

# **World History (Part-I)**

## **Background Knowledge of Ancient & Medieval World**

**By Manikant Singh**

 KHAN SIR 

Formula

To underline the change

Economic change — social change — Ideological  
change to political  
change





## **Emergence of Ancient & Medieval World**

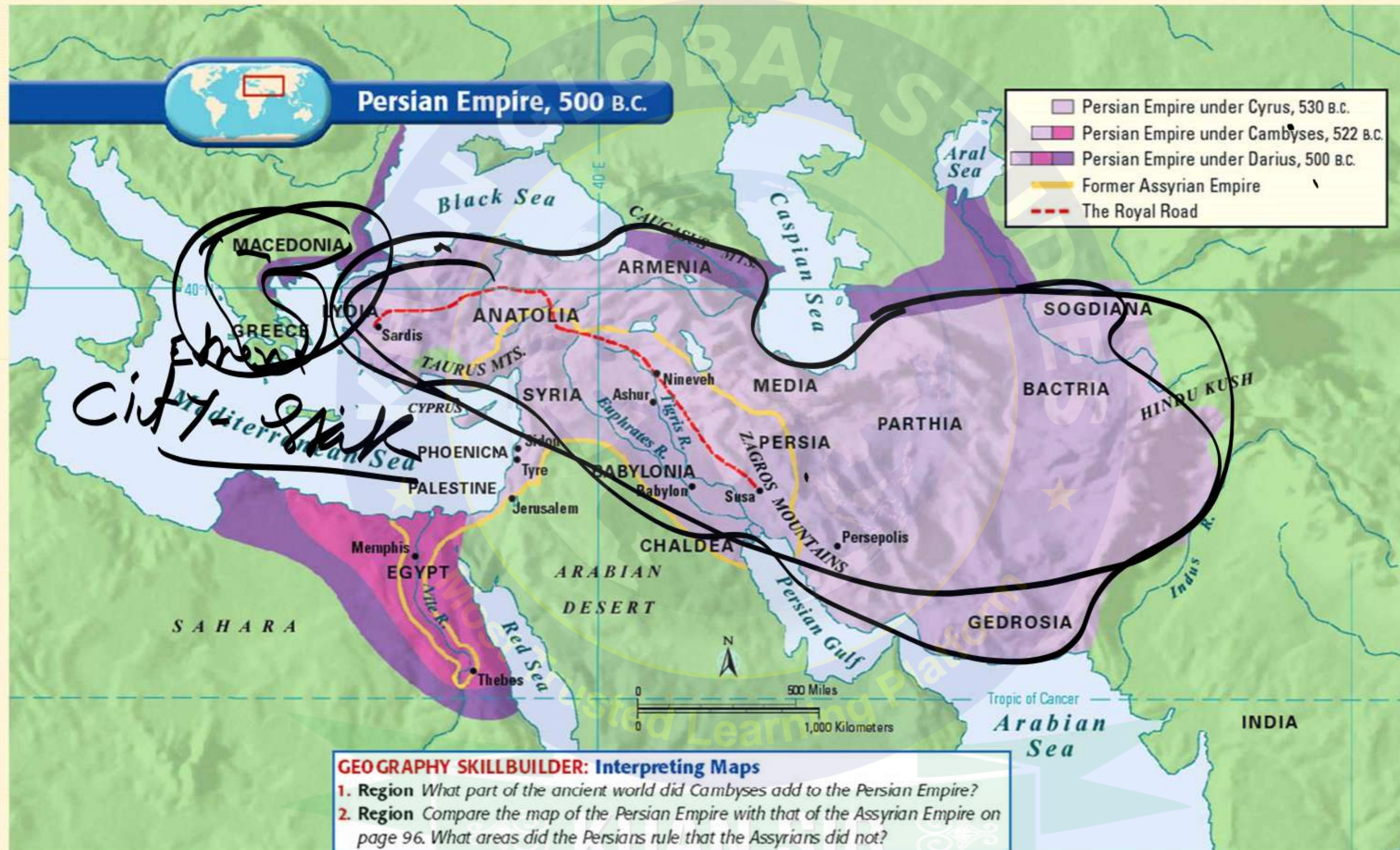
- **World, which is visible today, is completely different from what it had appeared to be thousand of years earlier. We need to underline the elements of changes while going through years after years, decades after decades and century after century while measuring the contours of world history. Then a complete picture comes before us.**
- **But before making a survey of world history we should be aware of the fact that more or less world history is still obsessed with Euro-Centric approach. That's why changes which occurred in different parts of the world are generally viewed in relation to western world. Moreover, the history of modern world starts with colonization of rest by west. Obviously, it is a compulsion for us to observe the progress of world history while keeping Europe in the centre.**



