PERIOD 2 ORGANIZATION & REORGANIZATION OF HUMAN SOCIETIES

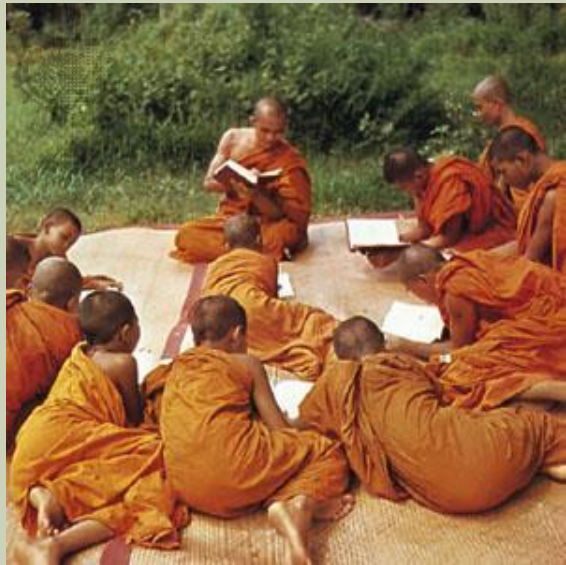## 600 BCE to 600 CE

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- People begin to identify themselves with others that live by their similar religious "code."
  - Hebrew scriptures united dispersed Jews
  - Hindu caste system
  - Greek mythology → Roman mythology
  - Spread of polytheism from ancient river valley civilizations → early European polytheism
  - Early monotheism (Judaism) → Christianity
    - Then spread to Rome and beyond…
  - Bloodletting – Olmec → Maya, is there a connection?

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Universal "truths" emerge and spread
  - Ashoka promotes Buddhist teachings
    - What did this do for the Maurya dynasty?
  - Han Dynasty implements Confucian teachings
    - Leads to what in Han politics & culture…
  - Daoism influences art, poetry & medicine
  - Missionaries, merchants & Constantine spread Christianity
  - Greco-Roman philosophy & science emphasize the use of logic and reasoning in solving problems
    - Don't forget about Hellenistic combo of Greek, Persian, Egyptian, Indian
    - Did this lead to more philosophical & scientific understanding or advancements in other civilizations?

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Buddhists & Christians have monasteries and encourage conversions of others to their belief systems
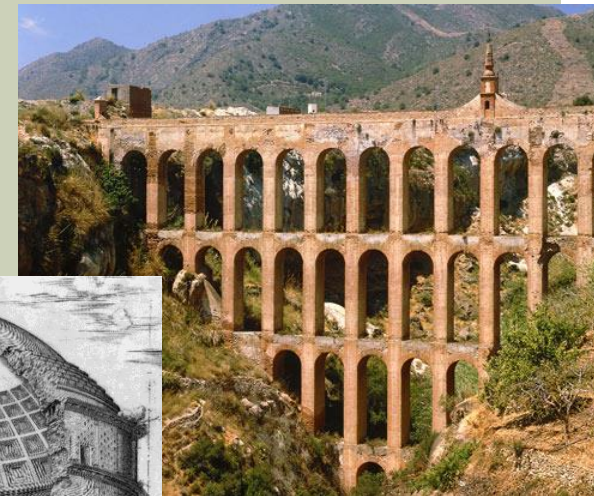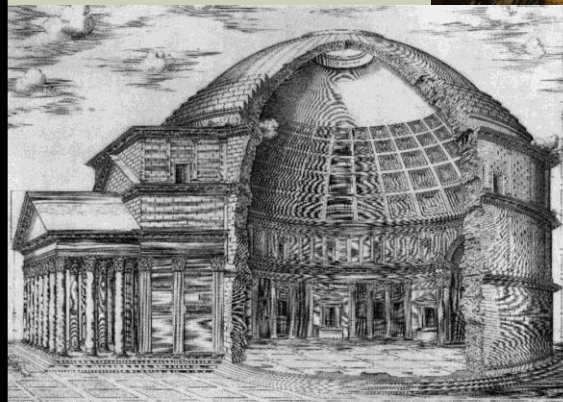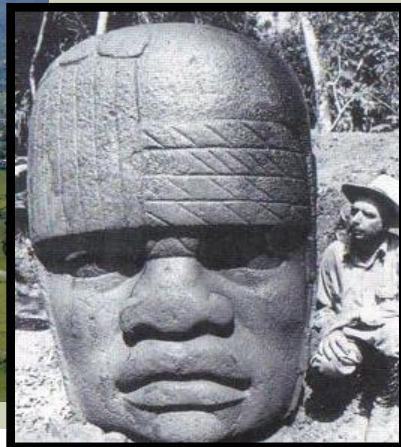

