1 World History I

HIST 1210

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2 Defining the "Axial Age"

- About 500-1 BCE
- Spanning several civilizations in East Asia, South Asia, Mediterranean
- Famous thinkers
- Enduring influence.

3 Defining the "Axial Age"

- · New ideas challenging, building on traditional beliefs
 - Religion
 - Politics
 - Philosophy
 - Mathematics, science, medicine.

4 Preconditions

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- Support for intellectual leaders
- Cross-cultural exchange
- Writing down of works
- Small states: competition
- Empires: spread of ideas.

5 Politics and Philosophy: Questions

- Place of humans in the world
- Obligations of humans towards each other
- · Responsibilities of rulers and ruled
- · Nature of reality
- Basis for knowledge
- · Reason vs emotion.

6 Politics and Philosophy: China

- Daoism
- Confucianism
- · Philosophical schools after Confucius
- Legalism.

7 Politics and Philosophy: Daoism

- Emphasis on natural world
- Striving for self knowledge
- Getting in touch with the "Dao" of the universe.

8 Politics and Philosophy: Confucius (Kung Fuzi)

- Order and harmony
- Rule by gentlemen (shi)
- · Acceptance of ones place in society
- Promotion through merit
- For common good
- · Importance of tradition and ritual
- Five relationships.

9 Politics and Philosophy: Confucius (Kung Fuzi)

- Five relationships
 - Father-son
 - Elder brother-younger brother
 - Husband-wife
 - Ruler-subject
 - Friend-friend

10 Politics and Philosophy:

After Confucius

- Mencius (Meng Ko)
 - Humans are good by nature
 - Rule by consent of the governed
 - Right to overthrow unjust government.

11 Politics and Philosophy:

After Confucius

- Xunzi
 - People begin neither good nor bad
 - Laziness pushes them towards bad
 - Strong government necessary.

12 Politics and Philosophy: Legalism

- Reaction against shi class
- Obedience more important than ethics
- Tyranny better than lawlessness
- State more important than individual.

13 Politics and Philosophy: Legalism

- Severe penalties for disobedience
- State resources: warfare, economic management, exaltation of leaders.

14 Politics and Philosophy: Buddhism

- The Buddha = "The Enlightened One"
- · Four Noble Truths
 - Misery exists
 - Misery comes from desire
 - Desire can be overcome
 - The Eightfold Path can overcome desire

15 Politics and Philosophy: Greece

16 Politics and Philosophy: Greece

- Socratics
 - Plato:
 - Knowledge from universals
 - Rule by philosopher kings.

17 Politics and Philosophy: Greece

- 2 Socratics
 - Aristotle:
 - Observation
 - Syllogistic reasoning
 - Categories
 - Mixed rule (ruling elite limited by law).

18 Science, Mathematics, and Medicine: Greece

- · Parmenides and Zeno of Elea

Paradox of movement (impossibility of dividing time, matter). Science, Mathematics, and Medicine: Greece

- Eratosthenes
 - Measurement of earth
- Hippocrates
 - Ethical Code
- Archimedes
 - Lever.