of local units of organization
      Caste rules

Castes
   Interpreted by priests
   Regulated social relationships
   Regulated work roles
   Same function as government structures in other cultures
      Basis of public order
After Epic Age, more and more complex subgroups
Define groups one could eat with or marry within
Hereditary principle
   Not possible to rise above one’s caste
   Could drop, if marrying down or working below level
   Upward mobility possible within a caste
Means of integrating diverse populations without integrating their cultures
Promoted tolerance
Avoided slavery, untouchables scorned and poor but not owned
Politically, loyalty was to caste
   Caste regulated details of behavior
   Detailed political administration rendered less necessary

IV. Religion and Culture
   Indian civilization rested largely on widely shared cultural values
Hinduism gained ground on Buddhism under Guptas
   Provided cultural cement across languages and castes
   Incorporated variety
   Did not displace minority religions
   Still major religion of India
   Prominent cultural tradition independent of political systems or regimes
   Rational scientific cultural legacy

A. The Formation of Hinduism
   Gradual development
   Origin in Vedic and Epic Ages
   Melding of polytheism, ritual, and mystic divine principles
   Some developments in reaction to Buddhism and Islam
Hinduism incorporated:
   Ritual, ceremony
   Unity of individuals with all-embracing divine
Political and economic goals (artha)
Worldly pleasures (karma)
Many paths of worship, tolerance, fluidity
Early Hinduism called “Brahmanism” due to emphasis on brahman leadership, ritual
Hindus call their religion “Dharma” meaning, moral path
Gods changed from natural to abstract representations
Varuna was god of the sky and became guardian of ideas of right and wrong
Increased emphasis on gentle, generous behavior
*Upanishads*: shallowness of worldliness, favored contemplation of world spirit
  - Each creature’s soul part of universal spirit
  - Attacked brahman focus on correct practices, rituals, ceremonies, rewards
Hinduism embraced tension between mystical and prosaic
By 1st century C.E., Hinduism a more formal religion
Shared doctrines of brahman priests and mystics (gurus)
  - Holy essence or divine principle (*brahma*) incorporates all living things
  - Several gods are divine aspects of brahma
    - Vishnu: the preserver
    - Shiva, the destroyer
Divine soul more important than world of the senses
Life’s quest: seeking union with divine soul
May take many lifetimes, reincarnation
  - Bodies die, souls do not, they pass to other humans or animals
  - The caste trajectory depends on goodness of life
  - Many good lives earn the soul full union with brahma
  - Suffering ceases
Channels for a good life:
  - Renunciation of the world, practice of mediation and yoga (means “union”)
  - Rituals and rules of the brahmans
    - Proper ceremonies
    - Prayers
    - Dietary habits
    - Treating cows as sacred
Devotions to lesser gods and local deities
Symbolic sacrifices
Epic poems key texts and shared ethics:
  - Moral law of dharma guide for worldly and spiritual goals
    - Focus on consequences
    - Need to act: serving family, making a living, armed duties
    - Honor, duty, pleasure, compatible with spirituality
    - Less prescriptive than Christianity and Islam
Hinduism accommodated variety of expressions, practices, beliefs
Consistent distinction between good and evil behavior
Reinforced castes, promising hope for each to achieve a higher level
Sustained through priests, and gurus

B. Buddhism
Prince Siddharta Gautama, born 563 B.C.E.
  - Questioned the fairness of life in context of poverty and suffering
  - Lived as Hindu mystic
  - After 6 years, felt he found the truth
  - Took to wandering life, asceticism
Beliefs regarding Hinduism
Accepted spiritual truth like reincarnation
Denied other beliefs such as caste
Truth as he saw it: Buddhism
Material world a snare warping human relationships and causing pain
All things decay, holding to youth, health, life itself, source of suffering
Salvation from release from self, door to nirvana
Self-regulation and pursuit of holy life, individual effort
Contrast with Hinduism
Denied spiritual value of castes, rituals, priests
Spread of Buddhism
Example and teaching of monks
Monks organized in monasteries but preached throughout world
Growth in India spurred by Ashoka
Buddha increasingly seen as divine
Focus on contemplation, charity, piety
Brahman opposition in India, especially under Guptas
Ashoka and Kushan missionary success
Sri Lanka, China, Korea, Japan
Other religions dissenting from Hinduism emerged too
Religion not the only intellectual development in classical age
Legal writing prominent
Kamasutra “laws of love” written in 4th century C.E.
C. Arts and Sciences
Literature
Gupta period
Epics written down in Gupta period
Story collections, Panchatantara
Sinbad the Sailor and other well known adventure stories
Classical stories often secular
Emphasis on imagination and excitement
Sometimes included gods
Drama
Romantic adventures
Contemporary films follow this tradition
Science
Gupta period
University center of Nalanda
Attracted students across Asia and Indian brahmins
Lecture halls, libraries, observatory, model dairy
Religion, philosophy, medicine, architecture, agriculture
The Greek Interlude, Alexander the Great, 327 B.C.E.
Contact with Hellenistic world improved mathematics and astronomy
Astronomy
Aryabhata, important astronomer
Length of solar year
Mathematical measurements
Accurate circumference of the earth—and indicated it is round
Daily rotation of earth on axis
Predicted, explained eclipses
Developed a theory of gravity
Telescopic proof of seven planets
Medicine
- Bone settings
- Plastic surgery
- Inoculation against smallpox, using cowpox serum
- Stress on cleanliness in hospitals, including sterilization of wounds
- Promotion of ethical standards

Understanding of astronomy, medicine, similar in West only in modern times

Mathematics
- “Arabic” numbering (West learned of Indian system through Arabs)
- Zero
- Decimals
- Negative numbers
  - Square roots
  - Table of sines
  - Value of pi, more accurate than Greeks

Art
- Stupas, shrines to Buddha sponsored by Ashoka
- Move to stylized representations of human form under Guptas
- Sculpture, painting
  - People, animals, nature
  - Religious values
- Spontaneity and imagination more prominent than in China or West

V. Economy and Society

Effect of caste system
- Low-castes few rights, servants easily abused
- Upper-castes constrained largely by ethics rather than law
- Village leaders charged to limit interference from landlords

Family life
- Patriarchal
- Rights of women increasingly limited
- As agricultural technologies improve, women’s roles circumscribed
- Hindu debate if women had to be reincarnated as men before advancing
- Marriage unions, economic arrangements arranged by parents

