

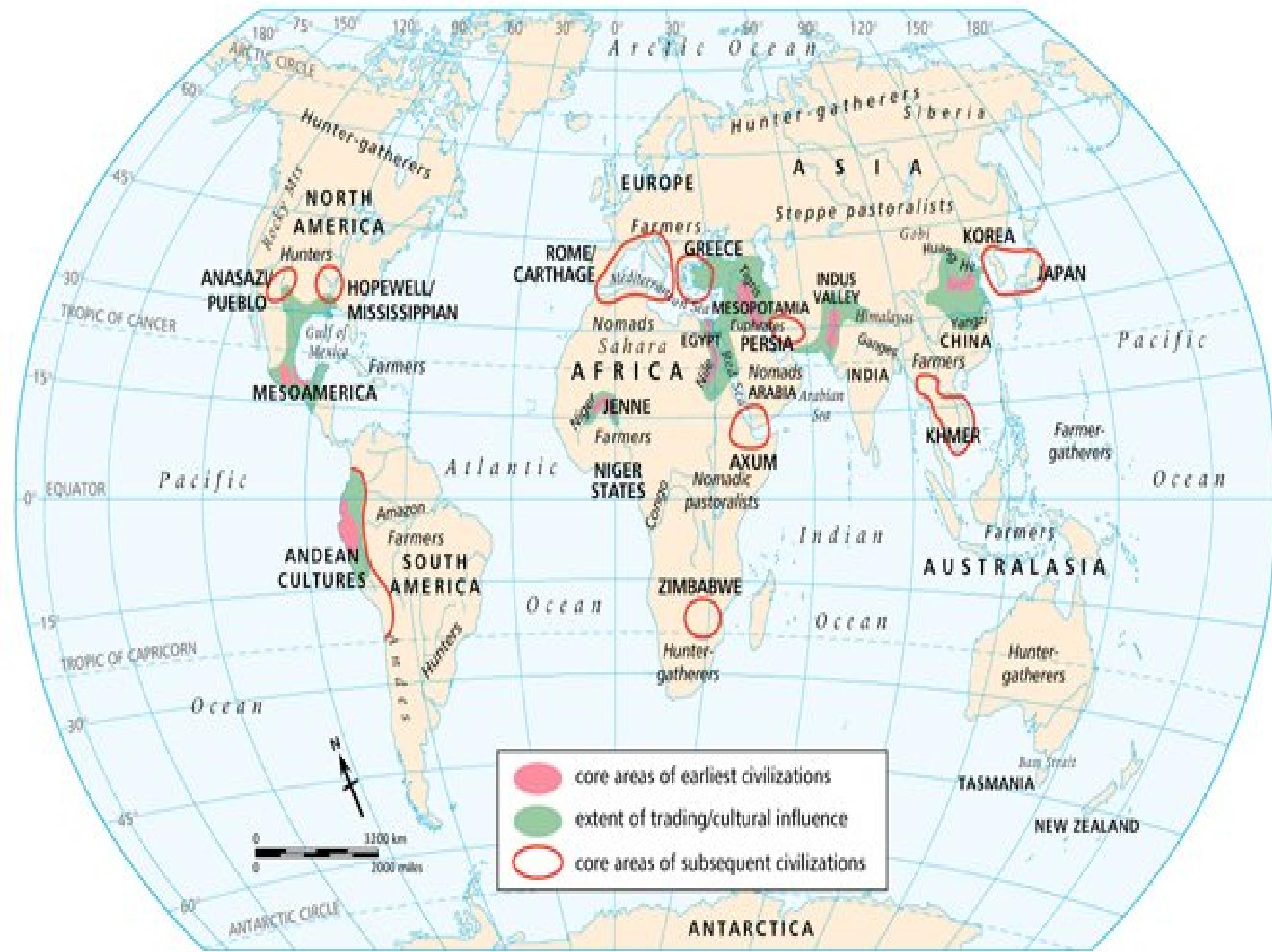
River Valley & Other Early Civilizations

Civilizations

- A civilization is a complex, highly organized social order.
- The first cities emerged after farmers began cultivating fertile lands along river valleys and producing surplus, or extra, food.
- These surpluses in turn helped populations expand.
- As populations grew, some villages swelled into cities.

