1. Hebrews were monotheists (one god) which was different than most cultures who were still polytheists (multiple gods)
A. Created in God’s Image

2. The religion of the Hebrews was called Judaism which preached that God’s will was for people to live moral lives

3. Also believed that God had given humans moral freedom to choose between good & evil
B. Jewish Law Teaches Morality

1. The Jews code of laws was the Ten Commandments; created about 1300-1200 B.C.

2. These laws focused on morality & ethics & less on politics like the Greeks

3. Jews impact is with Western Society is with social conscience which instilled the belief of improving the welfare of all who are less fortunate
II. Christianity

A. The Teachings of Christianity

1. Jesus was born between 6-4 B.C. & was both a Jew & Roman subject

2. Preached that God would end wickedness in the world
A. The Teachings of Christianity

3. Became a political threat to Rome after the term “King of the Jews” was used

4. “Christos” in Greek means messiah or savior & the word Christianity founded by Jesus was derived from the name Christ
B. Spread of Christianity

1. In the first century after Jesus’ death the apostle Paul help spread Christianity & the ideals of equality for all humans which is central to democracy.
C. Rome Spreads Judeo-Christian Ideas

1. 1\textsuperscript{st} way Rome helped spread Christianity was through Diaspora which was a plan that kick out the Christians form their homeland forcing them to move to different parts of the world

2. 2\textsuperscript{nd} way was they adopted Christianity as their religion in A.D. 380
I. Islam

A. Origins of Islam

1. The teachings are based on the teachings of the prophet Muhammad

2. These were revealed through the word of God (Allah) to Muhammad and written down in the Qur’an

3. Believed in dignity for all humans & the brotherhood of all people
B. The Legacy of Monotheistic Religions

1. Crucial ideals that added to the democratic outlook: Duty of the individual to combat oppression, worth of the individual, equality of people of God
IV. Renaissance and Reformation

1. Roman Catholic Church had become the most powerful institution during the Middle Ages
2. Influenced all aspects of life-religious, social, & political
A. Renaissance Revives Classical Ideas

1. 1300’s the Renaissance arose out of Italy and for 300 years would spread to the rest of Europe

2. The rediscovery of Greek & Latin transcripts was key

3. Gave up the old medieval belief that life was only preparation for the afterlife
A. Renaissance Revives Classical Ideas

4. Thinkers and writers began to challenge new ideas about political power & the role of govt.

5. Individualism also became important as people began to seek unknown lands and amass huge fortunes.
B. The Reformation Challenges Church Power

1. The spirit of questioning which was spawned during the Renaissance blossomed in the Reformation

2. The Reformation was a religious movement wanted the Catholic Church to reform
B. The Reformation Challenges Church Power

1. Started in Germany when Martin Luther criticized the Church’s practice of selling pardons

2. The movement ended up creating a new division of Christianity called Protestantism