**Chapter 01– From Human Prehistory to the Early Civilizations**

AP World History - Stearns  
Chapter 1 – From Human Prehistory to the Early Civilizations

1. Introduction
   1. Human origin – 2.5 million years ago
      1. 1/4000 of earth’s existence – 24 hour day – last 5 minutes
   2. Human negatives and positives
      1. Aggressiveness, long baby time, back problems, death fears
      2. Grip, high/regular sex drive, omnivores, facial expressions, speech
   3. Paleolithic (Old Stone) Age –
   4. 5 million to 12000 BCE
      1. Simple tools – increase in size, brain capacity – Homo erectus
2. Late Paleolithic Developments
   1. Homo sapiens sapiens – 120,000 years ago – killed off others?
      1. Population growth required change – 1 square mile to hunt/gather for 2 people
         1. Long breast feeding – limit fertility
         2. Relative gender equality – women harder, but both contributed
      2. Rituals for death, explain environment, rules for social behavior
      3. Greatest achievement – spread over earth
         1. Fire/animal skin
         2. 14,000 Great ice age ended
      4. Tools – sharpen animal bones, rafts
      5. Domesticated animals
      6. Conflicts w/ others – bone breaks/skull fractures
   2. Knowledge based on cave paintings, tool remains, burial sites
3. Neolithic (New Stone) Age Revolution
   1. Agriculture changed everything – could support more people
      1. Settle one spot – focus on economic, political, religious goals
      2. 14,000-10,000 BCE – 6 million to 100 million people
   2. Causes of Agriculture
      1. Population increase – better climate
      2. Big game animals decreasing – hunting yield declined
      3. Gradual change – harvesting wild grains to planting seeds
   3. New animals domesticated – pigs, sheep, goats, cattle
      1. Meat, skins, dairy
      2. Advantage to Europe?
   4. Why Middle East?
      1. Water source, fertile area, not forested, lacked animals
   5. “Revolution” gradual – many combined changes w/ hunting gathering – 1000 years
   6. Effects
      1. Longer work week – labor intensive
      2. Build houses, villages
      3. Varied clothing
   7. Resistance – too complicated, boring, difficult
      1. Disease – those in villages developed immunity – nomads died off/joined
      2. Some isolated societies still avoid
         1. Harsh climate, no exchange of knowledge
         2. Tough, nomadic invaders
      3. Nomads – not that influential accept for interaction
   8. Changes
      1. Specialization
      2. Technology – control of nature – storage facilities, pottery
      3. Metal tools – Bronze Age 3000 – Iron Age 1500 BCE
4. Civilization
   1. Hunter/gatherer – no bigger than 60 – food runs out
      1. Other options – slash and burn
      2. Tribal bands – strong kinship – relatively small
   2. Benefits of settling
      1. Houses, wells, improvements used by future, irrigation
      2. Irrigation/defense required work together – organization from above
   3. Catal Huyuk – Turkey – 7000 BCE civilization studied
      1. Rooftop activity – broken bones
      2. Religious responsibilities/fertility gods – images
      3. Trade w/others for peace
   4. Definition – societies economic surplus > division of labor/social hierarchy
      1. Formal political organizations – no relation to family unit
      2. City benefits – wealth, exchange of ideas, artistic/intellectual expression, manufacturing/trade specialization
   5. Writing
      1. First - Cuneiform – wedge shaped Middle East
      2. Tax efficiently
      3. Contracts/treaties
      4. Build on past wisdom
      5. People look at world as something to be understood rationally
      6. Not all peoples literate, each civilization only a minority
   6. Greek term - Barbarians – civilization vs. nomads – wanderers
   7. Negatives of civilization
      1. Class/caste distinctions - slavery
      2. Separation between rulers/ruled
      3. Warlike
      4. Gender inequality – patriarchal – men get manufacturing, political, religious leaders
   8. Benefits of nomadic living
      1. More regulations – word of mouth
      2. Respect of elders/children
      3. Herding economies
      4. Technological improvements – stirrup, weaponry
   9. Impact on Environment
      1. Deforestation
      2. Erosion, flooding
5. In Depth: The Idea of Civilization in World History Perspective
   1. Differences between civilized and barbaric/savages long held
      1. Chinese – cultural, not biological or racial – could adapt
      2. American Indians – feared Chichimecs – sons of the dog
   2. Related to fear of invasion/outsiders common
   3. Civilis – of the citizens – Latin
      1. Rome – urban dwellers vs. forest/desert dwellers
      2. Greece – bar, bar – barbarians
   4. Historians initially – cultural differences, then 19th century racial differences