- Confucianism emphasizes filial piety

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Outside of core areas, *ancestor veneration (worship)* continued
  - China, Chavin/Andean Mountains
- Science, Art, Literature & Architecture becomes more distinctive and reflects developed cultures:
  - Greek- comedy & tragedy, philosophy, science based on nature
  - Roman- arches, domes, paved roads, aqueducts
  - Olmec- heads & Maya- pyramids
  - Maurya & Gupta- Hindu & Buddhist texts

STATES AND EMPIRES DEVELOP

- Key states & empires impose political control on smaller, competitive areas:
  - Persian Empire
  - Qin & Han China
  - Maurya & Gupta India
  - Phoenician colonies
  - Greek city-states
  - Roman Empire
  - Olmec
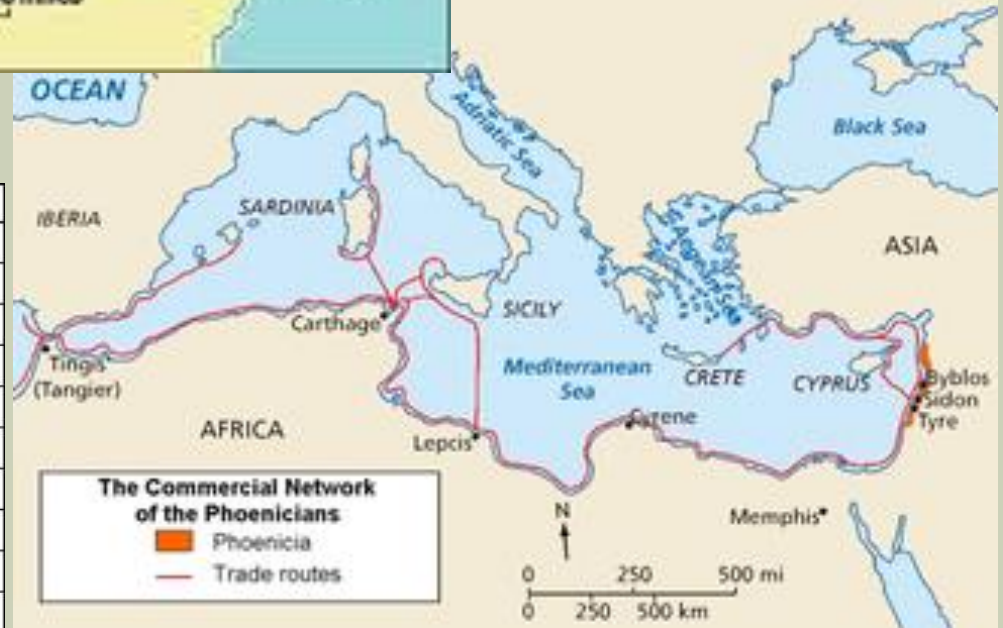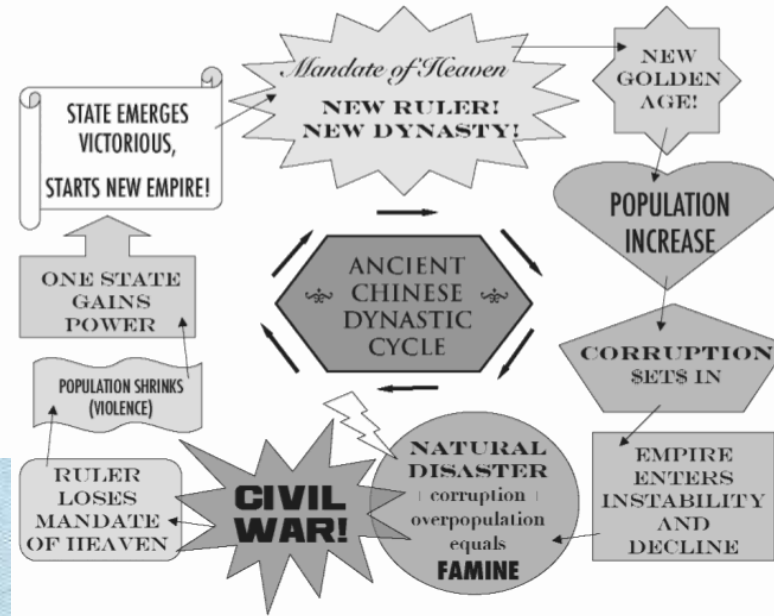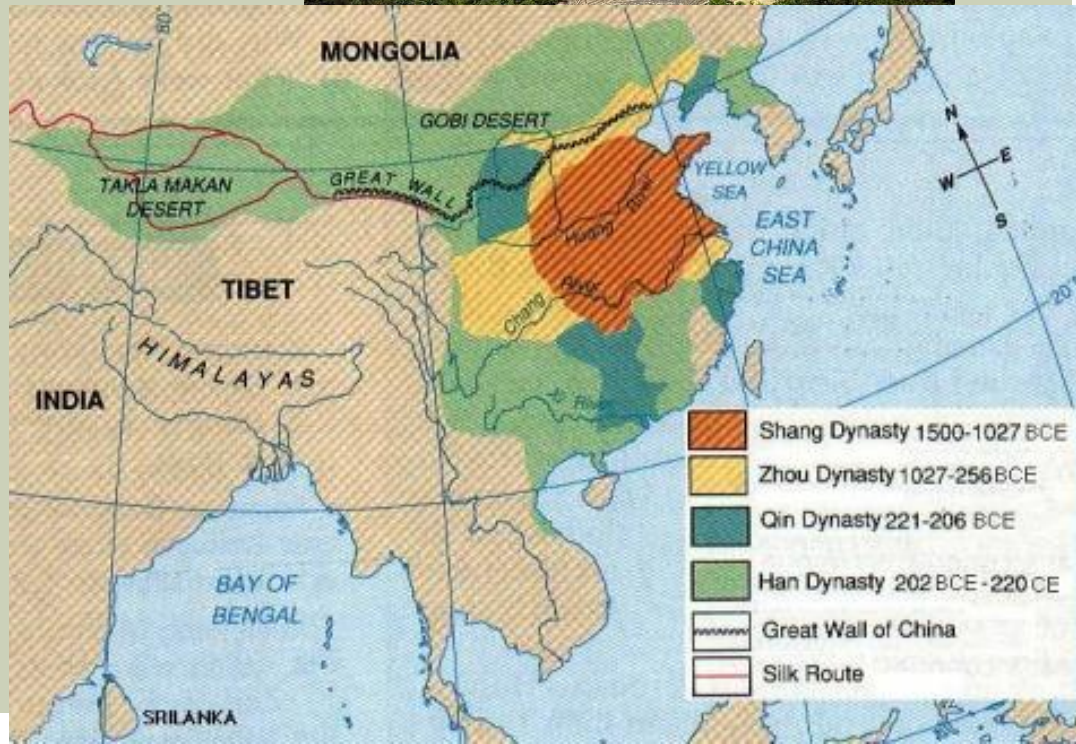 - Maya City States Tikal & Teotihuacan
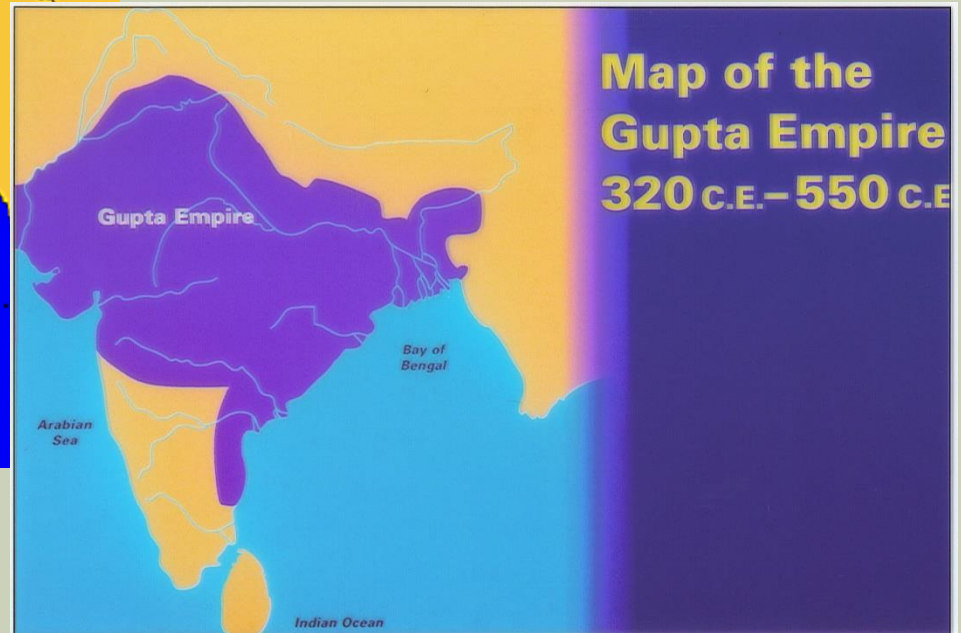 - Chavin (Andean)

