Chapter 5, Eurasian Cultural Traditions, 500 B.C.E. – 500 C.E., Study Guide - pp. 189-216

Study Snapshot chart on page 191

China and the Search for Order

1. What three major schools of thought emerged from the Warring States period (403-221 B.C.E.), what were their guidelines and beliefs, and with whom were they associated?

2. Why has Confucianism been defined as a “humanistic philosophy” (for a tranquil society) rather than a supernatural religion? What does Confucius say about gods and spirits?

Cultural Traditions of Classical India

3. How did classical Hinduism differ from other world religions?
4. What is the fundamental assertion of philosophical Hinduism?

5. How are moksha, karma, and reincarnation connected?

6. In what ways did Buddhism reflect Hindu traditions, and in what ways did it challenge them?

7. What is the difference between the Theravada and Mahayana expressions of Buddhism?
8. Why did Buddhism decline in India?

9. What did a revived Hinduism indicate?

10. What religious path was also becoming increasingly prominent in Hinduism?

Moving Toward Monotheism: The Search for God in the Middle East

11. Explain the relationship of Ahura Mazda and Angra Mainyu under Zoroastrianism.
12. What aspects of Zoroastrianism and Judaism subsequently found a place in Christianity and Islam?

13. What was distinctive about the Jewish religious tradition?

The Cultural Tradition of Classical Greece: The Search for a Rational Order

14. In what ways was the mythical religion of the Greek city-states brought together and expressed?
15. Why do you think many Greek intellectuals abandoned this mythical religious framework?

16. What are the distinctive features of the Greek intellectual tradition?

17. What did the earliest classical Greek thinkers have in common?

18. After the 12th century C.E., how was the Greek legacy viewed?

19. How had Greek works of science and philosophy been preserved for Europeans and how had it stimulated Muslim thinkers?
Comparing Jesus and the Buddha

20. Compare the lives and teachings of Jesus and the Buddha.

Buddha:

Jesus:

Both:

21. In what ways was Christianity transformed in the five centuries following the death of Jesus?
Explain the significance of each of the following:

Filial piety—
The Analects
Daodejing
Vedas—
Brahmins—
Upanishads —
Brahman—
Atman—
The Laws of Manu
Bodhisattvas
Theravada
Mahayana
Siddartha Gautama—
Nirvana—
Bhagavad Gita—
Zarathustra—
Zoroastrianism
Judaism
Socrates—
Thales—
Pythagoras—
Hippocrates—
Plato—
The Republic
Aristotle—
Saint Paul—