### Classical Chinese Dynasties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Chinese Dynasties</th>
<th>Specific Characteristics</th>
<th>Shared Characteristics</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **Zhou** | 1029 – 258 BCE  
- used mandate of heaven to claim authority  
- worked to centralize the government  
- expanded territory to the south (Yangtze River Valley)  
- rulers (emperors) referred to themselves as Sons of Heaven  
- standardized spoken language | - increasingly centralized government with growing bureaucracy  
- expanding influence to include most of east and southeast Asia  
- increase in production of luxury goods, such as silk  
- increase in trade along Silk Roads  
- most advanced classical civilization, especially in terms of technology  
- basis of tradition established: patriarchy and government rule based on Confucian values |
| **Qin** | 221 – 202 BCE  
- dynasty name gave name to country  
- expanded territory to the south (northern Vietnam)  
- construction of the Great Wall  
- standardized: weights, measures, money, written language  
- silk production encouraged and increased  
- construction of new roads | |
| **Han** | 200 BCE – 220 CE  
- bureaucracy strengthened  
- expanded territory south and west (central Asia, Korea, Indochina)  
- civil service exams based on Confucian values  
- trade increased (Silk Roads)  
- relative time of peace  
- patriarchy strengthened  
- technology: iron production, canals, irrigation systems, ox-drawn plows, collar for beasts of burden, paper manufacture, water-power mills  
- social structure: elites, peasants, artisans, unskilled laborers | |
## Aryan India

- ~1500 BCE, Aryans invade = Vedic Age: early classical India (1500-1000 BCE)
- Vedas: oral stories brought by Aryans, later written in Sanskrit
- Epic Age: period when great epics, such as the Ramayana, were created (1000-600 BCE)
- Upanishads: basis for Hindu religion, collection of religious poems based on the Vedas
- Patriarchy; social structure: distinctive/defined class system with Aryans on top, Dravidians (native Indians) below; largely based on ethnicity and complexion of skin; during Epic Age, Priests (Brahmins) became more important than the warrior/ruler class; untouchables = those outside of the social class system who performed “undesirable” jobs; gradually became a very rigid caste system
- Religion: Aryans imposed their polytheistic beliefs which gradually blended with indigenous beliefs to form Hinduism

## Mauryan Dynasty

- 322 BCE – 230 BCE
- After Epic Age, India divided into 16 states, with Magadha the strongest
- Chandra Gupta founds Mauryan dynasty
- Large army, united almost all of Indian subcontinent; large bureaucracy
- Ashoka (grandson of Chandra Gupta) known for ruthless conquering of India, later converted to Buddhism and helped spread Buddhism along the roads of India
- Construction of roads that connected to China’s Silk Roads
- After Ashoka’s death, kingdom divided again and invaders from the North ruled India until the Gupta’s rose to power

## Gupta Dynasty

- 320 CE – 550 CE
- Hindu rulers, reinforcement of Hindu values, but Buddhism was tolerated
- Local rulers retained control over local territories
- Religion: solidification of Hindu values and traditions, construction of Hindu temples; Buddhism spread through urban monasteries
- Patriarchy: women gradually lost status and privileges, married at younger age, sati (widow suicide by burning)
- Sanskrit becomes language of educated
- Technology/discoveries: zero as placeholder, Arabic numerals, decimal system, knowledge of astronomy, knowledge of surgical procedures and the prevention of illnesses
- Trade: increase in volume of trade, especially with the East

## Shared Characteristics

- Aryans had huge influence over region, and their traditions and customs continue to influence India today
- Development of Hinduism and Buddhism
- Pattern: Periods of flourishing, united civilization followed by disintegration of the kingdom and fall to outside invaders
- Caste system: increasingly rigid and defined throughout the classical time period
- Increase in trade, especially along Silk Roads
- Pattern: dramatic increases in technological and scientific discoveries, which had enormous impact as these ideas spread to the West
# Unit II: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.

