**IDX G9 HISTORY S STUDY GUIDE ISSUE 2**

**By Indy**

**2.1 City-States of Ancient Sumer**

**Key Terms:**

* **Fertile Crescent**: Rich land around Mesopotamia
* **Mesopotamia**: Region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
* **Sumer**: World’s first civilization around 3300 B.C.
* **The Epic of Gilgamesh**: Early Mesopotamian epic poetry
* **Hierarchy**: Ranking of members in a system according to authority
* **Ziggurat**: Ancient Mesopotamian temples
* **Cuneiform**: Oldest known writing, based on signs for letters

**Geography and Civilization Development**

* The **Fertile Crescent** extends from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea, encompassing Mesopotamia.
* Sumer emerged around **3300 B.C.** in southeastern Mesopotamia.
* The region's rivers were crucial for agriculture but posed challenges due to frequent flooding, as depicted in **The Epic of Gilgamesh**.

**Survival and Cooperation**

* Communities collaborated to manage floods and ensure agricultural success.
* Leadership often came from temple priests or royal officials who organized dike and irrigation system construction.

**Urban Development in Sumer**

* Sumerians thrived by utilizing clay for construction, creating sun-dried bricks for cities like **Ur** and **Uruk**.
* Trade routes facilitated the exchange of goods; the Sumerians possibly invented the wheel.

**Structure of Sumerian Society**

* By **2500 B.C.**, Sumer consisted of at least **12 city-states**, often in conflict over resources.
* Governance evolved from military leaders to hereditary rulers responsible for:
  + City maintenance
  + Law enforcement
  + Religious ceremonies
* **Social Hierarchy**:
  + **Highest class**: Ruling family, high officials, priests
  + **Middle class**: Lesser priests, scribes, merchants, artisans
  + **Lowest class**: Peasant farmers
  + **Slaves**: Often war captives or debtors

**Religious Practices in Sumer**

* Polytheistic belief system; worshiped many gods influencing all aspects of life.
* Ziggurats were built for religious ceremonies; believed in a grim underworld afterlife.

**Development of Writing**

* **Cuneiform** developed by **3200 B.C.**, the earliest known writing system, evolved from pictographs.
* Allowed recording of economic transactions, myths, and laws.
* Scribes underwent rigorous training for administration and communication.

**Lasting Legacy of Sumer**

* Innovations in writing, mathematics, and astronomy had a lasting impact on later cultures, including:
  + Akkadians
  + Babylonians
  + Assyrians
* Sumerian contributions to mathematics included:
  + Dividing time into **60 minutes**
  + Circles into **360 degrees**

**2.2 Invaders, Traders, and Empire Builders**

**Key Terms, People, and Places**

* **Sargon**: Ruler of Akkad who built the first empire.
* **Hammurabi**: King of Babylon known for codifying laws.
* **Zoroaster**: Persian thinker who introduced a monotheistic religion.
* **Barter Economy**: Exchange of goods and services directly.
* **Money Economy**: Goods and services paid for with currency.
* **Civil Law**: Governs private rights and matters.
* **Criminal Law**: Deals with offenses against others.
* **Alphabet**: Writing system where symbols represent sounds.

**First Empires Arise in Mesopotamia**

* Nomadic peoples and warriors invaded the Fertile Crescent, establishing powerful empires.
* **Sargon of Akkad** (around **2300 B.C.**) created the first known empire by conquering Sumerian city-states.

**Hammurabi and Babylon**

* **Hammurabi** (around **1790 B.C.**) revived Sumerian city-states and imposed unity.
* **Hammurabi's Code**: Comprehensive set of laws carved on a stone pillar.

**Hammurabi’s Code**

* Included **civil law**: addressed private rights (business contracts, property inheritance, marriage).
* Aimed to protect the powerless (women and slaves) and established **criminal law** with specific punishments, promoting social order.

**Other Accomplishments of Hammurabi**

* Improved irrigation systems and organized a strong army.
* Promoted religious unity by elevating the worship of **Marduk**, Babylon's chief god.

**Conquests Bring New Empires and Ideas**

* Subsequent empires, like the **Hittites** and **Assyrians**, introduced new technologies (e.g., ironworking).

**Assyrian Expansion**

* The **Assyrians** expanded their empire by **1100 B.C.**, establishing a well-ordered society and creating one of the first libraries in **Nineveh**.

**Nebuchadnezzar and the Revival of Babylon**

* After the fall of the Assyrians, **Nebuchadnezzar** rebuilt Babylon, enhancing its defenses and constructing the famous **Ishtar Gate**.

