*ANTH140 Lectures*

*Colin Morris-Moncada*

*Spring 2020*

Unit I: From Human Origins to Agrarian Communities c. 100,000–500 B.C.E.

***Introduction***

We associate civilization and history with relatively high levels of technology because we live in a literate and technology advanced society.

*Important to?*

1. Approach with an open and inquiring mind
2. Assume a small measure of intellectual risk to benefit from discussions

*Chapters 1-6?*

Examine the growth of ways of life in 5 different areas of the globe before 500 B.C.E

Chapter 1: The Earliest Human Societies

***1-1 A Few Definitions of Terms***

History – The record of what people have done in the past.

History depends on the evidence of the past

(Human actions in past time, as recorded and remembered)

Historiography – The systematic study of history, as processed through an author’s brain and bias, working with the raw materials he or she has found.

(The writing of history to interpret it)

Archaeology – The study of cultures through the examination of artifacts (anything made by humans)

Word means “the study of origins”

Archaeologists – crucial to the study of human societies that existed before recorded history

Anthropology – The study of humankind as a particular species

The science that studies humans as a species rather than studying a special aspect of their activity

Paleo anthropologists – Study human evolution

Paleo environmentalists – Study ancient natural environments

Paleographers – study old writing

Hominid (human like creature) – Human like creature ~ 4.5 million years ago

Homo sapiens (thinking or wise man) –

* Originated in east Africa
* Migrated 100,000 years ago
* On every continent except Antarctica by 10,000 B.C.E
* Recent genomic studies trace the migration

***1-2 The Evolving Past***

Archaeology and Paleoanthropology have both evolved quickly over the past 40-50 years.

Archaeological evidence suggests that refined tools of bone and stone were made not as functional tools but as a form of art or aesthetic to the maker.

70,000 years ago, many thousands of years before our dated art has been recorded

***1-3 The Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age)***

Paleolithic Age – Age from first known appearance of homo sapiens to 10,000 B.C.E.

Also called *The Old Stone Age* because many tools were still made from stone and other natural materials that were quite crude.

* By the end of the Old Stone Age humans inhabited all the continents except Antarctica
* Late Paleolithic people were hunter and gatherers, however famine was always near

**Hunters and Gatherers**

Hunting and gathering was done in groups and success depended more on organization and cooperation than on individual bravery or strength

* family was the basic social unit (normally extended family or clan -> includes more than nuclear family)
* bigger family unit was necessary for protection
* total number was about 40 people
* close family relations and interchange with other similar groups among the Paleolithic hunters was critical for their survival

Warfare was at an all-time low during this period.

However, conflicts did arise over hunting grounds, theft, water, etc.…

If a group was threatened, they could easily move to another piece of land since there was so much land available

***1-3a Human Development During the Paleolithic***

Humans ability to reason, plan, organize, make tools, and create art changed a great deal throughout this time

* At least 17 different varieties of hominid evolved during this time
* Hominids became more upright during the Paleolithic age and their skulls enlarged and became more rounded to account for a larger brain
* Eyesight grew sharper, smell less so
* Less hairy bodies, shorter arms
* Larynx shifted to allow for speech

All these modifications and many other adaptations reflected humans’ changing to their physical environments

By the late Paleolithic (c. 100,000 to 10,00 B.C.E.) groups were living in caves for extended periods of time. Groups also mastered their environment, creating clothes, fires, hammers, axes, chisels, etc.…

***1-4 The Neolithic Age (New Stone Age)***

**Agriculture and Livestock Breeding**

Time that humans went from being nomadic food hunters and gatherers to producing food for themselves by domesticating wild plants and animals

1. Livestock breeding
2. Herding
3. Sowing
4. Harvesting

***c. 10,000 to 2,000 B.C.E.***

Holocene Era – Period in which archaeology and climatology that came after 10,000 B.C.E. and the last ice age

* Generally warmer climate that forced humans to locate near streams of water and hunt for food

Neolithic Food Producing Revolution (c. 10,000 – 3,000 B.C.E.) – Substitution of farming for hunting and gathering as the primary source of food for a given people

* Slow revolution most groups took 5 to 10 generation to complete it (200 – 400 years)

***The revolutionary part is the dramatic series of changes in human societies that resulted from this change***

1. A steadily expanding population that thrived primarily in **permanent or semi-permanent settlements.**
2. Concept of **private land** was created from the livestock and breeding
3. Food production needed a **systematized regulation** to enforce when disputes arose.
4. Increase in the **specialization of labor.** Made no sense for a farmer to be soldier.

**Modern Hunter-Gatherer**

Some believe that agriculture also led to an **enlarged public role for women** in Neolithic societies based on farming.

* First farmers were probably women
* Women associated with fertility
* Importance of mother-goddess
* Some evidence of matriarchy

Adoption of food-producing lifeways brought significantly harmful consequences for humans

* Diseases jumped from animals to people

**Agrarian and Irrigation Civilizations**

Changes brought by dependency on agriculture

* Population swelled dramatically
* Surplus wealth supported more complex societies
* Craft production and trade appeared
* New farming techniques
  + Use of draft animals
  + Irrigation
* Urban life developed
* Ruling elites emerged
* Need to maintain records led to invention of writing

***1-5 Metal and Its Uses***

Copper – the first metal used by humans

* Very soft metal

Bronze Age (7,000 – 1,500 B.C.E)

* Began in Western Asia
* Bronze – copper combined with tin and lead
  + Suitable for weapons, resistant to weather
  + Difficult to make, heavy, expensive
  + Could not keep find edge for cutting

Iron Age (after 1,500 B.C.E.)

* Smelting began
* Tools and weapons became stronger, cheaper, sharper, and longer lasting
* Iron plowshares improved agriculture

Chapter 2: The Earliest Human Societies

***Chapter Introduction***

**Cuneiform Writing**

Cuneiform – Mesopotamian wedge-shaped writing begun by the Sumerians

Example in intro.pdf

* An astrological tablet from Uruk in Sumer
  + Serves as a ***reminder of the linkage that existed between religious ritual and timekeeping in ancient agrarian societies***

Population increase created by the Neolithic Revolution led to the creation of

1. Farming villages
2. Eventually cities of governmental power, religious ritual, manufacturing, trade, and cultural sophistication

Sumeria – Earliest known civilization, based on city states. Located in southern Iraq along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

***2-1 Neolithic Southwest Asia***

~15,000 B.C.E. the world’s climate began warming after centuries of Ice Age conditions

1. Vast inland lakes
2. Streams
3. Forests

Natufians – Earliest settlers of the Levantine Corridor

* Founded the first known settled communities

~11,000 B.C.E. Younger Dryas Event

Glacial melt water had accumulated in a colossal, freshwater lake in northern Canada suddenly burst into

the Atlantic Gulf Stream

1. Triggered a 1,000-year regression in Europe and southwestern Asia to the cooler and drier conditions of the late Ice Age.
2. Abundant sources of water and plant foods available to humans and animals disappeared
3. Forced Natufians to congregate in small, semi-permanent villages near surviving streams and rivers.
4. Natufians switched from hunter and gathering and instead planted domestic cereals such as emmer wheat, einkorn, and barley.

Levantine Corridor – Region that included most of the present-day Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and northern Iraq.

* + Archaeologists have discovered the earliest evidence of agriculture here
  + Location endowed with high water tables
  + Indicates switch to agriculture and livestock breeding

1. Allowed people to grow their populations and congregate in towns and cities

Early Cities

* Jericho
* Catal Huyuk

Mesopotamia – “land between the rivers” meaning the fertile lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers

* This is where earliest known civilizations appeared in the fourth millennium B.C.E.

