#### **Cultural Diffusion**

The process whereby cultures meet and mix ideas and, subsequently, create new cultures.

Cultures typically meet through trade or warfare.

#### Golden Age

A period when empires are at their peak. Usually marked by extended durations of peace, expanded state wealth due to control of trade, and a flourishing of art, science, and architecture.

#### **Eras**

#### Paleolithic, Ended 8,000 BCE

- Hunters and Gatherers
- Nomadic peoples

## Neolithic, 4,000 BCE - 2500 BCE

- <u>Neolithic Revolution</u>; discovery of agriculture and the domestication of animals
- First cities started to come together as advancements in agriculture enabled civilizations to feed more people
- Economy diversifies, labor becomes specialized, trade is initiated

### Bronze Age, 2500 BCE - 700 BCE

- First river civilizations: sustained by annual or seasonal flooding, provided means of easy irrigation and transportation
  - Nile
    - Egypt, Africa, pharaohs, pyramids
    - Old Kingdom (2575 BCE 2130 BCE); Middle Kingdom (1938 BCE 1630 BCE); New Kingdom (1539 BCE 1075 BCE)
  - Sumaria (3300 BCE 2500 BCE)
    - later, Mesopotamia, "The Land Between Two Rivers"
    - Modern day Iraq
    - Hammarabi's Code, one of the earliest set of legal codes
      - Unifying, by punishments were often harsh (eye for an eye)
  - Indus River Valley
    - Est 3000 BCE 1500 BCE
    - Modern day Pakistan
    - Cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
  - Yellow (Huang He) River
    - Eastern China

# **Empires**

### **Mediterranean Empires**

## Ancient Greece : fifth century BCE

- Gave us direct democracy, where the people had a direct voice in the government
- Early rational thought, analysis of reality, desire to understand "truth"
  - o Great philosophers; Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
- Peaked during Greek Golden Age (460 BCE 429 BCE)
  - City-state of Athens controlled the region
    - Pericles was one of its great leaders

## The empire of Alexander the Great: 336 BCE - 323 BCE

- From Macedonia, a region north of Greece
- Hi father conquered Athens, and then he added Persia, the Lower Nile, and Palestine, and merged all these regions with Macedonia.
- Brought about the <u>Hellenistic Age</u>, which spread Hellenistic culture throughout the region

# Roman Republic: 509 BCE - 31 BCE

- A <u>republic</u> is a government where many or all leaders are chosen (elected) by the people
  - The Roman people elected people to a Senate, which governed on the people's behalf
    - The US is a republic
  - The Punic Wars, between 264 BCE and 146 BCE: the armies of the Republic defeated the Carthaginians (from modern-day Tunisia), led by <u>Hannibal</u>, and became dominant throughout the entire Mediterranean basin.
    - Hannibal led an army, which included war elephants, across the Alps and invaded Italy, but failed to conquer Rome
- Republic ends due to political infighting and civil wars
- <u>Julius Caesar</u> names himself dictator and tries to save the Republic, but is mistrusted by the Senate and, in 44 BCE, is assassinated.

## Roman Empire: 31 BCE - 476 BCE

- Established by <u>Augustus</u> shortly after the death of Caesar
  - Augustus is the first Roman Emperor
- No longer a republic, the Roman Empire is led by a series of Emperors, many of which were elite generals in the Roman army
- The Senate remained, but its power was limited

- Pax Romana: a two hundred year span where the Empire was in relative peace ("pax" means "peace" in the language of the Romans, Latin).
  - This was the Empire's Golden Age
- Infighting, attacks from barbarians, and plague create instability in the Empire
- In CE 284, Rome is split in an effort to save it. It doesn't work.
- CE 476, Rome is sacked by Germanic barbarians, marking the end of the Empire.

## Byzantine Empire: CE 476 - CE 1453

- Emerged from the fallen Roman Empire
- Capital was Constantinople
  - Constantine moved the capital there from Rome because it was a better location for controlling trade and the wealth of the empire.
    - CE 324
- Justinian I unified the empire by consolidating old Roman laws and codes into the Justinian's Code
  - o CE 527 565
- Fell to the Ottomans in CE 1453
  - Much Byzantine culture shifted to Russia and influenced the expansion of Russian culture
  - Some Greek scholars also escaped to the Italian universities and helped spur the Renaissance

#### **Chinese Dynasties**

Civil service system, invented gunpowder, porcelain Dynastic cycle

#### Zhou Dynasty; 1122 - 256 BCE

- loose confederation of feudal states
- end of the Dynasty is known as the "Warring States" period
- Dynasty during which Confucianism and Daoism began

