

## Period 2: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies

Theme	Characteristics at the Beginning of the Period	Key Continuities	Characteristics at the End of the Period	Analysis of Changes / Continuities (WHY did they happen?)
		Key Changes		
<b>Human-Environ Interaction</b> (Demography, disease, migration, technology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>world pop ~ 100 mill</li> <li>reliable food supply</li> <li>agricultural diversity</li> <li>writing systems</li> <li>early medicine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dependence on geography for raw materials</li> <li>demand for raw materials &amp; luxury goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>world pop ~ 200 mill</li> <li>environmental damage, (deforestation, desertification, erosion)</li> <li>cities/capitals served as centers of religion, trade, &amp; political activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>imperial gov'ts → environmental damage (Han, Rome, Maurya, Gupta)</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>better medicine, architecture, metallurgy</li> <li>road/transportation systems &amp; routes</li> <li>new technologies (stirrup, saddle, yokes)</li> <li>domesticated pack animals (camels, horses, oxen)</li> <li>longer migration &amp; trade routes</li> </ul>		
<b>Culture</b> (Religions, philosophies, Science, technology, art, architecture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing, record keeping, literature</li> <li>Religions: Vedic/ Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shamanism / animism</li> <li>ancestor veneration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities served as cultural centers as well as religious and political</li> <li>Each empire had its own religion(s) (e.g. Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cities provide the services of large populations</li> <li>Religion: Axial Age theory (major shift in thinking)</li> <li>Religion &amp; geography influenced arts &amp; literature</li> <li>political &amp; religious rule(rs) often merged</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hebrew scriptures, Diaspora</li> <li>Vedic relig / Hinduisms → scriptures</li> <li>New religions/faiths</li> <li>Literature &amp; architecture developed cultural styles</li> </ul>		
<b>Politics</b> (State-building, conflict, political structures, empires, revolts and revolution)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empires &amp; Civs: Olmec, Egyptian, Zhou, Greece, Bantus, Maurya</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rulers often claimed divinity / support</li> <li>military threats from “outsiders”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empires: Large, regional in size (Byzantium, Gupta, Han, Maya, Persia, Rome, Toltec)</li> <li>established administrative bureaucracies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>empires grew beyond their ability to administer</li> <li>tech of the day limited</li> <li>imperial administration, communication, control</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># &amp; size of states grew dramatically</li> <li>administrative techniques (bureaucracies, legal systems, diplomacy)</li> </ul>		

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<b>Economics</b> (Agriculture, trade, commerce, labor systems, industrialization, capitalism, socialism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trade = regional/interregional</li> <li>specialized labor in urban areas</li> <li>slaves do least desirable work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demand for raw materials &amp; luxury goods</li> <li>slavery (debt, political/religious opponents, war prisoners)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wide range of work, corvée, slavery, rents, tributes, family-based</li> <li>trade networks made diffusion quicker, easier, cheaper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture still the predominant occupation</li> <li>Most people had little access to distant/luxury goods</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trans-regional trade networks (Silk Roads, Trans-Sahara, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, American)</li> </ul>		
<b>Social</b> (Gender roles/relations, family, racial & ethnic constructions, social and economic classes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social hierarchies, political &amp; religious elites</li> <li>patriarchy in politics &amp; religion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>patriarchy shaped gender &amp; family relations in all empires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social structures included farmers, unskilled laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites &amp; caste groups, soldiers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>difficulties of administering large empires → social tensions</li> <li>inequality among social → envy, hostility</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>social tensions created by inequality of wealth, military defeats, economic decline</li> </ul>		