

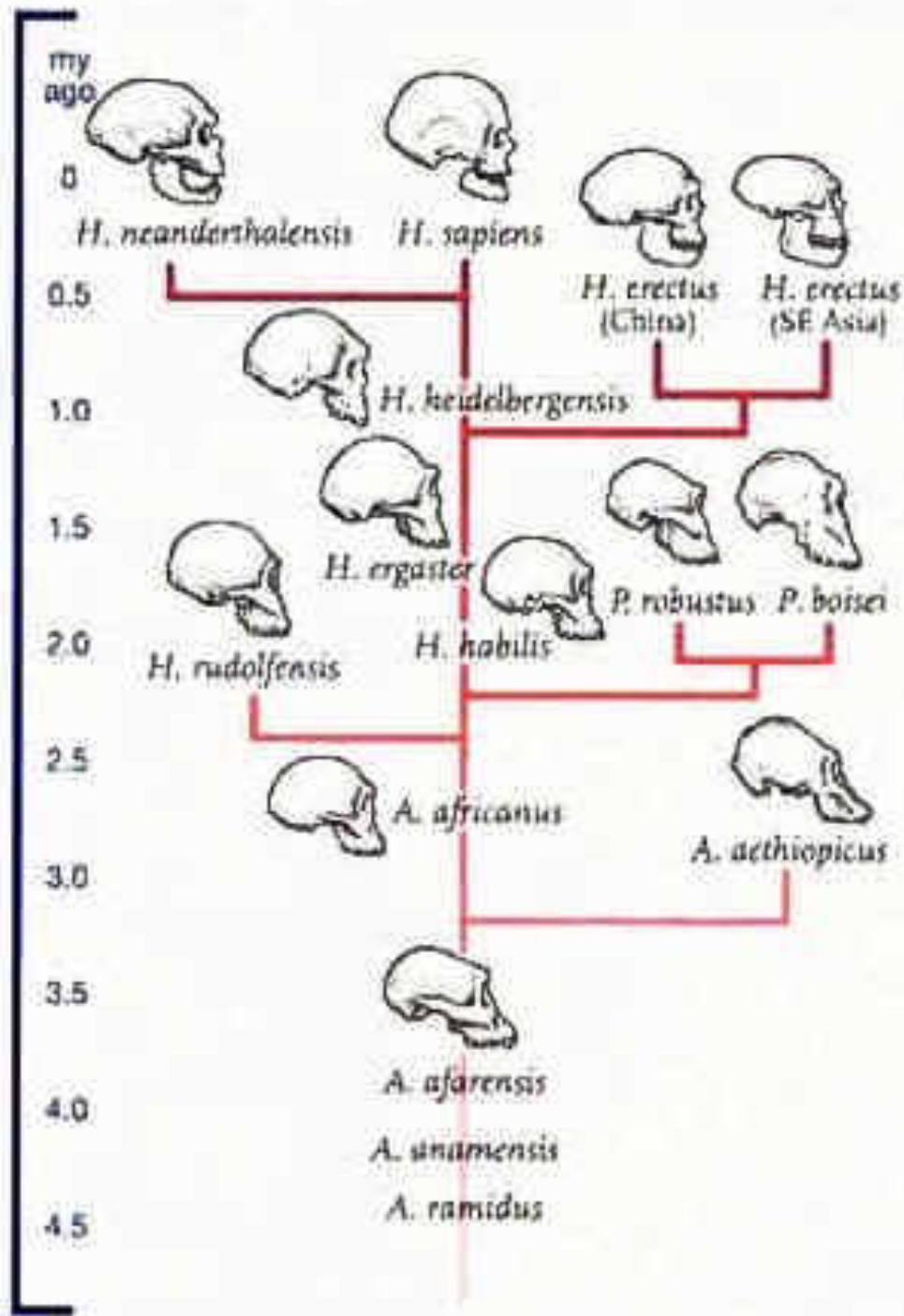
A Synthesis of World History

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World History Center
September 16, 2015

Five Periods in Human history

- 100,000 to 10,000 years ago.
- 10,000 to 3,000 years ago.
- 3000 to 1000 years ago.
- 1000 to 1800 CE.
- 1800 CE to the present.

Framework: human system and its changes



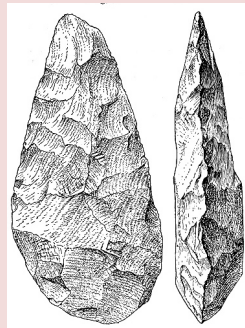
Prelude (mentioned but not discussed):

