



IDX G9 History H
Study Guide S1 Midterms
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1. Mesopotamia (c. 3000 BCE)

- Geography and Agriculture
 - Location: Mesopotamia, literally “land between the rivers” (referring to Tigris and Euphrates)
 - Climate: Little rainfall; irregular flooding dependent on snowmelt from mountains
 - Soil: Fertile due to silt deposits from river floods
 - Human adaptation:
 - Construction of **irrigation canals and drainage ditches** to manage water
 - Required **cooperation and planning**, a hallmark of civilizations
 - Impact: Surplus crops → food security → growth of cities and specialized labor
 - Conflicts between city-states were likely:
 - Flat plains made city-states vulnerable to attack
 - Rivers were shared resources → disputes over irrigation and farmland

- Expansion of agriculture increased territorial competition
- Sumerian City-States
 - Major city-states: Eridu, Ur, Uruk, Umma, Lagash
 - Political structure:
 - Each city controlled surrounding farm → independent city-states
 - Centralized authority centered on king and priestly elite
 - Religious buildings:
 - **Ziggurats:** massive stepped towers, temples at top
 - Temples dedicated to city's patron deity
 - Government type:
 - **Theocracy:** priests had power; kings were seen as divinely appointed
 - Kings led armies and managed public works (irrigation, infrastructure)
 - Social structure
 - **Elites:** kings, royal family, high priests and priestesses
 - **Dependent** commoners: clients working on palace/temple estates
 - **Free** commoners: farmers, merchants, fishers, artisans, scribes (~90% of population)
 - Slaves:
 - Owned by temples, palaces, and wealthy landowners
 - Used in construction, agriculture, textile production, domestic labor
 - Hierarchy affected daily life
 - Class determined legal rights, economic opportunities, and punishments
 - Most Mesopotamians worked in agriculture, but cities had diverse labor for trade and crafts
 - Empires and warfare
 - Conflict: constant war over land and water resources among city states
- Akkadian Empire (~2340 BCE)
 - Leader called Sargon
 - Conquered Sumerian city states, appointed governors
 - Maintained standing arm (5400 soldiers)
 - Legacy: first large dynastic empire in Mesopotamia
- Babylonian Empire (~1792 BCE)
 - Leader called Hammurabi

- Conquest strategy: divide opponents → subdue individually
- Built infrastructure: walls, temples, canals
- Promoted trade and economic growth
- Seen as a "shepherd" to his people, ensuring peace and prosperity
- Decline of empires: Weak successors → fragmentation → return to city state conflicts
- Code of Hammurabi
 - Purpose: enforce justice, portray Hammurabi as a source of law
 - Principles:
 - Retribution: "an eye for an eye"
 - Punishments varied by social class
 - Crimes against nobles are more severe than against commoners
 - Examples of laws:
 - Family: arranged marriages, dowries, property rights
 - Women: limited rights, but could reclaim dowry or inheritance under certain conditions
 - Children: strict obedience, harsh punishments for offenses
 - Code reveals
 - A structured social hierarchy
 - Patriarchal control of family and property
 - A legal system closely tied to religious and moral authority
- Religion and Culture
 - Worldview: Mesopotamians believed gods controlled every aspect of life
 - Polytheism: multiple deities responsible for natural forces and human events
 - Major gods:
 - An: sky
 - Enlil: wind
 - Enki: water, earth, inventions
 - Ninhursaga: soil, vegetation, mother goddess
 - Human role: perform labor for gods, maintain their favor
 - Priestly class:
 - Conducted rituals, sacrifices, and divination
 - Divination: reading animal livers/organs to predict outcomes

- Literature:
 - **Epic of Gilgamesh:** explores mortality, human ambition, relationship with gods
- Religion was central to Mesopotamian life
 - Natural disasters were unpredictable and believed to be caused by Gods
 - Kings relied on priests to maintain legitimacy
 - Rituals aimed to secure divine protection and prosperity
- Writing and Sciences
 - **Cuneiform** writing system
 - Developed c. 3000 BCE
 - Evolved from pictographs → stylized signs → phonetic symbols
 - Used for record-keeping, education, literature, law
 - Scribal schools
 - Trained professional scribes for temple, government, and business
 - Education mainly for wealthy boys
 - Mathematics: Base 60 number system, geometry for land measurement and building
 - Astronomy: Lunar months, solar-year adjustments, charted constellations
 - Early writing systems had
 - Pictographs symbolize objects/ideas → abstract meaning
 - Necessary administration, trade, legal records

