Eurasian Cultural Traditions: Chapter 5

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| Social Science Vocabulary  bureaucracy  nationalized  domestic  gender system  patriarchy  concubine  dowry  orthodoxy  egalitarian | Big Picture  As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, these empires became victims of their own successes.  By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural,  and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also  experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when  they overexploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessive  wealth to be concentrated in the hands of privileged classes. |
| Historical Terms:  Aristotle  *Bhakti* movement  Buddhism  Confucianism  Confucius  Constantine  Daoism  Filial piety  Hinduism  Hippocrates  Jesus of Nazareth  Judaism  Karma  Legalism  Plato  Socrates  Warring States period  Yin and yang  Zoroastrianism | Essential Understanding    1. "Religions are fundamentally alike." Does the material in this chapter support or undermine this idea?  2. Is a secular outlook on the world an essentially modern phenomenon, or does it have precedents in the classical era?  3. "Religion is a double-edged sword, both supporting and undermining political authority and social elites." How would you support both sides of this statement?  4. How would you define the appeal of the religious/cultural traditions discussed in this chapter? To what groups were they attractive? Why?  5. How would you compare the lives and teaching is Jesus and the Buddha? In what different ways did the two religions evolve after the deaths of their founders? |
| Your Questions (questions you need/want answered from the reading): | |