

Serf History Dictionary

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1 About

This historical dictionary is a web published eBook. I have made it available in the hopes that some may find this useful, however I make no claims about the accuracy of the information contained in this dictionary.

"I warn you, I am not a professional historian!"- John Cairns

If you are a student working on a vocabulary project, please use this document appropriately with citation and without copying. **DO YOUR OWN WORK!**

List of Figures

2 10,000 BCE - 450 BCE

2.1 Definition of Hominids

Hominids – The hominids were creatures which share many similarities with human beings. Hominids lived in Africa several million years ago. The hominids known as Australopithecines of East and South Africa were known to use stone tools. See *Homo Sapiens* (??). [definition](#)

2.2 Definition of *Homo Sapiens*

Homo Sapiens – *Homo Sapien* is the biological classification which includes human beings as we know them today. The first *homo sapiens* appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago. [definition](#)

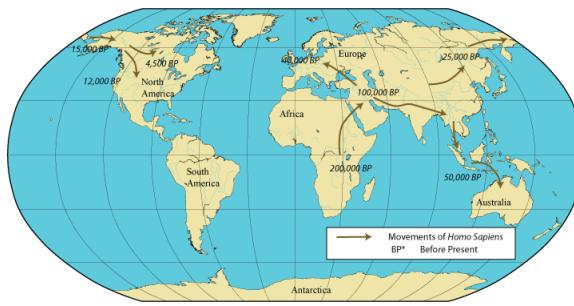


Figure 1: The Spread of *Homo Sapiens* started over 200,000 years ago.

2.3 Definition of Paleolithic

Paleolithic – Paleolithic refers to the era c. 2,500,00 - 10,000 BCE. In the Greek language pleolithic translates as “old stone age.” [definition](#)

2.4 Definition of Neolithic

Neolithic – Neolithic refers to the era c. 10,000 BCE. In the Greek language neolithic translates as “new stone age.” [definition](#)

2.5 Definition of Mesolithic

Mesolithic – Mesolithic refers to the era c. 10,000 - 7000 BCE. In the Greek language mesolithic translates as “middle stone age.” [definition](#)

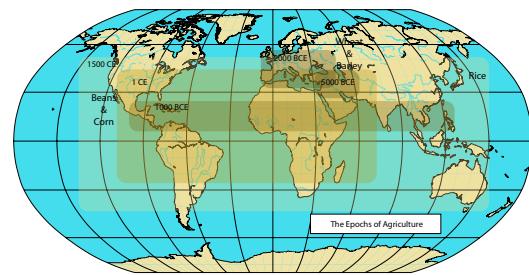


Figure 2: The Spread of agricultural development.

2.6 Definition of Fertile Crescent: An Historical Place

Fertile Crescent – *Asia Minor and Middle East, North of Arabian Peninsula* – A crescent shaped area of fertile land in the Middle East. The civilizations of Sumeria, Phoenicia, Assyria, and Babylon developed in the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent surrounds the flood planes of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The constant flooding of these rivers results in a fertile soil that encourages the establishment of agrarian com-

munities, and thus nurtures civilization. This region is also known to be home to wild plant and animal species which early humans domesticated. *place*

2.7 Definition of Jericho: An Historical Place

Jericho – *Palestine, North West of the Dead Sea, Middle East* – Jericho is one of the oldest known agricultural settlements. It is said to have existed as early as *8000 BCE*. Dwellings in Jericho were built from mud brick. The city was also enclosed by a several foot thick mud brick wall. *place*

2.8 Definition of Mesopotamia: An Historical Place

Mesopotamia – *North of the Arabian Peninsula, Modern day Iraq, Middle East* – Greek: Literally “between two rivers.” A region of land North of the Arabian Peninsula between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. Mesopotamia is said to be one of the “cradles of civilization,” since early agricultural settlements developed here. Specifically the civilization of Sumer began in the Southern region of Mesopotamia. Other civilizations that developed in Mesopotamia include Akkad, and Babylon. See Fertile Crescent (??). *place*

2.9 Definition of Sumerians: An Historical People

Sumerians – *of Sumer, lower Mesopotamia, Middle East* – Sumeria is the first civilization to appear, *c. 3200 BCE*. The Sumerian civilization lasted until *c. 2340 BCE*. The Sumerian civilization consisted of a confederation of city-states, including Uruk, Umma, La-

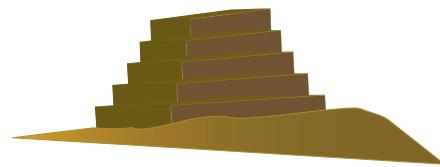
gash, Ur and Eridu. Sumerians flourished in Southern Mesopotamia. The origin of the Sumerian people is unknown. However, it is known that Sumerian people built their cities from mud brick. The Sumerians were an inventive people, with significant achievements in the invention of ‘the wheel’ and writing. Sumerians are known to have used architectural features including arches and domes. The most important building in Sumerian cities were temples. The Sumerians were a polytheistic people, but they dedicated temples to a single god or goddess. The god or goddess was selected based on its importance to the region where the temple was located. The temples were built on top of stepped towers called Ziggurat (??). Sumerian government was based on monarchy, and Sumerians believed their kings established rule through divine right. The Sumerians system of writing was based on Cuneiform (??). *people*

2.10 Definition of Babylon: An Historical Place

Babylon – *South-Central Mesopotamia* – A capital city of ancient Mesopotamia established by Hammurabi. Babylon is known for its luxury and wealth. The Neo-Babylonian Empire, *c. 612 BCE*, is well known for its achievements, including the defeat of the Assyrian Empire, agricultural prominence, trade in textiles and metals, and renowned for the famous ‘Hanging Gardens.’ The Hanging Gardens are said to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Despite apparent success and stability, Babylon fell to Cyrus the Great (??) *c. 539 BCE*. *place*

2.11 Definition of Enlil

Enlil – One of four important early Mesopotamia-era deities including An, Enlil, Enki and Ninhursaga. Enlil was the god of wind. Enlil was considered to be the very powerful. Followers believed that Enlil symbolized the just use of force. Like the wind, Enlil encompasses the dual characteristics of fertility and destructive force. [definition](#)



2.12 Definition of Code of Hammurabi: An Important Writing

Code of Hammurabi – c. 1750 BCE – A collection of 282 ancient laws used in governing the people of old Babylon. The Code of Hammurabi is one of the best known sources of ancient law text. The Code provides severe penalties for criminal behavior, but these penalties varied according to specific social class. Hammurabi's Code provided for retributive justice, based on the precept, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." The Code of Hammurabi included specific treatment for many aspects of living in society, including criminality, consumer protection, and the responsibility of leaders and government to the citizens. As such, it was an important precursor to modern law code. [important writing](#)

2.13 Definition of Ziggurat

Ziggurat – A stepped tower, or recessed pyramid used in construction of Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian Temples. Such towers were frequently constructed from mud brick, a common building material of ancient Mesopotamia. [definition](#)

Figure 3: The Ziggurat is a stepped tower that preceded the pyramids of Egypt.

2.14 Definition of Divination

Divination – The art and practice of attempting to foretell or obtain knowledge concerning future events, the supernatural, or divine will. Divination frequently implies the use of characteristic *tools of the trade*, for example, foretelling events through interpretation of animal remains, shape of smoke columns, dice rolls, predictive cards, etc. Divination was carried out by priests in ancient religions to reveal the fate of the people and the intention of the gods. [definition](#)

2.15 Definition of Cuneiform

Cuneiform – Latin: wedge form. A system of writing developed in ancient Mesopotamia, and used by the Sumerian and later civilizations. Some ancient texts date as far back as 3000 BCE. Sumerians wrote cuneiform impressions on clay tablets, with a reed stylus. They then dried these tablets in the sun to obtain the resulting durable text. Cuneiform writing is pictographic, in other words the characters in the text represent actual worldly objects which symbolized the

ideas the writer wished to convey. Cuneiform writing is believed not to have a phonetic, i.e., based on sound, component as most modern languages do. *definition*

2.16 Definition of The Epic of Gilgamesh: An Important Writing

The Epic of Gilgamesh – c. 2800-2500 BCE – The Epic of Gilgamesh is a poem dating to ancient Sumeria. It recounts the tale of Gilgamesh. Gilgamesh describes a cataclysmic flood sent down upon the Earth by the gods to destroy human kind. A god, Ea, revealed the plot to destroy humanity to a man, Utnapishtim. Utnapishtim built a boat which was said to bear the “seed of all living creatures.” The epic of Gilgamesh is thought to be the progenitor of the Biblical tale of Noah and the Great Flood. *important writing*

2.17 Definition of Ma’at

Ma’at – A spiritual precept of ancient Egyptian rule. Ma’at requires the pharaoh to rule according to principals of truth and justice, with deference to right order and harmony. In ancient Egypt, pharaohs were thought to be divine instruments required to preserve the order and harmony of the universe. *definition*

2.18 Definition of Pharaoh

Pharaoh – The pharaoh was an institution of divine monarchical ascention in ancient Egyptian society. The pharaoh was a monarch attributed with god-like authority and power. The pharaoh was expected to rule with Ma’at (??). *definition*

2.19 Definition of Heliopolis: An Historical Place

Heliopolis – *Nile River Delta, Northern Egypt* – Heliopolis was the center of worship of the Sun God, Atum-Re (??), until the rise of Thebes, c. 2100 BCE. *place*

2.20 Definition of Atum-Re

Atum-Re – The ancient Egyptian god of the Sun. Atum was the human form of the god, while Re was a figure with the body of a human with the head of a falcon. Ancient Egyptians believed that the Sun was the fount of life. The pharaoh was seen as the earthly embodiment of Re, and therefore descendant, i.e. “son of Re.” This was the source of the divine right in the Egyptian monarchy. *definition*

2.21 Definition of Hatshepsut: A Person

Hatshepsut – c. 1450 BCE – One of the best known Egyptian Queens. Hatshepsut was wife of Thutmose II, and served her stepson, Thutmose III, as regent. Hatshepsut assumed the throne upon the death of Thutmose III and served as pharaoh. This queen of the New Kingdom reigned during a prosperous period for ancient Egypt. She was responsible for many building projects and frequent military, mining, and trading expeditions. Though Hatshepsut was female, her official statues show her clothed and bearded in the likeness of a male king. *person*

2.22 Definition of Hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphics – Greek: literally ‘sacred writings.’ A system of pictographic writing used by the ancient Egyptians to de-

pict objects and to convey a sense of sacred value. Hieroglyphs did not serve as a phonetic alphabet and conveyed strictly pictographic representations. Many hieroglyphs were carved in stone, but the Egyptians also notably used paper made from papyrus reed to create documents of record. *definition*

2.23 Definition of Hyksos: An Historical People

Hyksos – *of Upper Egypt and Arabian Desert* – The Hyksos migrated into the delta region of the upper Nile, *c. 1652 - 1557 BCE*. This migration initiated a second age of chaos in Egypt, since the Hyksos perpetrated frequent attacks and raids upon Egyptian cities. The Hyksos spoke Semitic languages and originated on the Arabian peninsula. The Hyksos introduced the Egyptians to Bronze Age technology. The Hyksos also taught the Egyptians modern techniques of agriculture and warfare, including the horse-drawn chariot, heavier swords and compound bows. *people*

2.24 Definition of New Kingdom

New Kingdom – *c. 1567 - 1085* – The pharaoh Ahmose I defeated and expelled the Hyksos from Egypt, reuniting the kingdom to end the age of chaos. This established the eighteenth dynasty and a period of Egyptian civilization historians refer to as “The New Kingdom.” This period of Egyptian civilization was marked by improvements in warfare and the maintenance of state. During this period Viziers, who were primarily responsible for the maintenance of state, were selected exclusively from military commanders. Egypt’s military strength contributed to its becoming one of the most powerful states in the region. *definition*

2.25 Definition of Amenhotep IV, Akhenaton: A Person

Amenhotep IV, Akhenaton – *1364 - 1347 BCE* – The son of Amenhotep the III. Amenhotep IV was preoccupied with the worship of Aton, god of the sun disk. Amenhotep changed his name to *Akhenaton*, which means “It is well with Aton” and closed temples of other gods, including Atum-Re (??). Atum-Re was popular in Thebes, so Amenhotep IV moved the capital of Egypt 200 miles North to a new city known as Akhenaton or ‘dedicated to Aton.’ *person*

2.26 Definition of Hittites: An Historical People

Hittites – *of Mesopotamia* – Combined Indo-European and native people in Asia Minor formed the Hittite kingdom, *c. 1750 BCE*. The capital of the Hittite kingdom was Hattusha, now called Bogazköy in modern Turkey. The Hittites began to spread outward by *1600 BCE*, and began to establish an empire. After years of conflict, the Hittites established a non-aggression treaty with Egyptian pharaoh Ramesses II. The Hittite Empire was destroyed, *c. 1200 BCE*, by invaders from the sea. *people*

2.27 Definition of Phoenicians: An Historical People

Phoenicians – *of Palestine, Levant* – A Semitic speaking people originating on the Arabian Peninsula. The Phoenician people had settled in the region of Palestine, on the Mediterranean coast, since early times. The Phoenician city of Byblos was a major trading center for the middle east in the early first millennia BCE, in particular it was one of the best centers for Egyptian papyrus out-

side of Egypt. Other Phoenician cities include Tyre and Sidon. The Phoenicians were prosperous due to their international trading relationships. The Phoenicians produced many goods including glass, wine, and lumber, but most importantly the Phoenicians were known for their production of rare purple dyes. The purple dyes were so rare that they were predominantly worn only by nobles or royalty, and this is the reason for our modern association of purple with royalty. The Phoenicians established an expansive empire that stretched as far as Southern Spain and the West Coast of Africa. Despite the richness of all of these achievements, the Phoenicians are best known for their simplification of traditional pictographic writing systems. They produced a 'phonetic' alphabet, in which characters have aural representation rather than pictographic symbolism. The Phoenician alphabet consisted of twenty-two characters, and was highly influential in the development of modern language, including Latin, Greek, and subsequently even English. *people*

2.28 Definition of Hebrews: An Historical People

Hebrews – *of Israel, Palestine, Assyria, and the Levant* – The Hebrews are a semitic speaking people with origins on the Arabian Peninsula. The Hebrews have origins as far back as *1600 BCE*, and are still prominent in the modern day world. The Hebrew's biblical texts including the Torah and the Talmud served as a basis for the development of Christianity. The Hebrews were primarily a sheep herding people, who started out polytheistic, but converted to monotheism around *1000 BCE*. *people*

2.29 Definition of Covenant

Covenant – *1000 BCE* – Moses, a renowned leader of the Hebrew people, received the "Covenant" from God on Mt. Sinai. The covenant includes the Ten Commandments, which were embossed on stone tablets. Saul, the first king of the Hebrew people established a kingdom near Palestine. Later, David and Solomon expanded the kingdom of Israel, and established Jerusalem as a center of Hebrew Worship. The Hebrew people were forced out of Jerusalem and into slavery by the Neo-Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar (??) II, *c. 600 BCE*. It is during this time that the Hebrew people wrote down their religious law and practice, and began to focus their religion on the written word of God. *definition*