Women also recognized
- Epics recognized women’s independent contributions
- Stories of strong-willed women and goddesses
- Stories celebrated female emotion and beauty
- Emphasis on loving relationships and sexual pleasure
- Expectation that husband and wife enjoy mutual support
- *Marabharata* epic called a man’s wife his truest friend

Children
- Indulged in early years
- With increased age, expected to participate as a worker

General expectation of aid to older family members

Family emotional as well as economic unit

Economy
- Rivaled China in technology
- Briefly surpassed China’s upper-classes in prosperity
- Developments in chemistry
- Best steel in the world
- Most superior iron making until a few centuries ago
First to manufacture textiles: cotton, calico, cashmere
   Artisan guilds and shops
Trade
   Greater emphasis on merchants, trade than China or Mediterranean
Merchants
   High caste status
   In North, wide travel across Asia, Middle East
   In South, Tamil sea trade with Middle East, Roman Empire
      Traded silks, cotton, dyes, drugs, gold, ivory
      Brought back pottery, wine, metals, gold, some slaves
   Southern trade with Southeast Asia like Malaysia
      Manufactured goods and culture
   Caravan trade developed with China
Gupta Empire known for its wealth as well as religious and intellectual life
   Wealth relegated to small upper class
   Most people lived on margins of subsistence

VI. Indian Influence and Comparative Features
   Classical India huge influence on other parts of the world
   Comparatively the greatest of influencing civilizations
   Dominated Indian Ocean, waters of southern Asia, much travel
   Not political domination
   Influence by way of goods, intermarriage, cultural ideas and artifacts
      Thailand, Burma, parts of Indonesia, Vietnam
      Buddhism and Indian art expanded into China
      Buddhist missionaries in the Middle East introduced ideas
      Affected Greeks and Roman Stoics
      Through them, affected Christianity
   Classical civilization in India lasted longer than in China or Rome
   After Gupta fall, enduring religion, culture, social and family network
   Civilization could survive long periods of foreign domination
A. China and India Compared
   Contrasts demonstrate diversity, vitality of classical age
   Art and poetry
      China: restrained
      India: dynamic, sensual style
   Religion
      China: religion and philosophy, separate spheres
      India: unified religion, tolerant of minority beliefs
   Political, social structure
      China: centralized governance, bureaucratic
      India: organized through strict caste system
   Cultural emphasis
      China: more materialist, despite Daoist influence
      India: more otherworldly
   Science
      China: practical orientation
      India: practical too, but went further in mathematics
Similarities between China and India

Agricultural societies
- Large peasant class
- Close-knit villages

Cities, merchant activity secondary role
- Political power in hands of estate owners
- Taxed peasantry
- Patriarchal family structure

Differences other than the political, cultural, artistic
China:
- Emphasis on restraint, etiquette in family life
- Village control often succumbed to estate owner pressure
- Trade advanced by government

India:
- More emotional expectations in family interactions
- Village control over land stronger than China
- Trade advanced by merchants

Global Connections
A. India and the Wider World
- Most open to influence
- Most central to cross-cultural exchanges
- Produced some of world’s highest forms
  - Art
  - Philosophy
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Technology
- Urban centers
  - Population only second to China
  - Buddhism as world religion
- Mainland and island southeast Asia
  - Political forms
  - Art
  - Architecture
  - Religion
  - Civilizations like Angor Wat (Cambodia), Majapahit (Java)
- Mediterranean
  - Artistic techniques
  - Philosophy (Stoicism)
  - Ideas affecting Christianity
- Coastal India
  - Core of expanding trade network over most of Eastern Hemisphere
  - Direct trade or to Silk Road emporiums
- Spread of cultural, scientific, religious legacies and manufactures across globe
Chapter Outline Summary

Introduction

Persian Defeat at Marathon and Thermopylae

Legend of Pheidippides

- Persian defeat at Marathon 490 B.C.E.
- Ran 26 miles to bring news to Athens, dropped dead
- Modern Olympic Games race named for feat
- Commemorates military victory and civic love

Persian king Xerxes amassed army 2-1

- Athenians retreated to island, watched their city burn
- Themistocles, Athenian leader, tricks Persians to sea battle
- Battle at Thermopylae in narrow channel
- Persians defeated

Defeat highlights two major civilizations in eastern Mediterranean and Middle East

- Persian Empire, durable presence in region around Iran
- Greek city-states culture spread in Hellenistic world

Impact of classic civilizations of Mediterranean region between 800 B.C.E. and 476 C.E.

- Centered first in Greek peninsula, then Rome
- Limited control over Middle Eastern civilizations
- Westward push
- Institutions, values affect on Europe, later Middle East, Americans

Challenge

- Discern leading features of Greco-Roman culture
- Compare with other classical civilizations
- Recognize western legacy without misapprehending world impact

Distinguish between Greek and Roman legacies

- Romans preserved Greek achievements
- Not identical
  - Greeks: interested in science
  - Romans: interested in engineering
  - Greeks: formed city-states, poor at empire
  - Romans: excellent at empire
  - Greeks: stronger impact in eastern Mediterranean
  - Romans: law and language greater impact in Europe

Shared Greco-Roman legacy:

- Political ideas
- Religion and artistic styles
- Economic structures

Persian Empire surpassed Greece for several centuries

- Impact in Middle East, eastern Mediterranean
- Interaction with Greek culture a result of Hellenistic world

I. The Persian Empire: A New Perspective in the Middle East

550 B.C.E., Cyrus the Great

- The Persian Empire: northern Middle East into northwest India
- Conquered peoples retained culture such as cuneiform
- Advanced iron technology
Enormous impact

A. Political Styles and Innovations

Emphases

- Toleration of diversity
- Authoritarianism
  - Little power sharing

Darius (successor to Cyrus)

- Centralization of laws, tax collection
- Unified infrastructure
  - Paved roads
  - Connecting Indian border with Mediterranean and Egypt
  - Movement for commerce and troops
  - Regularly spaced inns, rest and change of horses
  - Postal service

- Growth of new trans-regional trade
- Centralized bureaucracy
  - Control of officials in distant regions of empire
  - Oversight of tax collection

Zoroastrianism

Zoroaster (630—550 B.C.E.)

