

**TEST BANK**

SIXTEENTH EDITION

**WESTERN  
CIVILIZATIONS**



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## Chapter 2: Gods and Empires in the Ancient Near East, 1700-500 B.C.E

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### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. During the Late Bronze Age (1500–1200 B.C.E.) in the ancient Near East, the two great imperial powers were:
- New Kingdom Egypt and the Hittite Empire.
  - New Kingdom Egypt and classical Greece.
  - the Sumerians and the Egyptians.
  - the Hebrews and the Canaanites.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 49

2. During the first millennium B.C.E.:
- bronze slowly replaced iron as the primary component for tools and weapons.
  - iron slowly replaced bronze as the primary component for tools and weapons.
  - scholars from India to Ireland used the Sanskrit language in academic treatises.
  - Anatolia lost influence and was no longer a major player in Near East politics.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 49

3. In 1786 Sir William Jones, an expert in oriental studies, suggested that:
- Mesopotamian civilization died out because of drought.
  - out of respect for the dead, ancient sites should not be excavated.
  - bones found in Anatolia matched those of an Egyptian mummy.
  - ancient Greek and Sanskrit descended from a common, Indo-European linguistic source.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 50

4. “Indo-European,” as used in historical or anthropological texts, refers to:
- someone whose parents belong to different races from India and Europe.
  - linguistic and cultural patterns found in India, the Near East, and Europe.
  - the inhabitants of the strip of land connecting Asia and Europe.
  - the view that Hindus and ancient Goths had much in common.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 50

5. The people that settled in Anatolia around 2000 B.C.E. and built a powerful, militaristic kingdom there over the next four hundred years are known as the:
- Philistines.
  - Assyrians.
  - Babylonians.
  - Hittites.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: pages 51-52

6. The culture of the Hittites was:

- a. hindered by their lack of writing.
- b. preserved for posterity by the Cassettes.
- c. based on ideas borrowed from the Hebrews.
- d. strongly militaristic, prone to attacks on other peoples.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 52

7. Hattusilis's grandson and successor, Mursilis I, expanded his family's Bronze Age kingdom by:
- a. satisfying the demands of the warrior nobility, who became Mursilis's greatest ally.
  - b. annexing the neighboring kingdom of Babylon and using it as a base of operation.
  - c. sacking the fabled city of Babylon and collecting its riches.
  - d. negotiating with the Egyptians and signing a formal peace treaty with them.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 52

8. Prior to the coming of the Hyksos, the ancient Egyptians:
- a. regarded their country as the secure center of the cosmos.
  - b. were pessimistic about finding happiness in the afterlife.
  - c. spent vast sums on armies and fortresses for defense.
  - d. refused to trade with other peoples of the Near East.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 53

9. The Mitannians introduced lighter chariots to carry archers, but:
- a. they were not strong enough to defeat Assyria.
  - b. their opponents soon copied them and used protective armor.
  - c. they could not negotiate effectively with Hittites and Egyptians.
  - d. the Kingdom of Israel defeated them anyway.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 52

10. During the Hyksos period in Egypt (17th–16th centuries B.C.E.):
- a. foreigners took over government in northern Egypt and acted like pharaohs.
  - b. the invaders maintained their connections with the Aegean, Syria, and Palestine.
  - c. weakened government in the south lost control of Nubian (present-day Sudan).
  - d. All of the above.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: pages 53-54

11. The New Kingdom, particularly the Eighteenth Dynasty, was marked by:
- a. a return to traditional values of peaceful rule and indifference to the world.
  - b. the ultimate triumph of the Hyksos and the fall of the Egyptian empire.
  - c. the failure of Pharaoh Amuse to control his military forces.
  - d. the peak of Egyptian cultural achievement, and political and military power.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 55

12. Thutmosis III was remarkable for:
- a. his attempt to obliterate the memory of his Horus-Ra predecessors.

- b. changing the Egyptian religion from polytheism to monotheism.
- c. military campaigns in Palestine, including the capture of Armageddon.
- d. ruling over Egypt, Palestine, Anatolia, Iraq, and Iran.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 56

13. The division of property and wealth in New Kingdom Egypt:
- a. favored the pharaoh, the officer class, and the temples of the gods.
  - b. guaranteed employment for all, from soldiers to peasants and artisans.
  - c. led to discontent among the masses and calls for reform.
  - d. was among the most generous of all ancient civilizations.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 55