2. Early Greece (c. 1900–750 BCE)

- Geography of Greece
 - Mountainous terrain → isolated communities → fiercely independent poleis (city-states)
 - Long coastline and many harbors → Greeks became skilled seafarers and established colonies
- Key regions:
 - Peloponnesus: home of Sparta
 - Attica: home of Athens
 - Boeotia: home of Thebes
 - Thessaly: fertile plains, horse-breeding
 - Macedonia: northern kingdom, not influential until 4th century BCE
- Minoan Civilization (c. 2800–1450 BCE)

- Centered on Crete; non-Greek language and culture
- Palace at Knossos: administrative, religious, and economic hub
- Advanced maritime trade with Egypt and the Aegean
- Declined after Mycenaean invasion (~1400 BCE)
- Mycenaean Civilization (c. 1600–1100 BCE)
- Indo-European Greeks arrived c. 1900 BCE
- Warrior aristocracy; fortified palaces (e.g., Mycenae, Tiryns)
- Lion Gate at Mycenae = iconic monumental sculpture
- Possible historical basis for Trojan War (c. 1250 BCE)
- Collapsed c. 1100 BCE due to earthquakes, invasions, and internal strife
- Greek Dark Age (c. 1100–750 BCE)
 - Population decline, food shortages, loss of writing
 - Transition from Bronze to Iron Age → more affordable tools/weapons
 - Migrations to Ionia (Asia Minor), Lesbos, and islands
 - Revival of trade and adoption of Phoenician alphabet (c. 800 BCE)
- Homer and Homeric Values
 - Authored *Iliad* (Trojan War, wrath of Achilles) and *Odyssey* (Odysseus's journey home)
 - Used as educational texts for Greek males
 - Taught *arete* (excellence): courage, honor, loyalty, and glory in battle
 - Women like Penelope exemplified fidelity, intelligence, and household management

3. The Greek City-States (c. 750–500 BCE)

- The Polis
- Polis = city-state = political, religious, social, and economic unit
- Citizens = adult males only; excluded women, slaves, foreigners (metics)
- Acropolis = fortified religious center; agora = marketplace and civic assembly area
- Hoplites and the Phalanx
- Hoplites: heavily armed citizen-soldiers
- Fought in tight phalanx formation → required discipline and unity
- Political impact: hoplites = property owners → demanded political rights → weakened aristocracy

- Greek Colonization
- Driven by overpopulation, trade, and land hunger
- Colonies founded in Magna Graecia (southern Italy), Massilia (France), Byzantium, and Black Sea
- Spread Greek culture and fostered shared Greek identity
- Tyranny
 - Tyrants: rulers who seized power unconstitutionally (not necessarily cruel)
 - Supported by merchants, artisans, and poor farmers
 - Built public works (temples, markets)
 - often paved way for democracy
- Sparta
 - Conquered Messenia → created helots (state-owned serfs)
 - Lycurgan Reforms (legendary lawgiver Lycurgus):
 - Boys taken at age 7 → military barracks
 - Trained in obedience, endurance, and combat
 - Men lived in barracks until 30; served in army until 60
 - Government: oligarchy with 2 kings, 5 ephors, council of elders, limited assembly
 - Women: owned land, exercised nude, managed estates; expected to bear strong sons
- Athens
 - Early rule by aristocrats → economic crisis (debt slavery)
 - Solon (594 BCE):
 - Cancelled debts, freed debt slaves
 - Refused land redistribution
 - Opened government to wealthy non-aristocrats
 - Pisistratus: popular tyrant who boosted trade
 - Cleisthenes (508 BCE):
 - Created Council of 500 (chosen by lot)
 - Reorganized tribes to break aristocratic power
 - Laid foundation for democracy (demos = people, kratia = power)

4. Classical Greece (500–338 BCE)

- Persian Wars (499–479 BCE)
- Ionian Revolt (499 BCE) → Persian retaliation
- Battle of Marathon (490 BCE): Athenian hoplite victory under Miltiades

