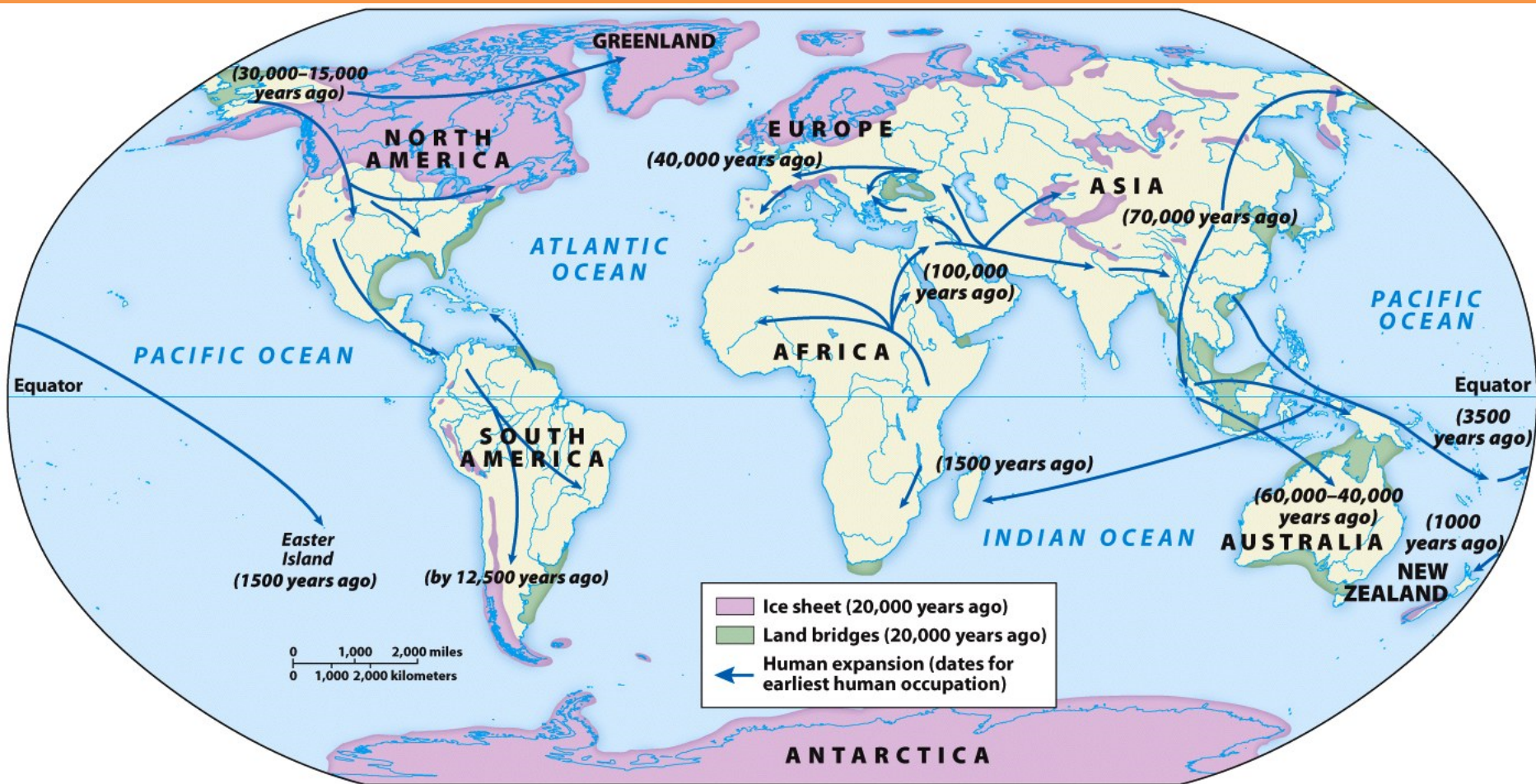


Hunter-Gatherers to Civilizations to Empires

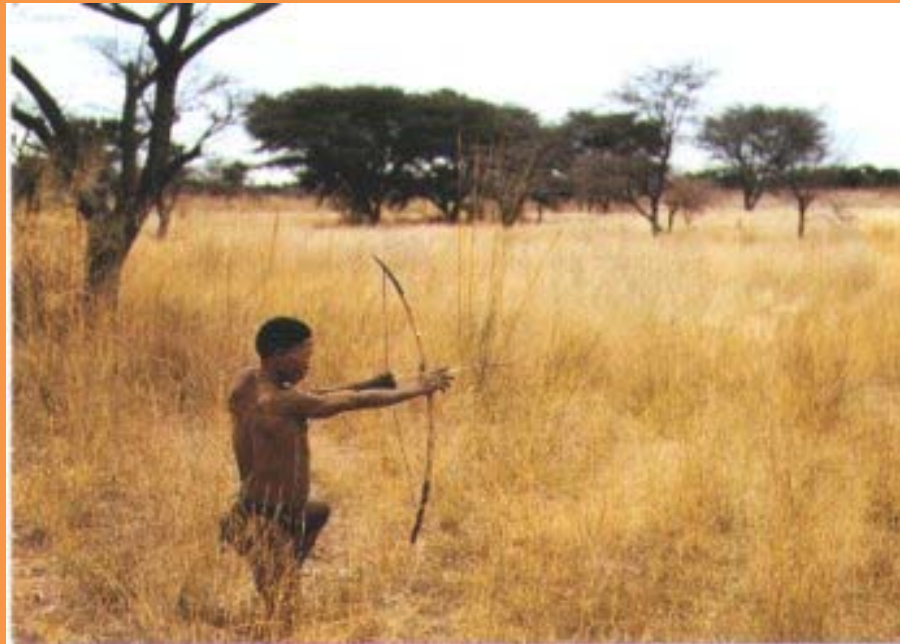
FOUNDATIONS & TRANSFORMATIONS (8000 B.C.E. – 600 B.C.E.)