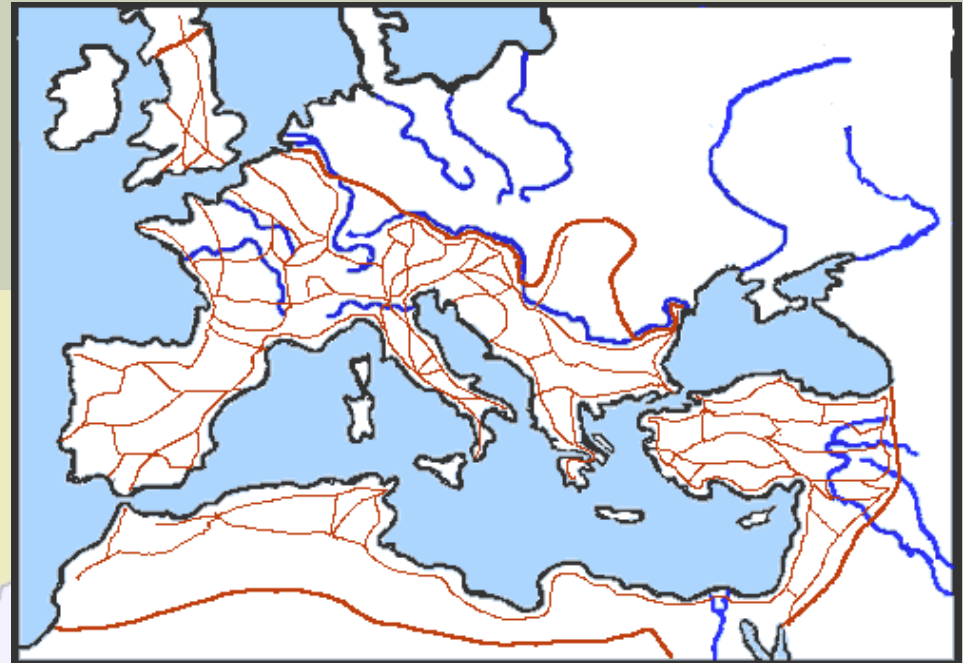PERSIAN EMPIRE

PHOENICIAN COLONIES

QIN & HAN CHINA
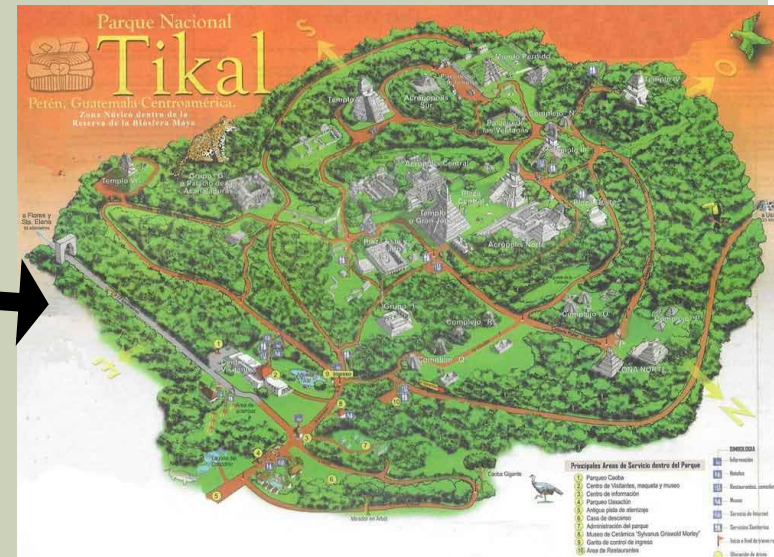
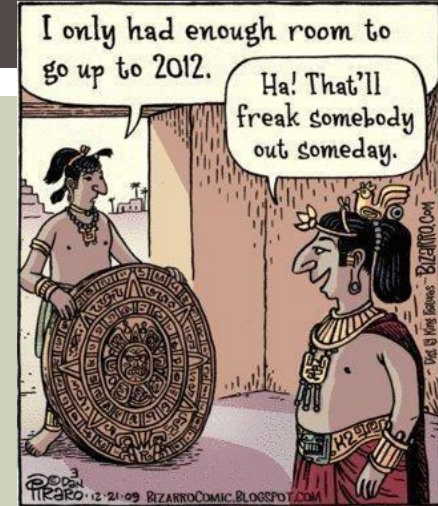# MAURYA & GUPTA INDIA

