

## Must Know Dates Unit 1: 8000 BCE to 600 CE

### Middle East (Southwest Asia)

- 8000 BCE Beginnings of Agriculture in the Fertile Crescent (along the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers- modern day Iraq)
- 3000 BCE Beginnings of Bronze Age (made of tin and copper so it forced long distance trade) and Mesopotamian City-States (independent not a unified empire, wheel, sail, plow, base-60 system)
- 1800 BCE Hammurabi's Code (used to unify Mesopotamia, Eye for Eye, written in cuneiform)
- 1300 BCE Iron Age (use of iron weapons and farming tools gave the civilizations who used iron an advantage, started in Anatolia (modern day Turkey) with the Hittites and then the Assyrians)
- 1000 BCE Construction of King Solomon's Temple (built in Jerusalem, seen as legitimizing Judaism, monotheistic, Torah-religious text)
- 550 BCE Beginnings of the Persian Empire (started by Cyrus the Great, stretched from Greece to India and North Africa, Darius I set up satraps (governors to run the empire in districts), Zoroastrian but tolerant of other faiths)

### South Asia (India and Pakistan)

- Circa 1900 BCE- cities in Indus River Valley abandoned (Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, organized on a grid system, potter's wheel, writing system(undeciphered), irrigation, and long distance trade with Mesopotamia)
- 1500 BCE Vedic Age (Vedas- religious text of Vedic religion which becomes Hinduism, belief in reincarnation, established caste system)
- 483 BCE death of Buddha (his death starts the spread of Buddhism, Siddhartha Gautama, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, goal to reach Nirvana)
- 324-184 BCE Mauryan Dynasty (started by Chandragupta Maurya, most kings Hindu, centralized, controlled mines, coins, large army, most famous king Ashoka-converted to Buddhism, spread the faith through missionaries, pillars of moral codes placed throughout empire)
- 320-550 CE Gupta Dynasty/Empire (Hindu, Golden Age of India, concept of zero, decimals, Arabic numerals, sati (burning of a widow on husband's funeral pyre))

### East Asia (China, Japan, and the Koreas)

- 1750 BCE Shang Dynasty begins (Yellow and Yangzi Rivers, feng shui, character writing system, jade, ivory, silk, bronze weapons)
- 1027 BCE Zhou Dynasty begins (longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history, introduced the concept of the Mandate of Heaven)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Century BCE life of Confucius and Laozi (Confucius established clear social structure, filial piety, five relationships, the Analects; Laozi founder of Daoism (Taoism) says follow your path (Dao) and accept the world instead of seeking to change it)
- 221 BCE Qin unified China (Shi Huangdi, legalist, started Great Wall of China, made terracotta warriors)
- 206 BCE-220 CE Han Dynasty (the Classical Age or Golden Age of China, established Silk Road, based on Confucianism, starts Civil Service Exam, horse collar, crossbow, silk)

### Africa

- 3100 BCE beginning of Ancient Egypt (civilization began along the Nile River Valley, leader was a Pharaoh-seen as god, theocracy, broken into the Old (self-sufficient), Middle (took over Nubia), and New Kingdoms (became expansionist))
- 1000 BCE-500 CE Bantu Migrations (began in Niger River valley (West Africa), spread Bantu family of languages, iron smelting, and indigenous plants and animals as people spread south and southeast)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Century BCE Beginning of Trans-Saharan trade routes (Unifies Sub-Saharan African and North Africa, gold, salt, slaves, palm oil, forest products; trade dies down after the fall of the Roman empire but picks back up with the spread of Islam into sub-Saharan Africa)

### Mediterranean or Europe

- 5<sup>th</sup> Century BCE Greek Golden Age (independent city states, Athens and Sparta key city states)
- 323 BCE Alexander the Great (took over for his father Phillip II, controlled Greece, Anatolia (modern-day Turkey), the Middle East, all the way to India, Egypt, started the Hellenistic Age-which promoted Greek culture throughout his former empire)
- 507-31 BCE Roman Republic (built on Greek legacy, Senate, patricians/plebeians)
- 32 CE Beginnings of Christianity (early Christians persecuted by the Roman Empire, poor, women, slaves were the first converts)
- 180 CE end of Pax Romana (Roman Peace- growth of the economy and stable political leadership)
- 312 CE Emperor Constantine converts to Christianity (ends persecution of Christians in Roman Empire)
- Could also be a Middle Eastern date: 333 CE Roman Capital moved to Constantinople (the power of the Roman Empire shifts to the East, chosen because of its location between the Black Sea and Mediterranean trade routes and other Afro-Eurasian trade routes)
- 476 CE Fall of Rome (the Western part of the Empire, sacked by Germanic tribes, the Roman legacy lives on in the Byzantine Empire (the Eastern portion of Rome))
- Could also be a Middle Eastern date: 527 CE Justinian rule of Byzantine Empire (almost reclaimed all of Roman Empires lands, height of the Byzantine Empire, built the Hagia Sophia, rewrote the law codes)