1) hominid evolution

1) Early Homo sapiens, 200,000 to 100,000 years ago

100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

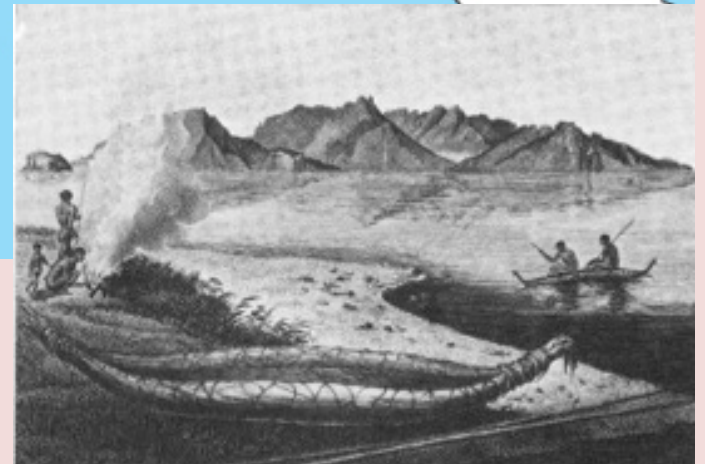
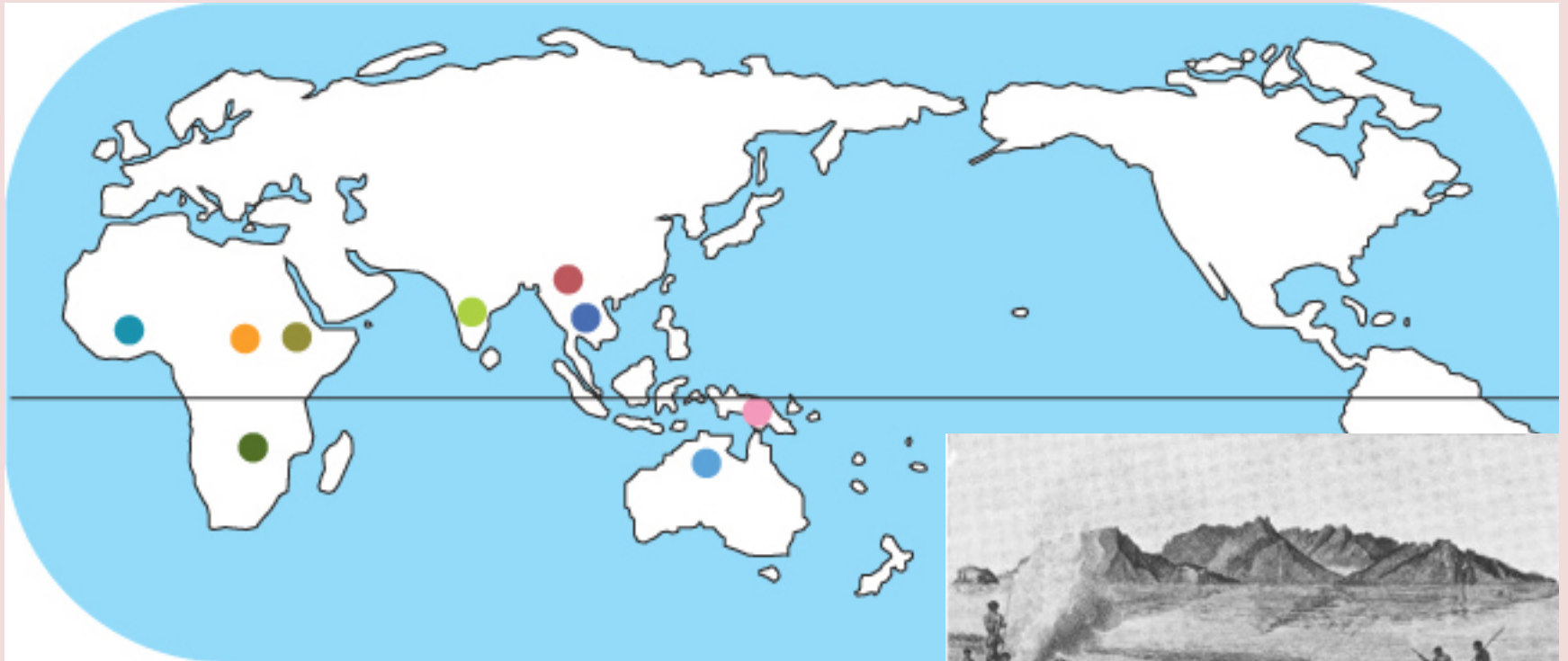
- Language and communication
- Human community
- Representation
- Biological & social evolution



Kakadu, Australia
20,000 years ago

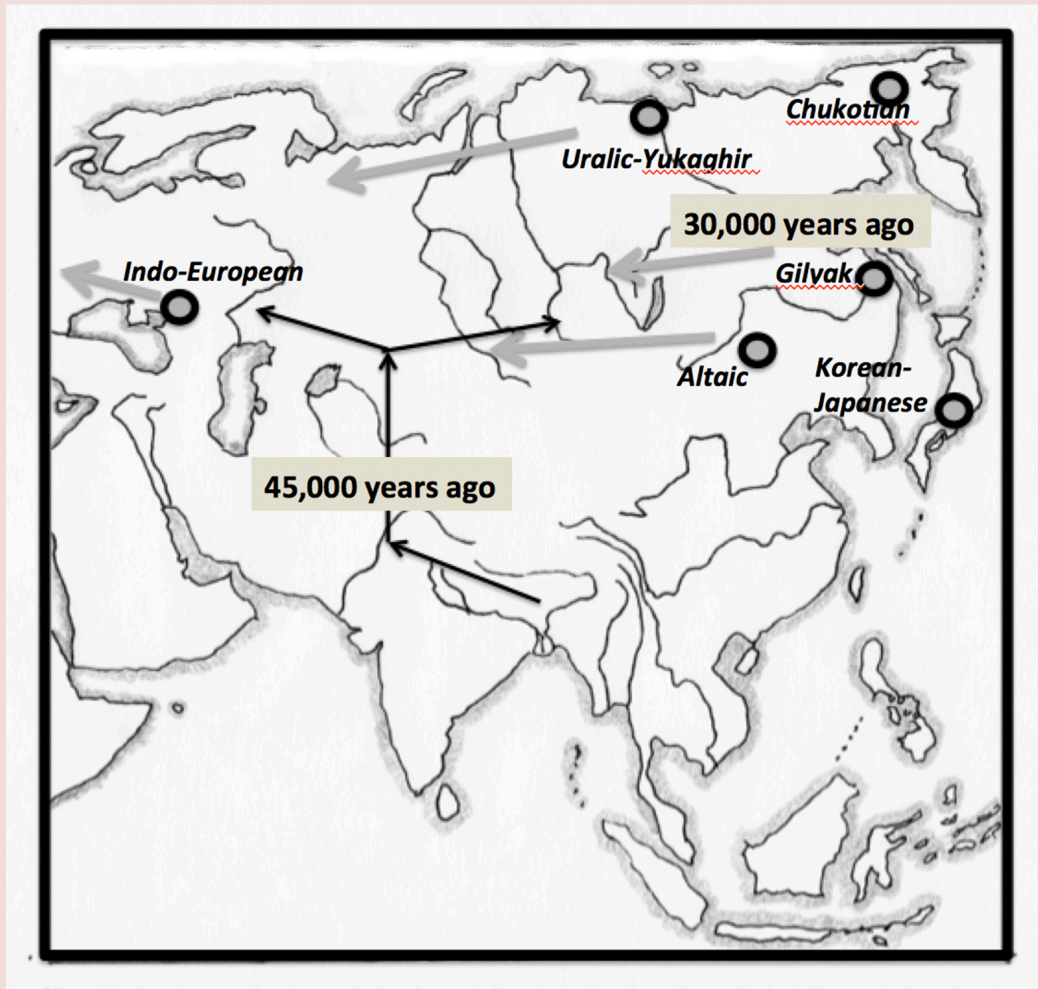
100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Tropical Migration from East Africa,
70,000 to 50,000 years ago