GREEK CITY STATES
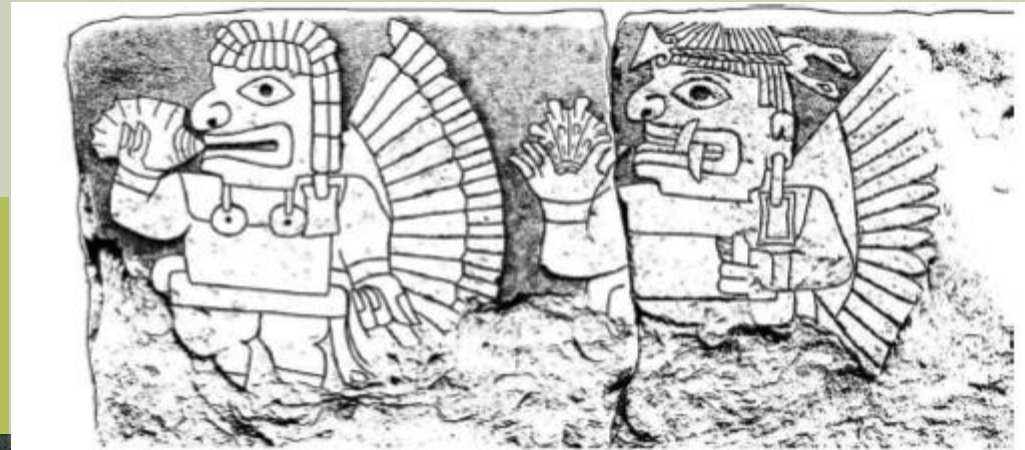
ROMAN EMPIRE - ROADS
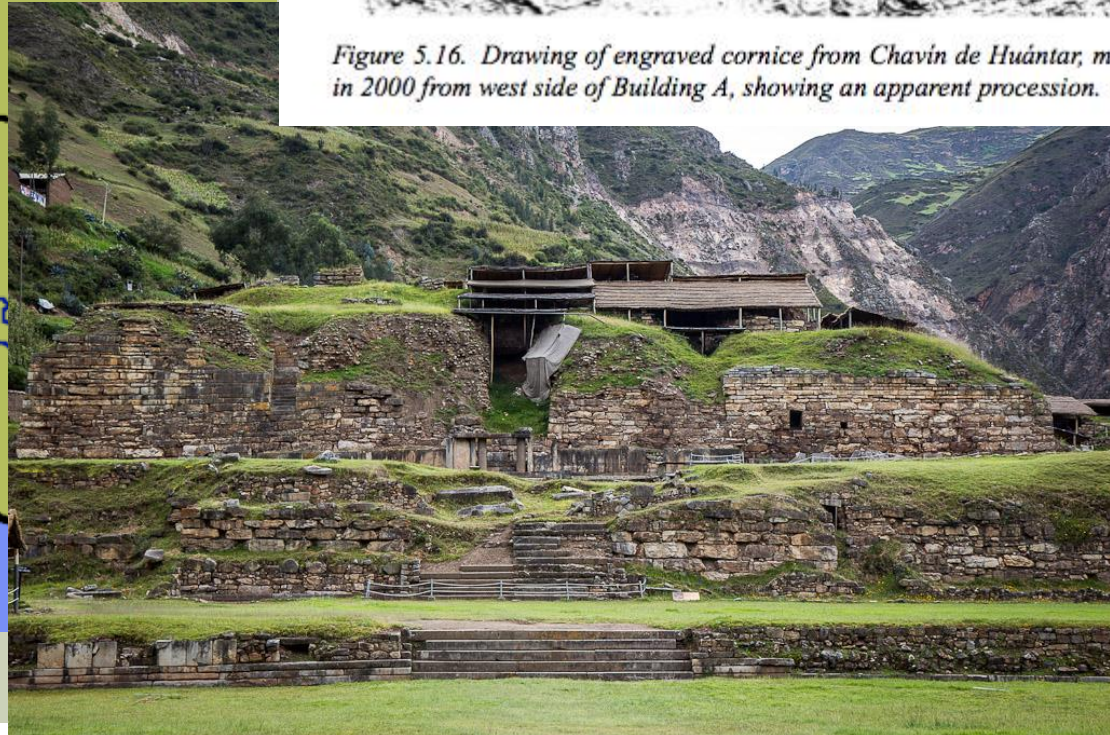
TIKAL & TEOTIHUACAN/MAYA CITY STATES

