

Global 9 Unit 4 Classical Civilizations: India and China

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Classical Civilizations

Civilization is an advanced culture. A classical civilization is an advanced culture that has had a classical age, a time of great achievements that left a lasting legacy.

Classical Civilizations India: 321 BC-400 AD

**Mauryan Empire
Gupta Empire**

Hinduism and Buddhism

became the two major faiths of the Indian people. People began to believe that one divine force created the world and that Brahma (creator) Vishnu (preserver) and Shiva(destroyer) represented the three parts of that force.

Hinduism

Hinduism is the polytheistic religion of the Aryan people of India.

1. 85% of the people of India practice Hinduism.
2. No one person founded this religion.
3. Holy scriptures are the Vedas and Upanishads
4. 3 main gods, 1000's of minor gods
 - ~Brahma creator
 - ~Vishnu preserver
 - ~Shiva destroyer
5. Reincarnation occurs until Moksa, the freeing of the soul, that will become one with the universe when it has reached perfection.
6. The cow is sacred. (Holy Cow)
7. Ganges River is sacred.
8. Hindus pray in temples and gurus are teachers of the religion. "Om" is the most sacred syllable, often used in prayer

Practices:

- ~will not eat meat (vegetarians)
- ~pray to personal gods
- ~bathe in the Ganges to rid self of sins
- ~work to have good karma (the balance between good and evil) so the next life will be better
- ~follow the rules of dharma (duties to your caste) to increase karma
- ~cremate the dead
- ~caste system

Hindu Caste System -the rigid social class system of the Hindu people.

~Your caste is your social rank in society.

~The Vedas outline 4 basic castes or varnas, from these many subclasses called jatis are created.

Castes (Varnas)

1. **Brahmins**(priests) = 1%
2. **Kshatriyas**(warriors) = 9%
3. **Vaisyas**(herders, farmers, merchants and artisans) = 10%
4. **Sudras**(servants, laborers)= 30%

50% of the population is not in the caste system. They are called untouchables, outcasts or pariahs. (500 million)

Caste members believe that if the shadow of an untouchable even touch their shadow their soul will polluted.

Untouchables are segregated and discriminated against. They are given the worst jobs like tanning hides, collecting garbage and human and animal waste.

Rules of the Castes

1. Live and die in the same caste, you may never change during your lifetime. (rigid class system)
2. Perform duties to your caste: dharma.
3. Karma, your actions, bring either good or bad to your life and determine your future life.
4. Never associate with the lowest castes and/or untouchables.
5. Do not marry outside of your caste.
6. Only take food and water from certain caste members.
7. Work at one of your castes' jobs.

Pollution

~to make unclean

~polluting jobs are: leather worker, butchers, barbers, cleaning bathrooms, dumping dung jars, street sweeping, disposing of dead animals

Problems for the lowest caste and the untouchables.

1. great discrimination and segregation
2. can't live in a brick house or in certain areas
3. can't read or hear the sacred texts
4. can't go to school
5. denial of certain jobs
6. can't eat or drink with the three upper castes

In 1950, the Indian constitution made the caste system discrimination illegal, but traditions are hard to break especially in small villages. City life is helping.

Buddhism

Buddhism is an outgrowth of Hinduism that began around 563-483 BC. by Siddhartha Gautama who later will be know as the Buddha the “enlightened one”.

~20% of the world practices some form of Buddhism, mostly in India, Japan a Southeast Asia.

Beliefs are similar to Hinduism with-out the caste system.

4 Noble Truths

1. all life is suffering
2. suffering is caused by desire
3. desire can be eliminated
4. there is a path to end desire.

8 Fold Path

1. know suffering
2. have good intentions
3. speak the truth and do not hurt others with your words
4. act honestly and peacefully
5. do no harm to others
6. learn useful things to free one’s mind of evil
7. control one’s feelings and thoughts
8. meditate (yoga)

Practices of Buddhism:

1. The Dali Lama is the reincarnation of Buddha today.
2. Nuns and priests live in monasteries and help others find the middle way between earthly desires and extreme self-denial through teaching and meditation.
3. Karma and dharma decided the next life.
4. Reincarnation occurs until you reach nirvana. (another name for moksha)
5. Read the Tripitaka, the sacred scriptures, and meditate.
6. No caste system, no discrimination or no segregation.