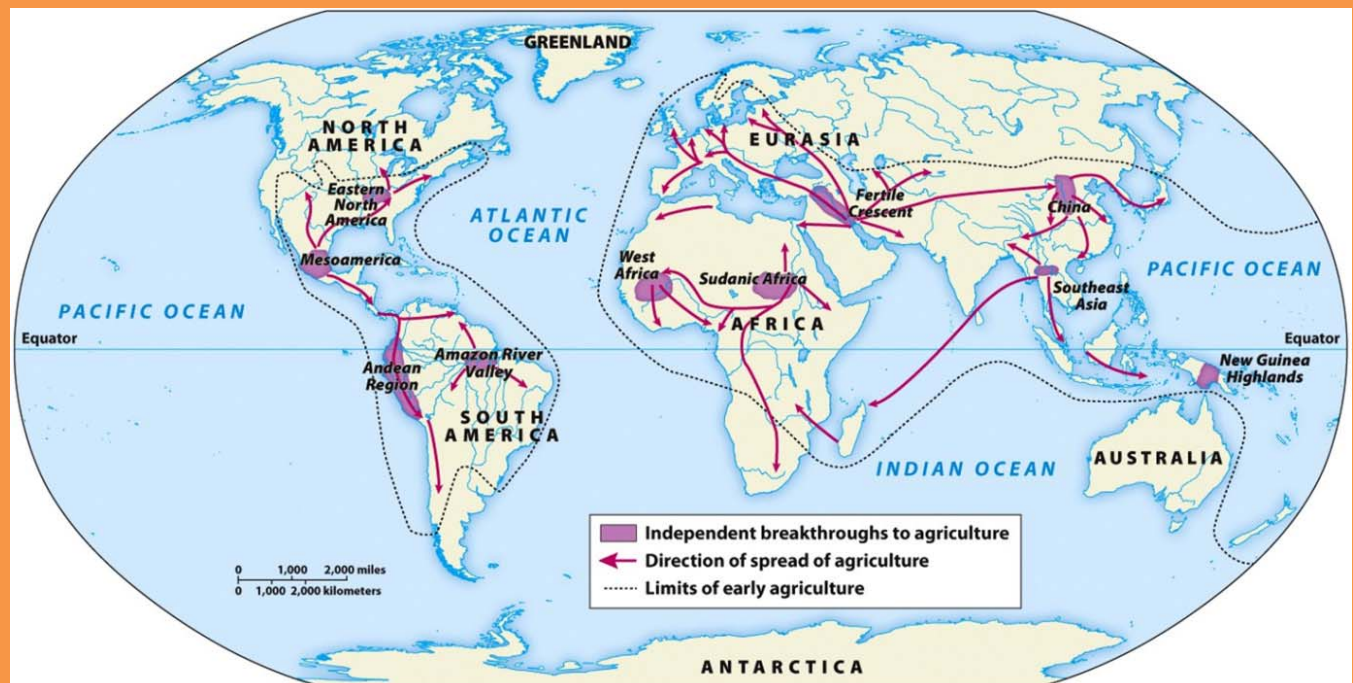
Map 1-1
 Ways of the World, First Edition
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- Early humans were nomadic hunter gatherers.
 - Women probably did most of the gathering and cooking, which could have been done while caring for small children.
 - Men because of their stronger arms were more suited for hunting.
 - Since men and women both played such a vital role in their societies they more or less viewed each other as equals.



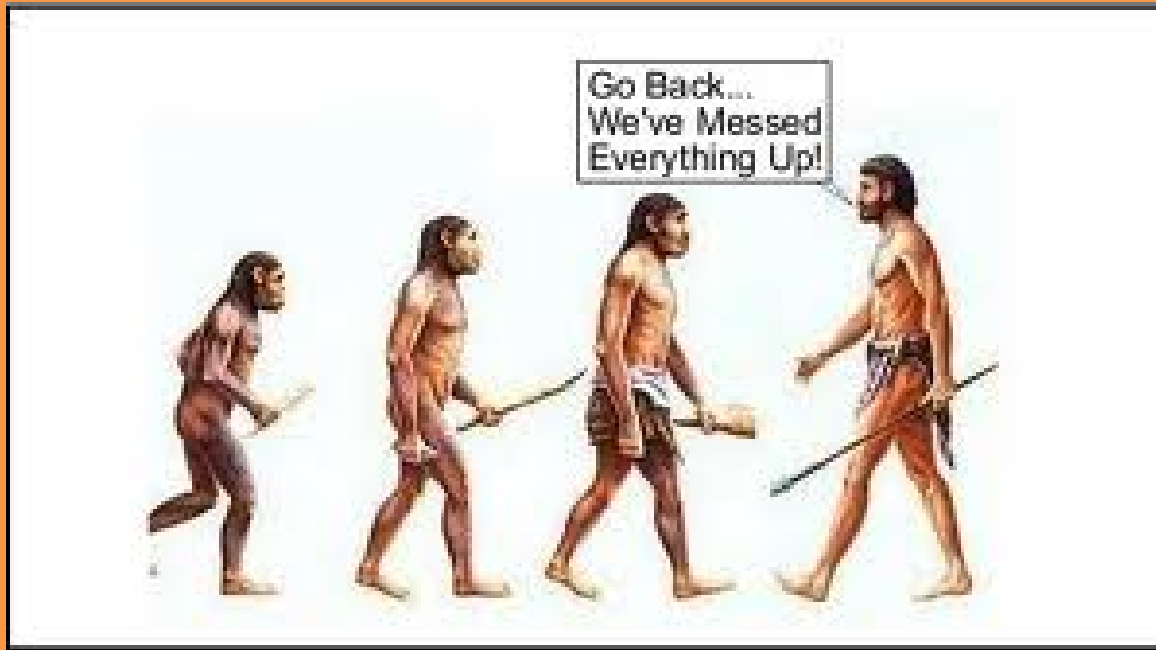
- Around 10,000 years ago people began to cultivate plants and domesticate animals – this is the **Neolithic Revolution**.
- However, farming began at different times around the world:

- Middle East, 8000 B.C.E.
- Greece, 6000 B.C.E.
- Northern India, 5000 B.C.E.
- Mexico, 3000 B.C.E.



Map 2-2
Ways of the World, First Edition
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- This “Neolithic Revolution” led to settlements, and eventually the rise of civilizations.
- Traits of a civilization:
 - Cities as administrative centers / city-states
 - A political system based on defined territory
 - Many people engaged in specialized labor
 - Monumental building
 - Record keeping
 - Long distance trade
 - Interest in science & art



- *Due to large scale wars, racism, treating women as inferiors, etc. some historians have argued that “civilization” is the worst human creation of all of history. Nonetheless, we move forward.*

- The earliest of these civilizations was Mesopotamia located between the Tigris & Euphrates rivers near modern day Iraq.



