

Period 2: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies – c.600 BCE to c.600 CE

Period 2 Highlights

Larger Empires, Classical Age Eurasia, Organized Religions and philosophies, new Administration techniques

Key Concepts and Focus Questions

Key Concept 2.1 The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

•How did religions promote a sense of unity?

Codifications and further developments of existing religious traditions provided a bond among the people and an ethical code to live by

•What is a “universal religion?” Where did universal religions exist by 600 CE?

Religions that spread across nations, especially Indian Ocean trade routes. They existed in Eurasia and Africa. Ex: Islam in 616 CE, so that's what you'd want to talk about in addition to Hinduism and Buddhism and Christianity to an extent, Post-Pax Romana

•In what ways was Buddhism a challenge to Hinduism? How does it overlap with Hinduism?

Buddhism challenged the strict rituals of Hinduism. It challenged the authority and power of the Brahmin caste. As a result, it was egalitarian and open to everyone. It retained the Hindu belief of rebirth and salvation, with karma. It also rejects gods, and material things in general. Buddhism ended caste systems so it was a threat to Hinduism.

•What are similarities and differences in comparing Jesus and Buddha?

Jesus and Buddha were both founders of their own religions and performed miracles. They had modest lives and spread through trade. Both gained influence in powerful empires (Roman China). Different in their beliefs: afterlife, god, life, and other traditions

•How did Daoism shape Chinese medical practices, poetry, metallurgy, architecture?

Daoism focused on nature so it advanced botany, chemistry, biology, and other earth sciences. It made poetry about nature (which you can see to have spread to Japan through diffusion)

•How did conquering states like the Assyrians and Babylonians affect the development of Judaism?

They were anti-semitic, so they killed them and ran them out of their cities. They prevented their development also.

•How and where did Buddhism spread by 600 CE?

Buddhism changed over time as it spread throughout Asia, first through the support of the Mauryan Emperor Asoka, and then through the efforts of missionaries and merchants and the establishment of educational institutions to promote its core teachings.

•How and where did Christianity spread by 600 CE?

Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of missionaries and merchants through many parts of Afro-Eurasia, and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of the emperor Constantine.

•What are the main characteristics of Greco-Roman philosophy and science?

The core ideas in Greco-Roman philosophy and science emphasized logic, empirical observation and the nature of political power and hierarchy.

•How did religions affect gender roles in their respective societies?

Belief systems affected gender roles (such as Buddhism's encouragement of a monastic life and Confucianism's emphasis on filial piety).

•How did humans' reliance on the natural world influence religion?

Shamanism and animism continued to shape the lives of people within and outside of core civilizations, because of their daily reliance on the natural world.

•What literary works influenced later eras?

Literature and drama acquired distinctive forms (such as Greek tragedy or Indian epics) that influenced artistic developments in neighboring regions and in later time periods. (such as in Athens, Persia or South Asia)

•What examples of syncretism reflect the Classical Era to 600 CE?

The convergence of Greco-Roman culture and Buddhist beliefs affected the development of unique sculptural developments.

•In what regions would ancestor worship be most common?

Asia, specifically China and Japan

•In what regions would animism and shamanism be most common?

Africa

•Why are Indian Epics like *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* important in the study of Hindu society?

Mahabharata and Ramayana are important epics because they explain us how Hindus behave in extremes conditions of life.

•What is the difference between a Greek Tragedy and a Greek Comedy?

The main difference defining Greek comedy and tragedy is the tone of the entire play, and how the audience can relate to it. Comedy: meant to make the audience laugh Tragedy: Meant to make the audience feel catharsis

- What were the main characteristics of the Roman architectural style? How were they similar/different from Greece?

The main features of Roman architecture are the Columns and the Arches. (Greek) (**Roman**)

*rectangular, **circular, oval, complex***

*made from marble, **concrete***

*Structure of post and beam, **actuated with arch, vault and dome***

*distinguished by columns, **arch***

*most important : spirit of moderation, **ostentation (flamboyant)***

*low-pitched, **soaring***

Key Concept 2.2 The Development of States and Empires

- What is an “empire,” and what were empires’ common characteristics during the Classical Era?