Four Great River Valley Civilizations





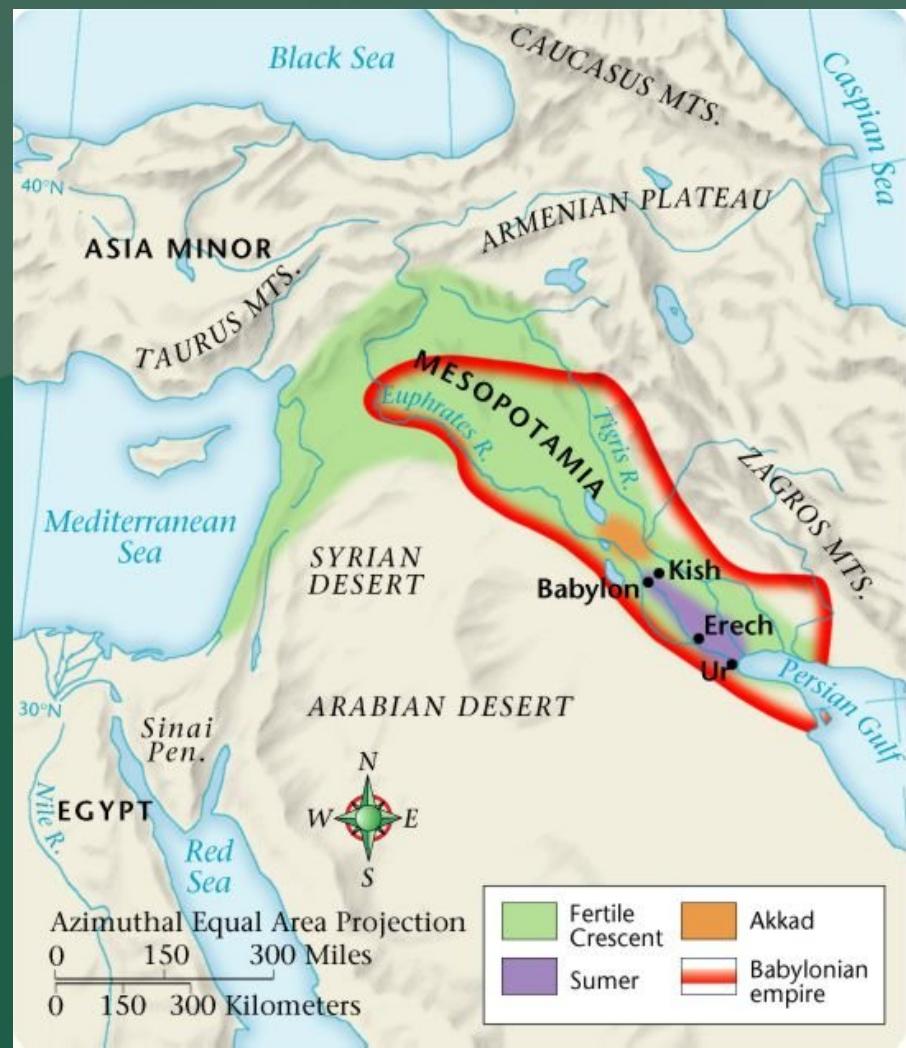
River Valleys

- River valleys offered rich soils for agriculture, and they tended to be in locations easily protected from invasion by nomadic peoples.



Mesopotamian Civilization

- Mesopotamia was located in Southwest Asia on the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys



Fertile Crescent

The Fertile Crescent is the fertile land between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The first civilization in the Fertile Crescent was discovered in Mesopotamia.

As in Egypt, these fertile lands supported the development of civilization.

Villages along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers had to work together.

The first Sumerian cities emerged in southern Mesopotamia around 3200 B.C.

Sumerian Civilization

GOVERNMENT	SOCIAL STRUCTURE	RELIGION
<p>City-states with hereditary rulers.</p> <p>Ruler led army in war and enforced laws.</p> <p>Complex government with scribes to collect taxes and keep records.</p>	<p>Each state had distinct social hierarchy, or system of ranks.</p> <p>Most people were peasant farmers.</p> <p>Women had legal rights; some engaged in trade and owned property.</p>	<p>Worshiped many gods (polytheistic)</p> <p>Believed gods controlled every aspect of life.</p> <p>Saw afterlife as a grim place.</p> <p>To keep the gods happy, each city built a ziggurat, or pyramid temple.</p>

Ziggurat

Religious Rituals, Store government records, grains,
woven fabrics, and gems



Sumerian Advances in Learning

- Developed cuneiform, believed to be the earliest form of writing.
- Developed basic algebra and geometry.
- Made accurate calendars, essential to a farming society.
- Made the first wheeled vehicles.



Invaders, Traders, & Empire Builders

A series of strong rulers united the lands of the Fertile Crescent into well organized empires.

Again and again, nomadic warriors invaded the rich cities of the Fertile Crescent. Some looted and burned the cities. Others stayed to rule them.

2300 B.C. –Sargon, the ruler of Akkad, conquered Sumer and built the first known empire.

1790 B.C.–Hammurabi, King of Babylon, united the Babylonian empire.

Hammurabi's Code

- Hammurabi's Code was the first attempt by a ruler to set in writing all of the laws that would govern a state.
- Justice (punishment) was not the same for every social class



Excerpt from Hammurabi's Code

196: If a [noble-]man put out the eye of another [noble-]man, his eye shall be put out.

197: If he break another [noble-]man's bone, his bone shall be broken.

198: If he put out the eye of a [commoner], or break the bone of a [commoner], he shall pay one [silver] mina.

