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December, 2018

© Indira Gandhi National Open University, 2018

ISBN :

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Printed and published on behalf of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi by Prof Jitendra Kumar Srivastava, Director, School of Tourism,

Laser Typeset by : Tessa Media & Computers, C-206, A.F.E.-II, Okhla, New Delhi

Printed at :

BLOCK 3 ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

In this Block we are discussing societal state of affairs and tourism in the ancient civilizations, Chinese civilizations, Byzantine, Christian and Islamic civilization and rise and fall of early empires etc.

Unit 7: Discusses the augmentation of tourism, role of agriculture, social dissection and function of religion in ancient times. The unit also discussed diverse dynasties of China and correlated developments in order to comprehend ancient civilizations.

Unit 8: Starts with understanding of empire and elaborated ascend and collapse of early empires in dissimilar regions of the planet. The unit also discussed contribution and exceptionality of early civilizations in succinct.

Unit 9: We have discussed meaning and contribution of Byzantine to the humankind. Christian civilization, its extend and features are also covered. The appearance of Islamic civilization and its expansion is also discussed.



UNIT 7 ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS: SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND TOURISM

Structure

- 7.0 Objectives
- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Social Conditions and Tourism
 - 7.2.1 Growth of Tourism
 - 7.2.2 Role of Agriculture
 - 7.2.3 Social Division
 - 7.2.4 Role of Religion
- 7.3 China
 - 7.3.1 The Xia Dynasty
 - 7.3.2 The Shang Dynasty
 - 7.3.3 The Zhou Dynasty
 - 7.3.4 The Qin Dynasty
 - 7.3.5 The Han Dynasty
 - 7.3.6 The Jin Dynasty
 - 7.3.7 Trade and Commerce
 - 7.3.8 The Great Wall of China
- 7.4 Let Us Sum Up
- 7.5 Key Words
- 7.6 Answers to Check Your Progress

7.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- describe meaning of civilization and its characteristics;
- appreciate the role of agriculture, society and religion in the development of tourism; and
- know different dynasties that ruled China which is one of the oldest ancient civilizations.

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Civilization refers to complex societies that are based on interconnected and interdependent network of geographical, social, political, religious, cultural and many other components with some common features. According to Handbook of Oxford:

“Civilization refers to both a process and a destination. It describes the process of a social collective becoming civilized, or progressing from a state of nature, savagery, or barbarism to a state of civilization. It describes a state of human society marked by significant urbanization, social and professional stratification, the luxury of leisure time, and corresponding advancements in the arts and

sciences. The capacity for reasonably complex socio political organisation and self-government according to prevailing standards has long been thought of as a central requirement of civilization.”

Based on the above definition, we can see that at the onset, civilization came in existence at the geographical location that favoured agricultural setup. Further owing to their dependence on agricultural settlements for required production of crop and when this production become surplus, it allowed people to engage in non-agricultural work and gain specialisation in craftsmanship. This propelled emergence of state and governments that laid rules and made policies to maintain law and order so as to maintain social hierarchies and regulate power over larger communities. Gradually, there were different professions in which people worked enabling increased production, trade for the goods produced leading to social stratification and satisfaction. Symbols of writing were soon invented to communicate, keep records and codification of justice and law. When people fostered creative bend, they wrote and composed and thus literature was born, enriching art and culture.

The large congregations, as these complex societies evolved as civilizations near the major river valleys with rich soil, crop production and a means of transportation; a look at some of the major ancient civilizations of the world, their social conditions and features, progress, rise and fall will thus enable learners to understand these civilizations better.

7.2 SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND TOURISM

“Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or business/professional purposes. These people are called visitors (which may be either tourists or excursionists; residents or non-residents) and tourism has to do with their activities, some of which imply tourism expenditure” (United Nations World Tourism Organization, 2008).

This definition of tourism entails the inclusion of an array of people, activities pertaining to social, cultural and economic involvement and provision of facilities with an intended purpose and objective. Derived from the Greek word *”tornos”* tourism has the element of movement, accentuating the drive and travel across the boundaries, with the possibility of providing opportunities to communicate between different civilizations and societies. This extends the development of tourism into a worldwide activity that goes beyond social, political, ideological and cultural boundaries of any civilization. Soon, tourism established itself to become the medium of communication, societal development and medium of broadening the limits of human knowledge and understanding in different civilizations.

7.2.1 Growth of Tourism

To understand the myriad of reasons and social conditions that led to the growth of tourism, following incidents would append. The invention of the wheel pushed civilization to grow and develop. People moved from one place to another because seasons changed, animals moved and they travelled to survive. Since early travellers moved on foot, they created smaller societies that were confined to

smaller geographical areas where they could farm and grow a crop for production. As their needs grew, the need for trade and business aroused that pushed the denizens to cross the boundaries and travel to distant places. Their quest, curiosity to know the unknown catapulted them to climb mountains, cross rivers and seek the glimpse of vast unexplored terrains, giving birth to early tourism.

The pages of history trace back the origin of travel and tourism to the rise of the Egyptian, Eastern Mediterranean, and Roman Empires. Nearing the Costa Rica that dates back to mid-nineteenth century, where movements of people, revolving around the needs of food, accommodation and transport facilities generated the need to travel, commencing the origins of tourism. According to experts, people in the medieval period have leisure time and progressive transport infrastructure that enabled them to travel and use their time. Besides trade and commerce, the ancient civilizations provide testimony that motives of religion, sports, health, education, leisure, relaxation and spiritual pursuits engaged people in tourism activities. Since every society and its culture, integrated with its history provide reasons for a deeper understanding of the phenomenon. Knowledge and understanding of social conditions that led to the growth and development of tourism became the key to appreciate the fundamentals of tourism.

Civilization becomes a complex concept to understand for many reasons. There are different definitions, different opinions of experts and theories that define the terms from different angles and perspectives. Imagining a civilization without a societal structure, division of classes or social Pyramids will be a futile effort. This structure indeed becomes the fulcrum and provides a foundation for any civilization to work, without which the whole system will disintegrate into a chaotic manner. This social system in any civilization provides a system for division of labor, allocation of resources, a delegation of responsibilities, and effective execution of work to work in a cohesive manner for the cumulative growth of the people living in a city under a selected government.

7.2.2 Role of Agriculture

In the beginning, the arable lands attracted people that resulted in the formation of smaller communities living in cohesion. The crop production in the surplus amount allowed some people to engage in different professions that paved the way for distinct specialised roles and different classes in the societal structure. Since agriculture required working of people in large number, there was cooperation needed between these different classes so as to work efficiently in lands to grow crops, making of irrigation systems, construction of monuments and many other projects that required leaders and heads comprising a new social class. As people in these communities started growing, there were villages that came in shape, out of which then grew cities. Presence of cities marks the presence of all early civilizations. These cities invited people to work in collaboration and trade by providing infrastructure and resources. These cities became the centers of movement since people from villages and smaller communities moved for trade and commerce. With larger populations and to fulfill the demands, these cities required political leadership and shared common institutions of government, religion, and language under the umbrella of a centralised state that cemented people and created a sense of unity for work, peace and law and order. This state ruled the larger cities or communities under a single political system called government. This political system is considered one of the most important factors in the rise of early civilizations.

