Eurasian Social Hierarchies: Chapter 6

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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:  Aspasia  Ban Zhao  Brahmins  caste  Dharma  Greek and Roman slavery  helots  Karma  Ksatriya  latifundia  Pericles  "ritual purity"  scholar-gentry class  Spartacus  Sudra  The "three obediences"  untouchables  Vaisya  Wang Mang  Empress Wu  Wudi  Yellow Turban Rebellion | Essential Understanding    1. What is the difference between Class and Caste?    2. Why was slavery so much more prominent in Greco-Roman Civilization than in India of China?  3. What philosophical, religious, or cultural ideas served to legitimize the class or gender inequalities of classical civilizations? (answers will vary for each empire/civilization)  4. "Social inequality was both accepted and resisted in classical civilizations." What evidence might support this statement?  5. What changes (if any) in the patterns of social life of the classical era can you identify? What accounts for these changes?  **6. "Cultural and social patterns of civilizations seem to endure longer than the political framework of states and empires." Based on Ch. 4, 5, and 6 would you agree with this statement? Why?** |
| Your Questions (questions you need/want answered from the reading): | |