## Review Guide

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<th>Classical Middle East</th>
<th>Specific Characteristics</th>
<th>Significance</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Persia</td>
<td>- 550 BCE</td>
<td>- Large empire &quot;at the center of the world&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Cyrus the Great, first conqueror, expanded territory to include most of Southwest Asia</td>
<td>- coming together of many cultures</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- noted for tolerance of minorities</td>
<td>- roads facilitated trade and communication between east and west</td>
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<td>- Religion: Zoroastianism, emphasized rewards in the afterlife for living a good life, or punishment for leading a bad life</td>
<td>- rivalries between Persians and Greeks led to wars</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Technology: ironworking which spread throughout the empire</td>
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<td>- Public works: extensive road system (The Persian Royal Road) to link all parts of the empire</td>
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<td>Trade: with West (Phoenicians, Greeks) and East (India, China, Southeast Asia)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Mediterranean</th>
<th>Specific Characteristics</th>
<th>Significance of All</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>- 1700 BCE, Greek migrations into the peninsula</td>
<td>- Political patterns established during the classical time continue to have an influence on the modern world</td>
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<td>- 800 BCE, Greeks adopt alphabet from Phoenician traders</td>
<td>- Cultural traditions and customs shaped the arts for centuries</td>
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<td>- Geography: mountains and islands prevent to complete unification of Greek peoples under one ruler (instead Greece was a collection of loosely allied city-states); coastline allowed for easy access to the sea for trade and food</td>
<td>- development of major world religion: Christianity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- City-states: polis in Greek, Athens and Sparta (largest and rivals)</td>
<td>- extensive trade brought new ideas and products to the region</td>
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<td>- Sparta: aristocratic government; focus on strong military; slave labor; emphasis on agriculture</td>
<td>- use of slave labor ultimately led to decline in economic expansion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Athens: development of democracy (Pericles); many achievements in math, science, the arts, and philosophy; emphasis on trade; slave labor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Persian Wars: alliance of Athens and Sparta to defeat invading Persians</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- After Greek victory, Athens dominates Greek city-states</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- distrust for Athenian rule led to Peloponnesian Wars in which the city-states of Greece allied with either Athens or Sparta; Spartan victory coupled with widespread plague led to a deterioration of the</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Culture: Greek theatre (tragedy and comedy); Olympic games; polytheistic religion with gods and goddesses vying for power and displaying human characteristics; Aristotle and the foundation of Greek philosophy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Expansion: Greek settlements/colonies throughout the Mediterranean (Italy, Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **Alexander the Great** | - 336 - 323 BCE  
  - Conquered Greece, Persia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, parts of India  
  - Hellenistic culture: blending of Greek, Phoenician, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian  
    cultures; later adopted by Romans  
  - Trade: Alexander’s empire solidified trade contacts between Asia and the  
    Mediterranean world  
  - Stoicism: use powers of reason to lead virtuous lives and assist others; popular  
    philosophy during Hellenistic Age  
  - Achievements: Euclidean geometry, Pythagorean Theorem, knowledge of  
    anatomy, circumference of the world; geocentric theory (Ptolemy) | (see previous page) |
| **Rome** | - 800 BCE: Kingdom of Rome  
  - 509 BCE: king overthrown by aristocracy, beginning of Roman Republic ruled by  
    the Senate (aristocrats)  
  - Expansion: Punic Wars bring defeat of Carthaginians (prime rivals) and  
    domination of the Mediterranean; continued expansion in North Africa, Western  
    Europe, and the Eastern Mediterranean coastal lands  
  - 45 BCE: advent of Julius Caesar, beginning of transition from Republic to Empire  
  - 27 BCE: Augustus Octavian Caesar becomes Emperor, beginning of Pax Romana  
  - Technology: large public works, such as aqueducts, roads, bridges; architecture  
    such as the Colosseum, Roman arches (adopted from Greek architecture)  
  - Achievements: common coinage, common language (Latin), continuation of  
    Greek/Hellenistic traditions and beliefs (alphabet, philosophy)  
  - Trade: extensive trade in Mediterranean and with the East along the Silk Roads in  
    the Middle East  
  - Religion: Roman polytheistic religion based on Greek gods and goddesses;  
    development of Christianity after birth and life of Jesus Christ in Judea  
  - Social structure: patriarchal; use of slave labor  
  - Government: during Republic, codification of Roman laws called the Twelve  
    Tables (innocent until proven guilty; defendants may confront accusers in court;  
    judges can nullify unjust laws); during Republic, legislative Senate with executive  
    Consuls (two) and power to elect dictator in times of trouble; during Empire, rule  
    of Emperor with Senate as advisors |
### Belief Systems and Religions of the Classical Period

#### Polytheism
- characteristic of early agricultural (River Valley) civilizations and Classical Mediterranean religions
- animism: form of polytheism in which gods/goddesses are found in naturally occurring objects (trees, stones, plants); characteristic of African and Polynesian religions

#### Hinduism
- developed from the literature/oral traditions of the Aryans in present-day India
- no single founder
- polytheistic: many gods, principle gods were Vishnu (provider) and Shiva (destroyer)
- Brahmins were priests, at the top of social structure
- Brahma = divine essence; meaningful life is union with Brahma through reincarnation (this is called moksha and means the soul no longer experiences suffering)
- karma = a person’s good and bad deeds; determines form of reincarnation
- dharma = moral code to guide life and actions
- worship of cattle as sacred (housing reincarnated souls); consumption of beef forbidden
- Significance: religious beliefs reinforced caste system, strengthened patriarchy by stressing obligations to community and family; beliefs continue to influence Indian society today
- Spread: Hindu beliefs spread along the Silk Roads and to Southeast Asia via Indian Ocean trade

