***Classical Greece and Rome***

***Stearns, World Civilizations, pp. 76-95***

* Two strong civilizations emerge in Mediterranean region/Middle East
  + Persians
    - Begins through outside invasions that had led to Mesopotamia
    - Grows larger than Mesopotamia
    - Creates lasting political and cultural traditions still found in modern-day Iran
  + Greece
    - City-states in e. Mediterranean and s. Europe
    - Built on earlier civilizations but create strong, independent culture
    - Called others not Greeks “barbarians”
      * Thought speech sounded like “bar, bar, bar”
* Classical Mediterranean/Middle East cultures last from 800 BCE-476 CE (fall of Rome)
* Greco-Roman culture still prevalent today
  + Framing the Constitution
  + Architecture (Lincoln Memorial)
  + Education (Socratic Method)
* Greece passes to Rome (different)
  + Rome: Engineering; Greece: scientific thought
  + Rome: mighty empire; Greece: city-states unable to form empire
* Greece and Rome can be paired into a Mediterranean Civilization, as it shares many ideas that together influenced the world in the past and today

The Persian Tradition

* 550 BCE: Cyrus the Great establishes Persian Empire across northern Middle East and NW India
* Persians tolerant of local customs
  + Advance iron technology
  + Develop new religion, Zoroastrianism
* Persians defeated by Alexander the Great
* Language and culture survive in NE part of Middle East
* Separate empire, Sassanid, emerges during Roman empire in same area

Patterns of Greek and Roman History

* Greece
  + River valley civilizations of Middle East (Mesopotamia) and Africa (Egypt) spread to some islands near Greek peninsula
    - Crete shows influence of Egypt by 2000 BCE
  + Greeks were Indo-European like Aryans of India
    - Took over Greek peninsula in 1700 BCE
  + Early kingdom heavily influenced by Crete takes over southern Greek peninsula in 1400 BCE, centered on city of Mycenae
    - Mycenae destroyed by Indo-European invaders, who destroyed civilization in the area until 800 BCE
  + Greek civilization rises rapidly between 800-600 BCE
    - Based on creation of strong city-states, rather than single political unit
  + Greek City-states
    - Each has its own government
      * Either a tyranny of one ruler or aristocratic council
    - System served Greece well, as it was divided by numerous mountains, which would have made a unified government difficult to establish on the peninsula
  + Common Greek Culture
    - Alphabet/written language with letters derived from Phoenician alphabet
    - Greek city-states join in regular celebrations
      * Olympic games
  + Sparta and Athens
    - Two leading city-states
    - Sparta: strong military aristocracy dominating slave population
    - Athens: diverse commercial state, including extensive use of slaves, proud of artistic and intellectual leadership
    - Between 500-449 BCE, two states cooperated to defeat Persian invasion
      * During this time, Athens developed colonies in e. Mediterranean and s. Italy
    - Pericles dominates Athenian politics (400s BCE)
      * Aristocrat
      * Part of democratic political structure where each citizen could participate in city-state assemblies to select officials and pass laws
      * Ruled through wise influence and negotiation
      * Helped restrain aggressive views of Athenian democrats
        + Urged further expansion to empire to garner more wealth and build economy
    - Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE)
      * Political decline in Greece leads to Athens and Sparta vying for power
      * Macedonian kings (n. Greece) conquer Athens and Greece
        + Philip II of Macedon wins battle, 338 BCE
  + Alexander the Great
    - Son of Philip II, extends Macedonian empire through Middle East, across Persia, to border of India and into Egypt
    - Short-lived empire (13 years)
    - Greek art and culture merged with other Middle Eastern forms during Hellenistic period
      * Due to influence of Hellenes (as Greeks were known)
      * Trade flourishes in Hellenistic period, scientific centers established in cities like Alexandria, Egypt
* Rome
  + 800 BCE: Rome begins as local monarchy in c. Italy
  + 509 BCE: Roman aristocrats drive out monarchy and establish more elaborate political institutions for their city-state
    - Extends influence over rest of Italian peninsula, conquering Greek colonies in the south
      * Rome as a strong military
        + Motivated to protect own territory from possible rivals?
  + Punic Wars (264-146 BCE)
    - Rome fights armies for Carthage (Phoenicians) on n. African coast
    - Carthaginian general Hannibal with troops and elephants
    - Rome spreads salt around and throughout Carthage to destroy agriculture from surviving
  + After defeating Carthage, Rome continues to seize entire w. Mediterranean (including Greece and Egypt)
  + Victorious generals seek greater power while the poor rebel
    - 45 BCE: Julius Caesar emerges after civil war, ending traditional institutions of Roman state (republic ends, empire begins)
    - 27 BCE: Augustus Caesar (Julius’ grand-nephew) seizes power after assassination of Julius Caesar
  + Roman empire maintains great power, bringing peace and prosperity to entire Mediterranean world for 200 years until 180 CE (end of Marcus Aurelius)
    - Known as Pax Romana
    - Emperors conquer France, s. Britain, Germany
  + Empire begins to fade over 250 years until 476 CE
    - Invaders from the north overthrow government of Rome in 476
    - Economic deterioration and population loss
      * Trade levels and birthrate fall
    - Government becomes less effective
      * Emperors Diocletian and Constantine try to reverse fall
      * 313 CE: Constantine adopts Christianity as official religion of Roman empire to unite empire in new ways
      * Western portion of empire is more successful with local government
        + Imperial administration could no longer guarantee order or provide justice
      * Roman armies dependent on non-Roman recruits (mercenaries) whose loyalty was suspect