199: If he put out the eye of a man's slave, or break the bone of a man's slave, he shall pay one-half of its value.

200: If a man knock out the teeth of his equal, his teeth shall be knocked out.

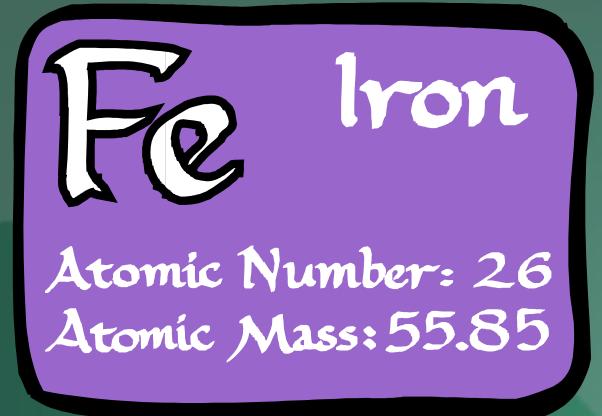
Did the punishment differ depending on your social class?

Would you describe the Code by saying “an eye for an eye”?

Why or why not?

Warfare & the Spread of Ideas

- Conquerors brought ideas and technologies to the conquered region.
 - For example, when the Hittites conquered Mesopotamia, they brought the skill of ironworking to that region.
- When the conquerors were in turn conquered, they moved elsewhere, spreading their ideas and technologies.

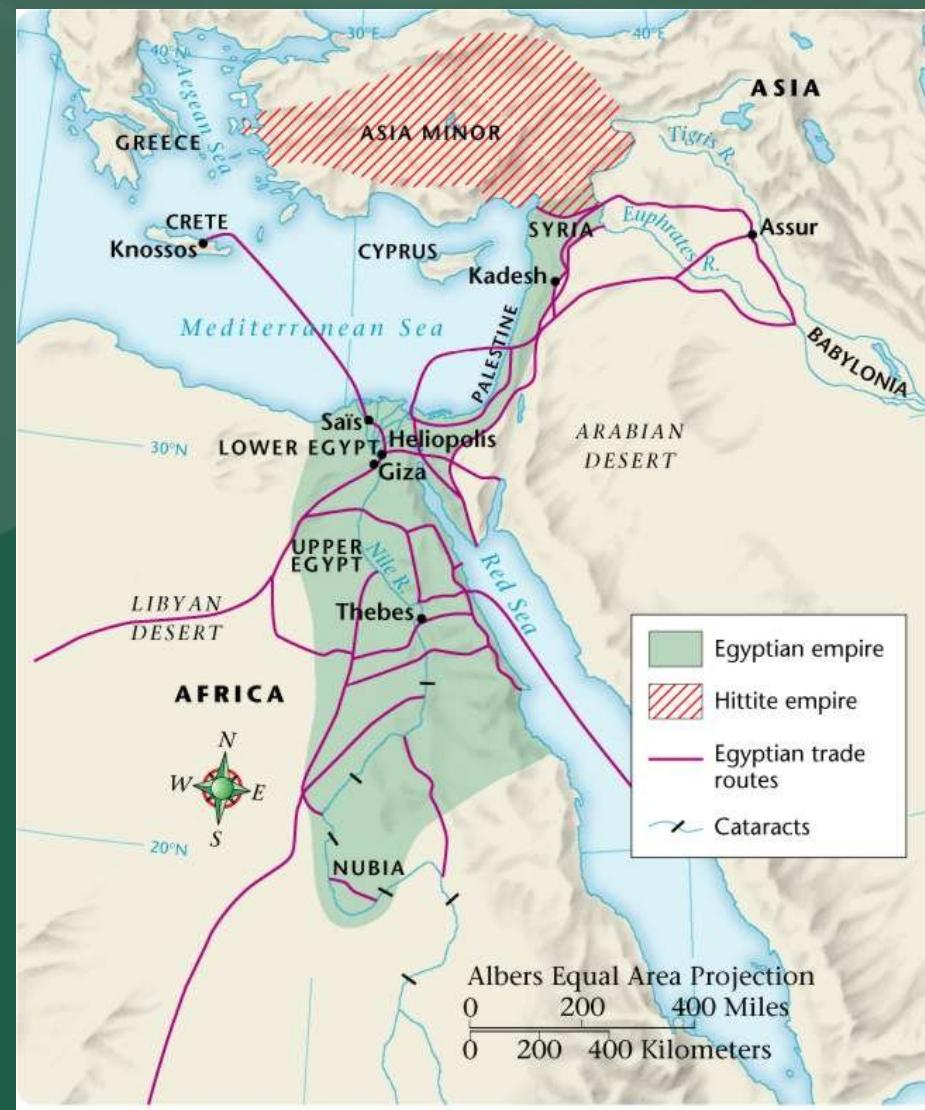


Think Hittites...

Think Iron!!

