

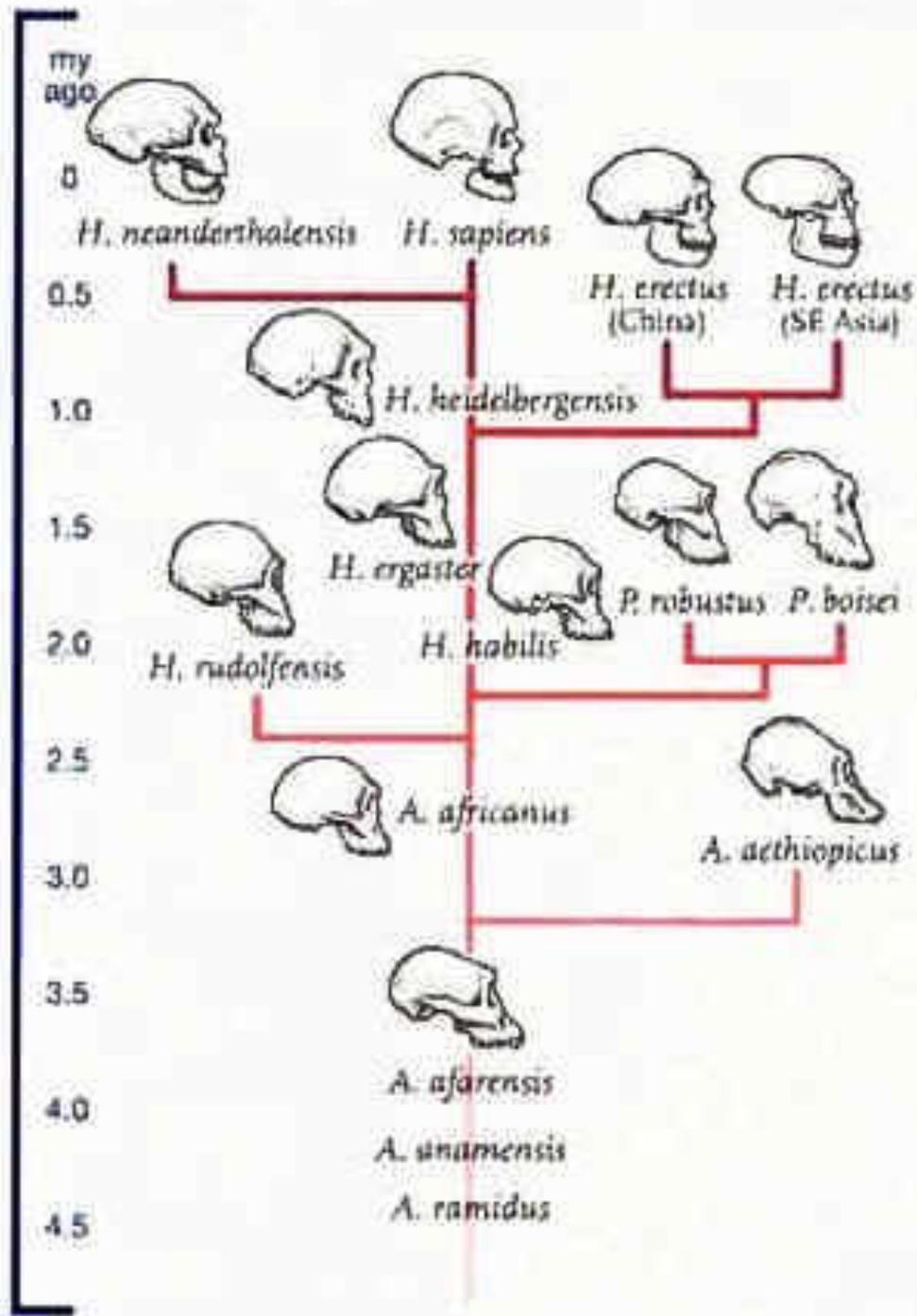
# A Synthesis of World History

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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



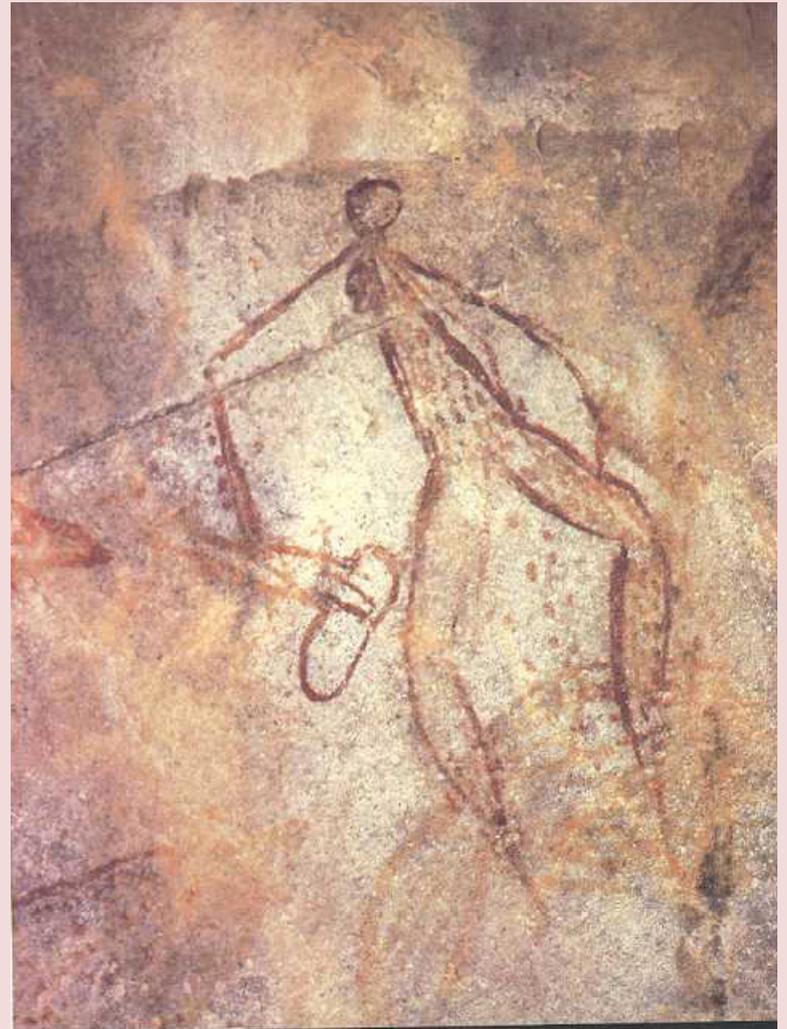
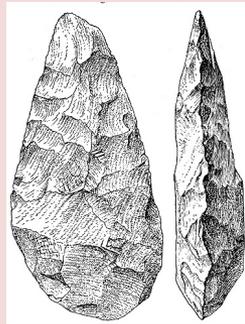
**Prelude (mentioned but not discussed):**