Greek and Roman Political Institutions

* Politics extremely important in classical Mediterranean civilization
  + Politics=polis (Gr., “city-state”)
    - Intense political interest part of life in city-state in both Greece and Rome
  + Upper-class Athenians or Romans participated in politics, frequent discussion about affairs of the state
  + City-state governed surrounding territory of several hundred square miles
    - Citizens felt state was theirs, but had certain rights/obligations without which government could not survive
  + Citizens actively participated in military, leads to sense of political interest/responsibility
  + City-state relatively autonomous of empire
* Confucian-Chinese politics and Greco-Roman politics
  + Importance of political participation and active citizenship
  + Greece and Rome did not develop single/cohesive set of political institutions unlike China’s allegiance to emperor or bureaucratic system
* Government type
  + Monarchies abolished early in civilizations
  + Political strongmen (tyranny)
    - Tyrants effective leaders, promote public works, protect commoners against aristocracy
* Greek Political Institutions
  + Democracy= demos (Gr., “the people”)
  + Athenian democracy
    - Direct democracy: all major decisions of state made by general assemblies in which all citizens could participate
      * Usually only a minority attended
    - Executive officers (including judges) chosen for brief terms to control their power
      * Subject to review by assembly
      * Chosen by lot, not elected
        + Based on principle that any citizen could and should be able to serve
    - Only minority of Athenian population active citizens
      * Women had no rights of political participation
      * Half of all adult males not citizens (slaves or foreigners, born outside of Athens)
    - Elicited widespread popular participation and devotion
    - “The administration is in the hands of the many and not of the few. But while the law secures equal justice to all alike in their private disputes, the claim of excellence is also recognized; and when a citizen is in any way distinguished he is preferred to the public service, not as a matter of privilege but as the reward of merit. Neither is poverty a bar, but a man may benefit his country whatever be the obscurity of his condition.”-Pericles
    - Negative aspects of democracy
      * Lower-class citizens long for government jobs and spoils of war
        + Encouraged reckless military actions that weakened state in central dispute with Sparta
  + Tyranny nor democracy was most characteristic political form in Mediterranean
    - Aristocratic assemblies were most widely preferred form
      * Aristocracy: “rule of the best”
      * Deliberations established guidelines for state policy
      * Served as check on executive power
      * Sparta governed by singularly military aristocracy
        + Intent on retaining power over large slave population
* Roman Political Institutions
  + Roman republican government tried using different aspects of Greek politics
    - Primary reliance on principle of aristocracy
    - All Roman citizens could gather in periodic assemblies
      * Not to pass laws but elect magistrates
        + Represent interests of common people (Representative Democracy)
        + Senate: composed mainly of aristocrats whose members held all executive offices in Roman state
        + Consuls: two men who shared primary executive power

In times of trouble, Senate could choose a dictator to hold emergency authority until crisis passed

* + - Ideal of public service is realized
      * Eloquent public speaking
      * Arguments seeking to identify general good
    - Mediterranean politics leads to abundance in political theory
      * Appropriate political ethics, duties of citizens, importance of incorruptible service, key political skills (e.g. oratory)
      * Cicero discusses political theory in writing
        + Resembles Confucianism

Less emphasis on hierarchy and obedience or bureaucratic virtues

More emphasis on participation in deliberative bodies that make laws and judge actions of executive officers

* + - * Writers pay attention to structure of state itself
        + Debate virtues and vices of various political forms
  + Roman Empire
    - Preserved some institutions of the republic
      * Senate becomes meaningless forum for debates
    - Develops larger organizational capacities for an imperial government
    - Local autonomy prevailed in many regions
      * Rare occasions of complete takeover
        + Jewish dissolution in 63 CE
    - Vast hierarchy within Roman army
      * Officers with great political power over even the emperor
    - Tolerance for local customs and religions
    - Emphasis on laws as one factor that would hold territories together
      * Importance of codified, equitable law
      * Twelve Tables (450 BCE) of Justinian
        + Intended to restrain upper class from arbitrary action and to subject them (as well as ordinary people) to common legal principles
      * Rules, objectively judged, rather than personal whim should govern social relationships
      * Promoted importance of common-sense fairness
      * Law as the regulator of social life
        + Non-Romans given right of citizenship

Full access to Rome-appointed judges and uniform law

* + - * + Regulation of property rights and commerce

Creates economic unity

* + - Function of government
      * Maintain systems of law courts and military forces
      * Regulation of some branches of commerce
        + Interest of securing vital supplies of grain
      * Public works
        + Roads and harbors to facilitate military transport and commerce
        + Stadiums and public baths to entertain and distract