#### Qin Dynasty; 221 - 206 BCE

- Qin Shi Huangdi, first to unify China
  - o From "Qin" comes China
- Shi Huangdi employed a legalist philosophy to control the empire
  - <u>Legalists (legalism)</u> believe people are incapable of organizing themselves, so strict laws with harsh punishments are need to maintain a civil society
- Built the Great Wall of China to keep out Mongol invaders

#### Han Dynasty; 202 BCE - CE 220

Han Gaozu reorganizes China from the chaos following the end of the Qin

- Han Wudi expanded the empire and opened up the trade routes in order to expand influence and wealth
  - These trans-Asian routes later became known as the <u>Silk Roads</u>
- State philosophy became **Confucianism** from Legalism
- Founded the Chinese civil service that was based on personal merit, not family ties
- Ushered in a Chinese golden age

## Song Dynasty; CE 960 - 1279

- Established an orderly Chinese society
- Supported extensive foreign trade, employed paper money
- Eventually destroyed by the Mongols

# Ming Dynasty; CE 1368 - 1644

- Recovered China for the Chinese, pushing the Mongols back over the Great Wall and out of China
- Supported great shipping fleets for trade and exploration
  - Zheng He was perhaps their greatest naval hero

#### **Indian Empires**

Indian subcontinent was protected from invasion by the Himalayas

Hindu Religion came out of the earliest Indus River Civilizations and merged with philosophies of assimilated cultures (eg: Aryan peoples).

## Maurya; 312 - 185 BCE

- Founded when <u>Chandragupta Maurya</u> united the area using conquest, and an efficient bureaucracy noted for effective, but harsh, laws.
- Asoka, Maurya's grandson, further expanded using brutal methods of conquest, but later converted to Buddhism
  - Through <u>Asoka's Edicts</u>, he Is greatly credited with the early spread of Buddhism

#### Gupta; CE 320 - 540

- Strong central government
- Established a Golden Age in India

#### **African Kingdoms**

Wealth through the trade of gold and salt

Trading centers on the northern arc of the Niger River connected with <u>caravans</u> that crossed the Sahara in order to sell their goods in Mediterranean and Red Sea ports.

## Kingdom of Ghana; CE 800 - 1050

Capital was Kumbi Saleh, located between the Niger and the Senegal Rivers

## **Kingdom of Mali; CE 1200 - 1450**

- Main city was <u>Timbuktu</u>, on the Niger River in Western Africa
- Through cultural diffusion, traders from Arabia introduced Islam
- Controlled gold and salt trade in Africa
- Greatest ruler was Mansa Musa, earned great wealth and power
  - A convert to Islam, based his system of justice on the Quran
  - Spread Islam throughout his region

## Kingdom of Songhai; CE 1460 - 1600

- Sonni Ali, an early Songhai king, established the largest West African Empire at the time
- Askia Mohammad made Islam the state religion
  - o Expanded on Sonni Ali's empire

## **Muslim Caliphates**

# Umayyad caliphate; CE 661 - 750

- Rapidly expanded the Muslim faith through conquest
  - Empire spanned from Spain to the Indus River, including all of Persia and Arabia
- Quick success because many of the people they conquered were ready to get rid
  of their masters (the Byzantines or the Persians, for example), and the Umayyads
  demonstrated tolerance and acceptance of other religions and belief systems, as
  long and the conquered paid their taxes

# Abbasid caliphate; CE 750 - 1258

- Continued Umayyad tradition of tolerance
- Encouraged equality for all Muslims, regardless of class
- Moved the capital to <u>Bhaqdad</u>
- Oversaw a Golden Age of Islam
- Kingdom ended when the Mongols conquered Baghdad, looted and burnt it to the ground, and killed the last Abbasid caliph

## Seljuk Turks

- Invaded and conquered Abbasid lands
- Constant attacks on Constantinople drove <u>Pope Urban II</u> to unify European Kings and go off on the First <u>Crusade</u> (1099).

#### **Ottoman Empire**

- Led by Mehmit II, Ottomans conquered Constantinople in CE 1453
- Used the new invention, gunpowder, to conquer their enemies
- Enjoyed a Golden Age under <u>Suleiman the Magnificent</u> or, to his people, Suleiman the Lawgiver.

- Became a massive empire that included Mesopotamia, Northern Africa, Asia Minor (Turkey), Greece and parts of Eastern Europe and Russia.
- Faded from power by the 1700s, but remained a kingdom until World War I.

