Foundations of AP World History: Modern

Dates: 8000 BCE – 1200 CE

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2019-2020 School Year
Key Concept 1.1: Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth

The term Big Geography draws attention to the global nature of world history. Throughout the Paleolithic period, humans migrated from Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas. Early humans were mobile and creative in adapting to different geographical settings from savanna to desert to tundra. Humans also developed varied and sophisticated technologies.

Key Concept 1.1 -- Throughout the Paleolithic era, humans developed sophisticated technologies and adapted to different geographical environments as they migrated from Africa to Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas.

I. Archaeological evidence indicates that during the Paleolithic era, hunting-forager bands of humans gradually migrated from their origin in East Africa to Eurasia, Australia and the Americas, adapting their technology and cultures to new climate regions.
   a. Humans developed increasingly diverse and sophisticated tools—including multiple uses of fire—as they adapted to new environments.
   b. People lived in small groups that structured social, economic, and political activity. These bands exchanged people, ideas, and goods.
For 95% our existence, humans have gone without farming. The means of life was gathering and hunting – not agriculture.

• Food collection, not food production
• This period was known as the **Paleolithic**, or “old stone age” era – approximately 2.6 mya to 10,000 BP – also includes pre-human hominids such as *Australopithecus, Homo habilis, Homo erectus*, and *Homo sapiens*
Homo Erectus & then Homo Sapiens first migrated from Africa.

Evidence: Human genome sequences from Ethiopians & Africans
Migration was S L O W -- VERY SLOW. Only 2-3 miles per generation.
They did not take a bike, car, train, or plane. This was on foot, or by small canoe or raft.
“But the most striking and significant change in the lives of Paleolithic peoples occurred as the last Ice Age came to an end between 16,000 and 10,000 years ago. What followed was a general global warming..."
First Farmers: The Revolutions of Agriculture, 10,000 BCE – 3,000 BCE | Strayer Chapter 2
I. The Neolithic Revolution led to the development of more complex economic and social systems.
   a. Possibly as a response to climatic change, permanent agricultural villages emerged first in the lands of the eastern Mediterranean. Agriculture emerged independently in Mesopotamia, the Nile River Valley, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Indus River Valley, the Yellow River (or Huang He) Valley, Papua New Guinea, Mesoamerica, and the Andes.

Key Concept 1.2 -- Beginning about 10,000 years ago, some human communities adopted sedentism and agriculture, while others pursued hunter-forager or pastoralist lifestyles—different pathways that had significant social and demographic ramifications.
The Neolithic Revolution led to the development of more complex economic and social systems.

b. People in each region domesticated locally available plants and animals
   - wheat, rice, corn are the stars of the show
   - Animals depended on region – Americas: no large domesticated animals minus the llama! (remember this)

c. Pastoralism developed in Afro–Eurasian grasslands, affecting the environment in a variety of ways.
   - Pastoralism led to overgrazing, overgrazing led to soil erosion
   - For this reason, many pastoral groups were nomadic

d. Agricultural communities had to work cooperatively to clear land and create the water control systems needed for crop production, drastically affecting environmental diversity.
   - Agriculture = less crop diversity, less varied diets
   - Agriculture required water control, which required environmental change for irrigation canals, dams, and food distribution (roads/canals)
Agricultural Revolution - Neolithic Age

Dramatic change, **allows humans to forgo nomadic lifestyle**. 1st occurs in **Middle East**.

Selection of high yield grains by women, like barley, wheat & lentils improves living conditions. **Allows populations to increase.**

**Agriculture**: 2nd great human process - After settlement of the globe.

**An “intensification” of living**: Getting more food & resources from much less land.

**More food led to more people, more people led to greater need for intensive exploitation.**
Agriculture is a recent development in world history. An adaptation to the unique conditions of the latest interglacial period has radically transformed human life & life on the planet. One species, *Homo sapiens*, was given growing power over other animals & plants.

Agriculture also gave some people the power to dominate others.

