UNIT TWO

THE WORLD CIVILIZATION (c. 500AD)

- A **civilization** is any complex society characterized by the development of the state, social stratification, urbanization, and symbolic systems of communication beyond natural spoken language.
- **Civilization** is the stage of human social and cultural development and organization that considered most advanced.

➔ **Ancient Civilisations of Africa**

- **Ancient Egypt**
- **Nubia/Kush/Meroe**

Ancient Egypt;

- The civilisation of Ancient Egypt began at about 3000BC.
- It flourished in the Nile Valley.
- Upper and Lower Egypt were unified by **Menes** around 3200BC.
- The Egyptian empire was a large state ruled by an absolute king called a **pharaoh**.
- The king ruled Egypt through officials named Viziers.
- The Viziers acted as mayors, tax collectors and judges.
- The pharaohs regarded as kings and gods.
- The Egyptians were **polytheists**. They worshipped many gods.
- Ancient Egyptians believe in life after death.
- The process of preserving the body is called **mummification**.
- Ancient Egyptians developed the art of writing known as hieroglyphics around 3000BC.
- It was a combination of pictograms, ideograms, phonograms and determinatives.

Economic Activity of Ancient Egyptian

- ✓ Agriculture was the basis of the Egyptian economy.
- ✓ The Egyptian peasantry produced wheat and barley.
- ✓ Livestock also formed an integral part of the economy.
- ✓ Trade was another important economic activity in the empire.

The major achievement of Egyptians

- Medicine
- Astronomy (365 days),
- Architecture: - they constructed palaces, massive temples and tombs for the Pharaohs.
- Egyptians introduced papyrus which was a paper-like substance
- Mathematics

- Agriculture system
- Writing system

Nubia/Kush/Meroe

- Kush was a kingdom along the Nile River in what is now the North eastern Sudan.
- It existed as early as 2000 BC and lasted until about 350AD.
  - Absolute kings and queens ruled the Nubian states.
  - Nubian kings and queens were considered as divine rulers.
  - Nubia was known for its metal technology.
  - Meroe was an important center of metal products such as gold, copper, silver, and iron.
  - This indicates that Meroe had a flourishing iron industry.
  - The Kushites conquered Egypt about the eighth century BC. Then, at about 350AD, the Aksumite king, **Ezana**, invaded and destroyed Meroe.

➔ **Economic Activity of Nubia**

- Agriculture:- cultivated cereals, vegetables and dates fruit.
- pastoralism
- trade

❖ **ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF ASIA**

- ❖ Mesopotamia Civilizations
- ❖ Persia ''
- ❖ China and ''
- ❖ India ''

Mesopotamia Civilization

- Mesopotamia means the land w/c found between two rivers.
- Mesopotamia included the area now eastern **Syria**, **Southern Turkey** and Most Parts of **Iraq**.
- The Mesopotamia civilization was emerged between two rivers **Tigris** and **Euphrates**.
- The **Sumerians** were founded the civilization of Mesopotamia.
- The Sumerians began to build the first cities in the world.
- Sumerians used mud bricks dried in the sun in their buildings.
- The Large temples of this kind were called ***Ziggurats*** (stepped towers).

✓ The soil of southern Mesopotamia was very fertile, and with flood control and irrigation, large crops were possible.
✓ The Sumerian kings had divine authority.
✓ A king ruled as representative of his city's major god.

- ✓ The Sumerians were **Polytheists**.
- ✓ The plough (Agriculture) and the potter wheel first appeared in Mesopotamia.
- ✓ The Sumerians may have been the first to use **bronze**.
- ✓ The Sumerians developed a writing system around 3200 BC.
- ✓ Their writing system was known as **cuneiform**.

➢ **Economic Activity of Mesopotamia**
- Agriculture
- Trade

➢ **The major Achievement of Mesopotamia**
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Astronomy (calendar)
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Metal works
- ✓ Writing system
- ✓ Textile weaving
- ✓ Pottery
- ✓ Agriculture and Irrigation
- ✓ Building (Ziggurats)

Persia Civilization

- Persia was a land that included parts of the area now called Iran and Afghanistan.
- The Persians called the region the “Land of Aryans”, from which the name Iran is coined.
- The Persians language called Aryan.
- They established a dynasty known as the Persian Empire, the largest empire in the ancient world
- The first Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great around 550BC.
- It became one of the largest empires in history.
- Their Empires was also stretching from Europe’s Balkan Peninsula in the West to India’s Indus Valley in the East.
- It also included parts of North Africa.
- Their religion known as **Zoroastrianism**, founded by a prophet called **Zoroaster**.

