

SUMMARY

Expansion and Integration

Common themes for the classical civilization involve territorial expansion and related efforts to integrate the new territories. Integration included a mixture of central political values and institutions, common cultures and social values, and commercial links.

Beyond the Classical Civilization

Outside the centers of civilization important developments occurred. Significant civilizations operated in the Americas and also in Africa outside the immediate classical orbit. Agriculture and other developments spread across northern Europe and northern Asia, where semi-civilized peoples developed extensive contacts with older civilizations. Nomadic societies played a vital role, particularly in Central Asia, in linking and occasionally disrupting classical civilizations. Important popular migrations in across Eurasia led to the rise of new cultures.

Decline in China and India; Decline and Fall in Rome

A combination of internal weakness and nomadic invasions led to important changes, first in China, and then in India. Decline in Rome was particularly complex. Its causes have been much debated. Developments varied between the eastern and western portions of the Empire, as the Mediterranean world fell apart.

The New Religious Map

The period of classical decline saw the rapid expansion of Buddhism and Christianity. This religious change had wider cultural, social, and political implications. Later, both Islam arose, and spread, following the previous spread of Hinduism across South and Southeast Asia.

Conclusion: The World around 500 C.E.

Developments around 500 C.E. produced three major themes for world history in subsequent periods. First, there was a collapse of classical civilizations. Societies across Eurasia faced the task of reviving or reworking their key institutions and values after decline and invasion. Second, as new religions arose and older ones spread. These would form the basis of future civilizations. Finally, new developments across the globe, whether through indigenous developments or contacts with older centers led to the rise of new civilizations.

VOCABULARY - Define these terms:

1. Kush

2. Axum

3. Ghana

4. Silk routes

5. Shinto

6. Olmecs

7. Huns

8. Rajputs

9. Parthians

10. Sassanids

11. Syncretism

12. Bodhisattvas

13. Mahayana Buddhism

14. Messiah

15. Christ

16. Pope

17. Trinity

18. Monasticism

Comprehension Questions: - Answer these items in 4 or 5 complete sentences:

- 1. What issues and values did classical civilizations stress?**
- 2. Describe the spread of sedentary agriculture outside the older civilized areas.**
- 3. Describe the rise of civilization in the Americas or the spread of civilization to peripheral regions in Africa and Asia.**
- 4. What influences did civilizations have on peoples living near their borders?**
- 5. What roles did pastoral nomads play in world history and commerce?**
- 6. Describe the reasons for the decline and fall of classical civilizations?**
- 7. How were the collapses of classical empires similar and different?**
- 8. How did migrations and nomads threaten classic empires and civilizations?**
- 9. How and why did new religions develop and spread?**
- 10. What classical traditions and institutions survived despite the fall of states?**

MAP EXERCISES

Map : *Main African-Eurasian Trade Routes in the Classical Age*

1. In what ways were land routes affected by geography (Use the map of physical geography at the front of your book)?
2. Why might the camel be the preferred beast of burden along these routes?

Using locations on the map, identify the route of the Great Silk Road.

Map: *Civilizations of Central and South America*

3. Match each civilization with a description of its physical environment and its relative location.

Toltec:

Aztec:

Olmec:

Mayan:

Inca:

The intermediate zone:

4. What elements of geography would have hindered movement and connections between the various civilizations?

Map: *Germanic Kingdoms after the Invasions*

Map: *The Mediterranean, Middle East, Europe, and North Africa*

5. What geographic features protected the Byzantine (East Roman) Empire from barbarian invasions?
6. Based on where the Germanic tribes settled, identify the modern states they inhabit (Use the political map at the end of the book).

Angles, Saxons:

Franks, Burgundians:

Visigoths, Suevi:

Ostrogoths:

Vandals:

VISUALIZING THE PAST: *Religious Geography* - Answer these items in 4 or 5 sentences.

1. Where are the great religions geographically concentrated today?

2. Which religions affect the greatest number of states?

3. Which religions have the greatest populations?

4. How do religious locations today differ from locations during the Classical Era?

5. What might account for the location of religions today?

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: Use a pencil and underline the correct response.

1. Historically, pastoral nomads
 - lived interspersed with sedentary farmers.
 - were rare in Africa and the Americas but common in Central Asia.
 - lived on the continental plains, where sedentary agriculture was difficult.
 - prevented contacts between the civilized centers of the world.
 - had little lasting impact on the development of civilizations.

2. Nomadic peoples
 - disrupted the transcontinental trade routes such as the Silk Road.
 - were the greatest threats faced by classical empires.
 - had few, if any, prolonged contacts with sedentary peoples.
 - have been agents of contact across the distances between sedentary peoples.
 - had little on the spread and development of newer technologies.

3. All of these typified contacts between sedentary and nomadic peoples EXCEPT:
 - trade.
 - acceptance of each other and each other's ways of life.
 - tribute payments by weak sedentary societies to strong nomadic groups.
 - nomads served as mercenaries to some societies.
 - raids and warfare between both groups.

4. In that the Americas were isolated, the development of civilization involved
 - convergent development.
 - contact and exchange.
 - diffusion.
 - connections.
 - independent invention.

5. The two American cultural hearths of civilizations included Central Mexico and the
 - Mississippi area.
 - Yucatan Peninsula.
 - American Southwest (Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah).

