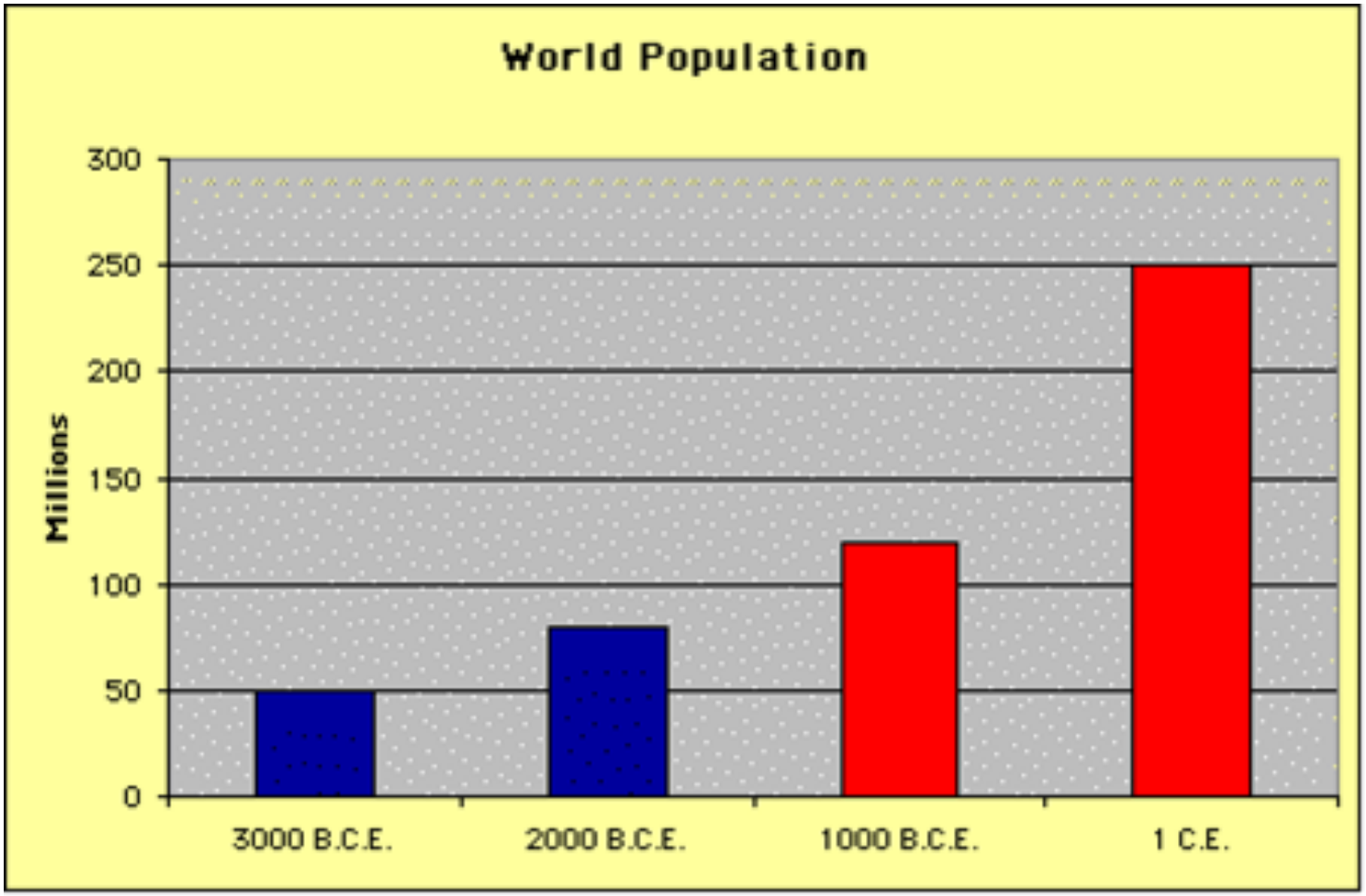
The Classical Empires

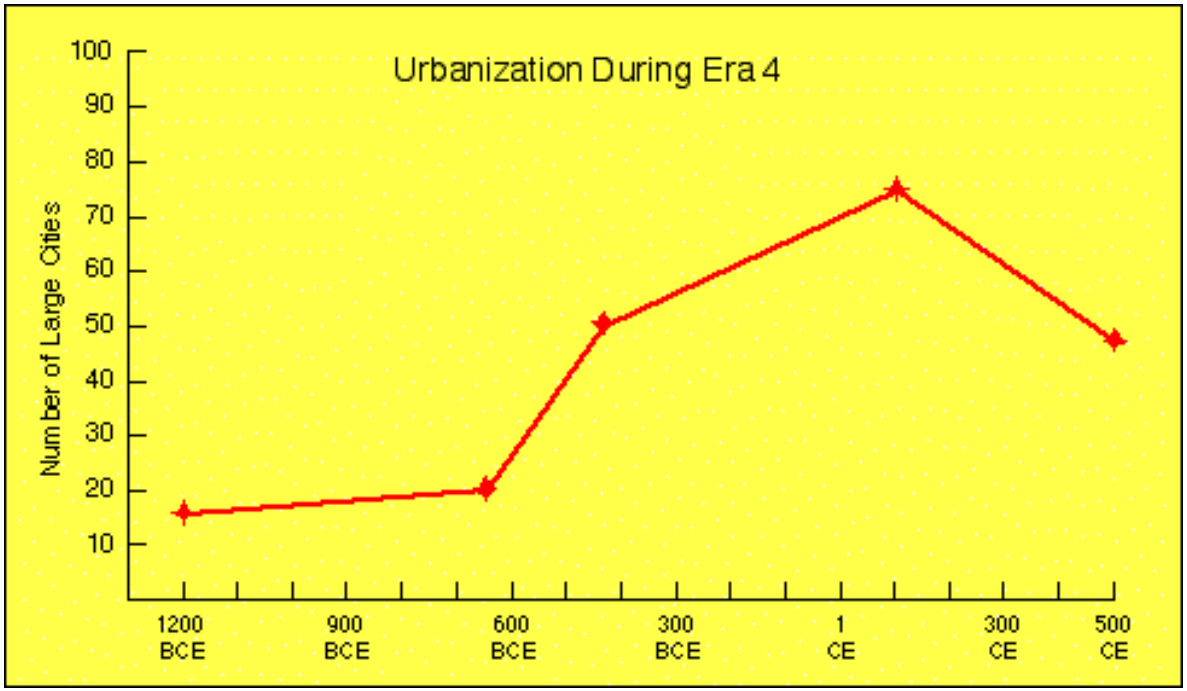
AP World History

Population Growth



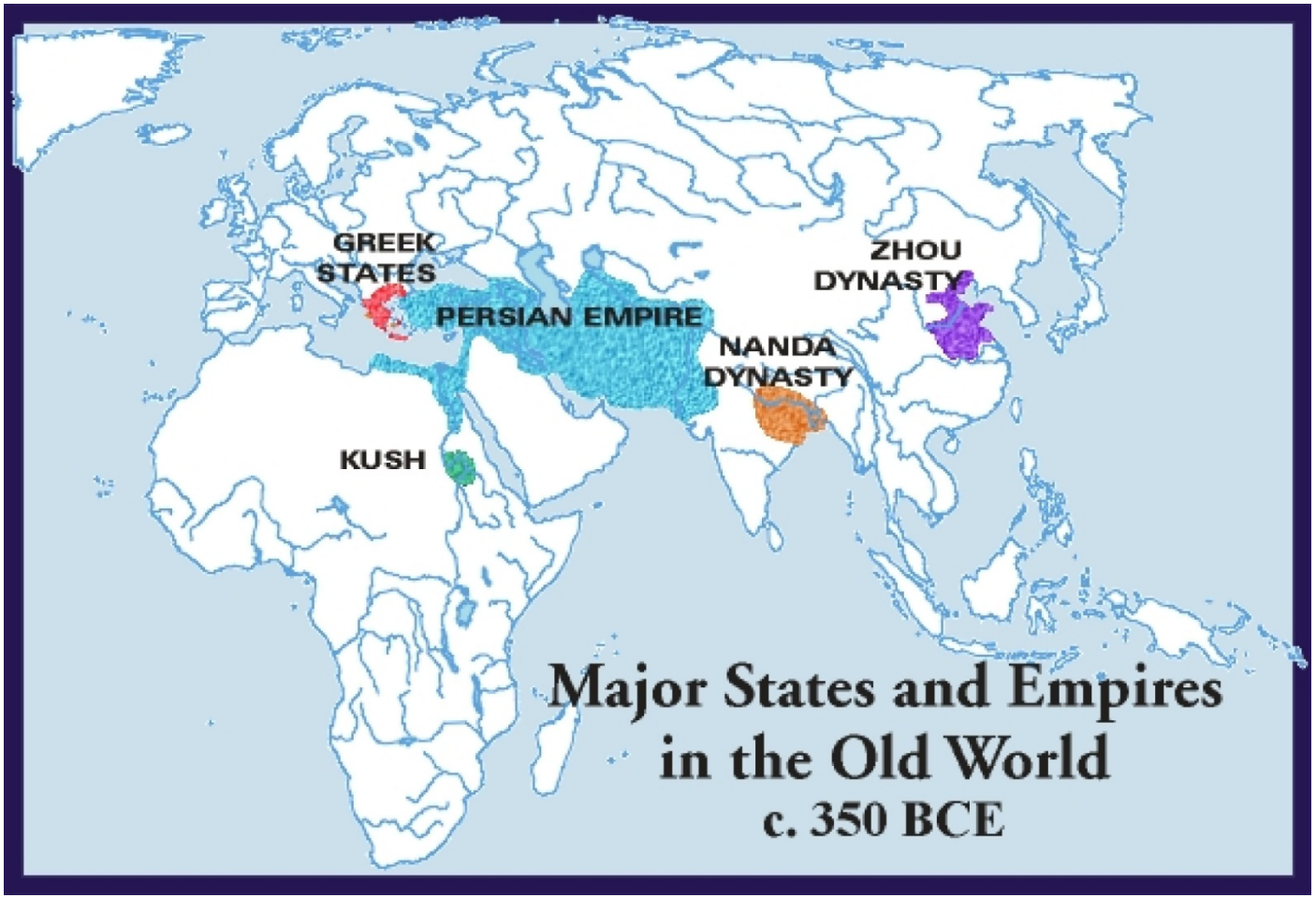
Urbanization

Year	Number of largest cities	Size of largest cities	Total population of largest cities
BCE 1200	16	24,000-50,000	499,000
650	20	30,000-120,000	894,000
430	51	30,000-200,000	2,877,000
CE 100	75	30,000-450,000	5,181,000
500	47	40,000-400,000	3,892,000

