Foundations of AP World History: Modern

Dates: 8000 BCE – 1200 CE

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2019-2020 School Year
Foundations: Classical Empires

Classical Period (600 BCE - 600 CE)

Major Cities: Teotihuacan, Carthage, Rome, Athens, Alexandria, Constantinople, Perspolis, Pataliputra, Chang’an

Major Empires: Maya (Republic & Empire), Rome, Greek City States (Athens, Sparta, etc.), Phoenicia, Persia (Achaemenid, Parthian, Sassanid), India (Mauryan, Guptan), China (Qin, Han)

Major Invasions: Northern & Eastern Europe to Rome, White Huns into India, Xiongnu into Han China
I. The number and size of key states and empires grew dramatically as rulers imposed political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states.

   A. Key states and empires that grew included:
      - Southwest Asia: Persian empires
      - East Asia: Qin and Han empires
      - South Asia: Mauryan 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
      - North America: Chaco and Cahokia

   **Note: Students should know the location and names of the key empires/states**

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, in many regions imperial rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments, as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies.

   B. Imperial governments promoted trade and projected military power over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including issuing currencies; diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers from the location populations or conquered populations.

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

   A. Through excessive mobilization of resources, erosion of established political institutions, and economic changes, imperial governments generated social tensions and created economic difficulties by concentrating too much wealth in the hands of elites.

   B. Security issues along their frontiers, including the threat of invasions, challenged imperial authority.
2.2.1: The number and size of *key states and empires* grew dramatically by imposing political unity on areas where previously there had been competing states. Key States and Empires include:

- Southwest Asia: Persian empires
- East Asia: Qin and Han empires
- South Asia: Mauryan 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
- North America: from Chaco to Cahokia

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES, PERSIAN EMPIRES:**
- Achaemenid
- Parthian
- Sassanian

Strayer:
- The Earliest Empires were developed in the era of First Civilizations (Pd. 1)
  - Akkadian Empire
  - Babylonian Empire
  - Assyrian Empire
  - Egyptian Empire (diff. forms/variations)
- Empires have been central to world history for 4,000 years (Sumer and Egypt to present day)

*NOTE: Students should know the location and names of the key empires and states.*
What is an Empire?

• Simple answer: political systems with coercive power

• More typical: larger, more aggressive states
  • Conquer other states
  • Use their resources
  • Usually include multiple peoples and cultures under a single political system

• Common problems:
  • Would they seek to impose the culture of the imperial heartland on their varied subjects?
  • Would they rule conquered people directly or through established local authorities?
  • How could they extract the wealth of empire in the form of taxes, tribute, and labor while maintaining order in conquered territories?
  • All collapse.

• No clear line between empires and small multiethnic states.
2.2.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, in many regions the rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies.

Illustrative example: Persia (ca. 550 BCE – 661 CE)
A. In order to organize their subjects, in many regions the rulers created administrative institutions, including centralized governments as well as elaborate legal systems and bureaucracies.

Under the rule of Cyrus (reigned 557-530 BCE and Darius (r. 522-486 BCE), Persian conquests covered an immense amount of land from Egypt to India.

How does a king govern such a large amount of land? New systems had to be put into place for administration (2.2.1.A):

- Persian governors, or satraps were placed in each of the empire’s 23 provinces.
- Lower-level officials drawn from local authorities. Persian king: “King of Kings”
- Imperial spies watched and listened for the king
- Tolerance of conquered peoples (religion/culture) meant they would be easier to govern.
- Building of infrastructure: Royal Road, coinage, taxes, canals (Nile-Red Sea), qanats
2.2.II: Empires and states developed new techniques of imperial administration, based, in part, on the success of earlier political forms.

B. Imperial governments **promoted trade** and **projected military power** over larger areas using a variety of techniques, including **issuing currencies; diplomacy; developing supply lines; building fortifications, defensive walls, and roads; and drawing new groups of military officers and soldiers** from the **local populations or conquered populations**.
Greeks:

- 100s of independent city-states (500 and 5,000 male citizens)
- Not an empire but *did expand* through the establishment of colonies around the Mediterranean and Black seas.
- Popular participation in political life that occurred within the city-states. This participation was based on the unique ideas of “citizenship,” of free people running the affairs of state, and of equality for all citizens before the law.
- Athenian democracy was direct rather than representative. Even at its height, it was far from universal, with well over half the population, including women, slaves, and foreigners, excluded from participation.