***2-2 Sumerian Civilization***

Euphrates and Tigris rivers run parallel to each other for about 400 miles before joing together to flow into the head of the Persian Gulf

Between 7500 – 6000 B.C.E.large scale irrigation was introduced into this region

1. Enabled them to engage in regional manufacturing and trade
2. Paved the way for emerging ruling elites

**The Ancient Near East**

Mesopotamian city-states were concentrated in the rich agricultural plain created by silt from the parallel rivers as they flowed toward the head of the Persian Gulf

Fertile Crescent – The wide belt of land reaching from Mesopatamia to Egypt along the Mediterranean coast

City-States – States or societies that are dominated by a single city

Populations ranged between 8,000 – 10,000 people

* 1. Eridu
  2. Lagesh
  3. Ur
  4. Uruk

Here they developed ideas and techniques that would provide the foundaton of a distinct and higly influential civilization

Sumerians were the first people to do a number of highly significant things

1. Created first large cities, distinct from towns and small cities such as Jericho
2. Developed first sophisticated sysytem of writing, called cuneiform
3. Built the first monumental buildings
4. Probably invented the wheel as a load-bearing transportation device
5. Among the first to make use of horse-drawn chariots in warfare
6. First to design and build an irrigaiton system powered by use of gravity
7. First to use plow and other bronze utensils and weaponry
8. Mesopatamians and Sumerians were among the first to develop short and long distance trade

**Sumerians left extensive records and physical evidence**

~ 2300 B.C.E. is when the land between the rivers was brought under one effective rule

Sargon the Great – Semitic invader who conquered the entire plain

Sargon established his capital in the new town of Akkad

1. Akkadian empire lasted less than a century
2. Great influence because Sumerian culture was spread far and wide through the Fertil Crescent

**Framing History (The Epic of Gilgamesh)**

Epic of Gilgamesh – Collection of stories

* Earliest approach to analyzing the relations of gods and humans
* Portrays a society in search of a religious basis for human action
  1. Stories of the flood which occur in many ancient cultural traditions
     + Disastrous flood that engulfed the enitre earth and nearly annihialted humanity

Main focus of the story is to stress the inevitability of death and the defeat of the hero as he attempts to achieve immorality

Mesopatamian counterpart of the biblical Noah is Utnapishtim

Gilgamesh is a grim tale that speaks of death and the afterlife in pessimistic and fearful tones

Epic ends with the failure of Gilgamesh’s quest for the secret of immortal life

* Futility of trying to be immortal or seeking “the secret to immortality”

***2-2a Earning a Living***

Most Mesopotamian's earned their **livelihood from land**

1. Directly as farmers and herders
2. Indirectly as carters, wine pressers, millers, or other agrarian occupations

Commerce was primarily with trade in metals and foodstuffs

Scribes, bookkeepers, and priests, are the few jobs that required formal training or degree

Trades such as leatherwork and jewelry making also existed

Slaves made up a sizable portion of the working population

***2-2b Religion and the Afterlife***

Knowledge of Sumerian religion is unsure

They believed in a host of nature gods

Polytheism – religion having many gods

Many female and male gods each with specific meanings in natural and human affairs

1. Innana (Ishtar) - goddess of love and fertility
2. Enki – water god

These gods were like superhumans, with all the faults and weaknesses of men and women

Each city-state had its local gods and spirits of the land and sky who were crucial to the prosperity of the citizens

Ziggurats – Stepped and elevated temple structures that the ancient Mesopotamian civilization erected in honor of its gods

* Here hundreds of priests ritually prayed and made offerings to the gods on behalf of the city-state's welfare

Babylon – City where the famous Ziggurat of the Tower of Babel is located

Two features of Mesopotamia’s natural environment that stood out the most

1. Aridity of the climate
2. Unpredictability of the rivers’ annual floods, which people relied on

***2-2c Mathematics and Chronology***

Mesopotamian sense of time was shaped by the cyclic nature of seasonal change.

Their calendar was subdivided into lunar months, corresponding to the period between one full moon and the next

Sumerian math has held up well and has been influential in all later Western science, including that of the Greeks

Sumerian math is based on units of 60 and its divisors

* This is the reason why we still measure time in intervals of 60 seconds and 60 minutes
* 360-degree circle, also originated with the Sumerians

***2-2d The Evolution of Writing***

Lasting accomplishment of Sumerians is the invention of a system of writing, which evolved from their need to have good records

1. Keeping their calendar and predicting seasonal changes
2. Commercial and religious taxation
3. Marital and inheritance contracts
4. Other activities with a mutually agreed upon version of past events

Moved beyond pictorial writing or symbols derived from pictures, into further phase of conveying meaning through abstract marks

Pictography – writing of a simplified picture

* Cannot convey abstractions such as verb tenses and other language techniques

Sumerians got around this and expanded their writing by including special signs for abstractions

3,000 – 2,001 B.C.E

Scribes began using written signs to indicate sounds of the spoken language and is the beginning of a phonetic written language

* Signs have a direct connection with the oral language

Format of written language was a script written in wedge shaped characters, the cuneiform.

* Faded out about 1,000 B.C.E

***2-2e Law***

Earliest complete code of laws originated in post Sumerian Mesopotamia in the 1,700s B.C.E, during the reign of the emperor Hammurabi

Based on two distinctive principles

1. Punishment depended on social rank of violator
2. Offenders were subjected to same damages or injury they caused to others

* Commoner would get more severe punishment than a noble or official

Hammurabi’s Law Code – History's first known law code written by King Hammurabi in the 18th century B.C.E.

* + People were not equal before the law
  + Dealt with social and family problems

Mesopotamian law

1. Government should act as an impartial referee among its subject-citizens

***2-2f Government and Social Structure***

Two types of government

1. Theocracy – Rule by gods or their priests of the early city-states of the Sumerians and Sargon the Great of Akkad
   * + A king, assisted by noble and officials and priests ruled the city

Village – social equality was rarely challenged

City – distinctions were expected and to be displayed by many ways

Mesopotamia had three classes of people

1. Small groups of priests, and noble landlords
2. Freemen who did most work and trading along the outlying farmlands – had some rights
3. Slaves who had no political rights – not based on race but bad luck or bad timing

***2-2g Women’s Rights, Sex, and Marriage***

Early stage women shared more less equally in social prestige and power

Trend towards patriarchy

Patriarchy – society in which males have social and political dominance

Sex was sacred and seen as good thing

Sexual pleasure outside of marriage depended on status of individual

Adultery is bad for family because it undermined the family’s continuity

* Punishment could be death
* Only applied to women as a man could do as he pleased

***2-3 An Expansion of Scale and Trade***

Scholars agree Sumerians were not Semitic

Semitic – Describes a person belonging to the most widespread western Asian groups and embraces Hebrew and Arabic

By 3,000 B.C.E. Sumerians extended their domain upriver as far as the future city Babylon

***2-4 Successors to Sumeria***

Conquest of Sumeria by Sargon of Akkad

Most important successors

1. Amorites or Old Babylonians
2. Hittites
3. Assyrians
4. Hebrews
5. Persian Empire

Chapter 3: Early Africa and Egypt

***Chapter Introduction***

**Egyptian Peasants**

Agriculture was the foundation of Egypt’s great wealth.

* Peasant farmers made the land productive and built the system of channel irrigation
  + Were the overwhelming majority of the population

Africa has several different climates and topographies the produced civilizations of various levels of sophistication

Race has been less decisive factor in history and natural environment proved to be more important

***3-1 African Geography and Climates***

Coastal lowlands

* Deserts (north, northwest, southwest)

Inland, plateaus, highlands, and mountains

* (east and southeast) dominate vast interior

**African Continent and Egypt**

Five major subdivisions of climate and vegetation

* The enormous Sahara Desert divides the continent into its North African and Sub-Saharan components

1. *Mediterranean and Southern Coasts*
   1. Lie outside the tropical zones and enjoy temperate weather and good soil
2. *Sahelian or Sahel*
   1. Cross Africa from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean and are dry, mainly treeless steppes (semiarid grass-covered plains)
3. *Deserts*
   1. Several deserts
      1. Sahara
      2. Namib (southwest)
      3. Kalahari (southwest)
4. *Rain Forests*
   1. Extends on either side of the equator in the west and center
5. *The Savanna*
   1. South of the Sahara Desert, north of the rain forest in West Africa, and in most of East, Central, and South Africa. Grassland regions of interior plateaus

* Mediterranean has been closely linked to Europe and the Middle East
* Egypt was isolated in the Nile Valley
* Tsetse fly and other diseases have hindered large-scale development almost to present time
* Sahel Steppe land could only support a pastoral economy (nomadic farmers)
* Coastal strip is only sufficient place for agriculture and village life

***3-2 Africa’s Neolithic Revolution***

Paleo climatologist’s have determined that between 11,000 – 3,000 B.C.E. Africa entered a period of much higher rainfall than today

* More grassy steppes, woodlands
* Lakes and rivers covered the “wet” Sahara
* Supported a variety of foods

Historical Linguists – Scholars who reconstruct the relative chronology, as well as changes in grammar, sounds, and methods of expressing ideas, in languages and families of languages.