**The Persian Empire**

* In **539 B.C.**, Babylon fell to the **Persians** under **Cyrus the Great**, establishing the largest empire of the time characterized by tolerance.

**Darius I's Reforms**

* **Darius I** unified the empire by dividing it into provinces (satrapies) governed by satraps.
* Implemented a single code of laws, improved communication through roads, and introduced standardized weights and measures.

**Zoroastrianism**

* **Zoroaster's teachings** introduced a dualistic worldview emphasizing the struggle between good (Ahura Mazda) and evil (Ahriman).

**Contributions of Phoenician Traders**

* **Phoenicians**, known for maritime trade, established colonies and spread their culture throughout the Mediterranean.
* Skilled manufacturers producing glass and the famous **Tyrian purple dye**; developed early alphabets (22 consonant sounds).

**2.3 Kingdom on the Nile**

**Geography's Influence on Egypt**

* Herodotus stated, “Egypt is wholly the gift of the Nile.”
* The **Nile** provided fertile land, known as the **"Black Land,"** surrounded by inhospitable **"Red Land"** desert.

**Yearly Floods and Their Benefits**

* Nile's annual floods, crucial for agriculture, soaked the land and deposited rich silt.
* Early governments built dikes, reservoirs, and irrigation systems to manage water flow.

**Unification of Egypt**

* Ancient Egypt divided into **Upper Egypt** (south) and **Lower Egypt** (north).
* Around **3100 B.C.**, **King Menes** united these regions, establishing **Memphis** as the first capital.

**Egyptian Periods**

* Egypt's history is divided into three main periods:
  + **Old Kingdom** (2575 B.C.-2130 B.C.)
  + **Middle Kingdom** (1938 B.C.-1630 B.C.)
  + **New Kingdom** (1539 B.C.-1075 B.C.)

**Government Structure in the Old Kingdom**

* Pharaohs established a centralized government, viewed as gods with absolute power.
* **Viziers** supervised operations; departments managed tax collection, farming, and irrigation.

**Pyramids and Afterlife Beliefs**

* Pharaohs built pyramids as tombs, reflecting beliefs in an afterlife.
* Construction involved thousands of workers and took decades to complete.

**The Middle Kingdom's Challenges**

* Faced power struggles, crop failures, and corruption.
* Strong rulers initiated drainage projects and expanded trade contacts.
* The **Hyksos** invaded around **1700 B.C.**, introducing new military technologies.

**The New Kingdom and Expansion**

* Marked a period of expansion with notable pharaohs like **Hatshepsut** and **Thutmose III**.
* **Ramses II** engaged in military campaigns and signed a peace treaty with the Hittites.

**Decline of Egyptian Power**

* After **1100 B.C.**, power declined due to invasions by the Assyrians and Persians.
* The last Egyptian dynasty ended in **332 B.C.** with Greek control, followed by Roman conquest in **30 B.C.**.

### 3.1 Early Civilizations of India and Pakistan

* **Indus River Valley Civilization**: Discovered in the early 1900s, dating back 4,500 years, with cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
* **Geography of the Indian Subcontinent**:
  + Comprises India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan.
  + Northern border formed by the Himalayas and Hindu Kush mountains, limiting cultural contact.
  + Subcontinent's zones:
    - Fertile Gangetic Plain (north)
    - Dry Deccan plateau
    - Coastal plains on either side of the Deccan
* **Monsoons and Climate**:
  + Seasonal winds crucial for agriculture.
  + Winter monsoons bring dry air; summer monsoons bring essential rains.
* **Indus Civilization Overview**:
  + Emerged around 2600 B.C., lasting approximately 700 years.
  + Known for advanced urban planning, plumbing systems, and standardized measures.
* **Economy of the Indus Civilization**:
  + Predominantly farming wheat, barley, and cotton.
  + Active trade, exporting goods to Sumer.
* **Religious Beliefs**:
  + Likely polytheistic, worshipping a mother goddess and animal deities, influencing later reverence for cattle.
* **Decline**:
  + Began around 1900 B.C., possibly due to environmental factors.
* **Aryan Migration**:
  + Around 1500 B.C., Aryans migrated into India, bringing new language and culture, shifting to settled farming.
* **Aryan Society**:
  + Social hierarchy:
    - Brahmins (priests)
    - Kshatriyas (warriors)
    - Vaisyas (farmers, merchants)
    - Sudras (laborers)
* **Aryan Religion and Epics**:
  + Polytheistic, later exploring mysticism.
  + Epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana reflect Aryan life and values.

