

ASIAN GEOGRAPHY:

- Southwest Asia (Middle East)
- South Asia (India and Pakistan)
- East Asia (China and Japan)
- Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia)



HISTORY OF SOUTHWEST ASIA:

PERIODS 1 & 2 (to 600CE):

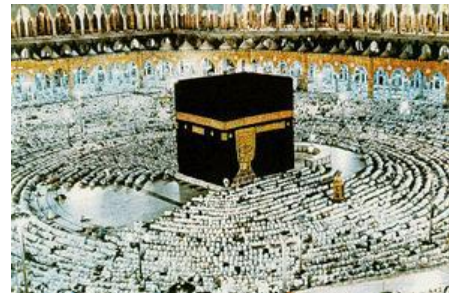
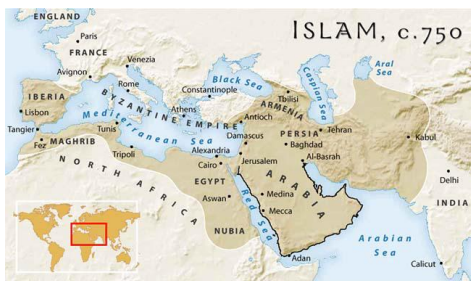
- Cradle of civilization – Mesopotamia
 - Tigris and Euphrates Rivers – Fertile Crescent
 - Several ancient civilizations
 - Sumer – cuneiform writing
 - Babylon – Hammurabi’s Code
 - Chaldeans – Nebuchadnezzar and the Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- Hebrews – founders of monotheism -- Judaism
- Persia
 - 559-331 BCE controlled most of the Middle East
 - Great rulers included Cyrus the Great, Darius the Great, and Xerxes I
 - Persians fought heavily against the Greeks – were defeated by unified Greeks in the Persian Wars (492-449 BCE)
 - Extensive Royal Roads connected Empire
- Christianity was founded in Middle East during the 1st century CE
- Byzantine Empire (330-1180 CE)
 - Geographically controlled large sections of Asia



PERIOD 3 (600 – 1450):

- Rise of Islam
 - Began in 600s in Mecca and Medina (modern day Saudi Arabia)
 - Five Pillars of Islam: Faith, Prayer, Fasting, Alms, hajj
- Islamic Empires
 - Caliphs served as political and religious leaders
 - Abu Bakr was the first one after Mohammed
 - Sunni and Shia split occurred over who was the rightful successor – did it have to be a descendent of Mohammed’s son-in-law Ali (Shia belief) or could it be anyone who was worthy (Sunni belief)
 - Sunnis dominated the Umayyad Dynasty
 - Capital in Damascus

- Codified Islamic law
 - Moved to Spain after being conquered by the Abbasids
- Shia dominated the Abbasid Dynasty
 - Overthrew the Umayyads
 - Conquered the Persians
 - Capital in Baghdad
 - Efficient regional governments
 - Advances in agriculture
 - Expanded the Islamic world
- Sufism
 - Mystical school
 - Poetry, dance, meditation, and music were common
- Islamic Trade
 - Muslims traded with China and India
 - Compass, Astrolabe, and lateen sail were all used by the Muslims to navigate long distances through the Indian Ocean
 - Traded with Vikings and Russians
 - Camel caravans dominated the Saharan Trade routes for gold, salt, and slaves
 - Expanded into Africa after 700 CE



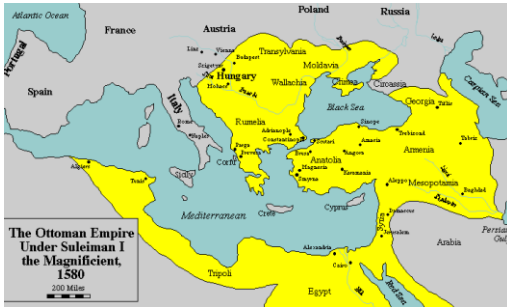
- Crusades
 - Began in 1095 and ended in 1212 – effort by Christians to gain control of Holy Land
 - Muslims were successful in holding them back
 - Luxury items went from Asia through Muslim traders and to Europeans
 - Italian City-states gained power through contact and trade with Muslims

PERIOD 4 (1450 – 1750):

- Ottoman Empire (1350 – 1918)
 - Unity of Turkish tribes in Asia Minor
 - Took Constantinople in 1453
 - Suleyman the Magnificent took Baghdad and Belgrade and conquered as far north as Vienna Austria in 1530 (turned back by Charles V)
 - Civil service system and bureaucracy
 - Extensive slave systems
 - Citizens could petition the sultan
 - Sultan took the title of Caliph to associate with a unified historical Islamic state
 - Janissaries were elite soldiers who were originally prisoners of war and slaves