* These techniques enable scholars to formulate at least general ideas about how past societies developed and moved about, how they lived, the peoples they came into contact with, and the ideas they borrowed from strangers.

Africans introduced a different way of producing food in Sahara between 9,000 – 5,500 B.C.E. and have identified and categorized them into language groups who produced food in the region

1. Khoisan speakers – At one time Khoisan speakers were found throughout much of subequatorial Africa, but are now confined to the deserts of southwestern Africa
   1. Appear to originally inhabit part of East Africa in parts of Kenya and Tanzania.
   2. Most remained hunter and gathering throughout their history
   3. Adopted a unique technology for fashioning microlithic stone tools for a wide variety of applications (sewing, digging, cutting, stone bowls, and net bags)
   4. Eventually displaced by Neolithic food producers forcing them to migrate into drier regions of Southern Africa, where they survive as hunter and gatherers and cattle herders
2. Nilo-Saharan speakers – Nilo-Saharan language family
   1. Originally inhabited regions near the Nile River valley, far south of what became Egypt
   2. Before the wet phase they remained hunter and gatherers
   3. After the wet phase it allowed them to spread westward and southward from the Nile valley into the Sahara
   4. Many crossed the Sinai Peninsula and became people known as Semites
   5. Those who lived along banks of rivers tended to settle down in permanent communities
3. Afro-Asiatic speakers – Afro-Asiatic language family
   1. Originally inhabited regions near the Nile River valley, far south of what became Egypt
   2. Before the wet phase they remained hunter and gatherers
   3. After the wet phase it allowed them to spread westward and southward from the Nile valley into the Sahara
   4. Many crossed the Sinai Peninsula and became people known as Semites
   5. Those who lived along banks of rivers tended to settle down in permanent communities
4. Niger-Congo speakers – Niger-Congo language family
   1. Originally inhabited the southern Sahara woodlands of West Africa during the wet phase
   2. Sixth millennium converted to farming native varieties of yam and rice, supplemented with guinea fowl, and oil palm used to make palm wine
   3. Later added black eyed peas, okra, groundnuts, and kola to their crops
   4. After 5,500 B.C.E. people drifted southward and northward
   5. Berbers farmed the desert fringe.
      * East African Swahili language One out of about 800 Bantu languages

***3-2a The Bantu Expansion in Subequatorial Africa***

Bantu speakers – People who speak one of the member languages of the Bantu language, part of Niger-Congo subgroup

* Profited from these technologies to begin and steady expansion south and east from the general Congo Basin.
* About 1,000 B.C.E. they emerged from the forest intro the drier savannas that lay to the south of the river basin and to the west of Lake Victoria. Acquired iron technology and learned to livestock and grow grain crops. These innovations helped them enlarge their numbers.
* By these means, they succeeded in establishing a series of small kingdoms that stretched across eastern, central, and southern Africa.
* By 400 C.E. they reached southern tip of the continent in present-day Africa.
* Most of what we know is inferred from archaeological and linguistic research, since they had no written language

With the spread of desert conditions, the ancient Niger-Congoans moved southward into the savannas of West Africa.

* As skilled boat builders, they could easily navigate the numerous rivers and streams of the rain forest.
* With polished stone axes, they cleared openings in the forest
* Continued living in large communities and cultivating their yam gardens

***3-2b Early Civilization of the Nile Valley***

1. 5,500 B.C.E. – The Afro-Asians who migrated farther down the Nile Valley towards the Mediterranean Sea, settled as farmers along its floodplain
   1. It is they who were the ancestors of the ancient Egyptians
2. 5,000 B.C.E. – First villages appeared along the Nile
3. 4,000 B.C.E. – Floodplain cleared; completing states arose
4. 3,5000 B.C.E. – Three rival states (Nekhen, Naqada, This)
5. 3,100 B.C.E. – Pharaoh of This unites the Nilotic states
   1. Pharaoh ruled in name of falcon god Horus, symbolized forces of order
   2. Tradition says his name was Horus-Aha or Menes

Pharaoh – the title of the god-king of ancient Egypt

Horus – the Falcon-headed god whose earthly, visible form was the reigning pharaoh in ancient Egypt

***3-2c The Land and People of Egypt***

Like Mesopotamia, Egypt depended on the waters of a great river system.

Egypt is and has always been the **“Valley of the Nile”**

Nile – 4,000-mile-long river originates from the far south, in the lakes of central Africa, and flows north until it empties into the Mediterranean Sea at Alexandria

Population overwhelmingly peasants

* Most free tenant farmers working estates of large landowners, government officials
* Little Mechanization, work performed by humans or animals
* Intimate knowledge of nature, environment
* Dependent on strong government for protection and regularity of seasons

Maat – goddess who personified the principle of order and balance

Nile Delta – Where Nile empties in Mediterranean Sea

Mt. Sinai and Sinai – north of Read Sea

Giza (city) – North West Side of Nile

Cairo (city) – North East Side of Nile

Lower Egypt (region) – Middle of Nile

Thebes (city) – West of red sea

Upper Egypt (region) – West of red sea

Sahara – West of Red Sea, west side of Nile

Nubia (region) – South of Rea Sea, east side of Nile, where the ancient African kingdoms of Kush and Meroe were found

***3-3 The Pharaoh: Egypt’s God-King***

Egyptians religious beliefs reflected their environment to a considerable degree and the fully developed religion had an enormous impact on the nature of their environment

3,100 B.C.E. – 1,000 B.C.E. was Egypt’s foundation period

* During this centuries, the land was ruled by an unbroken line native Egyptian divine kings who apparently faced no serious threats either inside or outside their domain
* Important to note that king was not “god-like” – he or she was a god who chose to live on Earth among his favored people for a time
* From the moment the days long ceremony was completed, he was no longer a mortal man, he had become immortal, a reincarnation of the god of order, Horus
* He was surrounded by constant protocol and ceremony to protect him from profane eyes and spiritual pollution
* Pharaoh’s will was law and his wisdom made him all-knowing
* What he desired was by definition correct and just
* Orders must be carried out or the gods might cease to smile on Egypt
* Family shared the celestial glory somewhat, the son who would succeed him

***3-3a Government Under the Pharaohs***

Government under the Pharaoh

* Nomes – administrative districts in ancient Egypt
* Governors were noble landlords and temple priests with local power
* Pharaoh directly responsible for welfare of Egypt

Two short intervals where pharaoh’s powers were diminished significantly

1. **Intermediate Period of 2,200 – 2,100 B.C.E (Loss of Control of Nomes)**
   1. Partly result of pharaoh’s loss of control over the governors of the southernmost Nomes
2. **Intermediate Period of 1,650 – 1,570 B.C.E (Invasion of Hyksos)** 
   1. Hyksos – a people who invaded the Nile Delta in Egypt and ruled it during the second Intermediate period
      1. Crossed the Sinai Peninsula and conquered the Nile Delta

***3-3b The Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom***

Customary to divide Egypt into dynasties (periods of monarch rule by one family)

In all, there were 31 dynasties

1. Menes is the first dynasty
2. Ended with dynasty that fell to Persian invaders in 525 B.C.E.
3. Greatest were those of the pyramid-building epoch (3,100 – 2,200 B.C.E.)
4. Greatest were also those of the Empire (1,550 – 1,250 B.C.E.)

Dynasties are grouped into three kingdoms

1. Old Kingdom (period from 3,100 to 2,200 B.C.E.)
   1. Extended from Menes to First Intermediate Period
   2. Was Egypt’s most fertile and stable period, most successful period
   3. Governed from Memphis, seemed to be unchallenged leaders who enjoyed loyalty and labor of their people
   4. Art, architecture, religion, stability, prosperity
   5. Construction of Giza Pyramids
2. Middle Kingdom (period from 2,100 – 1,650 B.C.E.)
   1. Followed first 500 years after the First Intermediate Period, with political stability
   2. Refinement of arts and crafts
   3. Rule of Pharaoh was extended further up the Nile to the south
   4. Conditions of laboring people continued to worsen
   5. Increased trade with Mesopotamia, Phoenicia (Lebanon), Crete, and Nubia
   6. Religion more democratic, more could gain afterlife
   7. Small middle class appeared (merchants, officials)

Chapter 6:

***Chapter Introduction***

Olmec head is eight feet tall and weighs twenty-four tons

* Portrays a composite leader/deity figure wearing the headgear of a sacred ballplayer
  + Plump lips and flat nose
  + Carved without metal tools

The Western hemisphere exhibits a range of cultures and physical environments, from the Inuit Eskimos of northern Canada to the sophisticated city builders of Central America.