*It’s really all about the Aggies & Longhorns*, isn’t it?

**Agricultural Revolution =**

Domestication of Animals/Livestock (*Longhorns!*) + Systematic Agricultural (*Aggies!*).
II. Agriculture and pastoralism began to transform human societies
   a. Pastoralism and agriculture led to more reliable and abundant food supplies, which increased the population and led to specialization of labor, including new classes of artisans and warriors and the development of elites.
   b. Technological innovations led to improvements in agricultural production, trade, and transportation.
      • Pottery
      • Wheels/wheeled vehicles
   c. Patriarchal forms of social organization developed in both pastoralist and agrarian societies.
Pastoral Society: Human societies that rely on domesticated animals rather than plants as the main source of food; pastoral nomads lead their animals to seasonal grazing grounds rather than settling permanently in a single location. KC 1.2.I.B.

Because it is more difficult for them to develop, they tend to be poorer – most civilizations we cover will be agricultural except for...
Key Concept 1.3 -- The appearance of the first urban societies 5,000 years ago laid the foundation for the development of complex civilizations; these civilizations shared several significant social, political, and economic characteristics.

I. Core and foundational civilizations developed in a variety of geographical and environmental settings where agriculture flourished:
Emergence of the First Civilizations was a global phenomenon that happened independently in 6 major locations around the world and in a number of smaller expressions as well.

Mesopotamia, 4th Century BCE

• Located: modern Iraq
• Natural spring floods could be violent & unpredictable
• People had a feeling of instability & reliance upon religion (worship of many Gods)
• Irrigation gave some control to the people, but the water was tamed through very hard work

City-state: A small ind. state consisting of an urban center and surrounding ag. territory. A characteristic form in early Mes.

Development of Cuneiform led to the “historic period.” Mesopotamia left a written record.
Egypt = “Gift of the Nile”: 3150 BCE

• Protected by marshy, swampy port & deserts to the east and west. Banks of the river support lush vegetation.
• Nile is one of the world’s longest rivers. Would flood in a predictable & seasonal pattern.
• Because of this usually orderly flooding, most Egyptians viewed the world as a stable place (unlike Mesopotamia, where flooding was often deadly).
Two major cities: Harappa & Mohenjo-daro, date back to 3300 BC.

- Represent some of the largest human habitations of the ancient world.
- Extended from across Pakistan & NW India, with an upward reach from east of Jhelum River to Ropar on the upper Sutlej. The coastal settlements extended from Sutkagan Dor at the Pakistan, Iran border to Kutch in modern Gujarat, India.

Seals prove evidence of trading with Mesopotamia.

Indus Valley Civilization Writing system never fully deciphered.

Commonly referred to as "Mohenjo-Daro Man" this is an Indus Priest/King Statue. Statue: 17.5 cm high & carved from steatite a.k.a. soapstone. It was found in Mohenjo-daro, 1927. On display in the National Museum, Karachi, Pakistan.
Huang He (Yellow River) Civilization (China)

**Shang** had a fully developed system of writing, preserved on bronze inscriptions & a small number of other writings on pottery, jade & other stones, horn, etc., but most prolifically on **oracle bones**.

The complexity & sophistication of this writing system indicates earlier period of dev, but direct evidence of that development is still lacking.

**Zhou** was a later dynasty which developed a ruling system known as the **mandate of heaven** – an important concept we will see throughout our class.

YES you need to remember the main Chinese dynasties, but don’t worry about it now – a song will help us!
虎 Hǔ
Zhou-era poem:
The Mandate of Heaven,
How beautiful and unceasing!
Oh, how glorious
Was the purity of King Wen's virtue!
With blessings he overwhelms us.
We will receive the blessings.
They are a great favor from our King Wen.
May his descendants hold fast to them.
The Olmec of Mesoamerica (1200-400 BCE)

- Erected enormous human heads, more than 10 ft tall & weighing at least 20 tons, carved from blocks of basalt & probably representing particular rulers.
- Somewhat later the **Maya Temple of the Giant Jaguar**, towering 154 feet tall, was the most impressive among many temples, pyramids, and palaces that graced the city of **Tikal**.

