

Wallo University
College of Social Science and humanities
Department of History and Heritage Management

Module Title	Global History
Module Code	HiHM-M2041
Course Title	The Ancient World to 1500
Course Code	HiHm2041
Course Credit	5 ECTS
Year & Semester	II, 2 nd Semester
Academic Year	2016

Working hours to complete the course				
Lecture	Assessment	Tutorial	Home Study	Total
45	25	15	50	135

Course Objectives:

At the successful conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize, define, and relate examples of the diversity of the human experience as it concerns global history.
- Describe the characteristics of the world's major civilizations in their geographic and temporal settings.
- Describe the interactive roles of social, religious, political, economic, scientific, and technological forces among civilizations.
- Trace the development of traditional civilizations and recognize their enduring influence.
- Compare and contrast responses of world's peoples to intercultural contacts and the diffusion of ideas, inventions, and institutions.

Contents

Chapter One: Introduction

1.1. History and Civilization

→ Quiz (10%)

Chapter Two: Prehistory and Human Evolution

2.1. Theories of Biological and Cultural Evolution

2.2.Human Life in the Era of Hunters and Gatherers

2.3.The Neolithic revolution

Test→ 1 (10%)

Chapter Three: Introduction to the Early Civilization period (until c. 500 BCE)

3.1 The Tigris and Euphrates River Valley Civilizations: The Sumerians

3.2 The Assyrians

3.3 The Babylonians

3.4 The Persian Empire

3.5 The Hebrews

→ Test – 2 (15%)

3.6 The Indus and Ganges River Valley Civilizations

Chapter Four: Introduction to the Classical Civilization Period (c. 500 BCE – c. 250

4.1 The Yellow and Hong He Valley Civilizations

4.2 The Origin of Greek Civilization

4.2.1 The Greek City states

4.2.2 Cultural and intellectual achievements of Classical Greek

4.2.3 The Rise Of Macedonia

4.2.4 The Hellenistic Age

4.2.5 Cultural and Intellectual Achievements of the Hellenistic Age

4.3 The Roman Civilization

4.3.1 Origin and Expansion

4.3.2 The Roman Republic

4.3.3 The Punic Wars

4.3.4 The Roman Constitution and Struggle of Orders

4.3.5 The Fall of The Republic

4.3.6 The Roman Empire

Chapter Five: The Middle Ages

5.1.The “Barbarians” or the Germanic Tribes

5.2.The Carolingian and the Frankish Empire

5.3.The Byzantine Empire→ Assignment for Group - 1

5.4.The Crusades

Assignment for Group - 2

5.5.Christianity in the Middle Ages

5.6.Feudalism in Medieval Europe→ Assignment for Group - 3

5.7.Late Middle Ages

5.7.1 Agricultural Revolution in Europe

5.7.2 The Growth of Towns

Teaching and learning methods

Gapped lecture

Group Discussion

Daily reflections

Presentation

Mode of Assessment

Quiz and Tests (35%)
Assignment (15%)
Presentation (10%)
Final examination (40%)

References

- Duiker, William. *The Essential World History*. Second Edition (Washington DC: Thompson Learning Inc), 2005.
- Esler, Antony and Elisabeth Gaynor Ellis. *World History* (Boston: Pearson Education Inc), 2009.
- Matthews, Roy and Dewitt Platt. *The Western Humanities* (New York: McGraw Company), Fifth Edition, Vol.1, 2004.
- Tierney, Brian and Joan Scott. *Western Societies: A Documentary History* (New York: R.R Donnelley and Sons Company), Second Edition, Vol. 1, 2000.

Chapter-1: History and Civilization

History is the study of the human past. Historians study history to draw lessons for decisions and policies today. History is generally limited to the human events that have taken place since the development of writing, 5000 to 6000 years ago.

The word **civilization** comes from the Latin word “Civitas” which is to mean citizen of a city. Civilization was begun when people began to live in cities or societies organized as a state. It consists of the art, customs, technology, form of government in a society. It is a life style that featured complex economic, governmental and social systems. It is an advanced system of human social development. It is characterized by urbanization, literacy, complex economic, political and social systems, and advanced technology.

Periodization (Dating) in History

It is the system of dividing the whole history into different eras/periods.

- Based on the development of human behavior
 - ✓ Savagery (2,000,000-8,000 BP)
 - ✓ Barbarous (8,000-5,000 BP)
 - ✓ Civilization (5,000-Present)
- Based on the type of object they made
 - ✓ Stone Age (2,000,000-5,000 BP)
 - ✓ Bronze Age (5,000-4,000BP)
 - ✓ Iron Age (4,000 BP- Present)
- Based on economic activities
 - ✓ Hunting and gathering (2,000,000-8,0000 BP)
 - ✓ Farming and animal husbandry (8,000BP- 1750 A.D)
 - ✓ Age of Industry (1750 A.D-Present)
- Based on the beginning of writing
 - ✓ Pre-history = Prior to 6,000 BP
 - ✓ History = After 6,000 BP – Europe
 - Ancient (1250 B.C – 5thc A.D)
 - Medieval (5th – 16thc A.D)
 - Modern (16thc - Present)
 - Africa - Pre-Colonial (Before 15thc)

- Colonial (15thc – End of Colonialism)
- Post Colonialism (1960s - present)
- Ethiopia - Ancient (1000 B.C – 1270 A.D)
- Medieval (1270 – 1855 A.D)
- Modern (1855 - Present)

The invention of Calendar

- The Gregorian calendar = count periods forward and backward from the initial point when Jesus Christ was born.
 - ✓ The Period before the birth of Jesus Chris is counted in descending order (B.C)
 - ✓ The Period after the birth of Jesus Chris is counted in ascending order (A.D, Anno Domini = the Year of the Lord)
 - ✓ B.P = Before Present
 - ✓ Decade = 10 years
 - Example = the first decade of the 20thc = 1900-1909
 - ✓ Century = 100 years, Example = 20thc A.D = 1900-1999
 - ✓ Millennium = 1000 years, Example = the 2nd millennium = 1000-1999
- The Islamic Calendar
 - ✓ It counts years forward and backward from Hijira, 622 A.D
 - ✓ B.H = Before Hijira
 - ✓ A.H = After Hijira

Chapter - 2: Pre-History and Human Evolution

1. Theories of Human Evolution

Biological Evolution: Modern scientific findings indicate that about a billion years ago the first forms of life appeared in the sea. Through the process of natural selection, living forms that developed adaptive characteristics survived and reproduced. Geological forces and environmental changes brought about both gradual and rapid changes, leading to the evolution of new forms of life.

- ✓ One celled creatures living in water → multiple celled creatures (plants and fish)
- amphibians reptiles → birds and higher animals

The evolution of modern human took millions of years to develop. About 67 million years ago, a family of mammals known as **primates** emerged. Later primates include monkeys, apes, and humans who shared a common ancestor and have some fundamental similarities with one another.

