Change from River Valleys to Classical Civilizations

• ~1000 BCE

• Location—China, India, Mediterranean World
  – PLEASE NOTE → Mesoamerican / Andean civilizations will be addressed when we get to Pre-Columbian America

• New/renewed civilizations that were durable

• Left the most substantial impacts and legacies

• Set in motion key values and institutions that extend well beyond the classical period

• All 3 built on achievements of the River Valley civilizations.
Early River Civilizations - Defining Characteristics

- Complex governments
- Cities
- Writing
- Religion
- Job Specialization
- Identity (difference from other civilizations)
- Expansion
• Classical civilizations not a continuation of ancient river valleys
  – Change political centers
  – Improve technology
  – Establish more elaborate philosophical and religious traditions
  – Expand science and math
  – Set up methods for territorial expansion and embraced a diverse group of people
  – Integrated aspects of their institutions and traditions
  – Each civilization operated separately despite contacts with each other
    • Greece ↔ India—Alexander the Great
    • Rome ↔ China—Silk Road
THE CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS
(1000 BCE - 600 CE)

1. Several large civilizations grow from areas where earlier civilizations thrived.
2. Better and more recent records kept.
3. Direct Links to modern day – ROOT CIVILIZATIONS
4. Expansionist – creating empires while expanding culture, political, commercial base.
5. Increase internal trade
6. Sophisticated internal organization
COMMON FEATURES OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

• **Patriarchal family structures** -
• **Agricultural-based economies** -
• **Complex governments** - Because they were so large, these three civilizations had to invent new ways to keep their lands together politically. Their governments were large and complex, although they each had unique ways of governing

• **Expanding trade base** - Their economic systems were complex. Although they generally operated independently, trade routes connected them by both land and sea.
What forces caused the rise of classical civilizations?

- Strong government
- Prosperous economy
- Changes in philosophical and religious world views
- Advanced technology and learning (Lasting contributions and achievements)
EINS: Strong Government

- **Empires:**
  - Provided large, secure areas for trade
  - Accumulated wealth necessary for basic economic development
  - Provided political stability
PRECONDITIONS FOR EMPIRES

• State level government
• High agricultural potential
• Environmental mosaic
• Several small states with no clear dominant state (power vacuum)
• Mutual antagonism
• Adequate military resources
IDEOLOGY = personal identification with

- The State
- Empire
- Leader
- Conquest
- And/or Militarism
Major Results of Empire

- Economic rewards
- Relative stability and prosperity
- Population increase
CHARACTERISTICS OF EMPIRE

• Build Roads and Transportation Systems
• Trade increases
• Cosmopolitan cities – art/education
• Effective bureaucracy
• Common official language (communication)
• System of justice
• Citizenship ability to buy in
ZWEI - Prosperous economy

• Commercial and economic development
• Trade routes connected the Mediterranean Sea with Asia
  – Water
  – Land (Silk Roads)
• Cultural Diffusion: In addition to exchanging goods, traders carried ideas, religious beliefs, art, and ways of living
The stability provided by the great empires helped to create great trading networks.

(upcoming major theme)
**DREI** - Changes in philosophical and religious world views

- **Axial Period**: certain individuals who dared to reflect on their own tradition and hold it up to critical examination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
<td>Persian Empire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hebrew Prophets</td>
<td>Palestine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confucius</td>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek Philosophy</td>
<td>Mediterranean</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**VIER - Advanced Technology and Learning**

{Lasting contributions and achievements}

- Development of architecture
- Achievement in learning, literature, and arts
- Progress in transportation, communication, and trade
- Advancements in mathematics, science, technology
What are some common characteristics of Classical Civilizations?
Characteristics of Classical Empires

• Powerful military
• Effective government bureaucracy
• Control large territory-multiethnic and multicultural
• Uniform currency and weights and measures
• Service of citizens
• Military technology
• Uniform legal codes
• Public works
• Lavish public monuments
• Patronize the arts and scholarship
COMMON ISSUES