Olmec Heads:
- Colossal statue: some 6 ft high & 5 ft wide,
- One of 17
- Thought to represent individual rulers, each of the statues has a distinct and realistically portrayed face.
Norte Chico civilization: complex pre-Columbian society that included as many as 30 major population centers in what is now the Norte Chico region of north-central coastal Peru.

Oldest known civilization in the Americas & one of the 6 sites where civ. separately originated in ancient world.

Flourished between 30th century BC & 18th century BC.

Not until the late 1990s that Peruvian archaeologists provided the first extensive documentation of the civ with work at Caral.

Chavín culture, circa 900 BC, had long been considered the 1st civ of the area. It is still regularly cited as such in general works.
II. The first states emerged within core civilizations.

• A. States were powerful new systems of rule that mobilized surplus labor and resources over large areas. Rulers of early states often claimed divine connections to power. Rulers also relied on the support of military, religious, or aristocratic elites.

• Often a “marker” of a civilization along with urbanization.
What were the sources of state authority in the First Civilizations?

- Complexity of life in cities required authority to coordinate & regulate community enterprises
  - (defense & irrigation)
- State authorities frequently used force to compel obedience.
- Authority in early civilizations associated with divine sanction
  - (Mandate of Heaven)
- Writing & accounting augmented state authority. Elite status = literate.
- Grandeur in the form of lavish lifestyles of elites, impressive rituals, & the building of imposing structures added to the perception of state authority & power.
II. The First States: Access to Resources

B. As states grew and competed for land and resources, the more favorably situated had greater access to resources, produced more surplus food, and experienced growing populations, enabling them to undertake territorial expansion and conquer surrounding states.

It is always important to remember that the earth’s resources are not distributed equally—an example of an important early resource is iron. Iron was stronger and more resilient than bronze, another metal which was used after stone.

An empire known for the use of iron was the Hittite empire, which flourished around 1600 BCE – 1178 BCE. They came into conflict with surrounding states such as the Egyptian empire.
II. The First States – *role of pastoralists*

- C. Pastoralists were often the developers and disseminators of new weapons and modes of transportation that transformed warfare in agrarian civilizations.
III. Culture played a significant role in unifying states through laws, language, literature, religion, myths, and monumental art.

- A. Early civilizations developed *monumental architecture* and *urban planning*.

- Monumental architecture in Mesopotamia: ziggurats, what about Egypt?
  - Monumental architecture was often built to establish the legitimacy and to portray the glorification of the ruler
  - Went right along divine right of kings/mandate of heaven!

- Urban planning: Mohenjo-Daro
  - Hand in hand with *urbanization*
III. Culture

• C. States developed legal codes that reflected existing hierarchies and facilitated the rule of government over people.

• Example: *The Code of Hammurabi*
  
  • Babylonian document with 282 laws
What accounts for the initial breakthroughs to civilization?

1. Civilizations had their roots in the Agricultural Revolution, which allowed communities to produce sufficient food surpluses to support large populations & the specialized or elite
2. Need to organize for large-scale irrigation projects
3. The efforts of favored groups to protect their privileges
4. The needs of warfare
5. And the influence of trade
6. The growing density of population, producing more congested and competitive societies, was a fundamental motor of change, especially where rich agricultural land was limited either by geography or by powerful competing societies.
1. Innovations, such as irrigation or plows that could produce more food, because opportunities for territorial expansion were not readily available.

2. These same environments generated intense competition among rival groups that led to repeated warfare. A strong and highly organized state was a decided advantage in such competition.

3. Since losers could not easily flee to new lands, they were absorbed into the winner’s society as a lower class.

4. Successful leaders of the winning side emerged as an elite with an enlarged base of land, a class of subordinated workers, and a powerful state at their disposal.

What accounts for the initial breakthroughs to civilization?