

Chapter 7: New Civilizations and Empires in Western and Central Asia: 7-5c For Further Reflection

Book Title: World Civilizations

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Chapter Review

7-5c For Further Reflection

1. In this and previous chapters, the text mentions the Semitic and the Indo-European language families. As the term suggests, a *language family* includes two or more languages or sub-families that are closely related by their forms of grammar and syntax (sentence structure), and by shared vocabularies. To what extent do you think that language and culture are related? Can one suppose that people who speak languages that are in the same language family share a common culture, or vice versa? What factors other than language do you suppose influence culture? How do you think the study of languages and language families can provide clues to history?
2. In what ways was monotheism (or perhaps duo-theism) “in the air” in the Near East by the end of the second millennium B.C.E.? Is it possible that Egyptian beliefs (e.g., Akhenaten), Zoroastrianism, and early Judaism might have influenced each other?
3. Why do you think Jewish theology changed over time?
4. In what ways do you think the creation of larger, empire-sized states in the Near and Middle East might have contributed to a growing “internationalism”? How might these expanding empires have stimulated trade and multiculturalism?

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