Egyptian Civilization

- Ancient Egypt was located in Africa in the Nile River Valley and Delta



Egypt

“Egypt is wholly the gift of the Nile.” – Herodotus

- People settled and established farming villages along the Nile.
- Egyptians depended on annual floods to soak the land and deposit a layer of silt, or rich soil.
- Egyptians had to cooperate to control the Nile, building dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation ditches.
- The Nile served as a trade route connecting Egypt to Africa, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean world.

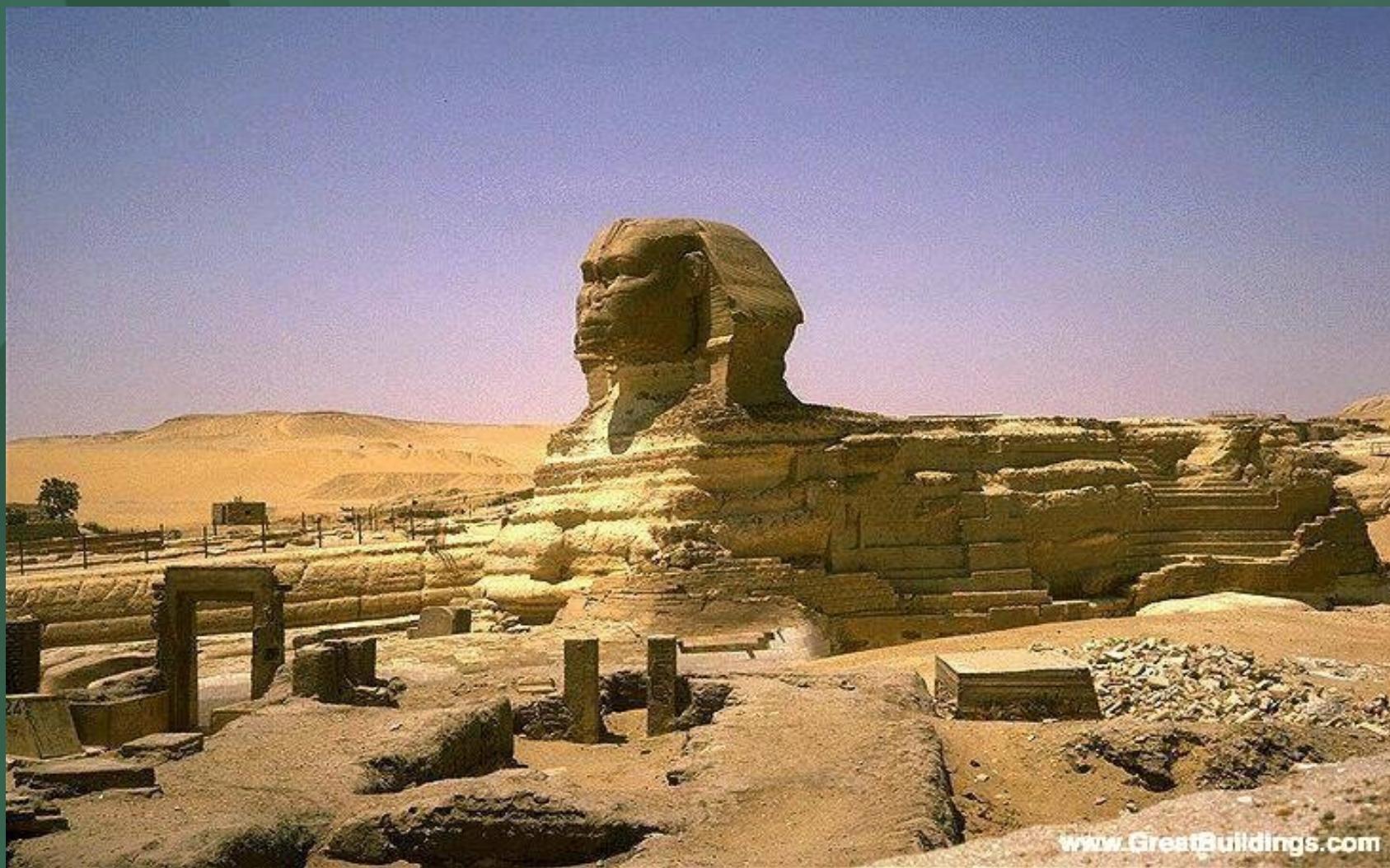
Three Kingdoms of Egypt

OLD KINGDOM	MIDDLE KINGDOM	NEW KINGDOM
<p><u>Pharaohs</u> (hereditary leaders) organized a strong central state, were absolute rulers, and were considered gods.</p> <p><u>Egyptians built pyramids at Giza.</u></p> <p>Power struggles, crop failures, and cost of pyramids contributed to the collapse of the Old Kingdom.</p>	<p>Large drainage project created arable farmland.</p> <p>Traders had contacts with Middle East and Crete.</p> <p>Corruption and rebellions were common.</p> <p>Hyksos invaded and occupied the delta region.</p>	<p>Powerful pharaohs created a large empire that reached the Euphrates River.</p> <p>Hatshepsut encouraged trade.</p> <p>Ramses II expanded Egyptian rule to Syria.</p> <p>Egyptian power declined.</p>

Pyramids at Giza: What do the pyramids tell us about ancient Egypt?