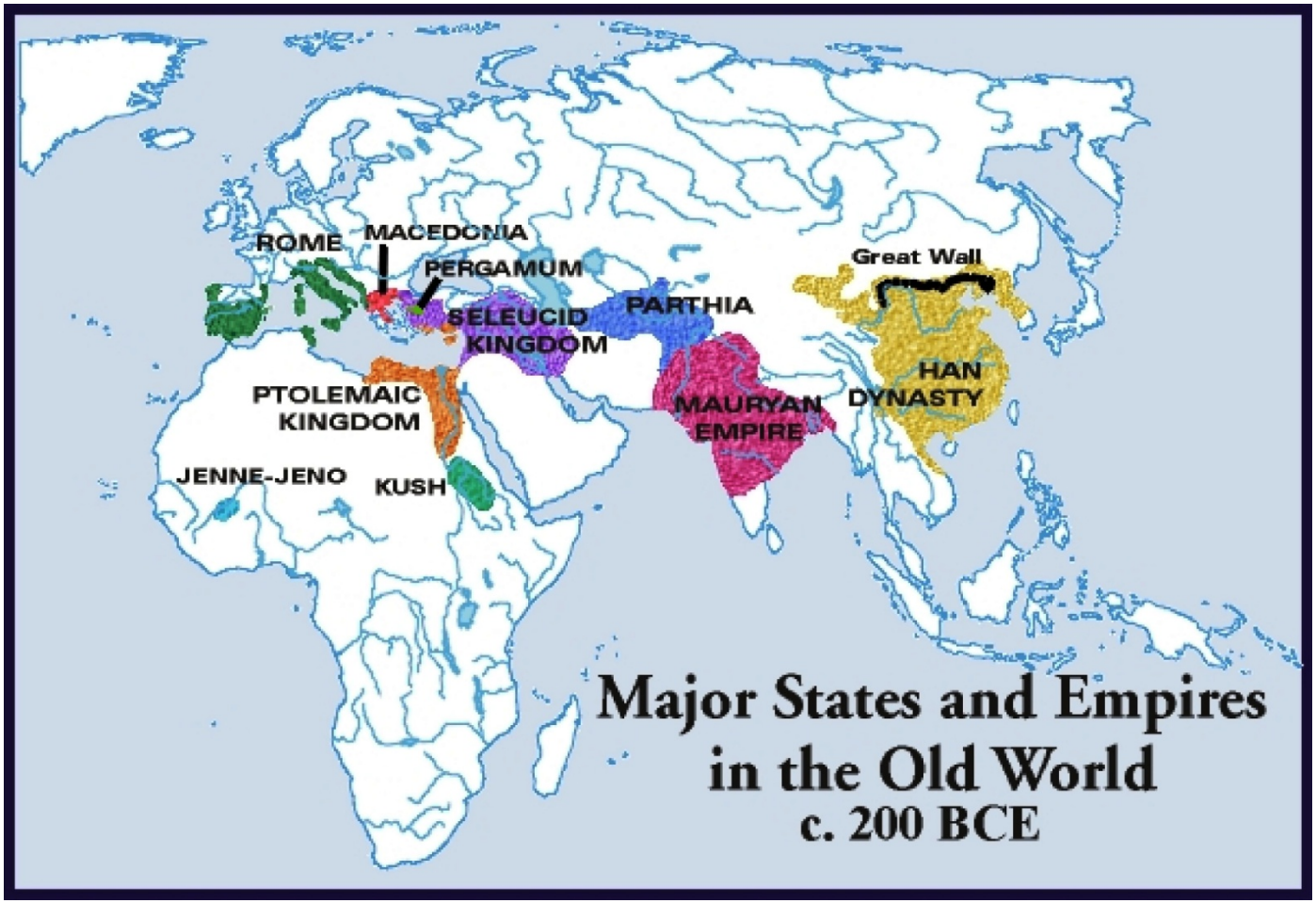


Afro-Eurasia in 500 BCE

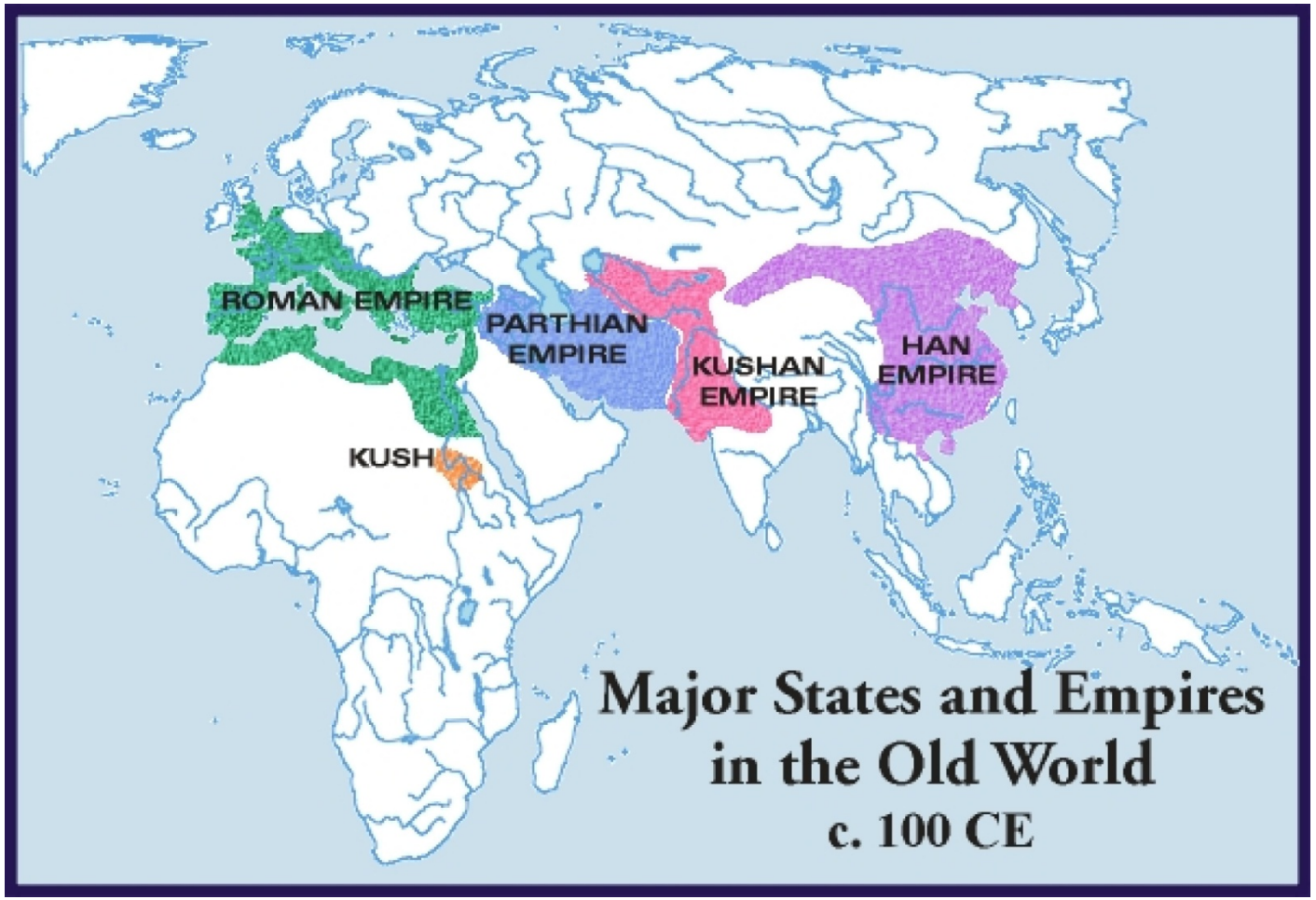
Afro-Eurasia in 350 BCE



Afro-Eurasia in 200 BCE



Afro-Eurasia in 100 CE