2.30 Definition of Moses: A Person

Moses – *c. 900 - 1000 BCE* – See Covenant (??). *person*

2.31 Definition of Exodus

Exodus – *1300 - 1200 BCE* – A mass migration of the Hebrew people, out of slavery. After hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt, Moses lead the Hebrew people out of Egypt and across the Sinai desert. The Hebrew people "wandered" around the Sinai desert for forty years, about one generation, and finally were able to settle in Jerusalem. *definition*

2.32 Definition of Pentateuch

Pentateuch – Greek: literally "Five scrolls or documents." The first five books of the Hebrew bible. These books are known as

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. *definition*

2.33 Definition of Yahweh

Yahweh – Yahweh is the Hebrew God worshiped exclusively when the Hebrews became monotheists, *c. 1000 BCE*. This is the God in the Old Testament. The Hebrews believe that if they place their trust in Yehweh, then they will be provided for. *definition*

2.34 Definition of The Covenant

The Covenant – In the Hebrew religion, The Covenant represents God's provision to the human race. Moses received The Covenant on Mt. Sinai, *c. 1000 BCE*. The Covenant includes the Ten Commandments, which govern the religious and social practices of the Hebrew people. *definition*

2.35 Definition of Byblos: An Historical Place

Byblos – *Eastern Coast of the Mediterranean Sea, The Levant* – Byblos was a populous Phoenician trading port. Byblos was a major center for Egyptian papyrus outside of Egypt. The Greek word 'biblos,' meaning book, is based on this city name. *place*

2.36 Definition of Assyrians: An Historical People

Assyrians – *of The Levant Region* – 750 - 605 BCE – Assyria was the first iron age empire. The Assyrians were able to seize power after the destruction of the Hittites. Assyrians were a semitic speaking people, with origins on the Arabian peninsula. The Assyrians were known to be very

harsh rulers. They used iron, primarily in weapons, throughout their empire, and were also known to be the first empire to use cavalry forces. Their military excellence and use of iron contributed to their success sieging cities. The Assyrians successfully conquered numerous kingdoms. The Assyrian rule was so harsh that it's subject kingdoms revolted and overthrew the Assyrian's by *604 BCE*. This revolution brought an end to the Assyrian empire. *people*

2.37 Definition of Ashurbanipal: A Person

Ashurbanipal – *669 - 626 BCE* – Ashurbanipal was one of the most notable kings of Assyria. He was ruler when the Babylonians revolted against Assyrian rule. As Ashurbanipal focused on the Babylonian conflict, Egypt was able to free itself from Assyrian rule. Thus the Assyrian empire disintegrated just after the reign of Ashurbanipal. *person*

2.38 Definition of Chaldeans: An Historical People

Chaldeans – *of The Levant, Eastern Mediterranean* – The Chaldeans or Neo-Babylonians were a semitic speaking people with origins on the Arabian Peninsula. The Chaldeans and the Medes captured the Assyrian capital Nineveh in *612 BCE*. This allowed them to establish a new monarchy. Nebuchadnezzar (??) II finally defeated the Assyrians around *604 BCE*, and also defeated Egypt to gain control of Syria and Palestine. Nebuchadnezzar (??) destroyed Jerusalem, the center of Hebrew worship, and forced the Hebrew people into exile in Babylon. The Chaldeans are widely noted for their prosperity, including the development of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, the

“Hanging Gardens.” The Chaldean Empire lasted less than 100 years, 605 - 539 BCE. Around **539 BCE** internal religious disputes, and subsequent conquest by Persian king Cyrus the Great (??) lead to the downfall of the empire. *people*

2.39 Definition of Nebuchadnezzar: A Person

Nebuchadnezzar – 605 - 562 BCE – Nebuchadnezzar II was the Chaldean ruler who established their independence from the Assyrians. Nebuchadnezzar sacked Palestine, sending the Hebrew people into exile, and destroying their religious centers, including their temple at Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar is noted for having constructed one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the “Hanging Gardens.” *person*

2.40 Definition of Gardens of Babylon: An Historical Place

Gardens of Babylon – Babylon, Middle East, Asia Minor – The Gardens of Babylon were a series of steps leading up to a plateau on an artificial mountain. The mountain was covered with an extravagant garden. The Gardens were irrigated with water piped to the top. It is said that the Gardens appeared suspended in mid-air from a distance. *place*

2.41 Definition of Medes: An Historical People

Medes – of The Eastern Mediterranean Region, Middle East – The Medes existed from 612 - 539 BCE. Along with the Chaldeans (??), the Medes contributed to the conquest

of the Assyrian Empire. The Medes originated in Iran, North East of the Arabian Peninsula. The Medes were conquered by the Persians and Cyrus the Great (??) around **539 BCE**. *people*

2.42 Definition of Persians: An Historical People

Persians – of The Eastern Mediterranean Region, Middle East into Asia – An enormous empire established in large part due to the expansive conquests of Cyrus the Great (??). The Persians had conquered nearly every Middle-Eastern civilization and created a huge empire by **500 BCE**. The Persians were an Indo-European speaking people related to the Medes, they lived on the Western Iranian plateau South of the Caspian Sea. The Persians Empire lasted for nearly three centuries, **c. 550 - 331 BCE**. Cyrus the Great (??) was the most notable leader of the Persians, but other leaders, such as Cyrus’ son Cambyses, are responsible for further expansion of the Empire. The Persians were said to have allowed greater freedom in subject kingdoms, and established a system of hierarchical rule allowing individual subject kingdoms to retain a degree of autonomy. The individual freedoms allowed under the rule of the Persians is widely attributed as one of the many reasons for the success of this empire. *people*

2.43 Definition of Cyrus the Great: A Person

Cyrus the Great – 559 - 530 BCE – One of the great kings of Persia, Cyrus conquered many kingdoms and ruled them beneficently. Cyrus was responsible for the defeat of the Medes, the Chaldeans (??), the Lydians, and many other peoples. Cyrus had a reputation for mercy, and even allowed subject states to

participate in governance. As a result, Cyrus was a popular leader and is considered by some to be a prophet and great peace maker. Ironically, Cyrus was killed in Battle with the Massagetae in *530 BCE. person*

2.44 Definition of Darius: A Person

Darius – *521 - 486 BCE* – The Great King of Persia who was able to emerge as king after a year of civil war following the death of Cambyses, son of Cyrus the Great. Darius is regarded to have strengthened the Persian Empire, including building a canal from the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Darius was also responsible for expansion of Persia. Darius established a province in western India, and expanded Persia as far North as Macedonia. Darius was ruler during several uprisings, including those of the Greeks. Darius invaded the Greek mainland, leading to the eventual Athenian victory in the Battle of Marathon, *490 BCE. person*

2.45 Definition of satrapy

satrapy – A unit of Persian governance similar to a province. The Persian empire consisted of more than twenty of these provinces which were arranged by geography and ethnicity. Each satrapy was ruled by a Satrap or Governor. The satrapies were under the rule of the Great King of Persia, but had a fair amount of autonomy as compared with other empires. The flexibility in the Persian system of government is one of the reasons for it's long term success. *definition*

2.46 Definition of Royal Road: An Historical Place

Royal Road – *Persian Empire, Middle East* – The Royal Road is a vast system of principal roadways constructed, *c. 500 BCE*. The Royal Road was at least 1600 miles in length and allowed for efficient transportation of troops from region to region within the Persian empire. The Road also allowed for rapid communication between satrapies, and resulting increases in governmental efficiency. *place*

2.47 Definition of Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism – A dualistic religion of the Persian Empire after *c. 600 BCE*. Zoroastrianism is a religious system attributable to the prophet Zoroaster, *c. 660 BCE*. Tenants of Zoroastrianism include the duality of a 'god of light' and a 'god of darkness' who struggle for influence over humanity. Zoroastrianism assumes adherents have free-will, with which, they can choose between the god of light and god of darkness. Adherents believe that humans will ultimately be faced with a final judgment, at which time Ahuramazda will determine their fate for eternity. Given the similarities of Zoroastrianism and Christianity, it is likely that portions of Christianity are influenced by Zoroastrianism. *definition*

2.48 Definition of Ahuramazda

Ahuramazda – The God of Light according to Zoroastrianism. Ahuramazda is the God of Good in Zoroastrian thinking. Ahuramazda will eventually triumph over the God of Evil, and exact judgment upon the people of the Earth. Only those who have chosen a righ-

teous path will be allowed to pass into everlasting peace and happiness. Darius, the Great King of Persia, was known to be a believer in Ahuramazda. *definition*

2.49 Definition of immortals

immortals – An elite infantry force of 10,000 Medes and Persians. When an Immortal was killed he was immediately replaced. The Immortals enjoyed special privileges, including concubines and servants traveling with them while they were on campaign. The Immortals also had special food prepared for them. *definition*

2.50 Definition of Minoan Crete: An Historical Place

Minoan Crete – *Isle of Crete, Northern Mediterranean* – The earliest civilization in the Aegean region is called “Minoan Crete.” Minoan Crete was a Bronze Age civilization, *c. 2800 BCE*. Minoan Crete was discovered on the island of Crete by Arthur Evans. The name ‘Minoa’ is taken from the name of a famous king of Crete, Minos. Crete is also the location of the palace complex at Knossus. Evidence indicates that Minoan Crete was a very prosperous culture, with far reaching sea trade. Evidence indicates Minoans traded as far south as Egypt. Minoan civilization disappeared *c. 1450 BCE*. Although, authorities differ there is evidence that Minoan Crete was destroyed in a cataclysmic volcanic blast. *place*

2.51 Definition of Mycenaean Civilization: An Historical People

Mycenaean Civilization – *of Greece, Northern Mediterranean* – 1600 - 1100 BCE – The Mycenaean Greeks were Indo-European speaking peoples who spread from southwestern Europe, India and Iran. Mycenaean culture is marked by fortified palace-centers, which were built on hills surrounded by stone walls. Royal families would live within the city-wall structure, while citizens would live outside them. The Mycenaeans used tombs built into hillsides called *tholos* tombs. Mycenaean Civilization was a warrior civilization ruled by monarchy. The civilization began to weaken, and ultimately was burned by *c. 1100 BCE*. *people*

2.52 Definition of Homer: A Person

Homer – *c. 800 BCE* – A famous writer and story teller known for his composition of the *Iliad*. The *Iliad* is an epic poem relating the story of the Trojan war. Although, some historians believe that another work, known as *The Odyssey*, can not be attributable to Homer, he is often given credit for it. Homer’s epics depict the warrior aristocracy of his time, by telling of their journeys and their exploits in war. *person*

2.53 Definition of Iliad: An Important Writing

Iliad – *c. 800 BCE* – See Homer (??) *important writing*

2.54 Definition of Odyssey: An Important Writing

Odyssey – c. 800 BCE – See Homer (??) *important writing*

2.55 Definition of Pre-Socratic Philosophers

Pre-Socratic Philosophers – Greek Philosophers who's ideas date from before the time of Socrates, 469 BCE. The pre-Socratic philosophers are noted for their attempts to explain the universe through unifying principals. These philosophers also attempted to describe the nature of reality, and commonly considered existence to be either constant or malleable. Notable pre-Socratic philosophers include Thales of Miletus, c. 600 BCE, Pythagoras, c. 580 - 490, and Empedocles, c. 493 - 433 BCE. *definition*

2.56 Definition of polis

polis – The Greek word for city-state. A unit of governmental and social organization where Greek cultures identify themselves through a nearby city-center, i.e., *metropolis*, and have common language, customs, history, and religion. Two well-known Poleis are Sparta and Athens. *definition*

2.57 Definition of hoplites

hoplites – A military system utilized by the Greeks, c. 800 - 700 BCE. Hoplites were heavily armed infantry men who wore bronze or leather helmets, breast plates, and greaves or shin-guards. Hoplites carried round shields, short swords, and a long spear, about 9 feet in length. Hoplites are known to have used a rectangular formation, known as a phalanx, in battle. *definition*

2.58 Definition of Cleisthenes: A Person

Cleisthenes – c. 500 BCE – An Athenian aristocrat who gained control of government and established the basis for Athenian democracy. Cleisthenes created a hierarchical government composed of ten tribes of Athenian citizens and a ruling council of 500 members who were elected by the tribes. Cleisthenes' reforms served to decrease the power of aristocrats in favor of local citizenry, and also to increase the loyalty of citizens to the polis. *person*

2.59 Definition of Delphic Oracle

Delphic Oracle – A temple located in Delphi where a priestess listened to questions, and delivered responses that were said to be from the Greek God Apollo. The priestess listened to the questions in a state of ecstasy that was believed to be caused by Apollo. Priests interpreted the responses and returned the answers to the querent in verse form. Responses were generally vague, general, or complicated by multiple interpretations. *definition*

2.60 Definition of Persian Wars

Persian Wars – c. 550 - 469 BCE – A series of battles and uprisings stemming from Persian encroachment into Greek territories. The Persians conquered the Ionian Greek cities prior to c. 550 BCE, however, the Persian rule was seen as needlessly harsh and cruel by the Greeks. The Greeks revolted in 499 BCE and this lead to a series of battles that was not resolved with finality until 469 BCE, when the Greeks formed the Delian League (??) and the largest Greek

army ever. They were then able to defeat the Persian army and navy. One of the most important battles of this period was, Marathon, *c. 490 BCE*, where the Athenians and Plataeans defeated the Persians, lead by Darius who was attempting to expand the Persian empire onto mainland Greece. *definition*

2.61 Definition of Delian League

Delian League – *c. 478 BCE* – A confederation of Greek city-states designed to resist Persian imperialism. The Delian League cemented the political power of the Athenians, while at the same time the Spartans shied away from international politics. The headquarters of the Delian League was on the Island of Delos, central to the Ionian Greeks, however the Athenians occupied positions of political importance including the treasurers and commanders of the fleet. The Delian League freed Greek city-states under Persian control and successfully defeated the Persian army and navy. *definition*

2.62 Definition of Pericles: A Person

Pericles – *461 - 429 BCE* – A prominent figure in Athenian politics during a time when Athenian power was at its height. This time is known as *The Age of Pericles* and is marked by powerful democratic influences in Athens. One of the most important government bodies was a democratic institution known as *the assembly*, which consisted of *only male citizens* over eighteen years of age. The assembly passed all laws and made all decisions on foreign policy. Pericles helped the democracy by increasing the availability of governmental positions to the poor and lower classes. Changes included offering pay for of-

ficeholders, which allowed the poor to serve, and allowing lower-class citizens to hold government positions. *person*

2.63 Definition of Peloponnesian War

Peloponnesian War – *431 - 404 BCE* – A war between the Spartan and Athenian poleis which probably stemmed from Spartan fear of Athens, or Athenian imperialism. The Spartans finally defeated the Athenian fleet in *405 BCE*. Shortly thereafter the Athenian navy was disbanded, and the Athenian Empire destroyed. *definition*

