

SEVEN ERAS OF WORLD HISTORY

1. Before Humankind (13.7 billion years ago to 200,000 B.C.E.)

Creation of the universe, galaxies, solar system, planet earth, life, and humans

2. Hunter/Gatherer Era- (200,000 - 8,000 B.C.E.)

Humans used speech and tools, lived a nomadic life, and migrated out of Africa to the rest of the world. This time period is sometimes called the Paleolithic Era (paleo meaning old and lithic meaning stone) because it was when humans made crude tools.

3. Neolithic Era - (8,000 - 3,500 B.C.E.)

Humans learned to domesticate plants and animals and many people settled down to live a farming life in small villages. Others became herders of sheep, goats, cattle and horses. (Neolithic means new stone age because tools were more and more refined.)

4. Dawn of Civilization - (3,500 - 500 B.C.E.)

The 4 river-valley civilizations - Mesopotamia, Egypt, Harrapan, and Chinese - developed with cities, monumental architecture, written language, social classes, monarchs, and empires. Extensive trade networks arose.

5. Classical Age - (500 B.C. - 500 C.E.)

A time of spiritual creativity in all civilizations. New religions emerged (Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Islam). Empires of this time grew large (Han, Gupta, and Roman) and technology (iron axes and plows) enabled expansion. Migration, trade and cultural contact expanded.

6. Era of Expanding Zones of Cultural Exchange and Encounter (500 -1500 C.E.)

The major civilizations extended technology, religions, and developed cultures to their neighbors. Chinese culture expanded and greatly influenced Japan, Korea, and Viet-Nam. Roman culture influenced the Germanic tribes of what is now Europe, and Islamic civilization spread from Spain to Indonesia.

7. Era of Global History (1500 C.E. - Present)

Europe created colonies, a process which began the integration and interconnectedness of the entire world. De-colonization occurred in the 20th century which led to scores of independent countries. Global trade accelerated and intensified.

¹ Nash, Gary, National Standards for History, National Center for History in Schools,

¹ Nash, Gary, National Standards for History, National Center for History in Schools, 1996

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