Persian Empire:

- *Imperial political system* that comprised of Mesopotamian polities, including the Babylonian and Assyrian empires.
- *Far larger* than its predecessors, stretching from Egypt to India, and ruled over some 35 million subjects.
- *Featured an elaborate cult of kingship* in which the emperor was secluded in royal magnificence and was approachable only through an elaborate ritual.
- *Absolute ruler possessed a divine right to rule* by the will of the Persian god Ahura Mazda - Zoroastrianism.
- *Effective administrative system* that placed Persian governors, *satraps*, in each of twenty-three provinces, while lower-level officials were drawn from local authorities. This system was monitored by imperial spies.
- *Policy of respect for the empire’s non-Persian cultural traditions.*
Collision: The Greco-Persian Wars

- Point of collision: Ionia (Greek settlements on Anatolian seacoast)
  - Anatolia = modern day Turkey
  - In 499 BCE, some Ionian Greeks revolted against Persia
    - Supported by Athens
  - Persia responds with expeditions against Greeks in 490 and 480 BCE
    - Greek astonishingly defeat Persians at land and sea
    - Greeks win Battle of Marathon (490 BCE)
      - Phedippides’ “famous run”
    - Battle of Thermopylae (480 BCE)
Collision: The Greco-Persian Wars

Failure of the Persian invasions of Greece had very little impact on the Persian Empire.

- Greek victory confirmed their view that Greek freedoms strengthened their will to fight, while Persia came to represent despotism.
- 20th Century perception of East/West divide in which Europe (the West) represented freedom & Asia (the East) represented despotism

50 years following the Greco-Persian Wars were the high point for participation in Athenian democracy = "Golden Age of Athens"

- Parthenon built
- Greek theater was born
- Socrates was beginning his career
- Philosopher/philosophy – “to know”
Greek victory radicalized Athenian democracy resulted in bitter civil war known as the Peloponnesian War. Athens was defeated, while the Greeks weakened themselves. This infighting ultimately opened the way for Macedonia to conquer the Greek city-states.
What changes did Alexander’s conquests bring in their wake?

By 338 BCE, Philip II of Macedonia takes over Greece and unifies it – Philip’s son, Alexander, would take on a war against the Persians in order to unify Greece against a common enemy.

Over ten years during his expedition (333-323 BCE), Alexander, who was in his 20s, managed to take over Persia and loot Persepolis – a 24 year old was now “King of Asia.”

• Alexander’s conquests led to the **widespread dissemination of Greek culture** into Egypt, Mesopotamia, and India.

• The major avenue for this spread lay in the many cities established by the Greeks throughout the **Hellenistic world**.
The Roman and Chinese Empires had little direct contact but interesting similarities.

- Both flourished ca. 200 BCE – 200 CE
- Were of similar size (~1.5 million sq. mi.)
- Both had 50 to 60 million people
- Between them, they controlled nearly half the world’s population
- Interesting variations on imperial theme
How did **Rome** grow from single city to the a **huge empire**?

**Foundation for empire-building enterprise:**

The Values of the Roman republic

**Virtues:** *Duty, Courage, Discipline & Loyalty*

Rule of **law, rights** of citizens, upright **moral behavior, & keeping one’s word**, along with a **political system** that offered some protection to the lower a classes

**Victory in the Punic Wars w/ Carthage** (264–146 B.C.E.) Extended Roman control over the western Mediterranean & made Rome a naval power.

**Each addition of territory created new vulnerabilities** that drove further conquests.

So the Roman Army & specifically their weapon of choice: **The Short Sword - made it happen.**
How did Rome grow from a single city to the center of a huge empire?

• Rome’s army was a key to its success.
• Poor soldiers hoped for land, loot, or salaries.
• Well-to-do or well-connected rewarded with estates, earned promotion, & sometimes achieved public acclaim & high political office.
• Wealth & resources of the less developed W. Med.
• Rome’s central location in the Mediterranean basin made empire building easier.
• Political support in Rome for its continued expansion. This ensured that the necessary manpower & resources were committed to empire building.
How/why did making of Chinese Empire differ from that of the Roman?

- Unlike the Roman Empire (which was new), the Chinese empire represented an effort to revive an imperial tradition that already existed under the Xia, Shang, & Zhou dynasties.
- Because of the preexisting imperial tradition in China, process of creating empire was quicker, though it was no less reliant on military force & no less brutal than the centuries-long Roman effort.
- Unlike Rome’s transition from republic to empire, creation of Chinese empire had only brief & superficial domestic repercussions.
Both: absorbed foreign religious traditions, though unfolded somewhat differently. In Rome, Christianity was born as a small sect of a small province in a remote corner of the empire.

