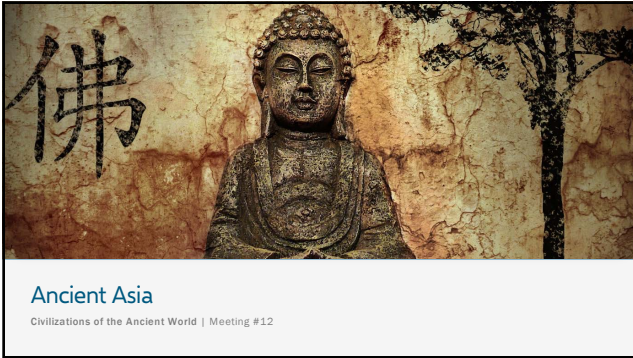
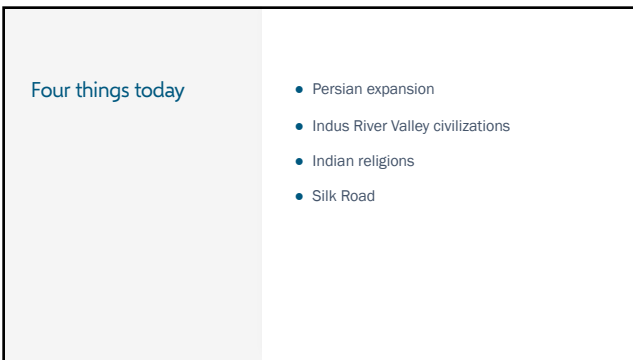




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Quiz #4 | Ancient Asia

- The Scythians were
 - a class of beer-loving herders of goat
 - a nation of horse-loving nomadic Indo-Europeans of the steppes
 - a profession of silence-loving librarians of the great temple at Babylon
 - a troupe of sailor-loving sailors from beyond the Indian Sea
- The ancient Greeks' knowledge of India was limited before
 - the conquests of Alexander the Great
 - the fall of Rome
 - the voyages of Columbus
 - the Industrial Revolution
- Aśoka, king of the Mauryan empire in northern India, was known for all of the following
 - waging a bloody war that claimed 200,000 dead
 - converting from traditional Hinduism to Buddhism
 - helping Buddhism become a more widespread, major religion
 - shunning any and all contact with the Hellenistic peoples of the west
- The kingdom of Bactria, where Alexander founded many colonies that became outposts of Greek culture, was located in what is now
 - ☒ Afghanistan
 - Ethiopia
 - Finland
 - Lithuania
- All of the following are true of the Parthians
 - Like the Persians, they had no standing army, only a highly trained bodyguard for the king
 - They helped establish the "Silk Road," creating a trade link between China and the Mediterranean
 - ☒ Their society was entirely classless, with no nobility and no kings
 - They embraced both Greek culture and their own language and traditions

Extra Credit

EC. What key ideas would you say are most associated with Buddhism as it arose in ancient India?

4

Questions about whatever



5

Persian Empire

6



Cyrus

- Consolidated Persian tribes
- Inspired loyalty and unity
- Charisma and accomplishment

7



Persian majesty

- King of kings
- Persepolis

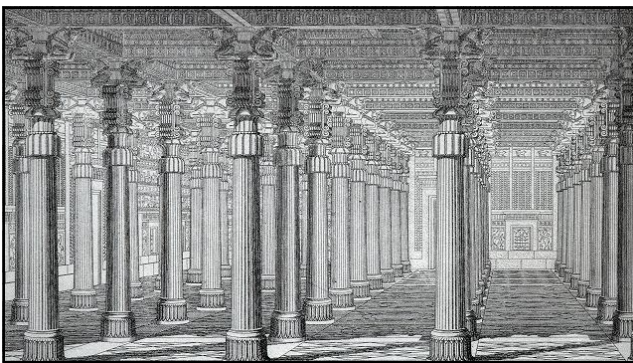
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Key reasons the Persian Empire works

- Minimized oppression / threat to identity
- Benefits of empire
- Satrapies
- The Great King
 - Larger than life
 - Not a god

13



Restoration of Judah

- Cyrus releases from Babylonian Captivity
- Allows them to return to Judah
- Gratitude might mean loyalty
- Strategic location of Judah as base for the conquest of Egypt

14



Cambyses

- Egypt conquered under Cyrus's successor

15



Darius and Xerxes

- Systems and institutions, not personal rule
 - Civil service
 - Infrastructure
- Continuity and stability across reigns

16



Zoroastrianism

- Dualist religion
 - God of light and order (Ahura Mazda)
 - God of dark and chaos (Anraiman)
- Two natural forces
 - Both necessary
 - In balance with each other
- Light and dark is a choice of all living beings
 - Contrast with monotheism (only one choice)

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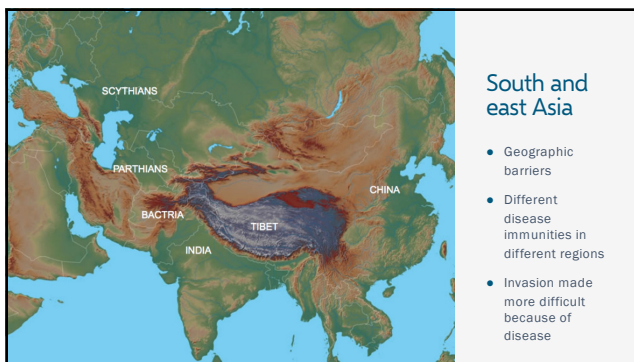
Ancient Religions