➢ **The major Achievement of Mesopotamia**
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Postal service
- ✓ Government
- ✓ Law and
- ✓ Roads

India Civilization

- Indian Civilisation began in the Indus Valley in Pakistan and Western India at about 2500BC.
- It reached its apex at about 1500BC.
- They dug ditches and canals around the cities to irrigate their farms.
- The Indus artisans used copper and bronze to make tools, mirrors, pots, and pans and created gold ornaments.
- Hindu religion was developed from the beliefs of the early Indo-Aryans.
- **Buddhism** emerged from **Hinduism** as a reform movement.
- It spread outside of India to South East Asia, China and Japan

➢ **Social hierarchy of ancient India**

- : **Brahmins**; - Priestly, academic class
- : **Kshatriyas**: - Rulers, Administrators, Worriers
- : **Vaishyas**: - Artisan, Tradesmen, farmers, merchants
- : **Shudras**: - Manual laborers

➢ **Economic Activity of India**

- Agriculture
- Trade

➢ **The major Achievement of India**

- ✓ Agriculture and irrigation, dug ditches and canals
- ✓ Measuring
- ✓ Counting
- ✓ weighing, and writing systems

China Civilization

- First, it developed in the Yellow River in the third millennia BC.
- Their civilisation reached its height about 3000 BC in the Valley of **Hwang Ho**.
- The first dynasty in China was called the **Shang dynasty** (c. 1700-1122BC).
- The **Chon dynasty** ruled over China until 256BC.
- It contributed Chinese literary classics developed, and Chinesee philosophy emerged.
- **Confucius** (551-479BC) was the most influential and respected philosopher in Chinesee history.
- His teaching was **Confucianism**.
- **Confucianism** teaches the importance of a well-ordered society
- In which parents rule their children;
- men lead women and the educated judge ordinary people.
- The Chinese constructed the **Great Wall** of China to keep out invaders from central Asia.
- It extends about 7,400 Kilometers across southern China.
- The Chinese developed their system of writing called **logographic**.

➢ **The major Achievement of China**

- ✓ The creation of bronze vessels
- ✓ War chariots

- ✓ Writing system----------called logographic
- ✓ Philosophy
- ✓ Great wall

❖ Ancient Civilisation of Latin America

- ➔ **MAYA**
- ➔ **INCA**
- ➔ **AZTECS**

➥ MAYA :-

- ✓ The Maya were Native American people.
- ✓ This civilisation was at its peak from about 250-900AD.
- ✓ The Maya produced remarkable architecture, painting, pottery, and sculpture.
- ✓ They made outstanding achievements in astronomy mathematics and developed an accurate yearly calendar.
- ✓ They developed an advanced form of writing.
- ✓ The Maya worshipped many gods and goddesses.
- ✓ The Maya built tall pyramids of limestone with small temples on top.
- ✓ The Spanish had captured the southern part of the area in the 16th Century.
- ✓ Spanish domination of the entire Maya region was completed in the late 17th Century.

➥ INCA

- ⇘ The Inca were a South American native people.
- ⇘ They ruled one of the largest and richest empires in the Americas.
- ⇘ The Inca Empire began to expand at about 1438.
- ⇘ It included present-day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.
- ⇘ Its capital was Cusco, in southern Peru.
- ⇘ The Inca were skilled in engineering and crafts. For example, they built a network of roads.
- ⇘ Inca craft workers made fine artefacts from gold, silver and other materials.
- ⇘ The Inca also wove fine cotton and woollen cloth.
- ⇘ Spanish forces conquered the Inca Empire after 1532.

➥ AZTECS

- ✓ The Aztecs were another Native American people and a powerful empire in 15thc & 16thc.
- ✓ The center of the Aztec civilisation was the valley of **Mexico**.
- ✓ The Aztecs Empire included many cities and towns.
- ✓ The largest city was the capital **Tenochtitlan**, present-day **Mexico** - **City**.
- ✓ The Aztecs worshipped hundreds of gods and goddesses.
- ✓ They used a form of writing called **pictographic** writing.
- ✓ Unfortunately, the Spaniards destroyed their empire in 1521.
- ✓ Agriculture formed the source of the Aztec economy