UNIT THREE

THE ANCIENT WORLD

Introduction

Major themes dealt with in this unit are the emergence of states in the ancient world; the ancient world civilization; and the origin and expansion of Christianity.

The earliest states of the world emerged some 6000 years ago. This was before the invention of writing which make possible keeping records. There is little evidence for the fact that state formation occurred before the invention of writing. But the process of state formation was almost certainly different in different societies.

The origin of civilization was closely linked with the beginning of cultivation of crops and domestication of animals which led to permanent settlement. Permanent settlement, inturn, led to the emergence of urban centers and the beginning of writing systems. This sort of civilizations had emerged in Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, India, China, Greece and Rome.

We learn about ancient civilization from the material remains found by archaeology. However, much of the material culture of ancient civilizations had disappeared. With the appearance of writing system from about 3000 BC on wards, we are able to study the written records. However, much of these written records have also disappeared. Moreover, some very early written records are difficult to interpret. The meaning of all this is that one has to be very careful in making statements about ancient civilizations.

One of the world's leading religions today, is Christianity. This religion emerged in Palestine in the first century AD and spread all throughout the world to become a major universal faith.

Objectives

After completing of this unit, you will be able to:

- explain the historical process of emergence of states,
- analyze the nature of early states and civilizations,
- compare and contrast the different ancient civilizations including the Ethiopian region and the Horn of Africa.

Terms to Know

- Ahura Mazda	- Patriarch	- Patriarchate
- Atricians	- Holy Trinity	- Persecution

- Clergy
- City -state
- Cuneiform
- Deities
- Democracy
- Gentiles
- Hanging
- Hellenistic
- Hieroglyphics
- Ishtar Gate
- Legalism
- Laity
- Lugals
- Manumission
- Monotheism
- Mound
- Nine saints
- Oligarchy
- ''Oriental despotism
- Plebeians
- Pax Romana
- Salvation
- Senate
- Seven wonders
- Theocratic
- "Theocratic temple State"
- Viziers

3.1. Emergence of States

Questions for Discussion and Practical Work

What are the necessary pre-conditions for any state comes into existence?

What were some of the major human economic activities that led to the emergence of ancient states?

How did war leadership become an important factor for the emergence of states?

Theories of the Emergence of States

States, as they emerged, were characterized by a relatively large number of people living in a definite territorial area under a government with coercive powers, that is, the ability to use force and punishments to make people obey.

There are different theories for the emergence of ancient states. Probably the emergence resulted from such factors as religion, war leadership, control of trade routes and irrigation. However, the factors for the emergence of one state may not be the case with another.

Religion was important because in its own ways it explained the world to mankind and gave people some feeling of security. Since religion was so important, priests who mediated between the gods and mankind were important. It is possible that sometimes religious and ''state'' and political functions were combined. As kings emerged their authority was based on religion. Kings were regarded as representatives of the supreme god on earth.

Kings emerged as a result of war which needed leadership. There were fierce and bloody conflicts between human groups before state existed. It would be easy for war leaders to turn into kings because, with frequent wars, a permanent war leader would be needed and a successful war leader would

gain loyalty from his followers. Thus, a permanent war leader would emerge ruling as a king.

Although trade had come long before the existence of states, it is very probable that it was a factor for the emergence of states. Chiefs of localities through which trade passed could collect payments in goods for giving protection. In time, such payments might become regular tribute and the tribute levied on trade would give a chief increased material resources to make his power permanent as a king.

Finally, there was the theory of ''oriental despotism'' in the origin of ancient states. In such civilizations where agriculture depended on large scale irrigation from river water, a strong state power emerged because despotic state power was needed to organize labour for great irrigation and flood control works. This theory sounds probable for both Egypt which depended on the Nile and Mesopotamia which was located in the valleys of Tigris and Euphrates.

The Nature of Early States

Ancient states had people with specialized skills such as craftsmen, soldiers, officials, etc. and differentiation into classes. No state could of course come into existence without the previous development of agriculture. This was because only agriculture could provide a large enough, regular surplus of food. This surplus of food, over and above what was necessary to keep the farmers alive, supported the other classes and the state machinery. i.e its officials and soldiers.

Ancient states were different in size, power, and level of ''civilization''. The word ''civilization'' comes from the Latin words for citizen and city. By ''civilized states'', in this context, we mean states with cities where there was literacy. A civilized state would also have reasonably developed technology by the standards of the time and enough wealth to create great monumental architecture like in Egypt and Aksum. There would also be a developed religion or secular philosophy like that of ancient China.

3.2. Ancient World Civilizations

Questions for Discussion and Practical Work

- What were the major contributions of ancient Egypt to world civilization?
- What were the main features of the Kushite civilization?
- Outline the major features of Aksumite civilization.

AFRICA

Ancient Egypt

Egypt was one of the earliest of the great civilizations of the ancient world.

The ancient Greek historian Herodotus said that Egypt was ''the gift of the Nile'', meaning that Egypt could not have existed without the annual Nile flood that brought water and soil to Egypt along the river and the river delta. Beyond the river, Egypt is desert on both sides. The political unity of Egypt was also made possible by the river Nile. The Nile provided easy communication to control the narrow area of cultivated land on each side of the river.