In general, civilizations conjure in mind the images of empires, massive stone walls, gilded and architectural monuments, grand roads with strong physical infrastructure. This physical infrastructure was complemented well to facilitate the management and administration of larger communities thus social infrastructures: economic, political, and religious institutions were designed creating new social hierarchies. These hierarchies were supplemented with people who specialised in their skills and professional roles of leaders, ministers, farmers, artisans, traders, merchants, and spiritual leaders. Further, as a result of increased trade and conflict with external civilizations, cities required diplomats, armies, and centralised rulers and involved people in them through training. This social structure thus made core functionality of any organisation to survive. Experts have a difference of opinions in terms of various components and features that make part of any civilization. The example of citizens living in the Niger River Valley in West Africa accounts for the agricultural surplus, urbanisation with specialised labour, however, they never maintained strong social hierarchies, political structures and system of codification or written language that allow experts to disagree on considering it as a civilisation. Further, extensive cultural exchange and dissemination of technology make it challenging for experts to demarcate, where one civilization ends and another begins. Thus social structure with integrated political, religious and cultural roots makes part of the major ancient civilizations and thus they become the point of reference here with respect to tourism.

7.2.3 Social Division

Considering the parameters on which social division was based in most of the civilizations: caliber, skills and responsibilities to be given were the important ones. The higher strata comprised the King, Pharaoh or the Ruler in the dynasty as explained in Indus Valley, Egyptian and Chinese civilizations. This class represents the power of the highest order and sovereignty. They are blessed with wisdom and intellect who ruled the people, used their wisdom for their better growth and development and then making better decisions. Augmenting them come a class of people skilled in sciences, arts and intellect who would make part of the Ministry of the King and help in making rules and policies for running the government in the most successful manner.

In absence of such a social structure, a protector of people, without a leader in the form of a ruler or king, it was imperative that managing people and keeping them secure was tough. Lawlessness leading to anarchy would have prevailed in such system. However, if unchecked the king might dictate by giving unwanted orders, using his special powers. If unregulated, slave and workers may start a mutiny and stand against their own rulers, the merchants and sellers will not sell any of their goods and priests might fight to acquire the throne and rule over the kingdom.

7.2.4 Role of Religion

Most of the ancient civilizations had their own religions that created social unity. This religion was based on a system of beliefs, rituals, customs and behaviours that answered the meaning of existence and concept of God. Since people shared set of beliefs and practices, they also crossed cities, travelled to distant places and met people who did not know each other but could find common ground and build mutual trust and respect through their religious communions and tie-

ups. The intricate connect between politics and religion was strongly observed in all the religions. Some political leaders also represented their religious front and thus acted as religious leaders. In Ancient Egypt, Pharaohs presented themselves as the incarnations of God. They ruled the kingdom as kings and were the representative of their religion as well.

Together these political and religious leaders contributed in strengthening the social hierarchies. Political leaders were accounted for decisions pertaining to law, policy-making and wars that impacted the entire societies. Religious leaders were responsible for explaining the concept of God, its meaning and relevance in the life of citizens. Their status was exalted since they alone, as depicted, could communicate between a society and its god or gods and briefed the citizens about their welfare.

Besides the political leaders, artisans belonged to the strata that were responsible for providing goods and services and there were merchants who engaged in the trade of these goods. The labourers were of lower classes who were sometimes classified as slaves and did the specialised work of loading or unloading of the goods, cleaning of the city to name a few. Together, these classes comprised the complex social structure and contributed in the production, growth and development of a city.

Check Your Progress-1

1) What do you understand by “Civilization”?

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2) Explain the reason and social conditions that led to the growth of tourism in ancient time.

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7.3 CHINA

Standing as one of the oldest civilizations of the ancient world, China has a history that reveals those factors that played important role in its cultural, social, religious and spiritual development. Due to this historical background this nation stands as one of the economic giants in the world today. The roots of its history date back to 4000 years. Located on the eastern part of the Asian Continent, China has the largest population in the world.

The pages of Chinese history reveal powerful families called dynasties that ruled this nation. Shang comes as the first and the Qing, the last. The civilization of China traces its history in the Yellow River Basin, where the seat of first Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties are proclaimed. The lore marks Xia as the first Chinese hereditary dynasty, however the historians consider Shang dynasty to be the first in the tradition. Xia disappeared, as the lore continues when the last emperor was expelled due to the tyrannical rule. Since there are no writings available to support the lore, thus, to base understanding of the Chinese civilizations, readings about the Shang dynasty strengthen the concept.

Blending of art, culture, and religion is seen in Chinese civilization. They were highly influenced by the three pillars of religion and philosophies: Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. These are called “the three ways” and had a huge impact on the way people lived and looked at art, culture and religion providing a distinctive hue to the Chinese civilization.

The experts divide Chinese History into the following times lines:

- 1) Ancient (c.8500 – 256 BC): It chronicles the record of the earliest period millions of years ago through Paleolithic and Neolithic period followed by Bronze Age. They trace the history of different dynasties beginning from Xia and ending on Zhou as explained in the section below.
- 2) Imperial (221 BC – 1912 AD): This period marks the longest period in the history of China. Beginning from Qin (221–206 BC), it lasts up to the rule of Qing in (1636 – 1912) making the mediaeval period.
- 3) Modern (1912 – Present): Tracing record of Republic of China after the end of dynasties, this period presents the current features that govern the People’s Republic of China from 1949 till present.

For the present chapter, the inventory below that is not exhaustive has been confined to the Ancient period only (till Jin Dynasty), that shall enable learners to examine the salient features that contributed in the development and growth of China.

7.3.1 The Xia Dynasty

There were small farming lands, villages that grew into communities and functioned through a centralised government in a Xia Dynasty (c. 2070 – 1600 BCE). There was a marked sign of progress that was revealed through excavations carried out in 1960’s and 1970’s CE. This was a sign that progress was made from Stone Age to door of the Bronze Age. Yu the great, who ruled for almost thirteen years and inspired his people by dedication and devotion, made efforts to protect the crop of the farmers from the regular floods occurring in the Yellow River. It was he, as heard in the lore, who established the ruling by hereditary succession that gave birth to the dynasty system. Gradually, Dynasts became the elite class and farmers remained agrarians living in communities and villages. The power remained in the dynasts of Xia rulers until it was taken over by Tang who established the Shang Dynasty (1600 – 1046 BCE).