From the deserts of the American Southwest to the jungles of Amazon basin

Native Americans (Amerindians) – Ancestors of the numerous Native American peoples found throughout the western hemisphere today.

Beringia – A land mass in the region of the Bering Strait over which ancestral Native Americans migrated to the Western hemisphere c. 30,000 – 10,000 B.C.E.

* Natives made their way south though an opening in the glacial sheets and by small boats along the Pacific into what is now North, Central, and South America

Three to Four Waves

1. First (Amerindian) group came from northeast Asia; spread from Canada to South America
2. Second group came from Central Asia; some settled in Western Canada, others (Navajo and Apaches went to American Southwest)
3. Last group came from Northeast Asia and went to Canada and Alaska (Inuits)

***6-1 Paleoindian Period in the Americas***

Once south of the glaciers, the earliest ancestral Native Americans arrived in North America whose climate was considerably cooler and moister than it is today. Here they found a world of abundant plant wild animal life.

* Megafauna such as wooly mammoth and giant sloth, and giant bison existed during this period when Natives inhabited the land
* Grasslands of the Bison Belt covered North America

Clovis Culture – The earliest Native American “culture” known to archaeologists (9,500 – 8,900 B.C.E.)

* + - Largely based on hunting very large game
    - Large and deeply notched leaf shaped spearheads to hunt large mammals like Wooly mammoth and giant Bison

Paleoindians (pre-agrarian) – In Native American history, a period when American Indians used Clovis spearheads to hunt large mammals

* + - Smaller stone implements of spearheads were used for smaller mammals and other instruments to prepare food, skinning, and tanning hides

Paleoindians in Central and South America did not generally hunt large game. Discoveries show a surprising diversity of lifestyles to the south of Rio Grande River.

***6-1a North Americas Archaic Period***

In the centuries that followed 9000 B.C.E., the climate became progressively drier, and the megafauna soon disappeared

* Hunters turned increasingly to bison, elk, and deer as their prey
  + Fluted Folsom points replaced the larger Clovis spearheads

Wherever archaeologists have discovered Folsom cultural sites, alongside these missile (for example, spear, dart, and arrow) heads they have discovered hammer stones, used for breaking bones from which marrow was extracted; stone scrapers that were used to remove hair from hides; and cutting tools and bone eye needles for preparing

hides as clothing and containers. As these missile heads grew smaller, the Folsom hunters attached them to the tips of spear throwers called atlatls.

Atlatls – Throwing stick used in place of a bow propelling a dart at high velocity (spearthorwers)

Hammer stones – used to break bones for marrow

The Climate continued to change and the Folsom period faded away also

* Conditions became drier and warmer and desert conditions eventually replaced grasslands

Archaic Period – In Native American History the period (8,000 – 2,000 B.C.E.) when gathering slowly replaced large-game (megafauna) hunting.

* People were forced to rely on gathering wild plants as their primary source of food.
* Hunting and gathering and fishing remained the best choices in much of North America

Little is known about social organization in this period

* Probably small, isolated, highly mobile family groups
* Separation of these human communities led to cultural and language differences

***6-1b Early Woodland Societies***

Between 1,000 B.C.E. – 1,000 C.E. Native American societies East of the Mississippi River emerged from the Archaic period and improvised novel forms of livelihood that gave rise to the Neolithic revolution north of the Rio Grande River.

Woodland Societies – A collection of closely related Native American civilizations that thrived east of the Miss. River

* Early Woodland Period (1,000 – 200 B.C.E.)
  + Gradual cultivation of wild plants as a supplement to hunting and gathering
    - Meant nomadic lifeways yielded to permanent villages
* Late Woodland Period (200 B.C.E. – 1,000 C.E.)
  + Adena Culture – One of the Native American Woodland civilization that thrived
    - Located in current Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia
    - Distinguished for their burial practices and pottery styles
    - Either cremated or buried their dead, unlike other Woodland civilizations at the time
    - Did not include pottery in their funerals like other Woodland people
    - Relied on deer, elk, bear, woodchuck, beaver, porcupine, grouse, and turkey
    - Learned how to cultivate squash, pumpkin, sunflowers, and goosefoot
  + Adapted bow and arrow in place of atlatl

***6-2 The Agricultural Revolution in the Americas***

In the New World, ever-drier conditions between c. 9500 and 6000 B.C.E. fostered a gradual transition from hunting and gathering to food production.

* Began independently in Peru and Mexico between 6,000 – 5,500 B.C.E.
  + Peruvian highlands were growing potatoes to trade for fishmeal from the Pacific Coast and fruit from the Amazon region
  + Northeast Mexico people began growing chili peppers and pumpkins to supplement their meager diet of small desert creatures
    - Domesticated beans and Maize
    - Maize Cultivation – Corn was cultivated as one of the staple foods of American Indian civilizations, along with beans and squash
      * Maize cultivation spread along trade routes that connected Mesoamerica (middle America)

Difficult terrain and relatively poor soils challenged farmers to develop innovative agricultural methods in both wet and arid zones.

* Instead of plowing with aid of oxen or cattle Native A. relied on planting sticks or foot hoes
* In swampy areas near lakes in central Mexico and around Lake Titicaca they created artificial islands by digging ditches to channel swamp water, then dredging and piling the muck in mounds as stores of new, nutrient-rich topsoil
* Complex irrigation system – a network of channels or tunnels that connect a source of water with farms
* Terracing in coastal Peru expanded the acreage available for horticulture

Peru as in other Mesoamerica people, pooled their food resources through trade, thereby ensuring balanced diets and food supplies adequate to feed larger populations that covered a wide area

* Andes freeze dried potato provided more energy per acre than any other crop
* Andean people raised guinea pigs and ate meat of llamas

Llamas – A wooly pack animal commonly found in the Andes Mountains of South America and in Argentina. Related to Camel but has no humps. In addition to transport, llamas provide meat, wool, and hides.

These levels of productivity and nutrition helped enable the development of the great civilizations of Mexico, Central America, and the Andes Mountains of South America.

By the end of the Archaic Period (2,000 B.C.E.) agriculture had been established from Mesoamerica to South America.

Neolithic food producers

* Developed new crafts: weaving, basketry, pottery
* Lived in settled villages with permanent building, pit houses
* Held periodic regional meetings

Pit House – A type of dwelling found in some Neolithic civilizations

* + Early farmers dug oval or rectangular pits in the ground over which they erected walls and roofs form tree branches, twigs, bones, animal hides, and mud.

There were periodic regional meetings among villages for social, economic, or religious reasons.

* Meetings evolved into the great ceremonial center and trading hubs of the more complex societies

Olmec Civilization (Mesoamerica) – The earliest Amerindian civilization in Mexico (1,200 – 300 B.C.E.)

Chavin Civilization (South America) – The earliest and one of the most developed civilizations of the South American Andes mountains.

***6-3 Mesoamerica and the Olmec Civilization***

Mesoamerica (Middle America) extends from central Mexico to encompass all of modern Central America.

The Olmec and the Chavin were the first complex societies of regional significance in the Americas. Each of these cultures exerted influence through compelling religions that were disseminated by means of extensive trade networks.

The earliest complex Mesoamerican societies did not locate in river valleys (as in Eurasia) but on the tropical lowlands inland from the Gulf of Mexico and on the elevated plateaus of the Central Valley.

* The Olmec created the earliest known Mesoamerican civilization (1,200 – 300 B.C.E.) in what is now southeastern Mexico
  + Centered on ceremonial hubs that were initially built near the Gulf port of Veracruz
  + Cities were religious centers with pyramids, temples, palaces
  + Authoritarian theocratic government with religious elite
  + Traded rubber, pottery, ceramics for obsidian, jade, cacao beans
  + The elites created writing and numerical systems to keep records and, like previous agrarian civilizations we have studied, they developed highly accurate calendars to regulate the cycles of agriculture and religion.
  + A pervasive religious faith centering on the worship of ancient feline gods was the inspiration for much of their art and architecture
  + The jaguar—a species of great cat indigenous to the Americas—was particularly revered.
  + The rulers conscripted skilled masons to erect fortified ritual centers with temples on raised earthen mounds, plazas, government halls, and ball courts for a sacred game.

