

## Chapter 1 : Where Did Civilization Begin?

*Many believe that civilization began in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. In order for a society to be civilized, it must have towns, some form of state governance and a civil service. Around B.C., civilization began in two separate areas. In an location that the world now knows as Iraq, the.*

This page deals with the civilization of Classical Greece. Other pages deal with the Minoan civilization which preceded it, and with the Hellenistic civilization which followed it. Overview and Timeline The civilization of Ancient Greece emerged into the light of world history in the 8th century BC. Normally it is regarded as coming to an end when Greece fell to the Romans, in BC. As a culture as opposed to a political force , Greek civilization lasted longer still, continuing right to the end of the ancient world. Timeline of Ancient Greece: Traditional date for the first Olympic Games c. Greek cities start planting colonies on other Mediterranean coasts , adapt the Phoenician alphabet for their own use, and later adopt metal coinage from Lydia, in Asia Minor Solon gives Athens a new constitution ; this is the start of the rise of democracy in Greece Work begins on the Parthenon in Athens, then at the height of its glory The Athenian philosopher Socrates is condemned to death for questioning conventional ideas This includes the conquests of Alexander the Great , and ends with the conquests of the different Hellenistic states by Rome BC. The history of Ancient Greece falls into four major divisions. Classical Greece flourished during the 5th to 4th centuries BC. This was marked by the period of the Persian Wars c. Greek civilization had a powerful influence on the Roman Empire. In any case, the Roman conquest carried many features of Greek civilization to far-flung parts of the Mediterranean world and Western Europe. Through the mediation of the Romans, therefore, Greek civilization came to be the founding culture of Western civilization. Geography of Ancient Greece The geographical coverage of Ancient Greek civilization changed markedly during its history. Its origins were in the land of Greece and the islands of the Aegean Sea, plus the west coast of Asia Minor modern Turkey. This is a landscape of mountains and sea. Land useful for farming is found in valley bottoms, hedged in by steep slopes, or on small islands, confined by water. As a result, ancient Greece consisted of many small territories, each with its own dialect, cultural peculiarities, and identity. Cities tended to be located in valleys between mountains, or on narrow coastal plains, and only dominated a limited area around them. Steep hills cover much of Greece From about BC the Greeks began sending out colonies in all directions , settling the coasts and islands of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. This is described in a separate article; here we shall focus on the original Greek civilization. Every four years all Greek city-states sent their young men and women to compete in the Olympic Games. Politically, however, Ancient Greece was divided amongst several hundred independent city states poleis. These city-states fiercely defended their independence from one another. Political unity was not an option, unless imposed from outside which first occurred when Philip II, king of Macedonia , conquered the city-states of Greece in the mid-4th century BC. The agora was often flanked by colonnades. Most industrial production took place in small workshops. Family members plus some slaves would make up the workforce in most of these. However, one workshop in Athens for manufacturing shields was said to have workers, mostly slaves. Different trades were concentrated in different parts of the city, but mostly near the agora, the main trading centre in the city. Potters, blacksmiths, bronze workers, carpenters, leather workers, cobblers, and other craft workshops would all have their own streets or in large cities districts. As a city outgrew its local water supply, water was brought in from neighbouring hills by means of channels cut in the rocks, and clay pipes. These fed fountains, from which the poorer people could collect water; and also private wells situated in the larger houses. The city was surrounded by high, wide walls. In later times these were made of stone, brick and rubble. Towers were built at regular interval, and fortified gateways pierced the walls to allow roads to pass through. Outside these wall was another public space, the gymnasium. This is where athletes trained; covered porticoes allowed training to continue in bad weather, and also provided shaded areas for activities such as music, discussion and social meetings. Many gymnasia had public baths attached. Also outside the walls would be the theatre, built into a hillside and semicircular in shape. This space would be backed by columns and behind them, small buildings where actors

changed clothing and masks, and for the props. Theatres such as this were situated outside many Greek cities. Surrounding the city was the farmland of the city-state. Many of the citizens lived within the city walls and walked out to their fields each day to work. Those whose land was further away, however, lived in the countryside, in the hamlets and villages which dotted the landscape, and walked into the city for special occasions. They were as much citizens of the city-state as those who actually lived in the city itself. In many cases this farmland only stretched for a few miles before sloping upwards to the hills and mountains which divided one city-state from the next. Here, with the land less suitable for growing crops, grain fields and olive groves gave way to pasturage for sheep and goats. Many Greek city-states were situated on the coast, or on a small island. The city itself would often be located some distance inland, centred on a hill where the acropolis was built for defence. On the seashore would be a harbour, consisting of wooden quays for loading and unloading ships, and beaches where the ships could be drawn up onto dry land for repair. [Click here for how these city states came into being.](#)

**Agriculture** Like all pre-modern societies, the Greeks were primarily an agricultural people. They practiced the agriculture of the ancient Mediterranean region. Farms were very small – mere plots of land of a few acres. Aristocrats and other landowners would own larger farms, worked by slaves; but an estate of acres was considered large. This vase depicts harvesting olives, a major crop in ancient Greece. The main challenge facing Greek farmers was that there was too little good farming land in Greece and the Aegean. This forced them to take to sea-borne trade on a scale unmatched by most other ancient peoples. However, land shortages continued to be a problem throughout the ancient times. They were a source of the social tensions between rich and poor which led, in Athens, to the rise of democracy, and in several other cities, to violent clashes between the different classes.

**Trade** Very many Greek city-states were located by the sea. Also, many of them, confined as they were by steep hills and mountains, or by the sea itself if they were on islands, suffered from a shortage of agricultural land. From an early stage in their history, therefore, many Greeks looked to the sea for their livelihood. For a period of about years after BC, many city-states sent out groups of their citizens to found colonies on distant shores of the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. These established strong trading ties with their mother city. Greek traders soon dominated maritime trade of the Mediterranean, edging out the Phoenicians who had preceded them. The adoption of metal coinage must have facilitated this process. Some Greek cities became large and wealthy trading centres. Athens, the largest Greek city-state of all, was only able to feed her large population through trade. The poor soil of Attica, the area of Greece where Athens was located, was ideal for growing olives on, and so from an early date the Athenians concentrated on growing olives for export. They imported almost all their grain from other states. The Athenians built up a large merchant fleet, and their city became the leading commercial centre of Greece. The wealth that this commerce brought Athens enabled it to become the leading city of Greece, both in politics and culture. Athens also became the major banker to the Greek world. In the fifth century BC the Athenian coinage became the international currency of the Mediterranean. Bankers operated from long tables set up in the agora, making loans at very high rates of interest. Athenian coins were used throughout the Mediterranean.

