



AP World History

Vocabulary Chapters 1 -15

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CHAPTER I

Chapter I

civilization

Chapter I

An ambiguous term often used to denote more complex societies but sometimes used by anthropologists to describe any group of people sharing a set of cultural traits.

Chapter I

city-state

Chapter I

A small independent state consisting of an urban center and the surrounding agricultural territory. A characteristic political form in early Mesopotamia, Archaic and Classical Greece, Phoenicia, and early Italy

Chapter I

ziggurat

Chapter I

A massive pyramidal stepped tower made of mudbricks. It is associated with religious complexes in ancient Mesopotamian cities, but its function is unknown.

Chapter I

Sumerians

Chapter I

The people who dominated southern Mesopotamia through the end of the third millennium B.C.E. They were responsible for the creation of many fundamental elements of Mesopotamian culture such as irrigation technology, cuneiform, and religious conceptions taken over by their Semitic successors.

Chapter I

Mohenjo-Daro

Chapter I

Largest of the cities of the Indus Valley civilization. It was centrally located in the extensive floodplain of the Indus River in contemporary Pakistan. Little is known about the political institutions of Indus Valley communities, but the large-scale of construction at Mohenjo-Daro, the orderly grid of streets, and the standardization of building materials are evidence of central planning.

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CHAPTER 2

Chapter 2

Confucius

Chapter 2

Western name for the Chinese philosopher Kongzi (551-479 B.C.E.). His doctrine of duty and public service had a great influence on subsequent Chinese thought and served as a code of conduct for government officials.

Chapter 2

Daoism

Chapter 2

Chinese school of thought, originating in the Warring States Period with Laozi (604-531 B.C.E.). Daoism offered an alternative to the Confucian emphasis on hierarchy and duty. Daoists believe that the world is always changing and is devoid of absolute morality or meaning. They accept the world as they find it, avoid futile struggles, and deviate as little as possible from the Dao, or "path of nature."

Chapter 2

Legalism

Chapter 2

in China, a political philosophy that emphasized the unruliness of human nature and justified state coercion and control. The Qin ruling class invoked it to validate the authoritarian nature of their regime and its profligate expenditure of subjects' lives and labor. It was superseded in the Han era by a more benevolent Confucian doctrine of governmental moderation.

Chapter 2

Mandate of Heaven

Chapter 2

Chinese religious and political ideology developed by the Zhou, according to which it was the prerogative of Heaven, the chief deity, to grant power to the ruler of China and to take away that power if the ruler failed to conduct himself justly and in the best interests of his subjects.

Chapter 2

Zhou

Chapter 2

The people and dynasty that took over the dominant position in north China from the Shang and created the concept of the Mandate of Heaven to justify their rule. The Zhou era, particularly the vigorous early period (1027-771 B.C.E.), was remembered in Chinese tradition as a time of prosperity and benevolent rule. In the later Zhou period (771-221 B.C.E.), centralized control broke down, and warfare among many small states became frequent.

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CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3

Iron Age

Chapter 3

Historians' term for the period during which iron was the primary metal for tools and weapons. The advent of iron technology began at different times in different parts of the world.

Chapter 3

Diaspora

Chapter 3

Greek word meaning "dispersal, used to describe the communities of a given ethnic group living outside their homeland. Jews, for example, spread from Israel to western Asia and Mediterranean lands in antiquity and today can be found throughout the world.

Chapter 3

Neo-Assyrian Empire

Chapter 3

An empire extending from western Iran to Syria-Palestine, conquered by the Assyrians of northern Mesopotamia between the tenth and seventh centuries B.C.E. They used force and terror and exploited the wealth and labor of their subjects. They also preserved and continued the cultural and scientific developments of Mesopotamian civilization.

Chapter 3

Neo-Babylonian kingdom

Chapter 3

Under the Chaldeans (nomadic kinship groups that settled in southern Mesopotamia in the early first millennium B.C.E.), Babylon again became a major political and cultural center in the seventh and sixth centuries B.C.E. After participating in the destruction of Assyrian power, the monarchs Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar took over the southern portion of the Assyrian domains. By destroying the First Temple in Jerusalem and deporting part of the population, they initiated the Diaspora of the Jews.

Chapter 3

First Temple

Chapter 3

A monumental sanctuary built in Jerusalem by King Solomon in the tenth century B.C.E. to be the religious center for the Israelite god Yahweh.

The Temple priesthood conducted sacrifices, received a tithe or percentage of agricultural revenues, and became economically and politically powerful. The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.E., rebuilt on a modest scale in the late sixth century B.C.E., and replaced by King Herod's Second Temple in the late first century B.C.E. (destroyed by the Romans in 70 C.E.)

