

Classical Eastern Civilizations Study Guide
Humanities
Mr. George

INDIA (CHAPTERS 3.1, 7.1, 7.2)
CHINA (CHAPTERS 2.4, 4.4, 7.3)

F Block

Key Concepts:

1. Explain the rise and fall of the Mauryan Empire in India.

Rise: In about 321 B.C. the Mauryan Empire began when Chandragupta Maurya killed the Nanda king. This was the first Indian empire. He expanded the empire by taking over the land from Magadha to the Indus with his large army. He paid and clothed the army by creating high taxes.

Fall: Asoka was the ruler of the empire and brought the empire to its greatest heights. The Mauryan Empire began to fall after Asoka's death. After he died there was no one in power and the kingdoms of central India gained their independence. Invaders began to come into northern India disrupted the society causing the fall of the empire.

2. Explain the rise and fall of the Gupta Empire in India

Rise: Strong leader named Chandra Gupta became the first emperor of the Gupta Empire via marrying into a royal family. Chandra's son, Samudra, later became king in A.D. 335 and vastly expanded the empire through 40 years of conquest.

Fall: After Chandra Gupta II, an emperor, died invaders throughout northern India called the Hunas (related to Huns). The invaders caused conflict within the empire and caused the Gupta Empire to divide into small kingdoms over the following 100 years after the attacks. Nomads and invaders began to overrun areas of the previous empire, and the Gupta Empire had officially fallen in c. 535.

3. Describe advancements of Indian culture under the Gupta Empire (page 191)

Arts: many Tamil poems written, Kalidasa writes the famous play *Shakuntala*, drama becomes popular and both men and women perform as traveling actors, artists create statues of Buddha for people to worship

Religion: Hinduism expanded throughout India. The Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata were written. Hindu temples and shrines were built and ruled by the Guptas.

Science: knowledge of astronomy increased (discovered Earth is round by watching a lunar eclipse), used calendar based on cycles of the sun instead of moon, modern numbers (including zero and decimals) created, Aryabhata calculated value of pi to four decimal places and length of solar year

Medicine: more than 1,000 diseases described and over 500 medicinal plants documented, surgery and injections performed on patients

Trade expands to more further away places

4. How did Hinduism and Buddhism changed in order to allow for more popular worship?

Hinduism and Buddhism both changed to become easier for people to follow. The difficult to follow lifestyle of a buddhist was transformed after Buddha's teachings were reinterpreted. The Mahayana was the sect of Buddhist that adopted the new doctrines while the Theravada sect mostly followed the strict original teachings. Hinduism became strict and remote but made changes to become more popular, it began to move more towards monotheism and people started to believe that there was only one divine force in the universe. Also, Hinduism became more personal and allowed people to pick a favorite god and worship that god more than others.

5. How did the geography of India and China impact its development?

- India had some of the highest mountains in the world
- The mountains guard an enormous fertile plain with two rivers, the Indus and Ganges
- The Himalayan Mountains guarded against invasions from China, but they also isolated India so it was difficult to trade with surrounding civilizations. The civilization developed in the fertile area because it had the soil that they could thrive in. The surrounding rivers were what provided the good soil. The mountains served as protection for the civilization.
- China was vulnerable to attacks in the north, so to protect themselves they built the great wall of china.
- China was a very mountainous region, only about 10% of the land in China was suitable for farming.
- China had the Huang He river with fertile soil called loess,so many people lived by and depended on the river to live.

6. Explain the policies/achievements of the following dynasties- Zhou

Policies: They believed that Royal authority came from heaven. a foolish ruler could lose the Mandate of Heaven/ the right to rule. Gave Authority to trusted nobels. Achievements: brought Iron age to china, first standardized spoken language, confucianism, Introduced coins, Road system

7. Explain the policies/achievements of the following dynasties- Qin

Under the Qin dynasty, China was unified through Legalist ideals. Shi Huangdi destroyed the invaders to the north and south and crushed political oppositions. His victories unified and doubled the size of china. Huangdi then ordered that all useless books be burned and confucian scholars be killed. he did allow the practical books about medicine and farming to be spared. Through his actions, Shi Huangdi established an autocracy (a government with unlimited powers). Huangdi enforced a program of centralization through which he ordered a highway network that spanned more than 4,000 miles to be built. In addition, he set standards for writing, laws, currency, weights, and measures throughout China. He also initiated irrigation projects that increased farm productions. People felt that Huangdi had harsh taxes, a repressive government, and unified them at the expense of their freedom. Shi Huangdi forced the poor to work on the Great Wall of China to close the gaps and extend the wall to the lengths of the empire's borders, which would keep out enemies.

8. Explain the policies/achievements of the following dynasties- Han

Policies:

- centralized government: a central authority controls the running of a state
- hundreds of provincials, called commanders, reported to the central government which was run by Liu Bang, and soon his successors
- Society was highly structured
 - emperor had divine authority
 - since he was divine, people accepted him
- Emperor relied on complex bureaucracy
 - merchants paid taxes, farmers wielded crops
- Government also offered civil service jobs

Achievements:

- Ruled China for more than 400 years
- Influenced China so greatly that the Chinese today call themselves “people of the Han”
- Turned away from Legalism
 - lowered taxes
 - softened punishments
 - brought peace and stability
- Liu Bang’s grandson, Wudi, expanded the Chinese Empire through war
- Wudi defeated the Xiongnu, a strong group of nomads that originally had to be bought off.
- Wudi strengthened borders

○ colonized Manchuria and Korea (present day)

- Paper invented
- Collar harness for horses invented
- Perfected the plow
- improved iron tools
- invented wheelbarrow
- unified chinese culture

9. How were the Chinese religions/philosophies implemented in government policies?

Chinese religions/philosophies were implemented in government policies through Chinese emperors. They hired confucian scholars to advise government officials so that the qualities held by these scholars would be found in their government. In addition, government officials built schools that taught confucius beliefs to unify the empire. Furthermore, emperors were able to control the chinese people through the belief that they had divine authority, meaning they were the connection between heaven and earth.

10. Explain the significance of the bureaucracy and civil servants established in the Han Dynasty. The bureaucracy and civil servants were very significant in the Han dynasty. The bureaucracy was significant because it allowed state officials to make important decisions rather than elected representatives. The bureaucracy in the han dynasty went on for many years

11. What role did the Silk Roads and trading in general play in the spread of ideas and culture?