 Polytheism • Mesopotamia – Sumer – Akkad – Babylon – Assyria • Egypt • Anatolia – Hittites • Aegean – Minoans – Mycenaeans – Classical Greeks	 Dualism • Persia – Zoroastrianism – Mithraism	 Monotheism • Israel and Judah – Judaism • Christianity
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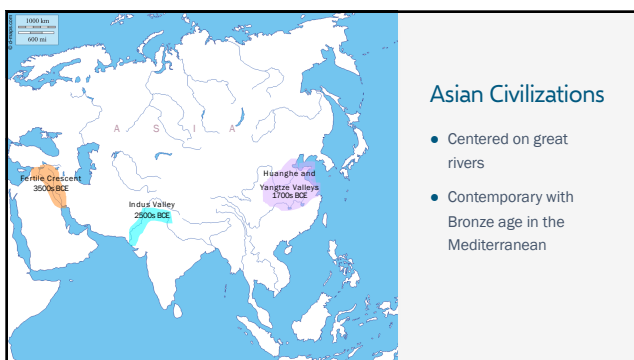
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Scythians

- Barbarians living north of the Danube
 - Indo-European homeland
 - Pastoral, decentralized, nonurban, tribal
- Known to the Greeks
 - Seen as exotic, the "other"
 - The allure of living lawlessly

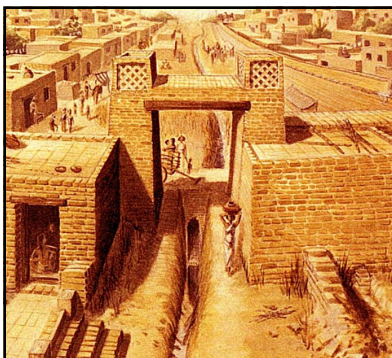
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Bactrians and Parthians

- Bactria = modern Afghanistan
- Meeting place of cultures
 - Mesopotamia, India, central Asia, China
 - Diverse, learned, advanced
- Parthians arrive later
 - Promote cross-Asia trade

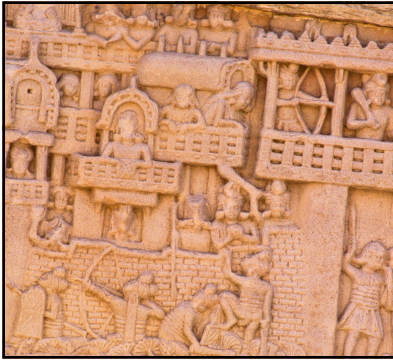
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India: Indus Valley

- Harappan civilization
- Vast and successful city-state culture
 - Hundreds of cities along the Indus
- Advanced engineering, architecture, irrigation

24



India: Vedic Civilization

- Another Indo-European nation arrives from north
- Encounters Harappans
- Admires, emulates, surpasses, absorbs
- Social status defined by rigid social classes

25



Hinduism

- Less about creator gods than social structure
 - Dharma: cosmic order maintained through rituals and righteous living
 - Emphasizes duty to family and community
- Cycle of life
- Action and consequence
- Very ancient roots
 - Later fusion
 - Many branches

26



Buddhism

- Associated with Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha
 - a wandering ascetic and religious teacher
 - ca. 6th century BCE
- Path of development toward full liberation from suffering

27

Key South Asian socioreligious concepts

Hinduism

- **karma**
 - Actions as consequences
 - Intent and actions of an individual influence the future of that individual
- **samsara**
 - All life and matter is cyclical
 - Karma affects rebirth

Buddhism

- **karma**
 - Actions as consequences
 - Intent and actions of an individual influence the future of that individual
- **samsara**
 - All life and matter is cyclical
 - Karma affects rebirth
- **nirvana**
 - Escape from the cycle of rebirth through enlightenment

28



Confucianism

- Associated with Confucius, ca. 500 BCE
- Focus on virtue, social harmony, and familial responsibility

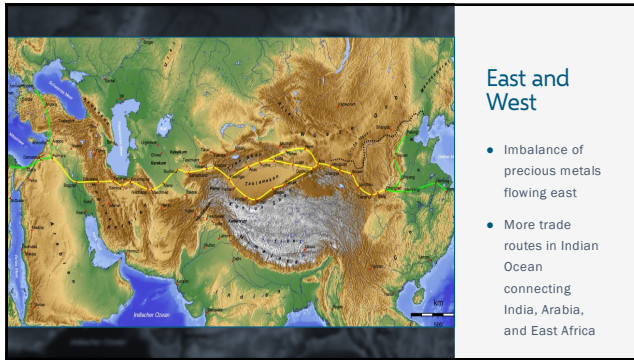
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Silk Road

- Trade in Asian luxury goods desirable in the Mediterranean world
 - Silk
 - Porcelain
 - Tea
 - Dyes
 - Spices

30



31



32
