

Midterm Study Guide 2017-2018

ANCIENTS

- Rivers such as the Nile and Euphrates provided fertile soil that allowed humans to develop agriculture which promoted the development of early civilizations.
- The Ancient Indian Social Structure is referred to as the Caste System and is a social hierarchy based on Hinduism.
- Ancient Athens contributions to later cultures include columns, the Olympics, and democratic government.
- A theocracy is a system of government in which priests or church leaders rule in the name of God or a god.
- Laws from the Twelve Tables of Ancient Rome include laws dealing with debt, rights of fathers over the family, legal guardianship, innocent until proven guilty, and land rights.
- Contributions from Ancient Rome include The Twelve Tables, arches, aqueducts for transporting water, and an extensive road system which allowed Romans to move troops.
- The three main ideas of Hammurabi's code were:
 1. Eye for an eye
 2. It clarified the role of government
 3. It had a division of classes where it protected the social hierarchy

MIDDLE AGES

- Knowledge became easier to spread when the Chinese invented the system of making paper which helped fuel the Renaissance in Europe.
- During the Middle Ages, Europeans acquired silk, spices, and coffee through merchants from the Islamic world.
- The Magna Carta limited royal power by stating that the king may not imprison any free person except by trial by jury and may not levy taxes without consent of the Great Council (nobility and higher clergy). These laws applied to the ruler as well as the people.
- Farmers living on Manors used a technique called crop rotation where they would plant different crops on the same soil with each new season.
- The Feudal System was a rigid class structure where Kings would grant land to Nobles who would grant land to Knights who would grant protection to Peasants.

REFORMATION and COUNTER REFORMATION

- Corruption in the Catholic Church such as the selling of indulgences caused Europeans to begin questioning the Pope's authority.
- Martin Luther's 95 Theses and other Protestant Reformation campaigns challenged the power of the pope and helped lead to the rise of nation-states. Luther did not believe that Christians had to be saved through the Church and did not think that people should be forced to obey the pope.
- The invention of the printing press by Johann Gutenberg allowed books to be translated into many languages which helped spread new ideas.

EXPLORATION and EXPANSION

- The Columbian Exchange allowed cultural diffusion between Europe and the Americas. Food, animals, and diseases were exchanged between Europe and the Americas. Both hemispheres were introduced to new foods and animals that changed entire societies allowing populations to increase greatly. The diseases the Europeans brought with them killed up to 90% of Native Americans in the New World and weakened the ability of native people to resist European conquest. Another result of the Columbian Exchange was an increase in European wealth due to the discovery of precious metals in the Americas.
- The Atlantic Slave Trade was a triangle trade system where Europeans traveled south to Africa to capture or trade for slaves. Europeans then transported captured Africans across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas and brought sugar, coffee, and tobacco back to Europe to sell. The route between Africa and the Americas was called the Middle Passage and supplied slaves as labor for sugar plantations in Caribbean territories.
- Mercantilism is an economic policy that states that a nation's power depends upon its wealth. Wealth was measured by how much gold and silver a nation possessed. Mercantilists believed there were two ways to build wealth: (1) extract gold and silver from colonies or at home and (2) export more goods than you import.
- Joint-stock companies allowed investors to buy stock in a company and share the profits and risks of the venture and were created due to the need for capital.

ABSOLUTISM

- Absolutism is a system in which the ruler, usually a monarch (king or queen), holds absolute power over the government and the lives of the people.
- A decrease in the power of feudal lords, a decline in church authority, and religious wars were factors that led to an absolute monarchy.
- Phillip II was an absolute monarch who reigned over Spain. He claimed that he ruled by Divine Right, the belief that authority to rule came directly from God. He increased the Spanish influence and made Spain the foremost power in Europe by expanding to the Americas to discover sources of precious metals. This Spanish colonization heavily influenced the language and religion of Central and South America.

SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

- The heliocentric theory states that the sun is at the center of our solar system and the planets revolve around it. Nicolaus Copernicus proposed this theory in 1543.
- Francis Bacon believed that the way to gain knowledge was through observation and experimentation and as a result established the Scientific Method.

ENLIGHTENMENT

- The Enlightenment was a period during the 1600s and 1700s in which educated Europeans changed their outlook on life by seeing reason as the key to human progress.
- The belief in the divine right of kings, where authority came directly from God, was challenged by Enlightenment philosophers and influenced revolutions in France and in the United States.
- Thomas Hobbes believed governments were created to protect people from their own selfishness.
- John Locke believed the true basis of government was a social contract between people and their government. If the government didn't respect people's rights, it could be overthrown.
- Montesquieu believed in the separation of powers: By dividing different powers among more than one branch of government, no one group in the government could grow too powerful.