

# Chapter Summary

## The Spread of Civilization

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

*How does geography affect the development of civilizations?*

*In what ways do civilizations influence each other?*

The Nile River valley gave rise to Egyptian civilization, the history of which can be divided into several different periods, beginning around 3100 B.C. Egyptian social, religious, and economic life revolved around the Nile, which provided fertile farmland and a steady means of communication and travel. Between 3100 and 200 B.C., many civilizations also flourished in central and western Asia and throughout the Mediterranean world. Along the Indus and Ganges river valleys, civilizations arose at cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo Daro. Around 1500 B.C., these early Indian societies merged with other groups, resulting in a new and unique culture. In China, civilizations emerged along the Huang He and Chang Jiang, but elsewhere China's mountains and deserts isolated the area from its neighbors. Hereditary dynasties emerged as the main ruling system, and China developed unique philosophies, political structures, and cultural traditions. Civilizations also emerged in Mesoamerica and South America, such as those of the Olmec, Zapotec, and Chavin peoples. All of these civilizations developed their own political, social, and cultural structures and helped pave the way for the great empires of future centuries.

### The Rise of Egypt

- The Nile River and religion were important in Egyptian civilization.
- Egypt's history is divided into three major periods.
- Egypt's Old Kingdom was a prosperous age of pyramids, and the Middle Kingdom was a golden age of stability.
- Egyptian society was highly structured, and Egyptians developed complex writing and made advances in the arts and sciences.

### Peoples in the Eastern Mediterranean

- Nomadic peoples helped spread goods and new technology.
- The Phoenicians created a trade empire and invented an alphabet.

- The Israelites left a lasting influence through their religious beliefs.
- The Minoans were a Bronze Age civilization with a rich culture.

### The Indus Valley Civilization

- Both geography and climate affected the development of civilizations in the Indus River valley.
- Civilization in the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro flourished for hundreds of years.
- Migrations and interactions between the Aryans and the Dravidians resulted in a new culture.
- Sanskrit emerged as a written language around 1000 B.C.

# Chapter Summary *Cont.*

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### The Rise of China

- China's geography isolated its people from other parts of Asia.
- The Zhou dynasty justified its rule through the Mandate of Heaven.
- In ancient China the family was the basic social and economic unit.
- Chinese written language had pictographs and ideographs.

### Civilizations in the Americas

- The Olmec were the first Mesoamerican civilization.
- The city of Teotihuacán thrived due to farming and trade.
- The Zapotec had a famous center at Monte Alban.
- The Chavin constructed large complexes and buildings.