

Contextualization with Unit 1 - 2

The AP World History test changed in 2019 and they will test only from 1200-present. While that's a bonus for you in terms of reading, it's helpful to have some background on what happened before 1200. However, instead of reading a textbook, I'm going to highlight the essential things you need to know here and expect that you know them and can refer to them in writing throughout the year. Capitalized words will be words that you are expected to know and use often in the AP History classes - You can look up words/concepts that capture your interest!

Hunter-Gatherer Age to the Agricultural Revolution (8000 b.c.e - 5,000 b.c.e)

In early societies, humans were simple hunter-gatherers. They were **NOMADIC** and they lived with small familial tribes. Politically, there was no organized system, although larger tribes might have a chief. Economically, these small groups hunted for meat (which came sparingly) and gathered fruits, nuts and berries. Generally, men hunted and women gathered. There was little to no trade or bartering. Socially, men and women were much more equal (**EGALITARIAN**) in their social power and after finding food, which may have taken a few hours a day, spent the rest of their time engaged in tool-making, crafts and art (for example, cave paintings).

The Agricultural Revolution changed all of that as people began to settle in one area and grow their food. The nomadic wandering changed to settled towns, villages and later empires. People began to grow wheat, barley and other grains. This meant they could produce more food for people and even store it...more food = more people and the population began to grow. Economically, these towns began to conduct small-scale trade - perhaps only as little as 10 miles away - but this system changed the way people lived entirely. Politically, towns became larger and more people gathered inside the town perimeters. Local leaders developed and laws were created for the first time. Socially, men became more powerful than women and a **PATRIARCHY** developed that would continue until this day. Women were no longer responsible for the food and were relegated to the house where their main function became childbirth. As people began settling down (**SEDENTARY**), "civilization" as we know it grew. Civilization simply means a large group of people living together and developing social and cultural norms that are more advanced. The Agricultural Revolution changed the world in seven specific ways:

1. New leaders emerged with capital cities and monumental architecture to show other cities and leaders who had power - politics
2. Laws were passed - politics
3. Long-distance trade was conducted (10+ miles) - economics
4. Belief systems developed to help answer spiritual questions - culture
5. A division of labor developed in which occupations were identified (farmers, artisans, politicians, priests, etc...). From this division of labor came ideas about who were the elites and who were not and a new patriarchy. - society, economics
6. A system of communication was developed (i.e. writing or communication) - culture

The first civilizations developed in the “fertile crescent” and included regions such as Egypt, Mesopotamia (Middle East region), the Indus River Valley in India and China. These early civilizations were ones you studied in middle school. Below is a comparison of how two regions developed “civilization” using the themes of history. You do not have to memorize this, but simply understand these as examples:

EGYPT	MESOPOTAMIA
POLITICALLY Leader was the “Pharaoh” and represented God on Earth	POLITICALLY Leader was a “Lugal” and was represented by a warrior
ENVIRONMENTAL Nile River, flooded regularly and was able to irrigate many crops, the region was isolated and had few invasions	ENVIRONMENTAL Tigris and Euphrates River, flooded irregularly and this caused both famine and catastrophic flooding, conflict with other nations
ECONOMICALLY Some trade, but were very self-sufficient	ECONOMICALLY Trade
SOCIALLY Women had more rights than Mesopotamia, examples of Egyptian Queens	SOCIALLY Very few rights for women, warrior culture <i>PATRIARCHY</i>
CULTURALLY Religion - polytheistic, Gods were benevolent and kind - based on how they viewed the world as their environment was fairly stable and peaceful Writing - hieroglyphics	CULTURALLY Religion - polytheistic; Gods were vengeful and angry - based on how people viewed their environment as life was chaotic, unstable and there was much conflict Writing - cuneiform

From Cities to Empires (600 b.c.e - 600 c.e.)

These early cities fought with each other and took more land. Eventually, four powerful empires developed in EURASIA (Today’s Europe/Asia): the Persian Empire, the Greek Empire, The Roman Empire and the Han Empire in China.

Greek/Persian Empire:

The Greek and Persian Empire grew up at - relatively - the same time. The Persian Empire practiced a MONOTHEISTIC religion called Zoroastrianism and were led by Cyrus who started the empire and his son Darius who spread the empire further.

The Greek Empire started out as city states - particularly famous were Athens and Sparta. Athens was a city of great riches, a great navy and a love of culture and philosophy. Sparta was a warrior culture in which children trained from early on to become soldiers. They had little patience for culture or philosophy. Athens and Sparta worked together to defeat Persia in the

Persian Wars but then fought against each other in the Peloponnesian Wars in which Sparta won. They became an empire when the Macedonian king united all the city states and Alexander the Great marched eastward to take the empire all the way to India. This diffusion of HELLENISM spread the Greek language, philosophy, government and ideas to Arab regions and along the Silk Road. When Alexander the Great died, his empire was cut into four pieces, the most famous of which was the Ptolemy Empire in Egypt. Cleopatra was one of the Ptolemy Queens and had affairs with Julius Caesar and Marc Antony of Roman Empire fame.