Egypt became a single united kingdom very early. It is, in fact the oldest state in the world which has kept its name, identity and territorial area through time. According to tradition, Egypt was unified when a king named Menes (c.3200 BC) united Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt under his rule. Upper Egypt was south of what is now modern Cairo and Lower Egypt was north of modern Cairo, including the Nile delta.

The history of ancient Egypt is usually divided into the Old kingdom (c.2686- 2181BC), Middle kingdom (c.2040 - 1730BC) and New kingdom (c.1550 - 1080BC). There were also the First and the Second Intermediate periods when central political authority broken down, followed by reunification. Within the periods of the three kingdoms and the Intermediate periods, there were a total of 31 dynasties of indigenous rulers in Egypt. After the New kingdom, however indigenous rule ended in Egypt with the final Persian conquest in 343BC. Alexander the Great conquered Egypt from the Persians in 332BC. Macedonia-Greek rule continued until Egypt became part of the Roman Empire in 30 BC. After the Pharoahs, Egypt did not have an indigenous Egyptian ruler until the 20th century.

In Egypt the king was all-powerful. He was regarded as an incarnate god and after his ''death'' on earth, he would be a god watching over the welfare of Egypt and its people.

Since the period of the New Kingdom, the king of Egypt was called ''Pharaoh''. The word ''Pharaoh'' is Hebrew for an ancient Egyptian word meaning ''great house'', that is, the place where the king lived. ''Great house'' was also used as a title of respect for the king.

The capital of the Old Kingdom was Memphis located near the site of present-day Cairo. During the Middle and the New Kingdoms, the capital was moved to Thebes, much farther to the south. Officials called viziers helped the king govern ancient Egypt. The viziers acted as mayors, tax collectors and judges. Ancient Egypt was divided into 42 provinces called ''nomes''. The king appointed an official known as a ''nomarch'' to govern each province.

Most of the ordinary people in ancient Egypt were engaged in agriculture. Farmers grew crops most of the year by irrigating their land. They built canals that carried water from the Nile to their fields. Egyptian peasants had to hand over much of what they produced as taxation to the state or as payment to the landlords. They had to perform compulsory public

labour services or corvee and some peasants were conscripted into the pharoah's armies.

Ancient Egyptians worshiped many deities (gods and godesses) because they believed that the various deities influence every aspect of nature and every human activity. The ancient Egyptians also believed in life after death. This belief in an ''afterlife'' sometimes led to expensive preparations for death and burial. It resulted, for example, in the construction of the pyramids and other great tombs for kings and queens. Other ordinary Egyptians had smaller tombs.

Ancient Egypt's pyramids are the oldest and largest stone structures in the world. The ruins of 35 major pyramids still stand along the Nile. Three huge pyramids at Giza rank as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The largest one, the Great Pyramid at Giza, stands about 140 meters high. It must be remembered that the great stone pyramids were only constructed in one brief period of the Old Kingdom. Ancient Egypt continued to have great monumental architecture of other kinds. This reached its height in the New Kingdom period. The great movements of Karnak and Abu Simbel date from the New Kingdom.

The New Kingdom was a 500-years period in which ancient Egypt became the world's strongest power. Egypt built a great empire and reached the height of its power during the 1400's BC, under King Thutmose III. He led a military campaign into Asia almost yearly for 20 years and brought Palestine and Syria into the Egyptian empire. Thutmose also established Egyptian control over Kush and the surrounding Nubia, which were valuable sources of slaves, copper, gold, ivory and ebony. As a result of these victories, Egypt became the strongest and wealthiest nation in the Middle East. Rameses II (r. 1290 - 1224 BC) was one of the known pharaoh of the time. The well-known voyage to Punt sent by Queen Hatshepsut had also taken place in the New Kingdom period.

Ancient Egyptians developed a civilized way of life. They made remarkable progress in government, religion, engineering and architecture, writing and scince including mathematics. Many of this ideas were taken by the people which they conquered. Egyptian ideas and customs were also spread by means of the trade which merchants from foreign lands carried on with Egypt.

Kush/ Meroe

Kush was a kingdom along the Nile river in what is now northeastern Sudan. It's founding date is not known, but it existed as early as 2000 BC and lasted until about AD 350. Kush was a trading center and it exported slaves, cattle, gold and ivory.

Egypt conquered Kush in the 1500's BC, and the Kushities adopted elements of Egyptian art, language and religion. Later, the Kushities conquered Egypt about 750 BC, when its power declined. Five Kushite rulers

successively ruled Egypt as pharaohs of the Twenty Fifth Dynasty. During this time, Napata was the capital of the combined territory of Egypt and Kush. The Kushites ruled Egypt until about 670 BC, when Assyrians from Asia attacked Egypt and sacked Thebes, the former Egyptian capital. An Assyrian army then destroyed Napata, the capital of Kush. The rulers of Kush fled southwards to central Kush which survived the attack.

Around the sixth century BC, the kingdom of Kush began to expand its territory in the southern direction. The southern limit of the kingdom was somewhere in the present city of Khartoum. The capital of the kingdom also shifted to Meroe which was located somewhere in the north of Khartoum. The period during which Meroe served as capital marked the glorious period in the civilization of Kush. Because of this, the Kushite civilization of this period is often referred to as Merotic civilization.

