

Empires and Civilizations Chart  
AP World History  
Kienast

Pre-600 BCE

Tech, migration, settlement, religion, government, philosophy, art, architecture, trade, agriculture, labor, industry, economic systems, gender, family, social classes, decline

Sumeria/Mesopotamia, 3000-1700 BCE [Middle East]

Number systems, cuneiform, city-states, polytheism, ziggurats, regional trade, river valley, patriarchy, limited to no women's rights, hierarchy

Egypt, 2000-800 BCE [Middle East]

Geometry, hieroglyphics, central government, river valley, polytheism, god-king, pyramids, regional trade, limited women's rights, patriarchy, hierarchal social structure

Harappa, 2000-1850 BCE [South Asia]

Gridded streets, drainage, city-states, polytheism

Shang, 1900 to 1046 BCE [East Asia]

Oracle bones, metallurgy (best bronze in ancient world), decentralized government, first capital at Anyang, polytheism, limited trade, river valley, human sacrifice

Assyrian, 1900-600 BCE [Middle East]

Iron weapons and chariots, pastoralists who took over Israel

Minoan, 1900-1170 BCE [Southern Europe]

Bronze, extensive mythology, patriarchy

Hittites, 1600-1178 [Middle East]

Iron, chariots, cuneiform, central government, bureaucracy, known for expanding through military force and use of technology

Olmec, 1500-400 BCE [Mesoamerica/Latin America]

First major civilization in what is now Mexico, Mesoamerican ball game, "baby" head statues, decentralized government (city-states), animism

Phoenicians, 1200-539 BCE [Middle East]

Trade, alphabet, decentralized government, first maritime civilization, polytheism

Zhou, 1046-256 BCE [East Asia]

Metallurgy (iron), dynasty ended in civil war between nobles (Warring States Period), mandate of heaven, Legalism, Confucianism, Daoism all develop after civil war begins, mildly centralized government (much local control)

Chavin, 900-200 BCE [Latin America]

Metallurgy (gold), canals for irrigation, animism, domestic crops, possible central government, Raimondi Stela, hierarchy?

## 600 BCE-600 CE

Tech, migration, settlement, religion, government, philosophy, art, architecture, trade, agriculture, labor, industry, economic systems, gender, family, social classes, decline

Persian Achaemenid Empire, 500 BCE-330 BCE [Middle East]

First Iranian empire

Rome, 500 BCE-500 CE [South Europe]

Highly centralized government, much like Han (trade, conquest, roads, infrastructure), Greco-Roman culture emphasized loyalty and pride, extreme patriarchy inflation, invasions, corruption, taxes, tribute aid in decline

Mauryan Empire, 300-100 BCE [South Asia]

Ashoka, Buddhism, spread of Buddhism, strong centralized government, Buddhist pillars, cultural synthesis with Hellenism via trade

Qin, 221 to 206 BCE [East Asia]

Strong centralized government, legalistic, began Great Wall, Terra Cotta Warriors

Han, 200 BCE-200 CE [East Asia]

Greatest Chinese dynasty? highly centralized government, much like Rome (trade, conquest, roads, infrastructure), Confucianism popular, extreme patriarchy (Confucianism facilitates), inflation, invasions, corruption, taxes, tribute aid in Decline, meritocracy created through civil service exams

Parthian Empire, 247 BCE – 224 CE [Middle East]

Iranian empire during Rome-Han trade, one of middle-trade civilizations

Teotihuacan, 100-600 CE [Latin America]

Largest pyramids in Americas. Centralized government, human sacrifice

Moche, 100-800 CE [Latin America]

Followed Chavin in South America, known for ceramics

Maya, 200-900 CE [Latin America]

Calendar, astronomy, human sacrifice, animism, pyramids, decentralized government

Sassanid Empire, 200-600 CE [Middle East]

Third Iranian Empire, peak of Persian culture, popularized Zoroastrianism

Gupta Empire, 300-600 CE [South Asia]

Golden age of India, early Vedic epics (Bhagavad Gita, Mahabhrata), Hinduism, mildly centralized government, pi, zero, base 10 number system

