Freshman Midterm Exam Review Guide

Unit I

1. Chapter 1 (Hunter-Gatherers to River Valley Civilizations
   1. Questions:
      1. What is the difference between something being *prehistoric* or *historical*?
      2. What were the big changes between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages?
   2. Important regions/places:
      1. Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys/Mesopotamia
      2. Nile River Valley
      3. Indus River Valley
      4. Huanghe (Yellow) River Valley
   3. Terms/People:
      1. Hunter-Gatherers
      2. Nomads
      3. Patriarchy
      4. Agriculture
      5. Civilization
      6. Hammurabi

Notes/Questions for Monday or Tuesday

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Unit II: The Classical Civilizations

1. Chapter 2: Classical China
   1. Questions/Concepts:
      1. What political patterns emerged in China following the rise of the Qin?
      2. How did the Han dynasty differ from the Qin?
      3. How did Confucianism promote political and social order?
      4. How did geography shape China’s world-view?
      5. Gender relations
   2. Important regions/places:
      1. Himalaya Mountains
      2. Gobi and Taklamakan Deserts
      3. Huanghe (Yellow) and Yangtze Rivers
   3. Terms/People:
      1. Dynasty and dynastic cycle
      2. Zhou, Qin, and Han
      3. Daoism, Confucianism, and Legalism
      4. Shi Huangdi
      5. The Five Relationships
      6. Silk Road
      7. Isolation
      8. “Mean” people

Notes/Questions for Monday or Tuesday

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1. Chapter 3: Classical India
   1. Questions/Concepts:
      1. With the exception of the Mauryan and Gupta Empires, what political patterns were typical to India?
      2. How did the Mauryan Empire differ from the Gupta Empire?
      3. How did Hinduism unite vast numbers of diverse peoples on the Indian Sub-Continent?
      4. How did Hinduism organize society and promote social harmony and “right” behavior?
      5. How did India’s geography influence its history, and how does that experience differ from China’s?
      6. How did Buddhism differ from Hinduism, and how were those differences threatening to the social and political hierarchy in India?
      7. Like Confucianism in China, Hinduism in India established clear social and political hierarchies. Nevertheless, there are important differences between the two belief systems.
      8. Gender relations
   2. Important regions/places:
      1. Himalaya Mountains
      2. Hindu-Kush Mountains
      3. Indus and Ganges River Valleys
   3. Terms/People:
      1. Aryan
      2. Sanskrit
      3. Mauryan Dynasty
      4. Ashoka
      5. Dharma, Kharma, and Moksha (reincarnation)
      6. Buddhism

Notes/Questions for Monday or Tuesday

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1. Chapter 4: Classical Civilization in the Mediterranean—Greece and Rome
   1. Questions/Concepts:
      1. How did geography influence Greek civilization prior to Alexander’s conquest?
      2. Athenian culture compared to Spartan culture.
      3. The Roman Republic compared to the Roman Empire.
      4. Important steps in establishing the Roman Empire.
      5. What was distinctive about Greek philosophy?
      6. Greek and Roman contributions to architecture.
      7. Gender relations
   2. Important regions/places
      1. Greece and Rome
      2. Mediterranean Sea
   3. Terms/People:
      1. Greeks:
         1. Pericles
         2. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle
         3. Alexander (Macedonian)
      2. Romans:
         1. Julius and Augustus Caesar
         2. Dioletian
         3. Constantine
      3. Polis
      4. Direct Democracy
      5. Hellenistic period

Notes/Questions for Monday or Tuesday

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1. Chapter 5: The Classical Period—Directions, Diversities, and Declines by 500 C.E.
   1. Questions/Concepts:
      1. What role did Nomadic peoples have in linking and disrupting classical civilizations?
      2. What common elements contributed to the declines in all three classical civilizations?
      3. How did the Byzantine Empire survive the collapse of Rome?
      4. Early Christianity, its cultural and political implications.
      5. What do the declines of classical civilizations have to do with the spread of new religions (Christianity, Buddhism, Islam)
      6. Why was the decline of Rome more traumatic than the decline of the Gupta?
   2. Important regions/places
      1. Ethiopia
      2. Sahara Desert
      3. Polynesia
      4. Mesoamerica
   3. Terms/People
      1. Shintoism
      2. Rajput
      3. Justinian

Notes/Questions for Monday or Tuesday

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