**Society** The social framework varied significantly from city-state to city-state. Most cities, however, had a large class of free, native-born peasant farmers. These owned small farms to subsist on. The adult males formed the citizen body of the state. They had a real say in how their city was run and what decisions were made. Within this group of citizens was a smaller number of wealthier families, who owned more land than the rest. They were the aristocrats. As they could afford to keep horses, they were distinguished from the bulk of the citizens by fighting in the army of horse-back. They had a disproportionate influence on affairs of state. Indeed, in many city-states they formed an aristocratic council who played a leading role in the direction of the state. In those city-states which were democracies, however, it was the bulk of the citizens who held the power, through their assembly. At the bottom of society was a large class of slaves – modern scholars estimate that in some city-states such as Athens they may have made up almost half the population. These were people who had been captured in war, or been condemned to slavery as a result of debts which they could not pay; or for crimes. Since the children of slaves were also slaves, many had been born into slavery. In law they were the property of their owners. They worked as household servants or farm labourers for the wealthy, or miners and industrial workers for businessmen. Trained slaves could act as skilled craftsmen, or

perhaps secretaries. As the Greek cities grew in size and wealth, their societies became more complex. New classes appeared, of prosperous craftsmen, sailors and traders, to stand alongside the older classes of aristocrats, peasants and slaves.

Chapter 2 : Formation of the Chinese Civilization - [racedaydvl.com](http://racedaydvl.com)

*A civilization or civilisation (see English spelling differences) is any complex society characterized by urban development, social stratification imposed by a cultural elite, symbolic systems of communication (for example, writing systems), and a perceived separation from and domination over the natural environment.*

Now, lo and behold, our first year has passed already. We are devoting this first-anniversary issue to Anatolia and the values that led us to begin this journey and share the spirit in which we live with others from around the world. Where Civilization Began, so before everything else, I would like you to tell us about Anatolia, especially from your own viewpoint. Before starting to discuss the importance of Anatolia on the course of human civilization, we need to understand who we are and how our endless voyage began on the surface of this planet. While almost the entire planet is home to human beings today, the most critical turning point of our evolutionary process took place in the heart of Africa around 2 million years ago on the fertile lands we now call Tanzania. In other words, the roots of our species belong to a specific location on this planet where the ecological conditions allowed a small group of early humans to stand up on two feet and begin using their hands to manipulate objects, using them as tools. That was the crucial point in our history, so in a way, we could rightly say we are all Tanzanians. All traces of our first tool-making ancestors were discovered around a place known as the gorge of Olduvai in Tanzania. Humans did not just appear simultaneously on every continent of the planet. A single species evolved in Africa and spread to other continents and lands through a long and slow process of migration. Why did they leave their homeland and search for new habitats around the world? Was Africa a boring place for our ancestors? The answer reveals the true character of human history. If ecological conditions change rapidly within the cycles of Mother Nature, it is essential that a species finds new more suitable habitats if it is to avoid extinction. Therefore, the history of humanity is strongly connected to the history of nature in this struggle for survival. Our tool-making ancestors lived in Africa for hundreds of thousands years safely and happily, but a harsh change in climate forced them to search for new homes. Around 50, years ago, flocks of these tool-making humans began spreading to other continents through migration routes. They would have come across some important stopping points, which enabled them to rest for some time or settle down permanently. Anatolia, in my opinion, was the most important of these stopping points. The inspiration for our artsy cover title, *Anatolia: Where Civilization Began*, was the ideas presented in your book, *Cosmic Ocean*. Since you are the author of that wonderful book, as well as one of our writers, we would like to hear directly from you why Anatolia is the place where civilization began? The migration process was not like a vacation where thousands of humans just travelled to nice places and had fun. In fact, thousands of them starved and died, and only a fraction of them survived by finding suitable lands with plenty of food and water sources. In spite of this, some migrant groups chose to settle around the plains near the river Nile. Heading northeast, there were the mild rivers of the Palestine-Levant region, where we find traces of some early human settlements, the most important of which is at Jericho. Then finally, we see northern Mesopotamia, where the Euphrates and Tigris rivers generously brought their waters, supporting plant life and providing an ideal home for the tired human migrants. Around 20, years ago, southeastern Anatolia would have looked like the Garden of Eden with its fertile lands, lush forests, and high plains, which provided protection from floods. There were so many natural resources that it must have been a dream environment for the tool-making humans. There were volcanic rocks to make blades, axes, and ornaments; plenty of wood to build simple shelters and gather into communities; and of course, ample food everywhere. Now we have mentioned Gobekli-tepe, which everyone seems to be talking about lately: Now, I would like to hear it from you: What is the importance of this site? What is the story of this place, which could change how we view the history of humanity? The mainstream media loves simplified definitions that make headlines sound more sensational. We do not only find the ruins of extraordinary prehistoric architecture, but more important than this, we find a rich symbolism that presents extremely valuable clues about how these people pondered and understood the universe and the cycle of life and death. We find their perceptions of the cosmos through marvelous iconography and symbols, which were not created arbitrarily, but designed carefully to reflect and