“Bread and circuses” (gladiator fights and cheap food) to distract masses, prevent popular disorder

* + - Support of official religion
      * Sponsorship of public ceremonies to honor gods and goddesses
      * Civic religious festivals to express loyalty to state
      * Religion to strengthen authority
      * Religious tolerance
        + Only attack Christianity, as they refused to place state first in devotion

Religion and Culture

* Greeks and Romans did not create a significant worldwide religion
* Christianity spread and thrived in Rome
  + Rapid geographical spread due to ease of movement within Roman empire
  + Not a product of either Greece or Rome
* Religion of Greece and Rome more primitive
  + Derived from belief in spirits of nature
    - Evolves into complex set of gods and goddesses seen as regulating human life
  + Pantheons of Greece and Rome had different names, but objects of worship essentially the same
    - Zeus/Jupiter: creator/father god presiding over assembly of gods
    - Apollo: regulated daily passage of the sun
    - Poseidon/Neptune: regulated ocean
    - Mars: inspiring war
    - Venus: human love and beauty
  + Gods sometimes patrons of human activities (iron working, hunting, literature, history)
* Ceremonies to gods have political importance
* People appeal to gods’ aid in foretelling future, ensuring good harvest or health
* Gods have human characteristics
  + Gods are dramatic, soap operatic, stories
  + Leads to rich literary movement
  + Gods used to illustrate human nature
* Limitations of Greco-Roman religion
  + Lack of spiritual passion failed to satisfy ordinary workers and peasants, especially in time of political chaos or economic distress
    - Religion is not comforting
    - People instead turn to “mystery” religions of Middle East or Christianity for comfort and communion
  + Religion does not provide basis for ethical thought
* Creating ethical systems
  + Aristotle and Cicero stress importance of moderation and balance in human behavior as opposed to instability of much political life and excesses of gods themselves
  + Stoics emphasize inner moral independence to be cultivated by strict discipline of body and personal bravery
  + Socrates (469 BCE) encouraged pupils to question conventional wisdom on grounds that chief human duty was improvement of the soul
    - Angers Athenian government, given choice of suicide or exile
      * Chooses suicide by poisoning
    - Socratic method: rational inquiry by means of skeptical questioning
  + Plato (student of Socrates) accentuates positive more strongly by suggesting that human reason could approach understanding of three perfect forms: absolutely True, Good, and Beautiful, which characterizes nature
  + Ethical systems deemphasize importance of human spirituality in favor of celebration of human ability to think
    - Similar to Chinese Confucianism
      * Greater emphasis in Greece on skeptical questioning and abstract speculations about basic nature of humanity and universe
* Greek interest in rationality extends to understanding the universe
  + Speculations about the order of nature
    - Leads to new theories about movements of planets and organization of elemental principles of earth, fire, air, water
  + Interest in mathematics as means of rendering nature’s patterns comprehensible
    - Geometry features achievements about basic theorems of Pythagoras
  + Studies in anatomy and astronomy
    - Ptolemy produces theory of sun’s motion around stationary earth
      * Will not be proven wrong until 1600s CE
* Romans did nothing to expand Greek ideas
  + Printed textbooks of Greek ideas for school children
* Roman achievements
  + Engineering
    - Great roads, aqueducts
    - Arches
* Art and literature of Mediterranean society
  + Religion as justification for temples, statues, plays devoted to gods
  + Realistic portrayal of human form
    - Portrayals of gods
  + Drama, poetry, plays
    - Comedies and tragedies
    - Virtues as important
      * Sophocles portrays psychological flaws of Oedipus
    - Epic tradition
      * Homer’s (700s BCE) Iliad and Odyssey
  + Greek artists excel in ceramics
    - Phidias portrays realistic human form of goddesses, warriors, athletes
  + Roman painters produce realistic decorations for homes of wealthy
    - Some Roman sculpture of emperors and politicians
  + Greek architecture
    - Monumental construction
      * Square or rectangular
      * Columned porticoes
        + Three embellishments for column tops

Doric, Ionic, Corinthian

* + Roman architecture
    - Engineering allows for construction of larger buildings
    - New forms
      * Free-standing stadium
      * Domes on rectangular buildings
    - Massive, heavily adorned monuments and public buildings
      * Clear demonstration of Rome’s sense of power and achievement
  + Art and architecture linked to society
    - Architecture with a function, not just to be admired
      * Temples and marketplaces, public baths