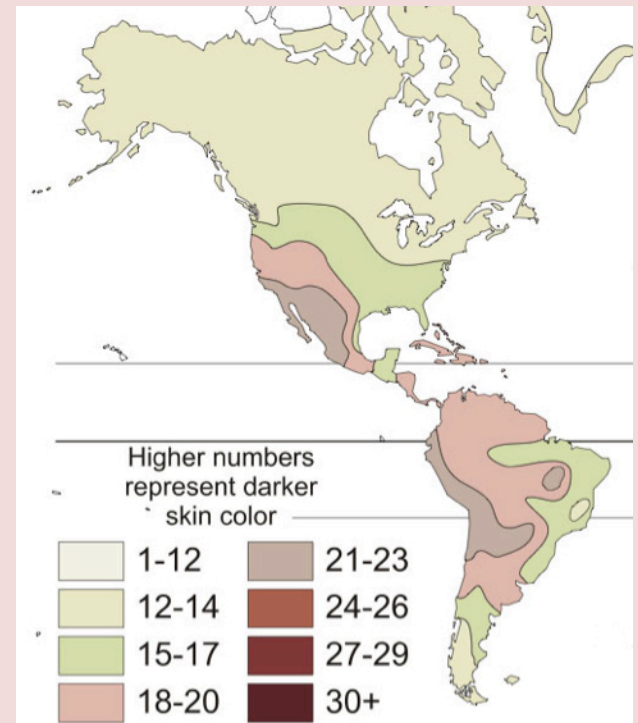
100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Temperate Migration,
45,000 to 30,000 years ago



100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

- Evolution of “race”
- Clothing
- Ice Age, 25,000 – 15,000 years ago
- Expansion of production: pottery, houses, textiles
- Problems of leadership



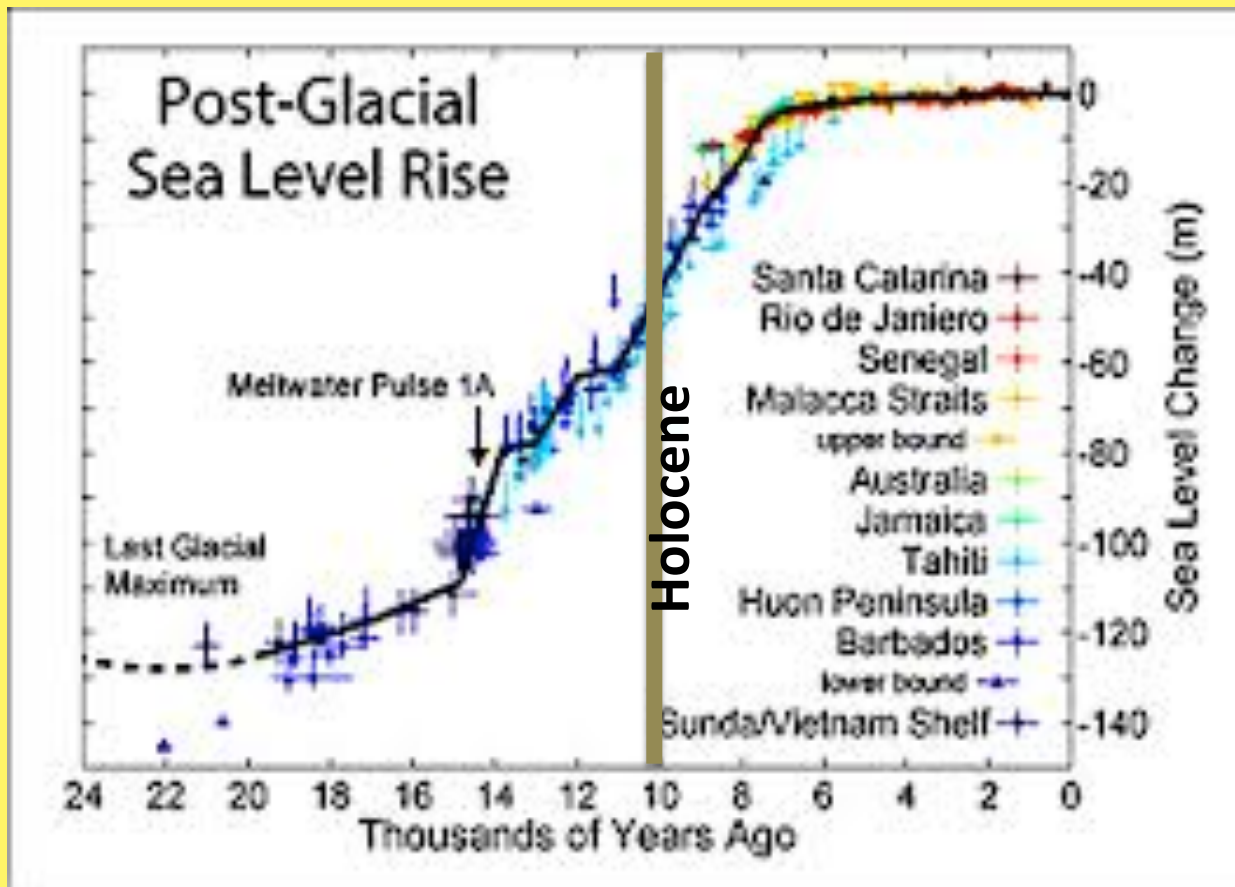
100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

Human System – stage 1

- Thin layer of humanity – almost everywhere
- Local adaptation: innovation
- Migration favored: it brings learning
- Biological exchange (Neanderthal example)
- Continuing biological evolution
- Social evolution