The Sphinx



Egyptian Religious Beliefs

- Belief that many gods and goddesses ruled the world and the afterlife. (polytheistic)
 - Amon-Re was the sun god.
 - Osiris was the god of the underworld and of the Nile.
 - The pharaoh was believed to be a god as well as a monarch.
- Belief in eternal life after death.
 - Relied on the Book of the Dead to help them through the afterworld.
 - Practiced mummification, the preservation of the body for use in the next life.



Osiris: Egyptian god of the underworld

Hieroglyphics

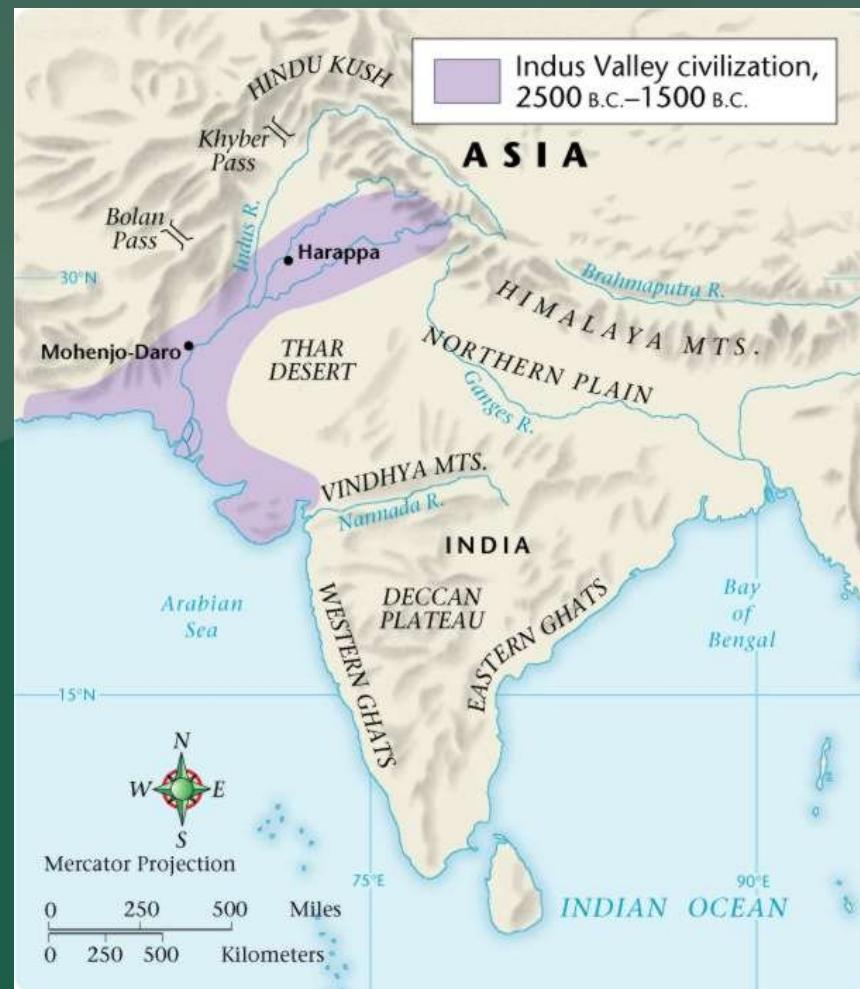


While pictograms are the earliest written symbols on record, the Egyptians developed a form of picture writing called hieroglyphics.



Indian Civilization

- Ancient Indian Civilization was located in South Asia in the Indus River Valley



Geography of the Indian Subcontinent

The Indus Valley is located on the subcontinent of India.

The mountains in the north limited contact with other lands and helped India to develop a distinct culture.

The rivers of India, particularly the Ganges, are considered sacred.

The monsoon, or seasonal wind, is a defining feature of Indian life.