Map 2-1
Ways of the World, First Edition
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- The Sumerians of Mesopotamia

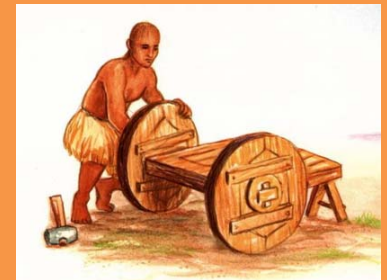
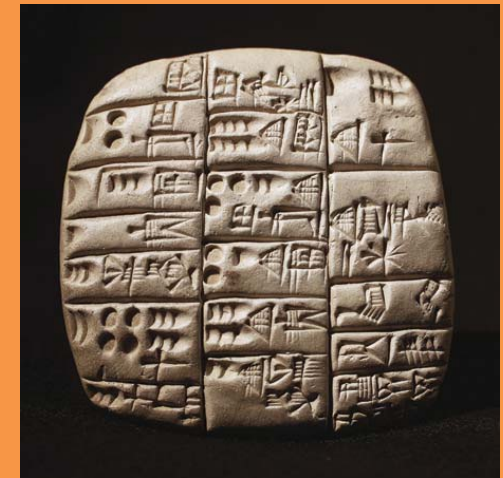
- used a writing form known as cuneiform

- were polytheistic

- invented the wheel

- had a class system

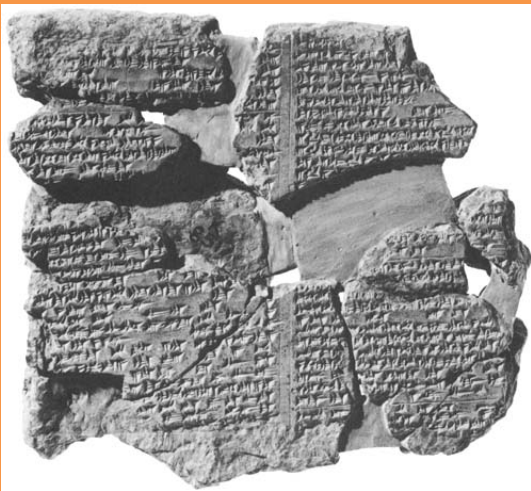
- were capable of making bronze



- Years later under the Babylonians, the people of Mesopotamia would be ruled by Hammurabi and his “law code.”



- *The Epic of Gilgamesh*



- Often referred to as the world's first literary work
- The clay tablets that tell this story were discovered in the 1800s
- Historians have found the story helpful because it's likely the oldest depiction of human behavior and it describes the thoughts and feelings of people
- It demonstrates the respect / reverence people had for their rulers – in other words people collectively bought into the “big man” idea
- It depicts the civilized world (Gilgamesh) and the uncivilized world (Enkidu) that laid outside cities

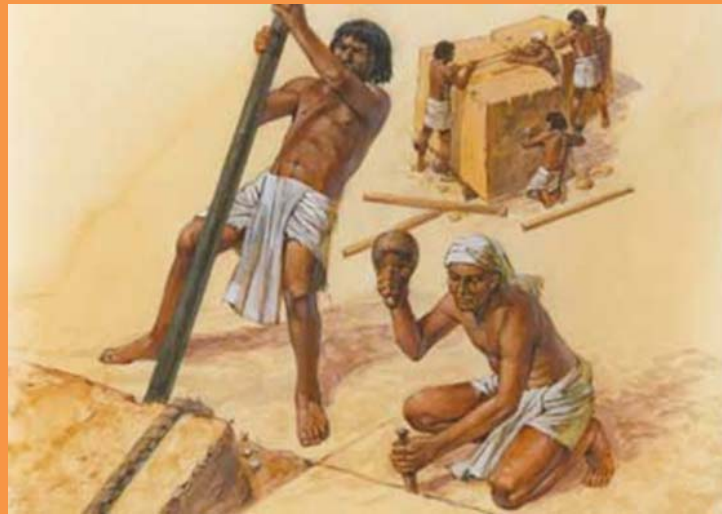
Early civilizations around the world

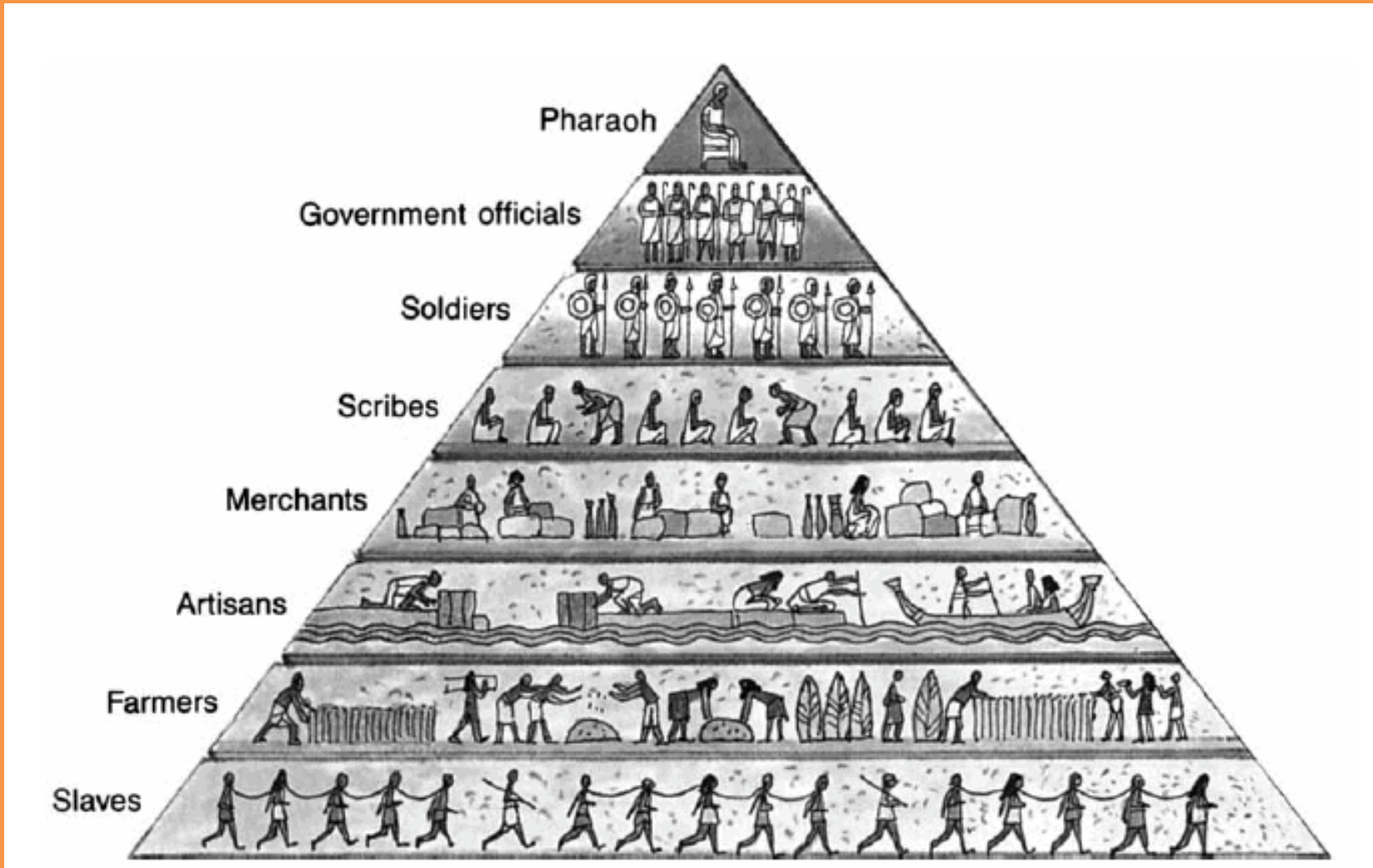


Map 3-1
Ways of the World, First Edition
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What do most of these early civilizations have in common?