2.64 Definition of Herodotus: A Person

Herodotus – *c. 484 - 425 BCE* – Herodotus wrote what is often considered one of the first histories written in Western Civilization, *History of the Persian Wars*. He is often referred to as the “father of history” since his work is the earliest lengthly text to survive intact. Herodotus’ central theme deals with the struggle between the Greeks and Persians. However, Herodotus’ work also covers numerous other cultures and civilizations, demonstrating a great breadth and depth of interest in numerous subjects. *person*

2.65 Definition of Thucydides: A Person

Thucydides – *c. 460 - 400 BCE* – Often considered the greatest historian of the ancient world, Thucydides’ histories dealt with history on a basis of rationality and objectivity. Thucydides also valued accuracy and precision as paramount in his historical writing. For these reasons Thucydides histories

remain invaluable to modern historians for understanding the ancient world. *person*

2.66 Definition of Aeschylus: A Person

Aeschylus – 525 - 456 BCE – The first known tragedian. Aeschylus wrote as many as ninety tragedies, or Greek Dramas. Though only seven survive to this day, much is known about them. Aeschylus' tragedies followed a similar format used in other Greek Tragedies. His stories tended to center around a single tragic event, and his characters tended to embody a single human drive or characteristic. *person*

2.67 Definition of Sophists

Sophists – A group of Greek teachers and scholars in the fifth century BCE who argued that attempts by humans to understand the universe were futile. Sophists believed that the universe was incomprehensible to the human mind, and that humans should strive to improve their personal characteristics such as strength, stamina, and intellect. Sophists stressed the importance of rhetoric, or argument, and often made a living as wandering scholars working as professional teachers. Sophists also characteristically believed in relativism, i.e., that no absolute values exist in society or culture, and each individual learns or adheres to their personal value system. *definition*

2.68 Definition of Socrates: A Person

Socrates – 469 - 399 BCE – One of the most important and renowned Greek Philosophers, Socrates teachings and methods are preserved

in Western Civilization to this day. Socrates believed that the goal of education was to improve the individual. His teaching method, known today as 'Socratic Method' involves leading students to understanding through questions that allow them to figure out the answers on their own. Socrates also believed that all individuals possess all *real knowledge*. Individuals could bring out this *real knowledge* through self-examination and introspection. Socrates' students are also among Western Civilization's most renowned scholars, these include Plato, and indirectly Plato's student, Aristotle. *person*

2.69 Definition of Plato's Republic: An Important Writing

Plato's Republic – c. 400 BCE – Plato's work entitled *The Republic* explained Plato's views on Government. *The Republic* describes an ideal, or utopian, state, and is considered to be one of the first works of utopian literature. The public in Plato's Republic is divided into three groups, a ruling elite of serving philosopher kings, the courageous or warriors, and the masses, farmers, artisans, laborers, and tradesmen. In Plato's ideal, each group fulfills its assigned role and contributes to the unity and stability of the state. *important writing*

2.70 Definition of Aristotle: A Person

Aristotle – 384 - 322 BCE – Aristotle was one of Plato's students, and remains one of the most important thinkers in Western Civilization to this day. Although Aristotle believed in universal forms, like Plato, Aristotle did not agree with Plato's idea of ideal forms.

Aristotle believed that form and matter were inseparable and that each physical object encompasses the totality of its form, without extension beyond itself. Aristotle's teachings played an important role in the development of Western Civilization. Aristotle believed in a guarded equality of the sexes, mostly asserting that women must be happy and productive for society to be complete, however, he did not view women as the equals of men. On the contrary he viewed them as inferior or incomplete "males." *person*

2.71 Definition of *hetairai*

hetairai – Greek: literally “female companions.” An elite class of prostitutes or courtesans. Hetairai were usually ex-slaves or foreign nationals with a certain level of sophistication as compared with other ‘prostitutes.’ Hetairai were dancers, musicians and entertainers. Prostitution was not generally frowned upon in ancient Greece, and therefore Hetairai also provided sex. Some hetairai also grew wealthy and famous, one known as Aspasia was a friend of Socrates. She was renowned for her learning, she was the mistress of Pericles and eventually became his wife. *definition*

2.72 Definition of Philip II: A Person

Philip II – 359 - 336 BCE – Philip II was a king of Macedonia, and father of famed conqueror Alexander the Great (??). Philip was an admirer of Greek culture and Greek military acumen. When Philip took control of Macedonia he began to build a large army in order to ensure the strength of the state. Philip believed that the Greeks relied too heavily on mercenaries, so he used Macedonian countrymen in his army. The army was

funded through the gold extracted from the gold mines of Mount Pangaeus. Philip's army was also armed with longer spears than the Greeks. As Philip's power and reach grew in Macedonia, the Greeks grew more and more nervous. Athens finally undertook an offensive near Thebes in *338 BCE*. The Macedonian army defeated the Greeks, and this conflict eventually lead Philip to have control over the entire region. Philip was the victim of political assassination in *336 BCE*. *person*

2.73 Definition of The *Philippics*

The Philippics – A series of orations given by Demosthenes. Demosthenes orations focused on painting Philip II as a “ruthless, deceitful, treacherous, and barbaric” villain who would ultimately harm Greece, if Greece did not pursue an initiative to quell his power. *definition*

2.74 Definition of Alexander the Great: A Person

Alexander the Great – 355 - 323 BCE – Alexander was the son of Philip II who took control of Greece and Macedonia after the death of his father, *336 BCE*. Alexander is popularly known as “Alexander the Great” because of his conquest of much of the Mediterranean region, Asia-minor, including the territory once held by the Persian Empire, the middle east, and even part of India. Alexander spent most of his time as king campaigning against neighboring city-states and expanding his empire. Unfortunately, his aggressive campaigning also lead to his downfall, when in *323 BCE* he died of wounds received in battle. Alexander’s legacy of conquest remains even today, and is probably at-

tributable in large part to the excellent army built by his father. Numerous cities named 'Alexandria' are named after him, including one of the largest cities in Egypt. Alexander's principal legacy is the dissemination of Greek culture throughout the entire region of his empire in the short time of his reign. This legacy of Greek culture is one of the primary reasons why Greek culture remains so important in Western Civilization today. *person*

2.75 Definition of Roxane: A Person

Roxane – c. 350 BCE – Roxane was the daughter of a Bactrian Baron named Oxyartes. Alexander the Great married Roxane, c. 327 BCE, as was common practice, to cement relations between his empire and Roxane's state, which he had defeated. Alexander died when Roxane was pregnant with his only heir. Later, Roxane gave birth, however the boy was unable to become ruler of Alexander's empire because both Roxane and the heir were killed for political reasons. *person*

2.76 Definition of koine

koine – Greek, literally “common tongue.” A dialect of the Greek language, based on the Athenian dialect, which was commonly used throughout the Hellenistic Kingdoms. The Hellenistic kingdoms were the Kingdoms that were established in the wake of the death of Alexander and the fragmentation of his empire. *definition*

2.77 Definition of gymnasium

gymnasium – A Greek social institution which was used for education and physical training of young people. Initially only used

for sports, the institution of the gymnasium later evolved to become a center of learning. Curricula included music, sports, and literature. Most gymnasiums were open to boys and girls, however examples exist where attendance was limited to upper-class males. *definition*

2.78 Definition of Apollonius of Rhodes: A Person

Apollonius of Rhodes – c. 295 BCE – A revolutionary figure in Greek literature, who ignored conventional wisdom that writers should stick to short poems, and wrote an epic known as *Argonautica*. *Argonautica* tells the story of Jason, who sought the fabled Golden Fleece. *person*

2.79 Definition of Antigonid Dynasty

Antigonid Dynasty – After a long period of internal power struggles the empire built by Alexander was dismantled. In 276 BCE a grandson of one of Alexander's generals, Antigonus Gonatus, established a new dynasty in Macedonia known as the Antigonid Dynasty. The Antigonid Dynasty is marked by its tenuous relations with the Greeks. The Antigonids regarded control of Greece to be a required element of their power, while the Greeks regarded the Antigonids as important to control the Northern Borders and prevent the influx of Gallic and Thracian invaders. Nonetheless, each party was fearful of the other's power and influence. *definition*

2.80 Definition of Seleucids

Seleucids – Another of the spin-off dynasties resulting from the dismantling of Alexan-

der's empire. General Seleucus established the Seleucid dynasty in Syria. The Seleucid dynasty was the largest of the Hellenistic dynasties, and occupied most of the territory formerly controlled by the Persian empire, however, the size of this monarchy eventually lead to trouble, as the Seleucids had some difficulty in controlling it's eastern boundaries. *definition*

2.81 Definition of Judas Maccabaeus: A Person

Judas Maccabaeus – c. 164 BCE – When Seleucid king Antiochus IV, 175 - 163 BCE, lead troops into Jerusalem, Judas Maccabaeus lead a revolt in which the Jews were able to capture the Temple of Jerusalem. The holiday of Hanukkah is celebrated each year by Jewish people in remembrance of this event. *person*

2.82 Definition of Ptolemies

Ptolemies – The post-Alexandrian dynasty established by King Ptolemy of Egypt. Ptolemy was a Macedonian general who was named governor of Egypt after the death of Alexander. Ptolemy became king in 305 BCE and established the Ptolemaic dynasty of pharaohs. The Ptolemaic dynasty lasted longer than any other Hellenistic monarchy until, in 30 BCE, Egypt was captured by the Romans. *definition*

2.83 Definition of Hippocrates: A Person

Hippocrates – c. 400 BCE – Hippocrates was a philosopher who lived in the time of Socrates. His contribution to medical science is notable, since he is regarded to have

been the first philosopher to acknowledge a distinction between medicine and philosophy. Hippocrates focused on natural explanations and cures for disease rather than philosophical ones. *person*

2.84 Definition of Alexandria: An Historical Place

Alexandria – *Egypt, in the Western Nile Delta* – The city established by Alexander the Great after his conquest of Egypt. Alexandria was a place of great learning and advancement. The ancient library at Alexandria is known to be the largest in the Hellenistic era. Alexandria also offered a museum for the study of antiquities. Alexandria became a cultural, and scientific center of the ancient world. Also, any of a series of cities named after Alexander, and established during his reign as centers of governmental power. *place*

2.85 Definition of Theocritus: A Person

Theocritus – c. 315 - 250 BCE – Theocritus was a native of Sicily who wrote short poems known as idylls. The themes of Theocritus' poetry usually centered around eroticism, "lovers' complaints," and nature. Theocritus' contemporaries believed that Homer's epic's could never be out done and thus writers should limit the length of their work to short poems. *person*

2.86 Definition of Argonautica

Argonautica – The epic written by Apollonius of Rhodes that tells the story of Jason and his search for the Golden Fleece. The *Argonautica* broke with the traditional form

of short poetry as it was a long epic. *Argonautica* is not noted for its story telling, rather it is considered notable for its depiction of Medea's love for Jason. *definition*

2.87 Definition of New Comedy

New Comedy – A form of Athenian theatrical expression with the primary intention of entertaining and amusing the audience. Previous theatrical work was notable for its focus on political themes and tragedy. The New Comedy departed from these themes to focus primarily on entertainment. *definition*

2.88 Definition of Polybius: A Person

Polybius – c. 203 - 120 BCE – Polybius was the central historian of the Hellenistic period. Polybius was Greek, however he lived in Rome for a time. He wrote a detailed history of the “inhabited Mediterranean world” from 221 to 146 BCE. His history focuses on the growth of Rome and the achievements of the Romans. Polybius is also noted for using first-hand accounts and having a great desire to achieve accuracy in his work. *person*

2.89 Definition of Aristarchus of Samos: A Person

Aristarchus of Samos – c. 310 - 230 BCE – A Greek astronomer who is known to have developed a heliocentric view of the universe. Aristarchus of Samos believed that the Sun and stars were 'fixed' in the heavens, while the Earth rotated around the Sun in a circular orbit. Aristarchus also believed that the Earth revolved around its own axis. At this time the heliocentric view of the Earth was not well regarded, as most believed the Earth

was at the center of the Sun and stars. *person*

2.90 Definition of Archimedes: A Person

Archimedes – 287 - 212 BCE – Archimedes is one of the most famous scientists of all time. Archimedes was a native of Syracuse. He is renowned for many inventions and contributions. His contributions include work on the geometry of spheres and cylinders, a value for the constant pi, the concept of specific gravity, and the science of hydrostatics. Archimedes also probably invented the Archimedean screw to pump water, and the compound pulley. Archimedes is also noted for having been a proponent of the importance of the use of levers to do work. *person*

2.91 Definition of Epicureanism

Epicureanism – Epicureanism is a system of belief based on individual pleasure. Epicurus, 341 - 270 BCE, believed that the gods did not play a major role in the lives of humans. Instead he espoused the belief that individuals should be motivated towards self-satisfaction and the pursuit of personal rewards. Epicureanism is not synonymous with gluttony or hedonism, rather Epicurus believed pleasure was derived from “freedom from emotional turmoil.” *definition*

2.92 Definition of Stoicism

Stoicism – Stoicism was a system of thought which became the most popular philosophy in the Hellenistic world. Although, Stoicism deals with personal happiness, it differs from Epicureanism in that it contends that the best means to achieve happiness is through living in harmony with the intentions of the

gods. Stoics believed that the best existence would be a virtuous and natural one. One of the primary tenants of Stoicism was the acceptance of the will of God. Our modern term 'stoic' results from the cultural beliefs of the Stoics. [definition](#)

3 450 BCE - 750 CE

3.1 Definition of Etruscans: An Historical People

Etruscans – *of Central Italian Peninsula, modern day Tuscany – c. 900 - 450 BCE* – The Etruscans had a major influence on the Roman civilization. The origin of the Etruscans is subject to debate, some historians believe the Etruscans are Italian natives, while others believe they migrated from Asia-Minor, or elsewhere. The Etruscans lived in walled cities established north of the city of Rome. The Etruscans also showed some Greek influence, and it is known that the Etruscans adopted an alphabet from the Greeks before [600 BCE](#). The Etruscans expanded in Italy and became the dominant culture and economy on the peninsula after [650 BCE](#). However, their influence was waning by [400 BCE](#), when invasions from the Gauls and Romans curbed their power. Subsequently, the Etruscans were conquered by the Romans. Nonetheless, the Roman culture borrowed heavily from the Etruscans. [people](#)

3.2 Definition of fasces

fasces – The *fasces* are an important symbol of power and the authority used by the Etruscans (??). It was adopted by the Romans (??) and used until modern times. Even Mussolini used it as a symbol of his government. The symbol then became associated with the

term "fascism." The *fasces* are represented by an axe surrounded by a bundle of rods tied with a red thong. The axe represents power, and the rods represent the citizens of the state, bound together in common interest. The *fasces* also became an important symbol of the Roman state, and Roman consuls were always preceded by twelve lictors bearing *fasces*. [definition](#)

3.3 Definition of Romans

Romans – Of *Rome, It.* See Roman Confederation (??). [definition](#)