preserve their knowledge and understanding of the universe. We can therefore conclude that the site served as a sort of library, a center of arts, a place of ritualistic philosophy, or even an education center. The archaeologists also tend to hurriedly argue its role as a place of worship. Whatever functions the site had, it is obvious the powerful symbology of the site presents us with a stunning depth of abstract thought and human intelligence 12, years ago. This is real, solid evidence for the place where human civilization started. That symbology, if we carefully observe, understand, and try to decode it, becomes the basis for the symbolic expression system that we see in later millennia around Anatolia, the Aegean Islands, Greece, eastern Europe, Egypt, and southern Mesopotamia. How is it then that the artifacts that have been discovered, or which will be discovered later, can change things regarding humanity? How does humanity benefit from knowing there is such a place in Anatolia where everything began? How would it affect our everyday lives? The important point is not the geographical coordinates where the first sparks initiated human civilization. What we need to concentrate on is the essentials of the symbolism and abstract thought I mentioned above. This gives us an idea of the foundations of our root culture. If we correctly understand the impulse of the thought system that gave root to our civilization, then we can follow the footsteps of this nucleus to nearby locations and lands. Southeastern Anatolia was most probably the first place where humans found a way to express their abstract thoughts using symbols and record them with reliefs or carvings on rocks, stones, and wood. In a couple of millennia, these highly standardized symbols became the first prototype for a writing system that created the Vinca script in eastern Europe. If we see the picture like this, we can easily spot the characteristics of the first conceptions and philosophy that created our civilization: A peaceful society where all individuals shared in the hard work and harvest of production. There was no gender inequality, no social classes, no hegemony, and no warfare or elements of violence. The Earth and the universe was a loving, caring, nurturing mother to all, rather than being a wrathful and jealous male deity. This alone, could rapidly change our opinion on prehistory and clear the way for a new understanding. The birthplace of all these essential thoughts and principles is Anatolia, which explains the importance of this land. Therefore, despite the fact that Anatolia became influenced by male energy and masculine beliefs in later times, it has always been a feminine construct in essence. Could you please tell us about that aspect of Anatolia? Anatolia appears to be the place where this idea originated. This culture was dominant in all parts of Anatolia for thousands of years. Even after the Indo-European migrants arrived, the names of the lands still strongly emphasized the goddess cult. Anatolia was the homeland of the Great Mother at the beginning of civilization. I believe that this feminine construct is highly effective at merging and fusing the Anatolian people. Thus, when the Turks entered this land in the eleventh century, it was the underlying factor in coexisting with the established tribes so easily, even though they were Muslims. The Turks has their roots in a shamanic culture, so they respected women highly. Even if there is an effort in our country today to create ethnic divisions and conflicts, I still think we have a common identity: This is what brings flexibility and tolerance to the people of this land. We are born in Anatolia with this potential already written in our genes. Beginning in the 16th century BCE, the dominant culture in Anatolia became patriarchal, so the ancient elements of the Neolithic and early Bronze Age cultures were quickly absorbed and assimilated by the newcomers. The patriarchal society tried to replace the goddess cult with male deities and wrathful storm gods, but the native cults resisted this for centuries. In the fifth century AD, after Christianity became the official religion of Rome, an unprecedented campaign of oppression was started against the followers of the ancient cults. So, when the Turks arrived in Anatolia in the 11th century, as you mentioned above, it was already very late for the ancient thoughts and cults of Anatolia. How have you benefitted from being born in Anatolia? I consider it a unique chance. We embrace a great legacy here that has come through the millennia, and this is really priceless. It definitely helped me to develop an awareness that led me to research deeply the prehistoric roots of civilization. I visited Ephesus when I was nine years old, and I still remember the effect of that enormous city on my mind. Yet it was just the beginning. I felt I would dedicate most of my upcoming years to researching and understanding the very beginning of our civilization. How can the people of the world tap into Anatolia and enrich their own lives? Anatolia presents solid proof of the roots of the civilization that our species created on this planet. Our civilization was built upon a very simple social order where men and women worked and shared together. There were no social classes, no

social hierarchy where some were privileged, no warfare, no standing armies, and no violence. Of course, the universe itself was the Mother of all, and there was no need to worship a creator if the cosmos was understood as a dynamic, evolving, and capable being that formed life in an endless regenerative cycle. Anatolia was the homeland of this simple and pure understanding. If our ancestors managed to develop such a philosophy in this land while establishing an equal, free, and cooperative social order without violence or warfare, then it must be possible to do it again. Studying the roots of civilization in Anatolia helps those who long for a peaceful world where equality, liberty, and fraternity rule alongside justice. The world was not always like this. If our ancestors did it here before, we can do it again. Anatolia for us is the encouragement that comes from understanding our history.

### Chapter 3 : Ancient Egypt - HISTORY

*Civilization began about thousand years ago, around thousand BC, when the Pleistocene was ending and the Holocene was beginning. The Wisconsin glaciation, where permanent ice caps covered major portions of Europe, North America, and Asia, was ending, and the global average temperature was climbing to a more tolerable level.*

Reply You have made an interesting point that may be linked to the people who lived before the great flood, and those who did survive it, and propagated the human race thereafter. However, who exactly were these people and what did they leave behind as proof of their existence, and the proof of they being of more ancient origins than the Sumerians and Akkadians? You provided us with a list of the Slavic nations that are of modern times, but if your theory is correct, what were these people known as, specifically? Did they have a writing system? What about their religious, and spiritual beliefs? Recently, there were some massive stones that were discovered, I believe in the northern Russian mountains. Is there a possibility that this civilization of which you speak, were the amazing builders architects of this paleolithic structure? Thank you for the comment, though. Mike November 22, at Have a look by googling it. Huge artificially cut stones! And there are many theories about what they were used for. The ancient Greeks and Romans built temples on them but are not the builders of the plateau. Bert May 15, at 3: The mystery of it all; the lost answers we can merely hope for, and the wonder of passed time. If only humans had evolved with higher moral standard, our oldest histories and lessons of these lost times could potentially have been preserved. Neither side has hard proof and that is as far as it goes.. Nobody knows, and if you were to challenge anybody who thinks they do to prove it, what you would get is a bunch of idiots telling you to read the information located on their website, and a few other bunches of idiots spitting out their justifications for believing in their God of choice. Hell, I believed it all too, when I was young. I am not saying everybody is wrong, I am saying nobody is right. Royce The Great Flood!? Likely a local event projected and magnified through ignorance of the greater world. Mike Reply Check your twisted history Adolf! Mankind started and originated from Southern Africa, if you want to get right down to it. Do some more reading and studying before you make unsubstantiated claims. You even know cuz he first. First is must have babby. If no babby, then no me. Mike January 27, at 8: This was done to speed up the reproduction of the slaves and make it less cumbersome. That si what really happened and not these religious fairytales! Thfdyj August 10, at 4: I am not going to bring religion into this and just state wat science says. Science says that we evolved from other species, Apes. There are the bones of our ancestors found in the Middle East to prove it. If you want more proof look it up. Also the fact that these bones and all of the bones found were in the Middle East proves that humans originate from their. Tony June 12, at Historical evidence shows the most advanced humans with bigger brains and bigger intellect existed in South Africa. White supremacy and ignorance make people blind to reality. Even when the evidence is overwhelming you would find a way to twist it. Neanderfal existed in Europe, a sub species of humans that had to breed with Africans to survive Keith Oh, like you were there? Ghost Reply An article presented here, is what the scientific community was able to collect. Is that a fact? Were these evidences manipulated? Idk, but this data more complete, Bc of the actual hard facts. But today we discover many new evidences followed by new theories. Personally I have my own, conserning human civilization in general.