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CHAPTER 4

Chapter 4

Hellenistic Age

Chapter 4

Historians' term for the era, usually dated 323-30 B.C.E., in which Greek culture spread across western Asia and northeastern Africa after the conquests of Alexander the Great. The period ended with the fall of the last major Hellenistic kingdom to Rome, but Greek cultural influence persisted until the spread of Islam in the seventh century C.E.

Chapter 4

Peloponnesian War

Chapter 4

A protracted (431-404 B.C.E.) and costly conflict between the Athenian and Spartan alliance systems that convulsed most of the Greek world. The war was largely a consequence of Athenian imperialism. Possession of a naval empire allowed Athens to fight a war of attrition. Ultimately, Sparta prevailed because of Athenian errors and Persian financial support.

Chapter 4

Persian Wars

Chapter 4

conflicts between Greek city-states and the Persian Empire, ranging from the Ionian Revolt (499-494 B.C.E.) through Darius's punitive expedition that failed at Marathon (490 B.C.E.) and the defeat of Xerxes' massive invasion of Greece by the Spartan-led Hellenic League (480-479 B.C.E.). This first major setback for Persian arms launched the Greeks into their period of greatest cultural productivity. Herodotus chronicled these events in the first "history in the Western tradition.

Chapter 4

Socrates

Chapter 4

Athenian philosopher (ca. 470-399 B.C.E.) who shifted the emphasis of philosophical investigation from questions of natural science to ethics and human behavior. He attracted young disciples from elite families but made enemies by revealing the ignorance and pretensions of others, culminating in his trial and execution by the Athenian state.

Chapter 4

**Alexander (356-323
B.C.E.)**

Chapter 4

King of Macedonia in northern Greece. Between 334 and 323 B.C.E. he conquered the Persian Empire, reached the Indus Valley, founded many Greek-style cities, and spread Greek culture across the Middle East. Later known as Alexander the Great.

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CHAPTER 5

Chapter 5

**Constantine (285-337
C.E.)**

Chapter 5

Roman emperor (r. 312-337).

After reuniting the Roman Empire, he moved the capital to Constantinople and made Christianity a favored religion.

Chapter 5

Jesus (ca. 5 B.C.E.- 34 C.E.)

Chapter 5

A Jew from Galilee in northern Israel who sought to reform Jewish beliefs and practices. He was executed as a revolutionary by the Romans. Hailed as the Messiah and son of God by his followers, he became the central figure in Christianity, a belief system that developed in the centuries after his death.

Chapter 5

pax romana

Chapter 5

Literally, Roman peace, it connoted the stability and prosperity that Roman rule brought to the lands of the Roman Empire in the first two centuries C.E.

The movement of people and trade goods along Roman roads and safe seas allowed for the spread of cultural practices, technologies, and religious ideas.

Chapter 5

Qin

Chapter 5

A people and state in the Wei Valley of eastern China that conquered rival states and created the first Chinese empire (221-206 B.C.E.). The Qin ruler, Shi Huangdi, standardized many features of Chinese society and ruthlessly marshaled subjects for military and construction projects, engendering hostility that led to the fall of his dynasty shortly after his death. The Qin framework was largely taken over by the succeeding Han Empire.

Chapter 5

Roman Republic

Chapter 5

The period from 507 to 31 B.C.E., during which Rome was largely governed by the aristocratic Roman Senate.

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CHAPTER 6

Chapter 6

Buddha (563-483 B.C.E.)

Chapter 6

An Indian prince named Siddhartha Gautama, who renounced his wealth and social position. After becoming "enlightened (the meaning of Buddha) he enunciated the principles of Buddhism. This doctrine evolved and spread throughout India and to Southeast, East, and Central Asia.

Chapter 6

Gupta Empire (320-550 C.E.)

Chapter 6

A powerful Indian state based, like its Mauryan predecessor, on a capital at Pataliputra in the Ganges Valley. It controlled most of the Indian subcontinent through a combination of military force and its prestige as a center of sophisticated culture.

Chapter 6

Hinduism

Chapter 6

A general term for a wide variety of beliefs and ritual practices that have developed in the Indian subcontinent since antiquity. Hinduism has roots in ancient Vedic, Buddhist, and south Indian religious concepts and practices. It spread along the trade routes to Southeast Asia.

Chapter 6

theater-state

Chapter 6

Historians' term for a state that acquires prestige and power by developing attractive cultural forms and staging elaborate public ceremonies (as well as redistributing valuable resources) to attract and bind subjects to the center. Examples include the Gupta Empire in India and Srivijaya in Southeast Asia.

