

Developing Democracy & Ancient Religions

Polytheism vs. Monotheism

Most ancient cultures were polytheistic
believed in a large number of gods

The Hebrews

Hebrews founded and spread Judaism

wrote the Old Testament of the Bible

had been enslaved by Egyptians

tradition states that Moses leads them out of Egypt("Exodus") into Palestine

by 1100BC, the Israelites are living around Palestine

Saul was the first King

His son David conquered Jerusalem

Solomon builds Temple that housed Ark of the Covenant

Kingdom is split into Israel(north) and Judah(south)

Israel is conquered by the Assyrians

Jews will eventually live under the Persian empire until Greek conquests

Beliefs of Judaism

Jews are monotheistic

they believe there is one god, Yahweh ("he causes to be")

Believe that God created everything

God rules the world actively

God expects goodness, or will punish people

The Torah is the law code of the Jewish people

covenant - special bond between Jews and God

covenant fulfilled by obeying laws of God

Prophets sent by God to deliver his word

Judaism set goals of peace and justice for Western Civ.

Hinduism

The Vedic Age

Aryans were polytheistic, passed traditions through hymns

1400 - Hymns are written down, called Vedas

The Upanishads - 400 BC

collection of essays about the meaning of the Vedas

1. One true reality is Brahman
2. Atman is the soul
3. reincarnation - nothing ever truly dies
4. Hindus seek state of moksha

where the Atman is one with Brahman

Caste System

1. Brahmin - came from God's Mouth
priests
2. Kshatriyas - came from God's Arms

- rulers and warriors
3. Vaishyas - came from God's Legs
landowners, merchants, artisans
 4. Shudras - came from God's feet
servants and slaves
- Untouchables are outside of the caste system
Castes were not allowed to mix
Castes were determined by birth
karma - past lives determine future ones
dharma - duty to fulfill to meet karma

Buddhism

530 BC - Siddhartha Gautama is struck by suffering of people
realized the life was a cycle of pain
left family to fast, pray and seek wisdom
eventually the truth became clear
becomes Buddha - "The Enlightened One"

Four Noble Truths

1. Everything in life is suffering and sorrow
2. The cause of pain is selfishness
3. The way to end pain is to end desire
4. People can overcome desire by following Eightfold Path

Eightfold Path

like a staircase of achievement
right knowledge, purpose, speech, action, living, effort,
mindfulness, meditation
attempt to achieve Nirvana - release from pain

China

Chinese civilization

Chinese culture is based on the family
elders had complete respect and authority
oldest male runs the family
oldest female controls younger women
women are treated as inferiors
married off at young age

Ruler of China was a super grandfather

Mandate of Heaven

belief that rulers had divine approval
bad events show spirits disapproval
good events show spirits pleased
determines fate of ruler

Confucius

philosopher who sought to end China's suffering
believed that peace was based on five basic relationships
ruler and subject
father and son

- husband and wife
- older and younger brother
- friend and friend
- code of conduct governed each relationship
 - filial piety, or respect ensures peace and prosperity
- Confucius served as a teacher and government official
- ideas survive through to today

Taoism

- believed that natural order is most important
 - nature is always at peace
- Humans should seek to live at peace with nature

Legalists

- believed that powerful government was key to law and order
 - lavish rewards and severe punishment
 - encouraged censorship of ideas
 - come into favor with new Chin Dynasty

The Greeks

Classical Greece

- First Greeks appeared on island of Crete
 - traded using large navy
- Mycenaean Greeks built city fortresses on Greek hills
 - very warlike people
 - possible source of Trojan Wars?
- Greek society declines by 1100BC
 - invasion, self-destruction and earthquakes

Greek Dark Age (1100 - 750BC)

- Greek civilization declined and knowledge is scarce
 - some Greeks immigrated to Ionia in Asia Minor
- Homer writes the Iliad and Odyssey
 - previously passed down by oral tradition
 - tells stories around the Trojan War
 - gave Greeks traditional values and heroes
 - introduced traditional Greek Gods
 - Mt. Olympus
 - probably not accurate, but accepted as such