- Xerxes' Invasion (480–479 BCE):
- Thermopylae: 300 Spartans + allies delay Persians
- Salamis: Athenian navy destroys Persian fleet
- Plataea (479 BCE): final Greek land victory
- Delian League → Athenian Empire
- Founded 478 BCE to defend against Persia
- Treasury moved to Athens (454 BCE) → used funds to rebuild city (e.g., Parthenon)
- Athens forced members to stay → empire, not alliance
- Age of Pericles (461–429 BCE)
 - Direct democracy: all male citizens voted in Assembly
 - State pay for jury duty/public office → poor could participate
 - Pericles' Funeral Oration: praised Athenian democracy, civic duty, and freedom
- Peloponnesian War (431–404 BCE)
 - Athens (naval, imperial) vs. Sparta (land-based, oligarchic)
 - Plague (430 BCE) kills Pericles and 1/3 of Athens
 - Sicilian Expedition (415 BCE) = disastrous Athenian defeat
 - Aegospotami (405 BCE): Spartan admiral Lysander destroys Athenian fleet
 - 404 BCE: Athens surrenders; walls torn down; Thirty Tyrants briefly rule
- Culture of Classical Greece
 - History:
 - Herodotus: "Father of History"; *Histories* = Persian Wars
 - Thucydides: scientific historian; *History of Peloponnesian War*
 - Drama:
 - Tragedy: Aeschylus (*Oresteia*), Sophocles (*Oedipus*, *Antigone*), Euripides (anti-war)
 - Comedy: Aristophanes (*Lysistrata*)
 - Art & Architecture:
 - Classical ideal: harmony, balance, reason
 - Polyclitus: *Doryphoros* = ideal human proportions
- Philosophy:
 - Sophists: taught rhetoric; moral relativism ("man is the measure")
 - Socrates: Socratic method; "unexamined life not worth living"; executed (399 BCE)
 - Plato: *Republic*; Theory of Forms; founded Academy
 - Aristotle: empirical observation; *Politics*; founded Lyceum

- Religion:
 - Polytheistic: 12 Olympian gods (Zeus, Athena, Apollo, etc.)
 - Oracle of Delphi: priestess of Apollo gave cryptic prophecies
 - Olympic Games (from 776 BCE): honored Zeus; all-Greek identity

5. Rise of Macedonia and Alexander the Great (359–323 BCE)

- Philip II of Macedon (r. 359–336 BCE)
 - Reformed army: phalanx + elite Companion Cavalry
 - Defeated Greek coalition at Battle of Chaeronea (338 BCE)
 - Formed Corinthian League; planned invasion of Persia
- Alexander the Great (r. 336–323 BCE)
 - Tutored by Aristotle; claimed descent from Heracles and Achilles
 - Conquests:
 - Granicus (334 BCE), Issus (333 BCE), Gaugamela (331 BCE)
 - Conquered Egypt → founded Alexandria
 - Burned Persepolis (330 BCE); became “Great King” of Persia
 - Hydaspes (326 BCE) in India → troops mutinied
 - Died in Babylon (323 BCE) at age 32
 - Legacy:
 - Spread Hellenism (fusion of Greek + Eastern cultures)
 - Inspired Roman imperialism

6. The Hellenistic Kingdoms (323–c. 100 BCE)

- Four Major Kingdoms
 - Antigonid: Macedon/Greece
 - Ptolemaic: Egypt; capital Alexandria; ruled by pharaohs (e.g., Arsinoë II)
 - Seleucid: largest; Persia to India; lost eastern lands to Chandragupta Maurya
 - Attalid: Pergamum (Asia Minor)
- Society and Economy
 - Monarchies replaced poleis; kings = divine or semi-divine
 - Trade boomed: grain, spices, slaves, wine, olive oil
 - Women: greater economic freedom; royal women politically active
- Culture
 - Alexandria: Library (500,000+ scrolls); center of learning

- Literature: Theocritus (pastoral poetry); Menander (New Comedy)
- Science:
 - Aristarchus: heliocentric theory
 - Eratosthenes: calculated Earth's circumference (~24,675 miles)
 - Euclid: *Elements* = geometry textbook
 - Archimedes: pi, levers, "Eureka!"
- Art: emotional realism (Drunken Old Woman); less idealism than Classical era
- Philosophy:
 - Epicureanism (Epicurus): pursue ataraxia (peace of mind); withdraw from politics
 - Stoicism (Zeno): live by reason/divine will; accept fate; engage in public life
- Religion:
 - Decline of Olympian gods
 - Rise of mystery cults (e.g., Isis) → promised salvation and eternal life