PERIOD 5 (1750 – 1900):

- Ottoman Decline
 - Fought Napoleon and lost land
 - Fought the Russians and lost land
 - Fought the Greeks and Bulgarians and lost land
 - Too many ethnic groups – Nationalism



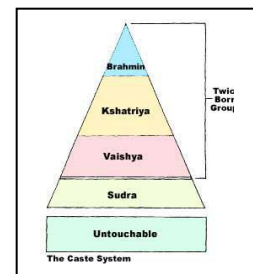
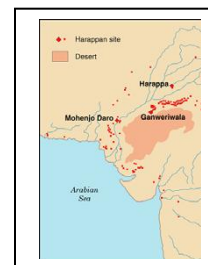
PERIOD 6 (1900 to Present):

- Ottoman Empire Ends – 1918
 - Ottomans had joined the Germans and Austrians in World War I in hopes of gaining land back from Russians
 - Ottoman lands were divided up and put under control and “protection” of the Mandate System operated by the France and Great Britain (under the authority of the League of Nations)
- Balfour Declaration
 - Land was set aside by Great Britain for a “homeland” for Jews who wanted to emigrate from Europe to the Middle East (Israel)
- After the Holocaust, many Jews emigrated to Israel.
- As the Jews displaced native Arab populations, other Arab countries saw this as an attack on all Arabs; warfare has continued in the region
 - In 1948 war was fought between Israel and her Arab neighbors – Israel won
 - In 1956 Sinai War between Israel and Egypt over Suez Canal
 - 1967 Six Day War between Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria led to Israel’s control of all of Jerusalem (sacred city to Jews, Christians, and Muslim)
 - 1973 Yom Kippur War with Egypt
 - 1980 Iran and Iraq fight; Shaw is overthrown in Iran by anti-western Islamic extremists
 - 1982 Lebanon was invaded by Israel leading to U.S. troops in Lebanon; Syria takes over Lebanon and starts to pull out in 2005
 - 1990 Iraq invades Kuwait – Iraq War I
 - 2003 U.S. invades Iraq because they have “weapons of mass destruction” --- hmmm...

HISTORY OF SOUTH ASIA

PERIODS 1 & 2 (to 600CE):

- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro – oldest cities
 - Indus River Valley (Pakistan)
 - Had indoor plumbing
 - Well planned cities suggest elaborate government
 - Used metal tools of bronze and copper
- Aryans (about 1500 BCE)
 - Migrated from central Asia
 - Introduced the Caste System – strict social system that people were born into – actually separated by skin color
 - Vedas major writing source and served as the foundation of the Caste System and Hinduism
 - Diminished the role of women in society – isolated and segregated (purdah)
 - Sati became common
 - Could not own property
- Mauryans (326 BCE-184 BCE)
 - Founded by Chandragupta Maurya
 - Ganges River and then spread
 - Ashoka was the greatest ruler



- Adopted Buddhism
 - Building projects
 - Buddhist missionaries were sent out
- Gupta (320 – 535 CE)
 - Golden Age of India
 - Hinduism returned as the dominant religious force
 - Controlled most of what we would now consider India
 - Hindu literature, art, and music flourished
 - Great temples were built
 - More levels of the Caste System emerged
 - Untouchables were greatly discriminated against
 - Very peaceful time
 - Women saw more diminished rights
 - Declared minors forever
 - Common female infanticide

PERIOD 3 (600-1450): ---

PERIOD 4 (1450 – 1750):

- Mughal Dynasty (1556 – 1719)
 - Muslim rulers in India who claimed descent of Mongols
 - Came from Afghanistan
 - Delhi Sultanate
 - Islamic and Hindu civilization
 - Patronage of the arts
 - Written works on Indian history and philosophy
 - Architecture like the Taj mahal
 - Outlawed Sati – but no one listened
 - Most tolerant of all religions
 - Dealt with European traders by setting up cities



PERIOD 5 (1750 – 1900):

- Raj India
 - Raj refers to the period when Great Britain controlled India
 - Great Britain took control to protect the trading routes with India
 - Overthrew the Mughals
 - Indian National Congress formed with Hindus and Muslims wanting to end British colonialism

PERIOD 6 (1900 – Present):

- Like Africa and the rest of the world, India gained its independence from Great Britain after WWII
- Gandhi led a mainly non-violent effort that brought down the British Empire
- After the end of the Raj period, India quickly separated into Muslims and Hindus. Muslims joined together to form Pakistan and East Pakistan (Bangladesh) while Hindus remained in India. Fighting between India and Pakistan (that now includes nuclear weapons) continues to this day.