Roman and Han Empire

The Roman Empire developed at the tail end of the Greek Empire and continued on after Alexander's death. You will be reading a bit about the Roman and Han Empires this summer. Eventually it grew so big that it encompassed most of Europe. While the Greek empire went eastward, the Roman Empire developed westward. In about 300 c.e., Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the empire and introduced a new capital in the East called Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). The Roman Catholic religion continued to be practiced in the west and - gradually - new traditions and beliefs developed in the Eastern city of Constantinople. The Roman Empire fell in the 6th century because it became too big to defend properly, rulers became very corrupt and tribal groups such as the Huns, Visigoths and Vandals invaded weak areas. However, Constantinople continued and developed as the Byzantine Empire - The Roman East. There, Christianity continued as Eastern Orthodox Christianity and it continued to trade with the East and use Roman and Greek ideals.

The Han Empire was the 4th Dynasty of China. It came out of the Qin Dynasty which was the empire ruled by Shi Huangdi. Unlike the Qin, who favored Legalism as a belief system, the Han practiced CONFUCIANISM which advocated roles for everyone in society, the 5 relationships, FILIAL PIETY (respect for elders), PATRIARCHY and the importance of good government through an educated SCHOLAR GENTRY (government servants/advisors) and the MANDATE OF HEAVEN. Han created the modern capital of Chang'an (Xian today). Like the Roman Empire, it became too big to manage and nomadic tribes like the XIONGNU ended up weakening the empire at the borders and they lost their MANDATE OF HEAVEN. However, unlike the Romans, they were able to put the empire back together again 300 years later with the Sui Dynasty.

UNIT 3: 600 ce - 1200 *What was happening in 600 - 1100?*

Europe: Dark Ages/Middle Ages/Feudalism - the area was living in hundreds of kingdoms and were quite backwards next to Africa and Asia. The people lived in a self-sufficient FEUDAL SOCIETY behind castle walls as they were worried about the marauding tribes and criminals roaming the forests. Here they developed kings, nobles, lords, knights and serfs (peasants) who all contributed something to society. Education was almost non-existent and trade had almost completely halted. The one continuity that held them together was their belief in the CATHOLIC CHURCH and POPE. After the Byzantine Empire asked the Catholics to help them reclaim the holy land, European knights and crusaders lost to the Arabs in the CRUSADES.

However, Europeans were able to see new technology, scientific and mathematical achievements from the Chinese, Indians and Arabs in the Middle East and it made them desperate to start trading with the East. The Byzantine Empire continued to be powerful in the East and even helped spread Eastern Orthodox Christianity to Russia.

Middle East: Islam was born when Allah appeared to the merchant traveler Mohammad and then spread in an Empire across the Middle East, North Africa and into Spain as the ABBASID CALIPHATE. The Abbasid was very powerful and was able to spread the religion without too much bloodshed as Islam proved to be a tolerant religion as it allowed other monotheistic religions to thrive in the areas they controlled. However, many people converted as it was easy to convert to and non-Muslims often had to pay a JIZYA (non-believer tax as they couldn't fight in an Islamic army).

China: The Sui Dynasty built the Grand Canal through CORVEE labor which helped spread food to both the north and south and doubled the population. They lost their Mandate to the TANG Dynasty which developed and helped spread gunpowder, paper and the compass. This was a golden age for China and they became very rich through trade on the SILK ROAD and the INDIAN OCEAN. The Tang also embraced Buddhism which angered the Confucian Scholar Gentry and they badmouthed the Buddhist monks and advisors until the Tang adopted Confucianism again (this time called Neo-Confucianism with a bit more spirituality). The Tang were replaced by the SONG DYNASTY which re-started the CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION and made China richer and even more populated with new food and new technology. They also forced the Chinese back into strong patriarchy with FOOT-BINDING.

India: The Indian region was one of the first areas of civilization in 8000 BCE and developed incredible monumental architecture as well as religious and cultural artifacts and art. Islam came into India in a surprisingly violent way since it was generally a very peaceful religion. The Islamic DELHI SULTANATE viewed the many gods and images of gods as disrespectful and destroyed Hindu temples and killed thousands of Hindu's as they took control of the region. This caused extreme tension between the majority Hindu population (about 75%) and the minority MUSLIM population (10%) which lasted right into the 20th century.

Africa: Africa was the place where humans began and some of the greatest civilizations of all time came from Africa. Large scale African culture was spread by the BANTU civilization who spread agricultural techniques, iron-making skills as well as culture and language across the continent. Africa was well-known for tribal empires that sold gold and salt across the Sahara. One of the earliest of these empires was Ghana. Christianity spread to Ethiopia (AXUM) and they adopted the religion and kept it throughout their history - even while most of the other nations were adopting Islam. Large trading cities grew up along the Indian Ocean East Coast including Kilwa, Mogadishu and the Great Zimbabwe. Traders came across the Indian Ocean on monsoons and stayed for years as they married local women, adopted local customs, spread Islam and diffused ideas from their own regions throughout Africa.