3.4 Definition of Roman Confederation

Roman Confederation – As the Romans expanded their power and influence across the Italian peninsula they established a system of organized rule known as the Roman Confederation. The Roman Confederation consisted of Rome and its conquered client states, and was signified by domination on the part of Rome. The Confederation was established through treaties with a conquered peoples or kingdoms. Rome allowed the kingdom to retain some freedom, and provided them with some services of the Roman Republic, and in exchange the kingdom provided allegiance in the form of soldiers and tax payments. The treaties included aspects such as Roman citizenship, the ability to marry or make contracts with Romans, or other specialized relationships. The Roman Confederation eventually expanded to encompass all of Italy. [definition](#)

3.5 Definition of Samnites: An Historical People

Samnites – *of Central Apennine Mountains, Mountain Range Bisecting Italy from North to South* – A hill people of Central Italy, who, from 343 - 290 BCE, waged war with the Romans. Finally, Rome defeated them and established a treaty with the Samnite states providing an expanded Roman Confederation and an alliance between the parties. In return, the Samnites provided Rome with military aid, and allowed Rome to control their foreign policy. On local issues, the Samnites remained relatively free to determine their own interests, laws, and government. The Roman conquest of the Samnites expanded Roman power and influence across much of Italy. *people*

3.6 Definition of Pyrrhic War

Pyrrhic War – *c. 267 BCE* – A series of battles between Rome and King Pyrrhus of Epirus. As the Greeks came into contact with Rome, resulting from Roman expansion across the Italian Peninsula, they increasingly experienced conflict. The Greeks, who relied heavily on mercenaries, bought the aid of King Pyrrhus of Epirus to help in staving off the Romans. King Pyrrhus was able to defeat the Romans in two subsequent battles, where he raised armies of 20,000 or more and crossed the Adriatic Sea with them. Though King Pyrrhus was considered to have won the battles, the victories were thought to have cost more than they gained. King Pyrrhus even remarked that winning one more battle would ruin him, hence the phrase *Pyrrhic victory*. His words nearly rang true, when Rome decisively defeated King Pyrrhus, *c. 267 BCE*. This allowed the Romans to expand into Southern

Italy and gain control over the Greek city states. *definition*

3.7 Definition of imperium

imperium – The Roman belief in the “right to command” is known as *imperium*. The Romans believed that certain officials and rulers such as their consuls and praetors held *imperium*, or the ability to command the military. *definition*

3.8 Definition of consuls

consuls – The consuls were the supreme executive officers of the Roman Republic, *c. 509 - 264 BCE*. The Romans believed that consuls held *imperium*, and thus were allowed rule over the Roman state, including the ability to make laws. Two consuls were selected annually to manage the government and lead the army. The consuls were subject to limited terms to prevent them from achieving overwhelming power. *definition*

3.9 Definition of paterfamilias

paterfamilias – The *paterfamilias* was the male leader and figurehead of the Italian family unit. The *paterfamilias* was thought to have absolute power over the family and was even considered to have the right to execute his children, though this rarely occurred. The *paterfamilias* passed from father to sons, upon death, and could be seen as a type of low-level regional government. *definition*

3.10 Definition of patricians

patricians – The patricians were the Roman aristocratic class who's heritage could be traced back to the Senators appointed during

the Roman period of monarchic rule. The patricians were the upper-class aristocratic citizens of Rome who had significant power and influence in government. The patricians were wealthy and generally held large portions of land. The patricians were thought to have certain privileges that allowed them to rule the government. See plebians (??). *definition*

3.11 Definition of plebians

plebians – plebian (??). *definition*

3.12 Definition of plebian

plebian – The plebians were the large body of the lower classes in Rome. The plebians were independent, and generally did not have large landholdings. Although, the plebians did not hold the same right to govern as the patricians did initially. The efforts of some of the wealthier plebians, eventually allowed the plebian-class greater influence in Roman government. See patricians (??). *definition*

3.13 Definition of Twelve Tables: An Important Writing

Twelve Tables – 451 BCE – Plebian pressure to codify Roman law lead to a commission which created a set of twelve laws known as the “Twelve Tables.” The “Twelve Tables” restricted the influence of upper-classes and helped minimize arbitrary authority and tyranny. The Twelve Tables cover many aspects of Roman society including family, inheritance, slave ownership, crimes, and property ownership. *important writing*

3.14 Definition of Cato the Elder: A Person

Cato the Elder – 234 - 149 BCE – Cato the Elder was a Roman praetor, and consul who became a censor, or census taker, in 184 BCE. Cato was against the Roman movement to incorporate Greek culture and education. Cato famously claimed that it was cheaper to work slaves to death, rather than treat them well. *person*

3.15 Definition of Hannibal: A Person

Hannibal – c. 246 - 183 BCE – Hannibal Barca was a Carthaginian general who was sworn to hatred of Rome by his father, Hamilcar Barca. Hannibal lead Carthage in several successful battles against Rome in the Punic Wars. Hannibal marched across the Alps with a significant army built of Spanish natives, however there were many casualties and he was later required to augment his force with Gaullic reinforcements. Hannibal defeated the Romans at Trebia River, and again at Trasimene in Etruria. Though the Romans were able to delay Hannibal’s advance for some years, they eventually determined that they must confront him. In 216 BCE, Hannibal won a decisive victory at Cannae, killing as many as 40,000 Romans. Though Rome suffered serious losses, they recovered and eventually sent an army directly against Carthage, this forced Hannibal to withdraw from northern Italy, and allowed the Romans to attain the victory they had been struggling for. In 202 BCE, Rome defeated Hannibal at the Battle of Zama. The Carthagians were forced into a peace treaty with Rome, which required them to relinquish control of Spain to the Romans. *person*

3.16 Definition of nobiles

nobiles – A select group of wealthy and powerful families who tended to occupy the more important political offices, *c. 133 BCE*. Interestingly, *nobiles* consisted of both patricians and plebians showing the significant influence of wealth on the Roman power structure. The *nobiles* demonstrated the central power and control of as few as 23 Roman families who managed most governmental affairs. *definition*

3.17 Definition of latifundia

latifundia – The *latifundia* were enormous farms administered by wealthy landed aristocrats. The *latifundia* were known for their wide use of slaves. The *latifundia* resulted in agricultural intensification as the wealthy landowners bought poor peasant farms. The *latifundia* primarily produced olives, wine, and sheep. Since Rome primarily conscripted military service from landowners, the *latifundia* resulted in a diminished number of citizens available for military service. The *latifundia* also served to spawn a new class of landless poor in Rome. *definition*

3.18 Definition of Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus

Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus – Tiberius Gracchus, 163 - 133 BCE, was a member of the *nobiles*. He was concerned with the shortage of military recruits, and attempted to create some reforms to improve the situation in Rome. Tiberius believed that the primary problems in Rome stemmed from the demise of the family farm, so he introduced policies to redistribute huge tracts of lands to the landless poor in the plebian assembly. The measures were passed, however it

was likely too late to save Rome from the civil wars that would plague it in the coming years. Though Tiberius was popular with the plebians, his reform had major impacts on wealthy landowners in the senate, who conspired and eventually assassinated him. Tiberius' brother Gaius was elected tribune in 123 - 122 BCE and carried the torch of reform passed on by his brother. Gaius restored the traditional judicial powers and quickened the redistribution of land. The reforms of these brothers demonstrated the conflicts of interest between the powerful landed aristocracy and the poorer classes in Rome. *definition*

3.19 Definition of Gaius Marius: A Person

Gaius Marius – *157 - 86 BCE* – Despite being an outsider, Marius became consul in *107 BCE*. Marius' focus was on ending the Roman war in North Africa against Jugurtha and the Numidians. The plebian assembly voted to give Marius command of the army in Africa usurping the right of the Senate to control the army and creating a separation of power between the army and the central government. Marius won the Jugurthine war and then proceeded to deal with the Gauls who were encroaching on Rome from the North. Marius was made consul again, from 104 - 100 BCE, and used the power to raise an army and defeat the Gauls. After Marius defeated the Gauls, he used his tremendous power to reform some Roman military policies. He allowed conscription of non-landowners, and urged allegiance of soldiers to the generals and not to the state. This reform ultimately had disastrous consequences for the Roman Republic. Since, Marius later used his army to depose Sulla and gain control of the Roman government.

person

3.20 Definition of Sulla: A Person

Sulla – *138 - 78 BCE* – Lucius Cornelius Sulla was a member of the *nobiles*, who was made consul in *88 BCE*. During Sulla’s consularship, the plebian assembly gave Marius command of the army. Sulla regarded this action as illegal, and used his army to march on Rome and reestablish control. Marius fled, however when Sulla left to attend to the war against Mithridates, Marius joined forces with the consul Cinna, and marched on Rome to seize control of the government once again. Marius used his power to remove Sulla, and kill many of Sulla’s supporters. Sulla defeated Mithridates and returned to Rome to use his armies to once again seize power. In the ensuing turmoil Sulla convinced the senate to name him dictator to “reconstitute the republic.” Sulla used his power to oppress and kill his opponents, and later to revise the constitution to restore power to the senate. Sulla eliminated the plebian assembly and attempted to restore order to the Roman Republic. Sulla’s reforms ultimately proved futile as civil wars destroyed the Roman Republic. *person*

3.21 Definition of Cicero: A Person

Cicero – *106 - 43 BCE* – Marcus Tullius Cicero was an outsider and first in his family to hold the consulship. Cicero was known as an excellent orator, and made a name for himself as a lawyer. Cicero became consul in *63 BCE*. Cicero tried to establish a new period of cooperative rule in Roman government, similar to the collective governments of the past, however the pursuit was fraught

with complications. Cicero believed there was a need for a powerful military leader to be supported by the senate, but could not fulfill the role himself. He encouraged the Senate to support Pompey, however many in the Senate felt that Pompey was already too powerful. *person*

3.22 Definition of Spartacus: A Person

Spartacus – *71 BCE* – Spartacus was a Thracian gladiator who led the most famous Roman slave revolt. Spartacus defeated several Roman armies, however he was eventually trapped and killed in *71 BCE*. Rome regained control and six thousand of Spartacus’ followers were crucified. *person*

3.23 Definition of First Triumvirate

First Triumvirate – *c. 60 BCE* – The First Triumvirate was an alliance between three very powerful Roman Senators, Julius Caesar, *100 - 44 BCE*, Crassus, *c. 112 - 53 BCE*, and Pompey, *106 - 48 BCE*. When Caesar’s attempts to augment his political power, after returning from a successful military command in Spain, failed, Caesar joined forces with Crassus and Pompey. Crassus and Pompey were also wealthy and powerful Roman Senators, and together the three wielded massive political power. The alliance was so successful that historians call it “The First Triumvirate.” *definition*

3.24 Definition of Second Triumvirate

Second Triumvirate – *c. 10 CE* *definition*

The political alliance between Mark Antony, Augustus (??) and Marcus Lepidus is known as the “Second Triumvirate.” This alliance was recognized with legal authority to rule under Roman law. See Augustus (??).

3.25 Definition of Battle of Actium: An Important Battle

Battle of Actium – *31 BCE* – Though Caesar’s grandnephew, Octavian (??), shared rule of the Roman empire with Mark Antony, *c. 83? - 30 BCE*, the two eventually battled each other for ultimate control of the empire. Antony joined forces with the Egyptian queen Cleopatra VII and met Octavian in battle at Actium (Greece). Octavian decisively defeated the forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra. As a result, Antony and Cleopatra retreated to Egypt where they are thought to have committed suicide within the year.

battle

3.26 Definition of Mark Antony: A Person

Mark Antony – *c. 83? - 30 BCE* – Mark Antony shared rule with Octavian (??) in an unstable alliance. Antony would ultimately join forces with Cleopatra VII in a bid for ultimate control of the Roman Empire. However, Antony was defeated by Octavian at the Battle of Actium (??). The defeated Antony retreated to Egypt and is believed to have committed suicide in 30 BCE. *person*

3.27 Definition of Augustus: A Person

Augustus – *c. 63 BCE - 14 CE* – Augustus was a special title awarded to Octavian, Caesar’s heir, adopted son, and grandnephew.

Augustus signified “the revered one.” Augustus ruled Rome in concert with Caesar’s close ally, Mark Antony. The regime is known to have meted out revenge against Caesar’s assassins, including Cicero. The political alliance between Antony, Augustus, and Marcus Lepidus is known to historians as the “Second Triumvirate,” and was recognized in Roman law with legal authority to rule. Nonetheless, cooperation wouldn’t last long, since Antony and Octavian would later struggle for ultimate rule of the Roman world, see Battle of Actium (??). After the power struggle at Actium, Octavian was left as the exclusive ruler over a Roman *empire*, and as much as any other event this signified the end of the Roman republic. *person*

3.28 Definition of Octavian: A Person

Octavian – *c. 63 BCE - 14 CE* – See Augustus (??). *person*

3.29 Definition of Teutoburg Forest: An Historical Place

Teutoburg Forest – Germania or Germany – *9 CE* – Though the reign of Augustus was generally marked by military triumph and successes, Augustus did fail to expand the Roman empire beyond the natural borders established in the North. In particular, at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest, Augustus was soundly defeated. The Romans lost about 20,000 troops or about three legions trying to gain influence in *Germania*. *place*

3.30 Definition of Catullus: A Person

Catullus – c. 87 - 54 BCE – Catullus is known as one of the best “lyric poets” ever produced by Rome, however Catullus was not originally from Rome. Catullus originally came from northern Italy, though he spent much of his life in Rome. Catullus was known for his adaptations and augmentations to Greek poetry. Catullus wrote on many subjects including politics, society, and language. Catullus’ style influenced many later Latin poets. *person*

3.31 Definition of Lucretius: A Person

Lucretius – c. 94 - 55 BCE – Lucretius was a philosopher poet who based his work on traditional Greek styles of philosophical poetry. Lucretius was noted for his work, *On the Nature of the Universe*, which was said to have contributed to a revival of Epicurian thought in Rome between 60 and 40 BCE. *On the Nature of the Universe* purported to outline the origin of the universe poetically, namely that the universe was created in a random arrangement of atoms, a twist of fate as it were. *person*

3.32 Definition of Aeneid: An Important Writing

Aeneid – c. 30 BCE – The *Aeneid* was an epic poem written by Virgil, 70 - 19 BCE. The *Aeneid* is a Homeric epic which relates the story of Aeneas, the son of Anchises of Troy. The *Aeneid* provides a historical context for linking Roman civilization and Greece. Aeneas is said to encompass the ideal of virtuous Roman existence, and the *Aeneid*

provided a social foundation for Roman rule of the free world. *important writing*

3.33 Definition of Ovid: A Person

Ovid – 43 BCE - 18 CE – Ovid is said to be the last of the great poets of the Roman *golden age*. Ovid’s work takes a carefree approach to traditional Roman values, and often lampooned them. His famous works include *Amores*, a series of love poems, *Metamorphoses*, and *The Art of Love*, a work which diagrams methods for the seduction of women. While Augustus attempted to eschew the loose sexual morals of the then Roman upper-class, Ovid is said to, perhaps mockingly, affirm them. *person*