Economy and Society in the Mediterranean

* Politics and formal culture mainly affairs of cities
  + Intense concern to only minority of population
* Majority of population in Greece and Rome lived as farmers
  + Interested in local rituals and festivals dealing with land
    - Annual spring passion play to celebrate recovery of goddess of fertility from the lower world
  + Large landlords squeeze farmers, forcing them to become tenants or laborers (specifically in Rome)
    - Leads to tensions between tyrants and aristocrats or democrats and aristocrats revolving around free farmers’ attempts to preserve independence and shake off heavy debts
      * In Rome, this is a factor in the decline of the empire, as too many farmers became dependent on protection of large landlords, even when they did not work their estates outright, so no longer could vote freely
  + Farming complicated by fact that soil conditions not ideal for grain growing, even though grain was staple of life
    - Farmers tempted to shift to growth of olives and grapes instead of grain
      * Used for wine and cooking
      * Required considerable conversion of agriculture to market basis
        + Farmers had to sell all they produced to purchase food…aren’t able to live directly off what they produced like with grain
        + Required substantial capital

Would not bear fruit until five years after planting

Leads to debt of farmers

* + Commercial agriculture one of prime forces leading to efforts to establish an empire
    - Greece gains colonies in Middle East and Sicily to gain access to grain production
    - Rome pushes south to gain Sicilian grain fields and north Africa
      * Leads to soil depletion and reduced fertility in Africa
* Commercial faring dictates extensive concern with trade
  + Private merchants operated most ships carrying agricultural products
  + Greek city-states and Roman state supervised grain trade
    - Promotion of public works and storage facilities
  + Luxury products from shops of artisans or craftsmen played major role in lives of upper classes
  + Trade beyond borders of Mediterranean into China and India
    - Mediterranean at a disadvantage
      * Manufactured products less sophisticated than those of e. Asia
        + Exported animal skins, precious metals, exotic African animals in exchange for spices and art of east
  + Merchants enjoy ambiguous status in Mediterranean
    - Athenian merchants usually foreigners (usually Middle Eastern)
    - Higher status in Rome, forming second most prestigious social class under landed patricians
* Slavery
  + Justified as necessary by philosophers like Aristotle
  + Athens: used slaves as household servants and workers in silver mines
    - Brutal lifestyle, life as slave lasting only a few years
  + Sparta: slaves for agricultural work
  + Slaves usually drawn from conquered territories
    - Justification for expansion, needing more slaves
  + Rome: slaves perform household tasks (tutoring upper-class children)
    - Preferable to life as a poor peasant
    - Slaves also work in mines for precious metals and iron, agricultural help
* Technology
  + Very limited technological innovations in agriculture or manufacturing in either Greece or Rome
    - Partly due to slavery and orientation of upper-class culture
  + Greece
    - Shipbuilding and navigation
      * Aid flourishing trade system
  + Rome
    - Engineering
      * Provided greater urban amenities and good roads for swift and easy movement of troops
* Family structure
  + Emphasis on tight family structure with husband and father firmly in control
  + Women had vital economic functions
    - Farming and artisan families
    - Upper-class families, commanded great influence and power within household
    - Inferior in law and culture
    - Female infanticide for lower-class families
    - Husband as the judge of the wife
      * “If she commits a fault, he punishes her; if she has drunk wine, he condemns her; if she has been guilty of adultery, he kills her.”
      * Later becomes a family court made up of both families

Toward the Fall of Rome

* No central religion derived from civilization itself to serve as link between classical period and what followed
* Fall of Rome was not uniform
  + Rome fell more in some parts of Mediterranean than it did in others
  + No single civilization rose to claim mantle of Greece and Rome

Greece, Rome, and the World

* Greece
  + Greece had sense of inferior of non-Greek world (barbarians)
  + Greece as trading and expansionist people
    - Colonies across Mediterranean
    - Curiosity of other peoples
      * Historian Herodotus (484-425 BCE)
    - Alexander the Great
      * Creates new contacts between e. Mediterranean, Middle East, India
* Rome
  + Conscious of wider Mediterranean world
  + Expansion reflected awareness of powerful competitors
    - War with Carthage
  + Continuation of Greek culture (art and lifestyle)
  + Trade with fringes of empire
    - Empire a world within itself
    - Luxury goods from Asia (Chinese silks)
  + Tolerant of local diversities