ANDEAN CHAVIN

Figure 5.16. *Drawing of engraved cornice from Chavín de Huántar, mostly excavated in 2000 from west side of Building A, showing an apparent procession.*

IMPERIAL ADMINISTRATION

- To organize the people in the empires, these areas created
  - Centralized governments
  - Elaborate legal systems & bureaucracies
  - Example: Chinese "Son of Heaven" & Civil Service Exam system

- Military power was utilized through
  - Diplomacy
  - Development of supply lines
  - Building defensive walls and roads
  - Using conquered peoples as military officers & soldiers

- Trade & Economy was integrated by
  - Maintaining roads
  - Creating a common currency

STATES & EMPIRES

- Cities such as Chang'an and Rome were centers of trade, public gatherings, religious rituals, and political administration.

- Society was based on hierarchies (slaves through elites) that ensured supplies of food
- Patriarchy dominated gender roles & family life (big surprise, huh?)
  - Ex. *Paterfamilias* in Rome, Confucius' 5 relationships
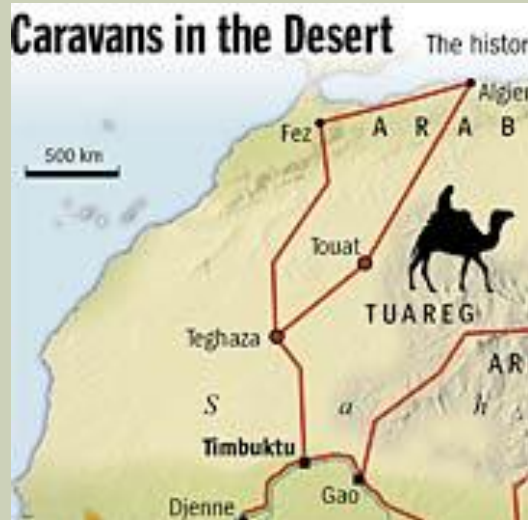
FALL OF EMPIRES