- Humans and apes originated from a common ancestor. Then, the human branch, known as *Hominid*, passed through various stages of evolution until the emergence of modern humans.
- The oldest hominid species is known as *Australopithecus afarensis*, so because its remains have been found in the Afar region.
 - ✓ It was bipedal. It had small brain, but bigger than that of the ape.
 - ✓ The most famous of these findings is that of Lucy (Dinqesh) found at Hadar in Afar in 1974.
 - ✓ Lucy, dated to be 3.18 million years old, is the oldest and most complete hominid skeleton
- In 1994, *Australopithecus ramidus* was discovered.
- The development of the human brain was to be the main feature of the next stage of human evolution, which produced the genus *Homo*, believed to have emerged 2-2.5 million BP.
- Some of the regions where *Homo* species discovered are
 - ✓ Skull of *Homo Habilis* in Lower Omo Basin
 - ✓ Bones of *Homo Erectus* in Lower Omo Basin, the Konso-Gardula area and Melka-Kunture.
 - ✓ *Homo sapiens* fossils at Bodo in the Middle Awash, Kibish in the Lower Omo Basin and Pore Epic near Dire Dawa. Its age dated back at some 100,000 years ago.

- Three sub-species of the Homo family appeared in succession: Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus and Homo Sapiens.
- Each name of Homo emphasized a particular feature of human evolution.
 - ✓ The Habilis denotes the growing human ability to make tools; the erectus that of walking upright; and the Sapiens that of knowledge.

Cultural Evolution: is the progressive stage of cultural improvement throughout human existence.

The Stone Age was the period where the first use of stone tools began and the earliest period of human culture happened.

One of the earliest cultural traditions of Homo sapiens was the use of fire.

Later Paleolithic human culture also featured artistic elements. The most impressive early works of art were cave paintings that may have had religious significance.

Language developed with *Homo erectus* 100,000 years ago, allowing more group cooperation and the transmission of technical knowledge. The development of speech provided rich language and symbols for the transmission of culture and its growing sophistication.

Religion: By the later Paleolithic period, people had developed rituals to lessen the fear of death and created cave paintings to express a sense of nature's beauty and power. To them, the world was full of spirits and forces that might reside in animals, objects or dreams.

Toward the end of the Old Stone Age, some people began burying their dead with great care. This practice suggests a belief after death.

The invention of agriculture moved the human species toward more elaborate social and cultural patterns.

Agriculture set the basis for more rapid change in human societies. Greater wealth and larger populations freed some people for other specializations. For example, during the Neolithic period, farming people needed storage facilities for rains and seeds, which promoted the development of basket-making and pottery. The first potter's wheel came into existence around 6000 B.C, and this, in turn, encouraged faster and higher quality pottery production.

Indeed, soon after the introduction of agriculture, in the Middle East metal work was discovered in about 4000 B.C. Copper was the first metal with which people learned how to work. In fact, the next basic age of human existence was the **Bronze Age**. By about 3000 B.C, metalworking had become so commonplace in the Middle East.

Agricultural peoples had the resources to free up a small number of individuals as toolmakers, who would specialize in this activity and exchange their products with farmers for food.

2. Human Life in the Era of Hunters and Gatherers

Early humans lived by hunting and gathering. This period is often known as the Old Stone Age or Palaeolithic (from about 2 million to 15, 000 years ago). Human beings learnt to make and use stone tools. They lived in caves and shelters made of rocks, branches, animal skins. They formed simple type of community.

Because hunting-and-gathering economies require a great deal of space populations remained small, and people lived in small groups. Tens of thousands of years ago, the most advanced of the human species, *Homo sapiens*, migrated from Africa into the Middle East, then into Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. Throughout the Palaeolithic Age human beings learned only simple tool use made from stone, wood and for hunting and warfare. Gradually, people learned to fashion tools and weapons from stone, bone, and wood. Fire was tamed about 750,000 years ago.

Labor was divided on the basis of sex. Women may have done food gathering and caring for children. Men performed hunting animals, and assumed leadership.

3. The Neolithic Revolution (8,000-4,000 BP)

Farming was initially developed in the Middle East. Grains such as barley and wheat were abundant. In the Middle East, the development of agriculture may have begun as early as 10,000 B.C, and it gained ground rapidly after 8000 B.C. Gradually during the Neolithic centuries, knowledge of agriculture spread to other centers, including parts of India, north Africa, and Europe. Agriculture also developed independently, for example, with the rise of rice cultivation in southeast Asia, from which it spread to China. Agriculture had to be invented separately in the Americas, based on corn cultivation.

The invention of agriculture was more significant in this period. With agriculture, human beings were able to settle in one spot and focus on particular economic, political, and religious goals and activities. Agriculture also brought a great increase in the number of people in the world

As farming evolved, new animals were also domesticated. Particularly in the Middle East and parts of Asia, by 9000 B.C. pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle were being raised

People discovered a better way to make tools and weapons from stone and wood. People began settling in permanent villages because of the taming of animals and domestication of plants. The oldest villages were Jericho and Jarmo in Middle East. In general, during the New Stone Age human beings learnt to farm and domesticate animals; to use wheel for transportation; to weave cloth; and to mould clay pottery.

Chapter-3: Introduction to the Early Civilization period (until c. 500 B.C)

1. The Mesopotamian Civilization

“Mesopotamia” is a Greek word to mean a land between two rivers. Mesopotamia lies between Euphrates and Tigris rivers.

In 3300 B.C, the world’s first civilization developed in Sumer, southern Mesopotamia. In Sumer, city-states like Kish, Nippur, Ur, Uruk, Eridu, Adab, Larsa and Lagash were built.

Sumerians were ruled by kings

- ✓ Kingship viewed as divine in origin
- ✓ It was believed that kings derived their power from the gods and were the agent of the gods.
- ✓ Kings led armies, supervised the construction of the city walls and the irrigation systems, enforced the laws, employed scribes and organized worker for the irrigation project on farming. The army, the government functionaries and religious leaders aided the king.

Social hierarchy

- ✓ Upper class – the nobles = ruling family, leading officials and high priests
- ✓ Middle class – commoners = lesser priests, scribes, merchants, artisans and farmers
- ✓ Lower class – slaves

Economy

- ✓ primarily agriculture – Tigris and Euphrates rivers were used for irrigation
 - the rivers also supplied fish, clay for building and reeds to make boats
- ✓ commerce and industry – they produced textiles, pottery and metal tools

- they imported copper, tin and timber in exchange for dried fish, wool, barley, wheat and metal tools.
- ✓ Religion – A belief in many gods and goddesses is called polytheism. These gods/goddesses were thought to control every aspect of life, especially the force of nature
 - Sumerians worshipped many gods and goddesses. They worked to keep these divine beings happy to ensure the safety of their city-states. Each city built a temple called Ziggurat dedicated to the city's chief god or goddess.
 - Gods and goddesses of Mesopotamia:
 - An= god of sky – the most important in the universe
 - Enlil = god of wind
 - Enki = god of the earth, rivers, wells, canals, inventions & craft
 - Ninhursaga = goddess of soil, mountains, vegetation
 - Bau = the goddess of medicine & healing
 - Nidaba = the goddess of writing & learning
- ✓ Writing –around 3000 B.C, the Sumerians invented a cuneiform, the earliest writing system
 - It grew out of a system of pictographs used to record goods brought to temple store-house
 - Later the Sumerians developed symbols to represent more complicated thoughts
 - Newcomers like the Akadians, Babylonians and the Assyrians adopted cuneiform.
- ✓ Science – they divided a hour into 60 minutes
 - They divided a year into 12 months
 - They invented use of numbers = 1-9
 - They divided a circle into 360°
- ✓ Architecture – they built their houses and temples from sun dried bricks

The Akadian Empire

As the number of Sumerian city-states grew and expanded, conflict arose for control of water and land. Located in the flat land of Mesopotamia, the Sumerian city-states were open to invasion. Around 2340 B.C, the Akadians led by Sargon came from north and invaded Sumer.