Persian Empire

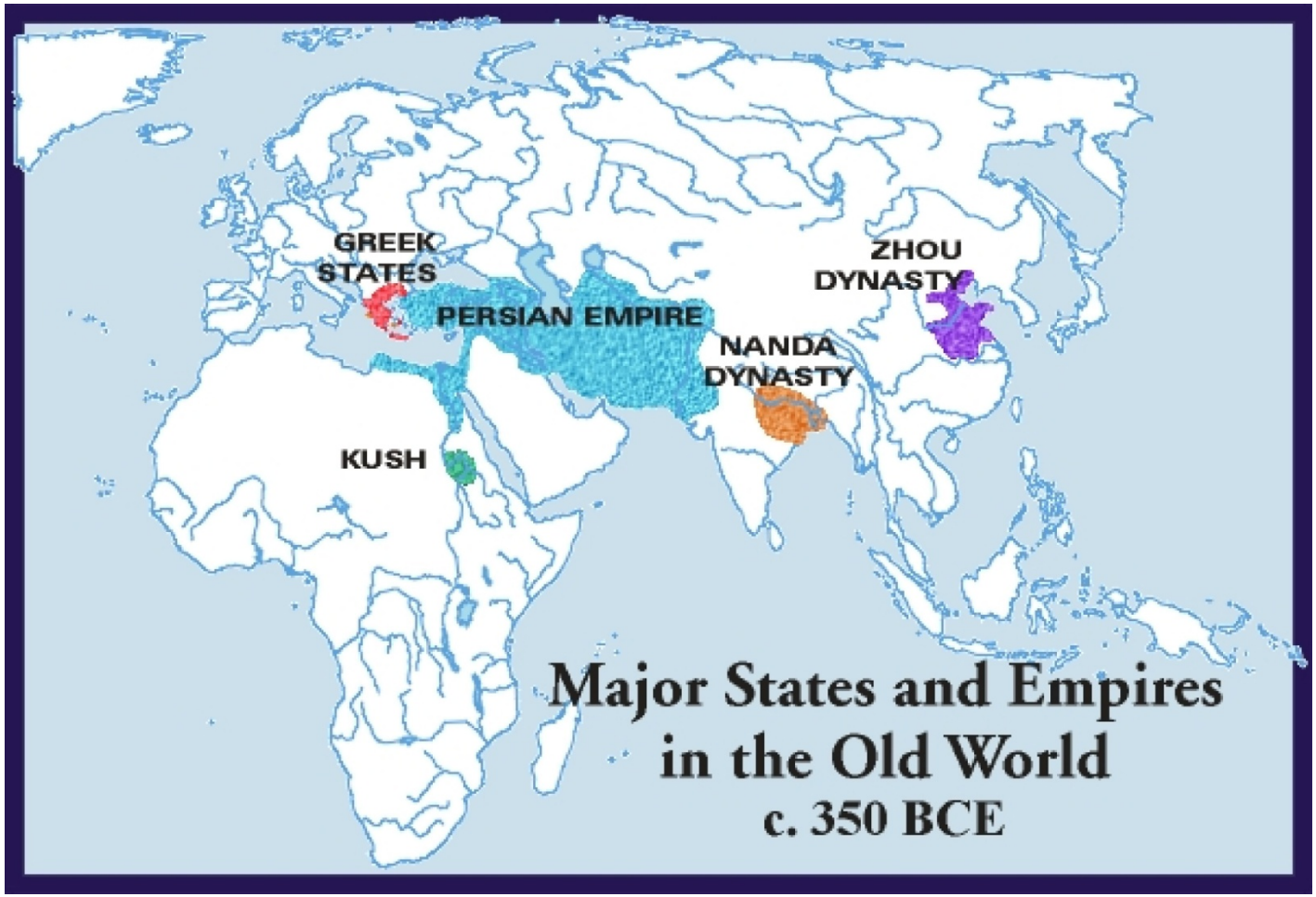
Persian Empire (558-332 BCE)

- Founded by Cyrus the Great
- Darius I (521-486 BCE)
  - Balanced central administration & local governors
  - Divided government into 3 districts ran by satraps
  - Built the Royal Road
  - Fought Persian Wars (500-479 BCE)
    - Led to the decline of the Persian Empire