- Revised Sumerian polytheism
- Introduced monotheism
- Banned intoxicants and animal sacrifice

Doctrines

- Life a battle between two divine forces: good and evil
- Individual salvation a free choice of God over evil
- Last judgment
  - The righteous gain heaven, “House of Song”
  - The evil gain eternal pain

- Spread widely among emperors and population alike
- Enormous effect on Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Small groups of Zoroastrians survive today

Distinctive painting and architecture, spread beyond borders

Durability

- Long period of peace, prosperity in Middle East
- Conquests included North Africa and Indian River valley
- At height, empire of 14 million people
- Persia proper (present day Iran) 4 million people
- Persian language and culture survived Hellenistic period
- Persian states persisted in east

II. Patterns of Greek and Roman History

River valley civilizations spread to Greek islands

- Greeks Indo-European people
- By 2000 B.C.E., Crete showed influence of Egypt
- By 1400 B.C.E., Mycenae on Greek peninsula
  - Influenced by Crete
  - Memorialized by Homer, Trojan War
  - Waves of invaders
  - Destroyed by 800 B.C.E.

A. Stages of Greek Development

- 800 B.C.E.—600 B.C.E.
Mountainous terrain
Rapid rise of city-states
  Tyranny of one
  Aristocratic council
Extensive trade
Common cultural forms
Common written language, derived from Phoenician alphabet
Shared celebrations
  Olympic Games
Two leading city-states
  Sparta: military aristocracy, slave population
  Athens: commercial, use of slaves, proud of artistic, intellectual leadership
500 and 449 B.C.E.
Sparta, Athens, smaller states together defeated Persian invasion
During and after this period, high point of Greek, especially Athenian, culture
Period of colonization
  Eastern Mediterranean
  Southern Italy
5th Century B.C.E.
Rule of Pericles in Athens
  Aristocrat
  Democratic political structure
    Citizens assemblies
      Elected officials
      Passed laws
  Pericles ruled by negotiation, influence
  Constrained further expansion
  Could not prevent war between Athens and Sparta
431–404 B.C.E.
Peloponnesian Wars
338 B.C.E.
  Philip II of Macedon conquered Greek city-states
  Son, Alexander the Great extended Macedonian Empire
    Middle East, Persia, into India, through Egypt
  Alexander died at age 33 after 13 years of conquest
Successor states ruled regionally
Hellenistic period
  Extended, consolidated Greek art and culture
  Blended with Middle Eastern forms
  Trade flourished
  Scientific centers flourished like at Alexandria
B. Rome
  Represents final stage of classical Mediterranean civilization
1st century C.E., Rome subjugated Greece and Hellenistic kingdoms
Origin of Roman state
  Local monarchy in central Italy around 800 B.C.E.
  509 B.C.E., aristocrats drove out monarchy
  Established Roman Republic
Republic
  Regional conquests
  Expansion
Punic Wars 264 to 146 B.C.E.
   Carthage
   Hannibal
   Rome seized western Mediterranean, including Greece and Egypt
Political instability
   Ambitious generals
   Rebellion of the poor
45 B.C.E. Julius Caesar defeated adversaries in civil war, ends Republic
27 B.C.E. Augustus Caesar triumphed, instituted structure of Roman Empire
200 years of peace, prosperity to Mediterranean world and up into Europe
180 C.E. marks beginning of slow fall for next 250 years
Invaders overturned the government in Rome in 476 C.E.
Manifestation of decline
   Trade levels fell
   Birth rate fell
   Government less effective
   Two strong emperors: Diocletian and Constantine
313 C.E. Constantine tried to unite empire under Christianity
   In west government local
   Empire unable to supply order or justice
   Armies filled with non-Romans
   Inability to defend against influx of invaders
   Similar timing, experience as Gupta India and Han China

Summary
Mediterranean civilization built on earlier cultures
Took firm shape in Greek city-states
   Introduced diverse political forms
   Commercially based economy
   Colonies
   Decline of city-states
Macedonian conquest
   Formation of Hellenistic world from Middle East to Egypt
Roman Republic
   Distinguished by political virtue, stability
   Embarked on conquests
Replaced Republic with Empire
   Empire Controlled
   Mediterranean
   Western, southeastern Europe
   North Africa
   200 years of peace, prosperity, glory

III. Greek and Roman Political Institutions
Politics extremely important
   “Politics” derived from “polis” the Greek word for city-state
Athenian and Roman concept of “the good life”
   Political participation
   Discussing affairs of state
Geo-political influence
   City-states surrounded by several hundred square miles
   Relatively small
   Intense local identification, sense of ownership
Concern for rights and obligations
Civic military duty

Even under Empire
Local city-states relatively autonomous
Pride in Roman citizenship

Concept of active citizenship unique to Mediterranean civilization
No unifying set political institutions to rival imperial China
Diverse political forms, comparatively more similar with India
Later societies, reflected on diverse Mediterranean political forms

Monarchy not preferred
Rule by “tyrants” common
“Tyranny” a Greek term
Effective rulers
Promoted public works
Protected common people from abusive aristocracy
Hellenistic kings adopted these attributes
Roman generals adopted these attributes

A. Greece

Democracy (derived from Greek *demos*, “the people”)
Alternative political form
5th century B.C.E. Athens
Rejected aristocratic rule and tyrants

Direct democracy
General assemblies
All citizens members
Those present made all major decisions of state
Met every 10 days
Executive officers, judges
Chosen for brief terms
Subject to review by assembly
Chosen by lot
Women had no political rights
Half of adult males not citizens
Slaves
Foreigners
Not like today
Did elicit widespread political participation and devotion
Embodied democratic principles consistent with today
Pericles led Athens during period of highest glory

Weakness of direct democracy apparent during Peloponnesian Wars
Majoritarian politics
Pursuit of reckless policy for private ends

Aristocratic assembly the most common political structure
Deliberations established guidelines for state policy
Check on executive power
Sparta an example
   Military aristocracy
      Imposed rigorous military service on elites
      Power over large slave population
Pericles in Athens was an aristocrat
“Aristocracy” derives from Greek “rule of the best”
Belief in class capable of political virtue