- ✓ By conquering the city-states, Sargon established the first empire known to history.
- ✓ Attacks from neighboring peoples caused the Akadian empire to collapse around 2100 B.C
- ✓ The Sumerian city-states became independent, and continued their conflict.

The Babylonian Empire

Leadership came from Babylon, a city-state north of Akkad.

- ✓ Hammurabi (1792-1750 B.C) conquered all of Mesopotamia and created an empire.
- ✓ He made Babylon the capital of the empire.

Hammurabi is best remembered for his code of laws

- ✓ The law included all aspect of life in Mesopotamia
- ✓ His law reveals a society with a system of strict justice
- ✓ Penalties for criminals were severe but varied according to the social of the victims
- ✓ His law followed the principle of "an eye for an eye"
- ✓ The largest category of laws in the code focused on marriage and the family.

The Hittites

After Hammurabi's death, a series of weak kings were unable to keep his empire united, and finally it fell to invaders. In about 1400 B.C, the Hittites invaded Mesopotamia. They brought the knowledge of how to extract iron from ore. Their iron tools were harder and sharper than those made out of bronze or copper. As their empire collapsed in 1200 B.C, Hittite ironsmiths migrated to Asia, Africa and Europe, and spread the technology.

The Phoenicians

The Phoenicians lived in Palestine. Around 1200 B.C, they came in the area and destroyed the Hittite empire. After the demise of the Hittites, they expanded trade that was the foundation of their prosperity. They gained fame as sailors and traders. One of their most significant contributions was their alphabet. Later, the Greeks adopted it by adding some symbols. From this Greek alphabet came English letters.

The Assyrians

The Assyrians lived on the upper Tigris River. They were skilled warriors. They learnt to forge iron weapons. By 1350 B.C, they began establishing an empire, and by 1100 B.C they expanded their empire across Mesopotamia. Over the course of 500 years, they earned a reputation for being among the most feared warriors in history. They developed good military leaders and fighters. A force of infantry men was its core, accompanied by cavalry men and horse-drawn war chariots. Moreover, the Assyrians had the first large armies equipped with iron weapons.

By 650 B.C, the Assyrian empire stretched from the Nile River to the Persian Gulf. At its height, the Assyrian empire was ruled by kings whose power was considered absolute. Some of the kings who took power during its height include Tiglath-Pileser III (744-727 B.C), Sargon II (722-705 B.C), Senacherib (704-681 B.C), Esarhaddon (680-669 B.C) and Ashurbanipal (668-627 B.C). Local officials were directly responsible to the king. They also developed an efficient system of communication to administer their empire more effectively. Through the system, messages from different parts of the empire reached to the king in Nineveh (the capital of the empire) within a week.

At Nineveh, king Ashurbanipal founded one of the world's first libraries. There, he kept Cuneiform tablets which were collected from all over the Fertile Crescent. These tablets have offered modern scholars a wealth of information about the ancient Middle East.

Eventually, internal strife and resentment of Assyrian rule led the conquered peoples to revolt against it. In 612 B.C, Nineveh fell to a coalition of Chaldeans and Medes which marked the end of the Assyrian empire

The Chaldean Empire

Re-established in 625 B.C by Nebopolazar, Babylon began to revive under its aggressive king Nebuchadnezzar (605-562).

- ✓ The empire stretched from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ Babylon became the center of the empire.
- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt the city of Babylon
- ✓ He rebuilt canals , temples, walls and palaces
- ✓ He put up massive walls around the city.

- ✓ He enlarged and decorated the city's Ziggurat and restored the city's chief god, Marduk.
- ✓ Babylon became a center of learning and science.

The Chaldean Babylonia collapsed in 539 B.C when Babylon fell to the Persians

The Persian Empire

The Persians were an Indo-European speaking people lived in south-western Iran. In 539 B.C, Babylon fell to the Persian armies of Cyrus the Great (559-530 B.C).

- ✓ Cyrus and his successors built the largest empire yet seen. The empire stretched from Greece in the west to India in the east.
- ✓ Although Babylon was a Persian province, officials were kept in their positions.
- ✓ Unlike the previous rulers, Cyrus had a reputation for Mercy. Medes, Jews and Babylonians accepted him as their legitimate ruler. He had a respect for ancient civilizations.

Cyrus's successors extended the territory of Persia.

- ✓ His son Cambyses (530-522 B.C) invaded Egypt
- ✓ Darius (521-486 B.C) added new territories in India and Europe, and created the largest empire the world had yet seen. He invaded mainland Greece. He divided the empire into 20 provinces called *satrapies*. Each province was ruled by a *satrap*. Satraps collected tributes, were responsible for justice and security, raised military for the royal army, and commanded the military within their satrapies.
- ✓ Of all the Persian cultural contribution, the most original was their religion, Zoroastrianism.
 - Zoroaster was born in 660 B.C. he experienced revelations. He taught that there is life after death, and those who had good deeds would achieve paradise, otherwise enter into hell.
 - In the 3rd c B.C, his teachings were written down, the sacred book of Zoroastrianism
 - According to this religion, Ahuramazda was the supreme deity who brought all things into being.

The Hebrews (Jews)

According to the Bible, the Patriarch Abraham came from Ur in Mesopotamia around 1900 B.C and settled some of his people in Canaan. The remaining ones enter Egypt along with Hyksos in the 1700s B.C.

- ✓ When the Egyptians finally expelled the Hyksos in the 1500s B.C, the Egyptian Pharaoh enslaved the Hebrews.
- ✓ By the 13th c B.C, led by Moses, they had left Egypt and later reached Canaan. They joined those Jews who lived on the borders of northern Canaan.
 - The Hebrews first conquered the Canaanites and the Philistines closer to the Sea Coast.
 - Initially, they were divided into 12 tribes. Later on these tribes united under the rule of one king. The first king was Saul. David and Solomon succeeded him.
 - They established a united kingdom that reached its peak under David and Solomon in the 10th c B.C.
 - At the end of Solomon's reign in 922 B.C, the 10 northern tribes revolted and the kingdom was divided into two parts. The northern part became the kingdom of Israel with its capital at Samaria. The southern part became the kingdom of Judah with Jerusalem its capital.
- ✓ Those two Hebrew kingdoms lacked the strength to withstand invasions from the east.
 - About 722 B.C, the Assyrians conquered Israel, and made many Hebrews slaves.
 - In 586 B.C, the Chaldeans captured Judah and its capital Jerusalem. They took the southern Hebrews into captivity.
 - Cyrus, the Persian king conquered the Chaldeans and allowed the Hebrews to return to their homeland.
 - Thereafter, however, the area of the old Jewish kingdom was dominated by other peoples until the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 A.D.