- Spread slowly for several centuries,
- mostly among poor & lower classes,
- suffering from intermittent persecution.
- 4th century C.E., it obtained state support from the emperors & thereafter spread quite rapidly, becoming dominant religious tradition throughout Europe in the centuries after fall of Rome.

Case of China, Buddhism came from India, far beyond Chinese world.

Introduced by Central Asian traders & received little support from Chinese rulers until Sui dynasty emperor Wendi (589–618 C.E.). Even then it became only 1 of several religious strands in a complex Chinese mix.
Comparing the Roman & Chinese Empires

“Almost the entire world” & “All under heaven”

**BOTH EMPIRES...**

- Invested heavily in **public works** designed to integrate their respective domains **militarily** and **commercially**.
- Invoked **supernatural sanctions to support their rule**.
- **Politically**, both empires established effective centralized control over vast regions and huge populations.
Why were centralized empires so much less prominent in India than China?

- Indian empires failed to command the kind of loyalty or exercise the degree of influence that Chinese empires did.
- India’s unparalleled cultural diversity made a centralized empire less easy to construct than in more culturally united China.
- Frequency of invasions from Central Asia in comparison to China also made centralized empire less likely, because Indian states, which otherwise might have provided the nucleus for an all-India empire, were repeatedly smashed by invaders.
- In contrast to the situation in China, India’s social structure, embodied in a caste system linked to occupational groups, made for intensely local loyalties at the expense of wider identities that might have fostered empires.

Indian Empires to Know:
- Maurya Empire (322 BCE – 187 BCE)
- Gupta Empire (320 CE – 650 CE)
- Mughal Empire (1526 – 1857)
- British Raj (1858 – 1947)
- Republic of India (1947 – Present)
Maurya Empire (322 BCE – 187 BCE)

- Maurya Empire
  - First major leader: Chandragupta; Second major leader: Ashoka
  - In 327 BCE, Alexander the Great, after conquering Greece and much of the Mid East, pushed into northwestern India, establishing the border state of Bactria – Political reactions to this invasion produced a young soldier named Chandragupta Maurya who seized power along the Ganges River.
  - 322 BCE: He began the Mauryan dynasty of rule. These were the 1st rulers to unify most of the subcontinent.
  - Chandragupta’s style of government was autocratic, relying on his military power.
  - Chandragupta’s grandson, Ashoka, was an even greater Mauryan ruler who extended Mauryan conquests, gaining control of territory through fierce fighting – we will discuss him more later!
Gupta Empire (320 CE – 650 CE)

- **Gupta Empire**
  - In 320 CE, a new line of kings, the Guptas, established a new empire.
  - The Guptas did not produce any individual rulers as influential as the 2 great Mauryan rulers, but they had perhaps greater impact on the shape of Indian civilization.
  - 2 centuries of Gupta rule gave classical India its greatest period of political stability.
  - It was ended in 535 CE by a new invasion of nomadic warriors, the Huns.
  - After the decline of the Gupta empire, north India broke into a number of separate Hindu kingdoms and was not really unified again until the coming of the Muslims in the 7th century.
The Gupta Golden Age

• Education – University at Nalanda: lecture halls, library, observatory

• Math – Discovery of zero and development of “Arabic” numerals – Decimal system; negative numbers; square roots

• Science
  • Indian scientists borrowed from Greek learning via contact with Alexander the Great’s Bactria.
  • Inoculation against smallpox; sterilization during surgery and in treatment of wounds.
  • Knowledge of plastic surgery and setting of bones.
  • Advances in astronomy (eclipses, identification of planets)
  • Circumference of the earth; theory of gravity

• Strengthening of trade, especially between E and SE Asia

• Religion – Stupas in honor of Hindu gods with courtyards, paintings, sculptures – Lavish Hindu wall paintings and carving in caves (Ajanta)

• Literature – Growth of Sanskrit as the language of the educated – Huge output of epic poems
2.2.III: Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.

We will cover this more when we get to Period 1!

The Caste System (varnas and jatis)

- **1. Brahmans:** Priests & Teachers
- **2. Kshatriyas:** Warriors and Rulers
- **3. Vaisyas:** Farmers, merchants, artisans
- **4. Sudras:** Laborers with limited rights (majority)
- **Dalit “untouchables”** : polluted labor (5%)
2.2.III: Unique social and economic dimensions developed in imperial societies in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas.

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

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.

D. Patriarchy continued to shape gender and family relations in all imperial societies of this period.
2.2.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.

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.

B. External problems resulted from security issues along their frontiers, including the threat of invasions.
   - Rome: Hunnic Empire
   - China: Xiongnu Nomads