Decline and Fall of Rome

* Symptoms of decay after 180 CE
  + Population declining
  + Empire faces difficulties in recruiting effective armies
  + Political manifestations in greater brutality and arbitrariness of Roman emperors
  + Tax collection increasingly difficult due to difficult economic times
  + Personal futility of life and despair at absence of afterlife
* Weak emperors and political disputes over succession to throne
  + Intervention by army in selection of emperors complicates political life, leads to deterioration of rule
* Plagues sweep through empire, decimating population
  + Due to growing international trade, bringing diseases from southern Asia
  + No resistance in Mediterranean due to lack of exposure
  + From 1 million to 250,000 people
* Plagues harm economic life and make recruitment of troops more difficult
  + Empire hires Germanic soldiers to guard frontiers
    - Because they were mercenaries, they required higher pay, cutting into tax revenues
* Upper-classes become increasingly “pleasure-seeking”
  + Very little cultural life
    - Writing of textbooks, rather than original content or research
  + Due to authoritarian political rule?
  + As a result, upper classes have fewer offspring as it hindered luxury lifestyle
* As quality of imperial rule declines, farmers cluster around protection of large landlords
  + Surrendering full control of land to landlords in expectation to receive military and judicial protection (especially in W. Europe)
    - Similar to European feudalism
    - Gives more power to landlords, providing local stability
      * Weakens power of emperor
      * Moves economy away from trade
        + Estates try to be self-sufficient
* Some emperors try to reverse downward spiral
  + Diocletian (284-305 CE)
    - Tightened up administration
    - Improved tax collection
    - Directed political loyalties to his own person
      * Worship of emperor as a god
        + Leads to intense persecution of Christians
  + Constantine (312-337 CE)
    - Set up second capital (Constantinople) to regulate eastern half of empire
    - Used Christianity to unify empire spiritually
      * Toleration of Christianity, adopts it as his personal religion
* Germanic invasions of 400s CE
  + Little resistance
  + Peasants welcome barbarians
  + Germanic kingdoms established by 425 CE
  + Last Roman emperor displaced in 476 CE
* Fall of Roman empire creates four zones
  + Byzantine Empire
    - Eastern portion of empire
    - Did not fall as civilization was more entrenched than in the west
    - Fewer pressures from invaders
    - Emperors continued to rule Greece and SE Europe, Middle East
    - Maintained authoritarian tone of Roman rulers
    - Vibrant, artistically creative, active in trade
    - Justinian (527-565 CE) tries to recapture heritage of Rome, unable to maintain hold in Italy
      * Issues codified law, Justinian’s Code
  + Parthian/Sassanid empire
    - Centered in Tigris-Euphrates region, spreads into NW India
    - 227 CE, Persian rebellion displaced Parthians, creates Sassanid Empire
    - Serve as bridge between Mediterranean and the East
      * Transmits goods and artistic/literary styles
    - Overthrown by Muslims in 7th century CE
  + N. Africa and SE shores of Mediterranean
    - Regional kingdoms succeeds empire
    - Christianity spreads into area
      * Augustine, bishop in N. Africa
      * Separate beliefs and doctrines split n. African Christianity from other branches
        + Produces Coptic church in Egypt
  + W. Europe
    - Italy, Spain, n. Europe
    - Cities shrink
    - Germanic tribes expand
    - Trade almost disappears
    - Christianity as a vital force

***Strayer, Ways of the World, pp. 145-158, 160-163, 205-208, 247-252, 255-259***

The Persian Empire

* 500 BCE: Persians have largest of world’s empires
  + Originated as Indo-European people who came from Iranian plateau north of Persian gulf
* Persian government drew inspiration from Babylonians and Assyrians
* Famous kings include Cyrus (557-530 BCE) and Darius (522-486 BCE)
* Conquest reaches from Egypt to India
  + 35 million people
  + Diverse people, states, language, cultures
* Cult of kingship
  + Secluded monarchs approached only through ritual
  + When monarch died, sacred fires extinguished, people shave head in mourning
  + Kings rule by will of god Ahura Mazda
  + Absolute monarchs
* Satraps (Persian governors) placed in each province while lower-level officials drawn from local authorities
* Imperial spies represent imperial presence in empire’s fringes
* Tolerance for non-Persian cultures
  + 539 BCE: Cyrus allows exiled Jews to return to homeland from Babylon, rebuild temple in Jerusalem
  + Allow Egypt and Babylon to maintain local cults to gain support of followers
* Standardized coinage, taxes on each province, canal linking Nile and Red Sea, “Royal Road” 1700 miles in length improve communication and commerce

The Greeks

* Indo-European people who drew on civilizations of Middle East and N. Africa
* Emerged around 750 BCE as new civilization, flourished for about 400 years until absorbed by foreign empires
* Called “Hellenes”
* Total population 2-3 million
* Located on Greek peninsula and Aegean basin
  + Divided by steep mountains and valleys
    - Leads to city-states and small settlements
* City-states hold 500-5,000 male citizens
  + Fiercely independent and in frequent conflict with neighboring cities
  + City-states had common culture
    - Same language, worship of same gods
    - Olympic games begin 776 BCE
* Expansion to settle in foreign places, not conquest and empire
  + Farmers in search of land leads to emigration
    - Bring Greek culture, language, building styles through diffusion
* Participation in political life
  + “Citizenship”: free people running affairs of state, of equality for all citizens before the law
  + Early Greek history, only wealthy and well-born had rights of full citizenship (speaking, voting in assembly, holding public office, fighting in military)
  + Later, middle and lower class men (mostly farmers) obtain rights
    - Associated with growing number of men able to afford armor and weapons allowing them to serve as hoplites (infantry men)
    - Tyrants emerge, challenging upper class to protect lower class
  + Sparta
    - Military discipline
    - Large population of helots, conquered people in slavery
      * Outnumber free citizens of Sparta, a permanent threat of rebellion
        + Militaristic regime in Sparta to keep helots in their place
    - All boys removed from families at age seven to be trained by state in military camps until age 30
      * Warrior, skilled in battle, endure hardship, willing to die for Sparta
    - Most political authority under Council of Elders
      * 28 men over age 60
      * Derived from wealthier and more influential segment of society
      * Served for life
      * Provided political leadership for Sparta
  + Athens
    - 594 BCE: Solon pushes Athenian politics into more democracy, breaking hold of aristocratic families
    - Debt slavery abolished
    - Access to public office opened to wider group of men
    - All citizens allowed to take part in Assembly
    - Cleisthenes and Pericles extend rights of citizens further
    - 450 BCE: all holders of public office chosen by lot and paid
      * Allows poorest to serve
    - Direct democracy
    - Women, slaves, foreigners (50+% population) excluded from politics