B. Rome

Roman Republic

Constitutional attempt to reconcile political forms
Reliance on principle of aristocracy
Citizen assemblies
  Elect magistrates
  No legislative action
Magistrates
  Represent interests of common people
Senate
  Legislative body
  Composed mainly of aristocrats
Executive offices
  Composed of senators
  Two Consuls
    Shared primary executive power
Dictator
  Appointed during crises
Ideal of public service
  Cultivated in Senate
  Eloquent public speaking
  Interest in the general good

Classical Mediterranean political theory

Aristocratic political culture
Political participation
Political ethics
Duties of citizens
Importance of incorruptible service
Political skills like oratory
  Cicero, senator and author of political theory
Contrast with Confucianism
  Greater emphasis on participation in deliberative bodies
  Greater emphasis on analysis of political forms

Roman Empire

Retained strong local autonomy
  Outright overthrow of distant rule, exceptional
  Example, dissolution of Jewish state in 63 C.E.
  Response to major local rebellion
  General tolerance for local customs and religions
Preserved Senate, though more as form than content
Strong, well-organized army
Codified, equitable law

Roman Law

Greek precedent
  8th century B.C.E. Athens
  Balance between property rights and needs of the poor
  Access to law courts, administered by fellow citizens
Roman precedent
  450 B.C.E., Twelve Tables
  Restraint on upper-class arbitrary action
Shared legal principles between wealthy and commoners

Roman Law of Roman Empire
  Principle of rule of law not of individuals
  Steadily took over role of fathers, landholders in some instances
  Principle that law should be flexible to circumstance without varying widely
  Principle that common sense should prevail
  Principle of law as primary regulator of social life
    Expansion of citizenship
    Roman-appointed judges
  Uniform laws
  Unified property and commercial law
  Principle that officials are subject to the law
  Principle that law should be fair and reasoned

Government functions
  Concentration on system of courts and the military
  Securing supplies of grain
  Public works
    Roads, harbors for military transport and commerce
    Stadiums, public baths

City of Rome
  Over 1 million inhabitants
  “Bread and circuses” policy
    Gladiators and other entertainments
    Cheap food

Colonies of Romans also given theaters, stadiums, baths, etc.
  Particularly important for Romans stationed far away such as in England

Official religion
  Religious festivals
  Reinforced loyalty to state
  Other religions tolerated as long as not in conflict with state loyalty
  Attacks on Christians
    Irregular
    Result of Christian refusal to pay respects to state

Chief political legacies of Mediterranean world
  Localism
  Fervent political interests
  Intense loyalty to the state
  Diversity of political systems
  Preference for aristocratic rule
  Importance of law
  Unusually elaborate and uniform set of legal principles
  Sheer accomplishment of Roman Empire
    Unifying a region never before or since bound together
  There was attention to careful legal procedures
  There was no clear definition of individual rights
  With the exception of first 200 years of Roman Empire, war not uncommon
  Sometimes, emphasis on duty to state could lead to a totalitarian framework
    Sparta such an example

IV. Religion and Culture
  Greeks and Romans did not create world religion
    India, Persia, some extent China, did
Christianity developed arose during Roman Empire
Spread eased by Roman infrastructure and peace
Religion itself not a product of Greco-Roman culture
Would become influenced by Greco-Roman world
Of historical importance only after Empire began its decline

Greco-Roman religion
Spirits of nature as gods and goddesses involved in human affairs
Greek and Roman pantheons differently named, but much the same
Pantheon reflected natural phenomena, occupations, literature, history
Political importance of ceremonies to the gods
  Foretelling future
  Bringing good harvests, etc.

A. Religious Values
Greco-Roman religion this-world, human orientation
Stories like soap operas
  Engendered literary tradition
  Common heritage with India
Gods and goddesses
  Expression of human passions and foibles
  Symbols of inquiry into human nature
  Focus on manipulating human affairs and meanings
    Different from Indian interest in higher planes of spirituality
Lack of spirituality divided Greco-Roman population
Ordinary people drawn to mystery religions coming out of Middle East
  Provided greater solace in times of difficulty
  Sense of contact with the divine
Upper-classes dissatisfied with lack of ethical content
Established moral philosophies
Moral systems such as Aristotle’s in Greece, Cicero’s in Rome
  Focus on personal moderation, balance in human behavior
  Stoics emphasized inner moral independence, discipline, and bravery
Various moral systems were major contributions
Developed independently from religion
Later blended with Christianity

B. Philosophy and Science
Classical philosophy and political theory
Emphasized powers of human thought
Socrates in Athens (b. 469 B.C.E.)
  Question conventional wisdom
  Chief duty: improvement of the soul
  Athenian government thought he was undermining loyalty
  Gave Socrates choice of suicide or exile
  Socrates chose suicide
  Legacy: rational inquiry demands skeptical questioning
Greek interest in rationality
  Some similarity with Confucianism
  Greater emphasis on questioning and abstract speculations
  Carry over into inquiry concerning physical nature
  No radically new scientific findings from Greece or Rome
  Focus on rational order
  Speculations concerning universal structure
Mathematical constructs
Greek, Hellenistic work in geometry impressive
Theorems of Pythagoras

Hellenistic scientific advancement, especially from Middle East and Egypt
Anatomy
Galen on medical treatment
Euclid on geometry
Ptolemy on sun's rotation around the earth
  Contradicted Middle Eastern knowledge
  Became standard Western belief for extended period

Roman science
  Taught Greek and Hellenistic science at school
Roman engineering unique achievements
  Roads
  Aqueducts
  Arches

Art and literature conveyors of Greco-Roman values
Religion inspired art
Human-centered qualities themes
  Realistic portrayals
  Beauty of the human form
  Gods as foils for explorations into human nature
Sappho, female Greek poet around 600 B.C.E.

