

Chapter VI
Eurasian Social Hierarchies
500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E.

Society and the State in Classical China

1. How would you describe the social hierarchy of classical China? (officials, landlords, peasants, merchants)

2. What reforms were instituted under Emperor Wang Mang?

3. How did the scholar gentry view the peasants?

Class and Caste in India

1. What are the origins of classical India's caste system?

2. How was Indian society divided? How did the Vaisya and Sudra classes change? What class ranked lower than the Sudras?

3. What is the difference between varna and jati as expressions of classical India's caste system?

4. How did India's caste system differ from China's class system?

5. What is one reason that India seldom experienced an empire that encompassed the entire subcontinent?

6. What are the three functions of caste?

Slavery in the Classical Era: The Case of the Roman Empire

1. What does one scholar suggest as a model for enslaving people?

2. How did the inequalities of slavery differ from those of caste? (Think status, work, rights, and opportunities.)

3. How did Greco-Roman slavery differ from that of other classical civilizations?

Comparing Patriarchies of the Classical Era

1. In what ways did the expression of Chinese patriarchy change over time, and why did it change in the first place?

2. Following the collapse of the Han Dynasty in the third century, what were the signs of a weakening patriarchy? Did patriarchy end in China?

3. How did the patriarchies of Athens and Sparta differ from each other?

Athens:

Sparta:

16. How did Spartan society solve the problem of a permanent threat from the helots?

Reflections: Arguing with Solomon and the Buddha

17. List the changes and continuities of the classical era.

Changes	Continuities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪<li>▪<li>▪<li>▪

Explain the significance of each of the following:

Scholar-gentry class—

Yellow Turban Rebellion—

Caste—

Dharma—

Karma—

Latifundia—

Spartacus—

Helots—