The Kushites found iron ore and hard wood. They had a well developed iron industry and made iron tools and weapons. The use of iron weapons made the kingdom very powerful militarily. It conquered a large territory and monopolized the trade of the Horn of Africa. The prosperity of Meroe largely depended on this trade. The main export items included ivory, slaves, rare skins, ostrich feathers, ebony and gold. Meroe reached the height of its power form the middle of the third century BC to the first century AD. During this period the people of Meroe developed new styles in art and architecture, used their own language, invented a system of writing and worshipped their own gods.

The decline of Meroe began in the middle of the first century AD. This was because of the rise of the rival empire of Aksum. In the middle of the fourth century AD, the Askumite king called Ezana invaded Meroe. Ezana's army sacked and burned Meroe and thereby brought the ancient kingdom of Kush to an end.

ASIA

Questions for Discussion and Practical Work

- Why did most ancient civilizations rise along river valleys?
- For what purpose was the writing system used in ancient states?
- What kind of states are city states?
- Explain the differences between kingdoms and empires.
- Why was religion very important in the life of ancient people?

Mesopotamia

Asia was another home for several civilizations of the ancient world. Many these earliest civilizations were based on city sates.

By about 2900 BC, a civilization of city states emerged in southern Mesopotamia (modern Iraq), in the area called Sumeria between the Tigris

and Euphrates rivers. The name Mesopotamia comes from a Greek word meaning between rivers. There is no evidence for that the Sumerians moved there from anywhere else; they may have been indigenous.

The rulers of Sumerian city-states were absolute kings called **lugals**. The king ruled as the representative of the city-state's chief god. He was not a god himself as in Egypt. He was responsible for seeing that the worship of the god was properly carried out. It was believed that the prosperity and security of the state was ensured by the proper worship of the god. The **lugal** was a king, but had a supreme duty to the gods. As a recent work comments, ''some land was owned by the king, some assigned to temples and some in private ownership.''

According to the indications in recent studies, large number of the inhabitants of the city-states lived within the walls of the cities. However, the majority of these were farmers who were going out to work on the land daily. The other inhabitants were priests, officials, soldiers craftsmen and traders. The city - states used to import various commodities including timber and metals. Some supplies were also brought in by military expeditions or exacted as tribute.

Unlike Egypt, there were no great monuments built for the kings and numerous gods in Mesopotamia. This was because stone and good timber were not available for construction. However, archeologists have excavated mounds of important structures in mud bricks dried in the sun.

According to some writers, the plough was first used in Sumeria before the establishment of the city-states. Boats moved by wind also appeared first in Sumeria. The Sumerians became experts in metal working and their bronze artifacts exhibited rare skills in the standard of the day. Like ancient Egyptians, the Sumerians developed skills in astronomy and mathematics which they used for the preparation of a calendar, land measurement and administration. We got the 60 minutes in an hour and 360° in a circle from the Sumerians.

Between about 3200 - 2900 BC, Sumerians developed a writing system. The system using word pictures, developed in to a system of wedge-shaped characters called *cuneiform*. (The Latin word for wedge is cuneus, hence the name cuneiform). Cuneiform was written by pressing wedge shaped marks with a hand instrument on tablet, or soft clay. The clay then dried in the sun and became hard. Cuneifrom was a complex, difficult, non-alphabetic system like hieroglyphics. Although the Sumerian language later ceased to be spoken, cuneiform was used for writing other languages and was for many centuries the writing system of the ancient Middle East, outside Egypt.

The sumerians made remarkable contributions in law, the arts and science. The Mesopotamians made careful study of the heavenly bodies. They recognized the difference between plants and fixed stars. This laid the foundation for the study of modern astronomy.

The Old Babylonian Empire, Assyria and the New Babylonian Empire

Babylon was a great city of the ancient world. It was the capital of the kingdom of Babylonia and of two Babylonian emperors. Babylon stood on the banks of the Euphrates river near the present day city of al-Hillah, Iraq. Babylon was both an important trading and religious centre. The word Babylon means gate of the god.

Records first mention Babylon about 2200 BC. King Sumuabum, the first important Babylonian ruler, founded a dynasty in 1894 BC. The best known king of that dynasty was Hammurabi who ruled from 1792 to 1750 BC, and won fame for developing a wise and fair code of law. The economic laws show buying, selling , leading at interests and the existence of private property. The criminal laws were harsh and discriminations as to social class and gender. Punishments for the common people were more severe and physical. Hamurabi's code of Laws became a model for later codes.

In the struggle for power and empire by conquest, the Assyrians emerged on top and established the largest empire in the Middle East since the 9th century BC. Its civilization was similar in many ways to that of ancient Babylonia, its neighbour to the south.

The Assyrians have been called the Romans of Asia. Like the Romans, they were great conquerors. They won their victories in the Roman way, by superb organization, weapons, and equipment.

The Assyrians were Semitic speakers and their homeland was in what is now northern Iraq. Their capital was at first Ashur, named after the chief god, and later Nineveh both cities on the Tigris river.

The king of Assyria had absolute power. He ruled as the representative of the chief Assyrian god, Ashur. The Assyrian army, which consisted of cavalry, chariots and infantry, was efficient and well-organized. The Assyrians used a well developed siege techniques. The army was using iron weapons rather than bronze.