Greco-Persian Wars

* Conflict between Greece and Persia originated in patterns of expansion
  + Greek settlements on Anatolian coast (modern-day Turkey, known to Greeks as Ionia) comes under Persian control
  + 499 BCE: Ionian Greek cities revolt against Persian domination, gain support from Athens
  + 490 and 480 BCE: Persians attack against assaults, punishing Greeks and Athenians
    - Greeks hold them off, defeat Persians on both land and sea
* Beating Persia gives immense pride to Greeks (especially Athens)
  + Persia becomes associated with Asia and despotism, Greece signifies Europe and freedom
    - Leads to east/west divide, continuing today
* Victory radicalizes Athenian democracy
  + Lower class men had served in galleys of ships, insist on full citizenship
* Period after the war considered Golden Age
  + Parthenon (temple to Athena) built
  + Theater was born through Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides
  + Socrates begins Greek philosophy
* Strength of Athens leads to it becoming the leading city-state and creating its own empire
  + Leads to resistance by other city-states, civil war (Peloponnesian War, 431-404 BCE)
    - Sparta takes lead against Athens
    - Athens defeated
* Greece as a whole exhausted, city-states become suspicious of each other
  + Makes Greece vulnerable to Macedonia

Alexander and the Hellenistic Era

* 338 BCE: Philip II of Macedon takes over Greece
  + Achieves political unity of Greece
    - At cost of independence of city-states
* Alexander the Great emerges to lead Greece against Persian empire (333-323 BCE)
  + Greeks see this as revenge for Greco-Persian War
  + Unifies Greece against common enemy
  + Creation of Greek empire
    - Egypt and Anatolia to Afghanistan and India
  + Alexander seen as “king of Asia”, pharaoh of Egypt because of liberation from Persians
* Chief accomplishment of Alexander’s reign: widespread dissemination of Greek culture (Hellenistic period, 330-323 BCE)
  + Combination of Greek, Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Indian culture
  + Creation of cities established throughout empire
    - Greek monuments, sculptures, theaters, markets, political systems
    - Greek nationals move to foreign cities for work
    - Alexandria, Egypt
      * 500,000 people
      * Cosmopolitan center where Egyptians, Greeks, Jews, Babylonians, Syrians, Persians, etc coexisted
      * Harbor for 1200 ships
      * Library holds 700,000 volumes, museum
* 323 BCE: Alexander dies, empire split into three kingdoms ruled by Macedonian generals
  + Antigonid, Ptolemaic, Seleucid empires
  + Imperial states determined to preserve order, raise taxes, maintain authority of monarch
  + Resemble civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt
  + Macedonians and Greeks live as elite
    - Different legal systems for Greeks and Egyptians in Alexandria
    - Leads to rebellions
  + Blending of cultures, races
    - Intermarriage
    - Greek rulers build temples, monuments to local gods
    - Native peoples could get Greek education, become citizens
    - Greeks assimilated into Kshatriya (warrior) caste of India, convert to Buddhism

Rome: From City-state to Empire

* 700s BCE: Rome emerges as small, impoverished city-state on w. side of central Italy
  + According to legend, Romans kidnap women from neighboring villages to reproduce
* 590 BCE: Roman aristocrats overthrow monarchy, establish republic
  + Wealthy class (patricians) dominate
  + Executive authority held by two consuls
  + Consuls advised by patrician assembly, the Senate
* Conflict with poorer classes (plebeians) lead to changes in political life
  + Code of law offers plebeians protection from abuse
  + Public assemblies provide opportunity for lower classes to shape public policy
  + Tribune (represents plebeians) allow them to block unfavorable legislation
* 490s BCE: Romans launch empire-building
  + Slowly begin to take over Italian peninsula
  + 264-146 BCE: Punic Wars against Carthage (N. Africa) extend Roman control to the west, make Rome a Mediterranean naval power
  + 100s CE: land held encompasses Greece, Egypt, Mesopotamia, S and W Europe (Spain, France, Britain)
  + Poor soldiers hope for land, loot, salaries that may lift families out of poverty
  + Upper-class gain estates, earn promotion, achieve high political office
  + Rome ruthless in war
    - Burn Carthage to ground, inhabitants sold into slavery or killed
    - Some Carthaginians given Roman citizenship, treated as allies, allowed to maintain local rulers
* New political system
  + Military leaders such as Marius, Sulla, Pompey, Julius Caesar recruit troops from poor and whose rivalries bring civil war to Rome
  + Decline of republican values (simplicity, service, free farmers as military, authority of Senate)
  + After civil war, authority primarily under emperor
    - 27 BCE-14 CE: Octavian becomes first emperor (later known as Augustus)
      * Divine status
    - Sole exercise of authority, backed by professional army
  + 1-199 CE: Pax Romana (Roman Peace)
    - Provides security, grandeur, prosperity for Mediterranean world
    - Era of imperial Rome’s greatest extent and authority