7. Early Rome and the Republic (753–133 BCE)

- Geography of Italy
 - Italy is a peninsula with fertile plains (Latium, Po Valley, Campania), unlike mountainous Greece
 - Apennine Mountains less rugged → easier unification
 - Rome's central location on the Tiber River: defensible, accessible to sea, inland from pirates
- Founding Myths
 - Aeneas: Trojan hero, son of Venus; links Rome to Greek heroic age
 - Romulus and Remus: twin sons of Mars, raised by she-wolf; Romulus founded Rome in 753 BCE
- Etruscan Influence (c. 600–509 BCE)
 - Built Rome's first roads, temples, and drainage systems
 - Introduced alphabet, religious rituals, and urban planning
 - Overthrown in 509 BCE → establishment of the Roman Republic
- The Roman Republic
 - Consuls: 2 annually elected chief executives; led armies and administered government
 - Praetors: handled civil law; later governed provinces

- Senate: 300 aristocratic men serving for life; advised magistrates; held de facto power
- Assemblies:
 - Centuriate Assembly: elected consuls/praetors; weighted by wealth
 - Council of the Plebs: created 471 BCE; passed laws for plebeians; later binding on all Romans
- Social Classes
 - Patricians: aristocratic landowners; held all political offices initially
 - Plebeians: commoners (farmers, artisans, merchants); gained rights through Struggle of the Orders
- Key reforms:
 - Tribunes of the Plebs: could veto patrician laws (471 BCE)
 - Marriage between classes allowed (445 BCE)
 - Plebeians could become consuls (367 BCE)
 - Laws of the Twelve Tables (450 BCE): first written code
 - Lex Hortensia (287 BCE): Council of the Plebs' laws binding on all
- Conquest of Italy (509–264 BCE)
 - Defeated Latins (338 BCE) → created Roman Confederation
 - Full citizenship for Latins
 - Allies retained autonomy but provided soldiers
 - Loyalty rewarded with path to citizenship
 - Used colonies, roads (e.g., Via Appia), and military discipline to integrate Italy
- The Punic Wars (264–146 BCE)
 - First Punic War (264–241 BCE): Rome vs. Carthage over Sicily
 - Rome built navy → defeated Carthage → gained Sicily (first province)
 - Second Punic War (218–201 BCE):
 - Hannibal crossed Alps with elephants → victories at Trebia, Lake Trasimene, Cannae (216 BCE)
 - Rome adopted Fabian strategy (avoid battle) + attacked Spain under Scipio Africanus
 - Victory at Zama (202 BCE) → Carthage lost Spain, navy, paid indemnity
 - Third Punic War (149–146 BCE):
 - Rome destroyed Carthage; survivors enslaved; territory became Africa province

- Expansion Eastward
 - Defeated Macedon (168 BCE) → made province (148 BCE)
 - Annexed Greece (146 BCE)
 - Inherited Pergamum (133 BCE) → first Asian province
- Internal Crises (133 BCE onward)
 - Latifundia: large estates using slave labor → displaced small farmers
 - Tiberius Gracchus (133 BCE): proposed land redistribution → murdered by senators
 - Gaius Gracchus (121 BCE): expanded reforms (grain subsidies, citizenship) → also killed
 - Marius' Military Reforms (107 BCE):
 - Recruited landless poor → soldiers loyal to general, not state
 - Sulla: seized Rome (82 BCE); restored senatorial power; set precedent for military coups
- Collapse of the Republic
 - First Triumvirate (60 BCE): Crassus, Pompey, Julius Caesar
 - Caesar conquered Gaul (58–50 BCE)
 - Crossed Rubicon River (49 BCE) → civil war → defeated Pompey
 - Named dictator for life (44 BCE) → assassinated by senators (Ides of March)
 - Second Triumvirate: Octavian, Antony, Lepidus
 - Battle of Actium (31 BCE): Octavian defeated Antony & Cleopatra → sole ruler

8. The Roman Empire at Its Height (31 BCE–180 CE)

- Augustus (27 BCE–14 CE)
 - Title means “revered one”; maintained republican façade
 - Held powers of consul, tribune, imperator (commander-in-chief)
 - Created praetorian guard (9,000 elite troops)
 - Reformed provinces: imperial (governed by legates) vs. senatorial
 - Failed to conquer Germany (Battle of Teutoburg Forest, 9 CE)
- Pax Romana: 200 years of relative peace and prosperity
- Julio-Claudian Dynasty (14–68 CE)
 - Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero
 - Increasing autocracy; Nero's tyranny → suicide (68 CE)
- Five Good Emperors (96–180 CE)
 - Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius
 - Adopted successors based on merit