The Indus and Ganges River Valley Civilizations

- Agricultural settlements, dating back over six thousand years, werediscovered in the lower reaches of the Indus River Valley in modern Pakistan.
 - ✓ Those villages eventually gave rise to the sophisticated human communities called Harappan civilization.

- ✓ This civilization occurred from about 2600-1500 B.C,
- ✓ The two most important cities discovered are thus, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, in which both of them found in modern Pakistan.
- Unlike the random arrangement of Mesopotamian cities, Indus Valley settlements ll followed the same basic plan. Streets and house were laid out on a north-south, east west grid, and houses and walls were built of standardized bricks.
- The Harappan economy
 - ✓ Was based primarily on agriculture Wheat, barley, rice and peas were the primary crops.
 - ✓ Harappa also developed an extensive trading network that extended to Sumer and other civilized nations to the west. Textiles and food stuff were imported from Sumer in exchange for metals like copper, lumber, precious stones and various types of luxury goods.
- Recent archaeological evidences suggest that unlike Egypt and Sumer, Harappa was not a centralized monarchy but a collection of many towns and cities loosely connected by ties of trade and alliance.It was ruled by a coalition of landlords and rich merchants.
- Archaeologists suggest that the people of the Indus were Polytheistic.
- Around 2000 B.C, the Indus Valley civilization began to decline.
 - ✓ Factors for the decline of the civilization are not clear.
 - ✚ Some sources suggest that the cities were destroyed by the Aryans, nomads from the north, who arrived in the area around 1500 B.C.
 - ✚ Others suggest that it was caused by an epidemic or by natural phenomena

The Arrival of the Aryans:Between 2000-1500 B.C, nomadic peoples migrated slowly with their herds of cattle and horse from central Asia.

- They travelled through the mountain passes into northwest India.
 - ✓ The Aryans were Indo-European speaking peoples who inhabited vast areas in central Asia. When part of Indo European speaking people moved westward and eventually settled in Europe, the Aryans moved south into the plains of northern India.
 - ✓ Between 1500 and 1000 B.C, they gradually advanced eastward from the Indus valley, across the fertile plain of the Ganges.They continued their expansion southward into the Deccan plateau and controlled the entire subcontinent and its Dravidian inhabitants.

- ✓ After they settled in India, the Aryans gradually adapted to the geographical realities of their new homeland and abandoned the pastoral life for agriculture.
- Aryan tribes were led by chiefs called *rajas* who were assisted by council of elders composed of other leading members of the tribe. The *raja* was a member of a warrior class called *Kshatriya*. Gradually, the *rajas* began to be transformed into *maharajas* (Kings).
- While competing groups quarreled for superiority in India, powerful new empires were rising to the west. First, came the Persian empire of Cyrus and Darius. Darius (521-486 B.C), for example, added a new Persian province in western India that extended to the Indus River, and then came the Greeks. After two centuries of sporadic rivalry and warfare, the Greeks achieved a brief period of regional dominance in the late 4th c B.C with the rise of Macedonia under Alexander the Great. After conquering Persia, Alexander's army arrived in the plains of northwest India in 326 B.C. However, they stayed in India for short period of time.
- **Maurya dynasty (324-301 B.C):** Following the departure of Alexander from India, the first dynasty that controlled much of India was established. The founder of the new state was Chandragupta Maurya (324-301 B.C). The Mauryan dynasty ruled over a vast united state called the Mauryan Empire.
 - ✓ Chandragupta maintained order through a well organized bureaucracy.
 - ✚ He was advised by a brilliant court official named Kautilya.
 - ✚ Chandragupta was guided by the basic belief that a ruler must have absolute power. Therefore, Chandragupta's government was highly centralized and despotic. At first most of the province governors were appointed by the ruler but later the position become hereditary.
- In 273 B.C Asoka, the grandson of Chandragupta came to power.
 - ✓ He further expanded his grandfather's empire. By the end of his rule in 232 B.C, Asoka had built the greatest empire India had ever seen.
 - ✓ During the first years of his rule, Asoka fought a number of wars a long and bloody war to conquer the Deccan region of Kalinga. In about 261 B.C, he won a bloody battle. The situation at Kalinga became a great sorrow for Asoka, thus he abandoned war and violence. Later, he made Buddhism his religion and spread the message of Buddhism to the people of his empire. His rule brought peace and prosperity. Although Asoka promoted Buddhism, he also preached tolerance for other religions.

- After Asoka died, the Mauryan Empire weakened and eventually split into smaller states. Thus, by 185 B.C the unity of the Mauryan Empire was shattered as rival princes battled for power across the Ganges plain. Like the Ganges plain, the Deccan was divided into many kingdoms.
- About 500 years after the Mauryas, the Gupta dynasty again united much of India. Gupta emperors organized a strong central government that promoted peace and prosperity. Under the Gupta who ruled from 320-540 A.D, India enjoyed a golden age or a period of great achievement.
- Eventually, India declined under the pressure of weak rulers, civil war and foreign invaders. From central Asia came the White Huns, a nomadic people who overran the weakened Gupta Empire, destroying its cities and trade. Thus India split into many kingdoms. This continued for about 1000 years.

Social Class or Caste System in India:In India, there were 4 major social classes or castes.

- The Brahmins (priests) were at the top of the social class. They advised the ruler on religious matters.
- Next came the Kshatriyas (warriors). Originally they were identified with a single occupation, fighting.
- The third ranked caste was the Vaisiya or commoner. The Vaisiya were mostly merchants.
- Below the Vaisiya were the Sudras, who represented the great bulk of the Indian population. Most of the Sudras were the native Indians, Dravidian population. Most of them were peasants and artisans.
- At the lowest level of Indian society, which is not considered as a legitimate part of the caste system were untouchables or outcastes known as Pariahs. The life of untouchables was extremely inferior.

Religion:The Aryans were polytheistic.

- They worship gods and goddesses who embodied natural forces such as sun, storm and fire.
- The chief Aryan deity was Indra, the god of war. Other gods included Varuna (the god of justice and creation) and Agni (the god of fire and the messenger who communicated human wishes to gods).

- Similar with their way of life, the Aryan belief also changed. Indian religion is a blend of Aryan and Dravidian culture. Out of these cultural mix came Hinduism and Buddhism.
 - ✓ Unlike most major religions, Hinduism has no single founder and no single sacred text.
 - ✚ It grew out of overlapping belief of the diverse group of Indians.
 - ✓ In the 6th c B.C, a new doctrine appeared in India that soon began to rival Hinduism's popularity throughout the subcontinent. This religion was Buddhism.
 - ✚ Siddhartha Gautama was the founder of the religion.
 - ✚ Siddhartha Gautama accepted much of the belief system of Hinduism. For example, he accepted the concept of reincarnation. At the same time, the new doctrine differed from existing Hindu practice in a number of key ways. For instance, he rejected the Hindu division of humanity into rigidly defined castes.

Chapter Four: Introduction to the Classical Civilization Period

1. Ancient Chinese Civilization

Chinese history began in the Huang/Yellow River valley. Some historians state that the Chinese civilization began with the foundation of the Xia dynasty before 4000 years ago. The founder was a ruler named Yu, who is also credited with introducing irrigation and draining the floodwaters. The Xia dynasty was replaced by the Shang dynasty.

