



Indus River Civilization

PERIOD: Foundations–600 C.E.

- Originated in the Indus River valley ca. 2500 B.C.E.
- Two main cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, provide archaeological evidence of this society's history
- The cities were well planned, fortified, and uniformly constructed—that bricks' sizes were uniform throughout the Indus Valley indicates use of standardized weights and measures
- Extensive evidence of long-distance trade—Indus Valley pottery has been found in Egypt; products from Sumer, such as olive oil, were traded in the region
- Speculation as to why this civilization declined continues because the written language remains untranslated



Byzantine Economy and Society

PERIOD: Foundations–600 C.E.

- ❑ Lower Danube region was the breadbasket of the empire
- ❑ Byzantine government prevented wealthy classes from seizing peasants' lands. The wealthy could buy exemptions from taxes
- ❑ Craftsmen were highly respected for their handiwork in the areas of glassware, gems, and jewelry (including gold and silver), and mosaics (used to decorate churches)
- ❑ Architectural gems—Hagia Sophia (first a church, later a mosque)
- ❑ Byzantine government recognized the importance of the silk industry (a trade borrowed from the Chinese) and subsequently closely supervised its production and sale
- ❑ Trade was very important to the empire as a direct result of its location; merchants were especially respected

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Ming Dynasty

PERIOD: 600–1450

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- ❑ Emperor Hongwu established the Ming (“brilliant”) dynasty, following the Yuan dynasty, in 1368; his immediate goal was to remove all signs of Mongol rule
- ❑ Hongwu centralized power and established direct rule by the emperor. He reestablished a civil service system based on Confucian values to ensure promotion of scholar bureaucrats on the basis of ability, not favors
- ❑ Society was based on strict adherence to rules established by the Ming government
- ❑ Power of the central government was increased through the use of eunuchs (sterile men who could not produce a family to challenge the dynasty) and mandarins (emissaries sent out to enforce government policies)
- ❑ Economic recovery: rebuilt irrigation systems led to agricultural surplus, promoted production of manufactured goods: porcelain, silk, and cotton; demanded tribute from surrounding states



Nuclear Arms Race since the Fall of Soviet Union

PERIOD: 1914–Present

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- ❑ With the collapse of the Soviet Union, both the United States and Russia dramatically reduced their nuclear weapons spending
- ❑ India and Pakistan, two nations with a violent history of territorial disputes, raced to develop nuclear weapons
- ❑ Today only five other nations have successfully tested nuclear weapons