Dance and music vital to festivals but precise styles not well preserved
Drama central role in culture
  Comedies and tragedies
Emphasis on tragedies
  Human reason, balance precarious virtues
  Humans easily ensnared in emotion and uncontrollable consequences
  Sophocles' Oedipus, term still used as a psychological condition

Epic tradition
  *Iliad, Odyssey* attributed to Homer in the 8th century B.C.E.
  Virgil used epic form to link Roman and Greek histories and myths
  Rome contributed to poetic form
  Demonstration of richness of Latin language

Dramas performed for thousands of people

Visual arts
Sculpture
  Example: Phidias in 5th century B.C.E. Athens
  Romans continued heroic-realist tradition

Architecture
  Greeks invented "classical" architecture
    Monumental construction
    Square or rectangular
    Columned porticos
  Doric, Ionic, Corinthian columns
  Filled with sculptures
  Roman engineering
    Grander scale
    Domes

Uses in Rome:
Public everyday spaces: temples, baths, marketplaces
Private homes: villas around courtyards
Structures for popular entertainments: chariot races, gladiators

Roman style blended with Christianity during the later empire
Greeks also pursued ceramics
Romans also pursued painting

V. Economy and Society in the Mediterranean
Politics and formal culture urban phenomena
Majority of Greeks and Romans were farmers
Local rituals and festivals
   Tied to concerns like harvest
   Concerns for an afterlife
Free farmers owned their land
   Substantial population in Greece and Rome
   Constant tension with large landholders
      Attempts to appropriate land
      Force free farmers into tenancy
Issue of free farming
   Shaped politics between tyrants and aristocrats
   Shaped politics between democrats and aristocrats
Decline of Roman Republic
   Result of too many farmers’ dependency on large landowners
   Lost ability to vote freely

A. Agriculture and Trade
Greek and much Italian soil unsuitable for grain though grain necessary
   Shifted production to olives and grapes
      For cooking and wine
   Forced conversion to market economy
      Capital investment needed
      Adequate sales needed to purchase life’s necessities
      Reason so many farmers went into debt
      Gave advantage to large landholders
         Production to scale
         Greater access to capital
Commercial agriculture chief reason to establish empire
   Greeks, especially Athens, established colonies to gain access to grain production
   Traded olive oil, wine, manufactured products, silver
Rome, sought its granary in Sicily and then North Africa
   Heavy grain cultivation in North Africa led to soil depletion
   Accounts for later reduced agricultural fertility
Trade key concern
   Private merchants transported goods
   Governments invested in regulatory practices and infrastructure
   Luxury items from craftsmen embellished upper-class lifestyles
Desired luxury items from India and China
Western disadvantage as their products were cruder
   Exported animal skins, exotic African animals, precious metals

Status of merchants
   Higher than China
   Less than India
   In Greece, merchants usually foreign
B. Slavery

In Rome, clearly recognized but not fully accepted as patricians

Slaves key ingredient of classical economy

Athens

Justified in Aristotle’s philosophy

Households

Silver mines, especially brutal condition

Sparta

Agricultural work

Rome

Households

Tutoring children of elites

Cultured Greeks highly valued

Mines

Agricultural work

Steady spread from final years of Republic

Theme

Slaves necessary

Slaves come from conquered territories

Increased need for military expansion

Technology

Greek improvements

Shipbuilding

Navigation

Roman improvements

Engineering urban living, troop movements, etc.

Little interest in agricultural or manufacture improvements

Upper-class interests in politics and art

Slave labor inhibited need for efficiency

Family

Tight patriarchal family structure

Women had vital economic functions in farming and agricultural households

Upper class Roman women influential in households

In law and culture, women inferior

Female infanticide practiced

Potential drain on family economy

Husbands had considerable rights over wives

Roman law modified traditional family controls

Many Greek and Roman women active in business

Women could control urban property, even if only a minority share

Generalizations

Few can be made as the classical Mediterranean world was diverse

Many people lived as farmers in the manner of their ancestors

Tempting to remember only urban achievements

These exerted the greatest influence on later ages

Ordinary life had its own influence

Posed own challenge, opportunity for new movements like Christianity

VI. Toward the Fall of Rome

Fall not like Han China

No disruption, revival pattern of civilization

Fall not like Gupta India
No central religion to link civilizations

Further complications
  Collapse not uniform across territory
  No single civilization rose to claim mantle of Greco-Roman world
  No across-the-board maintenance of institutions or values
  Greco-Roman world would live on but selectively

A. A Complex Legacy
  600 years of Persia, Greece, Hellenistic period
  600 years of Rome
  Greek legacy
    Political ideas
    Art and philosophy
    Not polities
    Not religion
  Complication in North American appropriation of Greco-Roman world
    Self-conscious roots in US Constitution and theory of framers
    Public buildings copied from classical models
    Western education steeped in Greco-Roman history
    However no straight line between worlds
    Greater direct line with Middle Eastern legacy
    Many revivals and modifications before Greek science impacted Europe
    Democracy did not spread out of Greece
  Complication regarding Persia
    Hellenistic conquest mutual cultural exchange
      Greek forms introduced in Persia
      Persian bureaucracy, centralization copied by Hellenistic kings
      Zoroastrianism gained wider range of influence
      Judaism, Christianity, Islam influenced
      No tidy homogenization
      Later Persian kings reasserted Persian ways
      Middle East point of exchange between merchants and cultures

Global Connections
A. Persia, Greece, Rome, and the World
  Persia
    Fostered trade
    Roads facilitated commerce
  Greeks
    Developed contacts more slowly, with more prejudices
    Similar to China in attitude to non-Greeks
      Non-Greeks “barbarians”
    Sparta closed to foreigners
    Greeks traders, colonists
    Traveled to Egypt to learn science
    Herodotus (484—425 B.C.E.) widely traveled historian
  Alexander the Great extended Greek culture and contacts
    Empire not lasting but interest in contacts remained
  Rome
    Varied world connections beyond borders
      Germanic and Celtic peoples introduced to Roman styles
      Trade with Africa in northeast
      Expeditions to India for commercial outreach
Most ties within vast empire but not exclusively
Outreach affected trading patterns and missionary work even in decline
CHAPTER 5
The Classical Period: Directions, Diversities, and Declines by 500 C.E.

Chapter Outline Summary
Introduction
Cultural Exchange Between Civilizations?
   Rome, India, China
      Self-sufficient
      Indian Ocean hub of trade
      How much cultural exchange?
         Similarities between Buddhism and Christianity
         Christian temple in India
      Cultural exchange with other traders?
         Southeast Asia and Buddhism
         Southeast Asia and Hinduism
   After decline of Rome, China, India
      India continued trading
      Eastern Roman Empire traders
         Greeks and Persians
      China renewal and trade
      Arab traders
Chapter Summary
Defining end of classical period
   Changes
      Asia
      North Africa
      Mediterranean
   Consequences beyond borders
      Sub-Saharan Africa
      Northern Europe
      Other parts of Asia
Three main issues
   Why decline?
   Why different patterns and results?
   Significance: for the end and for new beginnings
Main themes
   Expansion
   Integration
   Declines between 250 and 500 C.E.
   Response of major religions shaped following histories
Developments outside classical orbit
I. Expansion and Integration
550 and 400 B.C.E.