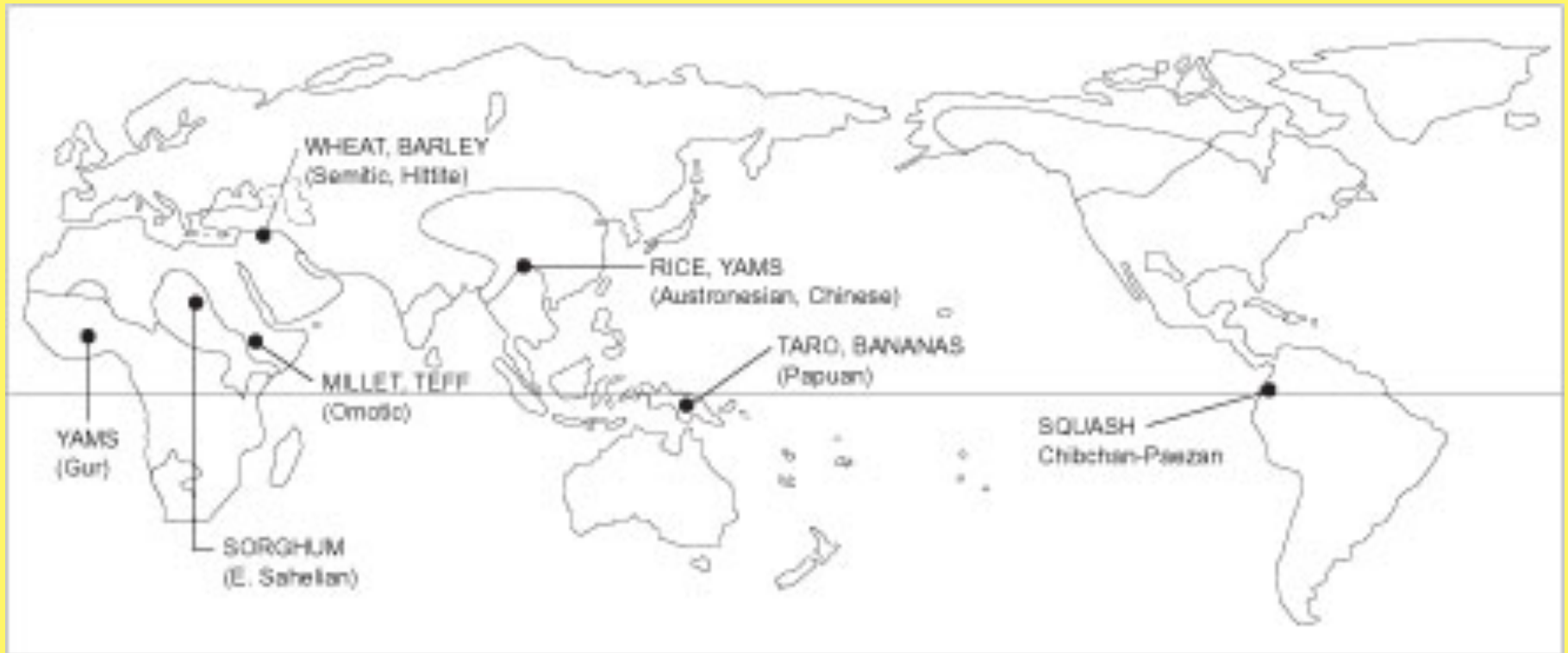
10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

- Early and late Holocene



Agriculture (stages 1 and 2)

First wave, c. 10,000 – 8,000 years ago:



Second wave (6,000 – 5,000 years ago): paddy rice, plows for wheat, maize

Communities – Catalhoyok (Turkey)

9500 – 7600 years ago

Rise and fall: 18 layers of deposits



Public works

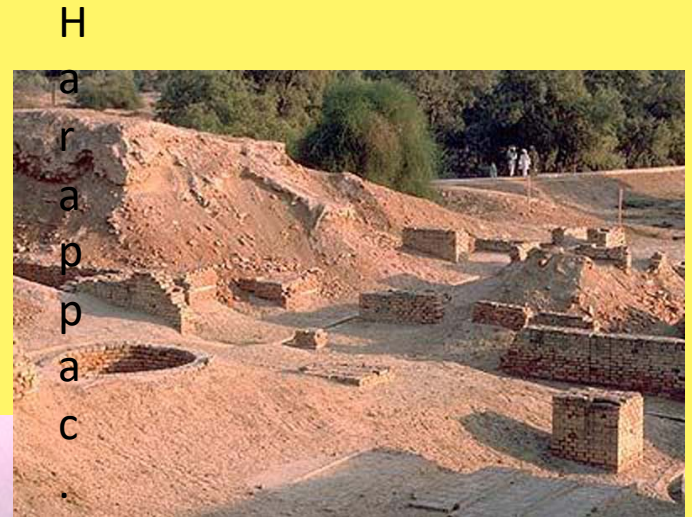
Urban civilization – with or without chiefs