The Assyrian empire was divided into provinces. Each province was administered by a governor who was responsible to the central government. On the periphery were autonomous tributary states paying tribute to and providing soldiers for Assyria. Assyrian society consisted of nobles, free small scale landowners, private traders, hired persons and a few slaves. Trade was important and a large part of state revenues came from taxation on trade.

Assyrian rule seems to have brought peace and prosperity for those who would accept it. The Assyrians sometimes allowed conquered peoples to keep their own rulers. But if the people rebelled or refused to pay taxes, they often destroyed their cities and sent the people to distant parts of the empire.

Assyria declined after the mid 7th century BC. The Medians and the Babylonians attacked Assyria. In 612BC, Ashur and Nineveh were captured and destroyed. Internal struggle for succession weakened the Assyrian empire thereby creating an opportunity to its enemies with in and outside

the empire. The Assyrian Empire was replaced by the New Babylonian Empire, which however, did not last long.

The New Babylonian Empire began in 626 BC, when the Babylonian military leader Nabopolassar became king of Babylon. Nabopolassar then won control of Babylonia from the Assyrians. Attacks by the Babylonians and their Median allies in 614 and 612 BC, put an end to the Assyrian Empire. Under Nabopolassar, who reigned until 605 BC, the New Babylonian Empire controlled much of the Middle East.

Babylon achieved its greatest glory under the New Babylonian Empire. Nabopolassar and his son Nebuchadnezzar II rebuilt the city on a grand scale. During the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, from 605 to 562 BC, workers built walls almost 26 meters thick around the outside of Babylon. Huge inner walls protected the city's main section. A wide moat surrounded the inner walls. People entered and left the city through eight bronze gates. The grandest of these gates, the huge Ishtar Gate, stood on a paved avenue called the processional street.

Nebuchadnezzar's main palace and a fortress stood between the Ishtar Gate and the Euphrates River. This area probably included the city's famous Hanging Gardens. The ancient Greeks described these gardens, which grew on the roof of a high building, as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The Temple of Marduk stood there. In addition, the area included the **ziggurat**, a monument that was known in later times as the Tower of Babel.

Nebuchadnezzar's successors were unpopular, and the empire became weak. In 539 BC, Persian invaders captured Babylon and over threw the New Babylonian Empire.

The Persian Empire

Ancient Persia was a land that included parts of what are now Iran and Afghanistan. The name Persia came from *Persis*, which was the Greek name for the region. The Persians themselves called the region the land of the *Aryans*, from which the name Iran comes, and their language Aryan.

The founder of the Persian Empire was the conqueror Cyrus the Great (557-530BC). His successors further extended the empire until it was the largest of all ancient empires.

The Persian Emperor called ''the Great King, the King of Kings'', was an absolute ruler, ruling as the representative of the Persian god *Ahura Mazda*. The ruling officials of the empire and the cavalry core of the army came form the Persian nobility, while the commoners provided the infantry core of the army. The empire was divided into provinces called **satrapies**, each governed by an official called a **satrap**. The provinces had much more autonomy provided they paid tribute and supplied soldiers for the Persian army. The Persians taught their sons to ride horses, shoot bows and speak the truth. They considered it a disgrace to lie or to be in debt.

Early Persians were farmers. Who raised grain and livestock. The Persian peasants developed irrigation to grow wheat, barley, oats and vegetables. They used underground tunnels to avoid evaporation by the heat from the sun, and brought water as much as 160 kilometers from the mountains to the valleys and plains. Caravans carried trade goods from many parts of the world through Persia to the Mediterranean Sea. A gold currency called **darics** was used all over the empire. The Persian **darics** were named after the emperor Darius I (in the 5th century B.C) who first issued them.

Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) was a Persian prophet who lived in the sixth century BC. He introduced the near-monotheist religion called Zoroastrianism. He preached that there were two opposing principles, good and evil. The good was represented by the supreme god called *Ahura Mazda*, and the evil by *Ahriman.*

Alexander the Great conquered the Persian Empire in 331BC., and the region became part of Alexander's empire.

India

The first Indian civilization began in the Indus Valley at about 2500 BC, and reached at its apex at about 1500 BC. This civilization was started by the people called Dravidians who were indigenous to northern India. Archaeologists have discovered two major cities of the Indus Valley civilization. Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. It is not known whether Mohenjo-daro was the capital of one single empire or an independent city state it self. Other than literacy, the size of the two cities appears to be large and the rectangular pattern of the streets and the buildings suggest some kind of urban planning. There were also good water supply and drainage systems. The buildings were constructed of bricks not simply dried in the sun but baked in furnaces.

The disappearance of the Indus Valley civilization was sudden and complete for the reasons not known much. Different kinds of explanations have been given for the destruction of the Indus Valley cities. But seemingly reasonable suggestions have been environmental degradation caused by deforestation, epidemic disease like malaria, changes in the course of the River Indus and climatic changes.

After the destruction of the Indus Valley civilization, there was a movement of Indo-Aryan people into northern India. These people conquered the Dravidians and drove them out of northern India. The Indo-Aryans moved into the great plains of northern India, settled there and established the civilized states of ancient and medieval India. Southern India remained largely Dravidian.