#### Buddhism
- developed by Sidartha Gautama and his followers in Northeastern India in the mid 500’s BCE; “Buddha” = the enlightened one, but NOT a deity
- Similar to Hinduism: relief from worldly suffering through the union of soul with divine spirit (nirvana); belief in reincarnation
- Departures from Hindu beliefs: stressed equal treatment of all people (therefore opposed to caste system)
- Ideas of equality appealed especially to those of the lower classes
- Spread: Buddhist monasteries established along trade routes; monks and nuns hosted travelers and spread beliefs; Mauryan emperor Ashoka promoted Buddhism after he converted
- Significance: Buddhism achieved widespread popularity, especially in East and Southeast Asia, although it lost popularity in India itself; offered an alternative to Hinduism for those in the lower castes, providing these people with hope for a better life in the future
## Unit II: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.
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<tr>
<td><strong>Confucianism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Emerged during the Era of Warring States (between Zhou and Qin dynasties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Kung Fu-tse (Confucius): Chinese scholar and philosopher who studied the literature of the Zhou period and developed a theory of how to establish stability in China</td>
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<td>• Confucius taught that good, stable government depended on educated civil servants and adherence to virtue; specifically stressed a series of patriarchal relationships such as obedience and loyalty to the emperor, filial piety and veneration of ancestors</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Followers recorded Confucius’ teachings in the Analects, which became the basis of the program of study for those wishing to enter China’s bureaucracy (after the Han established the civil service examinations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Significance: Confucius’ teachings became the cornerstone of Chinese tradition and culture; civil service examinations provided a greater level of competency among government employees; Confucianism supported autocratic government in China and preserved patriarchal social structures/gender roles; continues to have an influence in much of East Asia today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spread: although Confucianism remains primarily a Chinese belief system, elements of Confucianism have been adopted in areas that fell under Chinese control (such as Korea and Vietnam) or in areas that imported heavily from Chinese culture (such as Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daoism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Emerged during the Era of Warring States (between Zhou and Qin dynasties)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lao-tzu = founder of philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Philosophy: balance in nature (yin and yang) is preferable; human understanding of nature and harmonious balance achieved by following “the Way” (the life force found in nature)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Political affiliations: Daoism, in stark contrast to Confucianism, teaches that political activism and education are not necessary to harmony in nature because the natural flow of events would resolve problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significance: the Chinese adapted some Daoist principles to fit with Confucianism to reinforce ideas about responsibility for the community and the importance of meditation; ideas have influence on modern pop-culture (the Force, in Star Wars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Spread: Daoism, like Confucianism, remains primarily a Chinese belief system, however, elements of Daoism have been adopted in areas that fell under Chinese control (such as Korea and Vietnam) or in areas that imported heavily from Chinese culture (such as Japan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Judaism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ~2000 BCE: migration of Abraham from Mesopotamia to Canaan; followers called Hebrews</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Monotheistic: the first people to have a monotheistic religion; have a covenant in which Yahweh is their god and Jews are his followers; history recorded in Torah (Hebrew scriptures, Old Testament of Christian Bible)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Judaism

- **History:** migration out of Canaan to Egypt (famine?); enslaved by Egyptians; exodus and freedom from slavery led by Moses; receipt of the Ten Commandments as law for the Jews; return to Canaan (Palestine) and establishment of theocracy (rule by religious leaders); establishment of Kingdom of Israel under Saul; Jerusalem becomes capital of Israel under David; kingdom weakens under Solomon (taxes); division of Israel into two kingdoms, Israel (North) and Judah (South); Northern kingdom fell to Assyrians, 722 BCE, leading to first Jewish diaspora; Southern kingdom fell to Babylonians (Chaldeans) in 586 BCE and Jews taken into captivity in Babylon; Persian invasion led by Cyrus the Great led to renewed freedom for Jews; Jews return to Palestine, which remains under Persian control until becoming a part of the Roman empire (province of Judea, 63 BCE); 132 CE: rebellion of Jews against Romans led to second diaspora
- **Spread:** Followers of Judaism did not try to convert others to their religion
- **Significance:** first monotheistic religion; foundation for future monotheistic religions of Christianity and Islam; pattern of persecution against Jewish people continues even today