A portion company (360 felt Gold as  
Revenue)

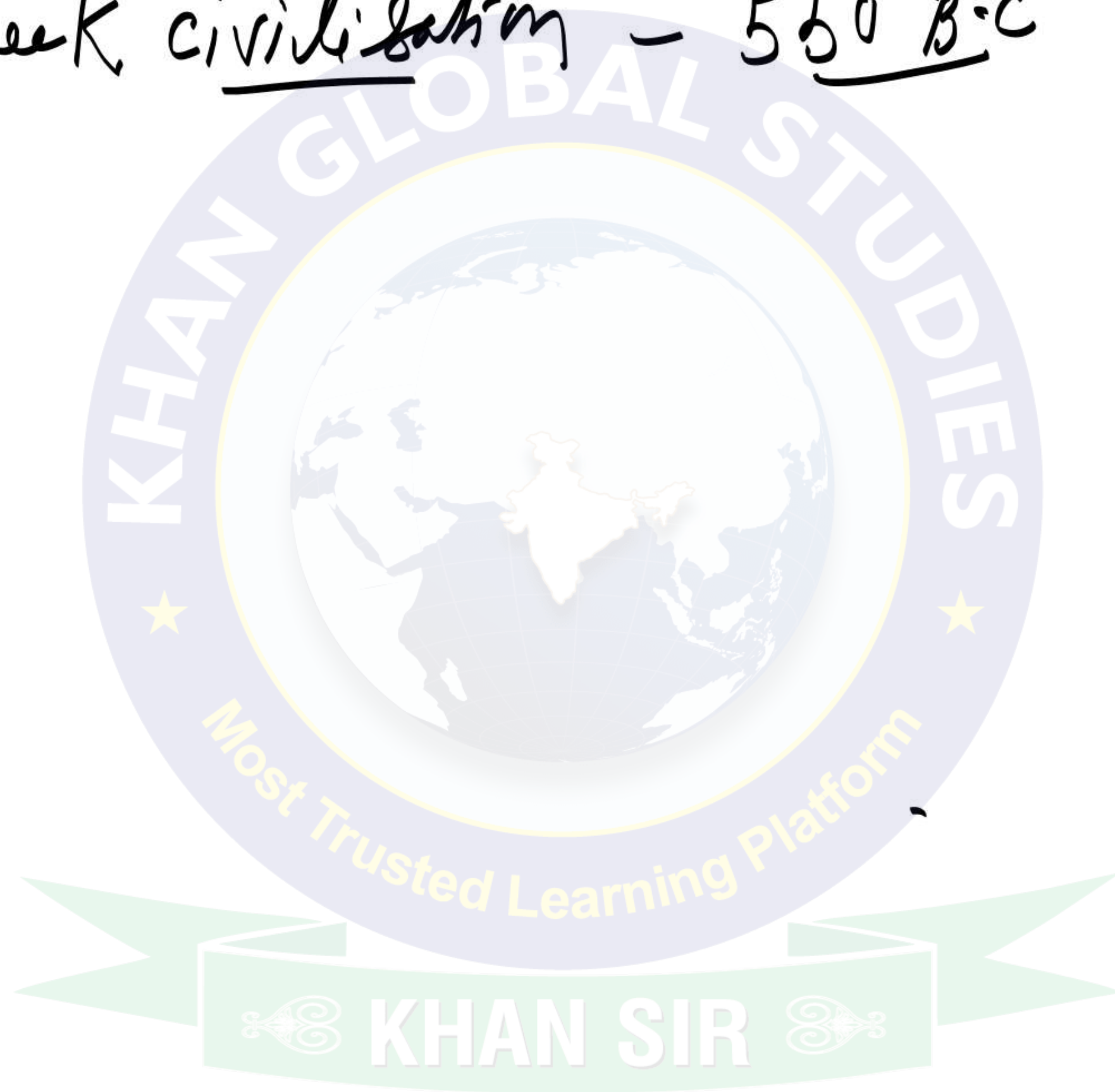








Greek civilisation - 550 B.C



## Ancient Europe

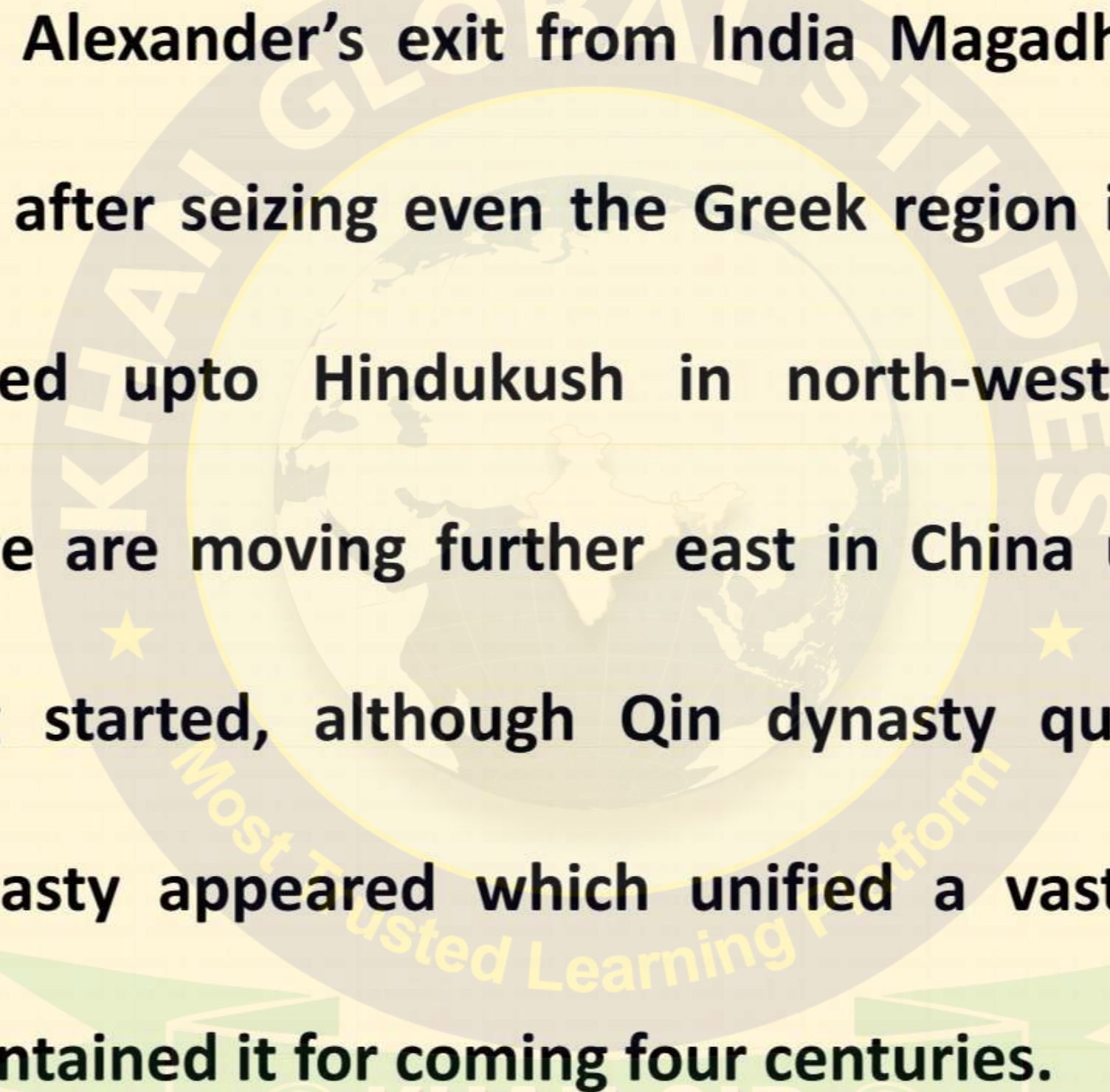
### ❑ Political Structure-

- **Persian Empire**— Nearly in 700 BCE, Persian Empire emerged to be a world empire under the great monarchs like Cyrus and Darius first. It is characterised as the first world empire. It covered a vast region, Aegean sea to North West India including North-west Africa and a part of central Asia. As a Greek scholar Herodotus noted that Indian region was 20th kshatrap (province) of Persian empire and this region used to provide to Persian government 360 talent of gold per annum as tax.



➤ **Greek Empire**— Up to 4th century the decline of the empire set in and it created a political vacuum in the region which could be filled up by the rise of a Greek empire under Philip and his son Alexander. In fact, among Greek states Macedonia emerged to be a powerful state under an ambitious king Philip. He conquered Italian city-states. In 336 BCE, he was succeeded by his son Alexander the great, who established a Greek empire on the ruins of Persian one. His empire included the vast area of Anatolia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Persia, Afghanistan, some parts of Central Asia and a part of North West India upto the river Vyas, beyond which Alexander's soldier refused to move further. Just parallel to it, Magadha Empire was being created in India. It expanded from the river Beas in the west to Bengal in east to the river Godavari in South India.