**1) hominid evolution**

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

# 100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

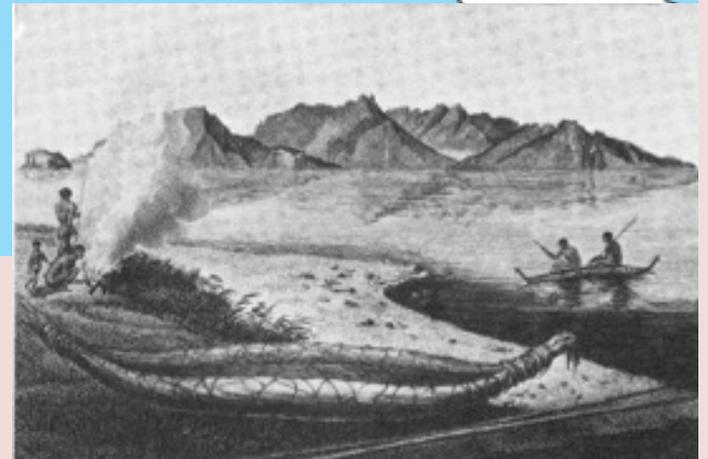
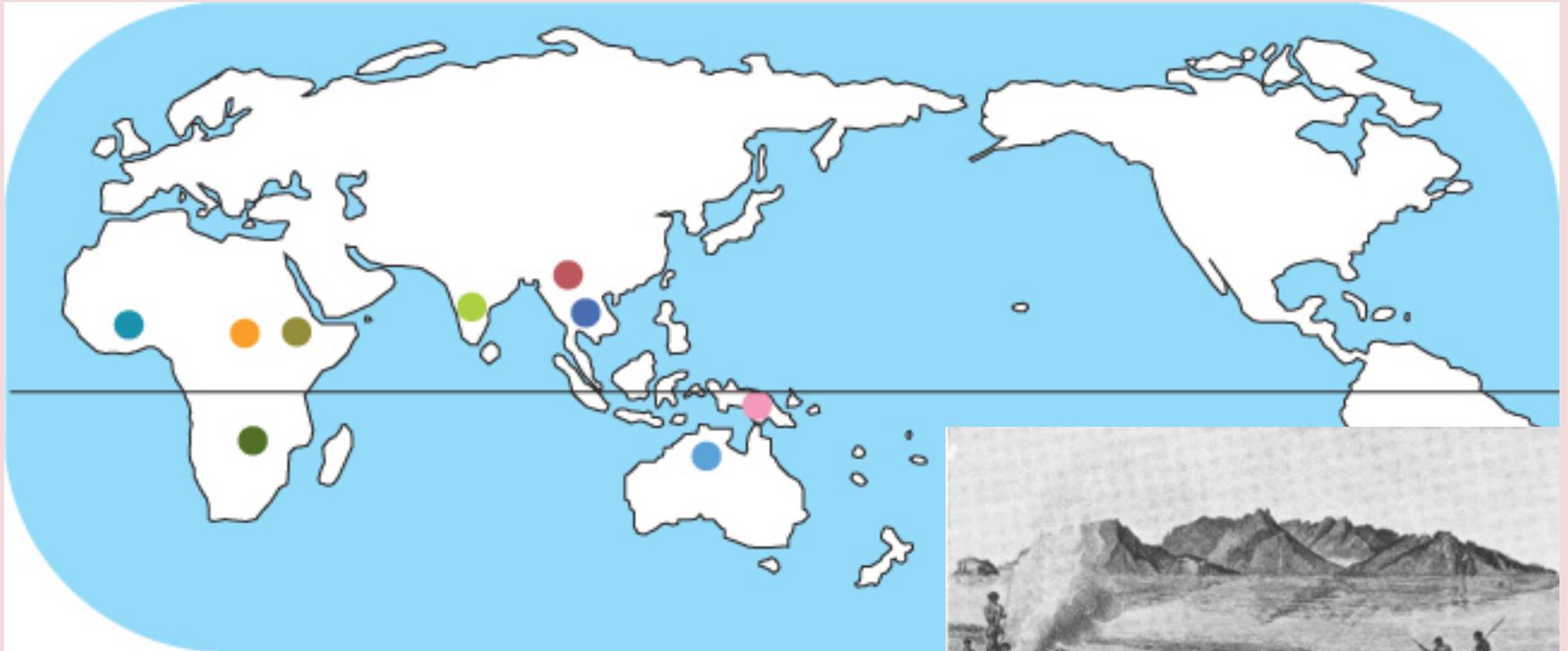
- Language and communication
- Human community
- Representation
- Biological & social evolution