Between 600 and 500 B.C.E., the importance of the Olmec culture began to decline, to be supplanted by the neighboring Mayas. Their writing and number systems, however, as well as their calendar, endured as tools adopted by succeeding Mesoamerican civilizations. The Olmec practices of ritual bloodletting and sacred ball games also continued throughout Mesoamerica

Chapter 7: New Civilizations and Empires in Western and Central Asia

***7-1 The Assyrian Empire (900 – 612 B.C.E.)***

The **Assyrians** were a Semitic (Hebrew and Arabic languages) tribal group who emerged from nomadism in what is now northern Iraq in the 12th century B.C.E, following the decline of the Hittite monarchy based in Turkey

* + - * Enter history around 900 B.C.E.

Nineveh – The main city and later capital of the Assyrian Empire is located in the upper valley of the Tigris River and their chief god was the fierce Assur from whom the people derived their name

Assur – The chief god of the Assyrian people

By 800 B.C.E., through their own ferocity and cunning in war, the Assyrian kings had conquered much of the Tigris-Euphrates region and were fighting the Babylonians for the southern portion. The Assyrians displayed great talent in military affairs. Their army was large and seemingly invincible, using new tactics to negate the traditional advantage of charioteers over foot soldiers

***Assyrians fought the Babylonians***

Later Persian Empire was much more extensive and had much more land than the Assyrian Empire by c. 494 and c. 650 (height of Assyrian Empire)

1. Dominant Semitic people in what is now Northern Iraq
2. Conquered Tigris-Euphrates region by 800 B.C.E.
3. Success due to strong military
   1. Tightly knit, well-armed infantry formations able to withstand chariots
   2. Terroristic tactics (enslavement, execution, pillage, rape)
      1. Threat of gory executions as a fear tactic to discourage rebellions

Often chariots would split the ranks of foot soldiers and the speed of the horses gave chariots a strong advantage over traditional foot soldiers.

However, Assyrians were so tightly knit that their ranks would not break and were experts in siege warfare with their catapults and rams

Ways Assyrians were successful

1. Divide and conquer policy
2. Governed by network of military commanders
3. Merciless towards enemies
4. Deported many
5. Held hostages to insure good behavior of subject people

The conquered people united under Chaldees and overthrew Assyrians and by 612 B.C.E. Nineveh was destroyed

Assurbanipal built largest library of ancient times

* 20,000 volumes (clay tablets) have been recovered since early 1800s CE

***7-2 Phoenicians (3000 - 1000 B.C.E.)***

The **Phoenicians** were a small but significant Semitic people

Phoenicians – People of ancient Phoenicia, a region that approximately includes modern Lebanon, they were noted sailors, merchants, and colonizers of the ancient Mediterranean Sea, who originally inhabited a strip along the coast of what is now Lebanon

Had ports in Tyre and Sidon, they became the greatest maritime traders and colonizers of the ancient near East

Traded luxury wares such as copper and dyes

1. Trade around Mediterranean and the Atlantic (coast of Britain)
2. Spread art of iron making from the Hittite settlements to the Greeks and westward into Africa
3. Established whole series of colonies
   1. Carthage, one of the colonies founded in 800 B.C.E., became the great rival to Rome until its final defeat around 200 B.C.E.

The Phoenicians themselves were absorbed into the Assyrian and succeeding empires but remained the paramount Mediterranean traders and seafarers until the rise of Greece in the 600s B.C.E.

Phoenicians most notable contribution came in the linguistic field

They were the first to use a phonetic alphabet in about 1000 B.C.E.

1. System of 22 marks(letters)
2. Made literacy accessible to more people
3. Adopted by Greeks who added vowels and improved Phoenician alphabet

***7-3 The Persians (3000 - 1000 B.C.E.)***

Iranians – Indo-Europeans pastoral nomads who settled the Iranian Plateau and unified c. 850 B.C.E., forming a powerful kingdom that played a crucial part in the history of the ancient Near East. Closely related to the Aryans of India, another name for Persians.

Pastoralists – Nomadic people who moved with their herds of animals

500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E.

Three dynasties ruled in this period of 1000 years

1. Achaemenids
2. Parthians
3. Sassanians (Zoroastrian becomes state religion)

* Some of the most powerful of the many peoples in western Asia

Until 20th century, present day Iran was called Persia

* Situated on a high arid plateau
* Central point on the Silk Road
* Iranian nomadic groups emigrated south, 1500 – 1000 B.C.E.
  + Indo-Europeans, related to Aryans of India
  + Achieved dominance due to cavalry tactics
  + Adopted agricultural, sedentary, civilized life

***7-3a The Achaemenid Persian Empire***

In the mid-6th century B.C.E. The Persians united under a brilliant warrior king, Cyrus the Great

Cyrus the Great – (ruled from 559 – 530 B.C.E.) Founder of the Achaemenid dynasty in Persia; permitted the Jews to return to Judea from the Babylonian Captivity, and quickly overcame their Iranian cousins, the Medes

Cyrus extended his domains from the borders of India to the Mediterranean coast

* By 525 his son and immediate successor, Cambyses, had broadened the empire to include part of Arabia and the lower Nile Valley

Main Cities That Marked Decline of Mesopotamia’s Importance

1. Persepolis
2. Susa
3. Ecbatana

***Cyrus Ruled very differently than the Assyrians***

* Government showed tolerance toward non-Persian Subjects
* “King of Kings” at Persepolis ruled empire
* Allowed subjects to keep their customs, laws, religion
* Emperor delegated authority to Persian supervisors (satraps) ruling provinces **(satrapies**)
* Local authorities stayed in power if they remained loyal, paid taxes, and provided conscript soldiers

Satrapies – A province under a governor, or satrap, In the ancient Persian Empire

Zarathustra – The mythical founder and chief prophet of the ancient Persian religion known as Zoroastrianism, which influenced Jewish and later Christian belief

Zoroastrianism

* Based on teachings of Zoroaster (Zarathustra) found in the Avesta
* Ethical monotheistic religion
* Conflict between good and evil
  + Ahuramazda (God) vs Ahriman (Devil)
  + Ultimate triumph of good
* Human free will to choose good or evil side
* Judgement day, heaven and hell
* Importance of priesthood
  + Priests would interpret what was right and wrong conduct

Usually religion is tied to morality

* Moral actions are manifestations of a belief in good and evil
* These moral actions are ultimately determined by a supernatural code of by conscience
* Attitude changed from appeasing gods with coming of Zoroaster

Avesta – Teachings of Zarathustra and scripture

Taught that two principles were in eternal conflict

1. Truth and goodness

VS.

1. Lying and evil

Muslim conquest in 634 C.E. extinguished the religion and survivors fled to India and become known as the Parsees.

Their scripture, the *Avesta*, remains one of the first attempts to unite *religion* (worship of the immortal gods) with *ethics* (a code of proper conduct for mortal men).

Darius I – was the third great Persian ruler, following Cyrus and Cambyses

* Empire Reached its Maximal Extent during this time
* Noteworthy Failure was Darius I and Xerxes I (Darius’s son) attempts to conquer Greece which both failed
  + 492-490 B.C.E. (Darius I)
  + 480 B.C.E. (Xerxes I)
* Despite this Darius introduced a stable coinage in gold and silver and a calendar that was commonly used throughout the near East

For the next century (100 years) the people flourished under Persian leadership until Alexander the Great conquered Xerxes II in 334 – 323 B.C.E.