Collapse of Empire

* 300s CE: Germanic-speaking peoples living on n. frontier begin to enter empire
  + Some mercenaries for Roman armies or refugees fleeing Huns
  + By 476 CE: Begin establishing own kingdoms, deposing emperors, and develop own ethnic identity
    - Visigoths, Franks, Anglo-Saxons, etc.

Cultural Tradition of Classical Greece: Search for a Rational Order

* Greece creates no lasting religious tradition of world importance
* Unpredictable, quarreling, lustful gods of Mt. Olympus, secret fertility cults, oracles, worship of Dionysus (god of wine)
* Greek thinkers abandon mythology, affirm that world was physical reality governed by natural laws
  + Human rationality could understand laws and work out system of moral and ethical life

The Greek way of Knowing

* Emerges between 600-300 BCE
  + Coincides with flourishing of city-states (especially Athens)
    - Growth of artistic, literary, theatrical traditions
* Philosophy deals with how to ask questions
  + Emphasis on argument, logic, relentless questioning of received wisdom, confidence in human reason, enthusiasm for puzzling out the world without religion or gods
* Socrates (469-399 BCE)
  + Conversations about the “good life”
  + Did not write, but taught through questioning assumptions and logic of students’ thinking
  + Challenged conventional ideas about importance of wealth and power in living well
  + Urged pursuit of wisdom and virtue
  + Critical of Athenian democracy, positive about Sparta
    - Brings him into conflict with Athenian authorities
      * Accused of corrupting Athenian youth, sentenced to death
  + Calls himself the “gadfly of Athens, stinging citizens into awareness”
* Thales uses astronomy to predict eclipse of sun, argues moon reflects sun’s light, believes water is the building block of all life (solid, liquid, gas)
* Democritus suggests atoms
* Pythagoras believes in a simple mathematical order beneath chaos of the world
* Hippocrates believed body composed of four fluids (humors) which, when out of balance, caused ailments. Traces origins of epilepsy to heredity
* Plato (429-348 BCE) wrote *The Republic*, a design for good society
  + Ruled by class of highly educated “guardians” led by “philosopher king”
  + People penetrate illusions of material world to grasp world of forms
    - Goodness, beauty, justice lived real and unchanging existence
* Aristotle (384-322 BCE) emphasizes empirical observation, catalogs constitutions of 158 Greek city states, identified hundreds of species of animals, wrote on logic, astronomy, physics, weather, etc
  + Reflects on ethics, arguing “virtue” was product of rational training and cultivated habit and could be learned
  + On politics, urged mixed system combining principles of monarchy, aristocracy, democracy

Greek Legacy

* Roman empire facilitates spread of Greek culture within Mediterranean
* Greek culture seen as part of an emerging “Western” civilization
  + Texts discovered in 1100s, updating Christian theology, begin Scientific Revolution
* Europeans become reintroduced to Greek texts through Arabic translations

Spread of Christianity

* Judaism transforms into Christianity as a world religion with Paul (10-65 CE)
  + Good News for Gentiles as well as Jews
  + Prevailing patriarchal values
* Converts to Christianity usually lower class peoples
  + Artisans, traders, women from towns and cities
* Spread of faith accompanied stories of miracles, healings, casting out of demons
* Attraction to faith due to way members cared for each other
* Christianity as exclusive monotheist, antagonizing to all other supernatural powers
  + Offensive to emperors, leads to persecution
  + Ends when Constantine converts to Christianity in early 300s CE
* Christianity as a “glue” to hold the empire together
  + Theodosius (379-395 CE) forbids all polytheistic sacrifices, closes temples, provides patronage for Christian buildings, approval of doctrines, suppression of rivals, proclamation of Christianity as official state religion

Creating Religious Institutions

* Hierarchy within Christianity
  + Patriarchs, bishops, priests
  + All men
* Women exercise some leadership and sometimes priestly roles
  + 494 CE: Pope Gelasius speaks out sharply against those who encouraged women “to officiate at the sacred alters, and to take part in all matters imputed to the offices of the male sex, to which they do not belong.”
* Bishop of Rome emerges as dominant leader (pope) of Church in western half of empire
  + Role not recognized in the east
    - Contributes to split between Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox branches
* Church councils at Nicaea (325 CE), Chalcedon (451 CE), Constantinople (553 CE) seek to define an “orthodox” or correct position on issues

