

Hello!

HHS 130 Introduction to History of
Science and Technology

1/29

Review last class

Viewing Assignment



Science and Technology in Prehistory

- the “pre-history/history distinction”?
 - Paleolithic (“Old Stone Age”)
 - More hunting and gathering, nomadism
 - Neolithic (“New Stone Age”)
 - More small-scale agriculture, formation of villages and towns

Science and Technology in Prehistory

- Turning points in development of our species:
 - Roughly 40,000 years ago, Neandarthals disappeared. Around that time, *Homo sapiens sapiens* expanded its production of tools in terms of specialization and materials, forming networks of exchange, as well as art, astronomical observation, and burial ceremonies (though remaining nomadic foragers)

Antiquity

- According to McClellan and Dorn, the history of science and technology can be schematized into a categorical system containing 3 (eventually, 4) archetypal techno-scientific societies
 - Babylonian
 - Hellenic
 - Hellenistic
 - (Modern industrial techno-science)

Antiquity

- Babylonian (a significant exception to the control of “artisans and the unlettered”)
 - Scientific expertise as a subset of expertise required for governance of a “state”
 - Literacy

Antiquity

- Hellenic
 - The pursuit of knowledge for its own sake
 - Possibly related to emergence of quasi-democratic city-states (*polis*)
 - “pure” science, oriented to “theory”
 - Non-institutional, non-patronized--isolated

Antiquity

- Hellenistic (most significant for our purposes)
 - Combines features of Babylonian and Hellenic
 - State-subsidized "disinterested" pursuit of knowledge, non-utilitarian and useful
- Modern industrial techno-science

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 - Mainly relying upon textual rather than artifactual sources.
 - Developing interpretations of evidence.
 - Using interpretations to create narratives.

Large Questions

- What is history?
 - Defined spatially (geographically), culturally, by time period, or by theme.
 - Chinese history
 - Global history
 - Diasporic history
 - Ancient history
 - Modern history
 - Political history
 - Environmental history