- They sprout up around rivers
- Agriculture is the catalyst to their growth
- Class system (women treated as inferiors)
- “big man” concept and forced labor
- Polytheism
- Writing system
- Metallurgy





Where do these early civilizations differ?

- **Mesopotamia:** they are the first (religious & secular leaders were different individuals)
- **China (Shang Dynasty / Yellow River):** Mandate of Heaven, the cult of ancestry, Confucianism, dynasties
- **Egypt:** mummification, pharaohs (leaders took on both religious & secular roles)
- **Indus:** grid-like streets, perhaps peaceful





A closer look at China . . .

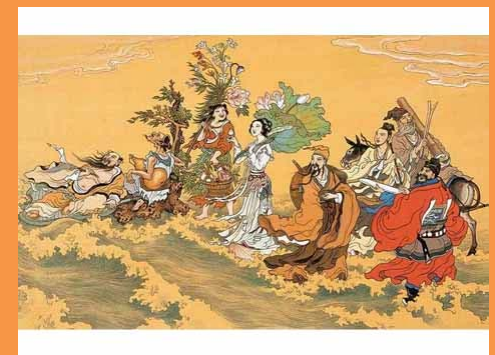
- Chinese history is best understood through the cycle of unification and fragmentation – where one dynasty replaces another.
 - For example, the Shang Dynasty may have lasted for more than six centuries, but eventually they were defeated by Wu, the ruler of the Zhou – who started a new dynasty.
- In order to justify their takeover, the Zhou preserved the essentials of Shang culture and implemented the **“Mandate of Heaven.”**
 - The chief deity (god) was referred to as Heaven, and the monarch was called the Son of Heaven.
 - Therefore, the ruler had been “chosen” by the chief god and as long as he remained wise, principled, and a guardian of the people, citizens needed to back him (If he misbehaved his right to rule could be withdrawn).





A closer look at China . . .

- During the rule of the Zhou three major philosophies developed:
 - **Legalism:** Legalist thinkers believed that every aspect of human society ought to be controlled and personal freedom sacrificed for the good of the state.
 - **Confucianism:** Confucius argued for a return to traditional practices, which included respect for one's elders and even ancestors; a social hierarchy.
 - **Daoism:** Its founder Laozi urged humanity to follow the "path" of nature and avoid useless struggles. Daoists believe the world lacks any absolute morality or meaning, therefore just "go with the flow."



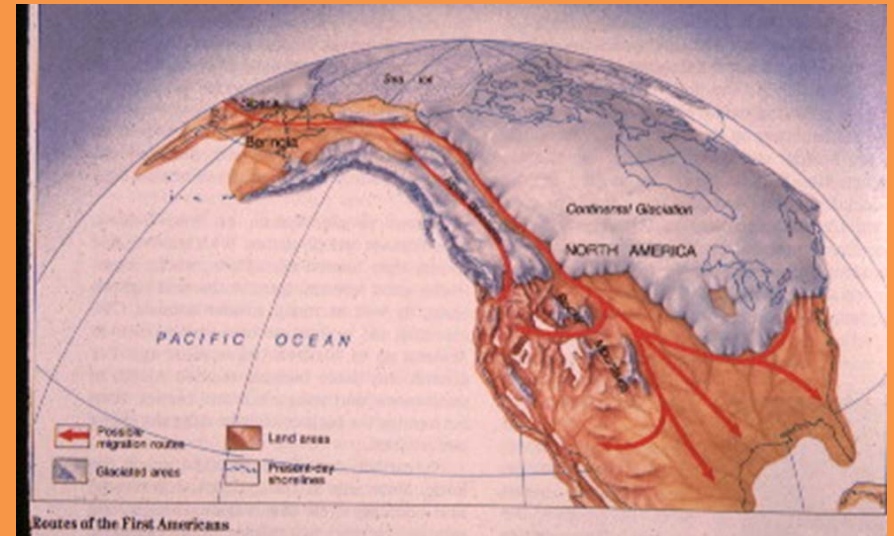
Other civilizations / societies

- **The Celts of Europe:** instead of living in a unified civilization, the Celts were divided into hundreds of small, loosely organized kinship groups. However, similar to other groups they were polytheistic and had a class system.



- **Nubia:** just south of Egypt it served as a connection between sub-Saharan and North African societies often acting as the middle man for exotic goods coming out of the tropics. Eventually Egypt would come to dominate Nubia and the Kingdom of Kush (even further south). In complete contrast to other societies it was not uncommon for female rulers to exist.

- Civilizations began to sprout up in the Americas around 1200 B.C.E. (Humans began migrating from Asia across a frozen land bridge nearly 20,000 years ago. They learned how to farm and eventually settled.)



- **The Olmec:** They are considered to be the first civilization in the Americas (located in Mesoamerica) flourishing between 1200 and 400 B.C.E. Although most remembered for their giant head sculptures (rulers, warriors, ballplayers), culturally they developed a class system and carried out elaborate polytheistic religious rituals (human sacrifice, jaguars).