Hindu religion developed from the beliefs of the early Indo-Aryans. One basic common idea of Hinduism is that mankind is condemned to a cycle of rebirths. A person can be reborn as some one spiritually higher and better or as someone (or even an animal) lower and worse. Salvation can be achieved

in different ways. For instance, it can be attained by giving up the pleasures of the material world and seeking spiritual enlightenment under the guidance of a holy man (guru). Buddhism emerged from Hinduism as a reform movement. Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama (c.563 - 483 BC). Buddhism taught the ''middle way'' to salvation by avoiding extremes of asceticism on one side or materialism on the other side. It spread outside India to South East Asia, China and Japan.

Indian scholars increased the world's store of knowledge. Learned Indians concerned themselves with various fields of science and mathematics. Indian physicians made progress in surgery and introduced the use of herbs to cure diseases. In the field of chemistry, Hindu Scientists made it possible for craftsmen to tan leather dye cloth, and produce soap, cement, glass, and finely tempered steel. In mathematics, Indian scientists made their greatest contributions. What we call Arabic numerals (1,2,3,etc.) were first used in India, later taken over and developed by the Arabs. The Indians also introduced the decimal system and the symbol for zero.

As religious ideas were carried east ward from India into China and other parts of Asia, India’s ancient art and architecture spread, too India, in truth, is one of the mothers of civilization.

China

The earliest centers of civilization and states in China was in the northern part of the region. Chinese civilization and the Chinese state expanded over time to the centers and south of present day China.

The first dynasty in China was called the Shang dynasty (c.1700 - 1122BC). The Shang kingdom was centered in the *Hunang He valley*. It became a highly developed society governed by a hereditary class of aristocrats. The dynasty's accomplishments included the creation of magnificent bronze vessels, the development of horse drawn war chariots and the establishment of a system of writing.

The earliest forms of Chinese script were *pictographs*. They were drawings or pictures of the objects they represented. As Chinese script developed, characters became more simplified and less pictographic. Written Chinese has no alphabet. Instead, it consist of about 50,000 characters. The Chinese writing system is logographic, meaning that each character stands for a word or part of a word.

About 1122 BC, the Zhon (Chou) people of western China overthrew the Shang and established their own dynasty and ruled China until 256 BC. The last period of the Zhon was a period of intensive wars between the rulers of rival Chinese Sates. In fact it is called the ''warring states period'' (403 - 221BC). Despite these wars, the Chinese literary classics developed and Chinese philosophy emerged.

Confucius (551 - 479 BC), was the most influential and respected philosopher in Chinese history. His real name was Kong Qiu. The name

Confucius is a Latin form of the title Kongfuzi which means Great Master Kong. His ideas, which are called Confucianism stress the need to develop moral character and responsibility. No book exists that was written by Confucius. His conversations and sayings were recorded by his disciples in a book called the Analects. His influence grew after his death so that in the end Confucianism became the official and dominant ideology of China from about 100 BC to the revolution of 1911. The Confucian tradition was further developed by Menicus (Meng-tzu), 372 - 289 BC, the most important early Confucian philosopher.

Confucianism was basically a secular philosophy not a religion. Confucius accepted the existence of ''Heaven'' but based his ideas on human reason. He was not concerned in metaphysics but ethics. He taught that society and states would be happy and prosperous if each individual kept to his or her proper place: ''Let the ruler be a ruler and the subject a subject. Let the father be a father and the son be a son.'' There are five cardinal human relationships: ruler to subject; father to son; husband to wife; elder brother to younger brother, and friend to friend. All these relationships except the last were relations of authority on one side and obedience and subordination on the other. However, Confucianism put great emphasis on personal ethics, summarizing ethics as ''Do not do to others what you do not want done to you''.

Mencius believed people were born good. He stressed the need to pressure ''the natural compassion of the heart'' that makes people human. Mencius emphasized the past as an ideal age and a model for examining present problems.

During the later Zhou period, the rulers of the eastern states fought one another for the control of all China. In 221BC, the Qin (Chin) state defeated all its rivals and established China's first empire under the First Emperor, Shih Huang-ti. The ruler believed in a philosophy called Legalsim, the rival political philosophy to Confucianism. Legalism emphasized the importance of authority, efficient administration and strict laws. A combination of legalistic administrative practices and Confucian moral values helped the Chinese empires endure for more than 2000 years.

The world is indebted to the Chinese for many discoveries and inventions. These discoveries were useful both to themselves and to the outside world. The use of coal was first started by the Chinese. The Chinese were also the first to produce procelain, known to the world as China or Chinaware. The wheel barrow was also a Chinese invention. The lacquer used to give a hard, glossy finish to wood, leather, and other surfaces originated in China. Another Chinese discovery that silk could be made from the cocoons of silkworms, started the silk industry and trade. Even more valuable was the manufacture of paper from cotton cloth, a process invented about 150 AD. Printing was invented first in China and later invented again

in Europe. Another Chinese invention that was duplicated in Europe was gun powder, which was used in China as early as 600 AD, in firecrackers.

EUROPE

Questions for Discussion and Practical Work

- The Athenian Assembly and drama were held not inside buildings but in the open air. What does this tell us about the Greek climate?
- The Greek historian Arrian wrote that when Alexander was dying ''the high officers . . . asked him to name his successor and Alexander's reply was 'the strongest'. What do you think Alexander meant?
- List the main achievement of the Greeks and the Romans.

Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece was the birth place of western civilization about 2500 years ago. The magnificent achievements of the ancient Greeks in government, science, philosophy and the arts still influence our lives.

Greek civilization developed chiefly in small city-states. A city-state consisted of a city or town and the surrounding villages and farmland. The Greek city-states were called **polis**.

The city-states took shape in ancient Greece by the eighteen century BC. A small group of wealthy men governed most city states of ancient Greece. This form of government, in which a few powerful people rule, is called an **oligarchy**. During the sixth century BC, some city- states began to move toward democracy. They granted all citizens, except women and slaves, the right to vote on government policies, hold political office and serve on a jury. The most advanced city states established the world's first democratic governments. The best known city states were Athens and Sparta.

Athens was the largest of the Greek city-states in size and population. In the fifth century BC, Athens comprised between 25,000 to 40,000 citizens. Athens had good olive oil and wine but little good land for grain. It imported grain from the coastal areas of northern Black Sea. Athens possessed a very strong naval power.

Athens became the most successful democracy of ancient Greece. The principle of Athenian democracy was the most complete participation of all male citizens. Athens was a direct democracy not a democracy by elected representatives. All Athenian citizens could attend, speak and vote in the general meeting of citizens called the Assembly. The whole citizens were able to meet together in one place. The Assembly met about 40 days a year. It passed laws and determined government policies. It also elected Athenian generals. Each year, the citizens drew lots to elect a council of 500 men. This council could ran the day-to-day business of government and prepared the bills that the Assembly debated and voted on. Jurors were also chosen by lot.

During the fifth century BC, Athens became the center of Greek culture. Philosophy originated in ancient Greece during this time. Socrates, (470-399BC), Plato (427-347BC), and Aristotle (384–322BC) are considered the most important Greek philosophers. The ancient Greeks pioneered in medicine, physics, biology and mathematics. Greek architects, sculptors and painters made important contributions to the arts. The leading Greek architects and sculptors built the Parthenon on the Acropolis. The ancient Greek dramatists, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, wrote many of their master pieces. The Greek historians, Herodotus (484-425BC) called (''Father of History'') and Thucydides, (460-400BC) established proper historiography. Modern medicine also sees its founder in the Greek doctor, Hippocrates (460-357BC). In many medical school today, doctors take the ''Hippocratic Oath'' on graduation, the oath first imposed by Hippocrates on his pupils that they would practice their profession in the proper manner.

The glorious days of Athens ended with the out break of the Peloponnesian War (431 - 404BC) in which Athens was defeated by Sparta.

Macedonia, a country north of Greece, was becoming stronger as the Greek city-states grew weaker. In 353 BC, Philip II, king of Macedonia, set out to conquer Greece. The independence of Greek city-states ended in 338 BC, when Philip II defeated them and brought them all under his control.

Alexander the Great (336 - 323BC), Philip's son, led a Greek and Macedonian army and conquered the entire Persian Empire. His conquest furthered the spread of Greek ideas and language in Egypt and the Near East. Alexander died in 323 BC. His generals divided his empire among them selves. The city-states remained under Macedonian control. The period of Greek history following Alexander's death is known as Hellenistic Age. This period lasted until 146 BC, when the Romans took control of Greece.

The ancient Greeks laid the foundations of western civilization. Modern democracies owe a debt to Greek beliefs in government by the people, trial by jury, and equality under the law. The ancient Greeks pioneered in many fields that rely on systematic thought, including biology, geometry, history, philosophy, and physics. They introduced and perfected such important literary forms as epic and lyric poetry, history, tragedy, and comedy. In this persuit of order and proportion, the Greeks crated an ideal of beauty that strongly influenced western art.

Ancient Rome and the Roman Empire

Historians know little about the early days of ancient Rome. According to Roman legend, twin brothers, Romulus and Remus, established a settlement in 753 BC on the Palatine Hill, one of Rome's hills over looking the Tiber River.

The first known settlers of ancient Rome lived on the Palatine Hill about 1000 BC. Most historians believe that these settlers were a people

called Latins. Latins also inhabited many neighbouring towns in Latium, the region surrounding Rome.

About 600 BC, Rome and other towns in Latium came under the control of the Etruscans, a people who lived north of Latium. The Etruscans had the most advanced civilization in Italy. They built roads, temples, and public buildings in Rome. They also promoted trade and introduced the idea of the citizen assembly. Under Etruscan rule, Rome grew from a village of farmer and shepherds into a prosperous city. The city became so powerful that the people were able to drive out the Etruscans, overthrew the monarchy and established the Roman Republic in 509 BC.

The Roman Republic kept many features of the earlier system, including the Senate and citizen assemblies. Two elected officials called **consuls** headed the government. A consul served only a year.

The Senate was the most powerful government body of the Roman Republic. The Senate conducted foreign policy, passed decrees (official orders), and handled the government's fiancés. Senators, unlike consuls served for life.