## 600 CE-1450 CE

Tech, migration, settlement, religion, government, philosophy, art, architecture, trade, agriculture, labor, industry, economic systems, gender, family, social classes, decline

Ghana, 300-1235 [Sub-Saharan Africa]

West African kingdom known for gold production, Islamic

Byzantine Empire, 400-1453 [Eurasia]

Eastern Roman Empire after fall of Rome, Orthodox Christian, spread Orthodoxy to

Russia, centralized government, rebellion due to high taxation, overextension

Frankish Empire and Charlemagne, 481–843 [Western Europe]

Unified Europe under Catholicism, centralized, patriarchy, declined from weak leaders

Tang, 600-900 [East Asia]

Civil service, movement of capital to Chang'an, Silk Road trade via Sogdians,

Hangzhou-Chang'an linked by Grand Canal, porcelain trade, resisted Buddhism

Umayyad Caliphate, 650-750 [Middle East]

Advancement of Islam by force, centralized

Abbasid Caliphate, 750-1258 [Middle East]

Golden Age of Islam, libraries, trade promotion, ancient culture preservation,

reopened trade routes (but not Silk Roads), patriarchy, religious tolerance

Kievan Russia, 880-1250 [Eastern Europe]

First central Russian government, Orthodoxy, link between West Europe and

Byzantines

Song, 950-1200 [East Asia]

Preceded Mongol control (Yuan), population increase due to Champa rice, strong

central government, use of civil service exams, tribute from SE Asia, Neo-

Confucianism, printing, gunpowder

Kamakura Shogunate, 1200-1350 [East Asia]

First shogunate, decentralized feudal system

Mongols, 1200-1400 [Central Asia]

Trade, Pax Mongolica, spread of culture, tribute system, gender tolerance

Delhi Sultanate, 1206–1526 [South Asia]

Next great civilization in India following Mauryan Empire, Islamic, semi-centralized

Mali, 1235–1600 [Sub-Saharan Africa]

Salt and gold trade, Islamic, Mansa Musa

Aztecs, 1250-1521 [Latin America]

Pyramids, chinampas, partially centralized government based on tribute,

declined after European invasions, rebellion from neighboring people

Yuan (Mongol) Empire, 1250-1400 [East Asia]

Mongol-Chinese dynasty

Ming, 1400-1500 [East Asia]

Isolation after Zheng He, European invasions at end of period, civil service exams

fully used, continued patriarchy

Songhai, 1400-1600 (Songhai) [Sub-Saharan Africa]

West African trans-Saharan empire

### 1450 CE-1750 CE

Tech, migration, settlement, religion, government, philosophy, art, architecture, trade, agriculture, labor, industry, economic systems, gender, family, social classes, decline

Ottoman Empire, 1300-1922 [Eurasia]

Land-based “gunpowder empire,” Islamic, declined due to lack of modernization, inability to centralize, and rebellion in outlying areas, devshirme, religious synthesis tried

Inca, 1438–1533 [Latin America]

Highly centralized government, quipu, chasquis, waru waru, trans-regional trade

Safavid Empire, 1500-1700 [Middle East]

Iranian empire, Shia, unification through Shia

Mughal Empire, 1526-1650 [South Asia]

Land-based “gunpowder empire,” Islamic, declined due to lack of modernization

### 1750 CE-1900 CE

Tech, migration, settlement, religion, government, philosophy, art, architecture, trade, agriculture, labor, industry, economic systems, gender, family, social classes, decline

Imperial Britain, (height of empire)

Mercantilism, imperialism, sea-based, industrial

Qing, 1500-1911

Last dynasty, lack of industry, dominated by west

Haiti, 1804-present

Enlightenment-based revolution, anti-slave revolt, export economy, creole elites, mulattoes

Tokugawa Shogunate, 1600-1868

Last shogunate

Japanese Empire, 1868-1945

End of shogunate and then Westernization, imperialism, global trade, militarism,

Italy, 1870-present

Nationalism, imperialist, industrial

German Empire, 1871-1918

Nationalism unification strategy, centralized government, imperialist, militarism, industrial