The Shang Dynasty(1760 - 1122 B.C):

- China was ruled by an aristocratic class
- The king ruled with the assistance of a central bureaucracy in the capital city. Provinces were ruled by chieftains who were appointed by the king.

The Zhou Dynasty:The territory of the Zhou people partly bordered the territory of the Shang. They were located somewhere to the west of Anyang, the Shang capital. Sometimes, these two neighbours lived peacefully. At other times, they fought over territory. Finally, the Zhou conquered the Shang in about 1122 BC.

- The Zhou dynasty adopted the political system of its predecessor. But the Zhou kings introduced some innovations. One of these is “the mandate of Heaven.” To justify their rebellion against the Shang, the Zhou promoted the idea of the mandate of heaven, or the divine right to rule. According to the Zhou, the cruelty of the last Shang king had so outraged the gods. The gods then passed the mandate of Heaven to the Zhou who treated the multitudes of the people well.” According to this concept, heaven maintained order in the universe through the Zhou king, who thus ruled as a representative of Heaven. The king was considered as responsible for governing the people with compassion and efficiency. But if the king failed to rule effectively, he could be overthrown and replaced by a new ruler.
- The Zhou period was divided into two parts: the earliest western Zhou dynasty and the later eastern Zhou dynasty.
 - ✓ During the last two centuries of the Zhou dynasty (the 4th and the 3rd centuries B.C), the authority of the king became increasingly nominal and several of the small principalities of the Zhou territories began to evolve into powerful states.

- ✓ By the late 5th c B.C, competition intensified into civil war, giving birth to the period of the warring states. Eventually, the relatively young state of Chin located in the original homeland of the Zhou, become stronger than other states.

The Chin Dynasty (221-206B.C):Form his base in western China, the powerful ruler of the state of Chin named Zheng rose to unity all of China. In 221 B.C., Zheng proclaimed himself Shi Huangdi or “first Emperor.” He sought to strengthen China through strong and harsh rule.

- Legalism was adopted as the official ideology.
 - ✓ Legalism is the idea people should be punished for bad behavior and rewarded for good behavior.
 - ✓ Those who opposed the policies of the new regime were punished and sometimes executed.
 - ✓ Unlike the Zhou, the Chin was a highly centralized state.
 - ✓ A penal code provided for harsh punishments for all wrongdoers.
 - ✓ Shi Huangdi also abolished feudalism. He replaced feudal states with 36 military districts and appointed loyal officials to administer them.
 - ✓ Shi Huangdi’s most remarkable and costly achievement was the Great Wall. In the past, individual feudal states had built walls to defend their lands against raiders. Shi Huangdi ordered the walls to be joined. One of his first tasks was to protect the new empire from its enemies. Throughout its history, nomads attacked China along its vast northern borders. Shi Huangdi had a plan to end these border wars.
- By a ruthless control, Shi Huangdi hoped to establish a rule that could survive for a long period. However when Shi Huangdi died in 210 B.C, anger over heavy taxes, forced labor and cruel policies exploded into revolts, which led to a civil war and chaos. After four years of the death of its founder, the Chin dynasty collapsed.

The Han dynasty (202B.C-221 A.D):The fall of the Chin was followed by a brief period of civil war as aspiring successors competed for hegemony. Out of this strife, the Han dynasty came victorious.

- The founder of the Han dynasty was Liu Bang. The new dynasty quickly moved to consolidate its control over the empire and promote the welfare of its subjects. He maintained

the centralized political institutions of the Chin, but abandoned their harsh legalistic approach to law enforcement. The Han continued selecting government officials on the basis of merit rather than birth.

- As the Han dynasty aged, signs of decay appeared. Court plots undermined emperors who could no longer control powerful warlords, or local military rulers. Weak emperors let canals and roads fall into disrepair. Burdened by heavy taxes and crushing debts, many peasants revolted. Finally, ambitious warlords overthrew the last Han emperor.

Religious Beliefs:The Chinese concept of religion evolved to believing in heaven.

- By the Shang times, the Chinese had developed complex religious beliefs many of which continued to be practiced for thousands of years. The early Chinese prayed to many gods. Chief among them was the supreme god Shang Di.
- During the late Zou period, when war and social changes were disrupting old ways of life, new belief systems developed that would form the basis of China's culture and government for centuries to come. Thinkers such as Confucius put forward ideas on how to restore social order and maintain harmony with nature.

Confucius was born in 551 B.C.

- Unlike Buddha, Confucius took little interest in spiritual matters such as salvation.
 - ✓ Instead, he developed a philosophy or a system of ideas that was concerned with worldly goals, especially those of ensuring social order and good governance.
 - ✓ His interest in philosophy was political and ethical. He assumed that if each individual worked hard to fulfill his or her assigned destiny, the affairs of the society as a whole would surely prosper as well. If kings follow the right way the beneficial effects would radiate throughout society.

2. **Ancient Greece**

The Minoan civilization(2000 – 1450):The earliest civilization in the Aegean region emerged on Crete, a large island south west of the Greek mainland.

- This civilization is called Minoan, after Minos the legendary king of Crete.

- The success of the Minoans was based on trade not conquest. From their island home in the eastern Mediterranean, they crossed the sea to the Nile valley and the Middle East, Mainland Greece and other Greek islands, Egypt, Sicily and Mesopotamia.
- The Minoan civilization suffered a sudden collapse around 1450 B.C.
 - ✓ Some historians believed that a tidal wave was responsible for the devastation.
 - ✓ Others think that the collapse was caused by invasion from the Greek mainland, Mycenae.

Mycenaean civilization(1600–1100 B.C): The Mycenaean Greeks were part of the Indo-European family who entered the territory of Greece from central Asia around 1900 B.C.

- They gradually intermarried with the local people known as Hellenes. The Mycenaean learnt many skills from the Minoans such as metalwork and ship building.
- By the late 13th c B.C, Mycenaean civilization began to decline. By 1100 B.C, fighting among the Mycenaean had destroyed the great hilltop-fortress. Soon after, a new wave of invaders, the Greek speaking **Dorian** entered Greece from the north. Armed with iron weapons, the Dorian easily overran the mainland.

The Dark Age of Greece: The years from the early 1100s to about 750 B.C, have been called Greece's Dark Age.

- During this period overseas trade stopped, poverty increased and people lost skills such as writing and craft making. Some were forced to move to Islands and to Asia Minor, particularly to Ionia. This period, however, was not completely bleak. It was in the later period or the Dark Age that the Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet.

The Greek City –States: During the Dark Age, Greek villages gradually expanded and evolved into independent city-states. By the 8th c B.C, the city-state or polis had emerged as a unique and fundamental institution in Greek society. A polis is a small but autonomous political unit in which all major political, social and religious activities were carried out at one central location. The polis consisted of a city or town and its surrounding countryside.

The return of prosperity after the “dark age” led to an increase in Greek's population. The growing gap between the rich and poor, over population and the development of trade led to the establishment of colonies. Between 750 and 550 B.C, large numbers of Greeks left their

homeland to settle in distant lands. Each polis sent out groups of people to establish colonies in coastal areas around the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Each colony kept close ties with its metropolis or “parent city.” A colony supplied its metropolis with grain.