Slavery in the Classical Era: Case of the Roman Empire

* Early domestication of animals providing model for enslaving people?
* War, patriarchy and private property contribute to growth of slavery
  + Warfare generates numerous prisoners
  + Women captives were first slaves, raped and enslaved as concubines; male captives killed
* Slavery: ownership by a master, possibility of being sold, working without pay, status of an “outsider” at bottom of social hierarchy
  + Social death as slaves lacked any rights or independent personal identity recognized by larger society
* In Greece and Rome, many slaves could be emancipated in own lifetimes
  + Generosity or religious convictions of owners, to avoid caring for slaves in old age, allowing slaves to purchase freedom with own funds
* Greco-Roman world described as a slave society
  + Athens alone home to 60,000 slaves, 1/3 total population
* Aristotle argues that some are “slaves by nature” and should be enslaved for their own good and that of the larger society
* Poor households usually had one or two female slaves
  + Domestic work, sexual acts
* Many slaves in Greece freed while alive, but do not receive citizenship or political rights, could not own land or marry citizens, pay special tax
* Rome has 2-3 million slaves by time of Christ, 33-40% of population of Rome
  + Wealthy Romans had hundreds or thousands of slaves
    - One woman in 400s CE freed 8000 slaves when she became a Christian
  + Lower class people even usually had 2-3 slaves
    - Confirming position as a free person, demonstrated social status, expressed ability to exercise power
    - Slaves and former slaves sometimes had their own slaves
  + Most Roman slaves were prisoners captured in wars that expanded empire
    - Carthage: 55,000 people made slaves
  + Children of slaves became slaves
  + Abandoned children became slaves to person who rescued them
  + Roman slavery not associated with a particular racial or ethnic group
  + Even Christianity condoned slavery
    - “Slaves should be submissive to their masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh”
    - St. Augustine (354-430 CE) says slavery is a punishment for sin
  + Slavery entrenched throughout Roman economy
    - No occupation off-limits to slaves except military
    - Slaves huge part of workforce for estates (latifundia) which produce grain, olive oil, wine for export
    - In cities, slaves work as skilled artisans, teachers, doctors, entertainers, actors
    - Slaves work in mines and quarries, build monuments and temples, work on water supply system, gladiators
  + Owners of slaves provide necessities to slaves
    - More security than impoverished free people, but subjugated to will of master
  + No rights for slaves
    - No marriage
    - Could accumulate possessions, but it belonged to master
    - If slave murdered master, all of that person’s slaves killed
* Slave resistance and rebellion in Rome
  + Mass suicide by slaves
  + “Weapons of the weak”
    - Theft, sabotage, pretending illness, working poorly, curses on masters
  + Runaways
    - Slave hunters
  + Open slave rebellion
    - 73 BCE: slave gladiator named Sparticus led 70 other slaves from a school for gladiators in a push for freedom
      * Attracts following of other slaves (up to 120,000)
      * Crucified slave owners, burned parts of Italy
      * 6000 slaves captured and crucified

Contrasting Patriarchies in Athens and Sparta

* Position toward women more negative and restrictive in Athens than in Sparta even though Athens was more democratic than militaristic Sparta
  + 700-400 BCE: Women begin experiencing growing limitations as more men are gaining citizenship
    - No role in assembly, councils or juries
    - In legal roles, needed representation by guardian
    - Only referred to in court by someone’s wife or mother, never by name
    - Aristotle justifies women’s exclusion from public life and general subordination to men
      * “a woman is, as it were, an infertile male. She is female in fact on account of a kind of inadequacy.”
        + Inability to generate sperm, which contained “form” or “soul” of new human being
        + Woman as passive receptacle for reproduction
    - Women remained inside home except for religious festivals or funerals
      * Within home, space separate for men and women
    - Women married in mid-teens to men ten or fifteen years older
      * Management of domestic affairs
      * Production of sons who would become citizens
        + Expected to become literate
        + Sisters consigned to weaving, spinning, etc.
    - No economic power
      * Own personal property through dowry, gifts, inheritance
      * Land passed through male heirs
        + Women forbidden to buy or sell land
  + Spartan Women
    - Greater freedoms, fewer restrictions than Athenian women
    - Central task: reproduction of warrior sons for Sparta
      * Girls encouraged to take part in sporting events to strengthen bodies for childbearing
        + Running, wrestling, throwing discus and javelin, driving chariots
    - Newly married women cut hair short
    - Spartan women not secluded like Athenians
    - Marry at about age 18 to men own age
      * Puts couple on more equal basis
      * Marriage begins with “trial period” to make sure couple could produce children
        + Able to divorce if not
    - Women exercise more control as men often away at war
    - Women control 40%+ of landed estates
    - Death in childbirth the equivalent of death in battle
      * Both contribute to defense of Sparta
* Sparta as more restrictive than Athens and other city-states
  + Prohibitive of homosexuality
    - Elsewhere, homosexual relationships culturally approved and common for both men and women
      * Did not prevent heterosexual marriage
      * General homosexual relationship: older man and young adolescent boy, ending when boy’s beard began to grow