Origins of Human History

Timeline of Human Evolution
- 2.5 million years ago first humanoids
- *Homo sapiens* emerged 250,000 to 100,000 years ago
  - Out of Africa Theory: Theory that humans originated in Africa and migrated following herds
    - Over next 80,000 years humans expanded to almost every corner of the world
  - Homo sapiens displaced other species of hominoids as dominant species
  - Speech developed about 100,000 years ago
  - 14,000 B.C.E. – End of Great Ice Age
  - 12,000 B.C.E. – Beginnings of the Stone Age (Paleolithic Age)
    - Humans spreading out and using more advanced tools
  - 10,000 B.C.E. – Neolithic Revolution
    - Beginnings of domestication of plants and animals
    - Cultivation of grasses and cereal crops
  - 10,000 B.C.E. – City of Jericho Founded
  - 7,000 B.C.E. – Çatal Hüyük
    - First examples of major social stratification
  - ca. 4000 B.C.E. – Bronze Age

Beginnings of Civilization
Sumer
- 3,500 B.C.E. Sumerians adopt cuneiform writing
  - First true civilization
    - Traits of Civilization
      - Art
      - Geography
      - Military
      - Social Stratification
      - Political Structure
      - Religion
      - Intellect
      - Technology
      - Economic System
  - Developed in Mesopotamia in Fertile Crescent
  - Complex Art
    - Frescos in temples
    - Statues of gods
  - Founded science of Astronomy
    - Marking movement of stars and sun
      - Created calendar
      - Created units of 10, 60, and 360
  - Built Ziggurats
    - Contained professional Priests who performed religious ceremonies
    - Polytheistic gods for natural world
      - Ex. Pray to gods to avoid floods
City States
- Showed complex political structure
- Adopted currency
  - Silver
- Militarily hard to defend

Empire Building in Mesopotamia

Akkad
- 2350-2000 B.C.E
- 2334-2279 B.C.E. Sargon of Akkad conquered neighboring Sumer to establish world’s first empire.
  - He appointed rulers of regions to help him rule empire
  - Began Mesopotamia’s military heritage

First Dynasty of Babylon
- Hammurabi (Ruler) 1792-1750 B.C.E.
  - Conquered most of Mesopotamia
  - Famous for passing of Laws
    - Civil Law
  - Criminal Law
  - Improved Irrigation canals
  - Repaired Temples
  - Raised army (using tax money)
  - Promoted patron god Marduk
  - Empire declined rapidly after Hammurabi but survived 15 generations

Hittites
- 1400 B.C.E. to 1200 B.C.E.
- Originated in Asia Minor (Turkey) and pushed into Mesopotamia around 1400 B.C.E
  - First Indo-European Empire
- Known for advancements in ironworking
  - Allowed for stronger weapons and tools
  - Iron was cheap so Hittites could arm more people at a cheaper cost
  - Tried to keep iron working techniques secret, but after fall of empire Hittite iron smiths moved around and spread knowledge of iron working
- Made advancements in use of chariots
**Assyrians** - 2000 B.C.E. – 625 B.C.E.
- Highly organized
  - Laws
  - Ability to collect taxes
- Social Roles: Women had to wear veils
- First to collect ancient writings and collect them in a library
- First to establish militaristic society
  - Famous as a ruthless conqueror
    - Surrender or be destroyed
- Power declined after death of ruler Ashurbanipal in 627 B.C.E.
  - Declines into civil war

**Chaldean Empire (Neo-Babylonian)**
- 625 - 539 B.C.E.
- Nabopolassar (Ruler) 625 B.C.E.
  - Re-establishes Babylonian civilization but remains under Assyrian Control
  - 612 B.C.E. allies with Medes to overthrow Assyrians
- Nebuchadnezzar (Ruler) 612 B.C.E.
- Sacks Jerusalem and carries off Jews
- Reigns over Golden Era
  - Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- powerful king helped defeat Assyrians and re-establish empire that reached from Mediterranean Sea to Persian Gulf

**Achamenid /Persian Empire** – 539 B.C.E.
- Babylon fell to Cyrus the Great (559-529 E.C.E.)
  - Established empire that reached from Asia Minor to India
  - Respected customs of conquered
  - Divided empire into provinces
  - Babylonians welcomed Cyrus
- Darius I 522 B.C.E. – 486 B.C.E.
  - Satrapy – established provinces
    - Ruled by Satraps
    - Paid taxes
  - Established common law system throughout the Empire
  - Economic Advancements
    - Standardized weights and measures system
    - Established coin money system
- Zoroaster – Great Thinker (600 B.C.E)
  - Advancements in Religion
    - Came up with idea of one main god Ahura Mazda
    - Idea of a heaven and hell
  - Advancements in Medicine
    - Made connection that poor emotional health can mean bad physical health
- Empire destroyed by Alexander the Great (331 B.C.E.)

**Phoenicians**
- 1200 B.C.E – 539 B.C.E.
- Famous as traders and sailors in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (Lebanon and Syria)
- Manufacturing and Trade
  - Developed Glass
- Traded Tin
- Traded Purple dyes for clothing
- Traded with cultures all around the Mediterranean Sea
- Set up colonies in North Africa and Spain. Some made it as far as Britain

- Carriers of Civilization
  - Established an alphabet
    - Writing system based on symbol based sounds
    - Added symbols for vowels and constants
    - Single sound for each letter
    - Greeks mimicked system is developing own alphabet