State & Empire in Eurasia & North Africa 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E.

from *Ways of the World* (chapter 3)

Key Historical Terms	Big Picture
Darius Athens & Sparta Alexander the Great Caesar Augustus Pax Romana Qin Shihuangdi Legalism Mandate of Heaven Wudi Byzantine Empire Xiongnu Aryans Ashoka	As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, these empires became victims of their own successes. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they overexploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessive wealth to be concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.

Essential Questions

1. What is an empire?

2. How did the Persian Empire attempt to impose political unity on its people? In other words, what where the political characteristics of the Persian Empire?

3. How did the Greeks attempt to impose political unity on their people? Why did Greek government differ from the Persians?

4. How did the Roman Empire attempt to impose political unity? How and why did the foundations of Roman government change over time? What stayed the same?

5. Compare the policies of imposing political unity by the Roman Empire to the policies of Han China.

6. Compare the collapse of the Roman Empire to the collapse of Han China. What internal and external factors contributed to their collapse?

7. Summarize the political characteristics of classical India. Why did India have trouble creating political unity?

Questions. Questions you need/want answered from the reading.