## Christianity

- **4-6 BCE:** birth of Jesus Christ, believed Messiah prophesized by Jewish faith
- **History:** Jesus, as an adult, traveled around Judea, accompanied by 12 disciples, preaching forgiveness of sins; called the Christ = “anointed”; Jesus’ teachings perceived as a threat to Jewish and Roman authority in the region; trial and execution of Jesus; resurrection of Jesus and foundation of Christianity as followers of Jesus traveled the Roman empire spreading Jesus’ message; accounts of Jesus’ life and teachings found in New Testament of Christian Bible
- **Spread:** missionaries used Roman roads to spread the message of Jesus; religion spread rapidly throughout the empire, although for the first few hundred years it was not openly tolerated; as Christianity gained popularity, Roman Emperors accepted its existence and later emperors even converted, establishing Christianity as the official religion of the Empire; after the collapse of the western half of the empire, Christianity spread further north in Europe and East into Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Russia
- **Significance:** Christianity continues to have an enormous influence on Western Culture and is considered one of the West’s most important cultural heirlooms from Roman times; Christianity had wide appeal among the poor and among women because its stress on the concept of equality in faith; served as a unifying force among Europeans after the fall of the Roman Empire; earliest organized Christianity in the form of Catholicism, which had a significant influence on Medieval and Early Modern European rulers
## Unit II: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.

### Review Guide

#### The Decline of Classical Civilizations

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<tr>
<th>Classical Civilization</th>
<th>Specific Causes for Fall</th>
<th>Shared Characteristics</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Han China              | - start of decline: 100 CE  
- decline of interest in Confucianism and stress on education 
- social unrest 
- pressure from neighboring tribes | - weak emperors, deflection of power to military leaders 
- decline in trade 
- taxes overburden peasants 
- population decline/epidemic diseases 
- bad harvests 
- poverty gap, especially with regards to land ownership 
- decline in morality |
| Rome                   | - collapse of traditional values among the elite 
- dependence on slave labor 
- use of non-Romans in the army 
- inability to effectively rule large empire 
- cessation of inflow of resources due to cessation of wars of conquest | |
| Gupta India            | - regional leaders gained more power at the expense of the power of the Gupta rulers 
- traditional values persisted | |

#### The Aftermath of the Fall of Classical Civilizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Han China</th>
<th>Rome</th>
<th>Gupta India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Daoism and Buddhism gain popularity 
- Invasions from nomads (Hsiung-nu) 
- political decentralization 
- 589 CE: Sui dynasty reestablishes order in China 
- Confucian culture/traditions kept by the elite classes 
- invading nomads settled and assimilated into Chinese culture | - small landowners forced to sell to large landowners 
- large landowners became increasingly self-sufficient, leading to a decline in trade, which led to a decline in urban populations 
- Conflict with large Christian minority 
- Constantine established second capital at Byzantium (Constantinople) and converted to Christianity 
- Western portion of empire steadily declined, while eastern portion thrived and continued to trade with the East 
- Huns migrate out of Central Asia, pressing Germanic tribes of Central Europe to migrate/invite the Roman Empire 
- Germanic tribes establish kingdoms within Roman empire, eventually overthrow western emperor by 476 CE 
- Eastern portion (becoming the Byzantine Empire) faced less pressure from outsiders and more economic prosperity, center for arts 
- Attempt to revive empire during the rule of Justinian (Byzantine emperor), but unsuccessful 
- cities in the west deteriorated and culture/intellectual life declined 
- centralized government replaced by allegiances to Germanic kings | - Invaders from central steppes from ~500 CE to ~600 
- local rulers (Rajput) replace centralized rule of Guptas 
- interest in Buddhism declined, while adherence to Hindu traditions continued |
Interactive between Civilizations of the Classical Period

Rivalries along the Nile
- Kingdom of Kush south of Egypt: admired Egyptians and adopted aspects of their culture, such as hieroglyphics and religious beliefs
- Kush conquer Egypt ~750 BCE during a time when Egypt was weak
- Kush conquered by another rival kingdom, Axum ~300 CE
- Another rival kingdom, Ethiopia, was a Christian kingdom (Christianity brought to region by Greek merchants ~4th century CE)
- All of these kingdoms traded along the Nile and across the Red Sea

Silk Roads
- roads linked China, India, and Mesopotamia
- trade often facilitated by Central Asian herders
- roads extended by Romans to include the Mediterranean region
- important route that gave access to luxury goods and exotic spices from the East to the West
- Nomads linked to more advanced civilizations through their participation in trade (often offering use of their animals)
- allowed the diffusion of ideas (including religious beliefs and scientific discoveries), goods, technology, and diseases

Indian Ocean Trade
- an extension of the Silk Roads that allowed trade primarily between China, India, and Africa
- sea merchants/sailors from China, India, Persia, Africa, Southeast Asia
- movement possible from monsoon winds to go from section to section across the Indian Ocean

Trans-Saharan Trade
- trade across the Sahara desert
- use of camel caravans to cross the desert
- primarily exchange of salt and palm oil for gold and ivory
- significant in that sub-Saharan Africa was linked to North Africa and therefore the Mediterranean trade routes, as well as the silk roads that the Romans extended into North Africa