Sparta: Sparta faced the need for more land. Instead of sending its people out to found new colonies, the Spartans conquered the neighbouring Laconia and Messenia. The conquered people were made slaves known as helots who were forced to work for the Spartans. Artisans and merchants from the conquered people called perioeci worked for the Spartan masters. The Spartans managed to suppress the revolt. They then decided that their only way could maintain power was to establish a military power.

Boys were taken from their mothers at their age seven and put under control of state, where they subjected to harsh discipline to make them tough and given education that stressed military training and obedience to authority.

Athens: Around the end of the 7th c B.C, Athens faced political turmoil because of serious economic problems.

- Increasing numbers of Athenian farmers found themselves sold into slavery when they were unable to repay loans they had obtained from their aristocratic neighbours.
- Internal strife finally led to tyranny.
- Pisistratus seized power in 560 B.C. Pursuing a foreign policy that aided Athenian trade, he remained popular with the mercantile and industrial classes. But the Athenians rebelled against his son and ended the tyranny in 510 B.C.
- Cleisthenes set up a council of 500 that supervised foreign affairs and the treasury and proposed laws that would be voted on by the assembly.
- The Athenian Assembly composed of all male citizens, was given final authority on the passing of laws after free and open debate. Since the assembly had the central role in the Athenian political system, the reforms of Cleisthenes had created the foundations for Athenian democracy.

The Peloponnesian war (431–401 B.C): many Greeks outside Athens resented Athenian domination. Before long, the Greek world was split into rival groups. To counter the Delian League, Sparta formed the Peloponnesian League, named after Peloponnesus the area where Sparta was located. In 431 B.C, Sparta and its allies fought against Athens and its allies. In the

second year of the war, plague killed about 1/3 of Athenian population. But the war continued. Finally, Athens was besieged and surrendered in 404 B.C.

Cultural and intellectual Achievements of Classical Greece: Classical Greece is the name given to the period of Greek history from around 500 B.C to the conquest of Greece by the Macedonian king Philip II in 338 B.C.

- Many of the cultural contributions of the Greeks occurred during this period. The people made many enduring contributions in art, philosophy, architecture, sculpture, and politics.

The Rise of Macedonia and the conquests of Alexander: After the Peloponnesian war, Sparta tried to rule the other city-states. Then in 371 B.C, a new alliance of city-states led by Thebes overthrew Spartan rule. The Thebans also made poor rulers and were overthrown. When a new invader, the **Macedonians**, threatened Greece in the 350s B.C, the city states were unable to resist. While the Greek city-states fought each other, a powerful kingdom to their north was emerging. When Philip II (359–336 B.C) came to the throne, he built an efficient army and turned Macedonia into the strongest power in the Greek world. He formed alliance with many Greek city states. To resist the attack from Philip, Athenians made alliance with Thebes. The two forces fought at **Chaeronea** in 338 B.C. The Macedonian army crushed the Greeks and controlled all of Greece. He planned to fight against the Persians but died before achieving his objective, leaving the task for his son Alexander.

Alexander succeeded his father. After his father's assassination, Alexander began to assert his authority. He then turned to his father's dream, the invasion of the Persian Empire. Persia was no longer great power. Emperor Darius II was weak and the provinces were often in rebellion against him. Alexander won his first victory against the Persians at **Granicus** River in 334 B.C. He then moved through Asia Minor into Palestine and south to Egypt before turning east to take **Babylon** in 331 B.C. But before Alexander could capture Darius, the Persian emperor was murdered. Over the next three years, he moved east and northeast as far as modern Pakistan. He crossed the Hindu Kush into northern India. There in 326 B.C, his troops faced strong resistance. His soldiers were tired of the long campaign and refused to march east. Alexander began planning a new campaign. But in 323 B.C he died.

Following Alexander's death, three of his generals (Ptolemy, Seleucids and Antigonus) divided his vast empire into separate domains. But the Greek city states soon declared their independence

and once again began fighting with each other. In the 100s, Romans would conquer Macedonia and Greece.

The Hellenistic Age: Cultural and Intellectual Achievements: Alexander opened a new age called the Hellenistic era. The word Hellenistic is an appropriate term to describe an age that saw the extension of the Greek language and ideas to the non-Greek world of the Middle East. As a result of his conquests, Greek language, art, architecture, culture and literature spread throughout the Middle East. The ideas that were brought from other lands modified Greek culture at home.

3. Roman Civilization

Between 2000 and 1000 B.C, waves of Indo-European immigrants arrived and overwhelmed the early peoples in Italy. The early Romans spoke Latin which belongs to Indo-European language family. About 600 B.C, a people called Etruscans held power in Rome and ruled it for about 100 years. Under the Etruscans, Rome emerged as a city. But many Romans (Latin) did not like being ruled by a king which deprived them participate in politics. In 509 B.C, the Romans rebelled against the Etruscan rule and drove the Etruscans from power.

The Roman Republic: After they removed the Etruscans from power, the Romans established a republican government. The Romans wanted a government that did not rely on one ruler (king). Over the next several centuries, Rome expanded its territories and found ways to govern that better represented the will of its citizens. By 264 B.C, the Romans had gained control of the entire Italian peninsula and had firmly established a new form of government called Republican. In this form of government, the people chose some of the officials. The Romans thought that this would prevent any individual from gaining too much power.

In the Roman Republic, the most powerful part of the government was the senate. It proposed and voted on new laws. At first, the Senate was made up of only 300 upper class men called patrician. A patrician was a member of a wealthy family. Ordinary citizens were known as plebeians. They could not hold office or be senators.

Two chief officials called consuls elected from the patricians for one year term and led the government. The consuls were the chief executives of the government. They had to consult each other before acting. Either consul could veto the other's decisions.

Territorial Expansion: The Punic Wars: After their conquest of the Italian peninsula, the Romans found themselves face to face with Carthage.

In the first Punic war (264–241 B.C), the Romans revolted to conquer Sicily. After a long struggle, a Roman fleet defeated the Carthaginian navy of Sicily and the war came to an end. Sicily became the first Roman province. Carthage wanted to revenge. Hannibal, Carthaginian general, opened attack on the Romans and the second power war (218–201 B.C) began. Hannibal crossed the Alps. At Cannae, in 216 B.C, the Romans lost an army of almost 40,000 men. But they raised another army and began to re-conquer some of the Italian cities that had gone over to Hannibal's side. They also sent troops to Spain, and by 206 B.C Spain was freed of the Carthaginians.

The Romans then took the war directly to Carthage, forcing the Carthaginians to recall Hannibal from Italy. At the battle of Zama in 202 B.C, the Romans crushed Hannibal's forces and the war was over. By the peace treaty signed in 201 B.C, Carthage lost Spain, which became another Roman province.

After 50 years of peace, Carthage regained its prosperity. Rome decided to end Carthaginian independence. Thus the third and final Punic war undertook. In 146 B.C, the Romans burned Carthage. This victory gave Rome complete control of the western Mediterranean.

During its struggle with Carthage, Rome also engaged in as conflict with the Hellenistic states in the eastern Mediterranean. After the defeat of Carthage, Rome turned its attention to this region. In 148 B.C, Macedonia was made a Roman province and two years later Romans controlled Greece. In 133 B.C, Rome got some territories in Asia.