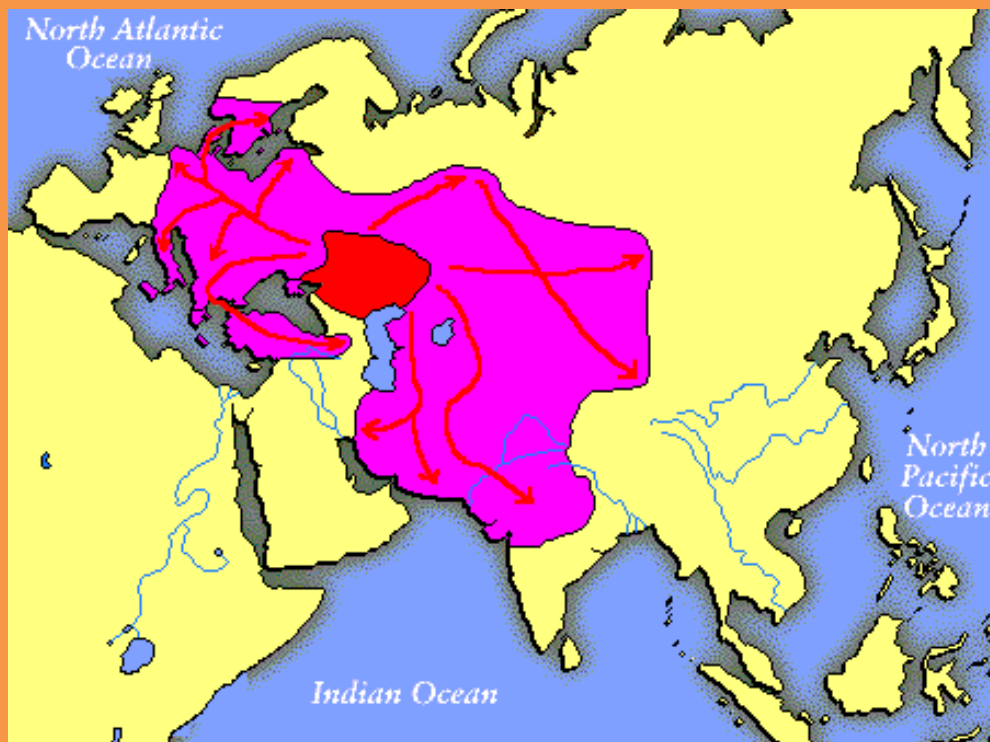


- **The Chavin:** the earliest civilization in South America; also the only society in the Americas to successfully domesticate animals – the llama.

A new phase for civilizations: migrations & expansion

- *Whereas before city-states were mostly concerned with immediate neighbors, by the second millennium B.C.E. they were interacting with almost all of western Asia.*
- *Migration movements around the early Mideast civilizations allowed trade, diplomatic contacts, military conquests, and the spread of knowledge, beliefs, and technologies to reach new areas.*

- Both Mesopotamia and Egypt succumbed to outside invaders, but the influx of new people and ideas ushered in a “cosmopolitan” era where for many people (especially elites) standard of living increased.



- This map shows the migrations of these “new people” called the **Indo-Europeans**.
- Collectively they would have a long-lasting impact on modern languages.

- The Indo-European group the **Hittites** took over Anatolia (modern day Turkey). They used chariots in war and may have been the first to use weapons made of iron.

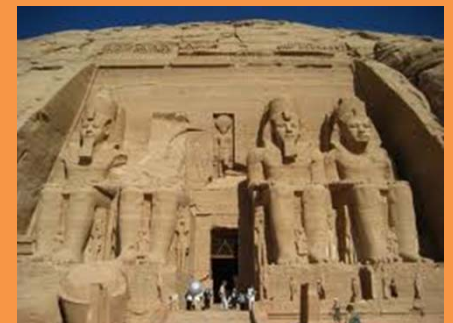


- In Egypt a group known as the Hyksos used chariots to take over the area. The Hyksos intermarried with the Egyptians and assimilated to native ways and maintained the local culture (*Nevertheless, the Egyptians were not happy about the outsiders*).



A closer look at Egypt . . .

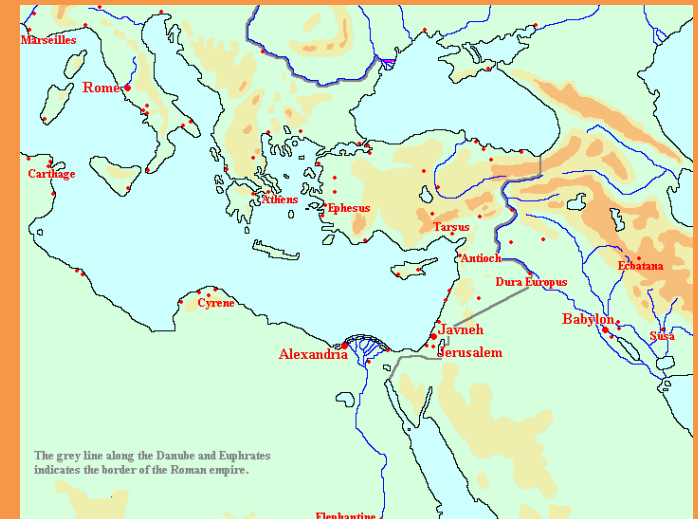
- Many of the events that took place in Egypt at this time are emblematic of developments around other civilizations:
 - The idea that the Hyksos intermarried with the Egyptians and assimilated to native ways and maintained the local culture was not an uncommon method of preventing rebellion.
 - After about a 100 years of being subjected to the Hyksos the Egyptians retook control of their lands. During this new era, called the “New Kingdom” (1532 – 1072 B.C.E.) Egypt became more aggressive, going on the offensive and even creating “buffer” territories as a way of preventing direct attacks.
 - The ruler Akhenaten attempted to bring about monotheism. However, its likely he was just trying to decrease the power of priests for his own benefit.
 - Ramses II undertook monumental building projects.
 - More contact with the world beyond the Nile exposed Egyptians to new exotic foods and technologies.



The rise of monotheism & empires

- *Prior to Judaism and Zoroastrianism nearly every society on the planet practiced some form of polytheism.*
- *Furthermore, before the Phoenicians and the Assyrians trans-regional sea trade and empires were nonexistent.*

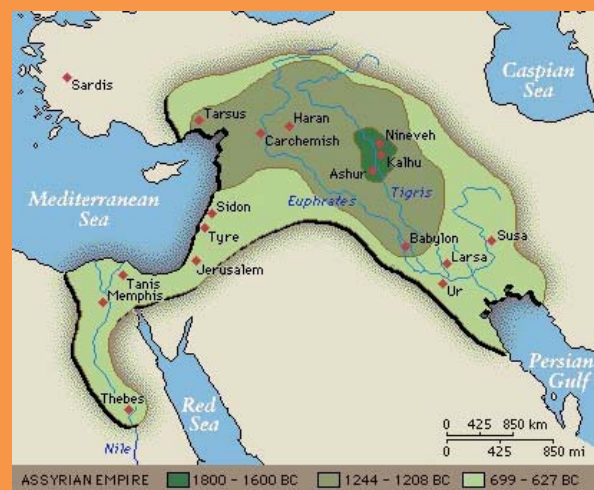
- To the west of old Mesopotamia lived the Israelites, also referred to as the Jews, Hebrews, and Palestinians, a monotheistic group (according to the Hebrew Bible god made a covenant with the Israelites that if they worshipped him exclusively they would be his exclusive people).
- According to the Hebrew Bible, the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, until Moses led them (exodus) out. They wandered around the deserts for forty years before creating a kingdom.
- Eventually the Assyrians destroyed much of the Israelite kingdom and many of the Hebrews were forced out.
- The Jews had “dispersed” throughout the region. The “Diaspora” is still existent today.