**Chapter 4 : Where did the first Civilization Develop in India?**

*'Civilization' began thousands of years ago, long before the concept of 'country' existed. It began in many different places, and advanced at different rates. It is only very recently that the world has adopted what is essentially a single civilization.*

Visit Website Neolithic late Stone Age communities in northeastern Africa exchanged hunting for agriculture and made early advances that paved the way for the later development of Egyptian arts and crafts, technology, politics and religion including a great reverence for the dead and possibly a belief in life after death. Visit Website Around B. A southern king, Scorpion, made the first attempts to conquer the northern kingdom around B. A century later, King Menes would subdue the north and unify the country, becoming the first king of the first dynasty. Archaic Early Dynastic Period c. King Menes founded the capital of ancient Egypt at White Walls later known as Memphis, in the north, near the apex of the Nile River delta. The capital would grow into a great metropolis that dominated Egyptian society during the Old Kingdom period. The Archaic Period saw the development of the foundations of Egyptian society, including the all-important ideology of kingship. To the ancient Egyptians, the king was a godlike being, closely identified with the all-powerful god Horus. The earliest known hieroglyphic writing also dates to this period. In the Archaic Period, as in all other periods, most ancient Egyptians were farmers living in small villages, and agriculture largely wheat and barley formed the economic base of the Egyptian state. The annual flooding of the great Nile River provided the necessary irrigation and fertilization each year; farmers sowed the wheat after the flooding receded and harvested it before the season of high temperatures and drought returned. Age of the Pyramid Builders c. The Old Kingdom began with the third dynasty of pharaohs. Pyramid-building reached its zenith with the construction of the Great Pyramid at Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo. Built for Khufu or Cheops, in Greek, who ruled from B. C and Menkaura B. During the third and fourth dynasties, Egypt enjoyed a golden age of peace and prosperity. The pharaohs held absolute power and provided a stable central government; the kingdom faced no serious threats from abroad; and successful military campaigns in foreign countries like Nubia and Libya added to its considerable economic prosperity. First Intermediate Period c. This chaotic situation was intensified by Bedouin invasions and accompanied by famine and disease. From this era of conflict emerged two different kingdoms: A line of 17 rulers dynasties nine and 10 based in Heracleopolis ruled Middle Egypt between Memphis and Thebes, while another family of rulers arose in Thebes to challenge Heracleopolitan power. After the last ruler of the 11th dynasty, Mentuhotep IV, was assassinated, the throne passed to his vizier, or chief minister, who became King Amenemhet I, founder of dynasty A new capital was established at It-towy, south of Memphis, while Thebes remained a great religious center. The 12th dynasty kings ensured the smooth succession of their line by making each successor co-regent, a custom that began with Amenemhet I. Middle-Kingdom Egypt pursued an aggressive foreign policy, colonizing Nubia with its rich supply of gold, ebony, ivory and other resources and repelling the Bedouins who had infiltrated Egypt during the First Intermediate Period. The kingdom also built diplomatic and trade relations with Syria, Palestine and other countries; undertook building projects including military fortresses and mining quarries; and returned to pyramid-building in the tradition of the Old Kingdom. Second Intermediate Period c. The 13th dynasty marked the beginning of another unsettled period in Egyptian history, during which a rapid succession of kings failed to consolidate power. As a consequence, during the Second Intermediate Period Egypt was divided into several spheres of influence. The official royal court and seat of government was relocated to Thebes, while a rival dynasty the 14th, centered on the city of Xoïs in the Nile delta, seems to have existed at the same time as the 13th. The Hyksos rulers of the 15th dynasty adopted and continued many of the existing Egyptian traditions in government as well as culture. They ruled concurrently with the line of native Theban rulers of the 17th dynasty, who retained control over most of southern Egypt despite having to pay taxes to the Hyksos. The 16th dynasty is variously believed to be Theban or Hyksos rulers. Conflict eventually flared between the two groups, and the Thebans launched a war against the Hyksos around B. Under Ahmose I, the first king of the 18th dynasty, Egypt was once again reunited. During the 18th dynasty, Egypt restored its

control over Nubia and began military campaigns in Palestine, clashing with other powers in the area such as the Mitannians and the Hittites. In addition to powerful kings such as Amenhotep I B. The controversial Amenhotep IV c. The 19th and 20th dynasties, known as the Ramesside period for the line of kings named Ramses saw the restoration of the weakened Egyptian empire and an impressive amount of building, including great temples and cities. All of the New Kingdom rulers with the exception of Akhenaton were laid to rest in deep, rock-cut tombs not pyramids in the Valley of the Kings, a burial site on the west bank of the Nile opposite Thebes. Most of them were raided and destroyed, with the exception of the tomb and treasure of Tutankhamen c. The splendid mortuary temple of the last great king of the 20th dynasty, Ramses III c. The kings who followed Ramses III were less successful: Egypt lost its provinces in Palestine and Syria for good and suffered from foreign invasions notably by the Libyans, while its wealth was being steadily but inevitably depleted. Third Intermediate Period c. The next yearsâ€™ known as the Third Intermediate Periodâ€™ saw important changes in Egyptian politics, society and culture. The 22nd dynasty began around B. Many local rulers were virtually autonomous during this period and dynasties are poorly documented. In the eighth century B. Under Kushite rule, Egypt clashed with the growing Assyrian empire. One of them, Necho of Sais, ruled briefly as the first king of the 26th dynasty before being killed by the Kushite leader Tanuatamun, in a final, unsuccessful grab for power. Persian rulers such as Darius B. The tyrannical rule of Xerxes B. One of these rebellions triumphed in B. In the mid-fourth century B. Barely a decade later, in B. Six centuries of Roman rule followed, during which Christianity became the official religion of Rome and its provinces including Egypt. The conquest of Egypt by the Arabs in the seventh century A.

*The Egyptian predynastic culture was beginning to resemble the Pharaonic ages from around 5, BCE. Organized, permanent settlements existed, based around agriculture, and the archetypal.*