14. The priests at the greatest Egyptian temple complexes at Thebes:
- a. were discredited by their association with the hated Hyksos.
  - b. required believers to approach on their knees and beg forgiveness.
  - c. received special favor from the Eighteenth Dynasty, who worshipped Amon-Ra.
  - d. supported Amenhotep IV's religious reform program.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 57

15. As part of his religious reform, Amenhotep IV changed his name to Akhenaten and:
- a. emphasized his father's manner of devotion.
  - b. founded a new capital called Akhetaten (the modern city of el-Amarna).
  - c. sponsored artwork that depicted the new pharaoh as a masculine god in the shape of a falcon-headed man.
  - d. constructed the Great Pyramid at Giza as a memorial to his family.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 58

16. When Akhenaten died and was succeeded by Tutankhamen:
- a. the new pharaoh rejected his predecessor's beliefs and changed his name.
  - b. the priests of Amon knew their cause was hopeless.
  - c. Egypt had a leader who could preserve its imperial power.
  - d. the Hebrews took advantage of the opportunity to flee Egypt.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 60

17. By the fourteenth century B.C.E., international relations were marked by:
- a. suspicions and hostility: states wanted as little contact as possible.
  - b. strictly limited trade in essential goods only: grain, oil, wine, and salt.
  - c. feelings of brotherhood between the Hittites and the Assyrians.
  - d. diplomatic standards, polite forms of address, gifts and alliances.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 61

18. The "self-conscious cosmopolitanism" of the Late Bronze Age:
- a. refers to women's liberation from traditional family values.

- b. included the adoption of hieroglyphics across the known world.
- c. developed as ancient cultures actively exchanged goods and ideas.
- d. was resisted by the coastal towns of Sidon and Byblos.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: pages 61, 63

19. The system of writing developed by the citizens of Ugarit:
- a. combined Egyptian hieroglyphics and Mesopotamian cuneiform.
  - b. used an alphabet of about thirty symbols for the consonants.
  - c. was hopelessly inefficient for the needs of trade.
  - d. constituted a secret language used by diplomats and spies.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 63

20. “Aegean civilization” was long thought to have been:
- a. lost to barbarian conquests in northern Africa.
  - b. the legendary or prehistoric component of Greek civilization.
  - c. invented by Virgil, Lucretius, and other ancient poets.
  - d. an aspect of Egyptian foreign policy and colonization.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 64

21. Heinrich Schliemann and Sir Arthur Evans:
- a. were archaeologists who dug up Troy, Mycenae, and Knossos.
  - b. refused to accept the historical character of Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.
  - c. argued that the Greeks had taken all their ideas from African cultures.
  - d. discovered the source of the annual flooding of the Nile.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 64

22. The Minoans:
- a. engaged in trade, not piracy, to obtain needed goods.
  - b. were civil servants in a redistribute economy, not warriors.
  - c. wrote tablets in Linear A to record their economic transactions.
  - d. can be identified as non-Greek allies of the Hittites and Egyptians.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 66

23. Around 1200 B.C.E., an inscription by Pharaoh Ramses III records:
- a. the end of the Late Bronze Age and the first use of iron.
  - b. an Egyptian victory over the “Sea Peoples,” invaders from the North.
  - c. drastic measures because of overpopulation, food shortages, and war.
  - d. the terror felt by the kings of Ugarit and Alashiya.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 69

24. The Phoenicians’ greatest contribution to civilization was:
- a. their alphabet.
  - b. a green dye made from seaweed.

- c. printing blocks with movable type.
- d. a faster sailing ship with triangular sails.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 62

25. Members of the group known in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) as the Philistines:

- a. were descended from the Egyptians.
- b. had friendly relations with the Hebrews.
- c. brought grapevines and olive trees to the Levant.
- d. had no contact with the Mycenaeans or the Greeks.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 72

26. The Hebrew Bible is an unparalleled historical source that describes the cultural practices and theological development of the Hebrew people. However, most historians believe that:

- a. the biblical stories are essentially unique to the Hebrews, with no parallels in other Near Eastern societies.
- b. few historical events actually happened as they are described in the text.
- c. the Bible's composite nature means that each biblical book should be analyzed within its particular context.
- d. the Hebrew people never really struggled with the Canaanites.

