## Period 2

### Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 B.C.E. to c. 600 C.E.

**Key Concept 2.1.** The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

As states and empires increased in size and contacts between regions multiplied, religious and cultural systems were transformed. Religions and belief systems provided a bond among the people and an ethical code to live by. These shared beliefs also influenced and reinforced political, economic, and occupational stratification. Religious and political authority often merged as rulers (some of whom were considered divine) used religion, along with military and legal structures, to justify their rule and ensure its continuation. Religions and belief systems could also generate conflict, partly because beliefs and practices varied greatly within and among societies.

I.   **Codifications and further developments of existing religious traditions provided a bond among the people and an ethical code to live by.**

A.   The association of monotheism with Judaism was further developed with the codification of the Hebrew Scriptures, which also reflected the influence of Mesopotamian cultural and legal traditions. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Roman empires conquered various Jewish states at different points in time. These conquests contributed to the growth of Jewish diasporic communities around the Mediterranean and Middle East.

B.   The core beliefs outlined in the Sanskrit scriptures formed the basis of the Vedic religions — later known as Hinduism — which contributed to the development of the social and political roles of a caste system and in the importance of multiple manifestations of Brahma to promote teachings about reincarnation.

## II. New belief systems and cultural traditions emerged and spread, often asserting universal truths.

A. The core beliefs about desire, suffering, and the search for enlightenment preached by the historic Buddha and recorded by his followers into sutras and other scriptures were, in part, a reaction to the Vedic beliefs and rituals dominant in South Asia. Buddhism changed over time as it spread throughout Asia — first through the support of the Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, and then through the efforts of missionaries and merchants, and the establishment of educational institutions to promote its core teachings.

B. Confucianism's core beliefs and writings originated in the writings and lessons of Confucius and were elaborated by key disciples who sought to promote social harmony by outlining proper rituals and social relationships for all people in China, including the rulers.

C. In the major Daoist writings, the core belief of balance between humans and nature assumed that the Chinese political system would be altered indirectly. *Daoism also influenced the development of Chinese culture.*

Teach one illustrative example of the *influence of Daoism on the development of Chinese culture*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:
- Medical theories and practices
- Poetry
- Metallurgy
- Architecture

D. Christianity, based on core beliefs about the teachings and divinity of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded by his disciples, drew on Judaism, and initially rejected Roman and Hellenistic influences. Despite initial Roman imperial hostility, Christianity spread through the efforts of missionaries and merchants through many parts of Afro-Eurasia, and eventually gained Roman imperial support by the time of Emperor Constantine.

E. The core ideas in Greco-Roman philosophy and science emphasized logic, empirical observation, and the nature of political power and hierarchy.

III. Belief systems affected gender roles. Buddhism and Christianity encouraged monastic life and Confucianism emphasized filial piety.

IV. Other religious and cultural traditions continued parallel to the codified, written belief systems in core civilizations.

A. Shamanism and animism continued to shape the lives of people within and outside of core civilizations because of their daily reliance on the natural world.

Teach one illustrative example of *regions where ancestor veneration persisted*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Africa
- The Mediterranean region
- East Asia
- The Andean areas

B. *Ancestor veneration persisted in many regions.*

V. Artistic expressions, including literature and drama, architecture, and sculpture, show distinctive cultural developments.

Teach one illustrative example of *literature and drama*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Greek plays
- Indian epics

A. *Literature and drama* acquired distinctive forms that influenced artistic developments in neighboring regions and in later time periods.

Teach one illustrative example of *regions where distinctive architectural styles developed*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- India
- Greece
- The Roman Empire
- Mesoamerica

B. *Distinctive architectural styles developed* in many regions in this period.

C.  The convergence of Greco-Roman culture and Buddhist beliefs affected the development of unique sculptural developments.

## Key Concept 2.2. The Development of States and Empires

As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, these empires became victims of their own successes. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they overexploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessive wealth to be concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.

I.  **The number and size of *key states and empires* grew dramatically by imposing political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states.**

Required examples of *key states and empires* (Student should know the location and names):

- Southwest Asia: *Persian Empires*

- East Asia: Qin and Han Empire

- South Asia: Maurya and Gupta Empires

- Mediterranean region: Phoenicia and its colonies, Greek city-states and colonies, and Hellenistic and Roman Empires

- Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan, Maya city-states

- Andean South America: Moche

Teach one illustrative example of *Persian Empires*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Achaemenid
- Parthian
- Sassanid

**II. Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.**

A. In order to organize their subjects, the rulers created *administrative institutions in many regions*.

Required examples of *administrative institutions*:

- Centralized governments

- Elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies

Teach one illustrative example of *regions where rulers created administrative institutions*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- China
- Persia
- Rome
- South Asia

B. Imperial governments projected military power over larger areas *using a variety of techniques*.

Required examples of *such techniques*:

- Diplomacy

- Developing supply lines

- Building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads

- Drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the local populations or conquered peoples

C. Much of the success of the empires rested on their promotion of trade and economic integration by building and maintaining roads and issuing currencies.