Kakadu, Australia  
20,000 years ago

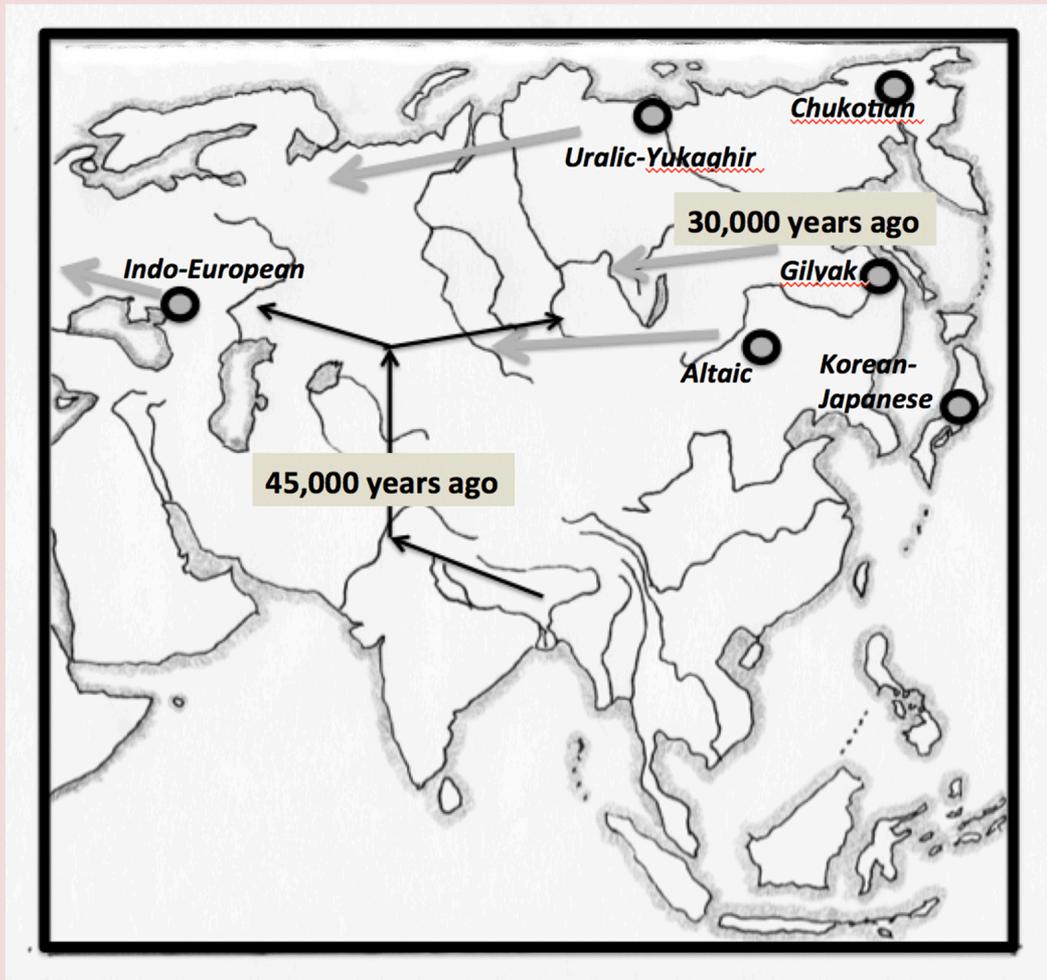
**100,000 to 10,000 years ago.**

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



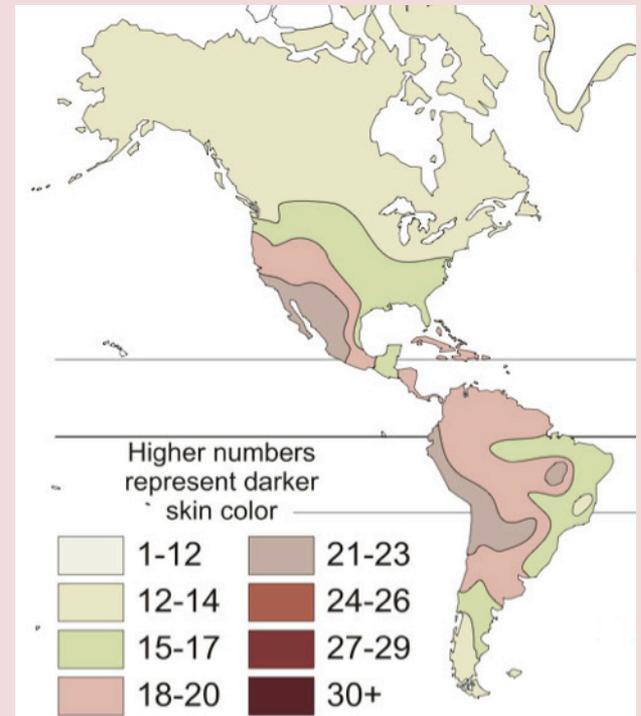
# 100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

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



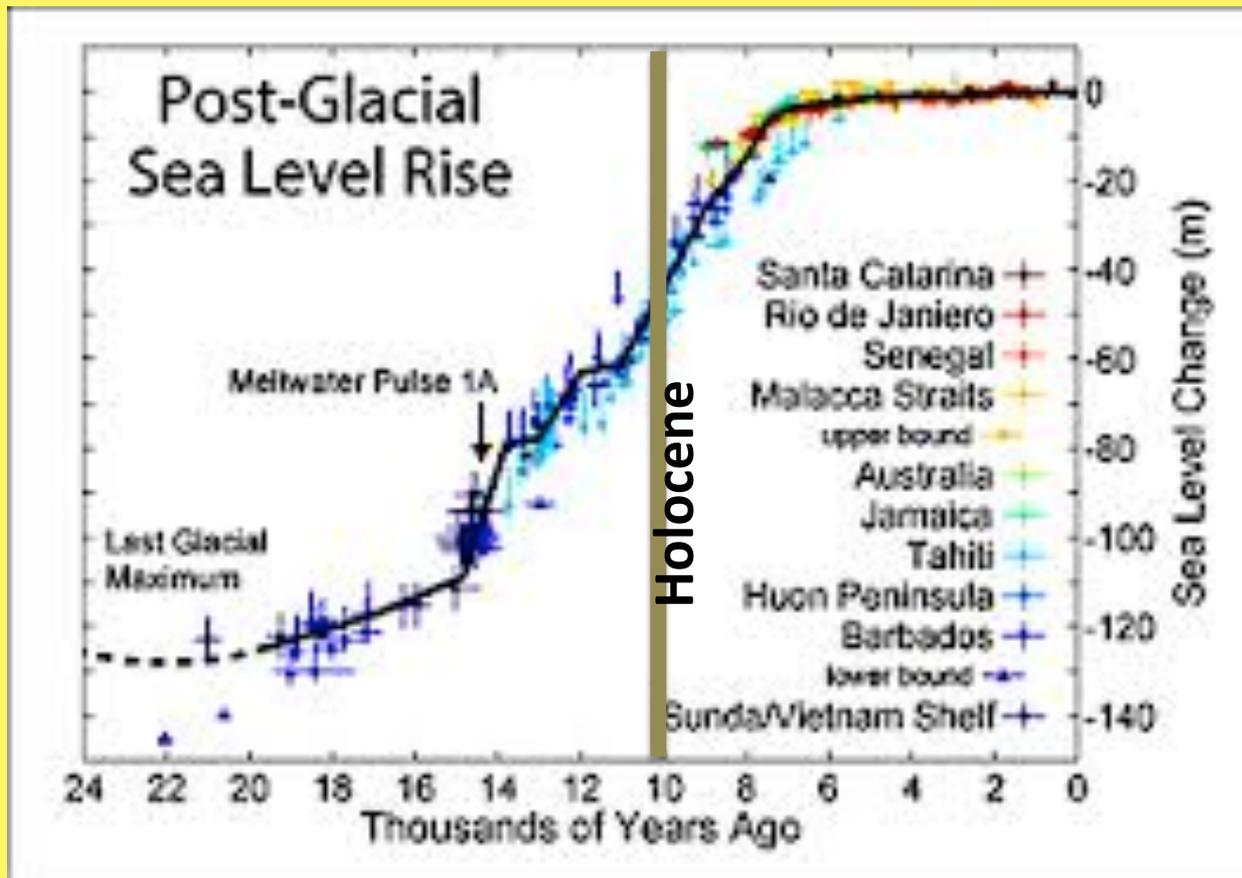
# 100,000 to 10,000 years ago.