ANS: C                      PTS: 1                      REF: pages 73-74

27. In the book of Judges, the Hebrew people:

- a. begin to settle and organize themselves into twelve tribes.
- b. build a magnificent temple to the Lord in Jerusalem.
- c. receive detailed laws on marriage, divorce, property, etc.
- d. are ruled by kings who pay tribute to the Assyrians.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 74

28. During the eleventh century B.C.E., the Hebrews united:

- a. under the leadership of Samuel and Saul.
- b. with the Phoenicians to drive out the Philistines.
- c. to form a great empire that ranged from Egypt to Persia.
- d. their forces to overthrow kings Saul, David, and Solomon.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 74

29. King David's rule was significant in establishing:

- a. the principle of monarchy: in God's eyes, whatever a king does is right.
- b. the idea of Israel as a unified nation, fulfilling God's promises.
- c. Israeli claims to rule over the East Bank of the Jordan.
- d. an empire that dominated its neighbors for centuries.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 75

30. The Hebrew cult of Yahweh emphasized:

- a. miracles, healing, and worship at local tabernacles.
- b. obedience to all earthly rulers as agents of God.
- c. self-sacrifice and living in retreat in the desert.
- d. the protective covenant between God and his people, helping transcend the old divisions between Israel and Judah.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 75

31. The division of the ancient kingdom of Israel was:
- a. provoked by Solomon's oppressive regime.
  - b. a result of Solomon's decision to cut the "baby" in half.
  - c. in response to popular demands to revive Ba'al-worship.
  - d. God's way of protecting the faithful from foreign aggression.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 77

32. Influenced by their long struggle to survive, the Assyrians:
- a. tried to appease their neighbors' demands for food and land.
  - b. refused to share their advanced culture and political system.
  - c. created a multicultural union of civilized states.
  - d. acted very aggressively toward other peoples.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 78

33. Assurbanipal II, King of Assyria, has the distinction of:
- a. acquiring a deserved reputation for cruelty and savagery.
  - b. being a heretic who turned away from traditional Assyrian religion.
  - c. losing the decisive battle that ended Assyrian dominance.
  - d. establishing a great library to collect Mesopotamian culture.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: pages 78-79

34. The Assyrian king:
- a. also served as chief priest of the Assyrian religion.
  - b. was in constant conflict with the chief priests of the Assyrian religion who used their power over the people to challenge the powers of the ruling class.
  - c. did not act as a military leader, but as a god.
  - d. was chosen from a band of select warriors rather than being a hereditary position.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 80

35. The defeat of the Assyrians and destruction of Nineveh in 612 B.C.E. was:
- a. the work of Medes from Iran and Chaldeans (neo-Babylonians).
  - b. fortunate for subject peoples, who were finally freed from oppression.
  - c. attributed to a loss of popular confidence in Assur.
  - d. commemorated by sculptures and plaques in the palace wall.

ANS: A                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 84

36. Unlike other rulers, Cyrus of Persia (559–529 B.C.E.):

- a. introduced metallic coinage in Asia Minor.
- b. took the Hebrew people into captivity in his capital city.
- c. lost a great empire to the barbarian tribes of central Asia.
- d. allowed self-rule and religious freedom to conquered peoples.

ANS: D                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 85

37. The accomplishments of King Darius of Persia included:

- a. recruiting foreign mercenaries for his armies.
- b. building roads for transport and postal service.
- c. extending Persian rule over Greece and the Aegean.
- d. capturing the bandits that had terrorized Persepolis.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 86

38. The followers of Zoroastrianism believed in:

- a. polytheism, animal sacrifice, and magical rituals.
- b. Ahura-Mazda (truth/light) struggling with Ahriman (evil/darkness).
- c. individual guardian angels who protect believers and punish wrongdoers.
- d. public cult worship sponsored by the Persian government.

ANS: B                      PTS: 1                      REF: page 87

### **TRUE/FALSE**

1. The wealth of natural resources in Anatolia went untapped until the rise of the Assyrians.

ANS: T

The Assyrians were the first to use the vast natural resources of Anatolia and blaze economic trails into the area.

PTS: 1                      REF: page 50

2. Savage violence and terror were characteristic of Assyrian warfare and foreign policy from their rise as a power in 1900 B.C.E.