Chapter 6

Vedas

Chapter 6

Early Indian sacred knowledge long preserved and communicated orally by Brahmin priests and eventually written down. These religious texts, including the thousand poetic hymns to various deities contained in the Rig Veda, are our main source of information about the Vedic period (ca. 1500-500 B.C.E.).

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CHAPTER 7

Chapter 7

Indian Ocean Maritime System

Chapter 7

In premodern times, a network of seaports, trade routes, and maritime culture linking countries on the rim of the Indian Ocean from Africa to Indonesia.

Chapter 7

Silk Road

Chapter 7

**Caravan routes
connecting China and
the Middle East across
Central Asia and Iran.**

Chapter 7

savanna

Chapter 7

Tropical or subtropical grassland, either treeless or with occasional clumps of trees. Most extensive in sub-Saharan Africa but also present in South America.

Chapter 7

steppes

Chapter 7

Treeless plains, especially the high, flat expanses of northern Eurasia, which usually have little rain and are covered with coarse grass. They are good lands for nomads and their herds. Living on the steppes promoted the breeding of horses and the development of military skills that were essential to the rise of the Mongol Empire.

Chapter 7

stirrup

Chapter 7

Device for securing a horseman's feet, enabling him to wield weapons more effectively. First evidence of the use of stirrups was among the Kushan people of northern Afghanistan in approximately the first century C.E.

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CHAPTER 8

Chapter 8

caliphate

Chapter 8

Office established in succession to the Prophet Muhammad, to rule the Islamic empire; also the name of that empire.

Chapter 8

Islam

Chapter 8

Religion expounded by the Prophet Muhammad (570-632 C.E.) on the basis of his reception of divine revelations, which were collected after his death into the Quran. In the tradition of Judaism and Christianity, and sharing much of their lore, Islam calls on all people to recognize one creator god, Allah, who rewards or punishes believers after death according to how they led their lives.

Chapter 8

Mamluks

Chapter 8

Under the Islamic system of military slavery, Turkic military slaves who formed an important part of the armed forces of the Abbasid Caliphate of the ninth and tenth centuries. Mamluks eventually founded their own state, ruling Egypt and Syria (1250-1517).

Chapter 8

umma

Chapter 8

The community of all Muslims. A major innovation against the background of seventh-century Arabia, where traditionally kinship rather than faith had determined membership in a community.

Chapter 8

ulama

Chapter 8

**Muslim religious scholars.
From the ninth century
onward, the primary
interpreters of Islamic law
and the social core of Muslim
urban societies.**

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CHAPTER 9

Chapter 9

Byzantine Empire

Chapter 9

Historians' name for the eastern portion of the Roman Empire from the fourth century onward, taken from "Byzantium, an early name for Constantinople, the Byzantine capital city. The empire fell to the Ottomans in 1453.

Chapter 9

Crusades (1096-1291)

Chapter 9

Armed pilgrimages to the Holy Land by Christians determined to recover Jerusalem from Muslim rule. The Crusades brought an end to western Europe's centuries of intellectual and cultural isolation.

Chapter 9

fief

Chapter 9

In medieval Europe, land granted in return for a sworn oath to provide specified military service.

Chapter 9

vassal

Chapter 9

In medieval Europe, a sworn supporter of a king or lord committed to rendering specified military service to that king or lord.

Chapter 9

schism

Chapter 9

A formal split within a religious community.

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CHAPTER 10

Chapter 10

bubonic plague

Chapter 10

A bacterial disease of fleas that can be transmitted by flea bites to rodents and humans; humans in late stages of the illness can spread the bacteria by coughing. Because of its very high mortality rate and the difficulty of preventing its spread, major outbreaks have created crises in many parts of the world.

Chapter 10

moveable type

Chapter 10

Type in which each individual character is cast on a separate piece of metal. It replaced woodblock printing, allowing for the arrangement of individual letters and other characters on a page, rather than requiring the carving of entire pages at a time. It may have been invented in Korea in the thirteenth century.

Chapter 10

Song Empire

Chapter 10

Empire in central and southern China (960-1126) while the Liao people controlled the north. Empire in southern China (1127-1279; the "Southern Song) while the Jin people controlled the north. Distinguished for its advances in technology, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics.

Chapter 10

Tang Empire

Chapter 10

Empire unifying China and part of Central Asia, founded 618 and ended 907. The Tang emperors presided over a magnificent court at their capital, Chang'an.

Chapter 10

Uighurs

Chapter 10

A group of Turkic-speakers who controlled their own centralized empire from 744 to 840 in Mongolia and Central Asia.

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CHAPTER II

Chapter II

Aztecs

Chapter 11

Also known as Mexica, the Aztecs created a powerful empire in central Mexico (1325-1521 C.E.). They forced defeated peoples to provide goods and labor as a tax.