***7-4 The Hebrews***

Tanakh – The Hebrew Bible or Old Testament as it is known to Christians

* Twelve Tribes of the Hebrews is described in the Tanakh
* Many stories regarded as mythological have some basis in fact

**2000 B.C.E. – 1000 B.C.E.**

Recordings of Abraham leading his people out of the wilderness and into the land of Canaan refers to what is generally accepted as historical fact

* Nomadic, primitive Semitic tribes began migrations out of Northern Mesopotamia early in the second millennium B.C.E.
* By 1500’s B.C.E. some were established in Canaan, the southern part of Palestine
  + Came under Egyptian rule and many left to live in the Nile Delta as slaves or voluntarily
  + Exodus – Hebrews flight from the wrath of the Egyptian pharaoh c. 1250 B.C.E
    - Moses led Hebrews out of Egypt
    - Returned to the “land of milk and honey”, the promised Land of Canaan

**Ancient Palestine and the Jewish Kingdoms**

Kingdoms of Judea and Samaria (Judah and Israel) divided region once occupied by the Philistines and Canaanites before the Jews return to the Promised Land

By 1000 B.C.E. the Hebrews had overcome the Canaanites and set up their own small kingdom, with Saul as their first king

* Saul carried war to the Philistines and his successor David was successful in conquering Jerusalem which became Hebrews capital
* David’s son Solomon was most renowned king of the Hebrews, bringing a brief important factor in near Eastern affairs
* Temple of Jerusalem was built by Solomon
  + Many hated him because of heavy taxes and luxurious living

1. King Saul (1000 B.C.E.)
   1. Fought Canaanites
2. King David (until 973)
   1. Fought the Philistines and established Jerusalem as capital city of Hebrew
3. King Solomon (973 – 935 B.C.E.)
   1. Most renowned for the building of the Temple of Jerusalem

A revolt ensued over Solomon’s successor (son) leading to break of the Hebrew Kingdom (Israel in the north and Judea in the south)

First Diaspora – referring to the scattering of the Jews from ancient Palestine and the Ten Lost Tribes of Jewish tradition

Judea survived under Assyrian rule until defeat of Assyrians by Babylonians in 613 B.C.E.

King Nebuchadnezzar – Babylonian King who crushed the Judeans around 585 B.C.E.

Babylonian Captivity – Transportation of many Jews to exile in Babylon as hostages to ensure good behavior, occurred in 6th century B.C.E. (586-539 B.C.E.)

Temple of Solomon was destroyed

Jewish scribes started writing scattered stories into the Tanakh as a way to preserve the religion and beliefs

Judeans returned when Persia Empire conquered Assyrians in 539 B.C.E.

Temple was rebuilt

***Babylonians, Assyrians, and Greeks were not tolerant***

***Persians were tolerant***

Alexander the Great (Greek) toppled Persian King of Kings in the 330’s

***7-4a Jewish Religious Belief and Its Evolution***

From the time of the Kingdom of Saul a great god known as Yahweh (Jehovah) was established as the Hebrews chief deity

God, Yahweh, and Jehovah are all different names for our lord and savior

Samaria relegated Yahweh as inferior

Judea gradually relegated Yahweh to a superior and became the only deity of the Jews of Jerusalem

600’s the Judean Jews under influences of a series of great prophets including Amos, Hosea, Ezekiel, and Isaiah – came to believe themselves bound to Yahweh by a sacred contract, the Covenant (promise)

The contract was understood to mean that if the Jews remained constant in their worship of Yahweh and kept the faith he instilled in them, they would eventually triumph over all their enemies and be a respected and lordly people on Earth.

The faith was supported by rigid rules known as the Ten Commandments

* Judaism and Zoroastrianism are earliest attempts to link ethics and worship
  + Yahweh as enforcer of correct ethical actions
  + Evil would be punished
  + Following owns conscience, they were doing the Lord’s work and possibly gaining eternal salvation

***7-4b- Economic Change and Social Customs***

Although Jews religion would have major influence on western civilization, they were minor players on the near Eastern stage in economic affairs and politics

Split between Israelites and Judeans weakened both groups

With constant wars both groups and their cities remained stagnant

Hebrews under Saul were still rural herders and peasants living as Abraham had lived.

* Over next 500 years many Hebrews made the transition from rural to town life
  + Many people shifted from subsistence farming to wage life
    - Social tensions between rich and poor began to appear
      * This caused weak solidarity which was strong before

Social justice reminded people that exploitation was not limited to the Gentiles (non-Jews)

Jews divided all humanity into “they” and “we”. Jews looked upon non-Jews as distinctly lesser breeds whose main function in the divine plan was to act as tempters and obstacles that the pious must overcome

Hebrews deliberately segregated themselves and intermarriage was highly frowned upon and was punished with expulsion.

Ancient Judaism was almost never open to converts

* Yahweh, a male deity
* Women
  + Marriage, divorce reflected patriarchy
  + Male polygamy allowed
  + Wife married into husband’s family, moved into his house
  + Retained separate property rights
  + Divorce easy for husband, unusual for wife
  + Adultery defined by marital status of the woman
* Children the key reason for marriage
  + Boys shared inheritance, girls did not
  + Education carried out within family

***7-4c- A Changing Theology***

In the centuries after the fall of the monarchies of Samaria and Judea the Jews conception of Yahweh changed in significant ways

Babylonian Captivity put Jews at a very low point and many never returned and were seduced by the “Great Whore” Babylon into worshipping Mesopotamian deities

Those who returned were the “tried and true” who were tested again and again by their faith

* New interpretations of the Covenant (the Talmud), the Jews reappraised and made precise the nature of God and their relationship to him
* God was the universal god of all
* He was just, merciful, omnipotent, and omniscient (all powerful and all knowing)
* Yahweh became a PERSONAL deity
  + Could be prayed to directly
  + Actions were not impulsive or unpredictable
  + Relationship between God and Man is meant to be one of mutual love
  + God was observant of all that affected one’s life
  + Mutual love
* Some expected a **messiah**, a redeemer
  + Belief in a king from the line of David who would redeem the Jews from captivity and restore the Kingdom of Israel
  + Disbelief in Jesus because he spoke of a kingdom “not of this earth”

But, inevitably, some of them, including many of the learned men (*rabbis*), came to think of this promise as one aimed not at simple preservation but at a counter conquest by the Jews of their enemies. Instead of being a contemptible minority in the empires of the mighty ones, these Hebrews believed that they would become the mighty and would bend others to their will.

* Origins of Christianity and the belief in Jesus or the Messiah

Messiah – a savior king who would someday lead the Jews to glory

When Jesus said a Kingdom “no of this Earth”, many were disappointed because some wanted to establish an empire once again

Zealots – Jewish religious extremists at the time of Jesus who opposed Roman occupation and used guerilla methods and assassination to drive them (the Romans) out of Israel and Judea

Second Diaspora – referring to the scattering of Jews by the Romans and defeat of Zealots

* Relationship between the deity and his creations:
  + Mutually dependent, ethical, and just
  + Merciful on the Lord’s side; submissive but not slavish on Man’s side
  + Basis for the evolution of Christianity

Chapter 8: The Greek Adventure

***8-3 – Geography and Political Development***

More than most societies, Greece was shaped by its geography

In ancient times it consisted of the numerous, small islands of the Aegean Sea, often called the ***Cyclades Islands***

* Greece shaped by its geography
  + Many small islands
  + Mountainous mainland
  + Little suitable land for large scale farming
  + Abundant coastline and good harbors
* Greeks were expert sailors
  + Travel and trade by sea easier
* Geography encouraged political fragmentation
  + Each area developed own sense of community and identity
  + Only secondarily shared common culture and language

**Location shaped identity more than culture and language**

***8-2 – The Minoan (2000 – 1100 B.C.E.) and Mycenaean (1600 – 1100 B.C.E.) Civilizations***

**The Minoans**

Minoan – Ancient civilization on the island of Crete between 2000 and 1400 B.C.E.

Traditionally scholars have traced origins of Greek civilization not to the rock mainland but the island of Crete

* Large island supported an urbanized civilization of its own dating back to at least 2000 B.C.E.
* Minoans established a seaborne commercial network that spanned most of the eastern Mediterranean
* Became wealthy through their mastery of the sea as a highway of commercial transport
* Produced a socially complex society that was organized into tiny states centered on powerful-dwelling kings
* Some of these palaces were artistic and architectural masterpieces
  + Great Palace of Knossos
    - Evidence of skill
* Minos – mythical king of Crete
* Minoans may not have been Greek
* Urbanized
* Written language not deciphered

**The Myceneans**

Myceneans – Referring to the history and culture of the earliest known Indo-European inhabitants of the Greek peninsula between 1600 and 1100 B.C.E.