ANS: F

Early Assyrian warfare and diplomacy relied on trade and the power of larger allies. Elevated violence was a characteristic of Assyrian rule only after the reign of Assurnasirpal II.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 50-51, 78-79

3. The Second Intermediate Period in Egyptian history was brought about by the conquest of Lower Egypt by a Semitic-speaking people who employed horse-drawn battle chariots in their warfare.

ANS: T

In 1700 B.C.E., a foreign army called the Hyksos invaded and took over Lower Egypt.

PTS: 1                      REF: page 53



4. Thutmosis III was the pharaoh who expelled the Hyksos and restored Egyptian confidence and reunification.

ANS: F

Ahmosé was the pharaoh who expelled the Hyksos, using their own military technology of the chariot against them.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 54

5. Trade in the Late Bronze Age was increasingly seaborne, rather than riverborne, and allowed smaller, seaside centers to become powerful city-states.

ANS: T

Ugarit and Byblos are excellent examples of great coastal cities that became wealthy trading centers for a wide market of goods.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 61

6. The term “thalassocracy” means “sea empire.”

ANS: T

The Minoan thalassocracy united many of the Greek islands from 1900-1500 B.C.E.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 64

7. The Minoans’ reputation as a peaceful, matriarchal society is unlikely.

ANS: T

The Minoans had a powerful navy capable of stopping any hostile force from reaching Cretan shores. There is also evidence for Bull cult, which is associated with patriarchal societies in the Near East.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 65

8. The center of Mycenaean society was the village, which gave a sense of family and responsibility to the people and encouraged loyalty to the king who was depicted as a father to his people.

ANS: F

The Mycenaean developed their enormous palace-citadels into complex societies, incorporating over 100,000 inhabitants in a single ruler’s kingdom.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 67

9. The effect of the arrival of the Sea Peoples on the Near East was to force fledgling kingdoms to unite, through conquest or consent, in order to stand up to this new threat.

ANS: F

The effect of the Sea Peoples was devastating, toppling the Mycenaean, Assyrian, and Hittite empires, forcing Greece into a dark age and contributing to the decline of Egypt’s power in the period.

PTS: 1                    REF: page 69

10. The Greek term “Phoenician” means “purple people”.

ANS: T

The Phoenician coast yielded a valuable purple dye from the murex snail in such large quantities that they became famous for it.

PTS: 1 REF: page 71

11. Though the Phoenicians were great colonizers of the Mediterranean, they remained strict separatists, having little cultural interaction with the non-Semitic peoples they encountered.

ANS: F

The Phoenicians contributed greatly to the cultures they encountered, developing new methods of rulership in its colonies that would later become the basis of the Roman Senate, reintroducing urban life into Greece and sharing their flexible writing system which was adapted by the Greeks as well.

PTS: 1 REF: pages 71-72

12. The Phoenicians were descendants of the Peleset, one of the Sea Peoples. They introduced the olive and the grapevine to the Near East and based much of their power in the area from large citadels and control over local trade routes and a monopoly over metalsmithing that made it virtually impossible for their enemies to forge their own weapons.

ANS: F

It was the Philistines who governed in such a manner.

PTS: 1 REF: pages 70, 73

13. We know very little about the Philistines because they left no written records.

ANS: T

We know the Philistines primarily through the eyes of their enemies, especially the Hebrews, as the Philistines did not leave any written records.

PTS: 1 REF: page 73

14. By the end of Solomon's rule, the cult of Yahweh had expelled all worship of foreign deities and acted as a glue to hold the Hebrew kingdom together after the Davidic dynasty ended.

ANS: F

Worship of Canaanite gods continued through Solomon's reign and afterwards was even supported by kings such as Jeroboam.

PTS: 1 REF: page 77

15. The "Babylonian Captivity" of the Hebrew people was begun in the rule of Cyrus the Great.

ANS: F

Cyrus ended the captivity and ruled with great tolerance.