- 
- Then just after Alexander's exit from India Magadhan empire took a formidable size after seizing even the Greek region in north-west. This empire stretched upto Hindukush in north-west to Brahmngiri in Karnataka. If we are moving further east in China under Qin dynasty empire-building started, although Qin dynasty quickly disappeared. Then, Han dynasty appeared which unified a vast region under an empire and maintained it for coming four centuries.



- Once again returning to the west we can underline the demise of Alexander's empire just after his death in 323 BCE. It was divided among his there ambitious military commanders. One of them Selyucus Nikator got the empire of Syria which was situated in the neighborhood of Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta Maurya. As an Empire works as a carrier of culture, so Alexander's imperialistic project was accompanied by the spread of Greek language, Greek script and Greek culture including Hellenistic art. Later eastern expansion of Roman Empire was supported by the same Greek cultured world created earlier by Alexander.



➤ **Roman Empire**— Nearly three hundred years after Alexander, there appeared a new empire, Roman Empire. During ancient period Roman Empire was the largest and the longest empire. Its nucleus region was Italy but quickly it covered whole Mediterranean region. In 509 BCE Roman state was established as a republic. Earlier than that even Greek city - states were founded as tiny republics. But from modern standard, the term republic should not be applied either to ancient Greek or ancient Rome, as there the actual power was being enjoyed by a handful of elites. Under the Roman states these elites were known as patrician.



- But whatever was the nature of the republic, later republican form of government gave way to monarchy under ambitious rulers like Augustus and Tiberius. Upto early Christian century, Roman empire became formidable in size particularly when it came to conquer Carthage Empire in northern Africa. Then, at the time of Diocletian, the empire was divided into two - Western Roman Empire and Eastern Roman empire or Byzantine Empire. The capital of Western Roman Empire was Rome while that of the Eastern Roman Empire was Constantinople. In Roman Empire, Greek and Latin both languages were officially encouraged. Eastern part of the empire more directly inherited the legacy of Greek civilisation.



- From 3rd century onwards, Western Roman Empire came to face the onslaught of German invasion as a result of which, Western Roman Empire broke into pieces while eastern Roman empire continued for the next 1000 years, till the Turkish invasion eclipsed it in 1453.