3.34 Definition of Livy: A Person

Livy – 59 BCE - 17 CE – Livy was an important Roman historian. His crowning work, *History of Rome*, encompassed 142 books and chronicled the history of the city from its inception to 9 BCE. Livy was originally from northern Italy, but came to reside in Rome for his later life. It is believed that Livy valued history as a tool for teaching “moral lessons,” though his work is said to have heralded the “greatness” of Rome. Unfortunately, Livy was known to subordinate factual accuracy in favor of retelling, and some of his work is of questionable historical character. *person*

3.35 Definition of praetorian guard

praetorian guard – The praetorian guard was an elite infantry created by Augustus and charged with the task of guarding the

princeps. The *princeps* was a person without strict legal right to rule, however they possessed great *imperium*, along with extraordinary political influence. The praetorian guard consisted of 9,000 troops and signified a destabilizing influence on the Roman Republic. Unfortunately, the praetorian guard, with its allegiance to the *princeps* and not to the state, could be used to subvert the will of the Senate and the legal representatives of power. In fact, the praetorian guard would be instrumental in the assassination of Caligula, and it was also responsible for placing Claudius as the emperor who succeeded Caligula. *definition*

3.36 Definition of Flavians: An Historical Dynasty

Flavians – 69 - 96 CE – The Flavian Dynasty includes the Roman rulers Vespasian, *r. 69 - 79 CE*, Titus, *r. 79 - 81 CE*, Domitian, *r. 81 - 96 CE*. The time of the Flavian Dynasty was one of the first eras where Roman rulers referred to themselves as Emperors, thus signifying a final transition from republican ideals to monarchic rule. After the year of four emperors, *69 CE*, Vespasian rose to power as a result of his command of the legions of the east. This shows the influence of the military in Roman politics at this time, for the most part, those who commanded large legions also could take control of the state. Further undermining the old republican ethics, Vespasian established dynastic succession, and his sons Titus and Domitian followed him. However, the Flavian dynasty wouldn't last long, since Domitian was assassinated in *96 CE*. *dynasty*

3.37 Definition of Pax Romana

Pax Romana – 96 - 180 CE – The *Pax Romana* was a period of peace and goodwill in post republican Rome. The era is marked by the rule of the Five “Good Emperors” (??). These rulers respected ruling classes and the senate, did not perform arbitrary executions, maintained peace and were generally beneficent to the empire. *definition*

3.38 Definition of “Good Emperors”

“Good Emperors” – The *Five Good Emperors* where Nerva, *r. 96 - 98 CE*, Trajan, *r. 98 - 117 CE*, Hadrian, *r. 117 - 138*, Antonius Pius, *r. 138 - 161 CE*, and Marcus Aurelius, *r. 161 - 180 CE*. The era of the *Five Good Emperors* is known as the *Pax Romana*, it was a time of peace and prosperity. *definition*

3.39 Definition of Seneca: A Person

Seneca – c. 4 BCE - 65 CE – Seneca was a politician and aristocrat who was educated in the philosophy of Stoicism. He was Nero’s tutor and assisted in governing in the first five years of Nero’s rule. Later Seneca began to withdraw from politics, however he could not extricate himself completely. In *65 CE* Seneca was accused of conspiracy against Nero (??) and was compelled to commit suicide. *person*

3.40 Definition of Nero: A Person

Nero – c. 37 - 68 – Nero was a Roman Emperor who is widely regarded to have been in-

consequential in his rule. It is said that Nero “fiddled while Rome burned.” This statement may indicate that Nero had a propensity for good spirit and lack of leadership. Nero was deposed after a Spanish Revolt in 68. It is thought that Nero then committed suicide. See Seneca (??). *person*

3.41 Definition of Tacitus: A Person

Tacitus – c. 56 - 120 – Tacitus is known as the “greatest historian of the silver age.” He wrote several works, including *Annals* and *Histories*. Tacitus’ works detailed the history of Rome from Tiberius through to Domitian, 14 - 96 CE. Tacitus was also a Senator who disliked the abuses of power committed by the Roman Emperors, he believed that as a historian he could ensure that these abuses would not be forgotten by future generations. *person*

3.42 Definition of insulae

insulae – The *insulae* were dilapidated apartment complexes for the poor and landless. The *insulae* could be as tall as six stories, and could be compared with modern day “tenement complexes” in large cities. The *insulae* were prone to collapse and fire. *definition*

3.43 Definition of ius gentium

ius gentium – Latin: literally national law. The Romans founded a sophisticated form of government with a basis in law. The Romans understood the distinction between national law, such as those required in the maintenance of state and natural law. See *ius naturale* (??). *definition*

3.44 Definition of ius naturale

ius naturale – Latin: literally natural law. The Romans believed, at least in principle, that the rights of individuals are inalienable from them. This precept maintains that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and that all people should be equal in the eyes of the law and government. Though this precept has been held in regard to law since the time of the ancient Romans, history, from the time of Rome until now, proves that the states do not always maintain these rights in the sense they are described. See *ius gentium* (??). *definition*

3.45 Definition of Mithraism

Mithraism – Mithraism was one of the most important mystery cults in the Roman Empire. The principal deity of Mithraism was Mithras, a figure associated with Ahuramazda and Zoroastrianism. Mithras was associated with the Sun god. Mithraism was a male-only religion and followers were baptized in the blood of a bull before they could become participants in the religion. *definition*

3.46 Definition of Messiah

Messiah – The Messiah is a figure held in Jewish thought who is anticipated to be the savior of the Hebrew people. Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth, c. 6 BCE - 30 CE, was the Messiah, however most Jews do not accept that Jesus was a Messiah. *definition*

3.47 Definition of Paul of Tarsus: A Person

Paul of Tarsus – c. 5 - 67 CE – Paul of Tarsus was an important figure from Christianity, since he extended the philosophy of Christian religion from a sect of Hebrew teaching into a religion on its own right. Paul was a Jewish Roman who was influenced by Hellenistic Culture. Paul is responsible for much of the foundation and expansion of the Christian religion. *person*

3.48 Definition of Diocletian: A Person

Diocletian – c. 400 CE – Diocletian was the last of the Roman emperors to persecute the Christians. Despite his efforts, Christianity became a respected and popular belief system. *person*

3.49 Definition of Edict of Milan

Edict of Milan – In 313 CE Roman Emperor Constantine, ??, issued the Edict of Milan. The Edict of Milan caused the Roman government to formally recognize and tolerate the Christian religion. *definition*

3.50 Definition of Constantine the Great: A Person

Constantine the Great – r. 306 - 337 CE – Constantine was the first Roman Emperor to adopt Christianity and to tolerate it. His famous Edict of Milan officially recognized the religion. Constantine believed that the power of the cross had brought him victory in battle against the Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge. Constantine paved the way for Christian emperors and Rome and after him only

one emperor was not a Christian. Despite efforts to restore traditional religious practices the strength and influence of the Christians allowed them to prohibit pagan religious practices and to allow Christianity to dominate other religions. *person*

3.51 Definition of heresy

heresy – To go against or contradict the ruling or teaching of the Catholic Church is to commit heresy. For much of the Common Era, those who committed or were accused of heresy were persecuted or killed. *definition*

3.52 Definition of Atilla: A Person

Atilla – c. ?433 - 453 CE – Atilla was ruler of the Huns in the fifth century. Atilla is known to have been a formidable opponent in battle, and the Huns in general were said to be savage combatants. This greatly influenced the Hun dynasty and Atilla expanded his empire to become one of the largest in the ancient world. Nonetheless, in 451, he was repelled by the Visigoths, a defeat which likely prevented him from conquering the Western as well as Eastern World. *person*

3.53 Definition of Council of Nicaea

Council of Nicaea – Emperor Constantine initiated the Council of Nicaea in 325 CE to help address questions about Jesus' nature. Specifically, the council convened to determine if Jesus was human or God. The council eventually found that Jesus was made of the "same substance" as God, and therefore was a God. *definition*

3.54 Definition of Petrine Supremacy

Petrine Supremacy – The Petrine Supremacy is the belief that bishops of Rome were granted special office by Jesus, and therefore held a superior position within the church. The Gospel of Matthew relates that Jesus gave Peter, the first bishop of Rome, “the keys to the kingdom of heaven.”

definition

3.57 Definition of Benedictine Rule

Benedictine Rule – c. 520 - 530 CE – The Benedictine Rule written by Saint Benedict of Nursia, c. 480 - 543 CE, advocated an ideal of moderation for monks who wished to maintain a righteous lifestyle. The sense of the rule is that one should moderate, yet one might also be compelled to deprive themself and receive a “proper reward.”

definition

3.55 Definition of Ambrose: A Person

Ambrose – c. 339 - 397 CE – Ambrose of Milan created an image of an ideal Christian bishop. He advocated for a church which was independent of state function and control. He punished Emperor Theodosius I for ordering the slaughter of citizens in Thessalonika who refused to obey him. The punishment was that Theodosius was not allowed to participate in church. Theodosius finally repented, showing the massive power and political appeal the church had gained by this time.

person

3.58 Definition of Saint Patrick: A Person

Saint Patrick – c. 390 - 461 CE – Saint Patrick was a Christian missionary who went to Ireland in the fifth century CE. Patrick was kidnaped as a child and taken to Ireland where he was compelled to work as a slave, however, he later managed to escape. After Patrick’s escape he became a monk and missionary and returned to Ireland to convert the Irish to Christianity. Patrick was quite successful in his attempts to convert the Irish, and is known today as the “founder of Irish Christianity.”

person

3.56 Definition of The City of God: An Important Writing

The City of God – c. 410 CE – *The City of God* is one of the most famous works of Augustine. *The City of God* argued against pagan philosophers who believed that Rome had fallen because it had forsaken the old gods and adopted Christianity. Augustine argued that secular political authority was necessary to follow a true Christian path.

important writing

3.59 Definition of Vandals: An Historical People

Vandals – of Germany – The Vandals were a Germanic people who invaded Gaul, Spain, and Africa. The Vandal King Gaiseric eventually conquered the entire Roman province in Northern Africa, and even managed to sack Rome in 455 CE. The Vandals also pressured Sicily and southern Italy. The Vandals demonstrated the military prowess of the Germanic peoples.

people

3.60 Definition of Visigoths: An Historical People

Visigoths – *of Germania* – The Visigoths were one of the largest Germanic tribes in the fourth and fifth centuries CE. They had a truly love hate relationship with the Romans first asking them for help, and then meeting them in battle in *378 CE* where they killed Emperor Valens at the Battle of Adrianople.

people

3.61 Definition of Merovigians: An Historical Dynasty

Merovigians – *c. 511 CE* – The Merovigian dynasty was named after Merovech, who was a Frankish ancestor of Clovis (??). Clovis founded the dynasty prior to his death in *511 CE*. The Merovingians ruled most of the major Frankish dominions including Neustria in northern Gaul, Austrasia, and the kingdom of Burgundy. *dynasty*

3.62 Definition of Clovis: A Person

Clovis – *c. 482 - 511 CE* – Clovis was the leader of a Frankish tribe who eventually unified and ruled all Franks. Clovis converted from paganism to become a Catholic Christian around *500 CE*. This conversion helped him gain papal support, as well as leading to the eventual conversion of most of the Frankish peoples. Clovis also established the Merovigian dynasty. *person*

3.63 Definition of *weregeld*

weregeld – Literally, “money for a man.” In Germanic law most crimes were treated personally, with punishment meted out di-

rectly by a person’s family. The system of *weregeld* payments was orchestrated as a reaction to the heavy toll that was sometimes extracted by grieving family members who wished to receive retribution for their lost relative. *Weregeld* amounted to a fine where the guilty party would pay a fixed sum in retribution to the family of the victim. *definition*

3.64 Definition of Gregory the Great: A Person

Gregory the Great – *c. 590 - 604 CE* – Gregory the Great became pope and gained control of Rome around the seventh century CE. Gregory organized Rome and its surrounding territories into a system of government known as the Papal States. Gregory probably established control in Rome to prevent further damage from the Lombards who had warred with Rome in the preceding century. Gregory successfully converted England and many Germanic peoples to Christianity by sending missionaries abroad. Gregory is also well known for his correction to the Julian Calendar. The Julian calendar provided for an extra day each February, however Gregory amended the calendar to the current system in which certain years do not have leap years based on a fixed schedule that allows the calendar to stay synchronized with the seasons to a very high degree of accuracy. *person*

3.65 Definition of Justinian: A Person

Justinian – *r. 527 - 565 CE* – Justinian became emperor of the Byzantine Empire in *527 CE* because he was nephew and heir to the previous emperor. Justinian married the daughter of a lower class circus trainer

named Theodora. Justinian believed he could reestablish the Roman empire throughout the Mediterranean. Justinian's army was lead by Belisarius, who defeated the Vandals in North Africa and occupied Sicily in *535 CE*. Justinian's army was unable to conquer Italy for another twenty years, and the war proved to be brutal and destructive causing Italy to suffer greatly. Though some believe that Justinian was over ambitious in his conquests, leading to ultimate financial problems in his empire, it is clear that he was partially successful in his goal to reunite much of territory previously held by Rome. *person*

3.66 Definition of Corpus Iuris Civilis: An Important Writing

Corpus Iurus Civilis – 529 CE – *Corpus Iurus Civilis* was a compendium of Roman law code commissioned by Justinian and written by the jurist Trebonian. *Corpus Iuris Civilius* became a very important historical codification of law. *important writing*

3.67 Definition of Hagia Sophia: An Historical Place

Hagia Sophia – Constantinople – 537 CE – Hagia Sophia was the “Church of Holy Wisdom” in Constantinople. It was one of the three greatest buildings in the city and one of the greatest achievements of Justinian. Hagia Sophia was designed by a Greek architect. It contains four large piers and a huge dome which appears to float suspended in space. *place*

3.68 Definition of Vulgate

Vulgate – In the fourth century CE, Saint Jerome made a Latin translation of the Bible which eventually came into common usage. It is still used to this day. This translation is known as the Vulgate. *definition*

3.69 Definition of Muhammad: A Person

Muhammad – c. 570 - 632 CE – Muhammad was an orphan born in Mecca who became the principal prophet of the religion of Islam. Muhammad was a caravan manager as an adult and came into money when he married his employer, a rich widow. Muhammad began to experience visions in his middle age and believed these visions were inspired by Allah. Muhammad believed that he was receiving a *new covenant* from Allah and his teachings provide a further extension to the Hebrew and Christian religions. Muhammad's visions and revelations were written down in the Quran (??). *person*

3.70 Definition of Quran: An Important Writing

Quran – c. 600 CE – The *Quran* is the written text of the visions of the prophet Muhammad (??). The *Quran* is one of the most sacred works to followers of the religion of Islam. The principal teaching of the *Quran* is that there is no god but Allah, and his prophet is Muhammad (??). *important writing*

3.71 Definition of Koran: An Important Writing

Koran – c. 600 CE – See Quran (??). *important writing*

3.72 Definition of Jihad

Jihad – A holy war. Muhammad (??) and his followers perpetrated raids against their enemies, these raids were called *Jihad* in the *Quran* which meant “striving in the way of the Lord.” *definition*