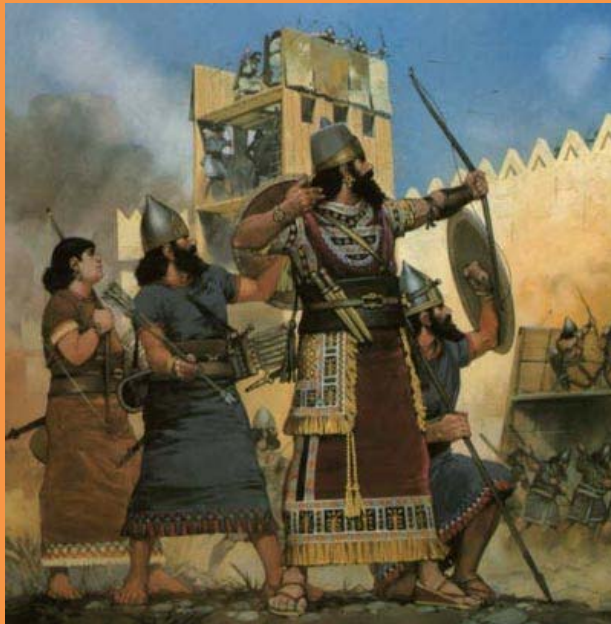
- Life in the Middle East was changing. The arrival of horses from central Asia (2000 B.C.E.) sped up travel and communication.
- Soldiers and government agents could quickly cover great distances, as a result the creation of larger states and empires were forming (the use of new technology in warfare also helped societies take over less sophisticated societies).



- In the old Mesopotamia region, the Assyrian Empire rose. (Assyria started out with an aggressive program of self-defense and reestablishment of old claims, but it became far more ambitious, 911 – 612 B.C.E.).
- The Assyrians created an empire larger than anything seen before dedicated to the enrichment of the imperial center with the expense being to its subjugated lands.



- The king was the center of Assyrian life (all of the land belonged to him, all of the people were his servants, and he supervised the state religion).
- The Assyrians had an unprecedented military capabilities (they could mobilize a half-million troops, utilized chariots, bowmen, iron weapons, and cavalry).

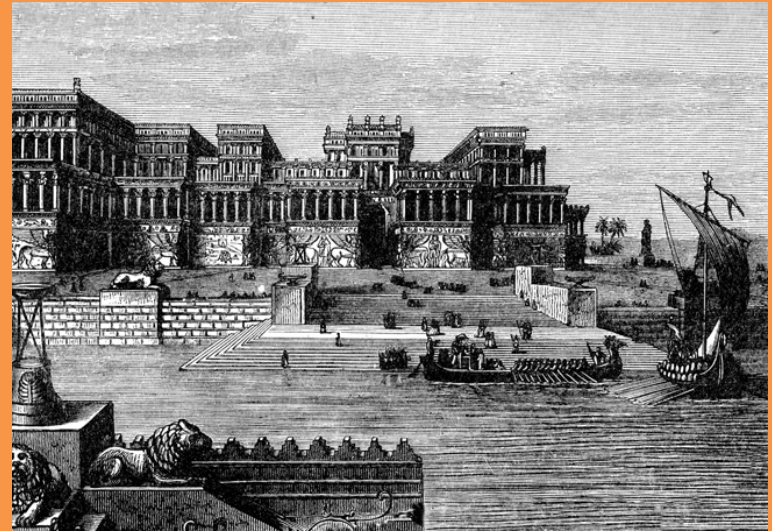




- The Assyrians destroyed cities throughout the Middle East (they often dug tunnels under city walls and battered them down) and used terror to suppress conquered populations (skinned people alive, mass deportation of entire communities).

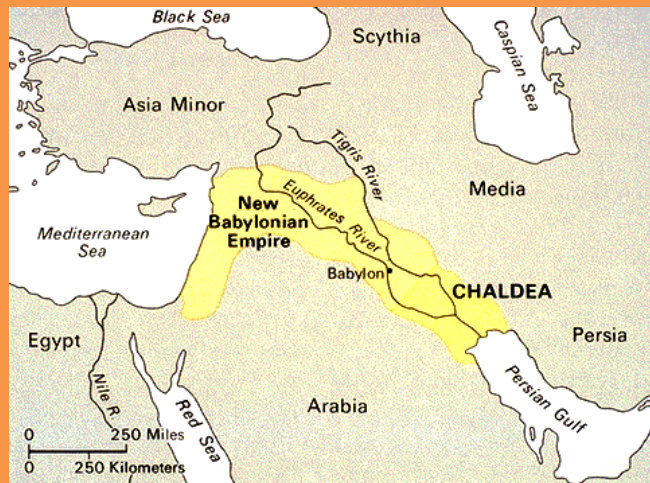
- Society and classes were still fashioned on the Hammurabi model:

- Free landowning citizens
- Farmers and artisans
- Slaves



- The government did not distinguish between native Assyrians and other subjects (all were entitled to the same legal protections, and responsibilities).

- By 650 B.C.E. Assyrian power was unchallenged in western Asia, but its brutal rule fueled resistance.
- Within a few decades the Chaldeans were taking over Babylon and an Iranian people were causing disruption in the east.