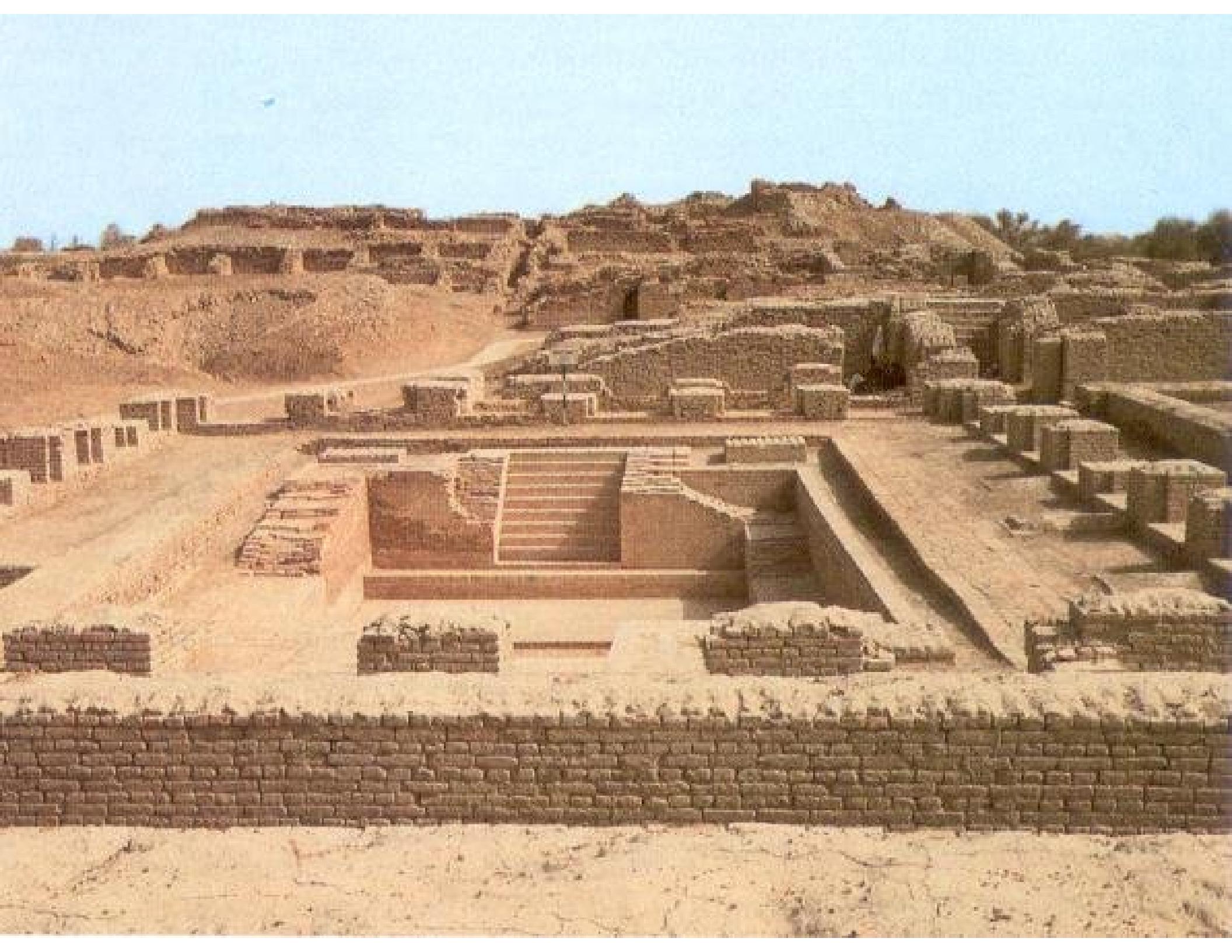


Monsoons

Indus Valley Civilization

Flourished for about 1,000 years, then vanished without a trace. We still have not deciphered their writing. Archaeologists have only recently begun to uncover evidence of these early people, whose civilization included the following characteristics:

- Well-organized government
- Modern plumbing and sewer system
- Carefully planned cities
- Most people were farmers
- Traded with distant lands, including Sumer
- Polytheistic; honored mother goddess; worship of sacred animals influenced the later veneration of cattle





Early Civilization in China



- China was the most isolated of the civilizations studied thus far.
- As in Egypt and Mesopotamia, Chinese civilization began in a river valley, the Huang He (AKA the Yellow River).

Dynastic Cycle in China

The New Dynasty

- Restores peace
- Appoints loyal officials
- Redistributes land to peasants
- Builds canals, irrigation systems, and roads
- Repairs defensive walls

THE DYNASTIC CYCLE IN CHINA

After several generations, the new dynasty becomes an aging dynasty

Problems

- Floods, famine, earthquakes
- Invasions
- Armed bandits in the provinces
- Peasant revolts

New dynasty claims the Mandate of Heaven

The Aging Dynasty

- Neglects government duties
- Ignores corrupt officials
- Loses control of the provinces
- Imposes heavy taxes to pay for luxuries
- Allows defensive walls to decay

Aging dynasty loses the Mandate of Heaven

Writing

- Earliest form of writing used by Shang Kings to answer questions.
- “Oracle bones” made of animal bones or tortoise shells
 - Written on by priest and then scratched with hot poker
 - Scratches interpreted to answer questions