1. Challenge of administering vast territories without advancement in technology and communication.
3. Maintenance of bureaucracies and military
4. Equitable distribution of land and wealth
5. Long distance trade
DIFFERENCES - own beliefs, lifestyles, political institutions, and social structures

1. Organization of Family and Society.
2. What constitutes proper public and private behavior
3. Nature of gods
4. Proper relationships between human beings, natural world, and the gods
What have been the contributions of Classical Civilizations?
Greece: 1750 BCE – 133 BCE

• Geography
  – Southeastern Europe
  – Mountains, valleys, and small islands
No large empires $\rightarrow$ many small city-states

- Polis: Greek term for city-state $\rightarrow$ urban center + agricultural territory under its control

- Experimented with several types of government
  - Kings
  - Aristocracy
  - Oligarchy
  - Democracy
Militarism in Sparta

- Warrior society
- Declined because of an inability to change
Limited Democracy in Athens

• Direct democracy- large number of MALE citizens actually took part in day to day running of government.

Civil War ➔ Peloponnesian War
Alexander the Great

- Built empire that included the Nile valley, Persia, and parts of India

- Hellenistic Culture: Blended aspects of all
Greek and Hellenistic Contributions

• PHILOSOPHY: Reason to explain why things happen
  • Socrates, Plato, Aristotle

• LITERATURE: Tragedies, Comedies, Epic Poems

• ART AND ARCHITECTURE: Reflected belief in beauty, balance, and order in the universe

• SCIENCE: Astronomy, Earth rotates
  Lever, pulleys
  Causes and cures of illness

• MATHEMATICS: Pythagorean theorem
  Geometry
Rome: 509 BCE - 476 CE
Geography-

- Center of Italy
- Low mountains
- Fertile plain
- Peninsula
Roman Republic

• Drove out Etruscans
• Republic: Officials were chosen by the people
  – Senate - governing body
    » Patricians: landholding upper class

Farmers, merchants, artisans made up large part of the population called plebeians.
Roman Empire

• 270 BCE → Rome conquered Carthage, Macedonia, Greece, and parts of Asia Minor

• Large territory created problems
  – Gap between rich and poor
  – Corruption
• **Julius Caesar**
  • 48 BCE New conquest and reform

• **Octavian** (*Augustus*) (27 BCE-14 CE)
  • Absolute power
  • End of republic- Start of Empire
  • **PAX ROMANA:** 200 years of peace and stability

  (27 BCE- 180 CE)
Roman Contributions

• Laws:
  – Applied to all people
  – Equality under the law
  – Right to face your accuser
  – Right to mount a defense
  – Innocent until proven guilty

Laws of the Twelve Tables: Written laws
• Art and architecture:
  – Borrowed from Greece (Greco-Roman)
  – Mighty and grand
  – Latin language used to write great poetic, historical, and philosophical works

• Engineering:
  – Roads, bridges, aqueducts, arches, and domes
Greco-Roman Traditions

- Active participation in politics → Greek city-state, Roman republic
- Aristocratic assemblies—republic?—rule by the best—philosopher kings---serve as a check on executive power
- Rule by law—codified, equitable law
## Chinese Classical Dynasty Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dynasty</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xia</td>
<td>2100-1800BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shang</td>
<td>1700-1027BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhou</td>
<td>1027-221BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qin</td>
<td>221-207BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han</td>
<td>206BCE-220CE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Three Schools of Thought in China
Confucianism

551 BCE

- Five Relationships: Harmony results when people accept their place in society

People-good  Ruler-good
Legalism

Order obtained by enforcing strict laws with punishment

People- evil       Ruler- harsh
Daoism

• Laozi → No interest in bringing order to human affairs
  – Sought to live in harmony with nature
Qin Dynasty
(221 to 207 BCE)

• Shi Huangdi: “First Emperor”
• Changed feudal states to military districts ruled by appointed officials
• Built “Great Wall” to protect against nomadic tribes in the north
• **Feudalism**: System of government in which local lords governed their own lands but owed military service and other forms of support to the ruler.
Han Dynasty
(206 BCE to 220 CE)

• Strengthened government
• Expanded border
• Silk Road
• Scholar-Officials
• Civil service examination
Han Dynasty