## 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

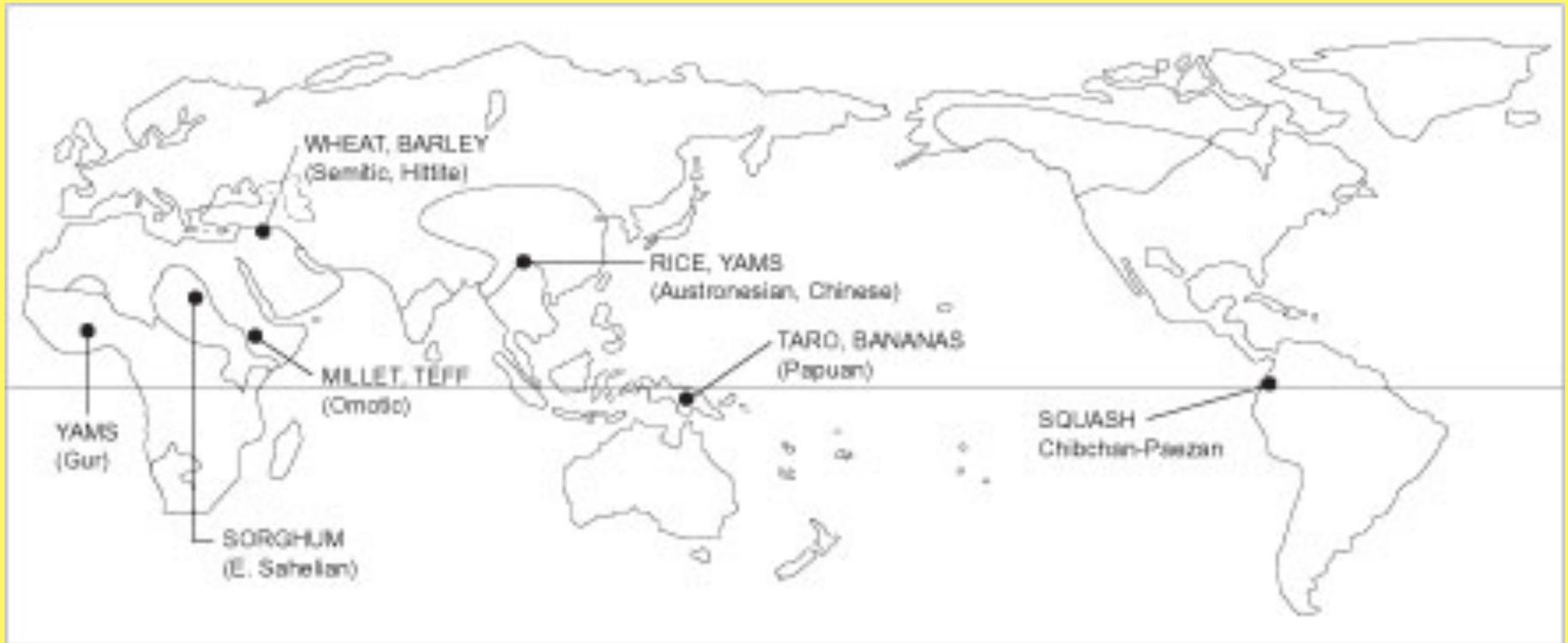
# 10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

- 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

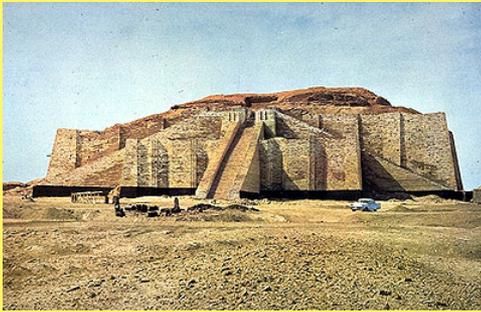
# Communities – Catalhoyok (Turkey) 9500 – 7600 years ago

