

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 \leftrightarrow India—Alexander the Great
 - Rome \leftrightarrow 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.

Zoroastrianism	Persian Empire
Hebrew Prophets	Palestine
Buddhism	India
Confucius	China
Greek Philosophy	Mediterranean

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.
2. Military – defensive and offensive challenges.
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 → many small city-states

- Polis: Greek term for city-state → 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

Xia	2100-1800BCE
Shang	1700-1027BCE
Zhou	1027-221BCE
Qin	221-207BCE
Han	206BCE-220CE

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



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**

Silk Road



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

New leader
gains
Mandate of
Heaven

Dynasty is founded by
a powerful leader

Period of Rebellion,
dynasty overthrown

Period of great
power and
prosperity

- restores peace
- restores glory to country
- builds roads, irrigation systems, improves everyday life of people in dynasty

Leader loses
Mandate of
Heaven

Period of Decline

- higher taxes
- social services decline
- natural disasters

Culture

Confucianism dominates the political and social structure.

Legalism and Daoism develop during same era.

Buddhism appears, but not influential yet

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

Chinese identity cemented during Han era: the "Han" Chinese

Han - a "golden age" with prosperity from trade along the Silk Road; inventions include water mills, paper, compasses, and pottery and silk-making; calendar with 365.5 days
Capital of Xi'an possibly the most sophisticated, diverse city in the world at the time; many other large cities

Political Structure

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 "son of heaven."

Emperor housed in the forbidden city, separate from all others

Political authority controlled by Confucian values, with emperor in full control but bound by duty

Political power centralized under Shi Huangdi - often seen as the first real emperor

Han - strong centralized government, supported by the educated shi (scholar bureaucrats who obtained positions through civil service exams)

Social Structure

Family basic unit of society, with loyalty and obedience stressed

Wealth generally based on land ownership; emergence of scholar gentry

Growth of a large merchant class, but merchants generally lower status than scholar-bureaucrats

Big social divide between rural and urban, with most wealth concentrated in cities

Some slavery, but not as much as in Rome

Patriarchal society reinforced by Confucian values that emphasized obedience of wife to husband

China
(about
500 BCE
to 600
CE)

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.