Greek city-states (750 - 500BC)

- Greeks reemerged around the *polis*
 - Group of citizens who made political, military, social decisions
 - usually met on a hill in the center of the city
 - Acropolis in Athens
 - relied on subservience to the state
- Hoplites (Phalanx) made Greeks more effective fighters
 - highly organized infantry that relied on shields and spears
 - again relied upon dedication to the group
 - helped to break power of aristocratic cavalry

Tyrants came to power in fifth and sixth centuries
Polis made kings merely ceremonial figures
aristocrats, merchants, and peasants compete in polis
Tyrants were leaders who unconstitutionally gained power
usually had support of people against aristocrats
Heirs to tyrants were usually spoiled, cruel, and disliked
Tyrants destroyed aristocratic power, paved way for democracy

Athens

was originally dominated by aristocrats
people dissatisfied with land distribution and economy
Solon reformed government and gave people more input
only adult males with wealth (10%) citizens
560 BC - Pisistratus becomes tyrant of Athens
remained popular by promoting Athenian trade
508 BC - tyranny overthrown, Cleisthenes introduces democratic reforms
reorganized governing council
reduced power of aristocrats
now about 20% of population are citizens

Classical Greece (500 - 338BC)

The Persian Wars

Persians had conquered Ionian Greeks earlier
Greeks revolt in 499BC
Athens sends aid, but Persians est. control
479 BC - Athens raises new forces and defeats Persians

Athenian Empire

Spartans didn't want to pursue Persians to Asia Minor
Athens forms Delian League to conquer Persians
Delian league liberates Greeks in Ionia
after victory, Athens won't allow other cities to leave
Delian League provided Athens with trade, money, and power
Age of Pericles
all male citizens became members of democracy
met at the Acropolis
people elected generals to run government
Pericles move Delian treasury to Athens
uses money for building projects in Athens
Athenian expansion brings them into conflict with Sparta

The Great Peloponnesian War (431 - 404 BC)

Athens hid behind their city walls from Spartan armies
Athenian navy raided Peloponnesian cities
Plague devastated Athens
Sparta eventually conquers Athens in 404 BC
Sparta, Athens, and Thebes continue to fight amongst themselves

Classical Greek Culture

invent history, drama, comedy

Philosophy

- Sophists emphasized the study of human behavior
 - believed that rhetoric was important skill
 - served as wandering teachers

Socrates

- used question and answer philosophy to teach
- questioning of Athenian politics lead to his death
- Plato was his most accomplished pupil

Plato

- believed that philosophy was purest form of thought
 - taught that reason was necessary to understand life
 - wrote The Republic
- believed that happiness came from discovering ideal Forms
- est. the Academy in Athens
- Aristotle was most accomplished pupil

Aristotle

- rejected Plato as being too abstract and restrictive
- emphasized reason over Forms
 - wrote Politics
- studied a wide variety of subjects
- served as tutor to Alexander the Great

Religion

- Greeks believed in a hierarchy of Gods who lived on Mt. Olympus
 - Zeus, Hera, Apollo, Athena, etc...
- built temples to serve the Gods
- also believed in minor gods who influenced daily life
- Oracles specialized in determining the will of the Gods
 - Apollo at the Oracle of Delphi
 - often spoke in complex phrases

Alexander the Great

- Macedonians take advantage of Greek weakness
- Philip II of Macedon defeats Greeks in Battle of Chaeronea in 338BC
- Alexander succeeds his father at age 20
 - already a general and quickly solidifies reign

Conquests of Alexander the Great

- conquered Persian Empire, Egypt, and into India
 - troops then rebel and Alexander agrees to return home
- June, 323 BC - Alexander's dies at age 32