- Strongest and longest dynasty
- Expansionist Empire
  - Postal system
  - Roads
  - Defensive fortifications
- Weak Leadership caused collapse
  - Corruption and leadership issues
- Had to protect the expanding borders some that encouraged trade along the Silk Road
- Silk Road brought “bandits” that threatened the outer borders of the Han dynasty
The SILK ROAD
Trade between Europe and Asia

- Domestication of the horse
- Domestication of the Camel
- Chinese Silk
Han China: 202 BCE to 220 CE

- Confucianism and Legalism
- Expansion (Trade with India and Mediterranean)
- Technology – papermaking, textile manufacturing, water mills, iron casting, rudder and fore and aft rigging
- Civil Service Exam and School
- Keep Government Structure of QIN
The Mandate of Heaven:
Divine right to rule

Dynastic cycle:
Rise and fall of empires
DYNASTIC CYCLE

Dynasty is founded by a powerful leader

Period of Rebellion, dynasty overthrown

Leader loses Mandate of Heaven

Period of Decline
- higher taxes
- social services decline
- natural disasters

New leader gains Mandate of Heaven

Period of great power and prosperity
- restores peace
- restores glory to country
- builds roads, irrigation systems, improves everyday life of people in dynasty
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Political Structure</th>
<th>Social Structure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confucianism dominates the political and social structure.</td>
<td>Zhou - emperor rules by mandate of heaven, or belief that dynasties rise and fall according to the will of heaven, or the ancestors. Emperor was the &quot;son of heaven.&quot;</td>
<td>Family basic unit of society, with loyalty and obedience stressed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legalism and Daoism develop during same era.</td>
<td>Emperor housed in the forbidden city, separate from all others</td>
<td>Wealth generally based on land ownership; emergence of scholar gentry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism appears, but not influential yet</td>
<td>Political authority controlled by Confucian values, with emperor in full control but bound by duty</td>
<td>Growth of a large merchant class, but merchants generally lower status than scholar-bureaucrats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats from nomads from the south and west spark the first construction of the Great Wall; clay soldiers, lavish tomb for first emperor Shi Huangdi</td>
<td>Political power centralized under Shi Huangdi - often seen as the first real emperor</td>
<td>Big social divide between rural and urban, with most wealth concentrated in cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese identity cemented during Han era: the &quot;Han&quot; Chinese</td>
<td>Han - a &quot;golden age&quot; with prosperity from trade along the Silk Road; inventions include water mills, paper, compasses, and pottery and silk-making; calendar with 365.5 days</td>
<td>Some slavery, but not as much as in Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han - strong centralized government, supported by the educated shi (scholar bureaucrats who obtained positions through civil service exams)</td>
<td>Capital of Xi'an possibly the most sophisticated, diverse city in the world at the time; many other large cities</td>
<td>Patriarchal society reinforced by Confucian values that emphasized obedience of wife to husband</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
India

1750 BCE - Indus Valley civilization decline

1500 BCE - Aryan invasion
• Aryans: Indo-European warriors who migrated across Europe and Asia.
  • Vedas - Stories of conquest
    – Conquered the Dravidians (Dark Skinned Indians)
    – Established Warrior Aristocracy
  • Nomads who settle down in India and become agrarian (farmers)
  • Sanskrit - Written language
  • Aryan religious beliefs that give rise to Hinduism and Buddhism

500 BCE Indian Civilization Emerges
Mauryan Empire
• Based on regionalism
• Open to influences from the west
• 600 BCE 16 major regional states all with different types of government.
• Mauryan empire 322 BCE
  – Began by Chandragupta Maurya
    • 1st dynasty to unite most of the Indian subcontinent
  – Ashoka: famous Emperor
    • Extended control to Southern tip of India
    • Converted to Buddhism → horrified by brutality of unifying the empire
    • Ruled by moral example
    • United his diverse people → peace and prosperity
    • After his death, rival kingdoms competed for power
  – Collapsed from outside attacks
  – Laws of Manu
  – Empire falls due to lack of durable roots
Gupta Empire
Gupta Empire