China is an East Asian country with a large territory, a huge population and an ancient history. With written records dating back 4, years, it is recognized as one of the four great ancient civilizations of the world, together with ancient Egypt, Babylon and India. Moreover, it is the only ancient civilization that has continued to this very day. China was one of the cradles of the human race. The Chinese nation is not only the most populous but also one of the oldest in the world. Fossils that have been found in Chinese territory include those of Yuanmou Man, the first Homo erectus, who lived 1. The fossils of Shu Ape, a primate that lived 45 million years ago, which is known as the "first anthropoid", were discovered in China in The first light of Chinese civilization revealed itself 7, to 8, years ago, as indicated by the ruins of the Daxi Culture in Sichuan and Hubei provinces, the Majiapang Culture in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, the Hemudu Culture in eastern Zhejiang and the Yangshou Culture along the middle reaches of the Yellow River and its main tributaries. According to legend, the primitive tribes that inhabited the middle and upper reaches of the Yellow River were unified into two powerful tribes under the Yellow Emperor and Fiery Emperor, and began their push southward 5, years ago. After years of warfare, they conquered the Sanmiao and Jiuli tribes active in south China under the leadership of Chi You. Part of the defeated tribe was incorporated into the tribes under the Yellow and Fiery emperors to become a component part of the Han people, which marked the beginning of the Chinese nation. This history has also given rise to the term "descendants of the Yellow and Fiery emperors" that Chinese often use to refer to themselves. Archaeological studies have revealed that around 5, years ago the Chinese entered the stage of patriarchal society. Not only did villages begin to appear but also the initial forms of cities began to become evident. Extensive communities indicated that the population at the time had already reached a fairly large size and agriculture had made great headway. The earliest discoveries took place during this period. Shen Nong tried and tasted various kinds of wild plants to select crops appropriate to be cultivated for food and herbal medicine to cure disease. The Yellow Emperor invented the compass, which helped him defeat Chi You. More importantly, the appearance of chariots greatly reduced labor intensity. Lei Su, wife of the Yellow Emperor, discovered silk making by raising silkworms, and produced the first garments, which allowed the ancient people to bid goodbye to the period when they wore animal skins and tree leaves. The tribe under Chi You in the south learned how to make weapons with copper, creating the conditions for making bronze vessels, metallurgy and alchemy of later times. During the Xia Dynasty, 4, years ago, China entered the period of slave society. The Shang Dynasty th centuries BC , which replaced the Xia, saw the height of bronze culture, when superb smelting and casting techniques brought forth beautiful wares made of bronze. Pottery making also developed very rapidly with the appearance of primitive pottery wares. Sericulture and silk weaving reached maturity at this time. From BC to the end of the 19th century, China went through a long feudal period. Before the 15th century, China was one of the most powerful countries in the world, occupying a leading position in the development of productivity and technology. Ancient China enjoyed a developed agriculture and advanced irrigation system, an independent tradition of medicine and advanced botanical knowledge. Besides, China was rich in ceramics and silk textiles which were great inventions that exerted a great impact worldwide. The first people to take note of such astronomical phenomena as comets, sunspots and new stars were all Chinese. It was also the Chinese who produced the most advanced astronomical observatory apparatus of the time. In metallurgy, China long held a leading position. When Europeans still could not turn out a single piece of cast iron in the 14th century, Chinese people had already produced cast iron on an industrial scale four centuries earlier. In the field of thought, Confucius, founder of Confucianism, not only had far-reaching significance for China, but for the whole of East and Southeast Asia. The warfare strategies introduced by the noted military strategist Sun Zi are still studied and referred to today. Taoism was an important school of thought, and is known for its simple dialectical elements. Its position of "quietude and inaction" has many identical views with the thoughts of

modern man. Taoism, based on the Taoist doctrines, is an independent religion established in China. Western civilization, he went on to say, did not begin until the era of Columbus, and China had left the Europeans far behind in science and technology before that time. Modern China is experiencing a completely new era in which respect for science and inventions and encourage creativity have become the guiding principles of society. All Rights Reserved E-mail:

**Chapter 6 : Where Did Ancient Civilization Began? - Essay**

*HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION including The ingredients of civilization, Mesopotamia and Egypt, The Indus, The Aegean, China, America, The Mediterranean, Regional civilizations, Global civilization.*

Wallpaper for desktop Africa the home of human civilization Africa provides a comprehensive and contiguous time line of human development going back at least 7 million years. It is the home of the first tools, astronomy, jewelry, fishing, mathematics, crops, art, use of pigments, cutting and other pointed instruments and animal domestication. In short Africa gave the world human civilization. Millions of years ago human life started in Africa, Australopithecus aphaerensis and Australopithecus africanus and Australopithecus robustus were all key rungs in the development of humanity. These fossils were found in East and South Africa Azania. Some of the fossils may be as old as 5 million years. For example Australopithecus robustus fossils found in an East Turkana Kenya site were at least 4 million year old. It is generally accepted that the Homo habilis were the first full fledged tool making ancestor of humans. The earliest archaeological evidence of toolmaking comes from the Koobi Fora section of East Turkana. These Homo habilis are believed to be at least 2. The name Homo habilis comes from the Leakeys. They found what they believed to be conclusive fossil evidence of the first humans in the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and gave these ancestors that name called Homo habilis.. The Olduvai Gorge Homo habilis existed at least a million and quarter years ago More important than tool making in human evolution is the mastery of fire. Nearly 2 million years ago early East Africans had mastered the use of fire. This was a revolutionary step in the development of humanity. This critical innovation insured the survival and spread of the species around the planet. It gave us an advantage over animal predators such as the big cats, hyenas and allowed human settlements in less accommodating climates. These people have been named Homo erectus by archaeologists. It is generally accepted that the final leap from Homo erectus to Homo sapiens sapiens as having occurred in Africa over two hundreds thousand years ago. The Encyclopedia of World History describes the use of mtDNA found in fossils as a means of revealing the processes involved in this final leap. Molecular biologists like Alan Wilson and Rebecca Cann have studied the human family tree using this form of DNA, which is inherited through the female line without being diluted with paternal DNA. Thus, they argue, it provides a unique tool for studying ancestral populations. They formed two groups: Wilson and Cann concluded that all modern humans derive from a primordial African population, from which populations migrated to the rest of the Old World with little or no interbreeding with existing archaic human groups. By calculating the rate of mtDNA mutations, they argue that archaic Homo sapiens evolved from Homo erectus in Africa by about , years ago. Then Homo sapiens sapiens, anatomically modern humans, appeared some , years ago. Highly varied, early Homo sapiens populations flourished in sub-Saharan Africa between , and , years ago, some of them displaying some anatomically modern features. At the Klasies River Caves on the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa, anatomically modern human remains date to between , and 95, years ago. They are associated with sophisticated, versatile tool kits that were, if anything, superior to those used by the Neanderthals in Europe at the time. Many scientists believe that Homo sapiens sapiens, modern humans, did indeed evolve in tropical Africa sometime after , years ago, as the geneticists argue. Ecologist Robert Foley has theorized that modern humans evolved in a mosaic of constantly changing tropical environments, which tended to isolate evolving human populations for considerable periods of time. Some groups living in exceptionally rich areas may have developed unusual hunting and foraging skills, using a new technology so effective that they could prey on animals from a distance with finely made projectiles. With efficient technology, more planning, and better organization of both hunting and foraging, our ancestors could have reduced the risks of living in unpredictable environments in dramatic ways. A spherical or elongated organelle in the cytoplasm of nearly all eukaryotic cells, containing genetic material and many enzymes important for cell metabolism, including those responsible for the conversion of food to usable energy. It consists of two membranes: The cell organelle where much of cellular respiration takes place; the "power plant" of the cell. Mitochondria probably entered eukaryotes by an act of endosymbiosis, in which one simple cell was absorbed by another. Mitochondria contain their own DNA. It is by tracing the mitochondrial DNA,

which individuals inherit only from their mothers, that genetic linkages are often traced Sources: Chad 7 million years ago Ethiopia 5 million years ago South Africa 3.