3.73 Definition of Ka’ba

Ka’ba – The *Ka’ba* is a shrine which contains a black meteorite known as “The Black Stone.” This stone is located in the city of Mecca, and is worshiped by followers of Islam. *definition*

3.74 Definition of Pepin: A Person

Pepin – 751 - 768 CE – Pepin was the son of Charles Martel in Austrasia. Pepin was crowned king and anointed with holy oil by a representative of the Pope. The Frankish kings were anointed symbolizing the relationship of their king with God. Pepin’s son Charlemagne (??) succeeded him to the throne. *person*

3.75 Definition of Charlemagne: A Person

Charlemagne – 768 - 814 CE – Charles the Great or Charlemagne was a charismatic and powerful ruler of the Frankish peoples. He was said to be very intelligent, aggressive, capable on the battlefield, and an exceptional

statesman. Charlemagne undertook fifty-four military campaigns with the small Frankish army, about 8,000 men. Charlemagne’s aggressive military strategy helped expand the Carolingian Empire throughout Europe, ultimately culminating in his control of much of Germany, Italy, Saxony and part of Spain. Charlemagne was crowned Emperor of Rome in 800 CE, however the meaningfulness of this title is in some dispute considering the relationship of Charlemagne with the popes, and the supreme papal power in this time period. *person*

3.76 Definition of Missi Dominici

Missi Dominici – The *Missi Dominici* were court officials appointed by Charlemagne to be “messengers of the lord king.” The *Missi Dominici* were charged with supervising the regional counts and verifying that they were governing in accordance with the wishes of the king. *definition*

3.77 Definition of Donation of Constantine

Donation of Constantine – The Donation of Constantine was a forged document which the eighth century popes produced as a show of legal precedent and political support for papal rule of Rome and the nearby territories. The Donation of Constantine was supposed to be written by Emperor Constantine in 313 CE, in which he gave control of Rome to the Popes. The popes used it to build their personal power, however the fact that it was forged speaks more to the political will of the popes than any validity to their claims to power. *definition*

3.78 Definition of scriptorium

scriptorium – The *scriptorium* was the head of the monastic *scriptoria* or writing rooms. The *scriptorium* was an important monastic office and represented concerted power and influence in the monastery. These writing rooms were where monks copied sacred and important historical texts for posterity. *definition*

3.79 Definition of Alcuin of York: A Person

Alcuin of York – c. 790 CE – Alcuin was a famous scholar from the school at York. Alcuin was adviser on ecclesiastical affairs in Charlemagne's court and one of the important leaders at the palace school. Alcuin taught classical Latin and liberal arts, and helped to maintain scholarship in the Catholic church. *person*

3.80 Definition of Carolingian Renaissance

Carolingian Renaissance – Charlemagne spearheaded an intellectual movement to revive classical literature, arts, and learning in the Carolingian Empire. This movement included the copying of classical works in monasteries, the elevation of scholars into high office within the royal court and the pre-eminence of classical thinking as an ideal of scholarship. This revival became known as the Carolingian Renaissance in later times. *definition*

3.81 Definition of Treaty of Verdun: An Important Writing

Treaty of Verdun – 843 CE – After the death of Charlemagne, his son Louis the Pious, 814 - 840 CE , succeeded him to the throne, however the stability of the Empire soon came into question as competing influences vied for the throne. In 843 CE after the death Louis the Pious, his three sons signed the Treaty of Verdun, an agreement to divide the Carolingian Empire into three major sections. Charles the Bald, 843 - 877 CE , ruled the western Frankish lands, which are now a part of France. Louis the German, 843 - 876 CE , came to control the Eastern lands, or modern day Germany, and Lothair, 840 - 855 CE , gained the middle kingdom from the North Sea down to Italy. *important writing*

3.82 Definition of Magyars: An Historical People

Magyars – of Western Asia – The Magyars were encouraged to attack the Bulgars by the Byzantine emperors, while the Bulgars urged the Pechenegs to attack the Magyars. The Magyars were eventually forced into eastern and central Europe by the Pecheneg pressure. The Magyars built a strong presence in Hungary and made many raids on Germany, France and Italy, until they were defeated at the Battle of Lechfeld in Germany, 955 CE. The Magyars were converted to Christianity in the tenth century, and later they established the kingdom of Hungary. *people*

3.83 Definition of Vikings: An Historical People

Vikings – of Scandinavia – The Vikings are a Germanic people who settled in Scandinavia. These tribal warriors were also known as the Norsemen. The Vikings excelled as warriors, ship builders, and sailors. The combination of these skills allowed the Vikings to come into contact with much of the known world at the time. The Vikings sporadically raided cities throughout Europe. The Vikings competency at sea allowed them to reach far out into new territories, however they lacked political sophistication, will, and organization so their overall influence was minimized to that of raiders. *people*

3.84 Definition of feudalism

feudalism – Feudalism is the term ascribed to the system of organization of land into 'Fiefs' controlled by a lord, and tended by the lords servants or Vassals. Feudalism was not a formal system of government, it is a descriptive term used by historians to explain the top-down hierarchical system of land ownership seen in the middle ages. *definition*

3.85 Definition of vassalage

vassalage – The Vassals were the servants of a specific Lord in a Fief. Their servitude is known as vassalage and consisted of total subservience based on either military service or tax payment. *definition*

3.86 Definition of benefice

benefice – A benefice was a grant of land provided by land owners in exchange for maintenance of their large land estates, or military service. The benefice was an integral

part of feudalism as this was often the principal bond between the Lord and its Vassals. *definition*

3.87 Definition of subinfeudation

subinfeudation – Subinfeudation is the term for the hierarchical structure that existed between Lords and their Vassals in the middle ages. At the top of the structure there were kings. The kings in turn had Vassals who were powerful Lords or Barons. These powerful Lords were also major land owners, who in turn had Vassals who may have been lesser land owners, but still powerful, each Lord in turn has its own Vassals terminating with the lowest level subordinate knights or minor land owners. This hierarchy was not a formal system of government, but the natural extension of feudal practice in the middle ages. *definition*

3.88 Definition of Otto I: A Person

Otto I – 936 - 973 CE – Otto I was one of the best known kings of the Saxons in Germany. Otto I defeated the Magyars at Lechfeld in *955 CE*, and encouraged conversion of Slavic and Scandinavian peoples to Christianity. Otto I incorporated the power of the church more heavily into his kingdom than previous rulers had, since he relied on Bishops and Abbots for governing his kingdom. Because they were celibate, the governmental service of Bishops and Abbots helped allay the formation of governmental dynasties in which a single land owner and his children became entrenched with political power down through the generations. Otto I was crowned Emperor of the Romans by the pope in *962 CE*, however the political will to ex-

pand into Italy was of little consequence as future Frankish kings would find it difficult and then impossible to maintain the subservience of the Italian counts. *person*

3.89 Definition of Hugh Capet: A Person

Hugh Capet – r. 987 - 996 CE – When the power and authority of the Frankish kings diminished in the West, the nobles chose Hugh Capet, count of Orléans and Paris to become king. The political intent of their choice is revealed in the fact that Capet was a minor land owner whose primary control was over the Ile-de-France. The nobles hoped to place a king who would not be able to build a formidable dynasty with his limited resources. Though Capet died in a campaign to Spain, 996 CE, he did succeed in convincing the court to allow his son to succeed him to the throne. *person*

3.90 Definition of manorialism

manorialism – Manorialism extended the concept of feudal fiefdom's as a principal land owner, or Lord, was the overseer and master of a Manor. The Manor was the principal dwelling on the Lord's property or estate. The Lord had servants on the Manor known as serfs. The Lord was allowed to retain a modicum of governmental power in his Manor including the maintenance of a court and the enforcement of monopolistic power over the production of the serfs. The Manor was like a state within a state, and the lives of the serfs were dominated and controlled principally by the Lord's will alone. *definition*

3.91 Definition of Slavs: An Historical People

Slavs – *of Central Eastern Europe* – The Slavs were a central European people who eventually migrated and separated into three groups: western, southern, and eastern Slavs. The Germans felt it was important for them to convert the Slavs to Christianity and expended great effort in doing so, c. 1000 CE. The Polish, Czech and Hungarian Slavs accepted Catholic Christianity while the Eastern Slavs gravitated toward Eastern Orthodoxy. *people*

3.92 Definition of The Rus: An Historical People

The Rus – *of Novgorod, Northwest Russia, south-southeast of St. Petersburg* – The Rus where a Viking people who ruled under Rurik in the Slavic settlement of Novgorod, c. 862 CE. The Rus eventually donated their name to “Russia” as it is known today. One of Rurik’s followers, Oleg, c. 873 - 913 CE, established an association of east Slavic territories in Kiev. Though the Slavs did have some Catholic Christian influence, they primarily tended to Eastern orthodoxy as existed in the Byzantine empire. *people*

3.93 Definition of Abbasids: An Historical Dynasty

Abbasids – 750 - 1258 CE – The Abbasid's were a dynasty in Damascus established by Abu al-Abbas. The Abbasids improved relations among Arab and non-Arab Muslims. They allowed Muslims of any ethnic origin to hold civil and military office in government. The natural result was far greater ethnic diversity and even greater acceptance of intermarriage. In 762 CE, the Abbasid's built

Baghdad, now in Iraq, and made it their capital city. The Abbasid dynasty represented a golden age of learning and prosperity for the Muslim people. Though the Abbasids were prosperous, internal power struggles and financial corruption ultimately contributed to their demise in the thirteenth century. *dynasty*

4 750 CE - 1542

4.1 Definition of carruca

carruca – A *carruca* is a heavy, wheeled plow, that revolutionized agriculture in the high middle ages, *c. 1000 - 1250*. The *aratum*, a light, wooden, non-wheeled plow was used previously. The *aratum* could be effective in the light soil regions of the Mediterranean, however it was ineffective in the dense clay soils of northern and central Europe. The development of the *carruca* was essential to the success of agriculture in Europe, since it allowed farmers to till the dense soil of the region with greater ease. *definition*

4.2 Definition of aratum

aratum – See *carruca* (?). *definition*

4.3 Definition of Truce and Peace of God

Truce and Peace of God – In the eleventh century the Catholic church instituted the Peace of God to stop knights from constantly battling each other and especially to stop them from hurting and killing noncombatant persons such as clergy, the poor, merchants and women. The church urged knights to take an oath of respect for holy centers. The Truce of God was instituted by the church

to prevent bloodshed on the sabbath and primary feast days. *definition*

4.4 Definition of Cluniac reforms: A Religious Movement

Cluniac reforms – *910* – The Cluniac Reform Movement began in Burgundy at the abbey of Cluny. In *910*, Duke William of Aquitaine founded an abbey on the principal that the high ideals of the Benedictine rule should be lauded and followed. The Cluniac abbots maintained strict adherence to the ideal of moderation practiced by the Benedictines. The Cluniac reforms included an increased dedication to public worship, and labor through copying of transcripts. *religious movement*

4.5 Definition of Chivalry

Chivalry – In the high middle ages, *c. 1000 - 1250*, Chivalry was the code of ethics employed by nobility. Chivalry encouraged 'civilized' behavior. Knights were encouraged to defend the church and the meek, and to engage in combat only when an opponent was similarly armed. *definition*

4.6 Definition of melee

melee – In twelfth century armed combat tournaments attendees generally participated in a melee. The 'melee' was a free for all battle among combatants armed with blunted weapons. Losers were taken prisoner and held for ransom, allowing the victors to reap huge profits at the expense of the losers. *definition*

4.7 Definition of Investiture Controversy

Investiture Controversy – Although German kings frequently appointed high-ranking clergy to important civic positions, Pope Gregory issued a decree, in [1075](#), which banned the practice. King Henry IV, 1056 - 1106 , who was no stranger to the practice, fiercely opposed the decree since his Investiture of the bishop of Milan, the second most important position in the clergy was essential to his authority in northern Italy. Gregory threatened the king with excommunication, and the king called a meeting of German bishops to depose the pope. Henry was finally excommunicated giving the fickle nobility opportunity to call his rule into question. Henry finally succumbed and plead for absolution. Gregory granted it, and the issue was later resolved by the Concordat of Worms in [1122](#). [definition](#)

4.8 Definition of Cistercians: A Religious Movement

Cistercians – [1098](#) – The Cistercian order of monks evolved because some monks became disenchanted by the lack of strict discipline in the Benedictine orders. Cistercian beliefs spread rapidly. Monks from this order were required to eat a simple diet, wear only a single robe, and eliminate any type of decoration or adornment from monasteries and churches. Cistercians did not utilize peasant labor to work their lands. The Cistercians tended to live on uninhabited lands and wastelands. While the Cistercians attempted to live lives separate from the inhabited world, they were so successful in reforming their lands that they ended up controlling vast and productive tracts of farm land. [religious movement](#)

4.9 Definition of Hildegard of Bingen: A Person

Hildegard of Bingen – [1098 - 1179](#) – Hildegard of Bingen was an abbess of a convent at Disibodenberg in Germany. Hildegard wrote down mystical visions that she experienced in three books. Hildegard was an important composer and she contributed greatly in the area of Gregorian chanting. [person](#)

4.10 Definition of Cult of Mary: A Religious Movement

Cult of Mary – [1100](#) – The Cult of Mary developed in wake of the extreme interest in Jesus that developed in the Middle Ages. Mary, Jesus' human mother, was viewed as an important mediator with her son, and many people were fascinated with her experience and story as the mother of a principal prophet. [religious movement](#)

4.11 Definition of Indulgences

Indulgences – Indulgences were granted to persons who committed sins against the Catholic church. Indulgences were granted to allow an individual penance from their sins. All or a portion of the punishment the person would have received in the afterlife is waived in exchange for church contributions or good deeds. The practice of granting indulgences became very popular in the high middle ages, [c. 1000 - 1250](#). [definition](#)

4.12 Definition of seven sacraments

seven sacraments – The seven sacraments are important worldly symbols of ones faith

and devotion to the Catholic church. The seven sacraments include baptism, marriage, and penance for ones sins. *definition*

4.13 Definition of excommunication/interdict

excommunication/interdict – Excommunication is the formal process of banning someone from attending church. Excommunication was seen as one of the severest penalties in the middle ages. Persons could be excommunicated for committing any of a number of sins, after which, a church official would formally forbid them from returning to the church. Interdict was a form of punishment for a people or nation. The people subject to interdict could not partake in several important sacraments. In accord with the common belief system, this would hold serious consequences in the afterlife. *definition*

4.14 Definition of Frances of Assisi: A Person

Frances of Assisi – *1182 - 1226* – Saint Francis of Assisi was an Italian man who abandoned his wealth and worldly possessions to preach in poverty. Frances' charm attracted many followers who took vows of poverty. Pope Innocent III established the group as the order of Franciscan Friars. *person*

4.15 Definition of Dominicans: A Religious Movement

Dominicans – *1215* – The Spanish priest, Dominic de Guzmán, 1170 - 1221, established the order of the Dominicans. Dominic believed that monks should be educated to

defend against the many heresies of the middle ages. *religious movement*

4.16 Definition of Albignesians

Albignesians – The Albignesians were labeled heretics by Pope Innocent III in 1209. This began a bloody persecution of the people including the destruction of entire cities. Many Albignesian leaders were stripped of their land, and their people were sacrificed by Christian crusaders. *definition*