Chapter 11

Maya

Chapter 11

Mesoamerican civilization concentrated in Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and in Guatemala and Honduras but never unified into a single empire. Major contributions were in mathematics, astronomy, and development of the calendar.

Chapter 11

mit'a

Chapter 11

Andean labor system based on shared obligations to help kinsmen and work on behalf of the ruler and religious organizations.

Chapter 11

Inca

Chapter 11

Largest and most powerful Andean empire. Controlled the Pacific coast of South America from Ecuador to Chile from its capital of Cuzco.

Chapter II

chinampas

Chapter 11

**Raised fields constructed
along lake shores in
Mesoamerica to increase
agricultural yields.**

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CHAPTER 12

Chapter 12

Genghis Khan (ca. 1167-1227)

Chapter 12

or "universal leader.
Genghis Khan was the
founder of the Mongol
Empire.

Chapter 12

Il-khan

Chapter 12

or "peripheral khan based in Persia. The Il-khans' khanate was founded by Hülegü, a grandson of Genghis Khan, and was based at Tabriz in modern Azerbaijan. It controlled much of Iran and Iraq.

Chapter 12

Mongols

Chapter 12

A people of this name is mentioned as early as the records of the Tang Empire, living as nomads in northern Eurasia. After 1206 they established an enormous empire under Genghis Khan, linking western and eastern Eurasia.

Chapter 12

Nevskii, Alexander (1220-1263)

Chapter 12

Prince of Novgorod (r. 1236-1263). He submitted to the invading Mongols in 1240 and received recognition as the leader of the Russian princes under the Golden Horde.

Chapter 12

Yongle

Chapter 12

Reign period of Zhu Di (1360-1424), the third emperor of the Ming Empire (r. 1403-1424). He sponsored the building of the Forbidden City, a huge encyclopedia project, the expeditions of Zheng He, and the reopening of China's borders to trade and travel.

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CHAPTER 13

Chapter 13

Urdu

Chapter 13

A Persian-influenced literary form of Hindi written in Arabic characters and used as a literary language since the 1300s.

Chapter 13

Gujarat

Chapter 13

Region of western India
famous for trade and
manufacturing; the
inhabitants are called
Gujarati.

Chapter 13

Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526)

Chapter 13

**Centralized Indian
empire of varying extent,
created by Muslim
invaders.**

Chapter 13

Mali Empire

Chapter 13

Created by indigenous Muslims in western Sudan of West Africa from the thirteenth to fifteenth century. It was famous for its role in the trans-Saharan gold trade.

Chapter 13

Malacca

Chapter 13

Port city in the modern Southeast Asian country of Malaysia, founded about 1400 as a trading center on the Strait of Malacca. Also spelled Melaka.

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CHAPTER 14

Chapter 14

guild

Chapter 14

In medieval Europe, an association of men (rarely women), such as merchants, artisans, or professors, who worked in a particular trade and banded together to promote their economic and political interests. Guilds were also important in other societies, such as the Ottoman and Safavid empires.

Chapter 14

Hanseatic League

Chapter 14

An economic and defensive alliance of the free towns in northern Germany, founded about 1241 and most powerful in the fourteenth century.

Chapter 14

Latin West

Chapter 14

Historians' name for the territories of Europe that adhered to the Latin rite of Christianity and used the Latin language for intellectual exchange in the period ca. 1000-1500.

Chapter 14

scholasticism

Chapter 14

A philosophical and theological system, associated with Thomas Aquinas, devised to reconcile Aristotelian philosophy and Roman Catholic theology in the thirteenth century.

Chapter 14

Hundred Years War (1337-1453)

Chapter 14

Series of campaigns over control of the throne of France, involving English and French royal families and French noble families.

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CHAPTER 15

Chapter 15

caravel

Chapter 15

A small, highly maneuverable three-masted ship used by the Portuguese and Spanish in the exploration of the Atlantic.

Chapter 15

Arawak

Chapter 15

Amerindian peoples who
inhabited the Greater
Antilles of the Caribbean
at the time of Columbus.

Chapter 15

**Dias, Bartolomeu (1450?-
1500)**

Chapter 15

Portuguese explorer who
in 1488 led the first
expedition to sail around
the southern tip of Africa
from the Atlantic and sight
the Indian Ocean.

Chapter 15

Magellan, Ferdinand (1480?- 1521)

Chapter 15

Portuguese navigator
who led the Spanish
expedition of 1519-1522
that was the first to sail
around the world.

Chapter 15

Henry the Navigator (1394-1460)

Chapter 15

Portuguese prince who promoted the study of navigation and directed voyages of exploration down the western coast of Africa.

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