PTS: 1 REF: pages 84-85

## ESSAY

1. What was the effect of the Hyksos invasion upon Egypt?

ANS:

The conquest of Lower Egypt by the Hyksos dissolved Egyptian central authority. Although they incorporated themselves into Egyptian society and even took on the added name of Ra for their rulers, they also maintained their economic and diplomatic ties with Syria and Palestine. Upper Egypt was given a form of independence and the Nubian kingdom split away, establishing itself as an independent kingdom of Kush. The threat of the Nubians eventually played into the hands of the southern pharaohs who were able to unite against this threat and expel the foreigners, giving control to the southern pharaoh Ahmose and ushering in the New Kingdom. From the Hyksos, the Egyptians adopted the use of the battle chariot, which they used to carve out a new kingdom. No longer isolationist, Egypt continued to trade and conquer old allies and enemies and reach the height of power.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 53-54

2. What are the advantages of monotheism as illustrated through the experiment of Akhenaten and the Hebrew nation ?

ANS:

The power of a priesthood had long been a check to the power of a king as illustrated throughout Mesopotamia and Egypt. Akhenaten's experiment of enforcing monotheistic worship of Aten was, in a large part, to check the power of the priests of Amon whose tremendous wealth and prestige had made them a formidable political and economic force. They had enjoyed clout surpassing the officer class and had become powerful players in the pharaoh's court. His dynasty's particular identification with Amon reduced the power of the priests of Amon and geographically repositioned the seat of spiritual power, thus severing ties to local families and fortunes.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 57-60, 88-93

3. In what ways can it be said the Late Bronze Age was an "international system?"

ANS:

The Late Bronze Age saw a boom in international relations, as illustrated by the large amount of correspondence extant between rulers of this period. There was an increase in international, diplomatic marriages, and professional envoys journeyed frequently between centers of power. Many of these were also merchants who sought out new trading routes or centers. Seaborne trade flourished, allowing small seaside towns to prosper, while the larger empires and cities improved overland routes. Trade routes were not only for the transport of goods and gold, but of ideas as artistic motifs, literary and religious ideas, architecture, tool design, and weapon technology became rapidly transmitted. The search for markets, resources and trade routes heightened economic competition but also promoted greater understanding between cultures and treaties of this period illustrate this new relationship. This new system also brought with it great fragility, however, as cities and countries began to be dependent on the economies of each other. One crash or even decline of a city or empire could spell disaster elsewhere.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 61-68

4. How did the cultures of the Minoans and Mycenaeans contribute to the development of Greece?

ANS:

Both the Minoans and the Mycenaeans relied upon the sea for trade and power which would become a characteristic of the Greek world. The Minoans employed a huge and powerful navy for both trade and protection, and the Mycenaeans built their empire out of both trading and raiding with their navy. The great power and multiple uses of a strong navy would be an example which several of the later Greek city-states would use to great effect.

The Minoan palaces collected resources and then parceled them out again as the palace bureaucracy saw fit. They were also centers for the production of pottery, textiles and metalwork and became centers of politics and power - the forerunners of the great city-states.

Both the Minoans and the Mycenaeans had contact and settlements in the east, primarily in Anatolia which led to a tight network of international commercial and diplomatic relationships.

Greek social groups who were concerned with economic and political rights, such as the *demos* were created, as well as the first encounters with the Greek gods, such as Zeus, Poseidon and Dionysos.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 64-70

5. Describe the effect of the Sea Peoples on the kingdoms and economies of the Late Bronze Age.

ANS:

The Sea Peoples disrupted the northern trade networks which had a profound effect upon the Mycenaeans. The economies and goods distribution had become so specialized that the disruption to trade meant a sudden lack of food and supplies for the overpopulated cities. War was fought not only with the Sea Peoples but each other for food and other goods. Many letters exist from kings all across the Mediterranean begging other leaders for help. A wave of refugees fled the Aegean basin, contributing to problems along the mainland. The undermining of commerce also devastated the economy of the Hittites whose kingdom quickly fell. The great cities were left in ruins and many empires had fallen to be replaced by fledgling kingdoms. Greece suffered over ninety percent depopulation and entered a "dark age." Egypt survived, thanks to the narrow victory of Ramses III, but without its trading partners, also entered a period of decline. Assyria, the Kassites and Babylon all fell from outside pressures and internal economic collapse.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 69-70

6. Compare and contrast the strengths and weaknesses of the Davidic dynasty in the Hebrew kingdom.

ANS:

Davidic kingship saw an unparalleled growth in the power and prestige of the Hebrew nation. Under the rule of David, the Philistines, who had been weakened economically and socially by the decline of Egypt, were defeated, as were the Moabites and the Ammonites. He built a capitol at Jerusalem, half way between the southern tribes of Judah and the northern tribes of Israel, in order to not show favor to any one area, but to unite the tribes under his rule and under the cult of Yahweh who were centered in Jerusalem as well. His son, Solomon, continued his ambitious building program and maintained an impressive standing military. However, this building and aggrandizing came at great cost. David imposed a highly unpopular system of taxation and forced labor on his subjects, which his son not only continued, but increased. Solomon ruled as a despot and ultimately, his harsh oppression, which included conscription of his peoples and four months forced labor every year, proved to be too much. At the end of Solomon's rule, he faced many rebellions, which turned to open revolt in his son's reign.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 75-76

7. Analyze the role of warfare and terror in the formation, rulership, and fall of the Assyrian Empire.

ANS:

Due to the location of their homeland in northern Mesopotamia, the Assyrians had to struggle from their beginnings against their powerful neighbors: the Babylonian Empire, the Egyptians, the Hittites and the Sea Peoples. This centuries-long fight for existence had a profound effect upon the Assyrians who became aggressors in turn, extending their own power and influence through brutal treatment of their neighbors. The constant fighting often threatened the empire, but the constant struggle continued and forged a powerful army. In the hands of an able ruler such as Assurnasirpal II, the Assyrians were able to turn their war machine on their enemies with great success. The Neo-Assyrian Empire Assurnasirpal II and his son built was through oppression and was often thrown into periods of revolt. It was an armed state, built on the ability to spread terror and oppress enemies and subjects alike. The religion of the Assyrians was likewise warlike. The Assyrian god Assur demanded his worship be extended through military conquest and thus holy war dominated the religious and military ethos. The brutality of the Assyrians served them well in carving out an empire, but eventually turned against them. After the death of the powerful king Assurbanipal, a coalition formed between the Medes of Iran and the Chaldeans who launched a revolt against their oppressors and destroyed the capitol city of Nineveh in 612 B.C.E.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 78-84

8. What factors contributed to the success of the Persian Empire?

ANS:

Excellent leadership was a core asset to the Persians. The superb military skill of Cyrus not only added the prosperous lands of Lydia and Babylon to his empire, but his policy of toleration allowed the conquered peoples a degree of self-determination and to retain their identity. This was especially important for the Hebrew people whom he freed from Babylonian captivity. The toleration and good treatment of his peoples was a policy Cyrus's successors, including Cambyses and Darius continued and it was a policy that aided them in times conflict, such as the wars with Greece in which the Persians were greatly aided by the support of their subjects. A dedication to the well-being of the empire was also key in its success. Darius's improvements and building projects included not only an imperial palace, but also a system of canals to assist the merchants with trade in Egypt and irrigation systems to aid the farmers. Communication was superior thanks to his vast road system and a postal system was made possible by the creation of such excellent means of travel. Unlike the Davidic kings of Israel, the Persian kings kept taxation low and tribute modest whilst also regulating forms of tax collection, standardizing currency and enforcing the law. The military success tempered with domestic interest and a tolerant policy of rule created a powerful empire and a stable one in stark opposition to the physically and economically brutal kingdoms of the era.

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 84-87

9. In what ways was Zoroastrianism a radical departure from other Near Eastern religions?

ANS:

Zoroastrianism was free of polytheism, animal sacrifice and magic. Worship was no longer ritualistic but ethical in its base construction. The one supreme god of the universe had no evil characteristics at all and as his light shone everywhere, his goodness could be seen in any people. It was a personal religion, making private and spiritual demands as opposed to public, cultic or ritualistic ones. It did not exalt the power of a godlike king. The effect on the ruler was to tolerate all peoples within his kingdom and to work for the benefit of all. Zoroastrianism stressed that although there was free will and humans were masters of their own actions, only those people who had been good and hospitable in life would be rewarded at the "judgment day."

PTS: 1                      REF: pages 87-88

10. What differences separated the empires of the Bronze Age from those of the Early Iron Age?

ANS:

The empires of the Early Iron Age were much more highly unified, ruled from central cities and had centrally managed systems of communication, sophisticated administrative structures and ideologies that justified their aggressive imperialism as a religious obligation imposed on them by a single god. The armies of the Iron Age were far larger than any army of the Bronze Age and the empires were larger and stronger than previous Western empires.

PTS: 1

REF: pages 93-94