Persian Empire

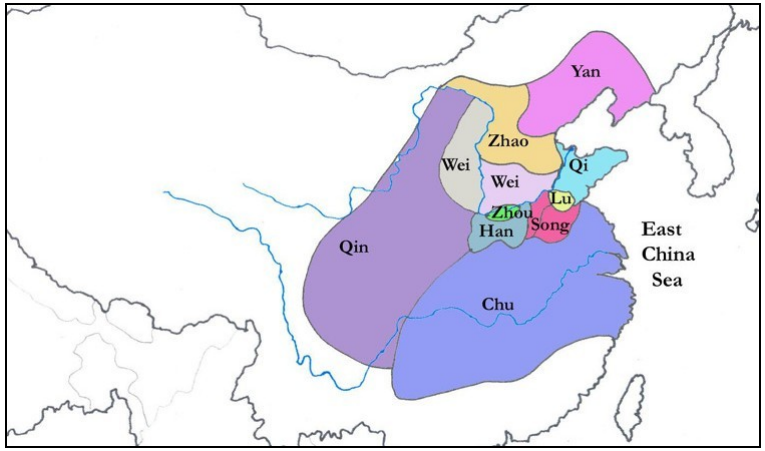
- Persian Society
  - Women worked in textile manufacturing
  - Government used slaves to complete public works projects
- Persian Economy
  - Government coined money
  - Facilitated trade from Greece to India
- Persian Religion
  - Zoroastrianism

World in 350 BCE



Classical China

- Zhou Dynasty (1029-258)
  - Mandate of Heaven
  - Feudalism
- Decline of Zhou Dynasty
  - Confucianism
  - Daoism
  - Legalism
- Warring States Period
  - Kingdom of Qin began expanding during the 3rd century BCE



Qin Dynasty (221-202 BCE)

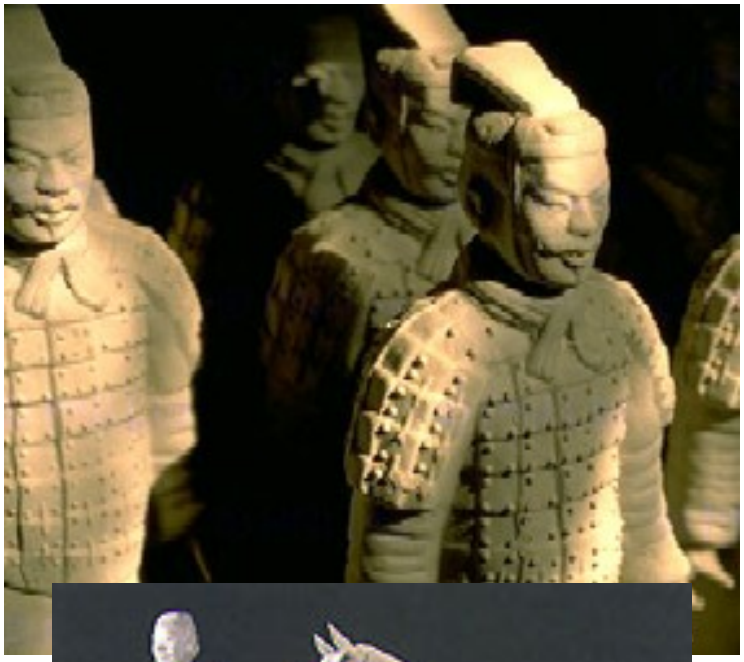
- Used Legalism to restore order
- Land reforms weakened aristocracy
  - Peasants were given land rights to farm remote territories
- Centralized bureaucracy
- Unified China
  - Standardized script, laws, and weights & measures

Qin Shi Huangdi

- Proclaimed himself "First Emperor" of China
- Centralized Power
  - Disarmed local militaries
  - Built roads & defensive walls
- Demanded burning of books
- Used forced labor to complete public works projects

Terra Cotta Army

Terra Cotta Army



Early Han Dynasty (202 BCE-9 CE)

- Founded by Liu Bang
  - Longest dynasty in Chinese History
- Conquered northern Vietnam, Korea, and Central Asia
  - Tribute System
- Monopolized iron, salt, and liquor

Han Wudi (Wu Ti)

- Ruled from 141-87 BCE
  - Supported Legalism
- Two Goals
  - Centralize government
  - Expand the empire
- Reforms
  - Expanded bureaucracy
  - Started an imperial university
  - Confucian examination system
  - Expanded the Silk Roads

Mauryan Dynasty

- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya
  - Arthashastra

Ashoka (268-232 BCE)

- Conquered most of India
  - Used elephants in warfare
  - Battle of Kalinga
- Reforms
  - Pillars of Ashoka
  - Centralized bureaucracy
  - Expanded agriculture
  - Built roads to promote trade
- Promoted the spread of Buddhism
- Empire declined after Ashoka's death

Gupta Dynasty (320-565 CE)