Rise and fall: 18 layers of deposits



# Public works

## Urban civilization – with or without chiefs



Ur – 4100 years ago

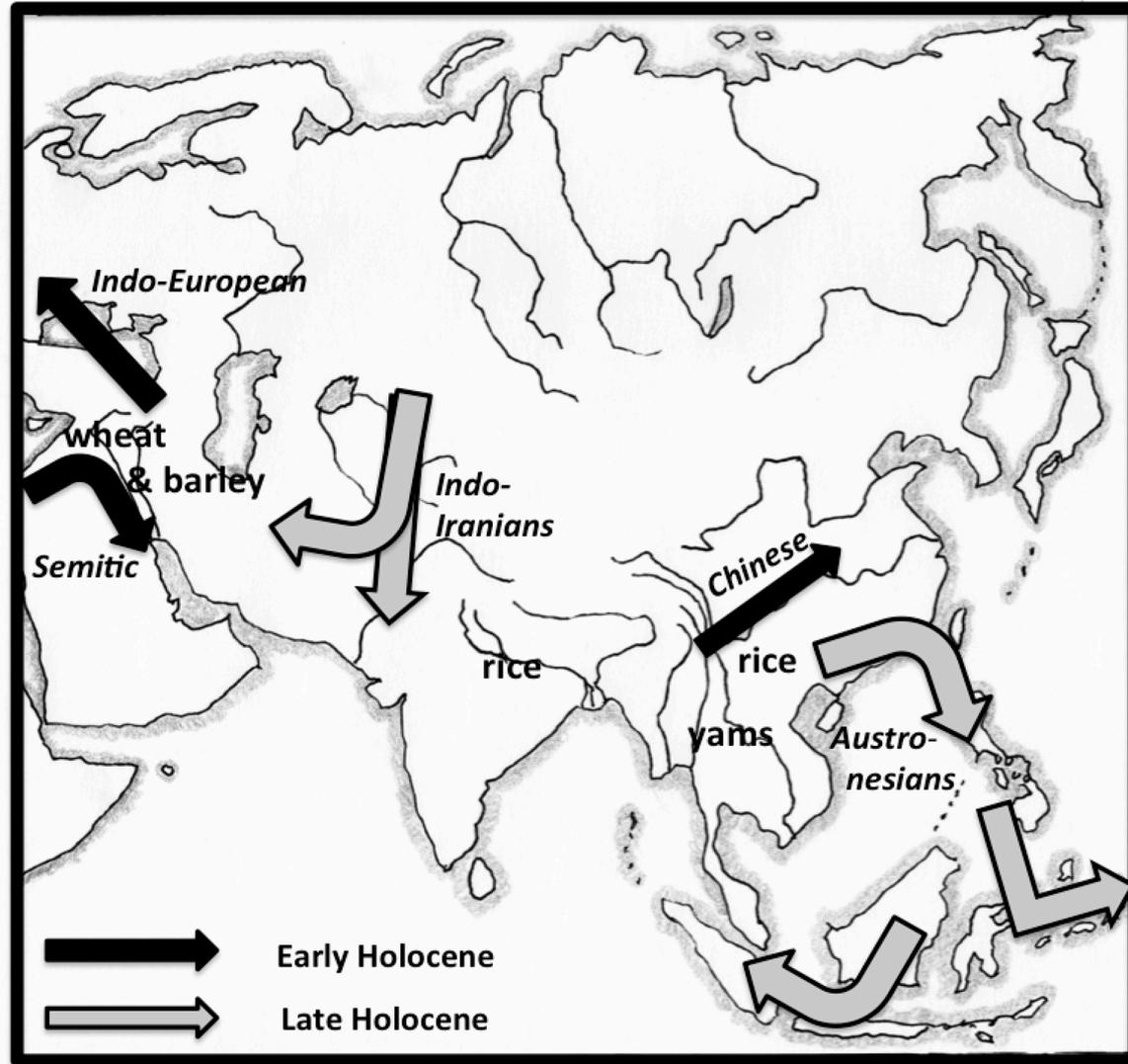


Caral, Supe Valley, Peru, c. 4500 years ago

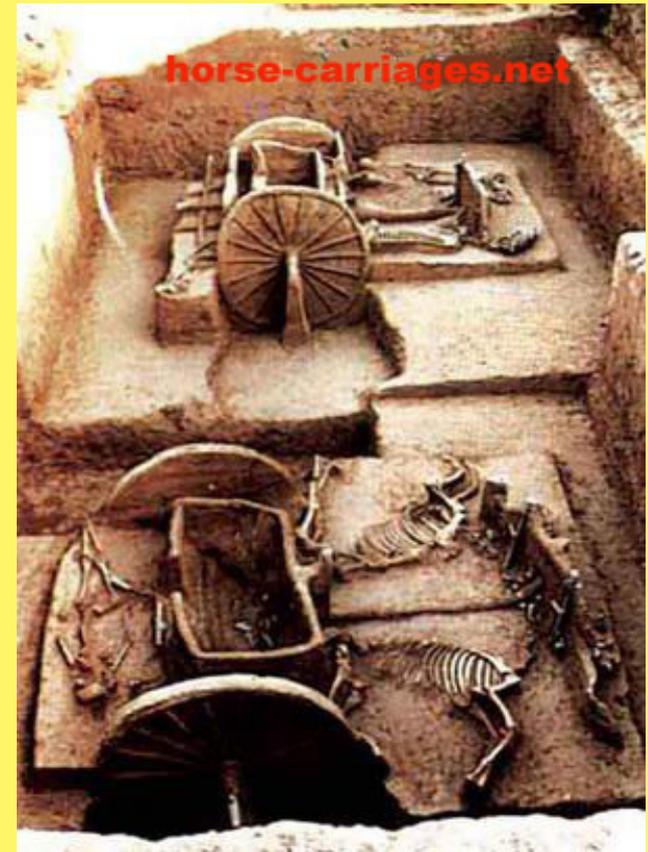
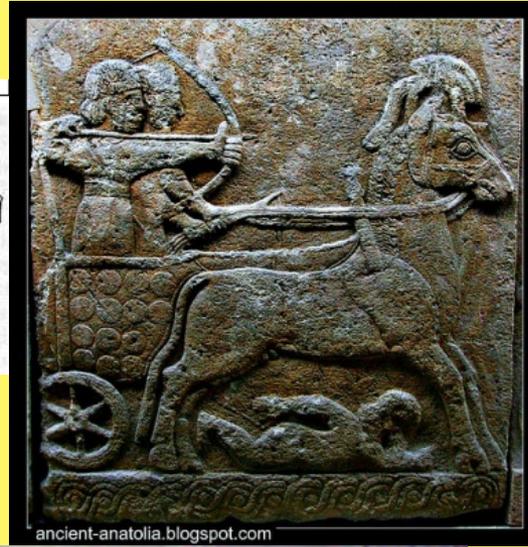


10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

# Migration of agricultural civilization



# Chariot warfare, c. 4000 years ago

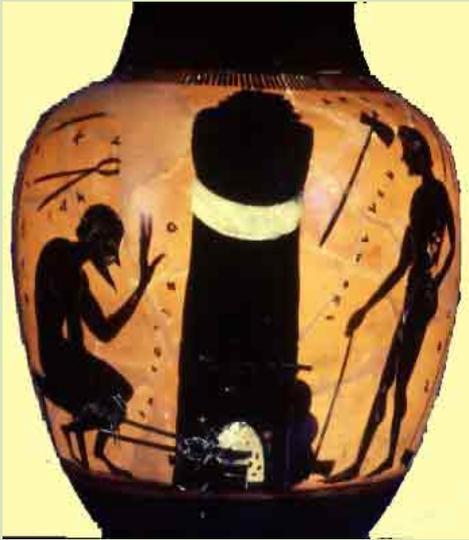


# 10,000 to 3,000 years ago.

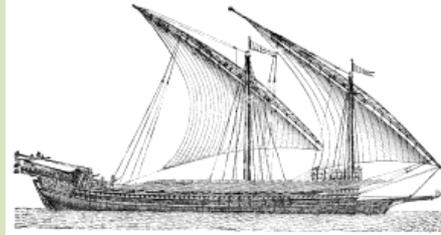
## Human System, stage 2

- 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



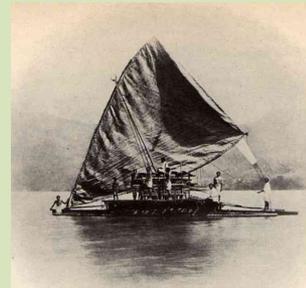
Galley (Mediterranean)



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

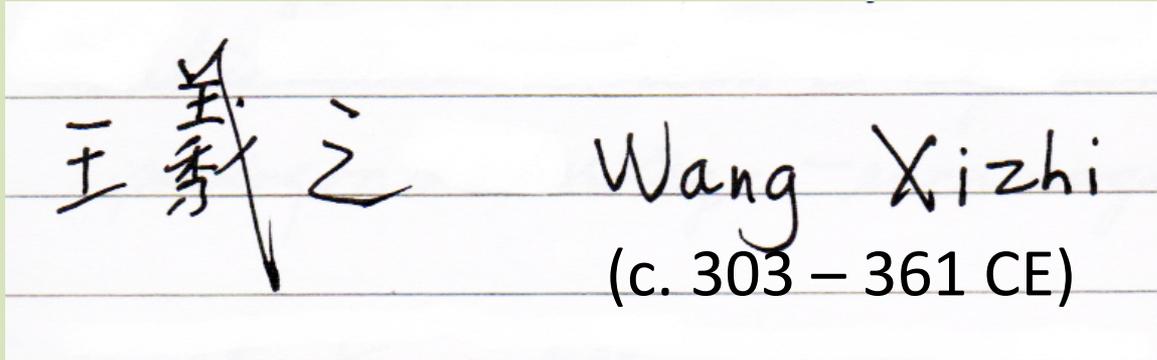
|                        | 500 BCE - 200 BCE   | 200 BCE - 300 CE  | 300 CE - 600 CE                                | 600 - 900 CE   | 900 - 1200 CE   |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
|                        | <u>Darius &amp; Alexander</u>   | <u>Rome and Han</u>   | <u>Dark Ages</u> 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