7.3.2 The Shang Dynasty

The Tang was the ruler who represented the Shang dynasty and defeated Jie at the Battle of Mingtiao around 1600 BCE. While Yu sacrificed his personal life

for his people and never took advantage of his powers and efforts, he was admired and revered by the common populace; however, the last of his successor, Jie unlike him, lavishly spent the hard earned money by the farmers and imposed heavy taxes on them. Tang thus observed this extravagance of the Xia court and decided to take lead and protect people from the heavy tax burdens. As a leader he ensured to lower the taxes imposed on populace and cancelled the lavish projects that were depleting the resources of the Kingdom. With his vision, wisdom and efficiency he reinitiated the energies of the people so as to engage in meaningful work. Art, culture and religion thus flourished in his kingdom that yielded fulfillment, meaning and peace to the citizens.

Unlike their predecessors who worshipped many gods with the one supreme God, the people in Shang worshipped 'the great ancestors' who were believed to protect agriculture and people in war. People believe that when someone elder in the family dies, they attain divine powers and can provide solace and help in the times of need. Thus the practice of ancestral worship began. Soon, this practice gave birth to ornate rituals wherein people buried their ancestors in gilded tombs and provided them with all the objects of daily and special needs. The King, being the supreme and representative of the state, served as the chief officiate who was considered to have special powers and who mediated between the living and the dead.

7.3.3 The Zhou Dynasty

The Zhou Dynasty (1046 – 256 BC) succeeded the Shang dynasty. In the Battle of Muye, the King Wu of the Zhou defeated Shang around 1046 BCE establishing the Zhou dynasty. The Mandate of Heaven was developed and justified by the Zhou Dynasty, although, it had its roots in the Shang dynasty. The concept of Mandate of Heaven as the name indicated, justified the rule by the king as a heavenly order. Those who ruled were blessed by the Gods and were justified in their conduct and will. However, when the ruler does not serve the will of the people and command of the lord, the king must be overthrown. Even the progeny of the King should only be entitled to the Kingship when they possess the virtues to govern the people.

Since there is no distinct demarcation in the dates of rule as per historians, in the 8th Century BC the power in the hands of ruler was decentralised and the country was divided into smaller states, some of which tried to declare themselves as sovereign. Due to external and internal pressure, there was the Spring Period, the Autumn Period and the Warring States Period. Further, in the Warring States Period, the independent and smaller states warred with one another and thus were named such. Despite the time of such upheaval, this period is regarded as one of the most promising periods in the flourishing of art, culture, religion and philosophies. The different school of thoughts grew in this period and they also placed the most sagacious philosophers and poets such as Confucius, Mencius, Mot Zu, Lao-Tzu, Tao Chien, and the military strategist Sun-Tzu to name a few, on the record.

7.3.4 The Qin Dynasty

The Qin dynasty followed the Zhou dynasty and was preceded by the Han Dynasty. The Chinese unification took place in 221 BC under Emperor Qin Shi Huang and it was the beginning of Imperial China. Qin Shi Huang in 214 BC

secured his boundaries to the north, took the possession of major part of Sichuan to the south west. The Qin soldiers conquered the coastal areas of Guangzhou and captured the Fuzhou and Guilin. They reached as far as Hanoi and it was the first dynasty that was successful in south in terms of extending its boundaries. After the death of its first emperor in 210 BC, the Empire went into the hands of Chu lieutenant who on later stage established the Han Dynasty. The Qin Dynasty brought far reaching reforms and the name China was also derived from it.

7.3.5 The Han Dynasty

The dynasty lasted for 400 years i.e. from 206 BC to 220 AD and is considered to be the one of the greatest periods in the Chinese history. During this time China was converted into military, economic and cultural power. The empire also extended its cultural and political influence over the countries like Korea, Japan, Mongolian, Vietnam and Central Asia. The Han Empire was controlled by the central authorities called commanderies. The Han dynasty faced the challenges of many rebellions. The sovereignty of Han was established up to the Central Asia and they also contributed in establishing the Silk Route. The Hans divided the Xiongnu (confederation of nomadic peoples) into two nations, the Southern and the Northern Xiongnu. The northern territories of the Hans were overrun by nomadic confederation.

7.3.6 The Jin Dynasty

After Han Dynasty, from 220 to 589 CE was the period of Six Dynasties. One of them was the Jin Dynasty. The Jin dynasty lasted between the periods 265 to 420 AD. The dynasty was divided into two parts, the first being Western Jin founded by Sima Yan with its capital at Luoyang and the second Eastern Jin founded by Sima Rui with its capital at Jiankang.

Sui dynasty and Tang dynasty followed Six Dynastic periods, and from 907 to 960 CE China was ruled by five different dynasties. After this Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties ruled different parts of China.

7.3.7 Trade and Commerce

A brief description on the course of trade and commerce that took place in the ancient Chinese civilization is relevant to be mentioned here. The China was connected to the rest of the world through the Silk Road that was 4000 miles long. The Silk Road, as it was named due to major trading of silk cloth, was a trade route that stretched from China to the Eastern Europe and was expanded and promoted in the duration of Han Dynasty (206 BC to 220 AD). From northern borders of China, India and Persia, it reached to Eastern Europe near today's Turkey and the Mediterranean Sea. This trade route played a very significant role because it provided a major channel for success of the trade and commerce to take place connecting different Kingdoms and Empires. In the history, China was known to the world as the 'Land of Silk' well addressed by the Romans. The Chinese sold silk for thousands of years to the rest of the world and popularly made their niche in the world market. The Road and Silk together provided robust strength to the commerce in the government. This road allowed merchants to travel and export tea, sugar, salt, spices and porcelain besides silk. This trade road besides commerce also played a significant role in the cultural exchange and networking growth of the Chinese Civilization. In order to protect their

trade and route from any external invasion, the Chinese Dynasties extended the Great Wall of China both as a defence and protective mechanism.

7.3.8 The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China with its 5,500 miles length comes as a legendary wall in the history of China. It covers the northern border of China and boasts its own history of building and protection. To keep the massive and frequent invaders like Mongols away, the smaller walls were build for protection. Envisioned by the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, it was build for protection with thousands of lookout towers that could enable soldiers to guard his empire from external invaders. The wall continued its journey till contribution from the Ming Dynasty. Today, while it stands as one of the most fascinating tourist attractions in China, attracting more than 10 million people to flock every year, its history proclaims its birth for fortification and defense from invaders in the books of Historians.

Check Your Progress-2

1) Explain the various dynasties that ruled in China.

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2) What do you know by Silk Route?

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3) Elaborate the importance of Great Wall of China.