4.17 Definition of Pope Urban II: A Person

Pope Urban II – *1088 - 1099* – At the Council of Clermont, Urban II urged Christians to take up weapons against infidels and to create a holy war against the Seljuk Turks. *person*

4.18 Definition of Seljuk Turks: An Historical People

Seljuk Turks – *of Central Asia* – The Seljuk turks were a people who converted to Islam. The Seljuk Turks were persecuted by Pope Urban II in a crusade. In the eleventh century the Seljuk turks took over the eastern provinces of the Abbasid empire. In *1055* a Turkish leader captured Baghdad. *people*

4.19 Definition of “Peasant’s Crusade”

“Peasant’s Crusade” – After Pope Urban II called the people to arms against Infidels, Peter the Hermit, a man who had holy visions, incited a large mob to take up a crusade in eastern Europe. The mob was made

up largely of the poor and thus was referred to as a “Peasant’s Crusade.” *definition*

4.20 Definition of Saladin: A Person

Saladin – 1169 – Saladin lead Sunni Muslims of Syria in an invasion of Egypt and ended the Fatimid caliphate. Saladin’s forces also invaded Jerusalem, Palestine and Tripoli. The fall of Jerusalem led to a ‘third crusade.’ *person*

4.21 Definition of Fairs of Champagne: An Historical Event

Fairs of Champagne – c. 1100 – The trading fairs of Champagne were the largest marketplaces in western Europe. Champagne hosted fairs annually as part of a French program to increase trade. Merchants were promised protection from harm and reduced taxes, while the state enjoyed increased commercial activity. *historical event*

4.22 Definition of Charters of Liberties

Charters of Liberties – Charters of liberties were legal documents which illustrated the relative freedoms of individuals. The Magna Carta (??) is known as one of the greatest feudal charters of liberties. *definition*

4.23 Definition of guilds

guilds – Craft guilds played a key role in the production of material goods in the middle ages, *c. 1000 - 1250*. Craft guilds established standards for production of goods and labor

practices. Craft guilds also established fixed prices for the sale of goods. The guild process involved a training hierarchy where a person would start as an apprentice, later advance to become a journeyman, and finally finish a master work to become a master of their craft. *definition*

4.24 Definition of burghers

burghers – A burgher is a member of the middle class in a European city, especially during the high middle ages, *c. 1000 - 1250*. The burgher class was principally composed of merchants and trades people. *definition*

4.25 Definition of scholasticism

scholasticism – Scholasticism is the philosophical and theological system used in medieval schools. Scholasticism developed in the eleventh and twelfth centuries along with the *university*. One of the primary tenants of scholasticism was an attempt to reconcile faith and reason. *definition*

4.26 Definition of universitas

universitas – *Universitas* is a Latin word which referred to a corporation or guild of students or teachers. The *univseritas* evolved into our modern notion of the University. Universities developed in the middle ages, and several were established by the eleventh and twelve centuries. *definition*

4.27 Definition of troubadours

troubadours – A troubadour was a strolling minstrel or lyric poet. Troubadours were French, Italian and Spanish composers who sang and wrote about courtly love. *definition*

4.28 Definition of Romanesque and Gothic Cathedrals

Romanesque and Gothic Cathedrals – Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals are typified by two distinct types of architecture. The Romanesque cathedral was usually a rectangular basilica style similar to a fortress or castle. The Romanesque cathedral was limited in size because of the weaknesses of its rectangular, monolithic, construction. Gothic cathedrals superseded the limitations of the Romanesque cathedrals and could be built much taller. The Gothic cathedral is typified by spires, arched or domed ceilings and the architectural feature known as 'flying buttresses.' Flying buttresses supported the walls of the tallest cathedrals and allowed the cathedral to be built taller with thinner walls. *definition*

4.29 Definition of William of Normandy: A Person

William of Normandy – r. 1066 - 1087 – William of Normandy defeated the English king Harold Godwinson at Hastings, *October 14, 1066*. William was crowned king of England, and proceeded to take control of the nation. William annexed large tracts of land on behalf of the Normans and became one of the largest holders of English land. William commissioned a work known as the Domesday Book (??) in 1086. *person*

4.30 Definition of Domesday Book: An Important Writing

Domesday Book – 1086 – The Domesday book listed the exact holdings of individual English families. The Domesday book al-

lowed William of Normandy to take taxes based on each individuals wealth. *important writing*

4.31 Definition of Thomas Becket: A Person

Thomas Becket – c. 1160 – Thomas Becket was archbishop of Canterbury in the twelfth century. Becket was England's highest ranking cleric when he became embroiled in a political controversy. The powerful king, Henry II, 1154 - 1189, wanted the right to punish clergy in the royal court. However, Becket resisted claiming that only the church should have the right to punish clergy. Failing at compromise, the two officials struggled openly until Henry plead for someone to rid him of the archbishop. Four knights consented and assassinated Becket, resulting in a resolution to the controversy. *person*

4.32 Definition of Frederick Barbarossa: A Person

Frederick Barbarossa – 1152 - 1190 – Frederick Barbarossa, known as Fredrick I, was a powerful lord who was elected king in Central Europe. Frederick wanted to further incorporate Italy into the German kingdom to form a Holy Empire or Holy Roman Empire. The papal states and northern Italian cities resisted and Fredrick was defeated at Legnano in 1176. *person*

4.33 Definition of English parliament

English parliament – The English parliament established, c. 1300, was one of the primarily democratizing influences in the English monarchy. Originally parliament was

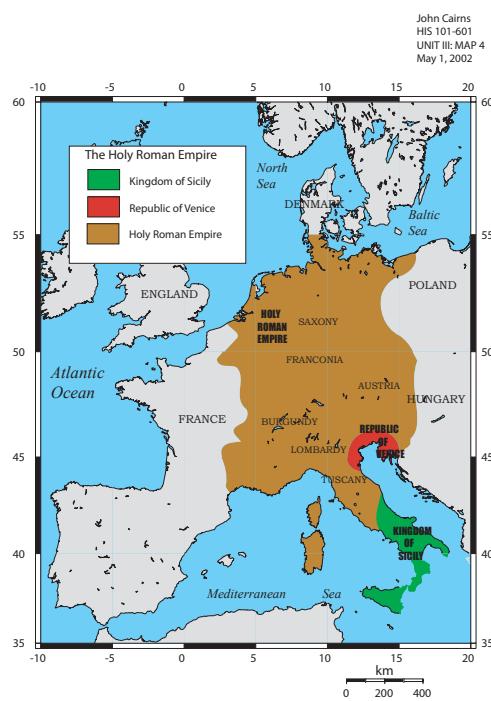


Figure 4: The Holy Roman Empire

used to refer to the meeting of the kings council, however, Edward I invited two knights from every county and two representatives from each city and town to meet and consent to new taxes. [definition](#)

4.34 Definition of Magna Carta: An Important Writing

Magna Carta – 1215 – The Magna Carta was a great charter of feudal liberties. The Magna Carta was supported by the English nobility because it limited the power of the English monarchy. Much of the Magna Carta was aimed at preventing wrongful imprisonment, and to prevent the king from conducting executions or taking land, without sufficient reason. Some of these precepts survive to this day in modern constitutional law, including Amendment 4 in the United States

Constitution. *important writing*

4.35 Definition of Teutonic Knights

Teutonic Knights – The Teutonic Knights were established in the end of the twelfth century to protect the Christian Holy Land. These knights later used their military power to gain wealth by raiding and pillaging the Slavic nations in eastern Europe. The Teutonic Knights waged war on the Slavic peoples for thirty years, until, by the end of the thirteenth century, most of the people of Prussia had been converted, killed or driven out by the knights. [definition](#)

4.36 Definition of Kievan Rus State

Kievan Rus State – The Kievan Rus state became formally Christian in 987 and prospered afterward. The Kievan society was dominated by a noble class of landowners. The noble population was made up of the Scandinavians, also known as the Rus, and the chiefs of the old Slavic Tribes. The Kievan Rus were free, however as in other regions, the peasant class had to endure hard labor and long hours. [definition](#)

4.37 Definition of Alexander Nevsky: A Person

Alexander Nevsky – c. 1220 - 1263 – Russian prince of Novgorod, Alexander Nevsky, defeated a German invading army at Lake Peipus in northwestern Russia, [1242](#). Nevsky forged a political alliance with the Mongols and denounced his brother. The khan rewarded Nevsky by making him Grand Prince,

later his descendants became the princes of Moscow and it's rulers. *person*

4.38 Definition of Black Death

Black Death – The Black Death, *c. 1350*, was a devastating illness that spread rapidly through Europe resulting in millions of dead. The Black Death is estimated to have eliminated 25 to 50 percent of the European population. The natural result was a economic, social, political and cultural calamity. *definition*

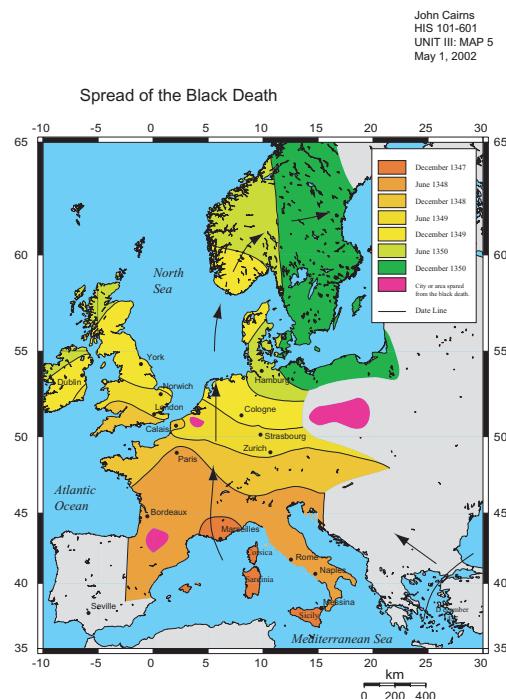


Figure 5: The Spread of the Black Death (??)

4.39 Definition of Flagellant: A Religious Movement

Flagellant – *1348* – The Flagellant movement emerged as a result of the Black Death (??). The Flagellants believed that the Black

Death was a punishment meted out by God to force atonement for the evils and sins of the European people. The Flagellants were especially popular in Germany. They wandered from town to town beating themselves with whips to win the forgiveness of God. *religious movement*

4.40 Definition of Estates-General

Estates-General – The Estates-General or French Parliament was a political organization in the fourteenth century. The Estates-General was made up of representatives from clergy, nobility and the common people. The Estates-General did not hold significant power, and was mostly subordinate to the rule of the king. Since the burden of taxation weighted heavily on the French people, the Estates-General made a deal with the monarchy when an emergency increase in taxes was required to ransom King John II. The Estates-General acquiesced to the taxes, on condition that once the dauphin, John's son Charles, gained power, all taxation must be approved by the Estates-General. Though it was a valiant attempt, the political coalition eventually collapsed under the weight of the powerful monarch, Charles V. *definition*

4.41 Definition of Jacquerie

Jacquerie – The *Jacquerie* was a French peasant revolt which broke out in *1358*. The peasants were frustrated with the turmoil that resulted from the Black Death (??) and the Hundred Years' War (??). The peasants were persecuted by both Merchants, who lived off of peasant lands as they traveled, and the military who had deliberate policies to lay waste to peasant lands. Revolution

was the natural result, however, the peasants were quickly quelled as the nobles exerted their power and authority, massacring and disbanding the rebels. *definition*

4.42 Definition of Hundred Years' War: An Historical Event

Hundred Years' War – *1337 - c. 1461* – Growing tensions between the King of England, Edward III, and Philip VI of France resulted in a Hundred Years' War. Edward III was duke of Gascony, which meant he must swear allegiance as a vassal of the King of France, however, tensions between the two and political disagreements over the fate of the territory of Gascony caused Edward to refuse allegiance and declare war on Phillip. The disputes waged on and off for more than one hundred years, until Joan of Arc intervened. Charles the dauphin, heir to the French Throne, was established as monarch in *1429* and though the war waged on for two more decades, the tone for the conflict had been established and England was forced out of French territory by *1461*. *historical event*

4.43 Definition of Crecy: An Important Battle

Crecy – *1346* – The first decisive battle of the Hundred Years' War (??) was at Crecy in northern France. Edward III of England soundly defeated Philip VI of France. *battle*

4.44 Definition of Poitiers: An Important Battle

Poitiers – *1356* – During the Hundred Years' War (??) King John II was captured at

the Battle of Poitiers. This event largely signified the end of the first phase of the War. The English demanded a large ransom and territorial concession for John's release. In return, the English agreed to forsake any claim to the French throne. *battle*

4.45 Definition of Agincourt: An Important Battle

Agincourt – *1415* – Henry V, of England, renewed the Hundred Years' War (??) at Agincourt. The French resistance at Agincourt was decimated and more than 1500 nobles were killed. Henry V was able to reconquer Normandy and gain the allegiance of the Duke of Burgundy. *battle*

4.46 Definition of Joan of Arc: A Person

Joan of Arc – *1412 - 1431* – Joan of Arc was the daughter of peasants from the village of Domrémy in Champagne. Joan was deeply religious and is known to have experienced visions. She believed that several saints commanded her to free France and to return rule to the dauphin, or rightful heir. Joan of Arc persuaded Charles, the dauphin, to allow her to accompany a French army to Orléans. The French armies seemed inspired by Joan of Arc's confidence and liberated Orléans. Soon the Loire valley was free and Charles was able to claim the monarchy in *1429*. Unfortunately, Joan of Arc was captured shortly thereafter by the Burgundians, who were allies of England. Joan was turned over to the Inquisition on charges of witchcraft, because her visions were deemed to be satanic. The church condemned her as a witch and burned her at the stake. Ironically, Joan was sainted by the Roman Catholic church in 1920, about 500 years too late. *person*

4.47 Definition of Bonifice VIII: A Person

Bonifice VIII – 1294 - 1303 – Pope Boniface VIII was a controversial fourteenth century pope. When Philip IV intended to tax the clergy, Boniface responded that clergy could not pay taxes in any state without papal consent. The power struggle underscored the inherent tension between the powerful European monarchs and the supreme papal authority. Boniface wrote a series of *letters* to solidify his argument. One of them was the *Unam Sanctam*, see below, which he wrote in 1302. Boniface intended to excommunicate Phillip, however Philip conspired to have the pope brought on charges of heresy. Eventually the pope was captured, freed again, and then killed by conspirators who were incited to the action by Philip. *person*

4.48 Definition of Unam Sanctam

Unam Sanctam – 1302 – The *Unam Sanctam* was letter or “papal bull” written by Boniface VIII to assert his authority to control taxation of the clergy. Boniface wrote that “if earthly power errs, it shall be judged by spiritual power,” with the obvious implication that Popes supersede kings in all matters. *definition*

