

Robert W. Strayer

**Ways of the World:
A Brief Global History**

First Edition

CHAPTER 4

Eurasian Empires

500 B.C.E.–500 C.E.

Continuities	Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monarchs continued to rule most of the new civilizations. ▪ Men continued to dominate women. ▪ A sharp divide between the elite and everyone else persisted almost everywhere ▪ The practice of slavery continued. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population grew more rapidly than ever before during this period. ▪ States and empires expanded, growing in size, dwarfing in size the city-states of Mesopotamia and the Egypt of the pharaohs. ▪ The rise and fall of empires had a dramatic effect on large populations inasmuch as that civilizations dissolved—for example the Mayans or Roman Empire. ▪ New philosophical and religious systems provided the moral and spiritual framework within which people sought to order their lives and define their relationships to the mysteries of life and death.

Continuities	Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China was the primary source of technological changes that included piston bellows, the draw-loom, silk-handling machinery, the wheelbarrows, a better harness for draft animals, the crossbow, iron casting, the iron chain suspension bridge, gunpowder, firearms, the magnetic compass, paper, printing, and porcelain. India pioneered the crystallization of sugar and techniques for the manufacture of cotton textiles. Roman technological achievements were apparent in construction and civil engineering—the building of roads, bridges, aqueducts, and fortifications—and in the art of glassblowing.

Continuities	Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="781 283 1255 514">▪ The emergence of a widespread and dense network of communication and exchange that connected many of the world's peoples to one another, especially through long-distance trade routes.