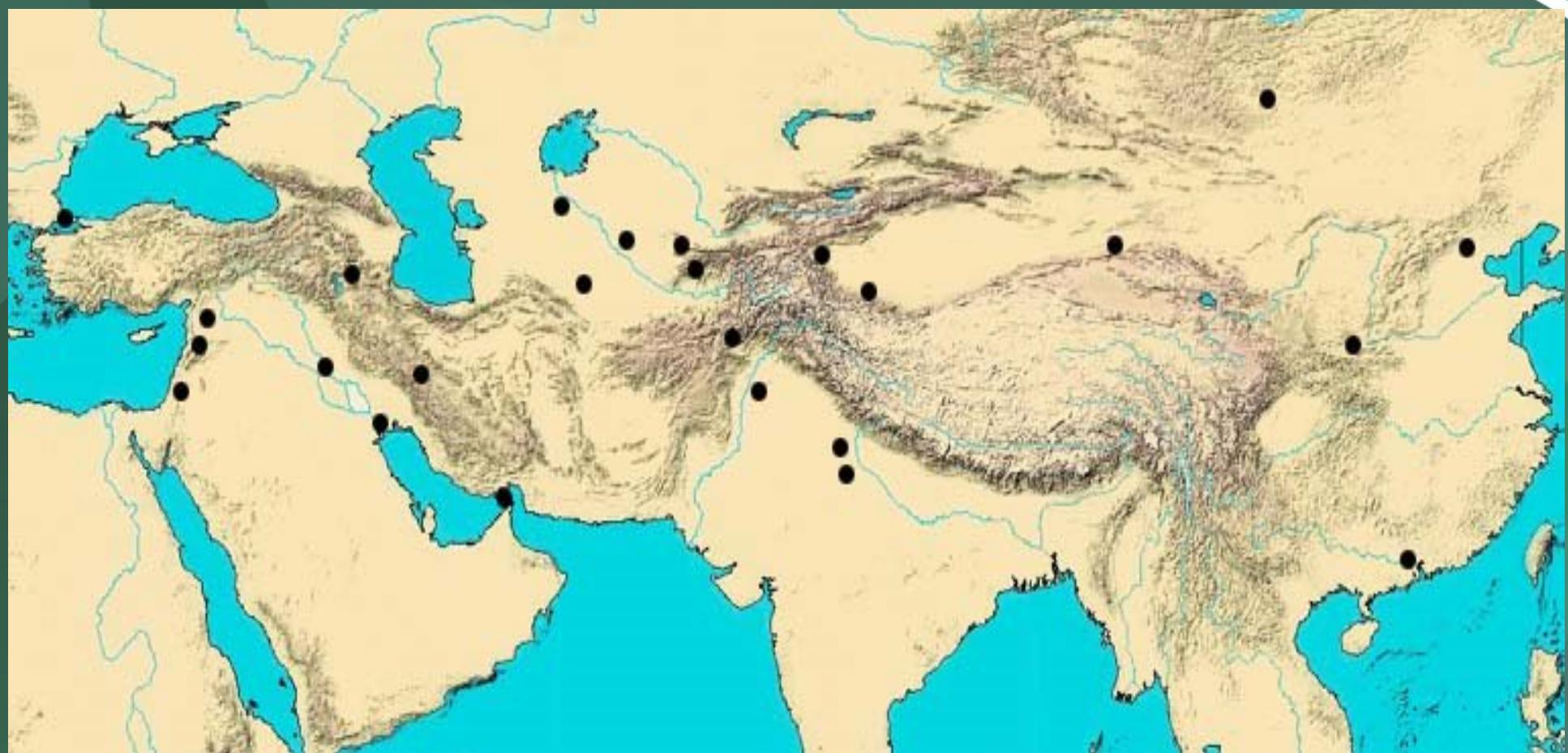
Feudalism under Zhou

- Feudalism: granting of lands by King for use by lords in return for their support, army service, and protection of local peoples
- Why didn't it work for Zhou?
 - Zhou lost control and his lords had all the power

Cultural Achievements

- The Chinese made progress in many areas during the Shang and Zhou periods.
- Discovered how to make silk thread. Silk became China's most valuable export. Trade route to the Middle East became known as Silk Road.
- Developed accurate calendar with 365 1/4 days.
- Made remarkable achievements in the art of bronze making.

