

**Expansion and Integration:** Common themes for classical civilizations include territorial expansion and efforts to integrate peoples of new territories. Responses to expansion included philosophers who commented on the policy, like Confucius, Buddha, and Socrates. Integration involved 2 basic issues: 1st how to govern new territories, and 2nd, how to create social unity throughout empire. It appears Chinese and Indians were more successful at establishing social cohesion than Mediterraneans.

**Beyond the Classical Civilizations:** Outside classical civilizations important developments occurred in other parts of world. Significant civilizations operated in Americas and Africa. Agriculture spread to Northern Europe and Northern Asia. In central Asia especially, nomadic societies linked and sometimes disrupted classical civilizations. In Africa, kingdom of Kush was flourishing by 1000 B.C.E. In turn, defeated by its rival, Axum, which later conquered by Ethiopia. The later 2 civilizations had contacts with the eastern Mediterranean world until after Rome's fall. 1st great state in western Africa was Ghana. Japan, political organization on a national scale arose around 400 C.E. Basis for imperial rule. By 600 C.E., Japan was ready for elaborate contacts with China. Northern Europe, political structures were loosely organized as regional kingdoms. Agriculture still primitive, by 600 Scandinavians began trading with and pillaging Europeans near them. Until about 1000 C.E., Northern Europe, 1 of the most "backward" areas of world. Another area of world developing by 600 C.E. was Central America. The Olmecs displayed impressive achievements, building pyramids and defining an accurate calendar. They influenced their successors, including Teotihuacan and Maya. A similar civilization rose in Andes region, led to the Inca Empire. These 2 centers of early civilization in Americas developed in isolation and lacked wheel and iron technology. Another case of isolated development was Polynesians, who reached Fiji and Samoa by 1000 B.C.E. 400 C.E., they spread their civilization to Hawaii by traveling in large outrigger canoes. Herding peoples of central Asia contributed to world history, particularly toward the end of the classical period. Some made contact with established civilizations, like China. Among other services, they transported goods along the Silk Road and created technologies like the stirrup. Through their invasions of established civilizations, they contributed to the end of the classical era.

**Decline in China and India:** Combination of external weakness and invasion led to decline of classical civilizations in China, then India. 200 - 600 C.E., all 3 classical civilizations collapsed entirely or in part, and all 3 invaded by outside groups from central Asia. Central Asian nomadic Huns attacked all three classical civilizations. 100 C.E., Han dynasty began serious decline. Weakened central government, social unrest led by overtaxed peasants, and epidemics were most prominent sources of decline. These combined to make government unable to stop invading nomads. By 600, China revived, 1st with brief Sui dynasty and later Tang. Confucianism and bureaucracy revived. Unlike in Rome, cultural and political structures in China were too strong to be permanently overturned. Decline in India was not as drastic as in China. 600, Huns destroyed Gupta Empire. Several centuries, no native Indian led a large state there. Hinduism gained ground as Buddhism, unappealing to the warrior caste, declined in its native land. After

600, Islam entered India and Arab traders took control of Indian Ocean trade routes. What survived was Hinduism and caste system.

**Decline and Fall in Rome.** Decline in Rome was multifactorial. Population declined, leadership faltered, economy flagged, tax collection more difficult, and despair filled much of citizenry. Decline in Rome was more disruptive than China or India and more pronounced in Western portion of empire than in the eastern. Italy, Spain, and points north, fall of Rome shattered unities and reduced the level of civilization itself. Emperors Diocletian and Constantine slowed spiral of decay, only temporarily; later moved capital to Constantinople and allowed Christianity. When Germanic tribes invaded in the 400s, there was little power or will to resist. In the eastern half, a remnant of the empire survived as the Byzantine Empire. In earlier days of the Roman Empire, two Middle Eastern civilizations, the Parthian and then the Sassanid, attempted to revive the Persian Empire. Each served as bridges between the Mediterranean the East. The Sassanids were in turn overthrown by Islamic Arab conquerors.

**The New Religious Map:** As classical civilizations declined, what developed into world's major religions, Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam, flourished and shaped global map of faith into the one we recognize today. People sought comfort in spiritual world as they saw their temporal world collapsing. Christianity, once persecuted in West, became widespread. Buddhism grew in China and East. Islam surfaced and became a dynamic force in the areas in between. With Hinduism, Islam shared some commonalities: intense devotion, piety, and a hope for a better life after this one. Each also responded to political instability and to poverty. Each often took on features of local cultures, in a process, syncretism.

**Buddhism:** Altered as it traveled beyond India, and Buddha himself became more of a savior figure than a teacher. Women in China, especially drawn to in that many felt it led to a more meaningful life. Ultimately, with the revival of dynasties in China, Buddhism was persecuted, but it remained a minority current. It had a greater influence in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam.

**Christianity:** Played major part in formation of postclassical civilizations in eastern and western Europe. Emphasized missionary activity more than Buddhism. Beginnings were in early days of Roman Empire, near eastern shores of Mediterranean. Jesus preached compassion with great conviction, but in his lifetime he had few followers. Over time, his message of spiritual equality of all people and an afterlife of heavenly communion with God replaced comparatively unsatisfying traditional polytheistic religion of Romans. Later Christians, Paul most notably, saw themselves not as part of a reform movement within Judaism but rather as a new religion. Writings of Paul and other Christians became known as the New Testament in the Christian Bible. Time Rome collapsed, Christianity demonstrated immense spiritual power and solid organization. Benedict formed a monastery in Italy that became template for other groups of monks and nuns. Christianity had particular appeal to women, offered leadership opportunities in convents and were encouraged to worship together with men, unlike practices in many faiths of then

**Islam:** With Buddhism and Christianity, Islamic faith completes roster of world religions, with most of earth's population following 1 of 3 belief systems today. Polytheistic existed ,in Hinduism and Daoism.

**World Around 500 C.E:** Developments in many parts of world by 500 C.E. produced 3 major themes in world history. 1st , there were responses to collapse of classical empires. Societies reworked their key institutions and values after internal decline and external invasion. 2nd,creation of and reaction to the new religions that developed. 3rd, increased skill in agriculture and the development of early civilizations or new contacts prepared parts of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas for future changes.

**Global Connections: Late Classical Period and the World:** Each classical civilizations radiated trade and other influences to areas larger than their boundaries. China had contact with Korea and Vietnam, and central Asian nomads linked East and West through Silk Roads and other means. Decline of classical authority meant overland routes became more precarious; thus, increasingly, sea lanes were used, especially in the Indian Ocean. At the same time, missionaries and nomadic raiders took advantage of more porous borders. These changes set new bases for connections within Afro-Eurasia.