# 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

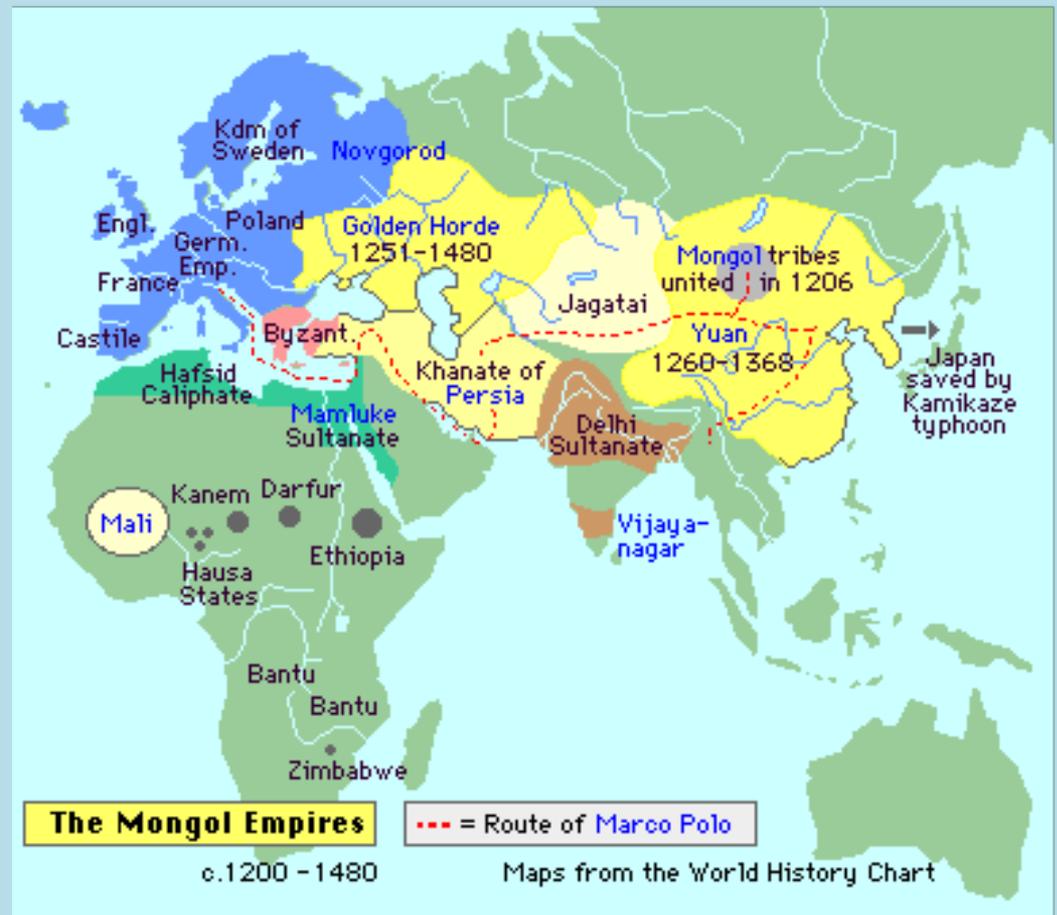
- Borders
- Subsystems
- Large-scale
- Emergent properties
- There were conscious effort at creation of divisions within society; differences were rationalized as ordained by nature or God.

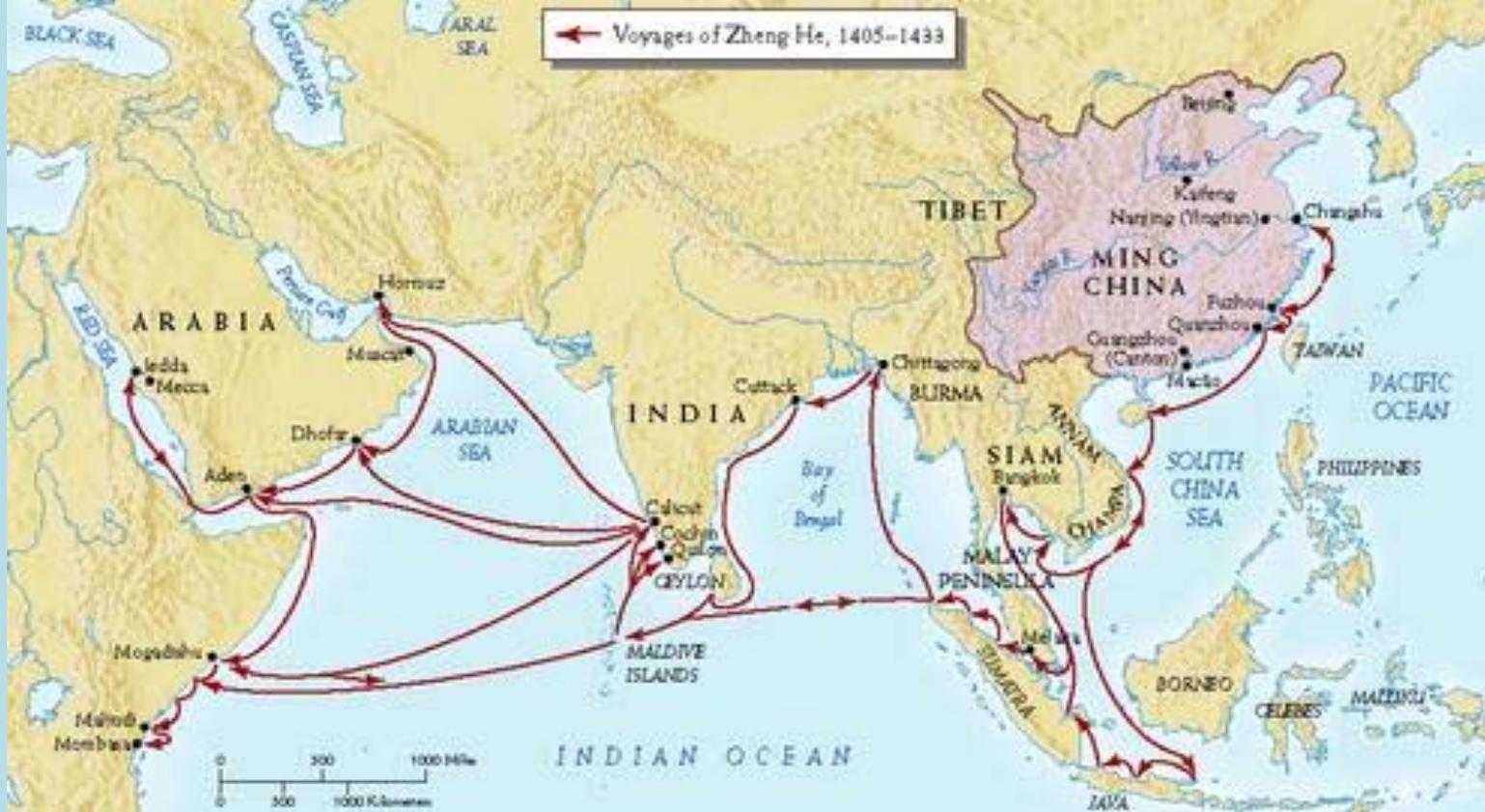
# 1000 to 1800 CE.