Alexander's World

- Alexander viewed himself as a god and tried to build a new nation
 - encouraged settlements of Greeks and mixing cultures
- Alexander had cities built across the empire
 - most named Alexandria
 - spread Greek (Hellenistic) culture across the ancient world
- Alexander's Empire splinters upon his death, but culture remains

Roman Republic

Early Rome

Romulus and Remus founded Rome according to legend

7th century - Etruscans helped convert Rome from village to city
toga, Latin, alphabet, military style

The Republic (509 - 264 BC)

Paterfamilias - Roman family based on strength of male leader
had complete control of family's life

imperium - "right to command"

Roman institutions based on practical reason, not ideals

Two Consuls - annually elected administrators and generals

Two Praetors - governed in absence of consuls and gave justice
also governed conquered provinces

could elect a dictator for up to six months in emergency

The Senate

group of approx. 300 elders who served for life

originally advisors, eventually have force of law

Rome also possessed several popular assemblies

served to elect officials and occasionally pass laws

Over time, people(plebians) gain more power in republic

tribunes are created and elected to protect people from nobles

codified Roman Law

Roman Conquest

Rome first conquered the Etruscans and Latins

Rome suffered defeats from the Gauls but rebuilt and conquered

By 264 BC, Rome has conquered all of Italy

Rome extended citizenship to some conquered peoples

allowed then to control domestic affairs

Built extensive road network throughout empire

used for military travel, trade, and communication

The Punic Wars

Rome first large early struggle was with Carthage

Phoenician city with large trading empire

First Punic War (264 - 241 BC)

Second Punic War (218 - 201 BC)

Third Punic War (149 -146 BC)

although no longer a threat, Rome destroys Carthage

Rome destroys city, kills population

Roman Society

Religion

based on Greek polytheistic system

very practical but lacks emotional support

Rome celebrated many festivals

Education

focused on rhetoric

public speaking was the key to power

Slavery was important in Roman society
conquered peoples and poor served as slaves
Greeks became educators

Roman values began to decline late in the Republic
tradition, paterfamilias, reason, replaced with greed, materialism

Fall of the Roman Republic

Senate had come to dominate Roman life
people came to resent small group dominating society
noblis(nobles)

Tiberius and Gaius Gracchus tried to reform the republic
Tribune brothers tried political and land reform
assassinated by Senate for their efforts
est. dangerous precedent

Marius brings the Roman army into politics
successful general uses army to force land from Senate
dangerous precedent that is followed by Sulla
noblis who removes power from plebians

Civil wars destroy power of people and est Army as road to power

First Triumvirate

Crassas - military commander charged with defeating slaves
rebellion lead by Spartacus

Pompey - given command in Spain, returns hero

Crassas and Pompey elected consuls in 70 BC
return power to the plebians

Julius Caesar - sought consul after military success in Spain
blocked by Senate

Three generals join forces against the Senate
all three had more military success and gained power

53 BC - Crassas is killed in battle

Senate fears Caesar and backs Pompey to disarm him

Jan. 10, 49 BC - Caesar conquers Rome
"crossing the Rubicon"

Pompey flees to Greece

49 - 45 BC - Caesar defeats Pompey and Senators in battle
Pompey assassinated by agents in Egypt

Effectively destroyed the Republic

44 BC - assassinated by group of Senators

The Second Triumvirate

Octavian forms alliance with Mark Anthony and Marcus Lepidus
Lepidus is quickly thrust aside
Anthony allies with Egypt and Cleopatra
Octavian defeats Anthony's armies
Anthony and Cleopatra commit suicide

Octavian had become supreme ruler of all Rome and Republic dies
The Age of Augustus