## III. Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.

A.   *Cities* served as centers of trade, public performance of religious rituals, and political administration for states and empires.

Teach one illustrative example of **cities**, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Persepolis
- Chang'an
- Pataliputra
- Athens
- Carthage
- Rome
- Alexandria
- Constantinople
- Teotihuacan

B.   The social structures of empires displayed hierarchies that included cultivators, laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites, or caste groups.

C.   Imperial societies relied on a *range of methods* to maintain the production of food and provide rewards for the loyalty of the elites.

Teach one illustrative example of **such methods**, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Corvée
- Slavery
- Rents and tributes
- Peasant communities
- Family and household production

D.   Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies of this period.

IV.   The Roman, Han, Persian, Mauryan, and Gupta empires created
political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could
not manage, which eventually led to their decline, collapse, and
transformation into successor empires or states.

Teach one illustrative
example of *environmental
damage*, either from the list
below or an example of your
choice:

- Deforestation
- Desertification
- Soil erosion
- Silted rivers

A.   Through excessive mobilization of resources, imperial governments
caused *environmental damage* and generated social tensions and economic
difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

Teach one illustrative
example of *external
problems along frontiers*,
either from the list below or
an example of your choice:

- Between Han China
  and the Xiongnu
- Between the Gupta and
  the White Huns
- Between the Romans
  and their northern and
  eastern neighbors.

B.   *External problems* resulted from security issues *along their frontiers*,
including the threat of invasions.

## Key Concept 2.3. Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

With the organization of large-scale empires, the volume of long-distance
trade increased dramatically. Much of this trade resulted from the demand
for raw materials and luxury goods. Land and water routes linked many
regions of the Eastern Hemisphere. The exchange of people, technology,
religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals, and
disease pathogens developed alongside the trade in goods across far-flung
networks of communication and exchange. In the Americas and Oceania
localized networks developed.

I. **Land and water routes became the basis for transregional trade, communication, and exchange networks in the Eastern Hemisphere.**

A. Many factors, including the climate and location of the routes, the typical trade goods, and the ethnicity of people involved, shaped the distinctive features of a *variety of trade routes*.

Required examples of ***trade routes***:

- Eurasian Silk Roads

- Trans-Saharan caravan routes

- Indian Ocean sea lanes

- Mediterranean sea lanes

II. **New technologies facilitated long-distance communication and exchange.**

A. *New technologies* permitted the use of *domesticated pack animals* to transport goods across longer routes.

Teach one illustrative example of ***new technologies***, either from the list below or an example of your choice:
- Yokes
- Saddles
- Stirrups

Teach one illustrative example of ***domesticated pack animals***, either from the list below or an example of your choice:
- Horses
- Oxen
- Llamas
- Camels

*Key Concept 2.3.I-II.*

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Teach one illustrative
example of *innovations
in maritime technologies*,
either from the list below or
an example of your choice:

- Lateen sail
- Dhow ships

B.  *Innovations in maritime technologies*, as well as advanced knowledge
of the monsoon winds, stimulated exchanges along maritime routes from
East Africa to East Asia.

III.  Alongside the trade in goods, the exchange of people, technology,
religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals,
and disease pathogens developed across far-flung networks of
communication and exchange.

Teach one illustrative
example of *changes in
farming and irrigation
techniques*, either the one
below or an example of your
choice:

- The *qanat* system

A.  The spread of crops, including rice and cotton from South Asia to the
Middle East, encouraged *changes in farming and irrigation techniques*.

Teach one illustrative
example of *the effects of
the spread of disease on
empires*, either from the list
below or an example of your
choice:

- The effects of disease on
  the Roman Empire
- The effects of disease on
  Chinese empires

B.  The *spread of disease pathogens* diminished urban populations and
contributed to the decline of some *empires*.

C.  *Religious and cultural traditions* were transformed as they spread.

Required examples of *transformed religious and cultural traditions*:

- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Buddhism