Roman citizens were divided into three classes: the patricians (nobles), the equites and the plebeians (common people). The patricians (nobles) were members of Rome's oldest and richest families who held all the important political positions in the state. All senators were patricians. The equites were the richest of the non-nobles. They also owned land but were sometimes business men as well. The plebeians, the ordinary citizens, were small farmers in the country side but also craftsmen, shopkeepers, labourers, etc in the city of Rome it self. There were huge numbers of slaves in the city of Rome itself, in parts of Italy and in the Roman province called ''Africa'' (the former territory of Carthage). These slaves had mostly been obtained in war, as Rome expanded. Slaves were used on latifundia (great land lord properties) as agricultural labourers. They were also used as domestic servants. Skilled slaves, Greeks and others. might be used as managers, clerks, accountants and teachers. Unskilled salves were often harshly treated because they were less valuable and could easily be replaced. Slave owners had complete power over their slaves, even up to killing them. A slave had no right at all; slave revolts were rare because there was no chance of success and the punishment for slave resistance and revolt was so savage. After the great slave revolt led by Spartacus (73 - 71BC) was crushed, the captured slaves were crucified all along the main road from Rome to Capua. The only real hope for a slave was for his or her master or mistress to set the slave free. This was called **manumission** and the ex-slave became a freed-man or freed woman. Manumission was given quite often to skilled slaves to encourage good work.

Rome was slowly gaining military control over the rest of the Italian peninsula. Rome offered protection and certain privileges of Roman citizenship to the cities it conquered. In return, the conquered cities supplied

the Roman army with soldiers. By 270 BC, Rome controlled most of Italy directly or indirectly through dependent ''allies'', which were in fact subject states. Rome was successful in war because it was the most militarist of the states of the ancient world. It was a state organized for war.

Expansion over seas made Rome a mighty empire during the second and the first centuries BC. Rome came into conflict first with Carthage, a sea power and trading center on the coast of northern Africa. Rome and Carthage fought-for mastery of the Mediterranean sea in three struggle called the Punic Wars, between 204 and 146 BC. Rome destroyed Carthage and the Mediterranean coasts of Spain and Africa came under Roman Control. Rome then turned to the east and conquered the Hellenistic monarchies, including Egypt. By the end of the first century BC, Rome controlled the whole of the lands around the Mediterranean sea in a great empire.

Although the Romans had triumphed overseas, they faced growing discontent at home. Conflicts among leaders caused upheaval in the Roman Republic during its last 100 years. Finally, a successful general, Julius Caesar (100B.C - 44B.C), had become sole ruler of the Roman world. A group of senators who feared that Caesar was about to make himself king assassinated him in 44BC. Casesar's adopted son and heir, Octavian and Mark Antony, Caesar's friend, avenged Caesar's murder and then divided power between themselves. Octavian and Antony then fought each other for control of Rome. Antony sought the support of Cleopatra, queen of Egypt (47 - 30 B.C), and they fell in love. In 31BC, Octavian defeated the forces of Antony and Cleopatra and made Egypt a Roman province. In 27 BC, Octavian became the first Roman emperor in 27 B.C and took the title Augustus, thus named Augustus Caesars. In spite of his power, Augustus avoided the title of emperor. He preferred to be called **princeps**, meaning first citizen.

The reign of Augustus marked the beginning of a long period of stability, which became known as the Pax Romana (Roman peace). The Pax Romana lasted about 200 years. Augutus established strong defense along the frontiers of the Roman Empire and kept the provinces under control. Trade flourished, and art and literature reached a high point during his reign. Augustus died in AD 14.

The Romans did not have the high cultural and intellectual achievements of the Greeks though the Romans did produce some fine Latin literature in poetry and prose. To the Romans, the Greeks were empty word-mongers. The Romans were practical people who excelled, as they believed, in war, the arts of government and law. Roman law became the base of many legal systems in western Europe and Latin America. A great practical achievement of the Romans was their civil and military roads to link the empire, and also great aqueducts to carry water to towns and cities. We owe the modern ''Latin'' alphabet to the Romans who themselves adapted their alphabet from the Etruscans and the Greeks. The Greeks had taken their

alphabet from the Phoenicians who were the first people to use an alphabetic system of writing.

The empire was permanently split into the West Roman Empire and the East Roman Empire after Emperor Theodosius I died in 395.

The West Roman Empire grew steadily weaker. The Vandals, Visigoths, and other Germanic peoples invaded Spain, Gaul (present-France), and northern Africa. In 410, the Visigoths looted Rome. The fall of the empire is often dated 476. That year, the Germanic chieftain Odoacer forced Romulus Augustujus, the last ruler of the empire, form the throne. Germanic chiefs had already begun to carve up the empire into several kingdoms. The East Roman Empire survived as the Byzantine until 1453, when the Turks captured Constantinople.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, its culture survived and shaped western civilizations and the Byzantine world. Roman law became the base of many legal systems in western Europe and Latin America. Latin remained the language of learned Europeans for over 1000 years. French, Italian, Spanish and other Romance languages developed from Latin. Roman architecture inspired building design in Europe and North America.

The Roman Empire transmitted its social and economic system to the Middle Ages. During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church replaced the Roman Empire as the unifying force in Europe. The church used the Latin language and preserved the classics of Latin literature.

3.3. Christianity

Questions for Discussion and Practical Work

- Describe the basic differences among the three major Christian religious groups.
- Suggest why all the books of the Christian New Testament were written in Greek.
- Why were Christians at first persecuted?