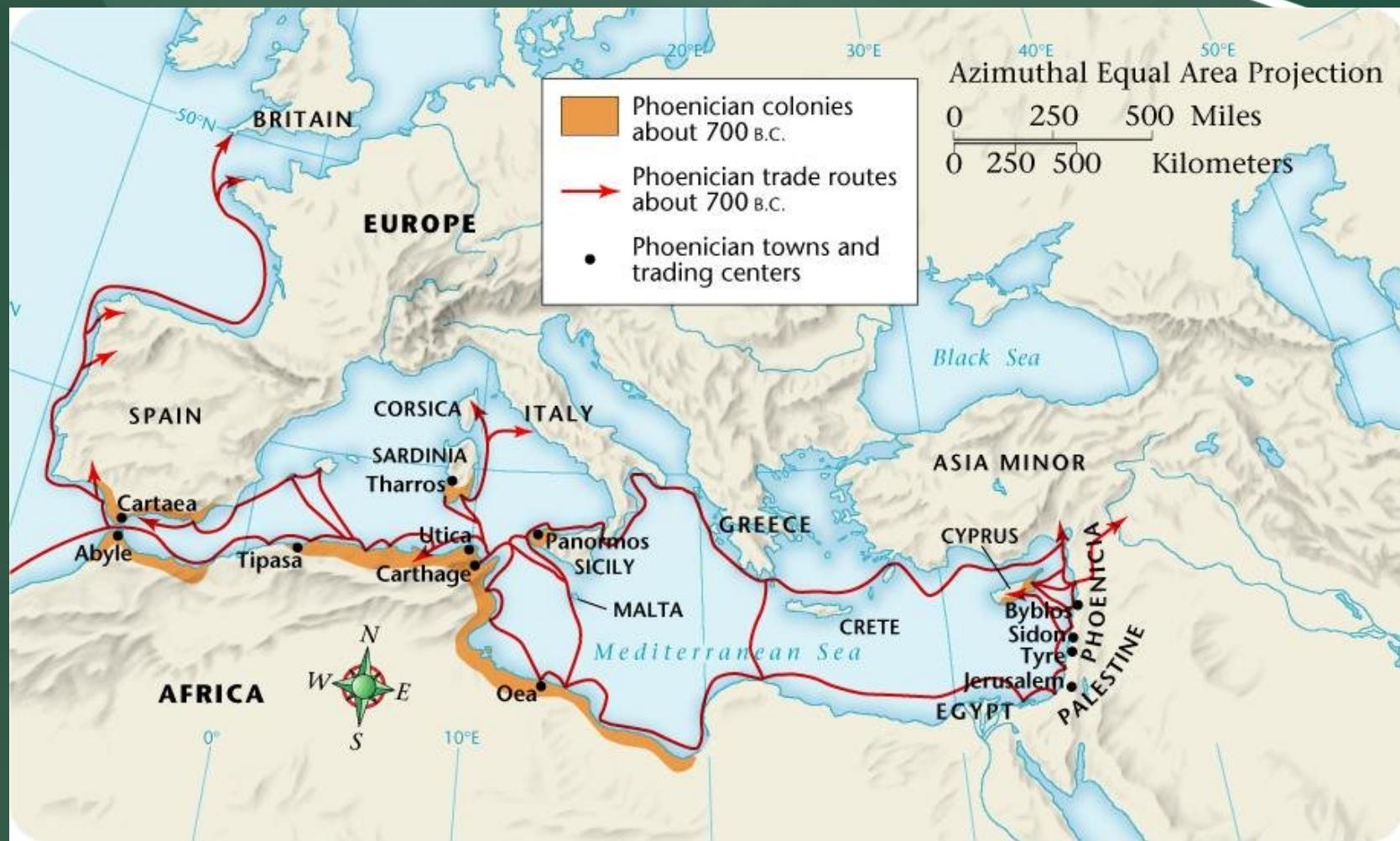
Main Cities of the Silk Road



Other Early Civilizations

- Hebrews settled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River Valley (part of Fertile Crescent in Southwest Asia)
- Phoenicians settled along the Mediterranean coast (part of Fertile Crescent in Southwest Asia)
- Kush was located in the upper (southern) Nile River in Africa

Phoenicians



Phoenicians

Occupied string of cities along the eastern Mediterranean coast.

Called “carriers of civilization” because they spread Middle Eastern civilization around the Mediterranean.

Invented the alphabet. An alphabet contains letters that represent spoken sounds.

Judaism

Origins of Judaism: Abraham, Moses, Jerusalem

The Israelites were monotheistic, believing in one true God. At the time, most other people worshiped many gods.

The Israelites believed God to be all-knowing, all-powerful, and present everywhere.

The Israelites believed that they were God's "chosen people."

They believed that God would lead them to the "promised land."

Teachings on Law & Morality

The Torah contains written records and beliefs of the Hebrews.

Jews believe that God gave them a set of laws called the Ten Commandments which state moral and religious conduct.

Unlike many ancient people, the Jews believed their leaders were fully human and bound by God's law.

Early civilizations made major contributions to social, political, and economic progress.

- Social Patterns:
 - Rigid class system, where slavery was accepted
 - Hereditary rulers (dynasties of kings, pharaohs)
- Political Patterns:
 - World's first states (city-states, kingdoms, empires)
 - Centralized government (often based on religious authority)
 - Written law codes (Ten Commandments, Code of Hammurabi)
- Economic Patterns:
 - Metal tools and weapons (bronze, iron)
 - Increasing agriculture surplus (better tools, plows, irrigation)
 - Development of the world's first cities
 - Specialization in labor
- Religious Patterns:
 - Polytheism was practiced by most early civilizations
 - Monotheism was practiced by the Hebrews (Jews)