Ur – 4100 years ago



Caral, Supe Valley, Peru, c. 4500 years ago



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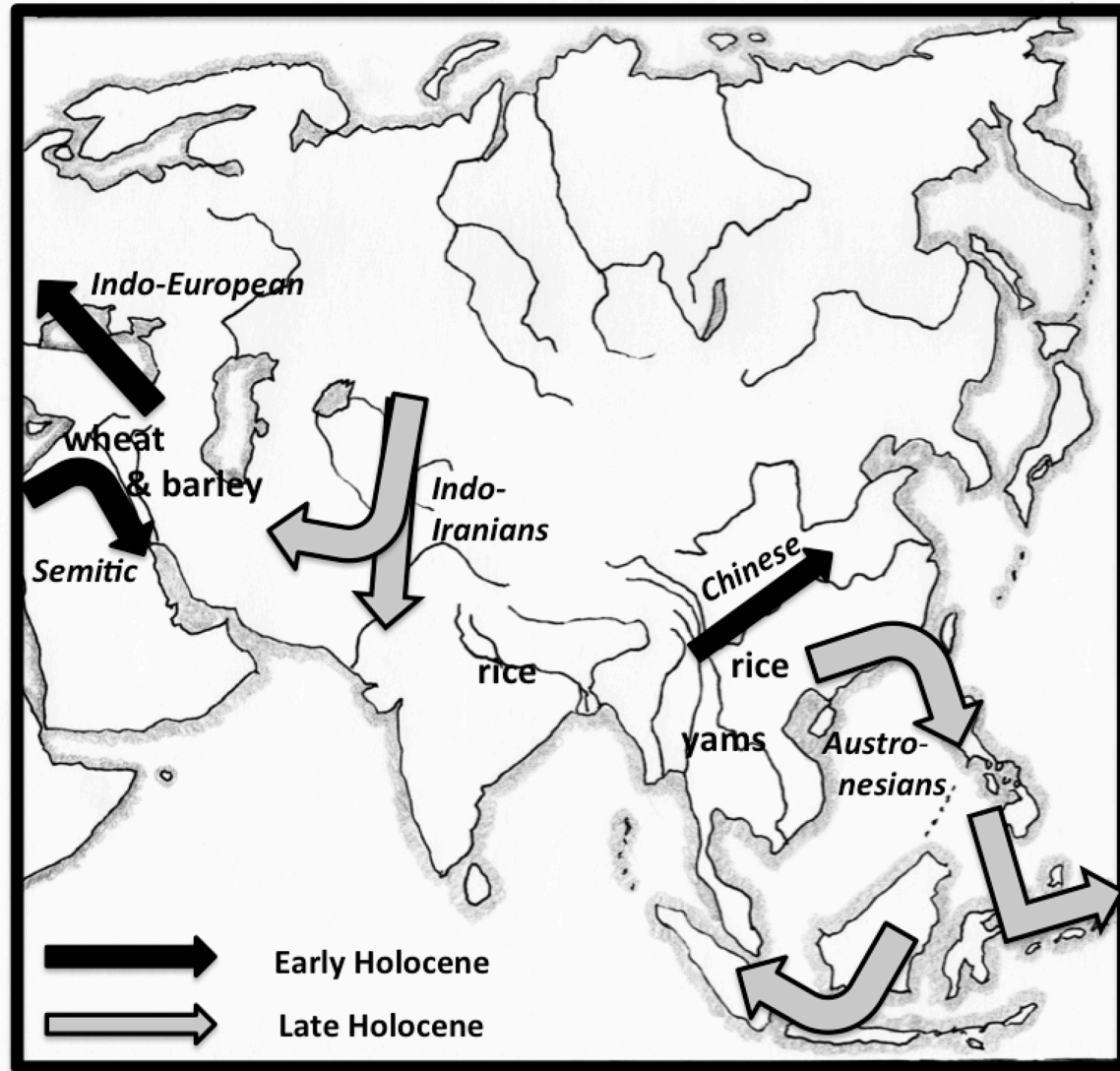
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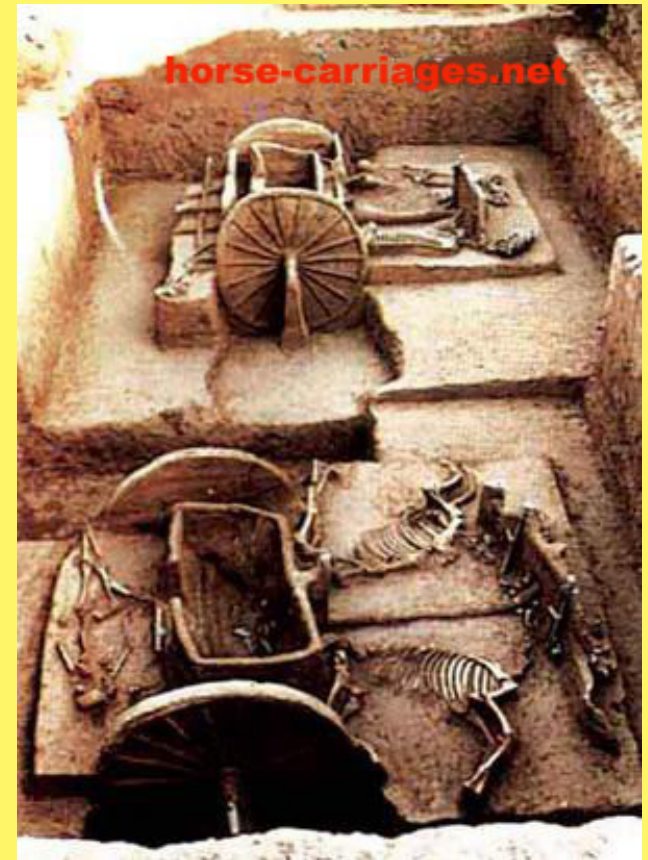


10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

Migration of agricultural civilization



Chariot warfare, c. 4000 years ago



10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

Human System, stage 2

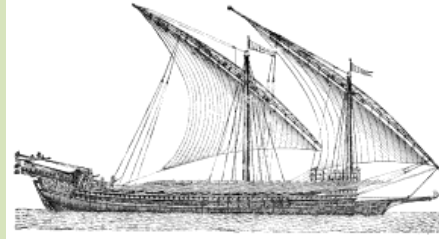
- Logics of change:
 - parallel development: calendars, from 5000 years ago
 - diffusion: horses in war and governance
 - Interaction: interplay of pastoral, agricultural, fishing
- Regional and social diversity
- Political systems and law
- Boundaries and sub-systems: civilizations
- A system without a center

- Big chill, 3000 years ago (first since 12,000 yrs ago)

3000 to 1000 years ago.



Smelting
iron



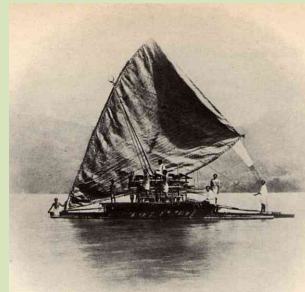
Galley (Mediterranean)



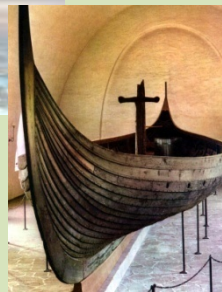
Junk (China Sea)



Dhow
(Indian Ocean)



Proa (Western Pacific)



Viking ships (North Atlantic)

3000 to 1000 years ago.

Commerce and money

- From exchange to commerce
- Moneys – cowries, silver, etc.