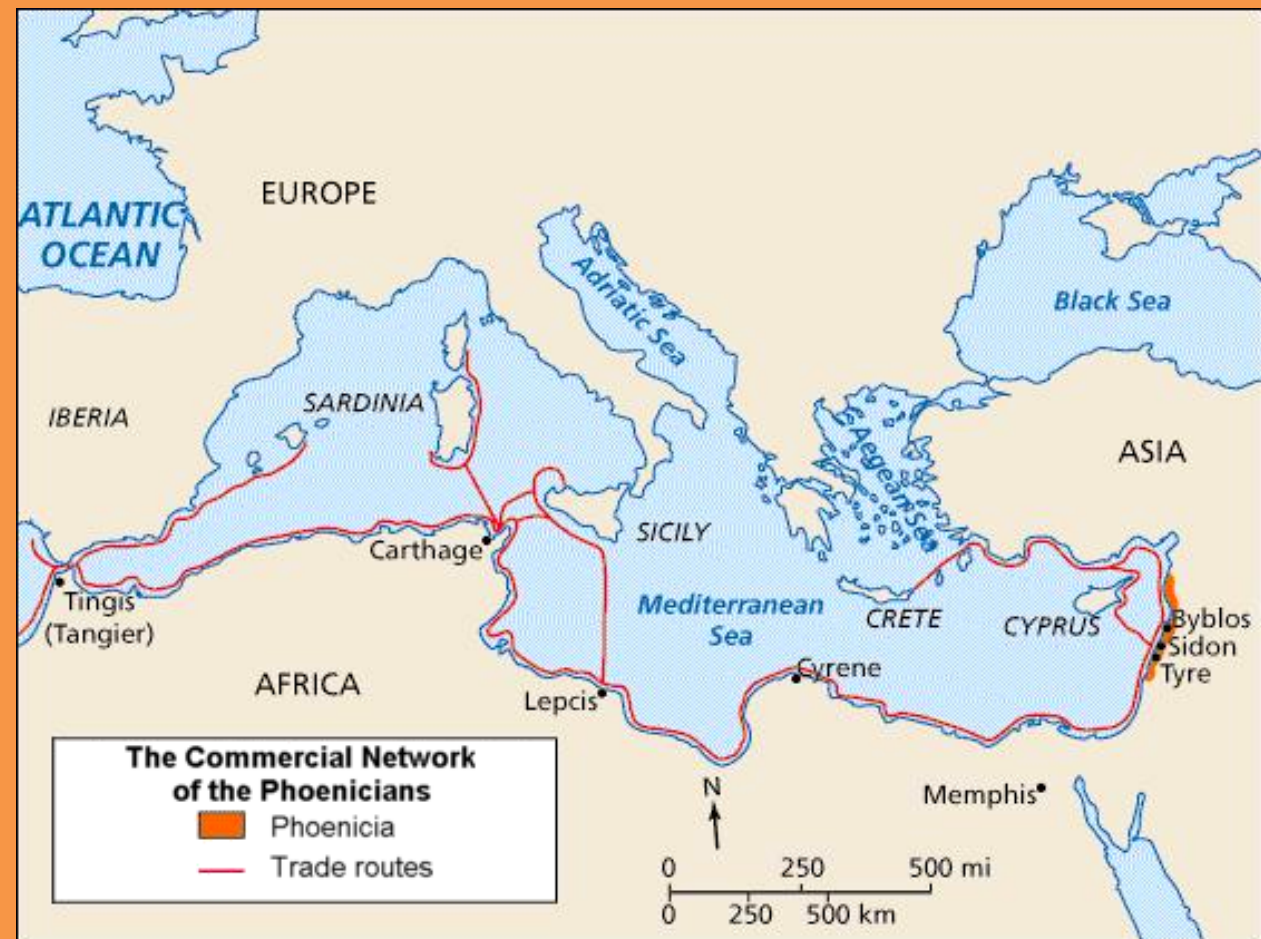
- The Phoenicians (similar to the Israelites) took advantage of periods of upheaval (around 1200 B.C.E., this is before the rise of the Assyrians) to adopt new political forms and an economy based on seaborne commerce as a means of survival.



- They effectively established a trade network of raw materials (timber, metals, spices, and textiles, purple dye) in the Eastern Mediterranean.



- As time passed the Phoenicians expanded their network of trade throughout the Mediterranean establishing numerous wealthy city-states.





 *Greek and Phoenician Colonies and Trade. The Western Mediterranean was first colonized by Phoenicians and Greeks who together controlled trade throughout the region.*

- The Phoenician homeland near Tyre was able to remain “independent” during the expansion of the Assyrian Empire by paying tribute.



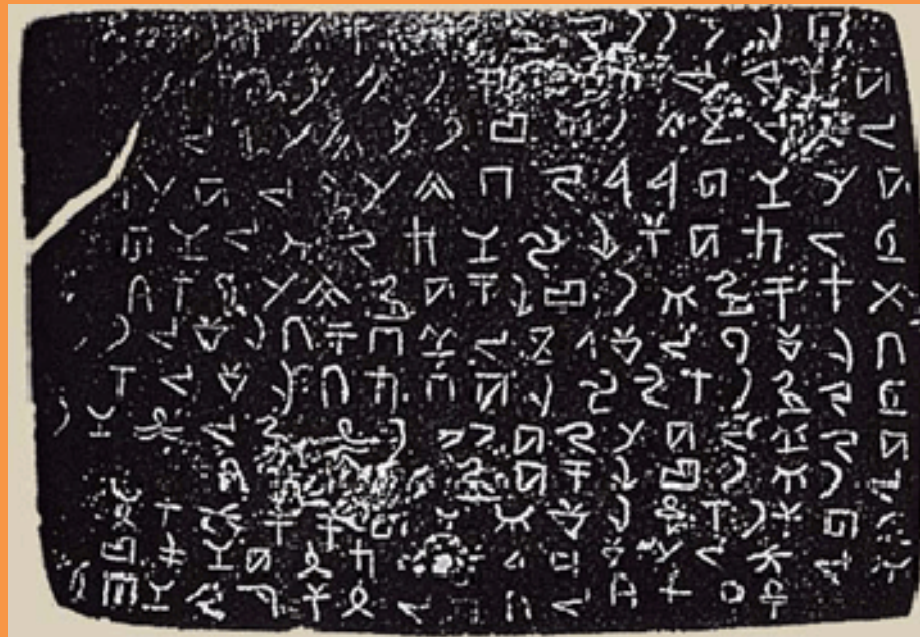
- However, as they expanded into the Med. they often came into conflict with the Greeks (who were also expanding trade), mostly over Sicily.
- Due to these conflicts (and Greek records) we know a great deal about the Phoenician city-state of Carthage.



- It may not have been the most important Phoenician city at first (i.e. Tyre), but by 500 B.C.E. Carthage had 400,000 people and was one of the largest cities in the world.
- The city was diverse (people from Italian the peninsula, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa living there), limited democracy was present, and its foreign policy (reflecting its economic interest) was backed by a strong navy.



- Few samples of Phoenician writing still exist (they used papyrus), however they are credited with being the first to construct an alphabetic system of writing – each symbol representing a sound.