- Trajan: empire's greatest extent (Dacia, Mesopotamia)
- Hadrian: built Hadrian's Wall (Britain); withdrew from Mesopotamia
- Marcus Aurelius: Stoic philosopher; wrote *Meditations*
- Administration & Romanization
 - Cities managed local affairs (taxes, law, public works)
 - Romanization: elites adopted Latin, Roman law, architecture
 - 212 CE: Caracalla granted citizenship to all free inhabitants
- Economy & Trade
 - Silk Road: traded with Han China (silk for Roman silver)
 - Indian Ocean trade: pepper, pearls, spices
 - Latifundia dominated agriculture; small farms persisted in north
- Culture
- Literature:
 - Virgil: *Aeneid* (linked Rome to Troy; promoted Augustus)
 - Horace, Ovid, Livy
- Art & Architecture: Realistic portraiture
- Innovations: arch, vault, dome, concrete
- Pantheon: temple to all gods; massive dome
- Law: Twelve Tables → civil law (citizens) → law of nations (universal)
- Principles: innocent until proven guilty; right to self-defence
- Society
 - Paterfamilias: male head of household; absolute authority (weakened by 2nd c. CE)
 - Women:
 - Upper-class women owned property, attended events
 - Could not vote or hold office
 - Influenced politics through husbands/sons (e.g., Livia)
 - Slavery:
 - Used in households, farms, mines, gladiator schools
 - Spartacus Revolt (73–71 BCE): crushed; 6,000 crucified
 - Urban Life:
 - Rome: population ~1 million
 - Poor lived in insulae (crowded, fire-prone apartments)
 - “Bread and Circuses”: free grain + entertainment (chariot races, gladiator games)

9. Crisis and the Late Empire (180–476 CE)

- Third-Century Crisis (235–284 CE)
 - 27 emperors in 50 years; most assassinated
 - Invasions: Sassanid Persians (east); Germanic tribes (Rhine/Danube)
 - Plague, economic collapse, debased currency, labor shortages
- Diocletian (284–305 CE)
 - Tetrarchy: 4 rulers (2 Augusti, 2 Caesars)
 - Fixed prices, hereditary professions, tied peasants to land (colonate)
 - Persecuted Christians (Great Persecution, 303 CE)
- Constantine (306–337 CE)
 - Reunited empire; defeated rivals at Battle of Milvian Bridge (312 CE)
 - Edict of Milan (313 CE): legalized Christianity
 - Founded Constantinople (330 CE) as “New Rome”
- Fall of the Western Empire
 - 395 CE: permanent division into East and West
 - Huns pushed Visigoths into empire → Battle of Adrianople (378 CE)
 - 410 CE: Visigoths sacked Rome
 - 455 CE: Vandals sacked Rome
 - 476 CE: Odoacer deposed Romulus Augustulus → end of Western Empire

10. Transformation of the Roman World: The Development of Christianity

- Roman Religion
 - Polytheistic; state cults (Jupiter, Mars, etc.)
 - Imperial cult: emperors deified after death
 - Mystery religions: offered salvation (e.g., Isis, Mithras)
- Jewish Background
 - Zealots: militant anti-Roman group
 - Jewish Revolts:
 - 66–70 CE: Romans destroyed Second Temple
 - 132–135 CE: Bar Kokhba Revolt → Jews banned from Jerusalem
- Jesus of Nazareth (c. 6 BCE–29 CE)
 - Preached love, forgiveness, inner righteousness
 - Crucified by Pontius Pilate
 - Believed resurrected → foundation of Christian faith
- Paul of Tarsus

- Opened Christianity to Gentiles (non-Jews)
 - Taught salvation through faith in Christ
- Spread & Persecution
 - Early centers: Jerusalem, Antioch, Rome
 - Persecutions: sporadic (Nero, Decius, Diocletian)
 - Martyrs (e.g., Perpetua) strengthened faith
- Triumph of Christianity
 - Constantine: favored Christianity; built churches
 - Theodosius (380 CE): made Christianity official state religion
 - Church hierarchy: bishops → patriarchs → Pope