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7.4 LET US SUM UP

In the unit we have discussed that civilization came in existence at the geographical location that favoured agricultural setup. When agricultural production became surplus, it allowed people to engage in non-agricultural work

and gain specialisation. This propelled emergence of state and governments that laid rules and made policies to maintain law and order so as to maintain social hierarchies and regulate power over larger communities. The growth of tourism is related with development of infrastructure for general public and provision of communication and security by authority. The agriculture sector, society and religion played pivotal role in the development of travel and tourism in all ancient civilizations. In the present unit we tried to discuss reasons of growth of travel and tourism in ancient time and also discussed one of the ancient most civilization i.e. China from historical perspective. Rest of the ancient civilizations will be discussed in another unit.

To conclude, it could be observed that varied social conditions that correspond to the growth of economy through trade and culture, establishing and reinforcing societal identity, preserving one's culture with archeological and societal heritage, sharpening communication across societies for facilitating harmony and understanding among people and supporting societies, helped define new tourism in the ancient civilizations and propagated tourism.

7.5 KEY WORDS

Civilization	:	Civilization refers to complex societies that are based on interconnected and interdependent network of geographical, social, political, religious, and cultural and many other components with some common features.
Silk Route	:	The China was connected to the rest of the world through the Silk Road that is 4000 miles long. The Silk Road, as it was named due to major trading of silk cloth, was a trade route that stretched from China to the Eastern Europe.
The Great Wall of China	:	It covers the northern border of China and boasts its own history of building and protection.

7.6 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress-1

- 1) See Section 7.1
- 2) See Section 7.2

Check Your Progress-2

- 1) See Sub-section from 7.3.1 to 7.3.6
- 2) See Sub-section 7.3.7
- 3) See Sub-section 7.3.8

UNIT 8 RISE AND FALL OF EARLY EMPIRES

Structure

- 8.0 Objectives
- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 Ancient Empires (Near East)
 - 8.2.1 Egypt
 - 8.2.2 Sumer and Akkadian
 - 8.2.3 Mitanni
 - 8.2.4 Babylonia
 - 8.2.5 Assyria
 - 8.2.6 Hittite
 - 8.2.7 Phoenicia
 - 8.2.8 Persia
- 8.3 Ancient Sub-Saharan Africa
- 8.4 Ancient India
- 8.5 Ancient Europe
 - 8.5.1 Athens
 - 8.5.2 Sparta
 - 8.5.3 Macedonia
 - 8.5.4 Hellenistic States
 - 8.5.5 Seleucid
 - 8.5.6 Ptolemaic
 - 8.5.7 Roman
- 8.6 Ancient Eurasian Steppe
 - 8.6.1 Scythia
 - 8.6.2 Sarmatians
 - 8.6.3 Xiongnu
 - 8.6.4 Hunnic
- 8.7 Let Us Sum Up
- 8.8 Key Words
- 8.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

8.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- know the meaning of term Empire;
- discuss different ancient civilizations established in different parts of the world; and
- understand the rise and fall of various early empires.

8.1 INTRODUCTION

Empire as a term is used to denote a group of states or countries governed by a single supreme authority i.e. an emperor or monarch. The extent of an empire is more than that of a kingdom. The formation of empires takes place because of its diverse socio cultural, religious and ethnic components. The word colonialism is also used in the place of empire but the meaning is quite different. The word empire is used to signify powerful state or society while colonialism is used to denote less powerful one. There are many empires that existed since very first civilization dating back to ancient time and their brief description is given below. For study purpose the early empires have been divided into Ancient near East, Ancient Sub Saharan Africa, Ancient India, Ancient Europe and Ancient Eurasian Steppe.

8.2 ANCIENT EMPIRES (NEAR EAST)

The description of the early empires falling under this category is:-

8.2.1 Egypt

It has been considered as one of the world's first civilization that saw its existence in the lap of River Nile around 3000 BC. The Egyptians achieved the top position of its power under the pharaohs during New Kingdom. The area of the ancient Egypt was expanded up to Near East, the Mediterranean and sub Sahara Africa and in the south into Nubia. This civilization was also notable for its innovation of writing along with its construction projects. There were many factors that contributed Egypt to rise as a civilization, out of which the fertile river valley and natural borders made Egypt to be never invaded and their strong military ready to face challenges of any foreign invasion. But it did not last for a long period and by 1000 BC, Pharaohs as New Kingdom established a permanent settlement by securing their border and maintaining diplomatic relations with their neighbours. Tuthmosis I and Tuthmosis III were the powerful pharaohs who extended the area of Egypt as an empire. Amenhotep IV sat on the throne and changed his name to Akhenaten. He hyped the god "Aten" as the supreme deity and suppressed the worship of other gods. He also attacked the priestly establishment. He is also credited with the shifting of his capital to the new city of Akhetaten. After his death, his religion did not survive and it was taken over by Amarna period. Ramesses ascended the throne and contributed with temples, statues and obelisks. His army fought against the Hitties in the Battle of Kadesh and agreed with the first recorded peace treaty. The wealth of Egypt became the tempting target for invaders especially for Libya and Sea People. As a result, the Egypt lost control over Syria and Palestine. The internal problems like corruption, tomb robbery and civil unrest also aggravated foreign invasion. The Egyptian empire is notable in the history of civilization for their construction techniques evolved in building of pyramids, temples and obelisks, quarrying, surveying methods, mathematics, medicines, irrigation system, agricultural practices and ship construction. They further contributed with glass technology, faience, art of writing and literature composition. They have communicated this world with their art and architecture and their monumental ruins have become the center of attraction for the travellers.

8.2.2 Sumer and Akkadian

The area located between the Tigris and Euphrates is well-known to historians as a site of ancient civilization which they called Sumer, situated in the southern part of Mesopotamia, modern Iraq. Sumer was well-known for their innovation in language, architecture, governance and many more. As an ancient site, the history of Sumer goes back to 4500–4000 BC when it was first settled by Ubaid people. They were known for their cattle rearing and farming skills, art of textile weaving, pottery and carpentry. Sumerian villages and towns were established near the farming communities of Ubaid. The existence of Sumerian culture was also traced in the city states of Eridu, Nippur, Lagash, Kish, Ur and Uruk. Each city was surrounded by a wall and distinguished by the local deities whom they used to worship. By 2000 BC this area was replaced by Akkadians but the art of writing was continued in cuneiform (pictographic tablets) for another 2000 years.

8.2.3 Mitanni

The dynasty Mitanni was known to Assyrians as Hanigalbat while to the Egyptians it was known as Naharin and Metani and was expanded up to Iraq, Syria and Turkey falling in between the period 1500 to 1240 BCE. The entire region was indulged into agriculture practice without using artificial irrigation means. The Mitanni was considered to be a famous charioteer and horsemen. They are also credited with the innovation of light war chariot with wheels that used spokes. The existence of oldest horse training manual proves the prosperity of the nation. It was also the part of “Great Powers Club” standing along with Egypt, Hittite, Babylonia and Assyria.