**Chapter 7 : 10 oldest Ancient civilizations ever existed**

*The world's finest mattress, handcrafted using optimum materials. Order today and receive \$ off. Meet Iklaina. Arguably the oldest of Greek City States. In , massive discoveries were made in Iklaina, a city romanticised by Homer as a belligerent in the Trojan War. It seems to be a major.*

Civilization in South Asia began along the Indus River. The land of South Asia is dominated by three main types of physical features. Except for the coast, there are only a few narrow passes through the mountains such as the Khyber Pass that have allowed people to enter this land. The water in the Indus River mainly comes from melting glaciers and natural springs from the mountains that surround it. As the water runs down the mountain it picks up fertile silt. This area would flood at least one time every year and provide irrigation water for farmers. When the flood waters went away they left a thin layer of fertile silt. Today, much of South Asia experiences an annual change of wind direction called monsoon that usually brings massive amounts of rain. Some historians claim the Indus Valley received two annual floods. Early History Some of the oldest human remains in South Asia date back to around 75,000 years ago. Slowly, people began to live in permanent places and villages slowly developed—eventually these villages turned into cities and created one of the earliest human civilizations in the world. This civilization is known by many names: This and other evidence suggests Ancient India relied on trade in a larger way than other early civilizations. Ancient India is often called the Harappan Civilization because one of the ancient cities was called Harappa. Harappa was just one of the cities in the Indus River Valley. Another well-known city is called Mohenjo-Daro. Historians estimate Ancient India to be the biggest of all four early civilizations. One reason the Indus Valley civilization is so mysterious is because historians have not been able to translate their complicated written language called Indus Script. There are thousands of artifacts with different written symbols. A seal is similar to a stamp that makes an impression in the soft clay. Seals are sometimes in a cylinder shape so they can be rolled on the clay. Indus Script symbols have been discovered in Mesopotamia, which suggests they maintained a regular trade. Historians estimate that each major city could support as many as 80,000 people, so Ancient India was by far the largest early civilization. The buildings were made from mud-bricks that had been fired in a kiln to make them harder. A kiln is a hot oven or furnace to bake clay pottery. City planners started by digging water wells and water drainage systems with main roads and small roads laid out in a square grid. Finally homes were built along the roads, sometimes with multiple stories. Most people lived in farming villages in rural areas. Archeologists have discovered what food the Ancient Indian people ate by examining the teeth of skeletons and food storage areas. Another example of how well planned the Indus Valley civilization was is their grain storage building. However, there is no evidence of grain in this building, so once again, historians are uncertain about the mysterious Indus Valley civilization. Ancient India was different from the Egyptians and Mesopotamians in several ways. One way they are different is that there appear to be very few large structures in Ancient India. One of the largest structures that has been discovered is called the Great Bath. Basically it's a public pool that is over 40 feet long, 20 feet wide, and nearly 10 feet deep. If large temples or palaces once existed they are gone today. This leads to a curious question—did Ancient India have kings or high ranked religious leaders? What did the social pyramid look like? The remains of the civilization suggest they were a very egalitarian society. Egalitarian means everyone in society was basically equal. Another difference is in military and weapons. There is very little evidence of weapons and military culture in the Indus Valley. Another difference is that astronomy seems to be less important in India than in other civilizations unless the text has been lost. Historians believe they may have worshiped a Mother Goddess. They believe the Great Bath could have been used for some type of baptism. The image to the left shows a three-faced person sitting in the lotus position. The lotus position is a Yoga position of meditation where a person sits upright with their legs folded in their lap. Yoga is a spiritual practice of meditation, breathing, and body position used in many religions, especially Hinduism. By BCE, the once vast and powerful civilization began to decline at some point it suddenly ended. There are some theories that a great earthquake crumbled cities and changed the path of rivers, which caused them to move to a new location. Another theory claims the climate may have changed,

which forced them to move. Yet another theory suggests invading armies destroyed some cities and forced most people to move. One thing we know for sure is that the civilization that once lived in this area ended and new people moved into this area. These people came from the area between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea purple on the map on the left. Some went to Europe and influenced the Romans and the Greeks; some settled in Turkey and became the Hittites, others migrated southeast instead. Some stopped in Iran, later becoming Persian, while others continued southeast to Pakistan and India. The slow migration did not arrive in northern India until about BCE. In India, the Indo-Europeans are sometimes called the Aryans. Some people have disputed this arrival of the Indo-Europeans, however, the spoken language that these Indo-European people brought to India, recorded in Sanskrit, is very similar to other Indo-European languages such as Greek and Latin. There are many examples of similar words between the languages spoken in these areas. In addition to their spoken language, the Indo-Europeans brought their religious beliefs with them to India. The story and beliefs of Hinduism were recorded in a collection of stories and songs called the Vedas. There are many historians that believe the Hindu religion actually began in the Indus River Valley civilization. Indo-Europeans also brought the domesticated horse into South Asia—this suggests the Indo-Europeans were at least semi-nomadic. They settled down and mixed with the local Indian people. They lived there and eventually expanded throughout the Indo-Gangetic Plain. It was at this time that the caste system got started in India. The caste system is the permanent division of people into certain levels within society. Each level or caste has particular jobs such as merchant, warrior, or priest. The lowest of the castes was the Sudras - the servants and farmhands who did not own their own business or their own land, and who had to work for other people. The largest number of people belonged to this caste. Above them were the Vaisyas, or farmers and traders, who owned their own farms or businesses. Above these people were the Kshatriyas, or warriors. The most powerful caste was the Brahmins pictured below, the priests and other leaders. Many historians believe that when the Indo-Europeans arrived they treated the native Indus Valley people as the Untouchables. There were also dozens of smaller groups within each castes. People who came from different castes could not eat together. Usually people from one caste did not marry or make friends with people from another caste. Today, the caste system is outlawed by the modern Indian constitution, and in urban areas most people ignore the caste traditions. However, in traditional rural areas caste divisions still exist. The developing Indian culture of the Indo-European mixed with native Indus Valley people began to grow quickly. Similar to other civilizations, kingdoms developed as the territory expanded. Indian Kingdoms and Foreign Invasions For about years the Indo-Europeans and native Indians mixed and migrated throughout the the northern part of the region. Cities began to grow in number, and size and by BCE these slowly developed into 16 different kingdoms called Maha Janapadas. On his rare trips out of the royal palace, Siddartha noticed most people suffering through life. He also grew tired to the priests who dominated society. He gave up his royal life and started a quest to find real truth. The Buddha traveled throughout South Asia and taught others his new ideas—these teachings became known as the religion of Buddhism. Another religion called Jainism also developed during this time. Both of these new religions clearly developed from Hinduism in the same way Christianity and Islam clearly developed from Judaism. These new religions were a rebellion against cultural ideas such as the caste system and importance of priests in religion. Some of the first significant architecture in South Asia also came from these new religions. The first development is called a stupa. Later, the stupa transformed into a new Buddhist structure called a pagoda. A Pagoda below, right picture usually has many levels or "tiers" of roofs. It is also a Buddhist temple. This conquest was under the mighty Persian leader Darius the Great. Persia controlled this region for about years until Alexander the Great invaded South Asia. Alexander and his army were far from home and completely exhausted from years of constant war as they rampaged toward the east.