### 3.2 Hinduism and Buddhism

* **Origins**:
  + Both religions developed in ancient India, deeply impacting Indian civilization.
* **Key Terms and Concepts**:
  + **Hinduism**: Atman, Caste, Moksha, Karma, Dharma, Ahimsa.
  + **Buddhism**: Siddhartha Gautama, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Nirvana.
* **Development of Hinduism**:
  + Evolved from Aryan and Indus beliefs, no single founder or sacred text.
* **Sacred Texts**:
  + Vedas, Upanishads, and Bhagavad-Gita.
* **Goals and Principles**:
  + Moksha (union with Brahman).
  + Dharma (moral duties) and Ahimsa (nonviolence).
* **Caste System**:
  + Social hierarchy with limited mobility; included “untouchables” (dalits).
* **Buddhism**:
  + Founded by Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha).
  + Core beliefs: Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path.
* **Comparison**:
  + Both share concepts of karma, dharma, and reincarnation.
  + Buddhism rejects caste, focuses on personal enlightenment.
* **Spread and Decline**:
  + Spread widely through Asia; declined in India as Hinduism absorbed some teachings.

### 3.3 Powerful Empires of India

* **Key Figures and Concepts**:
  + **Chandragupta Maurya**: Founder of the Maurya Empire.
  + **Asoka**: Third Mauryan emperor, promoter of Buddhism.
  + **Golden Age**: Period of cultural and economic growth under the Gupta dynasty.
* **Maurya Empire**:
  + Established 321 B.C., expanded across northern India and Deccan.
  + Structured bureaucracy with strict governance, including secret police.
* **Asoka's Reign**:
  + Converted to Buddhism, advocating nonviolence, moral governance, and religious tolerance.
  + Infrastructure development, including roads and hospitals.
* **Post-Asoka Division**:
  + Empire fragmented after Asoka’s death due to internal strife.
* **Deccan Kingdoms**:
  + Tamil kingdoms in the south thrived on trade and developed a rich literary tradition.
* **Gupta Empire**:
  + Unified India from A.D. 320 to 540; less centralized.
  + Known for advancements in trade, agriculture, arts, mathematics, and medicine.
* **Family and Village Life**:
  + Joint family system, collective decision-making.
  + Women’s roles became more restricted over time, with dowries common in marriages.
* **Village Governance**:
  + Autonomous villages led by a council, relying on agriculture and trade.
* **Legacy**:
  + The Maurya and Gupta empires significantly shaped India’s cultural and societal structures, influencing modern India.

**Religion and Spirituality**

* Both the Maurya and Gupta dynasties contributed to the spiritual growth of India, encouraging religious tolerance and the development of key Indian religions.
  + **Maurya Dynasty**: Under Asoka, Buddhism spread extensively as he promoted the religion’s principles through inscriptions and missionaries. His commitment to nonviolence and compassion had a lasting impact on Indian society.
  + **Gupta Dynasty**: Hinduism flourished, becoming more widely practiced and forming the foundation for later Indian culture and values. Hindu art, temples, and rituals became central to cultural life.

**Art and Cultural Achievements**

* The Maurya and Gupta dynasties cultivated arts that symbolized their cultural identities and values, with achievements that had lasting influence.
  + **Maurya Art**: Sculptures like the famous Lion Capital at Sarnath were created under the Maurya Empire, showcasing a sophisticated style and symbolic significance.
  + **Gupta Art**: The Gupta period saw advancements in sculpture, murals, and literature. Iconic statues of Hindu gods, elaborate temple carvings, and narrative storytelling through plays such as Kalidasa’s "Shakuntala" exemplify the artistic achievements of the era.

**Scientific and Mathematical Contributions**

* Indian mathematicians during the Gupta period made groundbreaking contributions that impacted global knowledge.
  + **Decimal System**: Indian mathematicians formalized the decimal system and introduced the concept of zero, which transformed mathematics and influenced other cultures.
  + **Medicine**: Gupta-era physicians developed surgical techniques, early vaccination practices, and compiled medical texts. Ayurvedic medicine, emphasizing natural healing, became a significant aspect of Indian healthcare.

**Decline and Legacy**

* The Gupta Empire's decline began due to internal conflict, weakened leadership, and invasions by the White Huns. This fragmentation resulted in the re-emergence of regional kingdoms, setting the stage for further cultural diversity.
* The cultural, spiritual, and scientific legacies of both the Maurya and Gupta Empires continued to shape India for centuries, influencing not only local culture but also impacting trade, science, and philosophy worldwide.