8.2.4 Babylonia

The name Babylon has been derived from the Akkadian’s word “bav-il” or “bavilim” which means “Gate of the God” or “Gate of gods”. The word Babylon also gets its entry in Greek language as well. The Babylonia city is known to historians for its walls and buildings, centre of learning and culture, code of law and above all hanging Gardens, a man-made porch containing flora and fauna watered by machines. This Hanging Garden has been placed in the list of the Seven Wonders of the ancient World. The Babylon was a kingdom located in ancient Mesopotamia that existed from 18th to 6th Centuries BC. Originally, the city was an Akkadian town settled on the bank of river Euphrates and was divided into equal parts with steep embankments to retain the water of the river during seasonal floods. It was during 19th century BC when this independent city state witnessed the rise of the first Babylonian dynasty. It was during 18th Century BC when Hammurabi converted Babylon into a major city and declared himself as its king. South Mesopotamia became Babylonia and Nippur as its holy city. After receiving many damages caused by military exercises and innovations under Assyrians, Kassite and Elamite, it became the capital of Neo Babylonian Empire from 609 to 539 BC. After the decline of Neo Babylon Empire, the city was ruled by Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, Roman and Sassanid rulers respectively. Babylon developed as a center of art and education during Persian rulers. Babylonian mathematics, cosmology and astronomy were highly appreciated and it is said that Pythagoras came out with his famous theorem only after studying Babylonian model. By 141 BCE during Parthian Empire rule, Babylon came to an end and it never recovered its glory and former greatness.

8.2.5 Assyria

The word Assyria has been used to denote a region located in the Upper Tigris River. Initially, the inhabitants of the Assyrians were semantic people who used to speak and write Akkadian but at a later stage, they started using Aramaic language which gained popularity over a period of time. The historians have divided the rise and fall of the Assyria into three important phases, The Old Kingdom, The Middle Empire and the Neo Assyrian Empire. Out of these three, the period of Neo Assyrian Empire has been considered as the most powerful and the best known who ruled by 934 to 609 BC. The significance of the Assyrian Empire lies in the fact that it was the greatest among all the Mesopotamian empires that expanded and developed bureaucracy and military strategies which contributed its further growth and flourish.

8.2.6 Hittite

This Empire flourished in Hattusa, Anatolia during 18th Century BC. The people of Hittites used to speak Indo European language. The 14th Century has been considered as the golden period of Hittite as it reached its height by expanding its area that included central Anatolia, north-west part of Syria, Ugarit and upper Mesopotamia. By 1180 BC the Hittite empire was divided into many independent Neo Hittite city states. The Hittites were notable in the history for developing their skill in chariot construction as well as manufacturing iron artifacts. The prosperity of the Hittite was also due to their control on the trade routes and metal sources.

8.2.7 Phoenicia

This ancient civilization of Phoenicia emerged out of maritime trade over Mediterranean between 1500 to 322 BCE and spread to areas comprising the modern Syria, Lebanon and northern Israel. All important cities were located on the coast line of the Mediterranean. During the period 1550 BC to 300 BC, it was developed as center of maritime trading culture. The Phoenicians were excelled in the maritime transportation and developed ships called galley decorated with the horse head depicting as the god of sea, Yamm. The Tyre and Sidon were the most powerful states in Phoenicia while cities like Byblos and Baalbek were developed as important spiritual and religious centers. They were also known for glass making, monopoly in production of dyes, manufacturer of luxury and common goods besides maritime manufacturing. Phoenicians were also addressed by Greeks as “purple people” because they used to manufacture purple dye and the stain of blue colour was spread throughout the skin of the workers. According to Herodotus, the Phoenicia saw the emergence of alphabets that was carried to Greece by the Phoenician ruler Kadmus. This Phoenician alphabet is the base of most of the contemporary western languages. The holy book Bible also got its name based on the Phoenician city Gebal, the city known for its writing papers which was exported to ancient Egypt and Greece.

8.2.8 Persia

The term Persian civilization is used to denote two different but closely interrelated cultural entities, Pre Islamic Persian Civilization and Islamic Persian Civilization. Pre Islamic Persian Civilization comprises of the period of Persian empires of Achaemenid rulers who ruled from period between 550 BCE to 330 BCE while the Parthian and Sasanian empires ruled from the period 140 BCE to

640 CE. The Achaemenid Empire was the first Empire in Persia which expanded over three continents worldwide i.e. spanned over Europe, Asia and Africa covering the three continents. But it also incorporated the major and minor territories of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Balkans peninsula, Black sea, modern Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Libya. Thus, the Achaemenid Empire was encompassing about 8.5 million square kilometers with a high level of cultural and economic achievements.

Persepolis is the famous historical site belongs to Achaemenid Empire and has been declared as UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. During 334 BCE Alexander the Great defeated Persian army in war at Granicus, Issus in 333 BC and in the last Gaugamela in 331 BC. The Parthian was another Empire in Iran who ruled to most of Greater Iran, Mesopotamia and Armenia. The Parthians inherited the art and architecture, religious faiths and believes, royal emblem from various contemporary empires. The Arsacid court copied the contents of ancient Greeks and it marked as a revival of Iranian traditions. The Arsacid rulers gained the title of King of the Kings pretending to be the heirs of the Achaemenid Empires but as a matter of fact they were the vassals working in the position of local kings while Achaemenids appointed autonomous body “satraps” on central level. The expansion of Arsacid power attracted the shifting of the office of central government from Nisa, Turkmenistan to Ctesiphon, Tigris. The fourth Iranian dynasty was the era of the Sassanid who replaced Parthians and ruled between 226 AD to 651AD. Their ruling territory included modern Iran, Iraq, Armenia, Afghanistan, eastern Turkey, Syria, Pakistan, Caucasia, Central Asia and Arabia. During Khosrow II who ruled in 590 AD to 628 AD, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon also became the part of the Sassanid Empire. The Sassanid period proved to be the golden era in the Persian civilizations. The Sassanid era is also remarkable for Roman Persian Wars which is considered to be the longest conflict in Human history. Due to continuous wars that took place between Byzantine and Sasanian, the Sassanids became weaker and weaker. The Arab armies captured Ctesiphon. It was during Battle of Nihawand when Persian nobilities were forced to flee to the eastern province of Khorasan.