The Roman Constitution and Struggle of Orders: The Roman constitution was an unwritten collection of laws and customs.

- The Romans elected two patricians to the office of consul
 - ✓ The Consuls were assisted by financial officials
 - ✓ The Consuls led the army, had religious duties and served as judges
 - ✓ They were elected for a year
 - ✓ They had veto power over the decision of each other
- In serious crises the Consuls could appoint a single man, the dictator
 - ✓ The dictator's term of office was limited to six months
- The Senate: the end of the monarchy increased the influence of the Senate
 - ✓ Initially its members were leading patricians
- **The Struggle of the Orders:** constitution of the early Roman republic gave to the patricians almost a monopoly of power and privilege.

- ✓ The Plebeians undertook a campaign to achieve political, economic, and social equality. This attempt is called The Struggle of the Orders.
- ✚ In 445 B.C, Plebeians gained the right to marry patricians
- ✚ In 367 B.C, they got the right that at least one consul could be Plebeian
- ✚ In 300 B.C, they were admitted to the most important priesthood
- ✚ In 287 B.C, they were represented in the Senate

The Decline and fall of the Roman Republic: From about 130s B.C, the Roman Republic began to decline. Through time, the number of landless farmers increased and became a great problem for the Republic. Some aristocrats wanted to resolve the growing economic and social crisis. They tried to break up estates of landlords and distributed to plebeians. The patricians opposed this action. This situation created a great obstacle on the proper functioning of the government and civil war broke out. Murdering those who led the reform began in 133 B.C. Powerful Roman generals gathered private armies around them and fought for power. Consuls no longer respected each other's veto power. Rome dissolved into civil war.

Out of this chaos emerged Julius Caesar. In 47 B.C, he was made dictator and three years later was named dictator for life. He gave land to the poor and increased the Senate to 900 members. By filling it with many of his supporters, he wrecked the power of the senate. But in 44 B.C, a group of leading senators assassinated him. After Caesar's death, Octavian and Antony divided the Roman world. But they eventually came into conflict. In 31 B.C, Octavian finally defeated Antony.

The Roman Empire: The Senate awarded Octavian the title of Augustus which means "highly respected." In 27 B.C, Octavian (Augustus Caesar) proclaimed the restoration of the Republic. He claimed to support the republic but he actually laid the foundation for a new state called the Roman Empire. In practice he became Rome's first emperor or absolute ruler. Although he gave some power to the senate, Octavian in reality became an emperor. He became popular. Under the Republic, the senate had appointed the governors of the provinces. Now certain provinces were given to the emperor who appointed governors of the provinces. Augustus died in 14 A.D.

The 200 years span that began with Augustus in 31 B.C and ended with Marcus Aurelius is known as the period of the Pax Romana (Roman Peace). During that time, Roman rule brought peace, order, unity and prosperity to lands stretching from the Euphrates River in the east to Britain in the west. After the death of Emperor Marcus Aurelius in 180 A.D, the golden age of

the Pax Romana ended. For the next 100 years, political and economic turmoil rocked the Roman Empire. During this period, emperors were overthrown by political intrigues or ambitious generals who seized power with the support of their troops.

Diocletian (284-305) and Constantine (312 – 337) attempted to halt the empire's decline. To better handle the challenge of governing the huge empire, he divided it into two. He kept control of the wealthier eastern part for himself and appointed a co-emperor, Maximian, to rule the western provinces.

Constantine's biggest project was the construction of a new capital city in the east, on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium (renamed as Constantinople). After Constantine, the empire continued to divide into western and eastern parts. To minimize the problems, Theodosius, who reigned after Constantine planned that the eastern and western parts should be declared separate Empires. In 395 A.D, this decision came to pass.

For centuries, Rome had faced attacks from Germanic peoples who lived east of Rhine and north of the Danube rivers as early as 200 A.D. Finally, in 476 A.D., Odoacer a Germanic leader who called himself king, seized control of Rome by killing the emperor (Romulus Augustus). This event marked the fall of Western Roman Empire.

Chapter-5: The Middle Ages

1. The Germanic Tribes

After the collapse of Rome, Western Europe entered a period of political, social and economic decline. From about 500 to 1000 A.D, it was politically divided; trade declined; cities, bridges and roads fell into despair; law and order vanished; and almost education disappeared. Waves of invaders swept across the region.

The Germanic tribes that conquered parts of the Roman Empire included the Goths, Vandals, Saxons and Franks. Between 400 and 700 A.D, these Germanic tribes established small kingdoms in Western Europe. One of these kingdoms was that of the Franks. In 481 Clovis became the king of the Franks.

A century later, the Frankish kingdom began to decline. Frankish kings had followed the custom of dividing the kingdom among their heirs. By 700 A.D, political power had passed from kings to government officials known as Mayors of the Palace. One of these Mayors, Pepin, assumed the kingship of Frankish state for himself and his family. Upon his death in 768, his son Charles the Great took the throne of the Frankish kingdom.

2. The Carolingian Empire

This new king was the dynamic and powerful ruler known as Charles the Great or Charlemagne (768-814). He greatly expanded the territory of his kingdom and created the Carolingian Empire. His territory included Germany, France northern Spain and most of Italy.

As Charlemagne's power grew, so did his prestige as the most powerful Christian ruler. In 800 A.D, he acquired a title of emperor of the Romans. A Germanic king had been crowned emperor of the Romans by the spiritual leader of western Christendom.

Charlemagne's death was followed by years of incompetent rule and civil war. His successors lacked leadership ability. By the treaty of Verdun in 843, his three grandsons agreed to divide the territory. Louis received modern Germany, Charles the Bald took France and Lothair took Italy.

His successors failed to control the nobles, prevent local warfare, and suppress piracy and highway robbery. They were unable to defend new invasions of Western Europe. The Vikings from the northern Europe (Norway, Sweden and Denmark) raided part of Europe to their south.

3. The Byzantine Empire

In 330 A.D, Constantine made Constantinople the new capital of the empire. In the 4th century, a noticeable separation between the western and eastern parts of the Roman Empire began to

develop. In the course of the 5th century, the Roman Empire in the east, centered on Constantinople, continued to exist. The period from the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A.D to about 1500 A.D is known as the middle Ages.

In the early middle Ages, the Byzantine Empire remained strong. This allowed the Byzantines to preserve many Roman achievements and traditions.

One of the greatest Byzantine emperors was Justinian (527-565). He determined to re-establish the Roman Empire in the entire Mediterranean World. His empire included Italy, part of Spain, Northern Africa, Asia Minor, Palestine and Syria. But the conquest of the western empire could not be permanent.

Although his conquests proved short-lived, Justinian made a lasting contribution through his codification of Roman law. He set up to collect, revise and organize all the laws of ancient Rome. The result was Justinian's Code. This massive collection included laws passed by Roman assemblies or decreed by Roman Emperors, as well as the legal writings of Roman judges and a hand book for students. This law became the basis of imperial law in the Byzantine Empire until its end in 1453. Since it was written in Latin, it was also eventually used in the west and became the basis of the legal system of all of continental Europe.