## Chapter 8 : The civilization of the ancient Greeks

*A civilization is a culture and society, the way that people live. Come learn about the history of civilization and what makes a society a civilization in this kid-friendly video! Like this video.*

**History and Culture** The first civilization in Indian developed around Harappa quite close to the Indus river. It is popularly known as the Indus Valley civilization. Several excavations were carried out around Harappa and Mohenjodaro, which are now situated in Pakistan. The civilization developed 4, to 5, years ago. The inhabitants of this civilization were Dravidian, who were forced to settle in south India as the Aryans settled there. Aryans brought in their more advanced military technology. They began migrating to India from 2, BCE. The script remained undecipherable till today. Hieroglyphs were the basis of their writings. The numerous seals and pottery found by archaeologists throw some light on the civilization and tell us about the cities of the civilization and its inhabitants. **Administration and Living Styles:** There was extensive planning of the towns. Burnt bricks were used to build houses. Weights and measures were indicative of regularity. Animals were domesticated and grew crops such as sesame, peas, cotton and barley. They were sea-faring people. The civilization was urban and well planned. Merchant class was also prevalent indicating trade activities. Trade was by sea and land. Merchants imported metals such as gold, copper, silver and semi-precious stones. Agriculture was not developed to a great extent. They did irrigate their fields. Bronze as well as stone implements were used. The Sumerians taught them how to make bronze. Their houses were made of stone and had sewage systems. The drains were covered. There was uniform urban planning. The Indus Valley Civilization was a theocratic state consisting of priests, farmers and merchants. The major cities had few buildings and a great bath. Religious pursuits – There is no evidence indicative of fire altars. The Aryans introduced the rituals around the fire. The civilization people did not possess any horses. On the Harappan seals as well as terracottas no horses appear. Elephants and bulls do not appear on the seals. The cow which is revered by the Hindus is also not on the seals. People – The women wore heavy jewelry, had elaborate coiffures. On the whole the people had refined and aesthetic tastes. On the whole the Indus Valley civilization was well planned for its times. People led urban lives and ensured that their cities were well-developed with proper drainage system.

**Chapter 9 : When did civilization begin**

*Adam began what is known as the Adamic Cycle, this Age is at its end now last Days or End Time. We are now at the Beginning of a new Age of a far greater length, which will see the whole world as a united Global Divine Civilization, where Peace, Justice and mercy will flow through its Institutions which will be structured in accordance with the recently revealed Loving Will of God.*

Muslim conquests Europe in While the Roman Empire and Christian religion survived in an increasingly Hellenised form in the Byzantine Empire centered at Constantinople in the East, Western civilization suffered a collapse of literacy and organization following the fall of Rome in AD Gradually however, the Christian religion re-asserted its influence over Western Europe. The Book of Kells. Danish seamen, painted midth century. The Viking Age saw Norseman explore, raid, conquer and trade through wide areas of the West. After the Fall of Rome , the papacy served as a source of authority and continuity. In the absence of a magister militum living in Rome, even the control of military matters fell to the pope. Gregory the Great c 600” administered the church with strict reform. A trained Roman lawyer and administrator, and a monk, he represents the shift from the classical to the medieval outlook and was a father of many of the structures of the later Roman Catholic Church. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, he looked upon Church and State as co-operating to form a united whole, which acted in two distinct spheres, ecclesiastical and secular, but by the time of his death, the papacy was the great power in Italy: From this time forth the varied populations of Italy looked to the pope for guidance, and Rome as the papal capital continued to be the center of the Christian world. Roman legions had never conquered Ireland, and as the Western Roman Empire collapsed, Christianity managed to survive there. Monks sought out refuge at the far fringes of the known world: Disciplined scholarship carried on in isolated outposts like Skellig Michael in Ireland, where literate monks became some of the last preservers in Western Europe of the poetic and philosophical works of Western antiquity. Later in the 6th century, the Byzantine Empire restored its rule in much of Italy and Spain. Missionaries sent from Ireland by the Pope helped to convert England to Christianity in the 6th century as well, restoring that faith as the dominant in Western Europe. Working as a trader he encountered the ideas of Christianity and Judaism on the fringes of the Byzantine Empire, and around began preaching of a new monotheistic religion, Islam , and in became the civil and spiritual leader of Medina , soon after conquering Mecca in By the early 8th century, Iberia and Sicily had fallen to the Muslims. By the 9th century, Malta , Cyprus , and Crete had fallen 600” and for a time the region of Septimania. From this time, the "West" became synonymous with Christendom , the territory ruled by Christian powers, as Oriental Christianity fell to dhimmi status under the Muslim Caliphates. The cause to liberate the " Holy Land " remained a major focus throughout medieval history, fueling many consecutive crusades , only the first of which was successful although it resulted in many atrocities, in Europe as well as elsewhere. Charlemagne "Charles the Great" in English became king of the Franks. Under his rule, his subjects in non-Christian lands like Germany converted to Christianity. Starting in the late 8th century, the Vikings began seaborne attacks on the towns and villages of Europe. Eventually, they turned from raiding to conquest, and conquered Ireland, most of England, and northern France Normandy. These conquests were not long-lasting, however. In Alfred the Great drove the Vikings out of England, which he united under his rule, and Viking rule in Ireland ended as well. In Normandy the Vikings adopted French culture and language, became Christians and were absorbed into the native population. By the beginning of the 11th century Scandinavia was divided into three kingdoms, Norway , Sweden , and Denmark , all of which were Christian and part of Western civilization. Norse explorers reached Iceland , Greenland , and even North America, however only Iceland was permanently settled by the Norse. A period of warm temperatures from around enabled the establishment of a Norse outpost in Greenland in , which survived for some years as the most westerly oupost of Christendom. From here, Norseman attempted their short-lived European colony in North America , five centuries before Columbus. They eventually settled in what is today Hungary , converted to Christianity and became the ancestors of the Hungarian people. A West Slavic people, the Poles , formed a unified state by the 10th century and having adopted Christianity also in the 10th century [14] [15] but with