HISTORY OF EAST ASIA

PERIODS 1 & 2 (to 600CE):

- Huang He (Yellow) River Valley
- Shang Dynasty was the first major dynasty (1766-1027 BCE)
 - Oracle bones were used to communicate with ancestors
 - Pictograph writing
 - Ancestor worship and fortune telling common
- Zhou/Chou Dynasty (1027-771 BCE)
 - Iron Age
 - Classical Age – longest lasting dynasty in Chinese history
 - Hundred Schools of Thought

- Confucius
 - Lao Tzu (Daoism)
 - Mandate of Heaven
 - Dynastic Cycle
 - Warring States
- Qin/Chin (221-207 BCE)
 - Abolished feudalism
 - Centralized government
 - Uniform laws, weights, and measures
 - Standard written language
 - Roads and canals
 - Legalism emerged as the favored philosophy
 - Brought down by rebelling peasants
- Han (206 BCE – 220 CE)
 - Unified large sections of China
 - Reestablished Confucian philosophy
 - Conquered Vietnam and Korea
 - Moved ethnic Chinese to regions to colonize
 - Taxes on peasants were high and led to uprisings
 - Invasions from Mongols proved too much
- Traditional China
 - Plagued with problems such as flooding and conditions of peasants
 - Climates would often destroy crops
 - Nomadic invasions were common
 - Agriculture life was common for most people
 - Rice cultivation was most important in the south
 - Patriarchal society
 - Fathers had to plan the future of his daughters



- The female concept was found in Daoist idea of yin and yang – needed females to create harmony, but women were expected to be submissive
- Tenant farmers
- Scholar-gentry class grew – education was the key to wealth and power
- Famine and disease were common
- Extended family was common

PERIOD 3 (600 – 1450):

- Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)
 - Expanded territory into Tibet and Korea (again)
 - Network of roads that included inns and postal stations
 - Buddhism became dominant
 - Confucian meritocracy was embedded in government through the Civil Service Exams
 - Set up tribute states – kowtow ceremony
 - Middle Kingdom – thought they were the center of the world – superior to foreigners
 - Taxation led to a decline of power and a rise of peasant unrest
 - Regional warlords followed
- Song Dynasty (960-1279)
 - Restored unified power
 - Silk Roads flourished to Central Asia and Middle East
 - Guangzhou was a major trading city
 - Trade established with Japan, Korea, Malaya, and India
 - Technology flourished
 - Studies in astronomy
 - First use of the compass to aid in maritime travel
 - Water-powered clock
 - Gunpowder
 - Neo-Confucianism – Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism
 - Massive urbanization and industrialization
 - Printing press with movable type (borrowed from the Koreans)
 - Landscape painting
- Mongols (1278-1368 CE)
 - Genghis Khan was the leader
 - Established the Yuan Dynasty of China
 - Segregated Mongols and Chinese – marriage was forbidden, Chinese could not learn Mongol language
 - Abolished Civil Service Exams and put Mongols in MOST offices
 - Extended the Grand Canal to link most cities
 - Visited by Marco Polo
 - Largest land empire in the world
 - Kublai Khan replaced Genghis
 - Mongol tribes also conquered Russia, Hungary, and India
 - Created a period of Pax Mongolica
 - Spread concepts to areas conquered
 - Postal system
 - Trade enhanced
 - Paper money
 - Military Organization
 - Leaders were chosen by ability, regardless of background
 - Armor
 - Flanking maneuvers
 - Horseback fighting
 - Decline

- Good at conquering, not administering
- Ming Dynasty (1368 – 1644 CE)
 - Reestablished the examination system
 - Scholar-gentry regained dominant position in society
 - Neo-Confucianism reestablished
 - Standardization of written language continues
 - Architecture becomes more complex – builds the Forbidden City



- Novels introduced
- Maritime trade was dominant for a time, until crop failures and economic pressures forced China to abandon its maritime dominance
- Xenophobia dominate
- Japan
 - Islands limited trade and other opportunities, but provided protection from invasion (Mongols tried to, but couldn't)
 - Contact with China was influential
 - Nara Period (710 – 784)
 - Contact with China
 - Language
 - Buddhism
 - Court etiquette
 - Architecture
 - Heian Period (794 – 1185)
 - Isolation of the emperor – believed to be a descendent of the Sun God
 - Rise of power of families and clans
 - Women wrote literature
 - Fujiwara Clan emerged after 1000 and:
 - Increased literary and cultural achievements
 - Confucian and Daoist ideas
 - Kamakura Shogunate develops under the influence of the Minamoto Clan
 - Samurai, Shoguns, and Bushido defined the Japanese Feudal System
 - Ashikaga Shogunate
 - Family gained control in 1333
 - Wealthy merchant class emerged
 - Trade with China was common
 - Buddhism continued to spread and change
 - Tea ceremony
 - Noh theater and gardening were common
 - Haiku poetry

