

## Political Institutions of Classical Empires

from *World Civilizations* pp. 39-40, 52-55, and 72-76

<p><b>Key Terms</b></p> <p>Shi Huangdi Wu Ti bureaucracy Ashoka regionalism jati democracy Athens</p>	<p><b>Big Picture</b></p> <p>The period of history after the decline of the early civilizations is often called the classical period. This period runs from about 1000 BCE to 500 CE. In China, India, the Mediterranean, and Mesoamerica new or renewed civilizations emerged. All four classical civilizations created institutions and values that would continue to define and shape these key parts of the world long after the classical period was over. Politically, these civilizations used large armies to create massive empires. In order to control their empires classical governments required larger, more complex political institutions.</p>
<p><b>Important Dates</b></p>	<p><b>College Board Objectives</b></p> <p>Students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. understand the major political developments in China, India, the Mediterranean, and Mesoamerica</li><li>2. compare the development of traditions and institutions in the following major civilizations—India, China, the Mediterranean, and Mesoamerica.</li></ol>
<p><b>Questions from Reading</b></p>	<p><b>Essential Questions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the political organization of the Qin &amp; Han dynasties. How did the Han dynasty differ from the Qin dynasty?</li><li>2. Describe the political organization of India during the classical period. What accounts for the weakness of India's political system compared to China?</li><li>3. What role did the caste system play in the Indian political system?</li><li>4. Describe the political institutions of Greece and Rome.</li></ol>