

KEY POINTS Chapter 4

Essential Question: How did the Roman political system provide social stability?

Identify:

Hellenistic – term derived from the Hellenes or Greeks Polis – city-state Tyrant – ruler with absolute power
Twelve Tables – Rome's first law code Republic – democratic nation or state Empire – a vast kingdom

What was the Roman area of specialization and what was it for the Greeks?

Rome created a mighty empire, whereas the Greek city-states proved rather inept in forming an empire. Romans dominated in language and law, while the Greek influence was stronger than Roman influence over the Mediterranean.

In what two areas did Roman culture influence later generations? Language and law

The Persian Tradition

Where was the Persian Empire located? Northern Middle East and northwestern India

Who conquered the Persians in the 4th century BCE? Alexander the Great

What empire replaced the Persian Empire in the Middle Eastern area? Sassanid

Patterns of Greek and Roman History

What types of governments were established in classical Greece?

Strong city-states, with their own government either autocratic or democratic

What empire did Sparta and Athens team up to defeat? Persian

What happened in the Peloponnesian War? Sparta and Athens fought over who should control Greece.

Describe the extent of Alexander the Great's territory.

Macedonia to the Middle East, across Persia to the border of India, and southward towards Egypt.

By 509 BCE what type of political system had been established by the Roman aristocracy?

More elaborate political institutions for the city-state

Describe the extent of the Roman military conquests.

They controlled the entire Italian peninsula and the Greek colonies. They fought the Phoenician armies at Carthage. After that, they decided to seize control of the Western Mediterranean with Greece and Egypt.

After Julius Caesar's death what type of government was established in Rome? Basic structure of Roman Empire

During what years was the Roman Empire responsible for bringing peace and prosperity to the Mediterranean world?

14 BCE-180 CE

How long was the period of Roman decline and what date is given for the final fall of the Roman Empire? 250 yrs (476 CE)

What problems plagued the empire and led to its eventual fall? Invading peoples from the North

Greek and Roman Political Institutions

Describe Greek politics.

Citizens actively participated in the military. Political concerns were restricted by the power of the emperor and his officers. Local city-states retained considerable autonomy.

What was similar and different about Greco-Roman political institutions and that of the Chinese?

Greco-Roman society's political ideas and interest were similar to the Confucian values of classical China. However, Greece and Rome did not develop a single or cohesive set of political institutions like China.

What type of government was not preferred by the classical Mediterranean civilizations? Tyranny

Describe Athens' democracy.

It was a democracy. The major decisions of states were made by general assemblies in which all citizens could participate. It was a direct democracy without elected representatives. Executive officer were chosen for brief terms to control their power. Women did not have any power and ½ of all adult males were not citizens because they were slaves or foreigners.

Who could participate in Athens' democracy? All active male citizens

What was the most widely preferred form of political framework in the classical Mediterranean?

Existence of aristocratic assemblies, which established guidelines for state policy and served as a check on executive power.

What was the most important legislative body in the Roman republic? Senate

Describe the structure of the Roman republic.

The Senate was mainly composed of aristocrats. Two consuls held executive power, but in times of crisis they could choose a dictator until the crisis was over. Officers in the Roman army even held more power than the emperor himself.

What types of concerns were reflected in the Roman writings about politics?

Virtues and vices, participation in deliberate bodies,

Under the leadership of the Roman Empire how were local areas administered? Autonomy

What evidence is given to support the idea that the Romans emphasized equitable laws? Aristocrats sponsored clear legal codes designed to balance the defense of private property with the protection of poor citizens.

What benefits came with Roman citizenship? Full access to Rome-appointed judges and uniform laws

What functions did the Greeks and Romans assign to government? The government concentrated on maintaining systems of law courts and military forces. They regulated some branches of commerce, undertook vast public works, and provided cheap foods for the masses and gladiator contests for entertainment.

What was the primary function of the Roman government?

To concentrate on maintaining systems of law courts and military forces

Describe what “bread and circuses” referred to. They were designed to prevent popular disorder.

List the chief political legacies for the classical Mediterranean world.

Localism, fervent political interests, intense loyalty to the state, diversity of political systems with the preference for aristocratic rule, importance of law and the development of an unusually elaborate and uniform set of legal principles.

In Depth

List some of the similarities and differences in all three classical civilizations.

Similarities – clear social hierarchy with big gap between elite and peasants, distinctively defined position of the lowest orders

Differences – centralization or not, the elite reflected different value systems, role of merchants, opportunities for mobility, cultural glue to manage social hierarchy

Religion and Culture

Describe the type of religion that developed in the Greco-Roman world. Primitive, polytheistic religion with gods and goddesses

When did Christianity begin to spread and why could it spread easily through the Roman Empire?

It began to spread after the birth of Jesus and after Jesus was crucified. It spread so easily because many disliked the dominant religion.

There was no spiritual passion and no systematic inquiry into nature or human society.

What limitations did the popular religion have? Lack of spiritual passion, no basis for a systematic inquiry into nature and human society, no basic for ethical thought

Explain why many upper class people were dissatisfied with the Greco-Roman religion.

No basis for a systematic inquiry into nature and human society and no basic for ethical thought

Why did ethical systems emerge in the classical Mediterranean? The popular religion did not provide one.

Describe what philosophies emerged in Greek thinking?

Conventional wisdom, improvement of the human soul, skeptical questioning, and understanding of nature

What scientific achievements did the Greeks make? They made theories about the motions of planets and the organizational principles of the elements earth, fire, wind, and water. They made Euclidean geometry, the theories of Pythagoras, and a theory about the sun revolving around the Earth. They made advances in the study of anatomy.

What area of achievement did the Roman's excel in? Engineering

List some examples of Roman accomplishments.

Examining political and ethical theories, preserving information in textbooks, architecture

What two types of drama are the Greeks credited with developing? Comedy and tragedy

List what achievements were made by the Greek and Roman in art, architecture, and literature. Ceramic work, realistic paintings and statues, columned porticos, square/rectangular monumental construction, free-standing stadium, domes on rectangular buildings, elaborate arches, the *Odyssey*, the *Iliad*, myths, dramas, poetry, plays

Economy and Society in the Mediterranean

What happened to many farmers during the time of Roman rule? They went into debt.

Explain why farmers resorted to commercial farming. Trade

Explain how the rise of commercial farming led to the quest for empire.

Greek city-states developed colonies to gain access to produce wheat and grain.

What disadvantage result in terms of trade with India and China?

Their manufactured goods weren't as sophisticated as India's and China's.

Explain the status of merchants in the classical Mediterranean. They were in the middle of the social hierarchy. They were located below the aristocrats in Rome.

What tasks were performed by slaves in Greece and Rome? Mining for silver, precious metals, and iron; agricultural work

What technological, political, and social effects did slavery have in the classical Mediterranean world?

The Greeks and Romans didn't care about making technological advances in agriculture or manufacturing. They made advances in shipbuilding and navigation. They also developed their skill of engineering. A technology designed to improve food production or manufactured goods was not very important.

Describe the classical Mediterranean social structure. There was a tight, patriarchal family structure. Women had economic functions. Women had great influence in upper class Roman families. Some female infants were killed if the families got too big. He husband can punish his wife if she does something bad.

How did the treatment of women in the classical Mediterranean compare to other classical areas? It is similar.

How does the fall of Rome differ from the end of the classical period for India and China?

There was no single civilization, which rose after the fall of Rome. There was no single religion to serve as a link between classical and modern times. Rome's fall wasn't uniform. The civilization wasn't disrupted and revived.