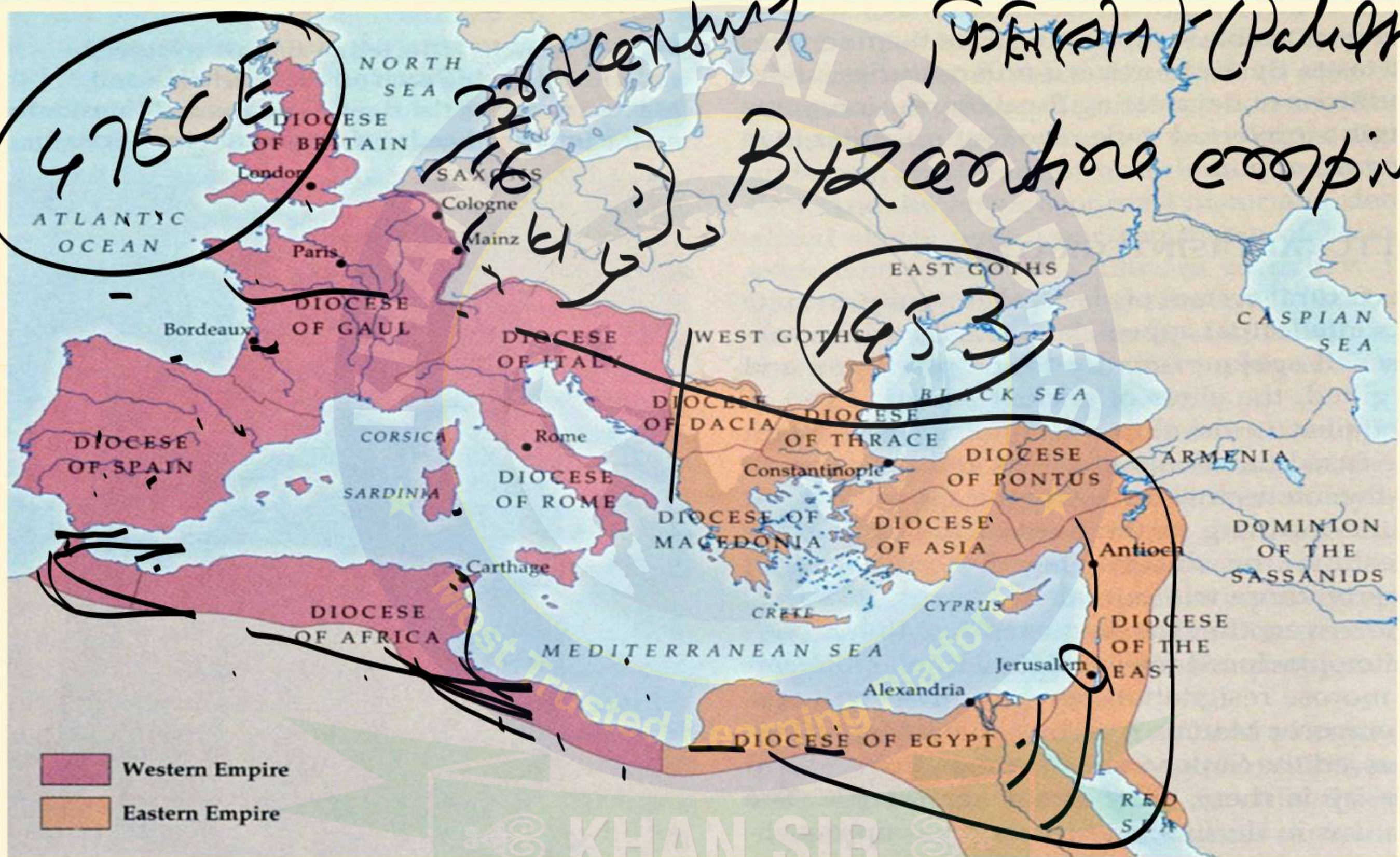
476 CE

3rd century

1st century (Palestine)