4.49 Definition of Avignon Papacy: An Historical Event

Avignon Papacy – 1305 - 1377 – Continuing his bid to quell papal power, Philip IV pressured French cardinals to elect a French pope in the wake of the death of Bonifice VIII. Clement V, 1305 - 1314 was elected and moved the seat of the Papacy to Avignon, southern France, citing political tur-

moil in Rome as the principal reason. The Avignon Papacy resulted in a decline in papal authority, essentially subordinating the Pope to the King of France. *historical event*

4.50 Definition of Great Schism: An Historical Event

Great Schism – 1377 – After determining that a decline in papal authority was due, at least in part, to an Avignon Papacy (??), Pope Gregory XI returned the seat of papal power to Rome. Unfortunately, in 1378 Gregory died, resulting in a new struggle for papal power. Many Roman cardinals feared that the powerful enclave of French cardinals would elect another French pope who would reestablish the Avignon Papacy. The Roman Cardinals threatened the French cardinals with death if they did so, and the Italian archbishop of Bari was elected and anointed Pope Urban VI. However, the victory was temporary since five months later the French cardinals declared the election improper. The French cardinals elected Clement VII, a Frenchman to resume the Avignon Papacy and the resulting power struggle is known as the *Great Schism*. The division of the Papacy caused great turbulence in the Catholic church, damaged the faith of the believers, and resulted in increased taxes and corruption. Eventually the Papacy returned to Rome, but not before much damage was done to the church. *historical event*

4.51 Definition of Dante: A Person

Dante – 1265 - 1321 – Dante was a Florentine noble who was exiled from his political office. Dante is well known for his work the *Divine Comedy* which he wrote between

1313 - 1321, while in exile. Dante's work depicts the progression of a soul through the process of salvation. [person](#)

time, and many of his sonnets are inspired by his love for Laura, a married woman whom he met in 1327. [person](#)

4.52 Definition of Hanseatic League

Hanseatic League – The Hanseatic League was formed in the thirteenth century. Several German coastal towns, including Lübeck, Hamburg, and Bremen formed a commercial and military league to obtain commercial breaks and to protect themselves from pirates. The League grew rapidly and by 1500 it had grown to as many as eighty cities. The Hanseatic League maintained a monopoly on trade of vital goods in northern Europe for centuries. [definition](#)

4.53 Definition of House of Medici

House of Medici – At its height, in the fifteenth century the House of Medici was the most prominent banking family in Europe. Originally a cloth producer, the Medicis gained great power in commerce, real estate and finance that spread throughout northern Italy, France, and even into England. The Medici family's power declined after a series of bad leaders and failed loans resulted in significant losses. [definition](#)

4.54 Definition of Petrarch: A Person

Petrarch – 1304 - 1374 – Petrarch was a Florentine, though he primarily lived outside of Florence. Petrarch is attributed in the revival of the classics, and the foundation of Italian Renaissance humanism. He is considered one of the greatest lyric poets of the

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May 1, 2002

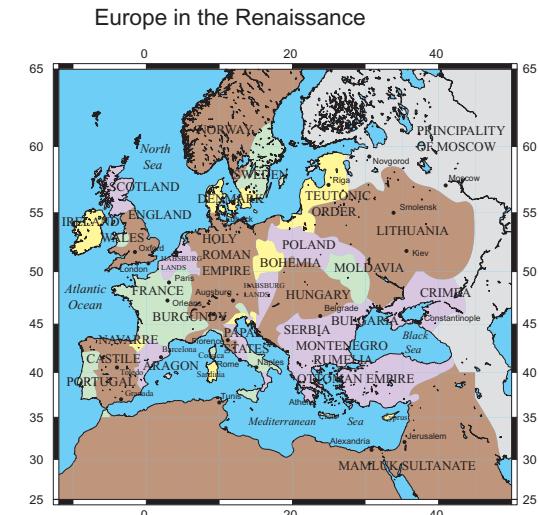


Figure 6: The European Renaissance

4.55 Definition of Civic humanism

Civic humanism – Civic humanism was an ideal that emerged in the Italian Renaissance, c. 1400. Many people believed that the only way to truly mature as an individual was to participate in the life of the state. They believed that the study of humanities could be used to ensure the overall wellbeing of the state. [definition](#)

4.56 Definition of Machiavelli: during the Italian Renaissance. *definition* A Person

Machiavelli – 1469 - 1527 – Niccolò Machiavelli was an Italian politician who's ideas have come to embody an ideal of political power. Machiavelli served as a secretary to the Florentine Council of Ten, and as a diplomat. When the Medici regained control of Florence in 1512, Machiavelli was forced into exile where his political ambition shifted from participation to writing. In his master work, *The Prince*, Machiavelli explains techniques for achieving and expanding political power.

person

4.57 Definition of Johanne Gutenberg: A Person

Johanne Gutenberg – c. 1450 – Gutenberg is the famous inventor of movable type machines. Around 1455 Gutenberg produced a practical and inexpensive copy of the Bible. In the next century the technology exploded across Europe, from 1 to 100, to 1000 printers across Europe. In the sixteenth century, Gutenberg's movable type apparatus, also coined “printing press,” had been used to produce more than 10 million copies of 40,000 titles. Printing became one of the largest industries in Europe, and has had a monumental impact on Western Civilization. *person*

4.58 Definition of School of Athens

School of Athens – Raphael painted *School of Athens* after he arrived in Rome, 1510 - 1511. The *School of Athens* depicts a gathering of ancient philosophers, including Plato, Aristotle, and Pythagoras. This work illustrates the revival of classical thought, especially pertaining to harmony and order,

4.59 Definition of War of the Roses: An Historical Event

War of the Roses – 1450 - 1485 – The War of the Roses was a civil war that broke out between English ducal houses. The house of Lancaster, whose symbol was a red rose, and the house of York, adopting the white rose. In the 1450's many aristocratic families were pitted against one another. Later, in 1485, Henry Tudor defeated the Yorkist king, Richard III and established the dynasty known as the Tudors. *historical event*

4.60 Definition of Henry VII Tudor: A Person

Henry VII Tudor – 1485 - 1509 – Henry VII defeated Richard III and established the Tudor dynasty. After the War of the Roses, much work was needed to unify the aristocracy, and Henry worked to quell dissension and build a strong monarchy. Henry eliminated the practice of wealthy families maintaining personal militias. Henry also worked to improve the English economy by encouraging businesses. As a result of these improvements, Henry's legacy was a stable and prosperous nation. *person*

4.61 Definition of Isabella and Ferdinand: Persons

Isabella and Ferdinand – c. 1480 – The marriage of Isabella of Castile, 1474 - 1504, and Ferdinand of Aragon, 1479 - 1516, served to unify much of Christian and Muslim Spain. Though both kingdoms maintained separate governing institutions, the

two rulers were able to strengthen the bond between the two kingdoms by strengthening their respective monarchies. Isabella and Ferdinand built a national military with the purpose of controlling the aristocracy. They arranged with the pope to be able to appoint the top position in the Spanish church, and made other changes which strengthened the monarchy as a whole. *persons*

4.62 Definition of Habsburgs: An Historical Dynasty

Habsburgs – 1438 – The Habsburg dynasty was the principal ruling dynasty in the “Holy Roman Empire” in the mid-fifteenth century. The Habsburgs were one of the largest land holders in the region. They cemented their success through a system of strategic marriages devised to maintain or increase power and influence over the region. *dynasty*

4.63 Definition of Fall of Constantinople: An Historical Event

Fall of Constantinople – 1453 – The city of Constantinople fell to the Turks after being sieged for several months. This event and the rapid spread of the Turkish people throughout the east, allowed the Turks to exert considerable pressure on the western kingdoms. *historical event*

4.64 Definition of Julius II: A Person

Julius II – 1503 - 1513 – Julius II was a Renaissance Pope who was very involved in both war and politics. Julius is sometimes called the “warrior-pope,” since he personally

led armies. Many Christians criticized these activities. *person*

4.65 Definition of Protestant Reformation: A Religious Movement

Protestant Reformation – 1513 – Spearheaded by Martin Luther, the Protestant Reformation set about to answer the question about what one must do to attain salvation. Luther believed that church theology which included the *seven sacraments* set an impossible task before good people who might deserve salvation. Luther’s idea was that the “justice of God” was not a punitive recounting of ones individual folly, but a merciful acceptance wrought out of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The Reformation became very popular and spread rapidly, splintering the Catholic church into factions that exist to this day. *religious movement*

4.66 Definition of Martin Luther: A Person

Martin Luther – 1483 - 1546 – Martin Luther was an educated man who dedicated himself to monastic life at the age of twenty-two. Luther became obsessed with a simple question: What is the minimum one must do to attain salvation? Luther believed that church doctrine set an impossible task before anyone wishing to attain salvation, and resolved to find a new interpretation of church doctrine that resolved the question. Luther’s answer, known as the Protestant Reformation (??) revolutionized the Christian religion and created a new church doctrine that was rapidly adopted. However, Luther’s view was not accepted by all. The catholic church excommunicated him, and the Holy Roman

Emperor made him an outlaw. Nonetheless, Luther's view had caught hold of the people, and attempts to stifle Luther couldn't stop the rapidly advancing religious reform. *person*

held two or more positions within the church at the same time, this allowed a single individual to reap the rewards of multiple positions while still performing the service of one. *definition*

4.67 Definition of Erasmus: A Person

Erasmus – 1466 - 1536 – Desiderius Erasmus was one of the most important Christian humanists. Erasmus was determined to reconcile faith and reason through the common themes of classical ethics and Christian morality. He published a book known as *Handbook of the Christian Knight*, in 1503. Erasmus' book espoused a 'philosophy of Christ' over restrictive church doctrine. Erasmus also published a revised and edited edition of the Bible in 1516. Though Erasmus' reforms did not become widely accepted, it is thought that these reforms paved the way for the Protestant Reformation. *person*

4.68 Definition of Indulgences

Indulgences – Indulgences were a common practice of Catholic church from before the middle ages through the sixteenth century. In particular, Pope Leo X granted a special jubilee indulgence to finance Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. However, religious reformers such as Martin Luther openly criticized the practice of paying for penance. Indulgences became a motivational force for religious reform, as they tended to underscore hypocrisy in the Catholic church. *definition*

4.69 Definition of Pluralism

Pluralism – Pluralism became a problem in the late middle ages, c. 1500. Many officials

4.70 Definition of justification by faith

justification by faith – The justification by faith was the principal doctrine of the Protestant Reformation (??). The justification by faith says that humans can not achieve salvation through good deeds but by the grace of God, and that this was achieved through the sacrifice of Jesus. *definition*

4.71 Definition of Edict of Worms: An Historical Event

Edict of Worms – c. 1520 – In response to Martin Luther's strong condemnation of church doctrine, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, 1519 - 1556 convened a meeting to force Luther to recant his heretical stance. Undaunted, Luther stood fast, and proclaimed that [paraphrase] he had arrived at his beliefs based on the word of God, and only the word of God would dissuade him. The Emperor, not being one to withstand such a rebuff, quickly issued the Edict of Worms, making Luther an outlaw and required Luther to be captured and his works to be burned. *historical event*

4.72 Definition of Peace of Augsburg: An Historical Event

Peace of Augsburg – 1555 – The Protestant Reformation instigated a spate of re-

ligious turmoil and warfare throughout Europe, since few states and officials could agree on the fate of the two intertwined yet conflicting ecclesiastical disciplines. Wars between Italy, Spain, Germany and the Turks marked the period until the Peace of Augsburg. The Peace of Augsburg granted Lutherans the same legal rights as Catholics and settled the disputes between the Lutheran Germans and other non-Lutherans. The Peace of Augsburg also cemented the independence of the German Princes who had eschewed the will of the Holy Roman Emperor and triumphed. *historical event*

4.73 Definition of Anabaptists: A Religious Movement

Anabaptists – *1525* – Following the path paved by the Protestant Reforms the Anabaptists pushed for further reformation of church doctrine. Anabaptists tended to be peasants and working poor. The Anabaptists believed in adult baptism, rather than infant baptism, taking the approach that all believers were baptized into the church of their own accord and thus were conferred with the same rights and privileges. The Anabaptists attempted to live in accordance with early villages described in the New Testament, they organized democratic communities where each and every believer was seen as sharing the same rights. Further, the Anabaptists believed in secular government, they refused to hold political office or bear arms. *religious movement*

4.74 Definition of Predestination

Predestination – Predestination is the idea that God has predetermined the destiny of all souls, whether they be saved or damned,

since God is all knowing and can foresee the future. This idea is usually associated with John Calvin, 1509 - 1564. *definition*

4.75 Definition of Act of Supremacy

Act of Supremacy – The Jesuit (??) movement borrowed from Lutheranism in spirit, but fundamentally turned Martin Luther's conclusions upside down. The Jesuits declared strict allegiance to the Pope. The Jesuits' absolute obedience became an organized extension of the popes authority. *definition*

4.76 Definition of Papal Index

Papal Index – Pope Paul IV, see Counter Reformation (??), set about to revert some of the changes of the various religious reformations and in so doing created a Papal Index of Forbidden Books. This Index listed books that Catholics were forbidden from reading. These books included Protestant works as well as works considered to be “unwholesome.” *definition*

4.77 Definition of Counter-Reformation: A Religious Movement

Counter-Reformation – *1555* – Though many reforms had occurred in the Catholic church there were those who tried to impose a structure based on past ideals. Pope Paul IV, 1555 - 1559 was considered to be a counter-reformation pope because of his traditional interpretations of religious doctrine. Paul IV created the Papal Index (??) and also vastly increased the power of the Inquisition, a move which threatened even the most powerful dis-

senters with torture or death. Though, Christian unity was a goal for some, the counter-reformation and the Council of Trent served to permanently solidify the divisions that had formed in the church. *religious movement*

4.78 Definition of Jesuit: A Religious Movement

Jesuit – *1491* – The Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, was founded by a Spanish nobleman, Ignatius of Loyola, 1491 - 1556. Loyola was in many ways the antithesis of Martin Luther. Though he believed in Luther's fundamental interpretation of church theology, his means to attain salvation was born out of absolute adherence to church doctrine. The Jesuits preferred a highly disciplined devotion to scripture rather than the relaxed 'acceptance' doctrine espoused by the Lutherans. The Jesuits believed in strict papal supremacy, see Act of Supremacy (??). *religious movement*

4.79 Definition of Council of Trent: An Historical Event

Council of Trent – *1542* – In response to the many religious reforms, Pope Paul III called for a "general council of Christendom" to meet and resolve some of the issues between the various religious reformers and traditional church doctrinists. Between 1545 - 1563, a group of church officials and theologians met at Trent to consider the issues, however they were unable to build consensus. Despite fervent disagreements, the Council of Trent reconfirmed quintessential church doctrine and practice, including practices such as indulgences that had been criticized by religious reformers. Though the goal of the Council of Trent might have been to bring unity to the church after many disagreements. The

gulf between religious movements may have been irreconcilable, since the Council urged dogmatic adherence to traditional views. The principals adopted by the Council served only to solidify the differences and to further ensure that the church would remain divided on these issues. *historical event*

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