• 320 CE
• Greatest period of political stability
• Negotiated with local princes, intermarry with their families and expand influence w/o constant fighting
Gupta Empire

• Created a demanding taxation system
• No bureaucracy and allowed regional leaders to maintain control
  – There was a Gupta rep. at each local prince’s court to ensure loyalty
• Promoted Sanskrit
• Uniform law codes
• “Golden Age”
Gupta Empire
Political Culture

• Not elaborate
• Regional
• Buddhism provides ethnic code
• Tightly knit villages
• Caste system – provided a way for conquered and conquerors to live together
• Caste system limited political development because of strict social rules – loyalty to caste above all
Societal Comparison #1 – China-India

• China's society featured less rigid structure, slightly more opportunity for mobility although there was some mobility within castes
• different rules and cultural enforcements
• Law of Manu vs. Confucianism
• different regard for merchants and specific contrasts in the definition and function of "mean people" versus untouchables.
  – Dharma encouraged merchants in Gupta
  – Merchants brought outside cultures and were not socially accepted
Environmental Determinism

• India was more open to contact and invasion and less internally coherent (interior mountains etc), which helps explain the differences in openness to influence, and political stability

• India absorbed other cultures while China remains ethnically homogeneous (90% of all Chinese trace their ancestry back to the Han dynasty)
Societal Comparison #2

HAN CHINA - ROME
Han and Rome – Similarities:

- Highly stratified societies
- Patriarchal families—Confucianism, pater familias
- Agricultural base—free peasants-small farms or tenant farmers, heavy dependency on slavery and latifundias
- Educated civil service—Confucian trained scholar bureaucrats, civic responsibility
- Highly centralized state—dynastic, empires with appearance of limits through Senate
Han and Rome

- Multicultural empires—most conquered assimilated, citizenship offered to best, extension of Roman law and building
- Extensive road systems and urban communities
- Subordinated women
- Armies maintain the empire—internal and external
Comparisons

China
Well organized bureaucracy founded on Confucian ideals and education
Emphasis on family, ancestors: patriarchal
Reliance on gentry as support: good marriages afforded women more rights
Engineering: roads, canals, the Great Wall
Inventions: wheelbarrow, gunpowder, printing press, compass, paper, paper currency (all before 1000 ce)
Religion: Confucianism, Taoism, native gods, introduction of Buddhism

Rome
Well organized bureaucracy founded on Roman law and classical learning
Emphasis on family: *pater familias*
Reliance on patricians: women gained power and property rights within families
Engineering: roads, aqueducts, amphitheatres, domes, sewage systems, central heating
Inventions: concrete, the arch (probably Etruscan), *insulae* (apartment buildings)
Religion: Emperor as god, paganism, mystery religions, introduction of Christianity
Historical revisionism

• The historical doings of women usually have been overlooked, or ignored, or poorly researched, we mainly have had a history which is seen through only a half-opened window.

• This is also the case when we leave out the perspective and lives of people on the bottom of society's ladder (slaves, serfs, lower classes, workers), or minorities within a larger society.
Role of Women In Classical Civilizations

• Han CHINA:
  – Most women of all classes lived quiet lives at home, caring for families.
  – Women in aristocratic and landowning families sometimes pursued education and culture.
  – Some women ran small shops; still others practiced medicine.
• Athens GREECE:
  – Women were excluded from citizenship and had few rights

“A good wife should be the mistress of her home, having under her care all that is within it, according to the rules we have laid down... But in all other matter, let it be her aim to obey her husband; giving no heed to public affairs."

-Aristotle, Greek philosophers, 330 BCE
Rome:

- Under Roman law women went from the authority of their fathers to the authority of their husbands.
- Roman men placed a very high value on marriage, home and the family and this made quite a difference to society's treatment of women.
- Many men were seeking and following the advice of their wives, provided the advice was given in private and the husband did not make a big deal of it.
• India:
  – they had to be under the care of parents in their childhood
  – under the protection of husbands in their youth
  – and in their old age they had to be under the control of their sons.