- Founded by Chandra Gupta
  - Used alliances, tribute & conquest
- Gupta Government
  - Coalition of regional kingdoms
  - Policy & administration left to local rulers
- Eventually destroyed by the White Huns

Ancient Greece

- Geography prevented political unification
  - Culturally unified
- City-States
  - Cities offered safety and wealth
  - Different political systems
- Unified when threatened
  - Persian Wars
- Wars weaken city-states
  - Peloponnesian War (431-404 BCE)

Greek Colonization

Alexander the Great (332-323 BCE)

- Father, Philip II, conquered most of Greece
- Built a massive empire
  - Conquered Persia & Egypt
  - Threatened India
- Empire divided into 3 parts after his death
  - Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt
  - Seleucid Empire in Persia

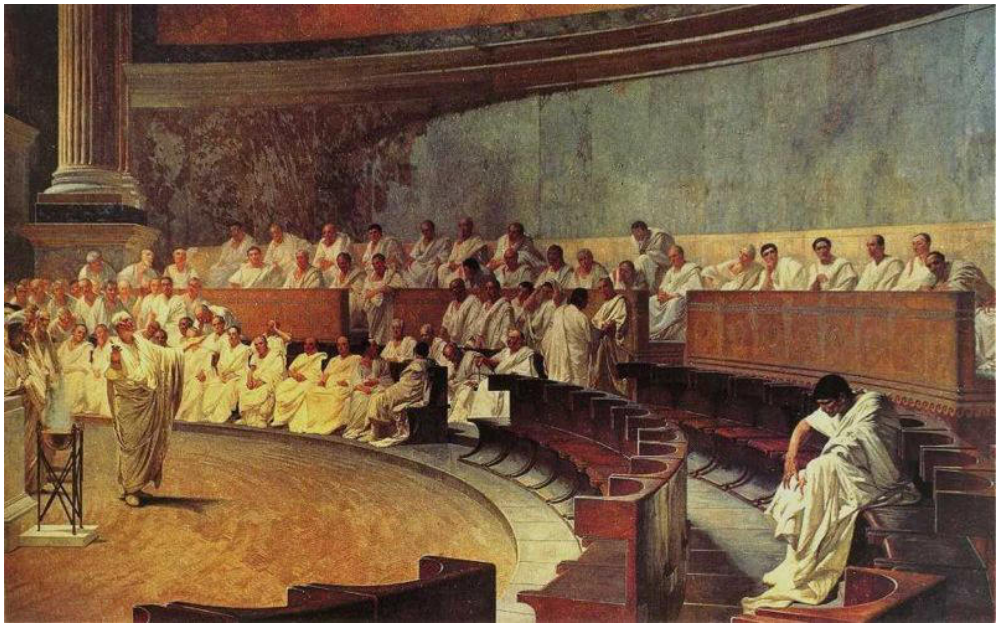
Hellenistic Empire

Questions For Rome:

- Analyze the reason for the collapse of the Roman republic in favor of the Roman empire. (long-term and short-term)
- Explain the Roman methods of controlling a vast empire. How does this compare to Persia and China?
- What is the significance of *pax Romana* in facilitating economic growth and the importance of cities?

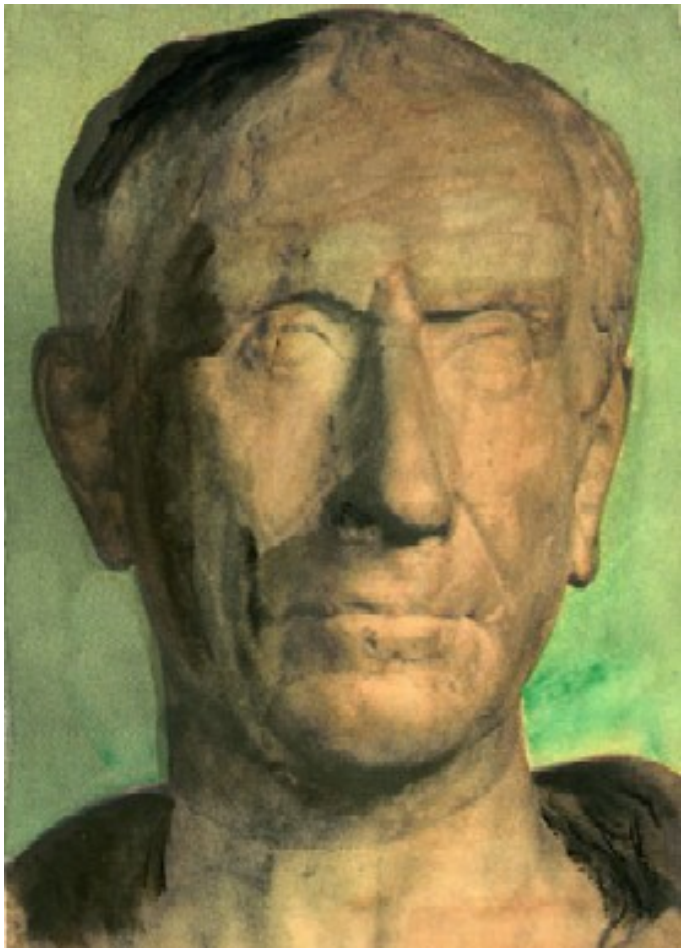
Roman Republic (509-44 BCE)