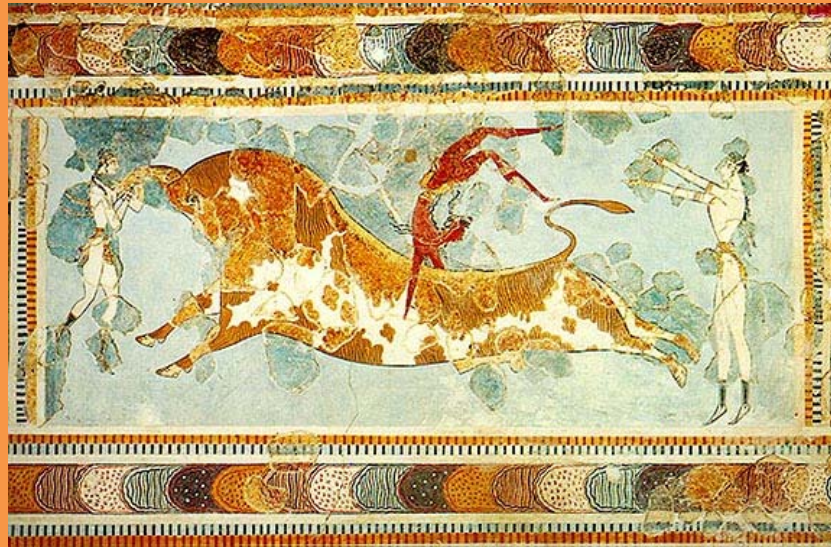


- The Aegean world with its numerous rocky islands permitted some land for olives and grains, but in general timber and metals had to be imported.
- The success and failure of early Greek civilizations depended upon their interaction with other peoples in the region.



- On the island of Crete, the Minoans were the first Europeans to develop a scale of civilization found in the Middle East (centralized government, monumental building, recordkeeping, etc).
- The archeological finds of their pottery throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East attest to their widespread trading connections.



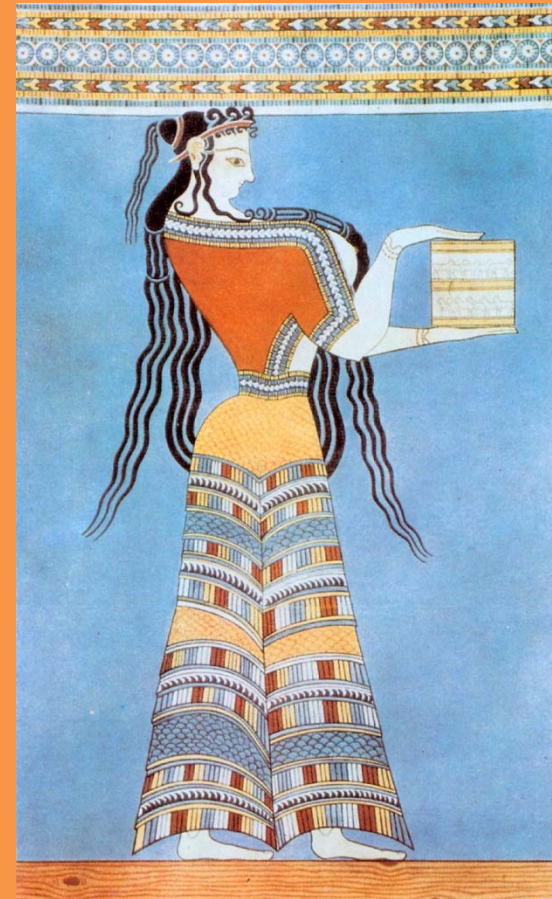
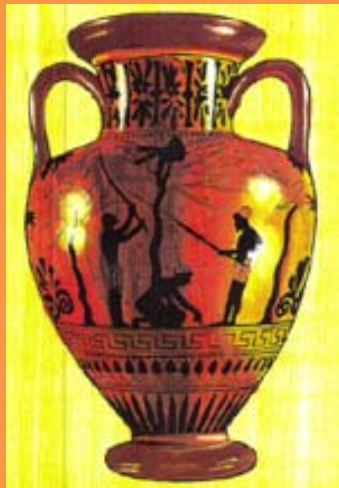


- Their art reveals what life may have been like for the Minoans (we haven't been able to cipher their writings).
- For example, there are depictions of “acrobats” leaping over bulls and fisherman throwing nets.

- The arrival of Indo-European speaking people (2000 B.C.E.) brought the end of Minoan control.
- The Mycenaean Greeks blended their culture with Minoan traditions (bureaucracy, writing, fresco painting, etc.)



- Historians assume that the Mycenaeans were able to expand their power in the region through profits from trade and also piracy. They were highly dependent upon trade.



- Clay tablets reveal information about religion, Greek ships, and that the government coordinated grain production and the wool industry.
- However, the arrival of “new peoples” brought about their collapse and the cultural uniformity of the Greek region gave way.



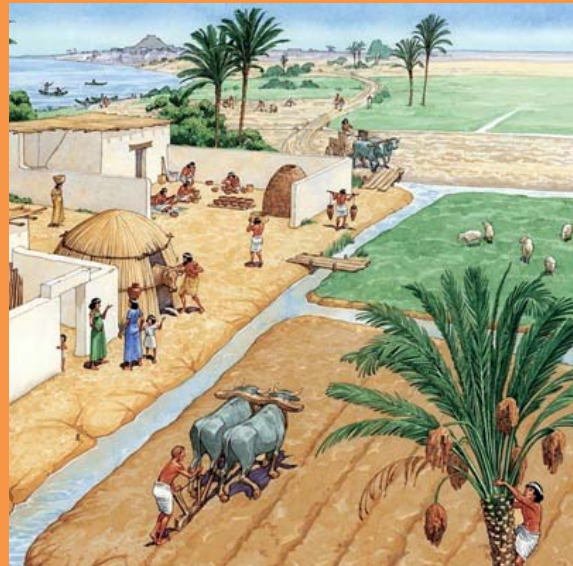
In summary . . .

- Early humans were nomadic hunter gatherers.
 - People were organized in family / tribal bands
 - Women and men were viewed more or less as equals

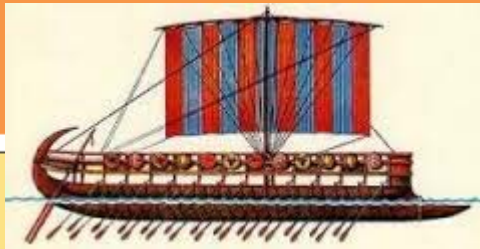


- Around 8,000 B.C.E. human beings for the first time learn how to farm and to domesticate animals (This occurs at different times in different world regions).

- By 3,000 B.C.E. people are establishing the first civilizations.



- Civilizations expanded and became empires – all awhile regional trade intensified.



Greek and Phoenician Colonies and Trade. The Western Mediterranean was first colonized by Phoenicians and Greeks who together controlled trade throughout the region.