- Roman, Han, Persian, Maurya & Gupta Empires all fell during this period. Why?
- The elites controlled too much wealth & wanted more, therefore:
  - Environmental damage (ex. soil erosion)
  - Social tensions
  - Economic difficulties
- Borders became too vast and were prone to invasions (Huns in India, Germanic tribes)
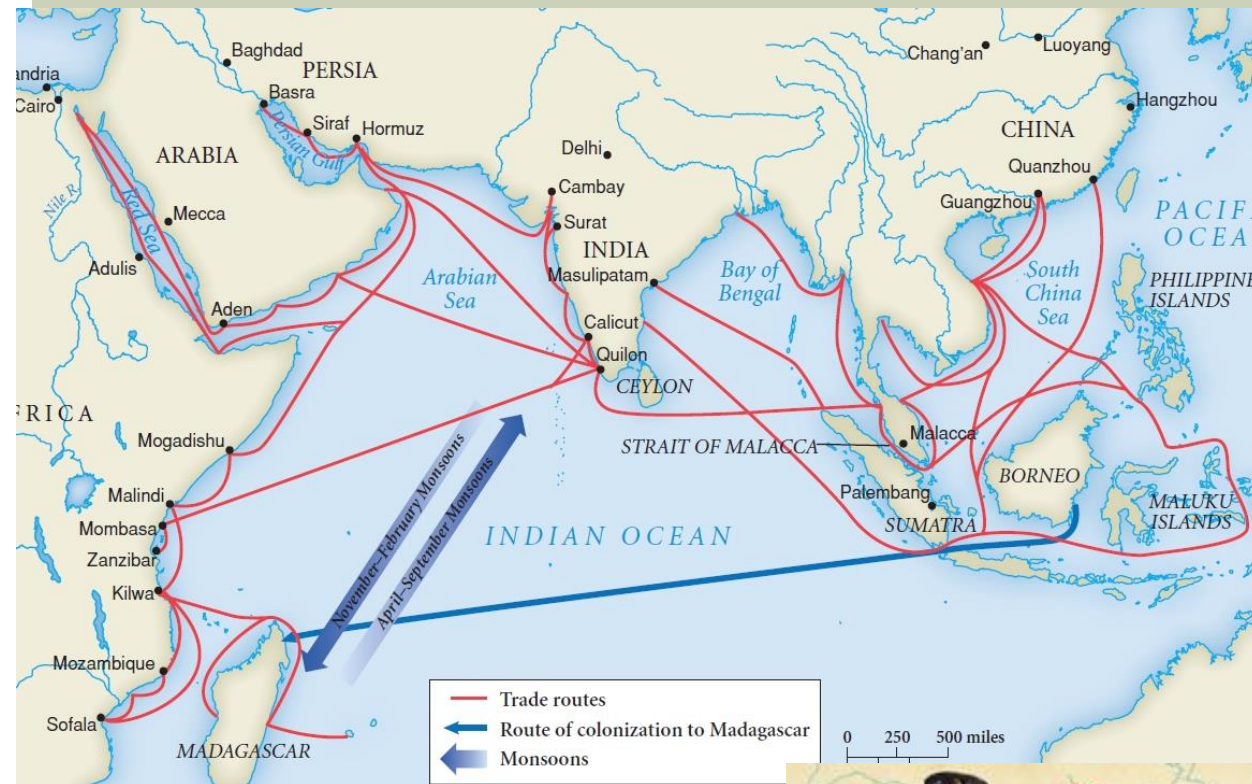
TRADE ROUTES EMERGE

- **Land & Water trade routes develop in the Eastern Hemisphere:**
  - **Silk Roads**
  - **Mediterranean sea lanes**
  - **Trans-Saharan caravan routes**
  - **Indian Ocean sea lanes**

- **Diseases spread along the trade routes & weaken empires (Rome, China)**

- **Religious & cultural traditions transformed as they spread**
  - **Christianity**
  - **Hinduism**
  - **Buddhism**

TRADE ROUTE FEATURES

- New technology allows long distance transport
  - Horse saddles & stirrups
  - Hybrid camels
  - Lateen sails
  - Dhow ships
- New crops (rice & cotton) spread from South Asia to the Middle East which led to new farming and irrigation techniques