- Locate the following empires on a map:

Southwest Asia: Persian Empires (Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid)

East Asia: Qin and Han

South Asia: Maurya and Gupta

Mediterranean: Phoenicia and its colonies, Greek city-states, Hellenistic Empire, Roman Empire

Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Maya city-states

Andean South America: Moche

- What techniques did Classical empires create to administer their territories?

As the early states and empires grew in number, size and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relations with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, these empires became victims of their own successes. By expanding boundaries too far, they created political, cultural and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social and economic problems when they over-exploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessive wealth to concentrate in the hands of privileged classes

- How did imperial governments let their population know that the government was “in charge?”

Imperial governments projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques including: diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the local populations or conquered peoples.

- What role did trade play in creating and maintaining empires?

Much of the success of empires rested on their promotion of trade and economic integration by building and maintaining roads and issuing currencies

- What unique social and economic characteristics existed in empires?

Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.

- Locate the following imperial cities on a map:

Chang'an

Athens

Rome

Alexandria

Constantinople

Pataliputra

Teotihuacan

- What social classes and occupations were common in empires?

The social structures of all empires displayed hierarchies that included cultivators, laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites or caste groups.

- What labor systems provided the workers for Classical Empires?

Imperial societies relied on a range of methods to maintain the production of food and provide rewards for the loyalty of the elites including corvée, slavery, rents and tributes, peasant communities and family and household production

- How did gender and social structures differ between specific Classical Empires?

Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies of this period.

- What caused specific Classical Empires to decline, collapse, or transform into something else?

The Roman, Han, Persian, Mauryan, and Gupta empires created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse and transformation into successor empires or states.

- What were the environmental and social weaknesses of specific Classical Empires?

Through excessive mobilization of resources, imperial governments caused environmental damage (such as deforestation, desertification, soil erosion or silted rivers) and generated social tensions and economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

- What external peoples contributed to the end of :

Han China

Government corruption, peasant rebellion (Taiping/Yellow Turban revolution), power being held by feudal lords rather than by the central government.

Gupta Empire

Central Asian Nomads called the White Huns began invading India. The Gupta military efforts to defend the empire had drained the treasury.

Roman Empire

Too big to handle. Constant troubles from Barbarians. Religion, especially Christianity, caused constant civil unrest.

- Describe major classical societies in Mesoamerica and the Andean region. How did they differ from each other and those in Eurasia?

Aztecs and Incas. The Inca empire was centered in Peru, had a great road system, was the largest empire in the Americas ever, had an advance messenger system, farmed on the side of mountains on plateaus, and they practiced ritual sacrifice. The Aztec empire was centered in Mexico, had a standing army, the capital, Tenochtitlan, was on an island connected to the outlying mainland by several long causeways, had a system of courts, had a market area in the capital that rivaled any market in Europe at the time, practiced a very dramatic and gory human sacrifice and believed the sun would not rise if sacrifices stopped, and they fought the longest siege in history against the Spaniards

Key Concept 2.3 Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

- Describe how climate/location, typical goods, and ethnicity of people shaped the following trade routes:

Eurasian Silk Roads

Warm, desert climate, traded expensive goods; mainly Asian ideas spread (Buddhism)

Trans-Saharan caravan routes

War, desert climate, traded mainly gold and slaves; mainly African ideas spread (Islam)

Indian Ocean sea lanes

Varying weather, traded Silk Road items and more bulk items; mainly spread Islam by traders

Mediterranean sea lanes

Varying weather, traded salt, olive oil, slaves, fish, wine; no real religion exchanged

- Identify the trade routes and significance for the following technologies:

Yokes

Allowed animals like Oxen to pull farm equipment

Saddles

Allowed for longer, more comfortable travel

Stirrups

Easier control of horses during riding and battle

Horses

Quicker movement

Oxen

Easier farming and plowing

Llamas

Important to Americas before larger animals arrived, used for milk, food, and clothes

Camels

Better desert travel

- In what ways did the spread of disease through trade affect Roman and Han society?