Seminal thinkers
China: Confucius and Laozi
India: Buddha
Mediterranean: Socrates

Methods of unifying expanding territories
China: centralization; focus on politics and political culture
India: local diversity; focus on key religious values
Mediterranean: local diversity; less popular cohesion

Territorial integration
China: government promotion of settlements, shared language among elites, etc.
India: southern spread of caste system and Hinduism
Mediterranean: local autonomy, tolerance, commercial interdependence, citizenship

Social integration
All three: assumption of social hierarchy
China: Confucian hierarchy
India: caste system
Mediterranean: elites to slaves
Only opposition: Buddha

Attempts at cross-class social cohesion
China: mutual respect, deference
India: shared religion, reincarnation
Mediterranean: civic rituals, aristocrat-client obligations
Lower-class/slave uprisings not uncommon

II. Beyond the Classical Civilizations
Changes in Classical Period
Northeastern Africa
Japan
Northern Europe
The Americas

Stage set for later links
A. Developments in Africa’s Kush and its Heritage
   Southern Nile, Egyptian border
   Independent existence by 1000 B.C.E.
   Writing based on hieroglyphics
   Center of iron working
   Conquered Egypt by 750 B.C.E.
   Divine kingship
   Major cities
   Defeated by Axum, c. 300 C.E.
   Axum fell to Ethiopia
   Axum and Ethiopia traded with eastern Mediterranean until fall of Rome
   Jewish merchants introduced Judaism, Ethiopian Jews still exist
   Greek merchants introduced Christianity, 4th century C.E.
   End of Roman empire trade, end of extensive contacts
      Growth of independent Christian church
      Growth of world’s oldest continuous monarchy
   Influence on sub-Saharan Africa
      Not entirely known
      Iron-working spread, expanding agriculture
Divine kingship appeared elsewhere
   Not clear if related to Kushites
Kushite writing did not spread
Sub-Saharan Africa north of great jungles up to 500 B.C.E.
   Extension of agriculture
   Village life, similar to today
West Africa
   Regional kingdoms formed toward end of classical period
   First: Ghana
   Trade with southeast Asia 100 C.E.
      Spurred development of root crops
      Spurred agricultural development
      Spurred growth of kingdoms
Difficulties of expansion south
   Dense vegetation
   Diseases afflicting livestock
B. Japan and Northern Europe
Japan, 200 C.E.
   200,000 years of migration from Korean peninsula ceased
   Extensive agriculture
   Tribal
      Chiefs
      Tribal gods, ancestors
   Social differentiation
      Iron-working
   By 400 C.E.
      Regional states
      Brought in scribes from Korea
Shintoism national religion by 700 C.E.
   Worship of political rulers
   Worship of nature, especially god of rice
   Different from major classical religions and philosophies
Nationalization of politics between 400 and 600 C.E.
   Basis of imperial house
   Emperor worship
Onset of contacts with China
Northern Europe
   Teutonic/Celtic/Slavic peoples
      Modern Germany, England, Scandinavia, eastern Europe
   Loosely organized regional kingdoms
   Some, succumbed to Roman Empire
   At empire’s end, regionalism reemerged
   No written language
      Exception where Latin had been imported
   Agriculture primitive
   Hunting
   Scandinavian skills in sailing
      Expanded trade, pillaging after 600 C.E.
   Religion, gods and rituals to placate nature
   Later, influenced by Christianity
   No unification
Until about 1000 C.E., most backward region of world

C. Central America

Olmec civilization 800 to 400 B.C.E.
- Foundation for later civilizations
- Central America
- No writing
- Massive pyramid religious structures
- Maize cultivation, potatoes, other crops
- Statues, icons of jade
- Accurate calendar
- Origins, end unknown
- No trace after 400 B.C.E.
- Artistic, religious influence on successor civilizations

Successors
- Developed hieroglyphic alphabet
- Built city of Teotihuacan for trade, worship
- Migration, regional wars
- Maya civilization emerges from 400 C.E. onward

Olmec, successors in Central America equivalent of river valley civilizations of Asia, Middle East

Similar civilization developed in Andean region of South America
- Precursors to the Inca

Two early centers of civilization in the Americas
- Developed in isolation from developments elsewhere
- Lacked advantages of contacts: copying, reacting, etc.
- Lacked technologies like wheel and iron working
- Ahead of European development

D. Polynesia

1000 B.C.E., population of Polynesian islands
400 C.E. population of Hawaiian islands
- Outrigger canoes
- Brought pigs
- Adapted local plants
- Powerful local kings
- Caste system

In sum, classical period for areas outside China, India, Mediterranean
- Expanding agriculture
- Early civilizations
- Early contacts
- Folded into world history after classical period

Toward end of classical period

Central Asian herders contact with China
- Changes in political organization
- Changes in goals for conquest
- Role in trade East Asia and Middle East

Other herding groups
- New technologies like the stirrup

Herding groups in general
- Invaded major civilizations
- Role in end of classical period
III. Decline in China and India

200 to 600 C.E., all three civilizations collapsed entirely or in part

Nomadic invasions
- Rome fell to Germanic invaders
- Germanic invaders were harassed by Asiatic Huns
- Other Huns overran Gupta India
- Similar nomads toppled Han China
- Prior internal problems afflicted Rome and China
- Gupta’s had not resolved region’s tendency to political fragmentation

A. The Han Collapse
- Han decline in 1st century C.E.
  - Central control diminished
  - Bureaucratic corruption
  - Local rulers arbitrary
  - Free peasants over-taxed
    - Lost land
    - Became day laborers
    - Sold children into service
  - Daoist revolutionary effort
    - Yellow Turbans
    - 184 C.E., revolution
      - 30,000 students attack decadence
  - Disease devastated population, perhaps cut in half
  - Population drop
  - Prosperity drop
  - Imperial court: intrigue, civil war
  - Inability to push back invaders
  - Han fell
  - Three centuries of chaos
    - Regional rulers, weak dynasties
    - Buddhism imported
      - Threatened cultural unity
    - Only case of cultural import until 20th century