8.3 ANCIENT SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Kerma culture was the early civilization that got its existence in Nubia, modern Sudan somewhere 2500 BC to 1600 BC. It was a Sudanese state during Ancient Egypt era which was expanded from central Sudan to modern day Israel. By 1500 BC, it was fully absorbed into the Egyptian Empire but it was due to the emergence of Kush kingdom in 11th Century BC who regained the region from Egypt. The Kush was the first in Sub Sahara states who used iron weapons. By the end of 752 BC, Thebes also became the part of Kushite kingdom. By 653, the Kushites were defeated by Assyrians. But they remained powerful in the region and controlled trade resources of Sub Saharan Africa. Under the leadership of Queen Amanirenas, it indulged in war against the Roman Empire and established a friendly relation with Augustus Caesar. It also supported Rome in 70 AD to conquer Jerusalem. The era of Kush came to an end when it was conquered by Aksumite Empire in 350.

The Macrobian were ancient people used to reside in Somalia during 1st millennium BC. They used to practice embalming and had knowledge of anatomy and chemistry. They were also skilled in preserving the dead bodies of their kith

and kin. Macrobia was also known for its gold. There had been trade link of Somalia with Ancient Egyptians and used to export resources like myrrh, frankincense and gum. Many places like Mossylon, Malao, Mundus, Tabae in Somalia grew as famous trade centers that connected Somali merchants to the places like Phoenicia, Ptolemaic Egypt, Greece, Parthian Persia, Saba, Nabataea and the Roman Empire. Ancient Somalians sailors developed a maritime vessel called “Beden” to carry their cargo. The Aksumites Empire was prominently a trading country that originated in Northern Ethiopia i.e. Africa. They got their nexus in the field of trade and commerce with Roman Empire and Ancient India. They also mint their own currency to facilitate trade and commerce. They entered into the politics of the Arabian Peninsula and conquered the Himyarite kingdom. During its peak time, the Aksumites were able to control the territories of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. It has been considered by historians as one of the most powerful military powers in the world.

Check Your Progress-1

1) Describe the innovations of Egypt.

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2) What do you mean by “Babylonia”? Describe the achievements of Babylonia.

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3) Write a note on ancient sub-Saharan Africa’s empire.

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Ancient India comprising of the modern countries like India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh witnessed the emergence of many dynasties and governments that expanded across south Asia. The history of India starts with the evidences of primitive human settlements that go back to 75,000 years or sometimes even older than. The Indus Valley Civilization is the major civilization of South Asia which flourished in North West part of India (modern Pakistan) and expanded to Northern and Western Central Part of India during 3300 BC to 1300 BC period. It was a typical urban culture with much advancement in technology that was used in handicrafts and metallurgy. The Harappan period (2600 to 1900 BC) saw the extreme of its development. The Indus cities are remarkable in the history for their urban planning, house patterns and use of baked bricks, water supply system, drainage system and cluster of large buildings. This Bronze Age civilization came to an end by 2nd millennium BC and the period of Vedic Period saw its emergence. This civilization expanded to Indo Gangetic Plains and gave birth to new political formations called as Mahajanapadas. One of the Mahajanapadas i.e. Magadha witnessed the birth of Mahavira and Gautam Buddha during 6th and 5th BC who later established religions like Buddhist and Jainism. This era also witnessed the amalgam of Indian, Persian and Greek civilization flourishing together. It was a hybrid culture which was called as Greco Buddhism which in later phase saw the development of Mahayan Buddhism. Maurya Empire which was founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 322 BC occupied most of the Indian territories during 4th and 3rd centuries BC. It was the only Empire whose political entity was expanded to Central Asia and the Middle East, Egypt and Syria, Thailand, China and Burma. Under the supervision of Ashoka the Great, Buddhism was promoted. The whole Empire was controlled by its division into four provinces i.e. Toshali, Ujjain, Suvarnagiri and Taxila with Pataliputra as its capital. After the declination of Maurya Empire, Shunga came to power that controlled North Central and Eastern India and Western India during 185 to 73 BC. The Shunga Empire is known in the history for their numerous wars. This dynasty is remarkable for their innumerable contributions in the field of art, education and philosophy. The literature like Yoga Sutra, Mahabhasya, Ashtadayai, Malvikaagnimitra were composed under the patronage of Shunga dynasty.

During 4th and 5th centuries, Gupta Empire came into existence. This period has been marked as the Golden Age of India because of its achievements in the field of science, technology, art, engineering, literature, logic, mathematics, astronomy, religion and philosophy. This era also witnessed the rise of Hindu religion. It was during this period when the components of Indian culture like religion, administration, knowledge etc spread to much of Asia. The prominent rulers of the Gupta period were Chandragupta I, Samudragupta and Chandragupta II. This era has contributed with magnificent art and architecture, sculptures and paintings. The Gupta period has also produced the scholars like Kalidas, Aryabhat, Varahmihira, Vishnu Sharma and Vatsyayan. Science as well as political administration of prevailing India reached to a new height during Gupta period. They also sailed their vessels to the countries like Burma, Srilanka, Indonesia and China to establish new relations.

Chola Empires were ruled in South India. But they gained popularity during 9th Century under two of its prominent rulers Rajraja Chola and his son Rajendra

Chola. Under these two rulers the dynasty proved itself in the field of military, economy and culture. Rajaraja Chola occupied peninsular South India and some parts of Sri Lanka while his son conquered Burma, Vietnam, Anadaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Sumatra, Java, Malaya and Pegu Islands. The Chola came to an end during 13th Century and was taken over by Pandyas. The contribution of Cholas in the field of temple architecture cannot be forgotten. They also patronised Tamil literature as well. South India also saw the rise of many other empires like Chalukyas, Pallavas, Pandyas and the Cheras. The maritime business was also established with the Romans during 77 AD.

8.5 ANCIENT EUROPE

The civilization of Greece and Roman are included into the Ancient Europe. The history of ancient Greece starts with the archaic period 8th to 6th centuries BC and goes up to 146 BC along with its acquisition with Roman in the decisive battle of Corinth. The small description of the empires and dynasties that ruled in ancient Europe is given below:

8.5.1 Athens

Ancient Athens was inhabited around 3000 years back. It was an important and considerably progressive city of Ancient Greece during first millennium BC. Its cultural development during 5th Century BC brought it into the category of western civilization. It also witnessed the rise and fall on certain occasions. It achieved its name and fame during byzantine era and during the Crusades, it was a prosperous city because of the medieval Italian trade. The period between 480 BC–404 BC has been considered by the historians as the Golden Age of Athens i.e. the Age of Pericles which brought political, cultural and economic reforms in the Athens. The Delian League (a coalition of city states of Athens) defeated Persians at Salamis during 480 BC and gradually this coalition was converted into an Athenian empire but they could not maintain the parity among its allies and as a result they relocated the Delian League and shifted from Delos to Athens. At this place only they founded the Athenian Acropolis. Besides all the unfavourable circumstances, Athens became popular as a center of arts, philosophy and literature. The dramatists like Aristophanes and Sophocles and the philosophers like Aristotle, Plato and Socrates were the contribution of Athens to this world.