Origins of Christianity

Among the subject peoples of the Roman Empire were the Jews with their religion called Judaism, a monothestic religion of the ancient Jewish kingdom of Israel or Judea (later called Palestine).

In the first century AD, another monotheistic religion, Christianity emerged in Palestine. It was centered on beliefs about Jesus Christ who had lived and taught in Palestine until his crucification at about AD 30 under the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.

The first Christians were the Jews in Palestine and Syria. Soon many gentiles (non-Jews) were converted to Christianity. The number of gentile Christians gradually exceeded that of the Jewish Christians. Finally, the Jewish Christians were either assimilated to gentile Christianity or went back to Judaism and ceased to be Christian.

Early Christianity and its Expansion

Christians gather in the Churches because they believed that God intended them to form special groups for worship. The Church kept the Jewish scriptures known as the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible as the scriptures of Christianity. A collection of Christian writings called the New Testament was added to the Jewish scriptures and the Christian Bible includes both the old and New Testaments.

Christianity developed a strong and efficient Church organization. From the beginning, there was a difference between the leaders of Church whom we call the **clergy**, and ordinary Christians whom we call the **laity** or lay people. By the second century, however the clergy began to be divided into three ranks: bishops at the top, then priests and deacons. The clergy were responsible for teaching the doctrines of the Church. They also administered the property of the Church. In general, the clergy had spiritual authority over the laity.

The head of each local Christian community was the **bishop**. He had spiritual authority over all the clergy and laity of the community. In time, **archbishops** appeared who had spiritual authority over the bishops, other clergy and laity of a large area. Then the rank of **patriarch** emerged. A patriarch had spiritual authority over the archbishops, bishops, other clergy and laity of very large regions called patriarchates. There were five **patriarchates**: Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Constantinople and Jerusalem. Earlier, the Patriarch of Rome, also called the Pope, was claiming leadership over the other patriarchs. From about the middle of the third century on wards, monasteries where monks and nuns lived in separate communities were established. Those monks who lived together had a leader called abbot and those monks who lived alone were called **hermits**.

The simple early beliefs of the Church were developed more fully, using the words and ideas of Greek philosophy and their equivalents in Latin. Doctrines which were rejected and condemned by the Church were called **heresies** and the followers of these doctrines were called **heretics**. The Church's doctrines were approved by Church councils, which were meetings

of the patriarchs, archbishops and bishops of the Church. The Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D established the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and this doctrine was confirmed by the Council of Constantinople in 385 A.D. The doctrine of the Holy Trinity says that one God exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Sprit and that all these persons are equal. The council condemned Arianism, a belief that Jesus was not completely divine.

The Roman government became suspicious of Christianity because Christians would not make sacrifices in honour of the emperor. Christians believed that doing this was denying God. But refusal to sacrifice was considered as political disloyalty by the Roman government. The Roman emperors, therefore, persecuted Christians. Rather than weakening the young religion, persecution strengthened it and consequently, the number of Christian increased. In 312, the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great became a Christian himself and officially declared Christianity to be the state religion of the Roman Empire.

The last Roman emperor lost power in 476. By then, the empire was split into Western and an Eastern empire. German chieftains carved up the Western empire. The Eastern empire survived as the Byzantine Empire until 1453. Christianity also had a Western and an Eastern Church. The centers of the Western Church was in Rome under the leadership of the Pope, and the Eastern center was in Constantinople under the Patriarch.

During the Middle Ages (after the fall of the Western Roman Empire) Christianity replaced the Roman Empire as the unifying force in Western Europe. The pope exercised political as well as spiritual authority.

In 1517, a movement called the Reformation began when Martin Luther, a German monk, criticized certain church practice including the authority of the Pope. The Reformation divided Western Christianity into the Roman Catholic Church and Protestantism.

Summary

In this unit, at first, we have seen the different theories about the emergence of state and the nature of early sates.

Secondly, we have discussed the ancient civilizations of the different parts of the world. Most of the civilizations have common elements. Almost all of them developed on the bases of well-organized states, towns and writing systems. Some of the civilizations developed in river valleys, while others were maritime civilizations.

The civilizations of northeast Africa also shared these elements. In this regard, the Egyptian civilization flourished on a river valley. But that of the Aksumite was more or less a maritime civilization.

Thirdly, we have studied the emergence of Christianity and its spread from the first century AD on wards. At first, Christians were persecuted by the Romans but since the reign of Constantine the Great the new religion spread freely all through the Roman Empire.

Review Questions

I. Write short notes

1. Explain the characteristics of states as they emerged.
2. What were the major political and economic features of ancient Egypt?
3. What were the major contributions of Mesopotamia to world civilization?
4. Write short notes of about 7 - 10 lines on the following:
   i) Hinduism iii) Confucianism
   ii) Buddhism iv) Zoroastrianism
5. Describe the main features of the Kushite civilization of the Meroetic period.
6. Discuss the main features of the expansion of Aksum during the reign of Ezana.
7. What are the similarities and differences between representative democracies of modern states and direct democracy of ancient Greeks?
8. What were the main religious ideas about kings in the ancient Middle East?
9. List the major river valley civilizations of the ancient world.
10. Write short notes (5 - 6 lines) on the following:
    a) Puritans c) Logographic
    b) Plebeians d) Hieroglyphics