

## Eurasian Empires, 500 BCE – 500 CE

(use calendar for a pacing guide)

<p><b>Social Science Vocabulary</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">                     empire                      tribute                      imperial                      commercial exchange                      absolute monarchs                      bureaucracy                      infrastructure                      centralized (decentralized)                      emigration                      popular participation                      democracy                      debt slavery                      despotism                      dissemination                      cosmopolitan                      assimilation                      autocratic                      republic                      aristocracy                      civil service                      eunuchs                      “barbarians”                      regionalism                 </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Big Picture</b></p> <p>As the early states and empires grew in number, size, and population, they frequently competed for resources and came into conflict with one another. In quest of land, wealth, and security, some empires expanded dramatically. In doing so, they built powerful military machines and administrative institutions that were capable of organizing human activities over long distances, and they created new groups of military and political elites to manage their affairs. As these empires expanded their boundaries, they also faced the need to develop policies and procedures to govern their relationships with ethnically and culturally diverse populations: sometimes to integrate them within an imperial society and sometimes to exclude them. In some cases, these empires became victims of their own successes. By expanding their boundaries too far, they created political, cultural, and administrative difficulties that they could not manage. They also experienced environmental, social, and economic problems when they overexploited their lands and subjects and permitted excessive wealth to be concentrated in the hands of privileged classes.</p>
<p><b>Key Historical Terms</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">                     Darius                      Athens &amp; Sparta                      Alexander the Great                      Caesar Augustus                      Pax Romana                      Qin Shihuangdi                      Legalism                      Mandate of Heaven                      Wudi                      Byzantine Empire                      Xiongnu                      Aryans                      Ashoka                 </p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Essential Understanding</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What were the political characteristics of the Persian Empire?</li> <li>2. Compare Greek political organization to Persian political organization. What accounts for the differences?</li> <li>3. What were the political foundations of the Roman Empire? How did the foundations of Rome change over time? What stayed the same?</li> <li>4. Compare the political characteristics of the Roman Empire to Han China.</li> <li>5. What were the similarities and differences in the collapse of the Roman and Chinese empires?</li> <li>6. What were the political characteristics of classical India? Why did India’s government differ from Rome and China?</li> </ol>
<p><b>Your Questions (questions you need/want answered from the reading)</b></p>	