The Fall of the Roman Empire

3rd Century is beginning of the end of Roman Empire

Emperors increased the size and power of Roman Army

led to fifty years of civil war and struggle for power

Persians (East), Goths (Balkans), Franks (Gaul) all invade empire

conflicts caused breakdown of Roman economy

goods seized and money debased

Rome hires barbarian mercenaries to fight instead of citizens

Diocletian and Constantine try to restore order

Diocletian reorganized empire and divided it East and West

believed that one man couldn't rule empire

324 - Constantine reunites the Empire

gathers more power into emperor's hands

army is again enlarged

builds new capital of Constantinople (Istanbul) for empire

will become center of Byzantine Empire

Taxes fell heavy on working classes

noble classes were exempt

many free peasants became tied to their land, worked for nobles

serfdom

410 - Visigoths sack Rome

455 - Vandals sack Rome

476 - Last Western Roman emperor deposed

The Eastern Roman Empire becomes known as Byzantine Empire

The Rise of Christianity

Roman religion had always lacked emotional aspect of salvation

6 BC - Jesus of Nazareth is born in Judea

will be executed on orders of Pontius Pilate

preached humility, charity, brotherly love

focus on inner person rather than rules

The Apostles believed that Jesus was resurrected

believe that He died for mankind's sins and would return

Peter founds Christian church in Rome

Paul travels throughout empire converting any person willing

taught that all men could be saved by accepting savior

100 AD - Christian churches appear in most major cities

New Testament Bible helps spread religion

Roman roads and size of empire also assist spread

Many Romans begin to fear spread of Christianity

some rituals seemed barbaric

upset that traditional Roman values were ignored

thousands of Christians were persecuted

Christianity began to form institutions

cities elected bishops as local religious heads

312 - Constantine converts to Christianity, makes it official religion

saw crosses in vision before major battle, and won
Archbishops develop by Roman province to oversee bishops
Bishops of Rome came to be known as "Pope"
head of Catholic Church based on legacy of Peter
Leo I cements position when he turns Attila the Hun back
from Rome
Popes will claim higher authority than kings
spirituality over materialism
Gregory the Great (Gregory I) est. the Papal States in Rome
Byzantines adopt Greek Orthodox Christianity
conflict over icons leads to split
St. Augustine helps develop Christian Doctrine
City of God vs. City of Man
Monasticism
monks and nuns devoted their life to God
gave up secular life for prayer, poverty, chastity
St. Benedict wrote the first rules for monks

Islam

Muhammad is born in Mecca in 570
was raised as a merchant
at age 40, Gabriel gave him a vision
told him that Allah was the one true God
monotheism
believed that he was the last of the prophets
613 - Muhammad begins to preach in Mecca
Hegira
in 622, Muhammad and followers flee to Medina
Islam, meaning "surrender to God" flourishes
Muhammad begins to conquer Bedouin lands
630 - captures Mecca
The Koran
After Muhammad's death, his followers began to collect his prayers
only written in Arabic
Arabic spreads throughout the Middle East
Five Pillars of Islam
1. Faith - one must make statement of belief
2. Prayer - five times/day towards Mecca
3. Alms - portion of wealth to the needy
4. Fasting - eat nothing(daytime) during month of Ramadan
5. Pilgrimage - go to Mecca once in your life
Other Rules
no ham, pork, or alcohol
marriage only to believers you can support
Muslims prayed at mosques

Islam spread East and West

723 - Islam spreads from Spain to India

Jihad - holy war, warriors killed in battle went to heaven
Arabian peninsula was overpopulated (more warriors)
resistance from Byzantines & Persians was weak

Islamic Rule

subjects had three choices, conversion, tax, or death
most converted to Islam
society became divided into Arab Muslims, other Muslims, etc.
with growth diversity began to divide empire

Islam split

Shiites – believed in an Islamic caliphate
ruled by a direct descendant of Muhammad
Iran is only modern state that is majority Shiite
Sunni – majority of the world's 1 billion plus Muslims today

Islamic Culture

Baghdad was the center of the empire
first chemical laboratories
medical treatment of disease
discovered Algebra
passed along numeric system
Architecture of mosques dominates Middle East