pagan rising in the 11th century. By the start of the second millennium AD, the West had become divided linguistically into three major groups. The Romance languages , based on Latin , the language of the Romans, the Germanic languages , and the Celtic languages. Sacking of Suzdal by Batu Khan From the medieval Russian annals. From , he wrote: Men of intelligence usually joined religious orders and those of intellectual, administrative or diplomatic skill could advance beyond the usual restraints of society – leading churchmen from faraway lands were accepted in local bishoprics, linking European thought across wide distances. Complexes like the Abbey of Cluny became vibrant centres with dependencies spread throughout Europe. Ordinary people also trekked vast distances on pilgrimages to express their piety and pray at the site of holy relics. Monumental abbeys and cathedrals were constructed and decorated with sculptures, hangings, mosaics and works belonging one of the greatest epochs of art and providing stark contrast to the monotonous and cramped conditions of ordinary living. Abbot Suger of the Abbey of St. Denis is considered an influential early patron of Gothic architecture and believed that love of beauty brought people closer to God: Clark calls this "the intellectual background of all the sublime works of art of the next century and in fact has remained the basis of our belief of the value of art until today". At the top of society was the monarch , who gave land to nobles in exchange for loyalty. The nobles gave land to vassals , who served as knights to defend their monarch or noble. Under the vassals were the peasants or serfs. The feudal system thrived as long as peasants needed protection by the nobility from invasions originating inside and outside of Europe. So as the 11th century progressed, the feudal system declined along with the threat of invasion. The Abbey of St. Abbot Suger of this Abbey was an early patron of the extraordinary artistic achievements of the epoch. Barons forced King John of England to sign the Magna Carta laying early foundations for the evolution of constitutional monarchy. Saint Thomas Aquinas was one of the most influential scholars of the Medieval period. In , after centuries of strained relations, the Great Schism occurred over differences in doctrine, splitting the Christian world between the Catholic Church , centered in Rome and dominant in the West, and the Orthodox Church , centered in Constantinople , capital of the Byzantine Empire. The last pagan land in Europe was converted to Christianity with the conversion of the Baltic peoples in the High Middle Ages , bringing them into Western civilization as well. As the Medieval period progressed, the aristocratic military ideal of Chivalry and institution of knighthood based around courtesy and service to others became culturally important. Large Gothic cathedrals of extraordinary artistic and architectural intricacy were constructed throughout Europe, including Canterbury Cathedral in England, Cologne Cathedral in Germany and Chartres Cathedral in France called the "epitome of the first great awakening in European civilisation" by Kenneth Clark [11]. As the Church grew more powerful and wealthy, many sought reform. The Dominican and Franciscan Orders were founded, which emphasized poverty and spirituality. Women were in many respects excluded from political and mercantile life, however, leading churchwomen were an exception. Medieval abbesses and female superiors of monastic houses were powerful figures whose influence could rival that of male bishops and abbots: The Crusades were originally launched in response to a call from the Byzantine Emperor for help to fight the expansion of the Turks into Anatolia. The First Crusade succeeded in its task, but at a serious cost on the home front , and the crusaders established rule over the Holy Land. However, Muslim forces reconquered the land by the 13th century, and subsequent crusades were not very successful. The specific crusades to restore Christian control of the Holy Land were fought over a period of nearly years, between and Other campaigns in Spain and Portugal the Reconquista , and Northern Crusades continued into the 15th century. The Crusades had major far-reaching political, economic, and social impacts on Europe. They further served to alienate Eastern and Western Christendom from each other and ultimately failed to prevent the march of the Turks into Europe through the Balkans and the Caucasus. Cathedral schools began in the Early Middle Ages as centers of advanced education, some of them ultimately evolving into medieval universities. The medieval universities of Western Christendom were well-integrated across all of Western Europe, encouraged freedom of enquiry and produced a great variety of fine scholars and natural philosophers, including Robert Grosseteste of the University of Oxford , an early expositor of a systematic method of scientific experimentation; [17] and Saint Albert the Great , a pioneer of biological field research [18] The Italian University of Bologna is considered the oldest continually operating university. Philosophy in the High Middle Ages focused on

religious topics. However, in the 12th century the works of Aristotle were reintroduced to the West, which resulted in a new school of inquiry known as scholasticism, which emphasized scientific observation. The *Summa Theologica* by Aquinas was one of the most influential documents in medieval philosophy and Thomism continues to be studied today in philosophy classes. Theologian Peter Abelard wrote in "I must understand in order that I may believe They played a major political, military, and cultural role in medieval Europe and even the Near East. They were famed for their martial spirit and Christian piety. They quickly adopted the Romance language of the land they settled off, their dialect becoming known as Norman, an important literary language. The Duchy of Normandy, which they formed by treaty with the French crown, was one of the great large fiefs of medieval France. The Normans are famed both for their culture, such as their unique Romanesque architecture, and their musical traditions, as well as for their military accomplishments and innovations. Norman adventurers established a kingdom in Sicily and southern Italy by conquest, and a Norman expedition on behalf of their duke led to the Norman Conquest of England. Relations between the major powers in Western society: If a monarch attempted to challenge church power, condemnation from the church could mean a total loss of support among the nobles, peasants, and other monarchs. Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV, one of the most powerful men of the 11th century, stood three days bare-headed in the snow at Canossa in, in order to reverse his excommunication by Pope Gregory VII. As monarchies centralized their power as the Middle Ages progressed, nobles tried to maintain their own authority. His realm stretched through Southern Italy, through Germany and in, he crowned himself King of Jerusalem. His reign saw tension and rivalry with the Papacy over control of Northern Italy. Plantagenet kings first ruled the Kingdom of England in the 12th century. Henry V left his mark with a famous victory against larger numbers at the Battle of Agincourt, while Richard the Lionheart, who had earlier distinguished himself in the Third Crusade, was later romanticised as an iconic figure in English folklore. A distinctive English culture emerged under the Plantagenets, encouraged by some of the monarchs who were patrons of the "father of English poetry", Geoffrey Chaucer. The Gothic architecture style was popular during the time, with buildings such as Westminster Abbey remodelled in that style. The Charter required the King to proclaim certain liberties, and accept that his will was not arbitrary – for example by explicitly accepting that no "freeman" non-serf could be punished except through the law of the land, a right which is still in existence today. Political institutions such as the Parliament of England and the Model Parliament originate from the Plantagenet period, as do educational institutions including the universities of Cambridge and Oxford. From the 12th century onward inventiveness had re-asserted itself outside of the Viking north and the Islamic south of Europe. Universities flourished, mining of coal commenced, and crucial technological advances such as the lock, which enabled sail ships to reach the thriving Belgian city of Bruges via canals, and the deep sea ship guided by magnetic compass and rudder were invented. Famines increased and in serious famine gripped Ypres. In, the last of the Greenland Norseman abandoned their colony to the ice.