

# Empire and Exchange: 1200<sub>BCE</sub>-500<sub>CE</sub>

## Widening the World History Lens

### Overview:

In the years between 10,000-1000 BCE, the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, humans in several parts of the world began to produce food, adopt new forms of social organization, and interact more intensively with one another over longer distances than in any earlier times. As humans entered the Iron Age, those patterns continued, though at a faster pace. In the years between 1200 BCE-500 CE, the world transformed into a more complex and interrelated world. The total world population increased in the first millennium BCE, though it leveled off in the early centuries CE. More cities appeared. States, which first emerged in the Neolithic and Bronze ages, as a way of organizing large populations under a single governing authority, now appeared in new forms that were bigger, more complex, and more efficient at collecting taxes from the population.

Interregional systems of communication allowed goods, technologies, and ideas to move, sometimes thousands of miles. Interlocking networks of roads, trails, and sea-lanes connected almost all parts of Afroeurasia and, in the Americas, extensive areas of Mesoamerica the Andean mountain spine of South America. Among the ideas transmitted along these routes were new belief systems, which invited peoples of differing languages and cultural traditions to share common standards of morality and trust. **This is the Age of empire, exchange and encounter.**

### Directions:

1. Go to the class website and download the powerpoint titled, "Big Era 4."
2. Open the powerpoint and put it in presentation mode.
3. Go through the powerpoint—READ EACH SLIDE THOROUGHLY.
4. Complete the following worksheet as you learn.

### Part I: Population Growth

Year	Number of largest cities	Size of largest cities	Total population of largest cities
BCE 1200	16	24,000-50,000	499,000
BCE 650	20	30,000-120,000	894,000
BCE 430	51	30,000-200,000	2,877,000
CE 100	75	30,000-450,000	5,181,000
CE 500	47	40,000-400,000	3,892,000

1. What are the four reasons the population surged during this era?



## **Part II: Expanding Networks**

**Complete the following questions BEFORE going further in the slides:**

1. If you wanted to buy a product that was not available in your local town or city, how could you do it? List as many ways as you can think of:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. If you wanted to give a message to someone living 1,000 miles away, how could you do it? List as many ways as you can think of:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If you wanted to learn about religions, customs, or traditions other than your own, how could you go about finding that information? List as many ways as you can think of:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Now imagine you are living, around 1200 BCE. Look at your answers to the three questions above, cross off your lists all methods of exchange that did not exist in that era.

**Now you may continue viewing the slides in the presentation about networks of exchange.**

The slides describe FOUR different types of NETWORKS OF EXCHANGE: routes, empires, writing and religions.

1. Provide 4 details about Routes
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Provide 4 details about Empires

State	Approximate year	Approximate size in square miles
Han empire	50 B.C.E.	2,509,000
Achaemenid Persian empire	500 B.C.E.	2,123,000
Roman empire	100 C.E.	1,698,400
Continental United States	Present	3,021,296

3. Provide 4 details about Writing

4. Provide 4 details about Religions

Belief system	Time of appearance	Homeland
Buddhism	5th century B.C.E.	Northern India
Christianity	1st century C.E.	Southwest Asia
Confucianism	5th century B.C.E.	Northern China
Daoism (Taoism)	5th century B.C.E.	Northern China
Hinduism	early 1st millennium B.C.E.	Northern India
Judaism	early 1st millennium B.C.E.	Southwest Asia

5. How did the development of interregional networks of exchange and alphabetic writing systems contribute to the spread of world religions?