

## Culture & Religion in Eurasia & North Africa 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E.

from *Ways of the World* (chapter 4)

<b>Key Historical Terms</b>	<b>Big Picture</b>
<p>“Age of Warring States”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legalism</li> <li>Confucianism</li> <li>ancestor veneration</li> <li>filial piety</li> <li>Laozi</li> <li>Vedas</li> <li>Upanishads</li> <li>Siddhartha Gautama</li> <li>Ashoka</li> <li>Zoroastrianism</li> <li>Socrates</li> <li>Aristotle</li> <li>St. Paul (of Tarsus)</li> <li>Constantine</li> </ul>	<p>Belief systems have always played an important role in the lives of humans. Humans use belief systems help understand natural phenomenon, answer questions regarding how people should live their lives, and explain what happens when they die. The earliest human belief systems of hunter-gatherers (animism, shamanism, totemism, etc.) needed to move with the people to support their nomadic lifestyle. However, with the advent of agriculture and, eventually, civilization belief systems became localized to the area in which they lived. Polytheism became more common as cities worshipped patron gods who would protect the city from harm. As the earliest civilizations fell and new technologies (iron metallurgy) were introduced, the resulting social upheaval contributed to new belief systems in China, India, and the Middle East. In China, several philosophies (including Legalism, Confucianism, and Daoism) developed to create order out of political and social chaos. While in India, Hinduism (and eventually Buddhism) would create a distinctively Indian belief system. In the Middle East, Persians and Hebrews established the first concept of monotheism.</p>
<b>Essential Questions</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a chart comparing Confucian, and Daoist answers to the problem of disorder in China during the Age of Warring States. (comparison &amp; contextualization)</li> <li>2. How did Confucianism &amp; Daoism impact the Chinese outlook on family, government, education, and culture? (causation &amp; CCOT)</li> <li>3. Create a chart comparing the basic beliefs of Hinduism and Buddhism. How did Hinduism change in response to the challenge of Buddhism? (comparison &amp; CCOT)</li> <li>4. Summarize the basic beliefs of Judaism. What was distinctive about Jewish religious tradition? (contextualization)</li> <li>5. Explain the main ideas of Greek rationalism. What impact did Greek rationalism have on math, science, etc.? (causation)</li> <li>6. Compare the teachings of Buddha &amp; Jesus. What is the reason for their similarities and differences? (comparison)</li> <li>7. Summarize the spread of Christianity in centuries after the death of Jesus. <i>Note the author’s comparisons to the spread of Buddhism during the same period.</i> (CCOT &amp; comparison)</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Questions.</b> Questions you need/want answered from the reading.</p>	