      1. Some races more inventive, moral, courageous, artistic
         1. Savage to civilized – white,yellow, red, brown, black
         2. Social Darwinism – historiography
         3. Justified European expansion – White Man’s Burden
         4. Ethnocentrism
   5. Other approach – civilization just one form of social organization
      1. All societies produce cultures, though might lack food surplus/specialization
      2. All peoples capable – but lack resources, historical circumstances, desire
6. Tigris-Euphrates Civilization
   1. Precedents
      1. Writing
      2. Law codes
      3. City planning/architecture
      4. Trade institutions & money
   2. Mesopotamia – land between two rivers
      1. One of 3 civilizations from scratch – Central America, China, Mesopotamia
      2. Farming required irrigation
      3. Sumerians 3500 BCE
         1. Cuneiform – scribes
         2. Sumerian art – frescoes for temples
         3. Science – astronomy – calendar/forecasts – aided agriculture
            1. Charts of constellations
         4. Ziggurats – first monumental architecture
         5. Role of geography
            1. Swift and unpredictable floods – religious
            2. Polytheism – punishment of humans through floods – Noah
            3. Gloomy – punishment in afterlife – hell
            4. Easy to invade – constant war
         6. City-states – king w/ divine authority
            1. Regulate religion
            2. Court system for justice
            3. Land worked by slaves – warfare created labor surplus
         7. Inventions – wheeled carts, fertilizer, silver money
      4. Babylonians
         1. Hammurabi – first codified law
            1. Procedure for courts
            2. Property rights
            3. Harsh punishments
      5. Indo-European invasions from North
         1. Adopted culture
   3. Egyptian Civilization
      1. Benefited from trade/technology of Mesopotamia
      2. Geographic factors
         1. Difficult to invade
         2. Regular flooding cycle
      3. Economy – government directed vs. Mesopotamia – freedom
      4. Pharoahs – godlike – tombs – pyramids
      5. Interactions with Kush to the South
      6. Egyptian art – lively, cheerful, colorful – positive afterlife – surrounded by beauty
      7. Architecture influenced later Mediterranean
   4. Indian and Chinese River Valley Civilizations
      1. Indus River – Harappa/Mohenjo Daro
         1. Unique alphabet/art
            1. Harappan alphabet not deciphered
         2. Invasion plus invasion by Indo-Europeans – difficult to understand culture
      2. Huanghe (Yellow River)
         1. Isolated, little overland trading
         2. History part fact/fiction
         3. State organized irrigation
         4. Elaborate intellectual life
            1. Writing – knotted ropes, scratches of lines, ideographic symbols
            2. Delicate art, musical interest
            3. Limited materials – basic housing
   5. Heritage of the River Valley Civilizations
      1. Accomplishments
         1. Monuments
         2. Wheel
         3. Taming of horse
         4. Square roots
         5. Monarchies/bureaucracies
         6. Calendars/time
         7. Major alphabets
      2. How much are these civilizations “origin” of today
         1. Except for China, all have a break from past
         2. Roman empire – god-like king
         3. Slavery
         4. Scientific achievements – Greeks studied Egyptians
      3. East vs. West
         1. Mesopotamians – gap between humankind and nature
         2. China – basic harmony all live together
         3. Temple building, art, architecture – Mesopotamia to Middle East/Greece
         4. Mesopotamia – regional cultures created that could survive invasion
            1. Phoenicians – 22 letter alphabet

Colonized – simplified number system

* + - * 1. Jews – morally/ethically based monotheistic religion

Semitic people – small, relatively weak – only autonomous when region was in chaos

Believed god- Jehovah – guided destinies of people

Orderly, just – not whimsical

Created moral code

Religion basis for Christianity/Islam

God’s compact with Jews

Little conversion

Minority position in Middle East

* + - 1. The First Civilizations
         1. Clear division between river valley civilizations and classical civilizations

Invasion/natural calamities – India

Invasion/political decline – Egypt

Mesopotamia – break but bridges – smaller cultures

Values and institutions spread

* + - * 1. Theme emerges – “Steadily proliferating contacts against a background of often fierce local identity”
        2. Integrating force

Local autonomy lessens – priests/kings increase power

* + - * 1. Four centers of civilization started
        2. Close neighbors – Egypt/Mesopotamia – different politics, art, beliefs on death
        3. Diversity and civilization worked together