- Political System
  - Consuls
  - Senate (patricians)
  - Tribunes (plebeians)
- Military expansion
  - Assimilated conquered peoples
- Twelve Tables
  - Created a standardized system of laws
  - Established rights for defendants



Expansion of Roman Republic

End of Republic



- Growing tensions between rich & poor
- Latifundias
  - Large plantations in conquered lands controlled by aristocrats
- Julius Caesar
  - Dictator for life in 44 BCE
  - Reforms
    - Sought to relieve tension between the classes
  - Executed by aristocratic conspirators

Roman Empire (31 BCE-476 CE)

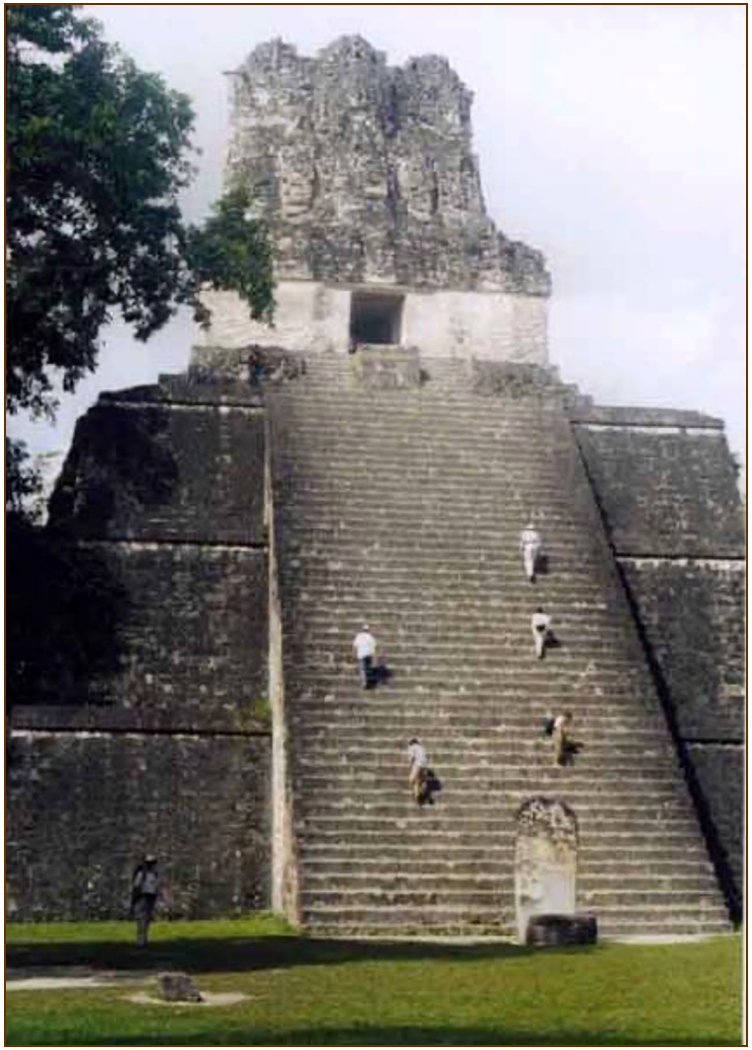
- Established by Augustus
  - Continued military expansion
  - Pax Romana
- NOT a dynasty
  - Succession often depended upon military strength
- Tolerated local customs & religions
- Laws & patriotism held empire together

Maya (300–900 CE)

- Heirs to Olmec traditions
- Culturally unified city-states
  - Never form a unified political system
- Built elaborate religious and commercial centers
  - Tikal & Chichen-Itza
- Traded luxury products
- Advanced math & science
  - Zero, solar year, etc.

El Castillo at Chichen-Itza

Mayan Architecture



Mayan Oberservatory

Mayan Decline

- Maya city-states were abandoned or destroyed between 800-900 CE
- Causes for decline include:
  - The disruption of trade after the decline of Teotihuacan in Central Mexico
  - Environmental degradation caused by overpopulation
  - Epidemic disease