Around 1450 the Indo-European group invaded Crete and destroyed many of the island settlements, aided by volcanic explosions and earthquakes

* Invaded Crete and took its land for themselves, **rebuilding the palace at Knossos and taking over the trading network**
* Myceneans built more war like palaces suggesting they were a more warlike society

Walls were described by some as “Cyclopean” after Homer’s gargantuan Cyclops that surrounded royal graveyards and stone palaces

Included a Megaron (central hearth and mead hall) where kings and their warriors would retreat and drink and feast

***Much of what we know of this period comes from archaeological excavations and literature***

Homer – Legendary author and poet of two epic poems of ancient Greece

Iliad – First of two epic poems written by Homer in 8th century Greece

Odyssey – Second of two epic poems written by Homer, detailing the adventures of the homeward bound Ulysses coming from the Siege of Troy

The Iliad deals with the Mycenaeans’ war against the powerful city state of Troy, and the Odyssey tells of the adventures of the hero Odysseus (Ulysses) after the war.

* Homers poems were thought to be fiction but digs support his writings
* However, we do not know if Troy was destroyed by the ancient Greeks but there is no reason to believe it was not

Ancient Troy – City on a hill commanding the entrance into the Hellespont Strait (Now called the Dardanelles Strait)

* Some say Greeks and Troy were engaged in a commercial rivalry and made war on Troy

Many societies have oral traditions and stories that are pasted down from one generation to another

* It is up to historians to decipher their meaning and how much of the stories are “truth” and not “fiction”
  + Some are purely myths while others offer insight into events that were going on in the time period

Myceneans seemed to have engaged in extensive internal warfare among competing towns

* This weakened them as a whole
  + Dorians (from the north) took hold because of the weakened Myceneans

Dark Age – Period (1100 – 800 B.C.E.) in which Greek arts and crafts, ability to write, and culture declined rapidly

***8-3 – Early Hellenic Civilization***

Starting at 800 B.C.E. the Greek mainland slowly recovered the levels of civilization created during the Mycenean Period and went on to far greater heights with the ***institution of the Polis***

Polis – The political and social community of citizens in ancient Greece. Means the community of adult free persons who make up a town or any inhabited place.

* In modern terms it is translated into “city-state”
* More than 200 Poleis (city states) existed

Classical Athens – Largest and most powerful Polis which had almost 300,000 inhabitants at its peak

Each thought of itself as a political and cultural unit, independent of every other. Yet each polis also considered itself to be part of that distinct and superior family of peoples calling themselves Greek.

More than mere territorial unit

* Frame of reference for the entire public life of its citizens and for much of private life as well

Mutual interdependence of the citizenry was exhibited in different ways

* A sense of common life and shared destiny was promoted by governmental policies and techniques

Local format of governing was taken for granted

Polis could have sharply different political and social life from one another

Women, resident aliens, and slaves did not enjoy complete freedom

* Only free men of 20 years of age could actively own land and participate in politics
* About 80 percent of people could not participate in politics

However, each had more or less the same economic and demographic design

* Town of varying size, surrounded by farmland, pasture, and woods that supplied the town with food and other necessities
* Small traders and import-export merchants, intellectuals, philosophers, and artists all lived in the town and made up civilized society
* Most Greeks were peasants, woodcutters, ditch diggers, of which history knows very little about

***8-4 – Athens and Sparta***

Two Poleis dominated Greek life and politics

1. Athens: Urban, cosmopolitan, commercial, artistic, democratic
   1. Center of educational, artists, intellectual, and scientific activity
   2. Birthplace of political democracy
2. Sparta: Rural, agrarian, spartan, militaristic, authoritarian
   1. Held arts and intellectual life in contempt
   2. Dreaded extension of freedom to the individual or the community

Athens sparked and provoked a war that ruined it

Greeks knew four types of government

1. A **monarchy** (Rule by a single individual, who often claims divine inspiration and

protection.) is rule by a single person—a king or the equivalent (either sex)—who has the final word in law by right. Most of the Poleis were monarchies at one time or another, and many of them apparently began and ended as such.

2. An **aristocracy** (A social governing class based on birth.) is rule by those who are born to the leading families and thereby are qualified to rule, whether or not they are particularly qualified in other ways. Aristocrats are born to the nobility, but not all nobles are born aristocrats.

3. An **oligarchy** (Rule by a few.) is rule by a few, who are almost always the wealthiest members of society. Many Poleis were ruled by an oligarchy of landlords whose land was worked by tenant farmers.

4. A **democracy** (A system of government in which the majority of voters decides issues

and policy.) is rule by the people—almost always by means of majority vote on disputed issues. Voting rights in executive and legislative acts are limited to citizens. in the Greek poleis this meant freeborn adult males.

***8-4a – Early Athens***

Athens went through all of these forms of government in the period after 750 B.C.E. which is when we begin to know something definite about its history

* Original Monarchy was pushed aside by the aristocrats, who ruled the polis in the seventh and early sixth centuries (600’s and early 500’s B.C.E.)
* Aristocrats gave way to the oligarchs in the 500’s, some of whom were nobility and some of which were rich commoners
  + Most important oligarch was Solon, who ruled in the early sixth century
* Polis suffered great social and economic crisis by lack of arable land
  + Other oligarchs gave Solon supreme power to quell the discontent
* Solon established a constitution that tried to strike a balance to the demands of the oligarchs and the demands of the impoverished and indebted masses
  + Failed and chaos soon resumed
* Pisistratus succeed in making himself sole ruler and made certain concessions to the common people to gain their support for his plan to start a new monarchic dynasty with his sons as successor
* Sons were not smart and revolt ensued
* Cleisthenes was winner of free for all rebellion in 510

Pisistratus – Aristocratic tyrant who convinced people of Athens to make him sole supreme leader and for his family to be monarchy in Athens

Cleisthenes – Tyrant and true founder of Athenian democracy who believed that the citizens had the last word in their own government. He believed this was just and right and the best way to keep civil peace

* Established political bodies which laid foundation for Athenian democracy

Tyrant – Ruler who gains power illegally

***8-4b – Athenian Democracy***

Cleisthenes ruled from 508-494 B.C.E. and in effect gave his tyrannical powers to a series of political bodies that were unprecedently democratic in character

1. **Ekklesia (town meeting)**

* General town meeting of all free male citizens that is called when needed to make important decisions affecting the future of the polis
  + All could speak freely in an attempt to win others over
  + All could be elected to any office
  + All could vote at the meetings of the Ekklesia in the center plaza below Acropolis Hill

1. **Boule (council)**

* Council of 500 citizens who were chosen by lot for one-year terms
  + Served as day to day executive branch
  + Making and implementing legislation under general supervision of Ekklesia
  + Supervised the military affairs of the polis and carried out many functions of a modern-day city council
  + Male citizens were expected to serve in the Boule at least one term

1. **Deme (Political subdivision)**

* Basic political subdivision of the polis
  + Was a territorial unit, something like a precinct or ward, but smaller in population
  + Each deme was entitled to select a number of Boule members and was represented more or less equally among the officers of the polis

Idea of Ostracism – idea of pushing out citizens who did not conform to the will of the neighbors

* 1. Had to go into exile and lost all rights of citizenship for a certain length of time – normally ten years

***8-4c – Spartan Militarism***

By 500 B.C.E. Sparta differed from Athens in almost every way possible

Spartan polis is located in the southern Peloponnesus about 80 miles from Athens

* Was a small city surrounded by pastoral villages

As population grew in the 700’s, the Spartans engaged in a bloody territorial war with Messenians

Messenian Wars – Conflicts between the neighbors Sparta and Messenia that resulted in Messenia conquest by Sparta in about 600 B.C.E.

* Defeated Messenians became near slaves (helotry)
* As Messenians rebelled over and over the Spartans voluntarily abdicated their individual freedoms
  + As a result, the Spartans made themselves into a nation of soldiers and helpers of soldiers so that they could maintain their privileges
  + Helots largely met the Spartans economic needs and they worked in fields and conducted necessary commerce under watchful eye of the Spartans
* Spartans held arts and individual freedom in contempt
* Public life was expressed in total obedience of the state which was headed by a group of elected officers called ephors
  + Under symbolic leadership of dual monarchy (two kingdoms under one monarchy)

Most Greeks admired the Spartan way of life, especially its undoubted self-discipline, courage, rigid obedience, and physical vigor. Even many Athenians thought the Spartan way was superior to their own and envied the single-minded patriotism displayed by the Spartans in all their public affairs.