8.5.2 Sparta

It was basically a Dorian Greek military state located in the Laconia and dedicated as a military training center. Sparta was known for its dreadful army in the Greek world as it defeated Athenian and Persian empires. During 631 BC the Messenian War proved to be advantageous for Sparta as they gained the reputation of unbeatable land fighters. The Battle of Thermopylae paved the way to create a Greek alliance against Persia and as a result Greco Persian War came to an end with the Greek victory that destroyed the dream of Persian to expand into Europe. During later Classical times, Athens, Thebes and Persia indulged into fighting against each other. The decisive war of Peloponnesian in 404 BC brought laurel to Sparta as a naval power. By 5th Century, Sparta defeated both Persia and Athenian Empire and that marks the Spartan Hegemony.

8.5.3 Macedonia

This ancient kingdom was located on the northern part of the ancient Greece, sandwiched between Epirus and Thrace. For a small period of time it became a very powerful state in the world because Alexander the Great conquered many areas including Achaemenid Empire and laid the foundation of Hellenistic period. It was the personality and policies of Philip II that helped Macedonia to rise. His military exercises brought greatness to Macedonia. His major contribution includes the establishment of phalanx infantry corps which were armed with long spear called as “sarissa”. His son Alexander the Great carry forwarded the achievements of his father. He extended his territory beyond Greek and defeated Persian Empire, Egyptian Rulers and reached up to India. After the death of Alexander the Great, his empire was fragmented into multiple Hellenic regimes. Macedonia fell under Antipatrid dynasty which was taken over by the Antigonid dynasty over a small span of time.

8.5.4 Hellenistic States

As per the Apocrypha of the death of Alexander, he has willed that after his death the one who will sit on throne should be powerful and full of actions. This laid the foundation of wars of the Diadochi between his own generals which lasted for forty years. It was divided into four major domains like the Antigonid Dynasty of Macedon and Central Greece, the Ptolemaic Dynasty of Egypt, the Seleucid Dynasty of Syria and Mesopotamia and the Attalid Dynasty of Anatolia. Further developments attracted emergence of two more kingdoms called as Greco-Bactrian and Indo Greek Kingdom. Athens regained its glory by retaining its position in the field of philosophy and rhetoric. Alexandria became a center of Greek learning with a library comprising of more than 700000 volumes. The city of Pergamon became a popular hub for book production with a library of some 200000 volumes. The island of Rhodes popularised itself as a school for politics and diplomacy. Antioch retained its position as a metropolis and center of Greek learning even during the era of Christianity as well.

8.5.5 Seleucid

It was a Hellenistic empire that was given birth after the breakup of Achaemenid Empire. It was located in the near east and followed Hellenistic culture i.e. Greek customs. Seleucid’s expansion in the Greece was checked by the Romans. The Parthians under Mithridates I conquered much of the eastern part during 2nd century BC. The Armenian king Tigranes the Great invaded the rump state of the Seleucid kings and finally over thrown by the Roman general Pompey.

8.5.6 Ptolemaic

It was a Greek royal family that ruled in Egypt during Hellenistic period. It is also known as the Lagids. After the death of Alexander the Great, Ptolemy was appointed as satrap of Egypt in 323 BC. He declared himself as king and Egyptians accepted him as the successor of the pharaohs. Ptolemy’s family ruled Egypt till 30 BC when it was conquered by Romans. Ptolemaic kingdom was a powerful Hellenistic state that included the areas of southern Syria, Cyrene and Nubia. Alexandria became the capital and it flourished as a center of Greek culture and trade. The Hellenistic culture continued there in Egypt as well even after the region was conquered by Muslims. Continuous rebels caused by

Egyptians and engagement in foreign and civil wars, Ptolemy's were finally declined and overthrown by Rome.

8.5.7 Roman

Roman Empire was the strongest, largest and the most powerful civilization of Europe. By 27 BC it had a strong hold over half of the Europe, Northern Africa and major parts of Middle East. Roman dominated western Eurasia since the time of Augustus and the fall of western Empire. Roman expansion commenced long back and reached on the top under the leadership of Emperor Trajan during 113 AD when he conquered Armenia and Mesopotamia. During his reign Roman Empire reached to its heights and never again went for such advancement in future. The period of the "Five Good Emperors" is very remarkable in the history of Roman Empire. Hadrian's reign faced the challenges of major military conflicts. The Nerva Antonine dynasty saw the emergence of seven consecutive Roman Emperors who ruled over Roman from 96 to 192 AD. However, Roman Empire was succeeded in controlling about 5,900,000 Square km of land. Ancient Roman kept on contributing towards government, culture, technology, architecture, language, religion, law, art and military. The tradition which was started quite long back is still in vogue called western civilization.

8.6 ANCIENT EURASIAN STEPPE

It includes the following dynasties:

8.6.1 Scythia

The region comprising of the lands of north east Europe and northern coast of the Black Sea was called by ancient Greeks as Scythia. The Scythians established themselves in Scythia during 11th Century BC to the 2nd Century AD.

8.6.2 Sarmatians

They were the Iranian people who used to reside in Central Asia between the periods of 5th century BC to 4th Century AD. They used to speak an Indo European language called "Scythian". They started migration towards west during 6th century BC and it appeared to be a dominating situation for Scythians by the second century BC. Sarmatians adoration lies in the god of fire while their women played a key role in warfare. During 1st century AD Sarmatians spread between the area of Vistula River to the mouth of the Danube and eastward to the Volga while in Caucasus to the south. As per some historians, Sarmatia was divided into two parts, Sarmatia Europea and Sarmatia Asiatica covering an area of 1,302,764 Square km.

8.6.3 Xiongnu

It was a nomadic empire that was emerged in the central Asia. They used to speak either an Iranian or Yeniseian language. Under the leadership of Toumen, they were able to conquer modern Mongolia during 3rd century BC. During Modu's reign they conquered Donghu as well as Yuezhi. To protect Chinese cities from the invasions of Xiongnu, the Great Wall of China was constructed but during 1st Century BC Xiongnu empire was split into two parts and finally lost due to their defeat in the Han Xiongnu war.

8.6.4 Hunnic

Huns were nomadic people who used to carry mounted archers and used to speak languages like Turkic, Mongolic Uralic etc. It seems that they might have founded an empire in the East Europe by defeating Alans and Goths. The rise of the Huns around 370 AD surprised Gothic dynasty. They activated the migrations to the Roman territory especially in Balkans and as a result West Roman Empire got collapsed. After the death of Rugila, the three sons of his brother namely, Mundzuk, Attila and Bleda took the charge of the united Hun tribes. Attila was a powerful ruler and he ruled for a period of 19 years i.e. from 434 to 453 AD. He attacked Balkans twice and marched towards Gaul and Orleans. But he was defeated at the Battle of Chalons. After his death the era of Huns came to an end. However, under his regime the empire was extended from Germany to the Ural River and from the Danube River to the Baltic Sea.