**Andean river valleys and plateaus of Ecuador and Peru.
Rio Plata and Parana river systems of Argentina.**

- 6. The core or mother civilization for other civilizations in Mesoamerica was the**
 - Olmecs.**
 - Toltecs.**
 - Aztecs.**
 - Mayas.**
 - Chavin peoples.**

- 7. In Axum, trade and contacts**
 - insulated the culture from African influences.**
 - led to the kingdom's conversion to Christianity.**
 - brought the state in contact with Bantu peoples.**
 - led to its conquest by Arabs.**
 - introduced Buddhism and Hinduism from India.**

- 8. Ghana rose to prominence on the savannas**
 - after Bantu peoples migrated to the area.**
 - as a result of contacts with the Greco-Roman culture on the Mediterranean.**
 - by monopolizing control of the agricultural lands, pastures, and water.**
 - through its control of trans-Saharan trade, and regulation of salt and gold.**
 - after its conversion to Islam.**

- 9. Early historic Japanese culture**
 - borrowed slavishly from the Chinese and Koreans.**
 - was the product of migrations and constant contacts with other peoples.**
 - remained indigenous.**
 - developed about the same time as Shang China.**
 - was a blend in which the Japanese controlled the process of borrowing.**

- 10. Shinto**
 - is an extremely developed form of animistic nature worship.**
 - arrived in Japan with the first official embassy from China.**
 - is a branch of Buddhism.**
 - is a warrior's religion and glorifies the military way of life.**
 - was pivotal in the transmission of Chinese culture to Japan.**

- 11. All of these must occur for a new period in world history to begin EXCEPT:**
 - nomadic peoples must overrun sedentary civilizations.**
 - the world map must change significantly.**
 - new types of contacts between civilized regions must develop.**
 - new patterns and parallel institutional developments will occur.**
 - new technologies may arise.**

- 12. At the end of the Classical Age**
 - belief systems failed to survive the collapse of classical civilizations.**
 - only the Mediterranean Greco-Roman civilization experienced upheavals.**
 - the Huns (Hsiung-Nu) destroyed all great Eurasian classical civilizations.**
 - there was a religious upsurge as a result of social and economic problems.**
 - trade ceased to be important.**

- 13. As the Han Empire collapsed**
 - Daoists established political control of the various Chinese states.**

nomads swept into China replacing the Han with a “barbarian” dynasty.
landowners and warlords dominated the successor governments.
Christianity was introduced to China and began to spread.
internal warfare subsided.

14. In the 5th century C.E., Buddhism spread to China
arriving with nomads from central Asia.
but had little success converting the superstitious peasants.
and was readily accepted by the ruling elites.
which became the center of the Buddhist world.
where the Chinese imposed some of their own cultural values on the religion.
15. In India during the period after the Guptan collapse,
Buddhism reasserted its influence, replacing Hinduism.
the caste system lost its influence.
Hinduism maintained cultural cohesion when the central state collapsed.
invaders rarely assimilated into Hindu culture.
trade and commercial activities collapsed.
16. In comparison to the end of classical civilizations in China and India, the collapse of the Roman Empire was
milder and the recovery which followed was quicker.
more severe and extensive than elsewhere.
largely due to internal political, economic, and social decay.
caused exclusively by Germanic and Hunnic invasions.
credited with destroying institutions associated with the Christian Church.
17. Christianity differed from classic Mediterranean culture in all of these ways EXCEPT:
offering salvation to the poor and slaves.
adapting classical Roman governmental institutions to organize the Church.
emphasizing eternal salvation instead of the pursuits of the secular world.
granting equal importance to the souls of men and women.
providing a common culture to unify all classes.
18. All of these contributed to the decline and fall of Rome EXCEPT:
the spread of Christianity.
nomadic invasions.
the collapse of effective government.
plagues which decimated populations.
economic disruptions.
19. The fall of the Roman Empire
left behind a common culture unifying the Mediterranean basin.
left the Persian Empire in control of the eastern Mediterranean.
divided Christianity into Catholic and Orthodox (Greek) sects.
had little effect on artistic and cultural traditions.
divided the Mediterranean into three different cultural zones.
20. Mahayana Buddhism
spread to India and Sri Lanka from China.
emphasizes the original teachings of Buddha.
made little impact on China.
sees Buddha as a savior or god, and stresses the possibility of an afterlife.
found converts only within the elite Chinese scholar-bureaucrats and nobles.

ESSAY QUESTIONS (You will write on one of these, see me.)

Compare and contrast the role of trade in the development and spread of cultures and civilizations in Africa.

How did cultures and civilizations change over time as they spread?

Compare and contrast the Olmec and pre-Inca Indian civilizations and one of the river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, or India.

Compare and contrast the collapses of the Roman Empire and Han China.

How did Buddhism change (over time) as it spread from India to China?

Compare and contrast the roles any two religious cultures played in mitigating the collapse of classical civilizations.

Compare and contrast social classes, social inequality, and gender relations in any two classical religions.

Compare and contrast Hinduism and Buddhism; Hinduism and Confucianism; Hinduism and Christianity; or Buddhism and Christianity.

Compare and contrast Hinduism's caste system with the Confucian social hierarchy.