Late 6th century
- Drove out invaders in the north
- Sui dynasty reunited China

618, Tang dynasty
- Glorious period
- Confucianism and bureaucratic system revived
- Signs from previous period
  - Buddhist minority
  - New styles in art and literature
- No permanent disruption
  - Structures of classical China strong
  - Invaders had assimilated Chinese traditions

B. The End of the Gupta Empire
- Decline less drastic than Han China
  - Gupta control over local princes weaker by 5th century
- Huns invaded in fifth century
- Integration of Huns
  - Indian warrior caste
“Rajput” regional princes

Cultural development
- Buddhism displaced by Hinduism
- Devi — mother god

High prosperity
7th century Muslim invaders
- Little outright conquest
- Some conversion to Islam
- Strengthened Hinduism
  - Emotionalism
  - Hindi vernacular
  - Distracted from science, math
- Took control of Indian Ocean
  - India remained prosperous
  - Reduced Indian commercial dynamism

Empire gone
Hinduism and caste system remained strong

IV. Decline and Fall in Rome
180 C.E. symptoms of decline
- Population declined
- Army recruitment difficult
- Arbitrary, brutal emperors
- Economic hardship
- Tax revenues less
- Pervasive despondency

A. Symptoms of Decline
- Constitutional crises
  - Weak emperors
  - Army intervention in politics
- Plagues
  - Southern Asia trade introduced diseases
  - Epidemics decimated population
    - Rome went from 1,000,000 to 250,000
- Consequences
  - Economic life deteriorated
  - Non-Roman army recruits (Germanic soldiers)
  - Need to pay soldiers
  - Little tax revenue
  - Spiral of decline

Cultural decline: cause or consequence?
- Upper class devoted primarily to leisure
  - No more political devotion
  - No more economic vigor
- Little cultural creativity
  - No new art or literary styles
  - No inventions, discoveries
  - Focus on textbooks
    - Simplified compendia
    - Added superstitions
- Fewer children

Only area of cultural dynamism
Christian theologians

Could Rome have withstood plagues and invaders?
Cultural decline already was underway
Difficult times require vigorous cultural elites

B. Effort at Revival: An East/West Split

Course of decline
- Political and economic decentralization
- People sought military and judicial protection locally
- Foreshadowed European manorial system
- Estate system reduced Imperial authority
- Estates sought self-sufficiency
- Less trade
- Cities shrank
- Less revenue
- Vicious circle

Attempt at recovery
- Diocletian (284–305)
  - Economic regulation
  - Increased administration
  - Emperor worship
    - Persecution of Christians
- Constantine (312–337)
  - Capital at Constantinople
  - Christian unity
    - Toleration
    - Adopts Christianity himself
  - Eastern Empire remained effective unity
  - Christianity spread
  - East/West split worsened conditions in west

Attempts to regulate economy
- Reduced production
- Decline in tax revenues
- Army deterioration

5th century Germanic invasions
- Welcomed by many
- Germanic invaders never more than 5% of population
- Germanic kingdoms in western Roman territory by 425
- Last Roman emperor deposed, 476

Comparison with China, India
- No shared political culture
- No bureaucratic traditions
- No strong unifying religion
  - Christianity and Islam too late

Effect
- Mediterranean unity ended
- Split into 3 zones

C. The Early Byzantine Empire

Zone 1: Greatest continuity of late imperial Rome
- Greek language
- Roman authoritarian administration
- Artistically creative
Active trade
Justinian (ruled 527 to 565)
Attempt to restore whole of Empire
Lost Italy, north African provinces
Compiled Roman Law “Justinian code”

Middle East
Parthian Empire
Thrive along Roman Empire’s border along Mediterranean
Relied on Persian styles
227, Persian rebellion ends Parthian Empire

Sassanid Empire: resurgence of Persian culture
Zoroastrianism
Some conversion to Christianity
Persian style
Manufacturing
Maintained Persian influence in eastern Middle East and India
Commercial, artistic bridge between Mediterranean and East
Byzantine Empire held border with Sassanid Empire
7th century Arab conquest of Sassanid Empire

Effect
Rome’s fall hardly touched Middle East
Arab onslaught did not destroy Persian culture

Byzantine Empire
Maintained late Roman Empire traditions
Maintained Christianity
Focused on western Middle East, Greece, southeastern Europe

D. Zone 2: Western Europe and North Africa
North Africa and southeastern Mediterranean
Regional kingdoms briefly
Christianity spread
Less uniform than in Byzantine empire or western Europe
Augustine, famous theologian, bishop in North Africa
North African Christianity split from main branches
Coptic Church of Egypt still exists
Later development of Islam and Arab empire

Western Europe
Italy, Spain, points north
Destruction of unity
Destruction of civilization itself
Germanic kingdoms emerge
Cities shrank
Trade almost disappeared
Vitality in spread of Christianity
No art or literature
Several centuries of lost knowledge
Christian scholars
Apologies for comparative lacks
Inferiority a long lasting theme

V. The New Religious Map
End of classical period not just about decay and collapse
200 to 600 C.E., rise of world’s major religions
Seeking solace
- Plagues
- Political instability

Changed religious map
- Christianity surged throughout Mediterranean with demise of Rome
- Buddhism surged into eastern Asia
- 600, Islam emerges as the most dynamic force for next centuries

Religion reshaping world
- Spread widely
- Crossed cultural and political boundaries
- Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam later
  - Emphasis on spirituality
  - Devotion to piety
  - Hope of afterlife
  - Importance of divine power
  - Responded to political instability and poverty

Conversion
- Hundreds of thousands of people
- Asia, Europe, Africa

Effect
- Maintaining larger religious claims
- Syncretism: blend of old with new
- Localized religious experience

A. Hinduism, Buddhism, Daoism

Hinduism
- Retained reincarnation
- Retained combination of spiritual interest in union with divine essence
- Retained rituals and ceremonies
- Greater popular appeal after fall of Guptas
  - Expanded use of Hindi vernacular
  - Worship of mother goddess Devi

Buddhism
- Minority faith in India
- Monks divided the faithful into two categories
  - Minority who devote whole selves to spiritual devotion
- Working people and do the best they can spiritually
  - Bodhisattvas and priests
  - Promise of nirvana through meditation
  - Promise of afterlife for ordinary people

