

Lect 1 - Ancient Time - Antiquity/ Classical World

Focus on:

1. Mesopotamia from 3000 BCE (Before Common Era)
2. Egypt
3. Greece and the Roman Era from 1000 BCE
 - Centered on the Middle East
 - Includes the early civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, and then later Greece and Rome
 - Classical World in the West: refers to Greek and Roman Civilization starting around 700 BC and extending to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in AD 476

- Notable Figures:

1. Mesopotamia (Assyria)

- Sargon: King of Ancient Mesopotamia, reigning from 2234 - 2279 BCE.
- Formed first known dynasty in the region and considered the founder of Mesopotamian military traditions

2. Egypt

- Ramses II: Ruled during 19th Dynasty (1279 - 1212 BCE).
- Ascended to throne when he was 20 years old and ruled for the next 67 years.
- Often regarded as one of the greatest and most powerful pharaohs of the Egyptian Empire.
- He was active in erecting temples at Luxor and Karnak, and constructed his own huge memorial temple at Thebes.

3. Greece

- Pericles: His rule as a statesman in Athens is called the Golden Age of Pericles (c.495 - 429 BCE) and he was an eager supporter of democracy
- he wanted all citizens of Athens to take an active part in politics, and was the first to pay servants to the state

4. Rome

- Augustus Caesar: The first Roman Emperor, grandnephew of Julius Caesar (68 BCE - AD 14)
- He preserved the outward form of the Roman Republic, but ruled as an autocrat for more than 40 years
- He ended a century of civil wars and gave Rome an era of peace, prosperity, and imperial greatness

Medieval World (400 - 1500 AD)

Focus on:

1. Dark Ages: 400 - 900 AD
 2. High Middle Ages: 1200 AD onwards
- the period in European history between Classical period and the Renaissance (often dated AD 476 (fall of Rome) - late 1400s)
 - Western Europe initially underwent declines in political organization, population, economic activity, and prominence of cities
 - New kingdoms founded on the ruins of Roman Empire
 - Eventually the Rise of Christianity and the growing power of papacy and church
 - Hierarchical feudal/ manorial system: strict division into social classes (i.e. nobility, clergy, peasantry) with little social mobility -> (those who work, who prays, who fights)