

Period 2: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 BCE to c. 600 CE

Key Concept 2.1 The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

How did religions help strengthen political, economic, and cultural ties within societies?

How did religions promote a sense of unity?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Judaism?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Hinduism(s)?

What is a “universal religion?” Where did universal religions exist by 600 CE?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Buddhism?

How and where did Buddhism spread by 600 CE?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Confucianism?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Daoism?

What are the characteristics and core teachings of Christianity?

How and where did Christianity spread by 600 CE?

What are the main characteristics of Greco-Roman philosophy and science?

How did religions affect gender roles in their respective societies?

What other religious and cultural traditions were common by 600 CE?

How did humans’ reliance on the natural world influence religion?

How did humans relate to their deceased ancestors?

How did art and culture develop to 600 CE?

What literary works influenced later eras?

How did different societies’ architectural styles develop?

What examples of syncretism reflect the Classical Era to 600 CE?

Key Concept 2.2 The Development of States and Empires

What is an “empire,” and what were empires’ common characteristics during the Classical Era?

How did the number & size of Classical empires compare to the Ancient Era?

What were the most influential of the Classical Era empires?

What techniques did Classical empires create to administer their territories?

What new political methods were created in order to rule the larger empires in the Classical Era?

How did imperial governments let their population know that the government was “in charge?”

What role did trade play in creating and maintaining empires?

What unique social and economic characteristics existed in empires?

What function did imperial cities perform?

What social classes and occupations were common in empires?

What labor systems provided the workers for Classical Empires?

Describe the gender and family structures of Classical Era empires.

What caused Classical Empires to decline, collapse, or transform into something else?

What were the environmental and social weaknesses of Classical Empires?

What external weaknesses contributed to the end of Classical Empires?

Key Concept 2.3 Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication and Exchange

How did Classical era trade networks compare to Ancient era networks?

What forces contributed to the changes between the two eras?

What was commonly traded along these trade networks?

How did trade & communication networks develop by 600 CE?

What technologies enabled long-distance overland and maritime trade?

Besides the physical goods, what intangibles also traveled along trade networks?

What crops spread along Classical Era trade networks?

What effects did diseases have on Classical empires?

How did religions spread along trade networks, and how did the trade networks affect the religions?