

**HUM 101: WORLD CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES**

Weekly Worksheet #2 (on Session 5 and 6)

Spring 2022

**Part 1-**

1. **Multiple Choice:**
2. Which of the following feature can be used to describe Vedic India?
3. The Caste System; (b) Religious tolerance; (c) Domination of South India; (d) A Hebrew tribe; (e) None of the above.

**ANS:** (a)

1. Who of the following became the first king of the First United Kingdom of Israel and Judah?
2. Moses; (b) David; (c) Solomon; (d) Nebuchadnezzar; (e) Saul

**ANS:** (e)

1. Which of the following best describes the ancient Phoenician writing system:
2. Hieroglyphic script; (b) Alphabets based on only a pronunciation system; (c) Symbolic language; (d) 22 letters without vowels; (e) None of the above.

**ANS:** (d)

1. The Persians migrated from Central Asia to which of the following location?
2. India; (b) Egypt; (c) Assyria; (d)Iranian Plateau; (e) Both a and c.

**ANS:** (a)

1. **True/False:**
2. Assyrian Empire practiced deportation and forced labour: **True**
3. Climate Change was not one of the background conditions behind the emergence of Early Empires. **False**
4. **Definitions/Identifications (1 or 2 sentences):**
5. Cyrus the Great:

The founder of the Persian Empire. He was the sixth-century ruler who united the Persians.

1. Persepolis:

The capital city of Darius I (r. 521–486 BCE) and the homeland of the Persians. It was the ceremonial center of that time.

1. Vedas:

A religious text composed by the migrant Aryans as a part of their ritual which consists hymns, songs and explanations of their rituals etc. The word ‘Vedas’ means knowledge or wisdom.

**Part 2-**

1. **Please answer ONE of the following questions in your own words.** (350 to 450 words)
2. Differentiate between Assimilation and Integration as an approach of governance undertaken by the Assyrian Empire and the Persian Empire respectively.
3. Explain a few of the main elements in Kautilya’s *Arthashastra*
4. Would you say Vedic India ensured the treatment of men and women equally in society? Briefly explain your claim
5. Grand imperial spectacles, in the form of annual parties, hosted by the Assyrian Empire, reinforced the sense of imperial dominance. Shortly explain if you agree with this statement
6. Shortly explain why was the role of monarchy limited in the United Kingdom of Israel and Judah.
   * + 1. **Differentiate between Assimilation and Integration as an approach of governance undertaken by the Assyrian Empire and the Persian Empire respectively.**

ANS: The Assyrian rulers took a few steps to rule their kingdom. They called it ‘assimilation’. Whereas, after the downfall of Assyrian Empire, the Persian rulers came into power and they also took some necessary steps which they called ‘integration’. This integration was way better than assimilation in every way.

The Assyrian rulers were too brutal. They forced everyone of their kingdom to strictly abide by their rules and regulations. They came up with a scheme called assimilation. This basically means that there will be similar culture among all. The majority of the people of there were already observing similar culture. But obviously, there were some minority groups, whose culture was different, micro-social strategies were different. But this difference or this diversity wasn’t accepted to the Assyrian rulers. They set the rules that, everybody should observe the same culture and way as Assyrians do. So, the rulers made them abide by the rules they made by taking some strict actions. If the people refused to accept those rules, that could be the reason that the rulers being stricter towards them.

The Assyrians wanted everyone to hold one identity. And that is Assyrian. They used to pursue assimilation more because this process assures the general people of the state will follow only one culture and tradition, which was easier to durable their power of domination. Whoever refused to do so, the rulers came up with different ideas to make their life worse. Even sometimes, the way of punishment was very much violent as well. So, there were often violent situation here and there. It was always like cutting, killing, blood shedding and so many more. Even the rulers used to use poems where they talk about a mountain full of blood. It clearly depicts the brutality of Assyrian Empire’s rule of assimilation.

Whereas, integration was not brutal, rather it was voluntary. They Persian rulers didn’t impose any traditional rule on anyone. Only ethnic Iranians had access to the royalty of being regarded as a Persian. So, in integration, the new people were not completely regarded as Persians, and they retained their ethnic backgrounds.

The Persian said that the King should be the center of the system. Then they made a strict hierarchy. Everyone had to maintain their hierarchy. All the new people were welcome to observe their own culture. But they should always maintain the hierarchy and pay tribute to the king. In this way, trade, diverse culture and everything became so comfortable and inclusive. So overall social system got improved.

After all, it is clear that, assimilation was violent where integration was voluntary. As the governing system of integration was good, the Persian Empire was a successful empire, while Assyrian Empire was not. It broke apart so quickly for taking so brutal governing system like assimilation.