

Unit II: 500BCE-500CE

# Rome



Alps to the north provided protection from an invasion by land. Sea surrounding Italian peninsula limited the possibility of a naval attack. Though isolated, Rome was at a crossroad. Therefore, it had easy access to the rest of the world

Roman Empire: ruled by a single emperor, Augustus Caesar. It became the capital of the Western World, Expanded to largest geographical proportions, and changed state religion to Christianity.



The Romans were polytheistic. Their gods were of Greek origin. However, they were renamed to fit their culture and origin. Paganism was the state religion: Citizens required to make sacrifices to tradition Roman Gods.

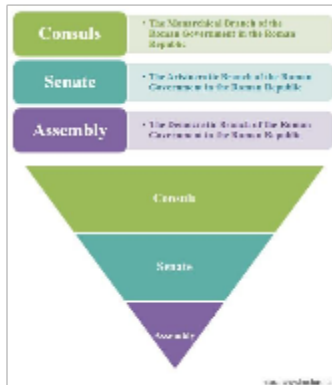
Roman Republic

Roman Empire

476 C.E.

1509 B.C.E

Fall of Roman Republic occurred because:  
 1: More slaves displaced several small farmers and urbanization. This caused crowding.  
 2: High rate of Inflation.  
 3: Political leaders began to fight amongst themselves. Senate weakened. Later transferred to first triumvirate: Pompey, Crassus, and Caesar



Fall of Roman Empire:  
 - tax revolts by upper class;  
 -church exempt from taxes  
 -decrease in trade  
 -division of empire weakened west half  
 -unable to defend against migratory invasions of Goths and Huns

# China



-THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA  
 -Patriarchal  
 -Legalism  
 -Powerful Army w/ iron weapons  
 -conquered surrounding territories  
 -strong economy based on agri...

-enlarged Han Dynasty to central Asia  
 -Thriving trade w/ Silk Roads  
 -Confucianism  
 -skilled/ stable gov't bureaucracy



-INVENTION of PAPER  
 highly accurate sundials  
 calendars  
 the rudder  
 THE COMPASS



-COMPLETELY centralized various feudal kingdoms  
 -STANDARDIZED laws, currencies, weights, and measures, system of writing

**QIN**  
 (221- 209 BCE)  
 Qin Shi Huangdi

Period of revolt... many Era of Warring States

**HAN!**  
 (200- 460 BCE)

ERA OF WARRING STATES



Decline: after Q.S.H death, peasants revolted to the heavy-handedness



# India



Ashoka gains rule and conquers all but the southern tip of India. He greatly extends the reach and power of the Indian Empire

Ashoka converts to Buddhism due to the great bloodshed of the conquests. He spreads Buddhism throughout India and even sends missionaries to spread Buddhism to the Middle East

-developed the pi and zero and a decimal system

The Gupta empire was experiencing a time of relative peace and large advances in the arts and sciences

Referred to as the Golden Age

Trade greatly increased in the empire (silk, cotton, elephants) which boosted the economy and power of India. Military strength also increased and allowed for expansion



The Mauryan empire was founded in 322 BCE by Chandragupta Mauryan to protect and unify the Indian subcontinent.

Ashoka's gentle government after his conversion to Buddhism, led to a weak empire after his fall. Regional kingdoms began to resurface and Kushan invaders pushed into central India.

Chandra Gupta II (Chandra Gupta the Great) founded the Gupta Empire (320 CE).

The Gupta empire fell due to:  
 1. Not enough taxes for defense against invaders  
 2. Land divisions which increased the power of provincial officials  
 3. White Hun invasions

# Daoism

Practiced by Chinese from 500 B.C.E. onward. Created by Laozi.



Belief system based on a concept regarding an eternal principle governing all the workings of the world (yin and yang)



Within Daoism is a life with disengagement from worldly affairs, and a simple life with Harmony and nature



Advocated the formation of small, self-sufficient communities and served as a counter-balance to Confucian activism

# Legalism

The Chinese, during the Qin Dynasty, are the most notable practitioners of Legalism.