#### **Mesoamerican Empires**

In the Americas

Zero interaction with Europe, Africa and Asia prior to Columbus' arrival in 1492

## Maya Civilization; 900 BCE - CE 300

- Located on the Yucatan Peninsula, modern day Mexico, Guatemala and Belize
- Consisted of city-states loosely bound together by a generally uniform Mayan culture

## **Aztec Empire: CE 1325 - 1517**

- Aztec peoples (nomads) settled in the Valley of Mexico in about CE 1200
- Settled the city of <u>Tenochtitlán</u>
  - Expanded agriculture through the use of <u>chinampas</u>, which were essentially gardens that floated on the lake upon which the city was settled

# Inca Empire ~CE 1150 - 1525

- Andes Mountains of South America
- To grow crops, they modified their mountain environment using terrace farming
- Built an extensive system of roads and bridges across the Andes

# The Mongols

- The scourge of Asia, Persia, Russia and Europe!
- Adapted to their difficult physical environment, the cold, dry Asian <u>steppes</u>
- Use of superior horsemenship and advanced military technology allowed their greatest rule, <u>Genghis Khan</u>, to build one of the largest empires ever to exist, spanning from eastern China to eastern Europe.
- Control of almost the entire length of the <u>Silk Roads</u> allowed them to support and increase in trade and travel between Asian and Europe
- Pax Mongolica

Geography

<u>Mountains</u> <u>Seas and Oceans</u> <u>Rivers</u> <u>Deserts</u> <u>Peninsulas</u>

Himalayas Atlantic Nile Sahara Italy Alps Pacific Indus Deccan Yucatán Andes Mediterranean Tigris & Gobi Iberian Indian Euphrates Korean Red

Amazon Indian
Danube Europe!
Huang He

Ganges Niger

Terms

Dynastic Cycle barbarians Hammurabi's Code flooding archipelago 10 Commandments direct democracy peninsula Justinian Codes republic Hellenistic Age 12 Tables of Rome oligarchy Roman Republic Hellenistic Culture

absolutism Roman Empire <u>anthropology</u>
humanism <u>city-states</u> primary source document
<u>feudalism</u> political map Great Wall of China

manorialism topographic map <u>archaeology</u>

traditional economic system Columbian Exchange

CitiesPeopleTimbuktuHammurabiMeccaThemistocles

Rome Aristotle
Constantinople/ Plato
Istanbul Socrates
Harappa Mansa Musa
Mohenjo Daro Mohammad
Delhi Confucius

Machu Picchu Chandragupta Maurya Tenochtitlan Qin Shi Huangdi

Cairo/Alexandria Han Wudi Athens Han Gaozu Sparta Pericles

Jerusalem

Baghdad Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

Lao Tse

Ur/Uruk Alexander the Great

Carthage Hannibal
Kiev Genghis Kahn
Moscow Ibn Battuta
Lisbon Charlemagne
London Pope Urban II
Madrid Pope Paul III

Paris Prince Henry the Navigator

Venice Bartolomeu Dias Florence Vasco da Gama

Genoa Christopher Columbus

John Cabot Hernando Cortez Francisco Pizarro

Abraham

Jesus of Nazareth

Mohammad Henry VIII James I

Ghengis Khan

**Events** 

Persian Wars

Peloponnesian Wars

Punic Wars
Black Plague
Renaissance
Fall of Rome
Bantu Migrations
Fall of Constantinople

First Encounter

Crusades

Scientific Revolution Age of Exploration Age of Reason Age of Absolutism

# **Belief Systems**

#### Animism

- Traditional beliefs originating with the earliest homo sapiens
- Believe all things and elements possessed certain spirits

#### Hinduism

- practice good <u>dharma</u> (life's deeds) to reach nirvana
- polytheistic
- possibly the oldest religion covered

#### Judaism

- monotheistic
- Abraham and Moses are most notable profits
- Jewish diaspora

#### Buddhism

- Siddhartha Gautama: the Buddha
- Asoka, Indian Prince who spread Buddhism
- Out of Nepal
- Four Noble Truths
  - (1) Life is suffering, (2) Suffering comes from desire, and (3) to eliminate suffering
    is to eliminate desire. To eliminate desire, (4) follow the 8-Fold Path

#### Confucianism

- Founded by Confucius
- Believed in social order, social harmony
- Everyone should embrace their role in society
- Became the foundation for the Chinese civil service

#### Legalism

- Embraced by Qin Shi Huangdi
- Assumed all people were evil, so strict laws and harsh punishments were needed to maintain order

## Daoism

- Founded by Lao Tse
- Believed in harmony with nature

#### Christianity

- Jesus of Nazareth
- monotheistic
- spread by Peter and, mostly, Paul in the first century

#### Islam

- monotheistic
- founded by Muhammad
- Embraced personal salvation, tolerance
- Spread across northern Africa, Arabia and Persia by Islamic traders