Eurasian Social Hierarchies: Chapter 6

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| Social Science Vocabularybureaucracynationalizeddomesticgender systempatriarchyconcubinedowryorthodoxyegalitarian | Big PictureAs 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 alsoexperienced environmental, social, and economic problems whenthey overexploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessivewealth to be concentrated in the hands of privileged classes. |
| Historical Terms:AspasiaBan ZhaoBrahminscasteDharmaGreek and Roman slaveryhelotsKarmaKsatriyalatifundiaPericles"ritual purity"scholar-gentry classSpartacusSudraThe "three obediences"untouchablesVaisyaWang MangEmpress WuWudiYellow 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): |