Maintained that peace and order were achievable only through a centralized, tightly governed state.



Legalists focused only on things that were practical or that sustained the society.



By adopting Legalism, the Qin Dynasty was able to accomplish the unification of China and the completion of massive projects such as the building of the Great Wall

# Zoroastrianism



Zoroastrianism was the start of monotheistic religions, and strongly affected the ideals of Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Followers believed that life was a battle between good and evil. They stressed the importance of making the morally right choice and individual salvation

Practiced by Iranians under the Sassanid Empire, Central Asians, and some Indians.

Created by the Prophet Zoroaster in Central Asia and was then used as the state religion of the Sassanid Empire



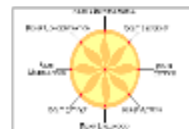
The Last Judgment decided the fate of the individual person. If the person was good they would live on after death at the House of Song while the bad would be sentenced to eternal pain



The first monotheistic religion that believes in the god Ahura Mazda, who stands for goodness and truth.

## BUDDHISM

Began in India (Siddhartha Gautama)



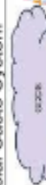
- ANYONE CAN ACHIEVE NIRVANA
- FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS
  - All life = suffering
  - Suffering is caused by desire
  - One can be freed of this desire
  - One is freed of desire by following...

### EIGHTFOLD PATH

- right views
  - right aspirations
  - right mindfulness
  - right conduct
  - right livelihood
  - right endeavor
  - right speech
  - right meditation
- Theravada vs. Mahayana  
-Buddha=GOD  
-bodhisattvas  
-interp of nirvana  
-priests  
-Buddha not = GOD

## HINDUISM

- Began w/ Aryan invaders
- REALLY POLYTHEISTIC
- Manifestations of Brahma
  - Vishnu (the preserver)
  - Shiva (the destroyer)
- LIFE GOALS: merge with Brahma
  - moksha
  - if you behave well, and follow the dharma (the rules of your caste) then you move up the caste system
- Social Caste System



UNTOUCHABLES  
Untouchable Caste: Not mentioned in the Vedas

# Greek Rationalism



Socrates started Greek rationalism by encouraging his students to question conventional wisdom



Celebrated and encouraged the human ability to think, question and rationalize

Use of the Socratic principle of rational thinking by means of skeptical questioning to reach their goal of understanding.  
Emphasized the power of human reasoning and human thought

The main goal was to understand the universe and human behavior  
"emphasis on skeptical questioning of abstract speculations on the basic nature of humanity and the universe"



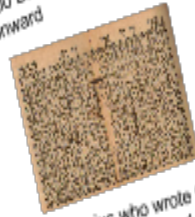
# Confucianism



It is a political and social philosophy, not a religion.

Developed specifically for the Chinese Culture. Widely practiced from 400 B.C.E onward

Stresses a sense of humanity and kindness, a sense of propriety, courtesy, respect, deference to elders, and filial piety (a respect for family obligation).



Started by Confucius who wrote the Analects, which had a profound influence on Chinese thinking politically and culturally



Focuses on 5 relationships.  
-ruler and subject  
-husband and wife  
-elder brother and younger brother  
-friend and friend

Was an ethical, social and political belief system and was compatible with other religions.

# Christianity

# Judaism

- Monotheistic
- Christians believe that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah (the Son of God)
- Study the Old and New Testament of the Bible
- Forgiveness of sins are lifelong because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Expected to practice love and to worship God
- Share the Message of Christ and spread Christianity
- Spread mostly in Europe



- Monotheistic
- Believes that the Messiah has not come yet and that Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet
- If the Hebrews (term for the people who follow Judaism) follow laws, worship God and are faithful to god then they will be preserved for all time
- Belief in an Afterlife, traditions, doctrines and philosophies and personal salvation.