Despite its military nature, Sparta was a conservative and nonaggressive state

* By 600 its military was so large it rarely had to use it
  + Feared by most

Attention went to keeping political status quo within its own borders

***8-5 – Persian Wars***

Throughout the early 5th century, the foreign policy interests of Athens and Sparta more or less coincided

* Both were interested in keeping their independence in the face of foreign threats

Threats originated from Achaemenid Persia which had extended rapidly in the 500’s

Two Greco-Persian wars ensued

**First Persian War (490) – Conflict between the Greeks and Persian Empire in the 5th century B.C.E.**

Darius I faced with rebellion among some of his Greek subjects on the Turkish coast

When Darius tried to subdue them, Athens came to their aid

Darius sent an army across the Aegean Sea to the Greek mainland

* Athenians were waiting and defeated the Persian expedition at the ***Battle of Marathon in 490***

**Second Persian War (480 - 478 B.C.E.) – Conflict between Greeks and Persian Empire**

Xerxes (Darius’s son) challenges Greeks

Under King Leonidas, Spartan troops lived up to their fame at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 and again at a decisive defeat for the Persian Empire

Persian Forces at Platea also defeated in 479

Athenian navy routed the larger Persian fleet at Salamis in 480 and established Athens as premier naval force in eastern Mediterranean

***8-6 – Peloponnesian War***

Persian wars did not lead to harmony among the Greek Poleis

Athens used its new prestige and growing wealth to form a group of unwilling satellites (The Delian League) among nearby poleis which served as a naval alliance

Pericles – Athenian democratic leader and spokesman who died in the midst of the Peloponnesian Wat in the 5th century B.C.E.

Pericles was responsible for conflict with Corinth (Sparta’s Peloponnesian allies)

Corinth asked Sparta for help and Sparta warned Athenians to back down

Pericles responded with war and started an imperial journey but failed

Peloponnesian War (429 – 404 B.C.E.) – The great civil war between Athens and Sparta and their allies in ancient Greece, eventually won by Sparta

* War lasted long because neither side could last the final blow and long truces were taken for both sides to regain their strength
* Persia’s navy helped the Spartans and defeated the Athenians at sea
* Was a loss for all and Athens was torn between discredited democrats and the conservatives favored by Sparta

***8-7 – The Final Act in Classical Greece***

Greeks fought intermittently for political supremacy for two generations

Major Poleis of Thebes emerged but was quickly destroyed by others that banded against it

To the north of Greece were the Macedonians, whom the Greeks regarded as savage and barbarian

Philip of Macedonia, the ruler of the northern kingdom turned the backward society into a effectively governed and aggressive state

Absorbs each Polis one by one and made himself the master of the mainland

Athens and Thebes join together to fight Macedonia

Battle of Chaeronea (338 B.C.E.) – Battle between Greek cities of Athens and Thebes against Macedonia

* Was the effective end of the era of polis independence and of the Classical Age
* Under constant rule of foreign rulers

***8-8 – Alexander and the Creation of a World Empire***

After Battle of Chaeronea King Philip of Macedonia was assassinated, and his young son, Alexander succeeded to the throne (336 – 323 B.C.E.)

Alexander the Great (356 -323 B.C.E.) – Son of King Philip II of Macedon. Remembered for his conquest of the Persian Empire and most of the Near East

Alexander proved himself to be one of the most remarkable individuals in world history

* His boldness and vigor became the stuff of legend among the Greeks who fought under him
* Defeated Persians at Gaugamela (Iraq)
* Conquered an empire that stretched from Egypt to Bactria and the Indus River Valley in only 10 years
* Turned back when his exhausted military army mutinied
* Died in Babylon at age 33

***8-8a – A Mixed Culture***

The vast territories Alexander conquered were split into three major kingdoms

**Hellenistic kingdoms -** (Kingdoms carved out of the empire conquered by Alexander the Great. Blended Greek andAsiatic cultures; extant in the Mediterranean basin and Middle East between 300 and 200 B.C.E.

* Greek participatory polis abandoned for absolutist monarchies
* Indian Hindu/Buddhist world introduced to the Western world
  + Greek realism influenced Buddhist and Zoroastrian plastic arts
  + Direct trade contacts between India and the Mediterranean
  + Influenced formation of Mauryan Dynasty and Kushan Empires in India and Central Asia

***8-8b Greeks and Easterners in the Hellenistic Kingdoms***

Three major kingdoms

1. The **Ptolemaic (tah-leh-MAY-ihk) Kingdom of Egypt** ((tah-leh-MAY-ihk) Egyptian

state created by Ptolemy, one of Alexander the Great’s generals, in the Hellenistic

era.) . A general named Ptolemy (TAH-leh-mee) succeeded in capturing Egypt, the

richest of all the provinces of Alexander’s empire. There he ruled as a divine king, just

as the pharaohs once had. By the 100s 􀶊.􀶋.􀶍., the many immigrant Greeks and the

Egyptian upper class had intermixed sufficiently to make Egypt a hybrid society. Many

Greeks adopted the Egyptian way of life, which they found pleasant. Meanwhile,

ordinary Egyptians remained exploited peasants or slaves.

2. The **Seleucid (seh-LOO-sihd) Kingdom of Persia** ((seh-LOO-sihd) One of the three

Hellenistic Kingdoms. The successor state to the empire of Alexander the Great in

most of the Middle East.) and Central Asia, which was the successor to most of the

once-mighty empire of Darius III, reached from India’s borders to the shores of the

Mediterranean Sea. It was founded by a former general named Seleucus (seh-LOOkus),

and like Ptolemaic Egypt it lasted until the Roman assault in the first century

􀶊.􀶋.􀶍. Many tens of thousands of Greek immigrants came here as officials, soldiers, or

craftsmen, and the contact between the locals and Greeks was extensive in the

western parts of the kingdom, especially Syria and Turkey. The kingdom was too large

to govern effectively, however, and it began to lose pieces to rebels and petty kings on

its borders as early as the 200s. By the time the Romans were invading the western

areas, most of the east was already lost.

3. The **Antigonid (an-TIH-guh-nihd) Kingdom** ((an-TIH-guh-nihd) One of the

Hellenistic successor kingdoms to Alexander the Great’s empire; included most of

Greece and Asia Minor.) . This kingdom was also founded by a general who claimed

the old Macedonian homeland and ruled part of what had been Greece as well. The

rest of Greece was divided among several leagues of city-states, which vied with each

other for political and economic supremacy until both they and the Macedonians fell to

the Romans in the middle 100s 􀶊.􀶋.􀶍.

• **Ptolemaic, Kingdom of Egypt**

o General Ptolemy captured Egypt and ruled as pharaoh

o By 100s BCE, Egypt became a hybrid society - Greeks and Egyptians

intermixed

• **Seleucid, Kingdom of Persia**

o General Seleucus ruled from India’s borders to the Mediterranean

o Kingdom began to lose pieces to rebels because of its large expanse

o Immigrant Greeks mixed with locals especially in Syria and Turkey

o When Romans invaded the western areas, most of the east was lost

• **Antigonid Kingdom**

o General claimed the Macedonian homeland and part of Greece

o Rest of Greece divided into city-states vying for political and economic

supremacy

o Fell to the Romans in the middle 100s BCE

Chapter 9: Greek Humanism

Chapter 9: Rome from City-State to Empire

Rome is situated about halfway down the western coast of the Italian Peninsula where one of the countries few sizable rivers, the Tiber flows through the fertile plains before emptying into the sea

* Italian Peninsula was invaded multiple times throughout history. Native Italic peoples of the north and center were taken over by the more civilized Etruscans in the 10th to 8th centuries
* Rome was probably founded by the unification of several villages under a single government in the 8th century, as Roman legend states

We know very very little of early Italians and remain more of a mystery than Greece

Around 800 B.C.E. three peoples from the East began to enter Italy, first as colonists and then as rulers of various segments of the peninsula

1. Etruscans
2. Greeks
3. Phoenicians

Etruscans – the Pre-Roman rulers of most of the northern and central Italy and the cultural model for early Roman civilization

* Came in 800 B.C.E. most likely from a route along the Adriatic Sea
* Established a series of small-city states in the northern and central areas of the peninsula
* Ruled over native Italic people because of their superior weaponry and organization