Empires

Empires named by time and place

Major Empire; Important State; Smaller State; Invading Group

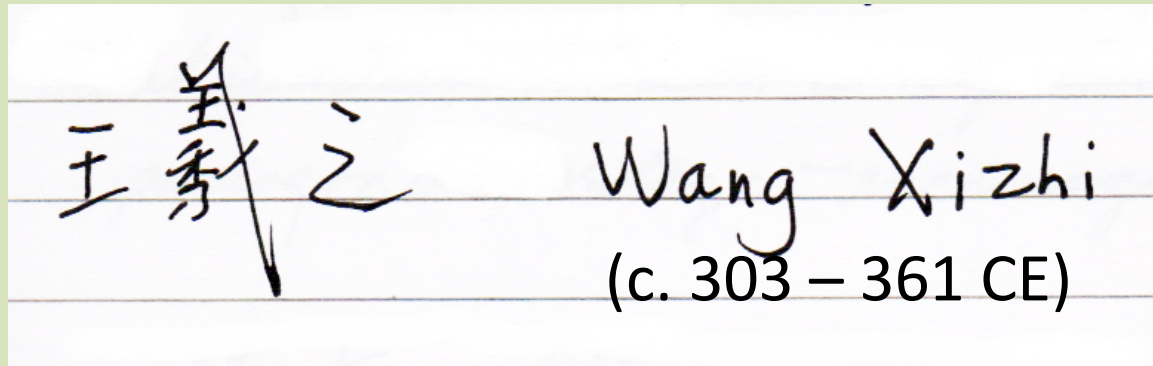
	500 BCE - 200 BCE <u>Darius & Alexander</u>	200 BCE - 300 CE <u>Rome and Han</u>	300 CE - 600 CE <u>Dark Ages</u>	600 - 900 CE <u>Tang, Umayyads, Abbasids</u>	900 - 1200 CE <u>The Song Era</u>
Northern Europe		Rome (50 BCE – 300 CE)	<u>Germanic invaders</u>	Carolingians	<u>Vikings</u>
Mediterranean	Carthage (800-164 BCE) <u>Achaemenids</u> (550-330 BCE) <u>Hellenistic</u> (312-63 BCE)	<u>Rome</u> (300 BCE-476 CE)	<u>Huns</u> <u>Byzantines</u> (300-1450 CE)	<u>Byzantines</u> (300-1450 CE) <u>Umayyads</u> (634-750 CE) <u>Abbasids</u> (750-900)	<u>Byzantines</u> (300-1450 CE) <u>Fatimids</u> (909-1171) <u>Almoravids</u> (1061-1147) <u>Almohads</u> (1149-1269) <u>Ayubids</u> (1169-1260)
West Asia	<u>Achaemenids</u> (550-330 BCE) <u>Hellenistic</u> (312-63 BCE)	<u>Rome</u> (100 BCE-300 CE) <u>Parthians</u> (247 BCE-228 CE)	<u>Sasanids</u> (224-642 CE)	<u>Umayyads</u> (634-750 CE) <u>Abbasids</u> (750-1037)	<u>Seljuks</u> (1037-1194)
South Asia	<u>Mauvians</u> (322-185 BCE)		<u>Gupta</u> (320-550 CE) <u>Huns</u>		<u>Chola</u> (850-1267)
Central Asia	Greco-Bactrian (225-130 BCE)	<u>Kushans</u>	<u>Xiongnu</u> <u>Gok Turk</u> (550-750)	<u>Abbasids</u>	<u>Ghaznavids</u> (975-1187)
East Asia		<u>Han</u> (206 BCE – 220 CE)	<u>Xiongnu</u> <u>Wei</u>	<u>Tang</u> (618-907)	<u>Song</u> (960-1127) <u>Southern Song</u> (1127-1279) <u>Jurchen</u> (1127-12200)
Southeast Asia			<u>Funan</u> (100 -800)	<u>Srivijaya</u> (650-1250) <u>Khmer</u> (800-1300)	<u>Srivijaya</u> (650-1250) <u>Khmer</u> (800-1300)
East Africa		Meroe (4 th BCE – 325 CE)	Aksum (50 -550 CE)	<u>Nubia</u> (4 th – 13 th)	Ethiopia
West Africa				Ghana (c. 600 – 1076)	Ghana (to 1076) <u>Almoravids</u>
Mesoamerica	<u>Olmec</u> (to 400 BCE)	Monte Alban (1-500 CE) Teotihuacan (1-500 CE)	Maya (200-900)	Maya (200-900)	
South America					<u>Chimu</u> <u>Tiahuanaco</u>

3000 to 1000 years ago.

Birthplaces of prophets & philosophers.
Borrowing of religious practices.



Achievements in Culture



Famed poet and calligrapher of the Six Dynasties era
(Penned by Zhang Shunhong, Director, Institute for World History, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)

3000 to 1000 years ago

Human System – stage 3

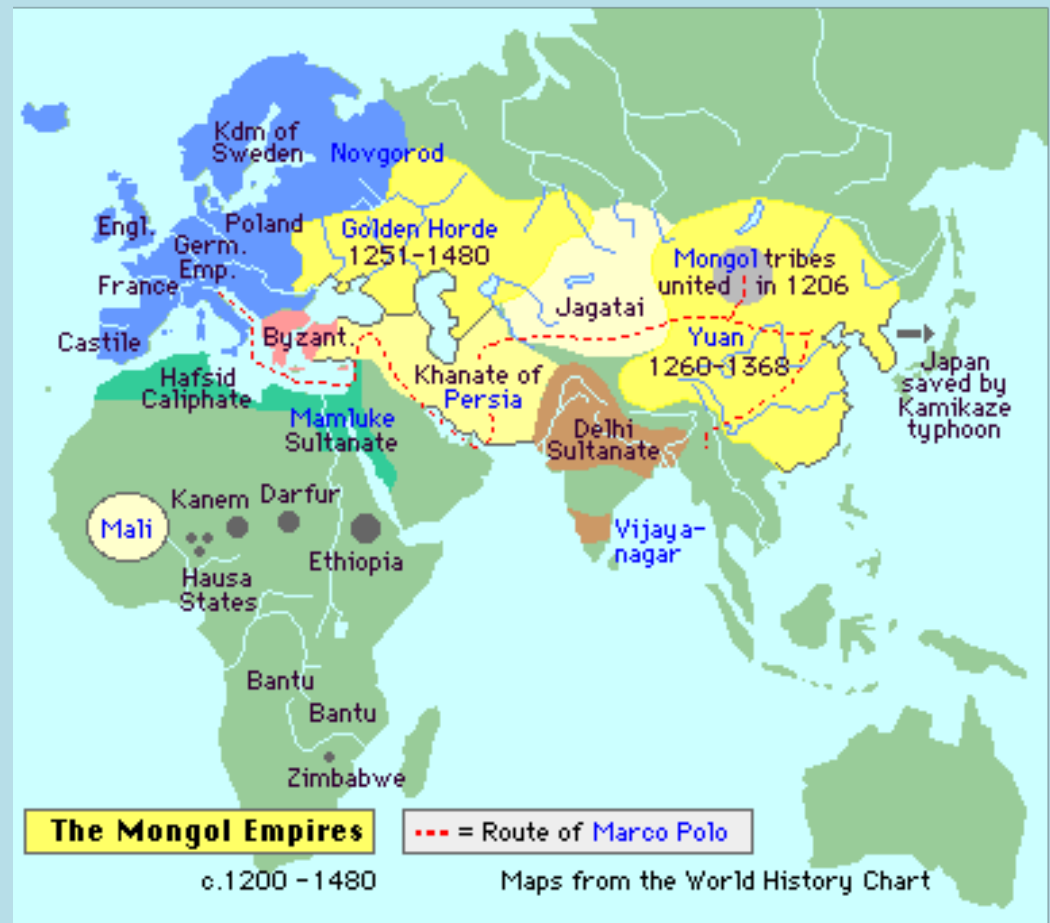
- Borders
- Subsystems
- Large-scale
- Emergent properties
- There were conscious effort at creation of divisions within society; differences were rationalized as ordained by nature or God.