AHHA!

Buddhism is an outgrowth of Hinduism without the caste system. Hinduism and Buddhism are incompatible. Why?

Mauryan Empire 321 BC-232 BC

Soon after Alexander the Great conquered the area of the Indus River Valley, he left. **Chandragupta Maurya** seized power and added territory.

1. By 303 BC. the **Mauryan Empire** stretched from the Indus River to the Brahmaputra River and united northern and central India.
2. The empire was divided into four sections each headed by a royal prince to enforce the law and collect taxes.
3. People were highly taxed to pay for the government and the army, often 1/2 the value of their crops.
4. When Chandragupta died his grandson, **Asoka**, took control of the government in 301 BC. and brought the Mauryan Empire into its golden age.

The Golden Age of the Mauryans

1. Asoka felt bad about the loss of soldiers and civilians as he expanded the empire so he turned to Buddhism for comfort. Asoka promised peace to all beings.
2. Asoka erected large pillars throughout the empire stating that he would treat his subjects fairly and humanely.
3. An extensive system of roads were built that made trade and travel as well as communication better.

Gupta Empire 320 BC.-400 AD.

Asoka died in 232 BC and the Mauryan Empire fell apart. After 500 years of turmoil, **Chandra Gupta**, no relation to Chandragupta, started India's second empire; the Gupta Empire

1. Chandra Gupta took the title "Great King of Kings" when he married the daughter of the leader of Magadha in 320 BC.
2. His son, Samudra became king in 335 BC and expanded the empire for 40 years.
3. The families of the empire were mostly patriarchal, headed by the oldest male.
4. Farmers also paid large percents of their earnings to the government for expenses and protection.
6. The Gupta empire used the knowledge it gained from the Western empires and furthered knowledge and understanding in astronomy, mathematics, the length of the solar day, surgery and medicine.
7. **Silk Roads**, trade routes, started.

Classical Civilizations China:

221 BC-1279 AD

Qin Dynasty

Han Dynasty

Tang Dynasty

Song Dynasty

**Confucianism, Daoism, and
Legalism became the
philosophies and ethical systems
that most Chinese lived by during
the classical era.**

Confucianism 551 BC

Confucianism is the philosophy and ethnic system of the Chinese philosopher Confucius (Kung Fu-tzu) who believed that life would be peaceful and harmonious if people knew their role.

Divided society is into **four classes**.

Scholars and rulers

Peasants(farmers)

Craftsman and artisans

Merchants

Confucius did not rank soldiers because they were breaking the rules of harmony and order.

Five Human Relationships

~first position person is the role model who must set the example, the second is to obey without complaint and learn from

1. Ruler to Subject
2. Father to Son
3. Husband and Wife
4. Elder brother to younger brother.
5. Friend to Friend

(The only equal relationship.)

Practices

1. " Do not do onto others as you do not want done to you."
2. No member shall "dishonor" his/her family.
3. Respect for elders and their memory after death (**filial piety**) are extremely important.

Daoism

Daoism is the philosophy of a Chinese thinker named Laozi (Low-dzah) from the 500 BC era and in opposition to Confucius and his class system.

" The Dao never does anything, yet through it all things are done...

When there is no desire, all things are at peace." Laozi

Beliefs and Practices.

1. There is a universal force called Dao(dow) that guides all things.
2. Natural order is more important than social order.
3. Humans should live simply and in harmony with nature.
4. Of all creatures only human fail to follow Dao. Humans argue and have conflicts.
5. The sacred text are called the *Tao Te Ching*
6. The symbol of Daoism is the yin and the yang.
7. Food is used and set out as sacrifice to the spirits of the deceased.
8. Fortune telling and astrology are used by many Daoists.
9. Most Daoists are vegetarians and often fast.

Many Daoists searched for an understanding of Dao which led them to pursue scientific studies and created many contributions in alchemy, astronomy and medicine.

Legalism

Legalism was a philosophy that is in direct opposition to Dao and Confucian philosophies. Legalists believe that government must be totally powerful and use the law to end disorder and return harmony.

1. Rulers rewarded those who obeyed them and severely punished those who didn't. Punishment was stressed over rewards.
2. Believed in book burning to control the beliefs, thoughts and actions of its citizens.
3. Some legalist punishments included death, imprisonment, conscription in the army or community service building forts, monuments, the Great Wall of China, or having their ears or nose cut off.