PERIOD 4 (1450 – 1750):

- Ming Dynasty begins to decline
 - Weak emperors
 - Court eunuchs gained too much power and were corrupt
 - Scandals of funds
 - Scholar-gentry protested
 - Invaders

- High taxes on peasants
- Asked Manchus to help defend them
- Qing/Manchu Dynasty (1644 – 1911)
 - Manchus took over China
 - Saw themselves as separate from Chinese
 - Civil service exams
 - Neo-Confucianism
 - Obedience to ruler
 - Xenophobic foreign policy
 - Marriage between Manchus and Chinese was forbidden
 - Han (Chinese) men had to wear ponytail (que)
 - Resisted efforts by Europeans to trade
- Japanese Warring States (1467 – 1600 CE)
 - Defiance of the Shogun led to political fragmentation
 - Over 200 lords fighting each other
 - Buddhism attracted Samurai who sought to ignore pain
 - Portuguese arrived with Jesuits and firearms
 - 1600 battle led to the emergence of the Tokugawa Shogunate
- Tokugawa Shogunate (1600 – 1750)
 - Strengthened the feudal system
 - Social structure included Eta – outcasts who did unclean work
 - Social Structure defined at birth
 - Farmers had to stay on land
 - Only Samurai could carry weapons
 - One Dutch ship could arrive once each year for trade
 - Families of nobles had to live in Tokyo (Edo) to guarantee loyalty
 - Christianity was outlawed

PERIOD 5 (1750 – 1900):

- Qing Decline
 - Opium Wars (1840 – 1861) with England lost emperor power and respect; China forced to open trade doors with Europe
 - Taiping Rebellion (1850s) group who was led by the Chinese “brother of Jesus Christ” who rebelled against the emperor; bloodiest civil war in history
 - Sino-Japanese War (1895) lost a war with Japan and was forced to agree to extensive trade agreements with Japan who had a modern army and navy
- Chinese Revolution
 - Those who had traveled outside of China wanted reforms
 - Sun Yat Sen led the revolutionaries
 - 1911 Qing abdicated
 - Sun Yat Sen continued his efforts at revolution with “Nationalism, Democracy, and Socialism”
- Japanese Feudalism Ends
 - 1853 American Matthew Perry arrived with a show of American power and enticements
 - Japan agreed to trade with the U.S.
 - Beginnings of rapid industrialization organized by the government
 - Feudal lords lose power as factions gain gun powder

PERIOD 6 (1914 to Present):

- Japan gained colonies throughout the 19th and 20th centuries
 - Went to war against Russia for land (Japan won, Russia lost and started the domino effect leading to the Russian Revolution)
 - In 1931 Japan invaded Manchuria (China) and set off World War II
 - Other countries (U.S.) cut Japan’s supply of oil thinking that would reign them in, instead they decide to attack Pearl Harbor (1941)

- Pacific War mainly fought between Japan and the U.S.
- In 1945 the United States dropped two atomic bombs on Japan to get them to surrender
- As a condition of the end of the war, Japan was limited in an armed force, so they devote significant amounts of money to industry and technology – setting Japan up to be the economic powerhouse of the late 20th century.
- China had participated in both WWI and WWII and was a “victor” in each
 - After war, China dealt with internal issues
 - Chiang Kai Shek emerged to challenge the socialism of Sun Yat Sen
 - This led to the Communist Revolution of China in 1949
 - Chiang Kai Shek’s forces go to Taiwan and soon Sun Yat Sen is replaced by Mao Zedong

HISTORY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Khmer Empire
 - Located in Cambodia
 - Influenced by both Hinduism and Buddhism
 - Traded with Song China and Malaya
 - Built massive temples, most famous was Angkor Wat



- Vietnam
 - Continued efforts throughout to break free from Chinese domination
 - Successfully defended themselves against the Mongols – without a typhoon to help them
 - Ming dominated them
 - Women had more autonomy than in other parts of Asia

PERIOD 6 (1900 – Present):

- The French colonized Indochina.
- 1954 France granted Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos its independence
- When communists took over Vietnam factions, the United States entered the conflict to fight the spread of communism. Russia and China (both Communists) supported the Viet Cong (northern Vietnamese) against the United States.