The city of Constantinople was destroyed in 532 A.D by a revolt erupted in the empire. Justinian rebuilt the city. It was the largest city in Europe during the middle Ages. Until the 12th century, Constantinople was Europe's greatest commercial center. His greatest achievement was the famous Hagia Sophia church completed in 537 A.D.

After Justinian's death, the Byzantine Empire began to decline. Later emperors had to fight against Persians and Turks to the east, Arabs to the south and Germanic peoples to the north and west.

During the reign of Michael (842-867), the Byzantine Empire began to experience a revival. There was a noticeable intellectual renewal. In this period (867-1056) of prosperity, Byzantine cultural influence expanded.

After 1056, power struggle rose among ambitious military leaders and aristocratic families. In the 1090s, the Byzantine emperor Alexius I called for western help to fight the Muslim Seljuk whose attacks blocked the pilgrimage routes to Jerusalem that brought the first crusade. During later crusades, however, trade rivalry sparked violence between the Byzantine Empire and Venice, a city-state north of Italy. In 1204, Venetian merchants persuaded knights on the

4th crusade to attack Constantinople. Crusaders burnt and plundered the city. Western Christians ruled Constantinople for 57 years. Although a Byzantine emperor reclaimed the capital in 1261, the empire never recovered. The restored empire now consisted of the city of Constantinople and its surrounding territory along some lands in Asia Minor.

In 1453, Ottoman forces surrounded Constantinople. After a siege lasting two months, the Turks stormed Constantinople. Forces led by Ottoman ruler Mahmet II entered the city in triumph. The city was renamed Istanbul and become the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Hagia Sophia was turned to mosque.

4. The Crusades

During the middle Ages, Christians considered Palestine as the Holy Land. The Arabs conquered Palestine in the mid seventh century. Although most Arabs were the followers of Islam, they often tolerated other religions such as Christianity and Judaism. For centuries, Christian pilgrims visiting Palestine met with less interference from the Arab rulers. European merchants could generally do business there.

In the eleventh century, however, the Seljuk Turks conquered Palestine and attacked Asia Minor. When the Turks threatened Constantinople, the capital city of the Byzantine Empire, in the late eleventh century, the Byzantine Emperor appealed to the Pope in Rome. Because Christian pilgrims to Palestine came home with reports of persecutions at the hands of the Turks, the Byzantine Emperor's appeal for help found a warm reception in Europe.

Pope Urban II was eager to regain the Holy Land from the Muslims. He called a great meeting of the church leaders and French nobles at Clermont, France, in 1095. At the meeting, he urged the powerful feudal nobles to stop fighting among themselves and to join in one Great War against the Muslims.

The Crusaders launched most of their attack from France. They fought seven major Crusades over a period of almost two centuries. The most significant were the First and Third Crusades.

The First Crusade(1096 – 1099) was a well organized military expedition. The First Crusade drove the Muslims from parts of the Palestine and gained control of Jerusalem.

The Second Crusade started in 1147, after the Turks had recaptured some territories and threatened the kingdom of Jerusalem. But the Crusaders returned home without successful victory.

The Third Crusade was started in 1189. Although this Crusade failed to recapture Jerusalem, the two sides reached an agreement for safe passage of Christian pilgrims.

5. Christianity in the Middle Ages

During the Middle Age, Rome and Constantinople competed for religious power. The Pope of Rome claimed supremacy over the whole church, whereas the Patriarch of Constantinople asserted authority over church affairs in the east. They had also conflicting views on church language, religious beliefs and rituals. As a result of these disagreements, in 1054 the Christian church split into two distinct parts: the Roman Catholic Church at Rome and the Greek Orthodox Church at Constantinople.

Although the Church's primary mission was spiritual, the decline of Rome in the 400s A.D, led the Church to assume many political and social tasks. People became the strongest political leader in the Western Europe.

The Catholic Church helped to govern Western Europe. Bishops and abbots played an important role in feudal system. This boosted the Church's power and wealth.

6. European Feudalism

When governments became weak and unable to defend the people, feudalism emerged. Feudalism may be considered (1) a social system of rigid class distinctions, (2) a political system of local government and military defence (3) an economic system of agricultural manors. It was a loosely organized system of rule in which powerful local lords divided their landholdings among lesser lords or vassals in exchange for services to the greater lord. Under feudalism, land was owned by kings or lords but held by vassal in return for their loyalty.

With the breakdown of the royal governments, powerful nobles took control of large areas of land. They needed men to fight for them by giving land to these fighters or knights. By the 900 A.D, feudalism emerged. By the 1000, feudalism was well established in Western Europe. In medieval Europe, power belonged to those who controlled the land. These land owners were

nobles. They gave land called fief to each of ~~the~~ vassals or people who promised to serve him and to fight for him. A vassal could also be a lord.

Manor (or the land lord's estate)

⇒ It consisted of – The farm and pasture lands

- The lord's castle or manor house

- Residential houses of peasants

⇒ The manor was largely self-sufficient economically

⇒ Its inhabitants - raised crops and livestock for food

- made cloths and shoes

- prepared furniture

- built houses

7. Agricultural Advances

From the 10th to the 13th centuries AD, technical innovations greatly improved agricultural productivity.

The Metal Plow: Prior to the introduction of the metal plow, wooden plows had been used. Wooden plows were unable to till the heavy clay soils of the North European Plain. With the introduction of the metal plow, people were able to move from the central uplands and valleys of the alpine region onto the river valleys of the North European Plain and take advantage of the rich soils found there.

- The invention of heavier plow
 - ✓ It made possible to cut the rich and damp soils of northwestern Europe
 - ✓ It enabled farmers to produce more and cultivate new lands
 - ✓ Peasants and nobles migrated to new areas

3-Field System of Crop Rotation: The 3-field system replaced the 2-field system. This by itself increased productivity. Under the 2-field system, 50% of farmland lay fallow in a given year while the other 50% was cultivated. Under the 3-field system, 33% lay fallow while the other 67% was cultivated. This increased agricultural productivity by 17%

Farming by oxen was replaced by horses: Horses pulled the plow faster than oxen

Results of Medieval Agricultural Revolution:

- Increased productivity.
- Increased population.
- Freed labor disruption of the feudal system
- Increased urbanization.
- Increased trade.

8. Growth of Towns

In the ancient world, town life was well established, particularly in Greece and Rome. Ancient towns were busy trading centers. But after the fall of the Roman Empire in the west, trade with the east suffered, and town life declined. In the Early Middle Ages, most people in western Europe lived in scattered communities in the countryside. But by the 12th century, towns were growing up around castles and monasteries and along trade routes. These busy towns became centers of trade and industry.

By the High Middle Ages, towns were growing again. One reason for their growth was improvements in agriculture. Another reason for the growth of towns was the revival of trade. Seaport towns, such as Venice and Genoa in Italy, served as trading centers for goods from the Middle East and Asia. Within Europe, merchants often traveled by river, and many towns grew up near these waterways. Many merchants who sold their wares in towns became permanent **residents**. So did people practicing various trades. Some towns grew wealthier because local people specialized in making specific types of goods.

At the beginning of the Middle Ages, most trade was in luxury goods, which only the wealthy could afford. By the High Middle Ages, more local people were buying and selling more kinds of products. These included everyday goods, such as food, clothing, and household items.