

KEY CONCEPT 2.1: THE DEVELOPMENT & CODIFICATION OF RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL TRADITIONS

THE MOST EFFICIENT TOPIC FOR YOUR STUDY BEGINS HERE: **RELIGION**

RELIGION PROVIDES BOTH COMMUNITY BONDS AS WELL AS A MORAL CODE. IT INFLUENCES & REINFORCES SOCIAL STRATIFICATION. IT OFTEN MERGED WITH POLITICAL RULERS TO JUSTIFY THEIR REIGN. DIFFERENCES IN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS COULD ALSO LEAD TO CONFLICT.

TWO RELIGIONS FROM THE LAST PERIOD ARE CODIFIED/CONTINUE DEVELOPING IN THIS PERIOD:



JUDAISM

- The FIRST **MONOTHEISTIC** religion
- Holy Book (TORAH) Codified around 500 BCE
 - Reflected MESOPOTAMIAN CULTURE/VALUES
- Hebrew communities conquered leading to the DIASPORA



HINDUISM

- VEDIC RELIGION codified in SANSKRIT by 500 BCE
- Basis for the **CASTE SYSTEM, REINCARNATION**
- **NOT** POLYTHEISTIC
 - Many Manifestation of the **one** Brahma

FOUR RELIGIONS/BELIEF SYSTEMS ARE CODIFIED/FOUNDED IN THIS PERIOD:



BUDDHISM

- Founded by **SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA** around 500 BCE
- Taught that **DESIRE** led to **SUFFERING**
- **END SUFFERING** by **ENDING DESIRES**
- Spread through the work of **MAURYAN EMPEROR ASOKA**



CONFUCIANISM

- Founded by Kong Qiu (CONFUCIUS)
- Spread by Key Disciples (ex. MENCIOUS)
- Taught Proper relationships from Emperor to local villages
- Stressed Patriarchy and Filial Piety



DAOISM

- Founded by Lao Tzu (Laozi) around 500 BCE
- Taught people to live in Harmony with the Tao (or the Way)
- Profound effect on Chinese Culture
 - Medicine, Poetry, Metallurgy, Architecture



CHRISTIANITY

- Founded by **JESUS** of **NAZARETH** around 30 CE
- Believe that **JESUS** was the **SON** of god
- Spread despite **ROMAN** persecution by Disciples
- Eventually gained Roman Imperial support via Constantine



ALONG WITH THE BELIEF SYSTEMS ABOVE, **GRECO-ROMAN PHILOSOPHY & SCIENCE** ALSO TOOK HOLD IN THIS ERA:

- ALSO, solidified/codified around 500 BCE
- Questioned a diverse range of topics and ideals:
 - Science, Mathematics, elements, gods, the universe, reasoning, logic, Socratic Method, Scientific Method, etc.
- Key Thinkers
 - SOCRATES
 - **PLATO** (founder of WESTERN PHILOSOPHY)
 - ARISTOTLE



GENDER ROLES



- **MONASTICISM**
 - From both Buddhism & Christianity
- **FILIAL PIETY**
 - Basis of Confucianism

ANIMISM



- Mainly used outside of the **CORE** Civiliz.
- Stressed daily reliance on Natural World

ANCESTOR VENERATION



- Worship of your Ancestors
 - Africa
 - E. Asia
 - Andean
 - Mediterr.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION



LITERATURE/DRAMA

- Took on Distinctive styles that had repercussions into later eras



DISTINCT ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

- What you stereotypically think of buildings in different areas took root in this era
 - Indian Temples, American Pyramids, Greek Temples



GRECO-BUDDHISM

- Blending of two cultures (*Syncretism*)
- Between Alexander & Islam