Monasteries in India and Himalayas
- Missionary expansion outside of India
- Spread to China, Korea, Japan

Chinese Buddhism: Mahayana (Greater Vehicle)
- Emphasis on Buddha as divine savior
- Added imagery, temples, rituals, priests, etc.
- Souls in heaven could answer prayers with aid
- Avenue for ordinary people to become holy
- Inspired new artistic interests in China, later, Japan
  - Example: pagoda

Syncretic example
- Indian Buddhist “husband supports wife”
Chinese Buddhist: “husband controls wife”
Buddhism for Chinese women
   Provided a soul
   Spirituality
   Despite original doctrine, no challenge to patriarchy
   Patriarchy adapted to Buddhist doctrine
Confucian leaders’ response to Buddhism
   Some interest in early revival of dynasties, general disapproval
   Perception of spirituality, afterlife, Buddha worship
   Distraction from political life
   Pursuit of holy life threat to family order
   Threat to loyalty to emperor
Drove out missionaries
Buddhism remained minority religion
Daoist response to Buddhism
   Improved Daoist organization
   New emphasis on practical benefits of magic
   Incorporation of peasant beliefs
   Growth of Daoism among peasants
Japan, Korea, Vietnam
   Chinese style of Buddhism
   Greatest lasting influence of Buddhism
Southeast Asia
   Buddhism expanded here too
   Form closer to original emphasis on meditation and ethics
B. Christianity and Islam
Christianity compared with Buddhism
   Started smaller, grew bigger; one of two largest world faiths
   Role in formation of eastern and western European civilizations
   Similar emphasis on salvation and guidance by saints
   Crucial differences
   Christian church structure, copy of Roman Empire
   Christian premium on missionaries, conversions
   Christian insistence as the one truth, intolerance
Origins of Christianity
Context
   Rigidity of Jewish priesthood
   Many Jewish reform movements
   New interest in Messiah
   New interest in afterlife for the virtuous
Jesus of Nazareth
   Crystallized reform movement ideas
   Believed to be Messiah
   Sent by God to redeem human sin
   Gentle and charismatic
   Preached, gathered disciples
   No expectation of new religion
   Disciples believed in resurrection
   Second Coming signified end of world, judgment
   Second Coming didn’t happen
   Disciples fanned out, began preaching
Supporters in various parts of Roman Empire

Tenets
One loving god
Virtuous life: dedication to God and fellowship
Worldly concerns secondary
“Christ” Greek for “God’s anointed”
Christ’s sacrifice to prepare humanity for afterlife
Belief, good works, discipline of the flesh lead to heaven
Rituals, Christ’s Last Supper, lead to same goal

Appeal
Greek and Roman gods sterile
Simple life and spiritual equality appealing especially to poor
Early fervor and rituals appealing

Spread
Roman Empire, ease of travel
  Europe, Middle East, Persia, Axum, Ethiopia
Paul of Tarsus
  Shift from Jewish reform to independent religion for all
  Church structure: local groups selecting elders; city bishop
  Parallel of provincial government structure

Doctrine
  Writing, collecting work of disciples
  New Testament of the Christian Bible

First three centuries of Christianity
  Periodic persecutions
  Christianity Gains Ground
    10% of empire by 300
Constantine converts
  Legalized Christianity
  State interference
    Invites new troubles
    Easier to spread

West
  Decaying empire, increases appeal of faith
  Chaos freed bishops
  Centralized bishopric, pope in Rome
  Independent church

East
  Imperial control, way of life
  Two different church organizations east/west

Beliefs held in common
  Trinity: Father, Son (Christ), Holy Ghost
  Emphasis on single belief: anti-heretical, no competition

Formal theology
  Augustine and others
  Elements of classical philosophy
  Christian belief
  Addressed nature of free will, sin, punishment, faith
  Brought rational thought together with faith

Syncretism
  Example: Christ’s birth made to coincide with winter solstice
Practices

Mysticism in the Middle East
Monasticism in the West

Benedict

Appealed to peasants
Developed Benedictine Rule
Spread to other monasteries and convents

Benedictine Rule

Discipline of work, study, prayer
Focused piety
Avoid divide between the saintly and the ordinary

Cross-class/cross social-group appeal

Like Hinduism in this respect
Appealed to elites and peasants alike
Equal importance of male and female souls
Men and women worshipped together

Big differences from classical Mediterranean culture

Otherworldly
Rituals
Spiritual equality
Relationship to state secondary
Anti-slavery, pro-brotherhood (later slavery, new context)
Respect for work
Sexual restraint

Classical values preserved (aside from church organization and some philosophy)

Roman architectural styles, though simplified
Latin, language of church in west
Greek, language of church in east
Monastic libraries preserved classical and Christian learning

Spread

In west: northern Europe
In east: Balkans, Russia

World religion

Durable faith, drawing power, complexity
Devotion of many different kinds of people
Christianity and Buddhism became world religions at this time
Convents from different cultures, wide geographic area

Islam

7th century
Initially surpassed Christianity as world faith
Still rivals Christianity

No new world faith since

Not including secular faiths like communism

Religious world map

Most people believe in one of the great faiths
Regional belief systems relatively consistent over time

C. The Spread of the Major Religions

Contributing factors

Classical period breakdowns: disease, invasion, etc.
Parallel developments stimulating religiosity
Classical period trade, travel
Crossing political and cultural borders

Spirituality
Stimulated focus on single divinity
Polytheism not entirely displaced
Reduced literal animism

D. The World Around 500 C.E.
Three primary themes for subsequent developments
1: Reworking key institutions and values after collapse
2: Integrating new religions as part or start of civilization building
3: Improved agriculture and new civilizations/contacts
Areas of classical civilizations would hold dominant positions
Increasingly challenged by spread of civilization in other areas

Global Connections
A. The Late Classical Period and the World
During classical period
Most developments within civilizations
Radiated trade, influences outward as well
India: south, southeast Asia
China: Korea, Vietnam
Nomadic merchants: Silk Road

As civilizations collapse
Accelerated contacts
New difficulties
China–Rome overland: more dangerous
Indian Ocean shipping preferable
Porous borders: increase of movement
Missionaries, traders, invaders

New basis for connections among peoples of Afro-Eurasia
Buddhism from India to China to other parts of east Asia
Christianity from Roman Empire to northeast Africa and Armenia