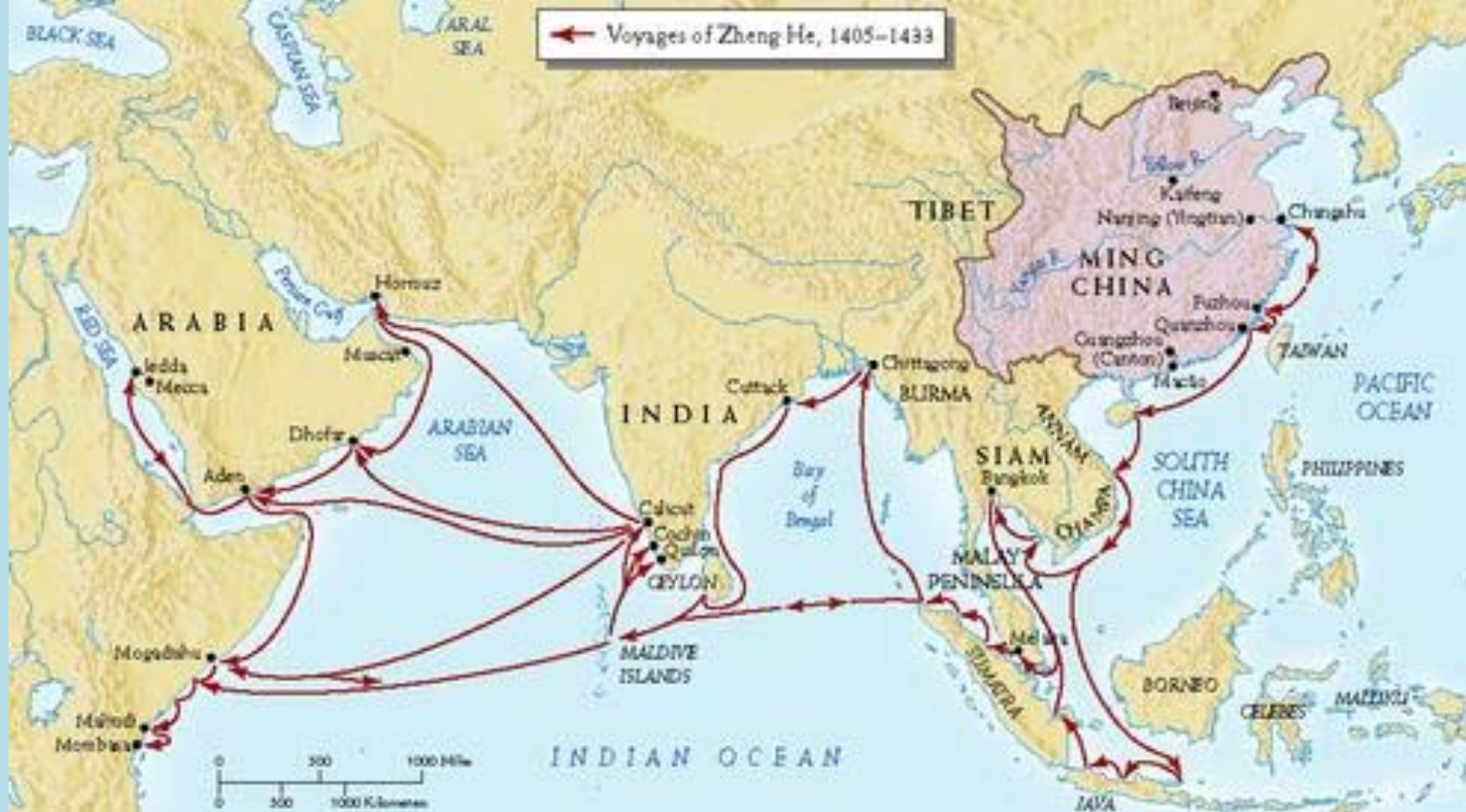
1000 to 1800 CE.

Medieval warming – everywhere.

Song preeminence ...
Then Mongol conquest.

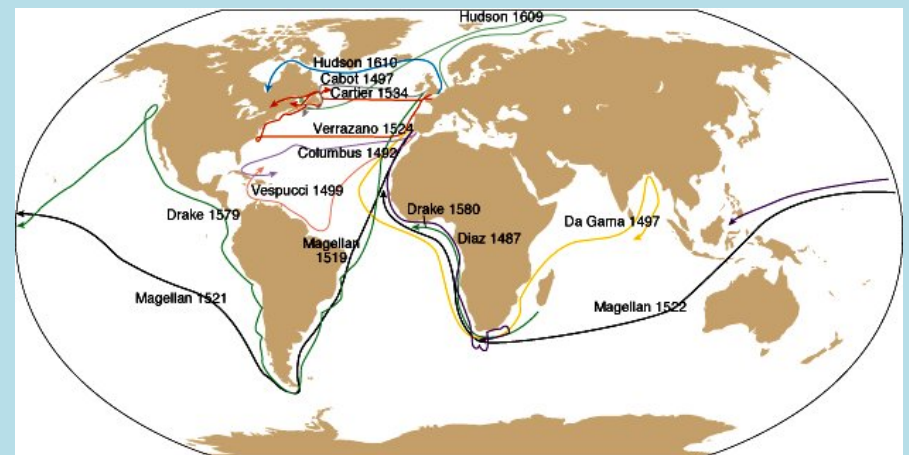
Connections across the
Old World mainland





Connections across the
Eastern and Pacific oceans

Global maritime links



1000 to 1800 CE.

- Shock of deeper global interaction
 - Pandemics (Eurasia, 14th C; Americas 16th C; Pacific 18th C),
- People everywhere learned of earth's shape and sections
- “17th-century crisis” –climate, global links



The Ancients and the Moderns

- Modern technology vs. ancient wisdom
 - As debated in Europe, Islamic world, China
- Religious conflict
 - In Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Judaism

Social Stratification

- New identities worldwide
 - Birthplace, religion, color, legal status, gender, occupation
- Diasporas: European and African

Governance

- How to achieve stable governance in a more interactive world?
- Political theory in Europe, Qing, Tokugawa, Mogul, Iran, Dutch, colonies



1000 to 1800 CE.