Byzantine empire

1453

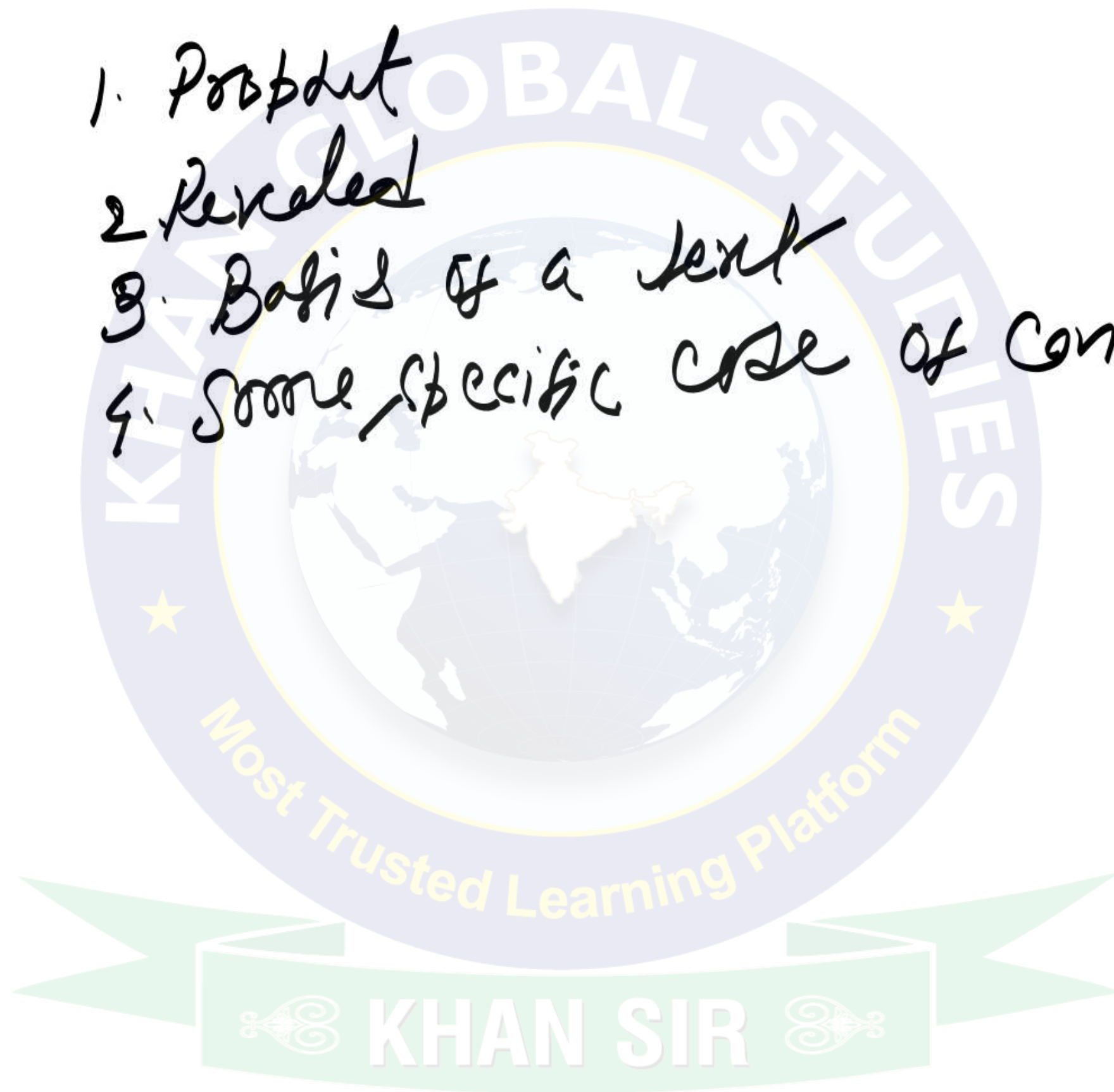


Western Empire  
Eastern Empire

KHAN SIR



1. Proband
2. Revealed
3. Basis of a text
4. Some specific code of conduct





Religion

X Zoroastrianism

Zarathustra

• Judaism

Abraham

Jews

which propagated Monothism

~~Worship of a single God~~

Yahweh

zionist movement

Abrahamic  
tradition

• Christianity - Monothism

• Islam - Muhammad

KHAN SIR



## **❑ Economic Condition-**

- **Whenever we are studying about ancient world empires we can underline two important features about these empires: - Firstly these empires represented a very complex economic structure. In other words, the process of empire building was deeply linked to the initiative of having control over important trade routes. These are true of almost all empires i.e. Persian Empire, Greek Empire and Roman Empire. All were inclined to have control over the main trade routes in West Asia, Central Asia and also the routes leading to the east. Not simply that, to a greater extent even their survival depended over their ability to control these routes. Apart from that, in ancient Greece and Rome, slavery system was prevalent. Their agrarian economy was based on slave labour.**