Medieval warming – everywhere.

Song preeminence ...  
Then Mongol conquest.

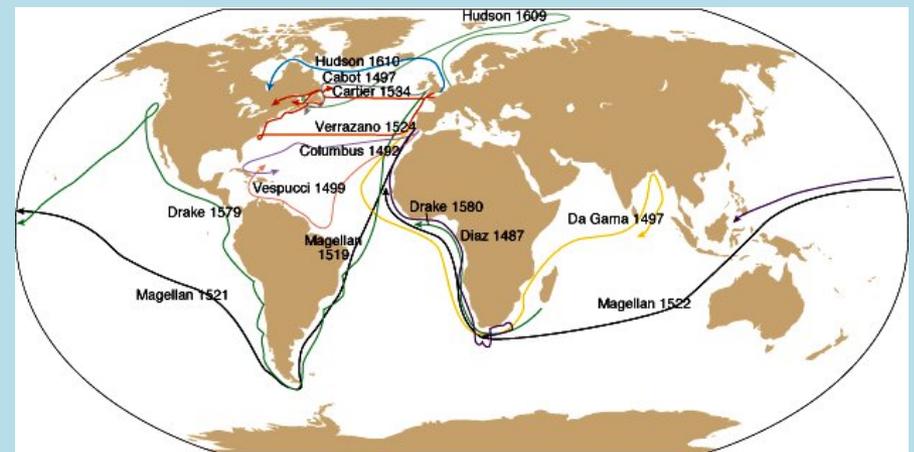
Connections across the  
Old World mainland





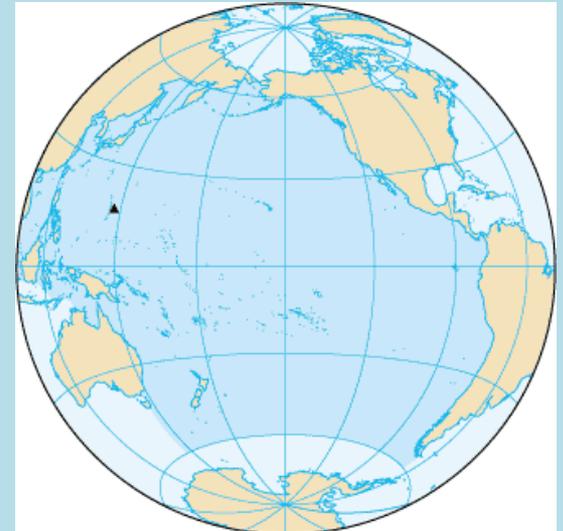
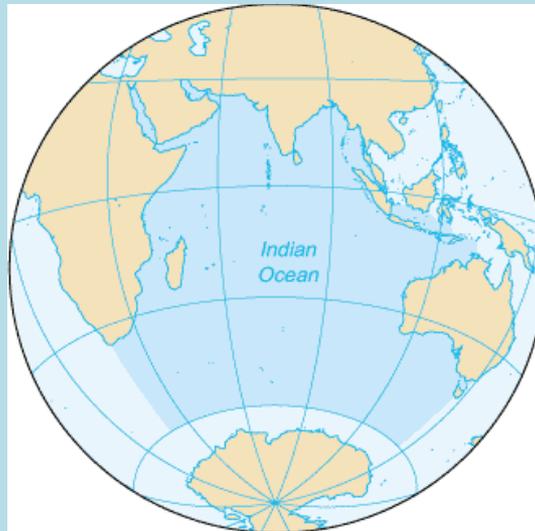
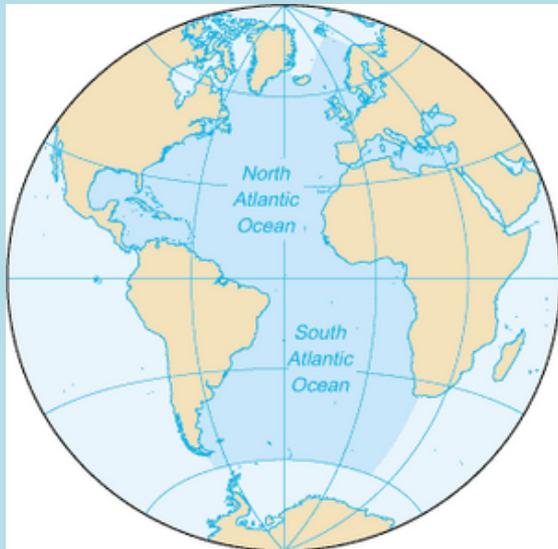
Connections across the Eastern and Pacific oceans

Global maritime links



# 1000 to 1800 CE.

- Shock of deeper global interaction
  - Pandemics (Eurasia, 14<sup>th</sup> C; Americas 16<sup>th</sup> C; Pacific 18<sup>th</sup> C),
- People everywhere learned of earth's shape and sections
- “17<sup>th</sup>-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.

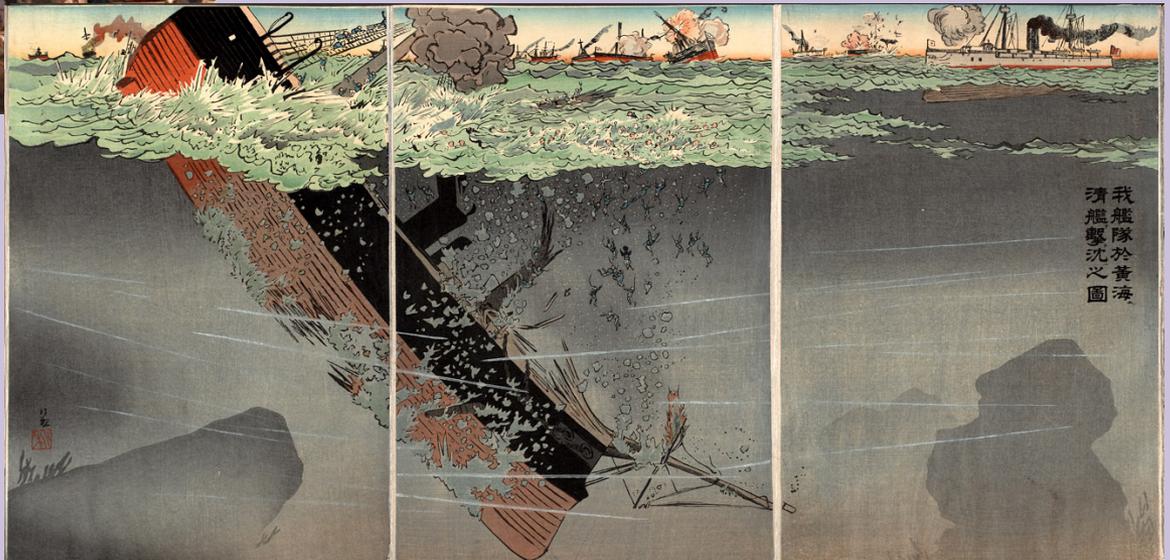
- Empires, nations, diasporas – rise of nations and diasporas