Human System – stage 4

- Deepen boundaries – social strata, religions and civilizations, hierarchies
- Expand connections
- Capitalism arose by stages – commerce, production, consumption, technology
- New classes – slavery and peasantry expand
- Colonialism

1800 CE to the present.

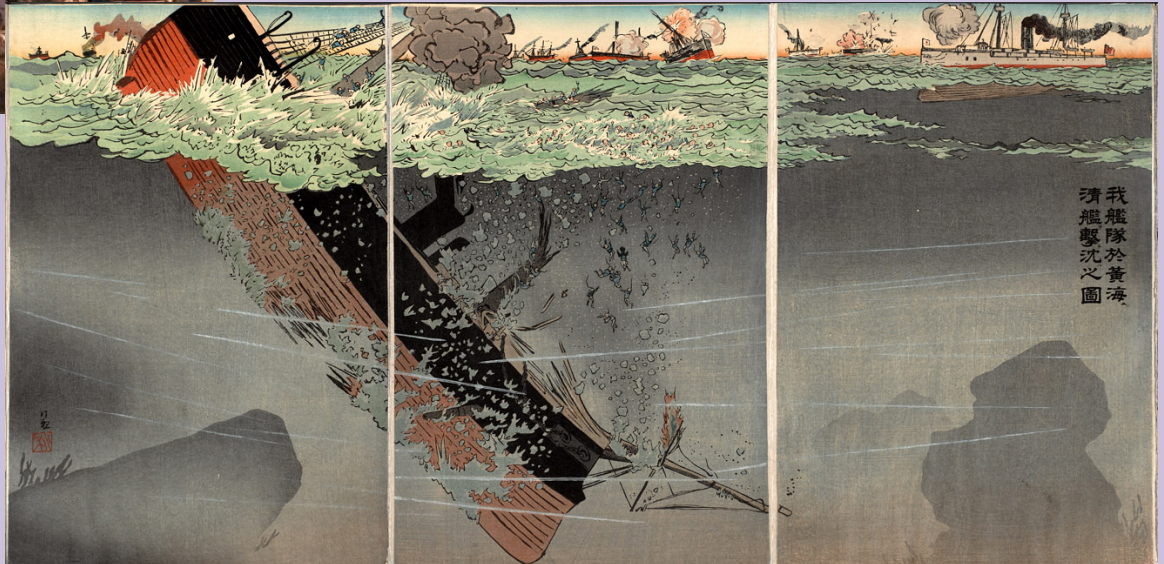
- Empires, nations, diasporas – rise of nations and diasporas



- Empire and decolonization – is empire done at present?
- Literacy, education, and science
- Ideological confrontation – religion, social organization, science

1800 CE to the present.

Expanded warfare



1800 CE to the present.

Divergence

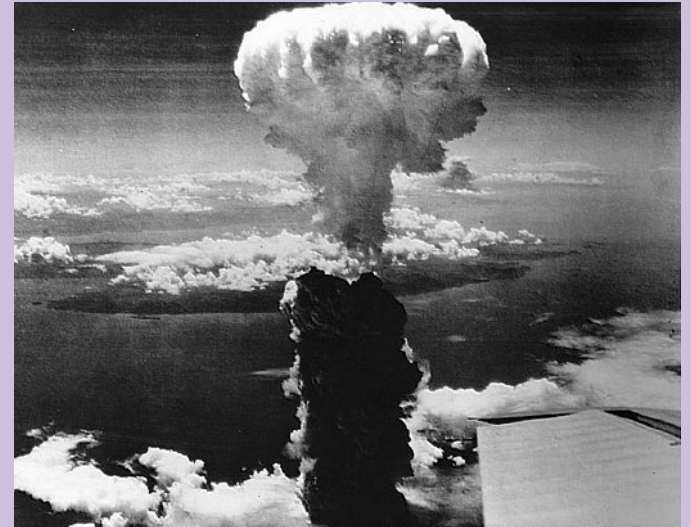
- Divergence during the 19th; reinforced 20th
- Finance gains power
- Urbanization by stages



1800 CE to the present.

Industry & Science

- Positivism
- Power – steam, electric, gasoline, atomic, mixes
- Medicine



1800 CE to the present.

Human System – stage 5

- Growing contradictions
- Hierarchy and egalitarianism
- System still escapes conscious human control
- Instant communication
- New forms of cultural representation
- Environmental change



The View of Today's Historian

- HUMAN SYSTEM, OVERALL?
- NEW EVIDENCE: We now know about the temporal depth of history, the origin of our species, climate change, and biological vs. social evolution.
- INHERITED HISTORIOGRAPHY: We use the term “modernity” is to encompass the problem of rapid change, but the concept is caught up in a civilizational framework.

Processes & Dynamics of Systemic Change

... focus on social history at global level

- **Generations** and renewal
- **Localization and Globalization**
 - Rise & fall, competition & collaboration, interchange
- **Community influence on the global**
 - Examples from Africa and its diaspora
- Elite powers

Topics & Themes of Change

- Representation ... and knowledge
- Gender – collaboration & battle of the sexes
- War and Conflict – great wars 19th – 20th
- Literacy and Education

Conclusions: Human Dilemma 1

The Axemaker's Gift, Burke & Ornstein, 1995

Cut-and-control mentality, ignoring external effects.

CO2

Positivism – Comte, Marx, Hegel

Idea of “first globalization” is positivistic

Should we study a human system or an earth system? (World History vs. Big History)

Human Dilemma 2

Inequality

- **Social-science views:** violence and hierarchy are inherent
- **Natural science views:** inequality is wasteful
- **Alternatives to inequality:** share, limit growth, expand innovation

History, the Present, and the Future

This has been an argument that the human system **exists now, has existed** for a hundred thousand years, and **has changed** in discernible ways over that time.

World history can be seen as the study of history in this framework.

For the future, we should try to identify ways the human system **is changing** and ways it **could change**.



New occupational groups

70,000 – 10,000

Foragers

Hunters

Fishers

Domestics

Artisans

Warriors

Slaves

10,000 – 3000

Farmers

Pastoralists

Nobles & rulers

Priests

3000 – 1000

Bureaucrats

Merchants

Wage workers

1000 – 1800 CE

Entrepreneurs