Qin Dynasty (Chihn)

221BC-206 BC

The Qin Dynasty began when the Zhou Dynasty was weakened by its “warring states period”.

Shi Huangdi (shihr hwahng dee) was the first ruler and took this name which means “First Emperor”.

1. He worked to crush any opposition; taking the land of 120,000 nobles and making it into 36 administrative districts.
2. To stop criticism, he had Legalists murder hundreds of Confucian scholars and burn Confucian books.
3. His government became a cruel, harsh autocracy.

Accomplishments of this dynasty.

1. 4,000 miles of roads built and huge irrigation project completed that lead to an increase in trade
2. Forced thousands into slave labor to build the core of the Great Wall of China.

This dynasty with its cruelty only lasted a short time, Sun’s son was unable to rule effectively and the Qin Dynasty gave way to the Han Dynasty one of the longest lasting dynasties in Chinese history.

Han Dynasty 202 BC-220 AD

In China after the death of Shi Huangdi of the Qin Dynasty, years of discontent followed until two powerful leaders emerged. In 202 Liu Bang won and declared himself the first emperor of the Han Dynasty. The dynasty lasted for over 400 years.

1. Set up a centralized government, a government that controlled the running of the state and in which local governments reported to the central government.
2. Lowered taxes, softened harsh punishments and brought peace and prosperity to China.
3. Colonized Korea and Manchuria.
4. They created a highly structured society. Emperor, kings and governors, then peasants, artisans and merchants and near the bottom were soldiers and at the bottom enslaved people.
5. Built roads, irrigation ditches and expanded the Great Wall.
6. Set up exams for 18 civil service jobs in the government which continued until 1912.

7. Had Confucian scholars advise leaders in respect, generosity, truthfulness, diligence and kindness.
8. Invented paper and paper books, collar harnesses for horses, and the plow.
9. Ran huge silk mills and made the technique of producing silk a closely guarded state secret.
10. Commerce expanded along the **Silk Roads** to most of Asia and, through India, all the way to Rome.
11. Unified China and encouraged conquered areas to assimilate Chinese culture by setting up schools of Confucius.
12. Made written Chinese the language of the empire.
13. Kept records of births, court proceedings.
14. Taught that women should be humble, obedient and hard-working.

Problems in the Empire

Problems between the rich and the poor led to fall of the Han Dynasty.

1. Poor farmers borrowed from the rich landowners, when they were unable to pay up, the land was taken from them.
2. Large landowners had to pay no taxes, and this made the treasury too low and that put the need for more money on the poor farmers, not the rich landowners.
3. Eventually the in 220 AD. the empire broke into three rival kingdoms.

Tang and Song Dynasties of China

When the Han Dynasty collapsed in 220 AD, it took until 589 AD to restore a strong central government. The Tang and Song dynasties did that and produced a long golden age for China. China became the richest, most powerful, advanced country in the world.

1. The Tang Dynasty ruled for nearly 300 years. (618-907 AD) and strengthened the central government.
2. They reconquered land lost in the north and the west.
3. They expand the road and canal networks promoting trade.
4. Used civil service exams to get the best people even commoners to work for the government. It was a great success.
5. Lacking enough money to support the empire the Tangs imposed crushing taxes. This slowed the economy and led to rebellions. In 907 the capital city was sacked and the Tang Dynasty was over.

Song Dynasty 960-1279 AD

It took a few years after the Tang Dynasty ended but the Song Dynasty gained control and stayed in power for nearly 300 years just as the Tangs had.

1. The Songs never regained the western lands so they had a smaller but more stable and more prosperous China.
2. The Songs rulers established a new capital at Hangzhou on the coast. (Ten cities in China had a million people or more, making China the most populous nation in the world.)
3. Developed moveable type, mechanical clocks, paper money and compasses for sailing.
4. Cultivated and grew rice twice a year to feed its huge population.
5. Trade flourished, the Silk Roads were protected by the army, and ocean trade increased.
6. Port cities grew up and international trade bustled.
7. Poetry and Chinese painting reached new heights of beauty.
8. Old aristocratic families faded and a new class called the gentry created a middle class of merchants, artisans, laborers and servants.
9. This endured until the Mongols gained control in 1279 AD.