- 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

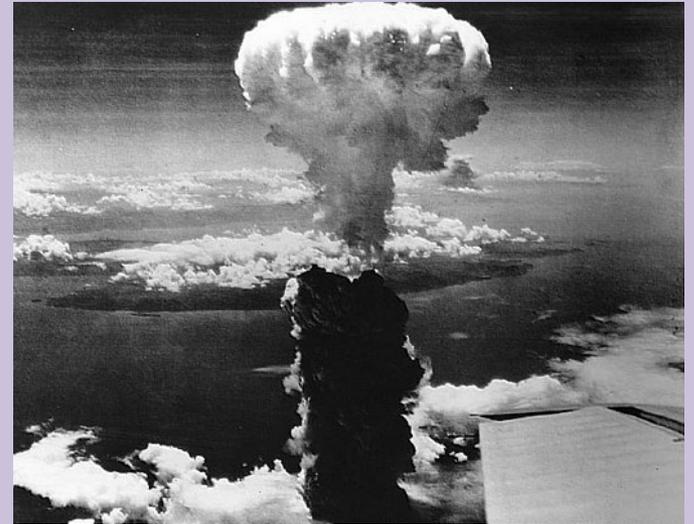
- Divergence during the 19<sup>th</sup>; reinforced 20<sup>th</sup>
- Finance gains power
- Urbanization by stages



# 1800 CE to the present.

## Industry & Science

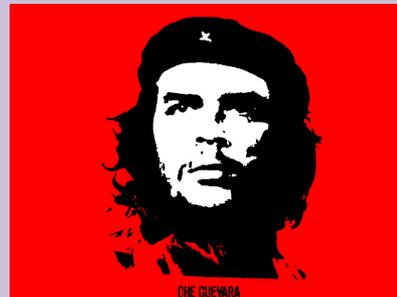
- Positivism
- Power – steam, electric, gasoline, atomic, mixes
- Medicine



# 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 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>
- 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

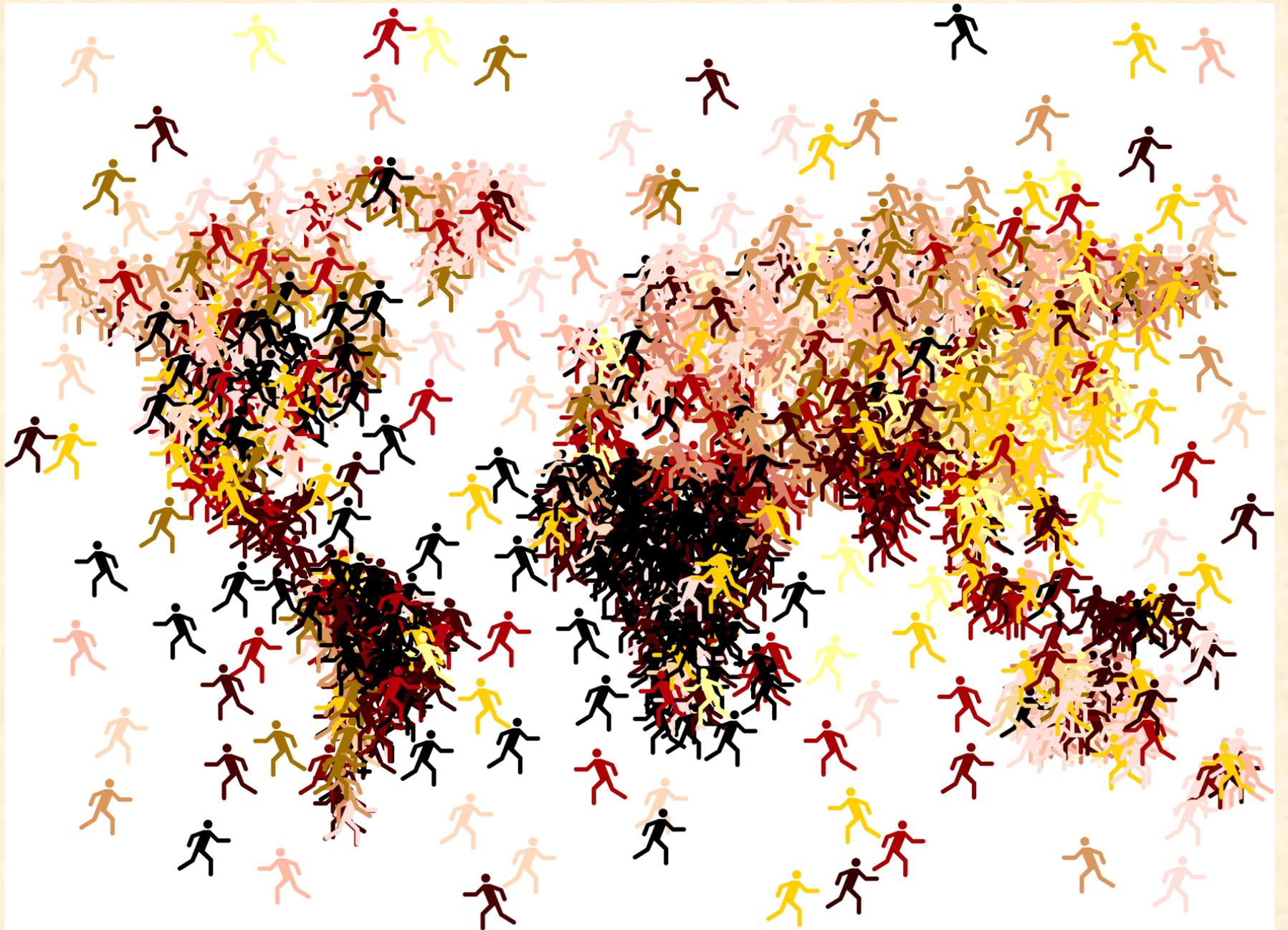
- **Social-science views:** violence and hierarchy are inherent
- **Natural science views:** inequality is wasteful
- **Alternatives to inequality:** share, limit growth, expand innovation

# 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