Alongside the trade in goods, exchanges of people, technology, religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals and disease pathogens developed across far-flung networks of communication and exchange.

- Discuss the how the following cultural traditions and religions were spread and transformed along trade routes:

Chinese culture

Confucianism spread along Silk Road

Christianity

Spread through trade routes in the Roman Empire

Hinduism

Spread though the Indian Ocean trade network

Buddhism

Silk Road spread the teachings of Buddha

•What crops spread along Classical Era trade networks?

Sugar, rice, and cotton spread along the classical era trade networks. Trade and communication networks were developed along land and water routes to promote trans regional trade.

Practice Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following best describes both the Roman and Han Empires?
 - a) The empires used the family as the model for state organization .
 - b) Merchants were viewed as key to the survival of both empires .
 - c) The cost of defending imperial frontiers led to economic and political crises.**
 - d) Emperors were “Sons of Heaven .”
 - e) New religions were successfully integrated into imperial religious ideologies

2. Which of the following staple crops is most associated with the rise of Mesoamerican civilizations?
 - a) Manioc
 - b) Potatoes
 - c) Beans
 - d) Maize**
 - e) Rice

3. Which of the following is an important factor that helped the eastern Roman Empire (Byzantium) survive while the western Roman Empire collapsed?
 - a) Its status as a headquarters for Roman Catholic Christianity gave it a social unity that helped it resist invaders
 - b) It had a loyal army, skilled bureaucracy, and great reserves of wealth based on trade and agriculture**
 - c) It followed an expansionist foreign policy to conquer northern European lands held by Germanic tribes
 - d) It could rely on a defensive alliance with the Persian Empire
 - e) It was not an attractive target because it was isolated from major trade routes and had little wealth

4. In which of the following ways were Daoism and Confucianism similar?
 - a) both emphasized the importance of the relationship between ruler and subject
 - b) each taught that the world was in balance between two diametrically opposing forces
 - c) both became standard doctrines for rulers in China
 - d) each sought to bring social order to a chaotic society**
 - e) each was readily exported to Japan where the systems became firmly rooted

5. Which is NOT associated with Hinduism?
 - a) religious justification for the caste system
 - b) ending selfishness as a way to end world misery**
 - c) behavior examples from the Bhagavad Gita
 - d) religious inspiration from Upanishads
 - e) belief in karma and dharma ethical principles

6. One reason Classical empires had difficulty maintaining centralized power in India was because
 - a) the majority of the population were Buddhists who preferred to live a monastic lifestyle.
 - b) constant attacks by the Roman Empire.
 - c) the sub-continent’s geographical diversity promoted regionalism.**
 - d) Hindus and Muslims had split India in half.
 - e) India lacked both trade and technology which created a stagnant society.

7. This Classical society considered the polis as its primary political unit:
- the Persians
 - the Guptas
 - the Han
 - the Romans
 - the Greeks**
8. The Code of Hammurabi and Chinese Legalism both rely on the idea that
- governments must provide their people with rights.
 - harsh laws are needed to control societies.**
 - all subjects are equal under the law.
 - religion and government must be brought close together.
 - women deserve special treatment.
9. A similarity between Shinto in Japan and animism in African societies is that both
- use the Torah to establish law codes
 - stress the importance of the Eightfold Path
 - believe that spirits exist in nature**
 - base social rank on a caste system
 - were created by the ruling class to protect their power
10. One way in which *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, and *The Mahabharata* are similar is that they are
- sets of written legal principles that spell out the rights of citizens.
 - stories that are tied to monotheistic religious beliefs.
 - paintings that depict heroes and cultural values.
 - works of literature that give historians information about early civilizations.**
 - all indigenous to civilizations from South Asia.
11. The caste system in India was characterized by
- a lack of social mobility**
 - toleration for various religious beliefs
 - equality between men and women
 - the right of people to choose their occupation
 - promotion of civil service based on merit

Outline Map for Review/Labeling