Check Your Progress-2

1) Write a note on the rise and fall of ancient dynasties in India.

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2) Describe the military achievements of Sparta.

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3) Who were Sarmatians? Where did they emerge?

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8.7 LET US SUM UP

The formation of empires takes place because of its diverse socio-cultural, religious and ethnic components. The word colonialism is also used to some extent in place of empire but its meaning is quite different. There are many empires that existed since very first civilization dating back to ancient time. In the present unit, we have discussed rise and fall of early empires like Egypt,

Summer, Mitanni, Babylonia, Assyria, Phoenicia, Persia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Ancient India. Ancient Eurasian Steppe and ancient Europe are also discussed.

8.8 KEY WORDS

- Sumer** : The area located between the Tigris and Euphrates is well known to historians as a site of ancient civilization which they called Sumer, situated in the southern part of Mesopotamia, modern Iraq.
- Babylonia** : The name Babylon has been derived from the Akkadian language word “bav-il” or “bavilim” which means “Gate of God” or “Gate of the Gods”. It was well known for its hanging Gardens, a man-made porch containing flora and fauna watered by machines. This Hanging Garden has been placed in the list of the Seven Wonders of the ancient World. The Babylon was a kingdom located in ancient Mesopotamia that existed from 18th to 6th Centuries
- Phoenicia** : This ancient civilization of Phoenicia emerged out of maritime trade over Mediterranean between 1500 to 322 BCE and spread to areas comprising the modern Syria, Lebanon and northern Israel.
- Persia** : The term Persian civilization is used to denote two different but closely interrelated cultural entities, Pre Islamic Persian Civilization and Islamic Persian Civilization. Pre Islamic Persian Civilization comprises of the period of Persian empires of Achaemenid rulers who ruled from period between 550 BCE to 330 BCE while the Parthian and Sasanian empires ruled from the period 140 BCE to 640 CE.
- Sparta** : It was basically a Dorian Greek military state located in the Laconia and dedicated as a military training center. Sparta was known for its dreadful army in the Greek world as it defeated Athenian and Persian empires.
- Macedonia** : This ancient kingdom was located on the northern part of the ancient Greece, sandwiched between Epirus and Thrace. For a small period of time it became a very powerful state in the world because Alexander the Great conquered many areas including Achaemenid Empire and laid the foundation of Hellenistic period.

Check Your Progress-1

- 1) See Sub-section 8.2.1
- 2) See Sub-section 8.2.4
- 3) See Section 8.3

Check Your Progress-2

- 1) See Section 8.4
- 2) See Sub-section 8.5.2
- 3) See Sub-section 8.6.2



UNIT 9 BYZANTINE, CHRISTIAN AND ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS

Structure

- 9.0 Objectives
- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Byzantine
 - 9.2.1 Justinian-I
 - 9.2.2 Period of 10th and 11th Centuries
 - 9.2.3 Beginning of Crusades
 - 9.2.4 Contribution of Byzantines
- 9.3 Christian Civilization
- 9.4 Spread of Christianity
- 9.5 Islamic Civilization
- 9.6 Major Empires and Islamic Movement
- 9.7 Expansion of Islam
- 9.8 Let Us Sum Up
- 9.9 Key Words
- 9.10 Answers to Check Your Progress

9.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this unit, you will be able to:

- understand the meaning of Byzantine and its development;
- know the contribution of Byzantines to modern world;
- discuss Christian civilization and its spread; and
- know Islamic civilization and expansion of Islam.

9.1 INTRODUCTION

In previous units, we have discussed the meaning and features of civilization, social conditions and tourism, rise and fall of early empires and Chinese civilization in detail. In the present unit, we will discuss Byzantine and its development, contribution of Byzantine, Christian Civilization and Islamic civilization in detail.

9.2 BYZANTINE

The word “Byzantine” has been derived from the word Byzantium which was used to denote, an ancient Greek colony founded by a man named Byzas. It was located on the European side of the Bosphorus which was used for trade and as a transit point between Asia and Europe. This city became popular as it was chosen as a site for establishing New Rome by Roman Emperor Constantine I in 330 AD with its capital city at Constantinople. It is notable here that it was Emperor

Constantine who adopted Christianity and declared it as the official religion of Rome. The inhabitants of Constantinople were called as Christians while the remaining part of the Eastern Roman Empire remained popular as land of Romans. The Constantine ruled in the integrated Roman but it did not proved to be lasting because by the time 337 AD, after his death his empire was divided into two parts, eastern and western. His successor Emperor Valentinian I in 364 AD controlled the western part while his brother Valens was given the charge of the east.

The misfortune with these two cities started within the next several centuries as the west part witnessed constant attacks of German invaders who brought the rulers to their knee and captured the major portion leaving Italy as the only territory to be ruled by Roman. But by 476 AD, Odoacer, a barbarian defeated the last Roman emperor Romulus Augustus and thus the last hope for Rome was put an end. However, the eastern part of the Roman Empire remained safe and out of damage from the external attacks as its geographical location helped in ensuring its safety and security. It is not only the geographical location but the internal political stability along with strong administration and great wealth contributed towards the less vulnerability of the eastern part. The eastern emperors were also able to manage efficiently the economic resources and more control over the man power to contest invasion. This was the only reason why the Byzantium survived for centuries even after the decline of Roman Empire. More or less, they adopted the same Roman law and their political system but adopted Latin as their official language. Though Greek was also in vogue and students learnt Greek history, culture and literature. Byzantium adopted Christianity and the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451 AD the Christianity was divided into five patriarchates namely Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem and appointed five patriarchs to take care of each patriarchate. Though Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem were taken over by Islamic empire in the 7th Century but the Byzantine emperor was succeeded in retaining the patriarch of Constantinople and became the spiritual leader of the eastern Christians.

9.2.1 Justinian-I

Justinian I who ruled by 527 AD to 565 AD was the first ruler of the Byzantine Empire. During his regime, the Justinian army captured the areas of Western Roman Empire and his empire was expanded up to North Africa. He has been credited with some magnificent monuments like Church of Holy Wisdom, or Hagia Sophia. He is also given credit for reforming and codifying Roman law and established a Byzantine legal code that helped Byzantium in shaping the modern concept of the state. During last phase of his life, he put Byzantium in heavy financial strain because of wars and his successors were forced to impose heavy tax to the Byzantine native to keep the empire afloat. During 7th and 8th Century AD the rigorous attacks from the Persia and Slaves and the poor economic condition along with political instability proved to be the main cause of declination of the empire. By the end of the century, Byzantium lost their control over Syria, Egypt and North Africa to Islamic forces. Byzantine emperors by 730 AD came out with a movement to prohibit the worship of religious image and even discarded the consideration of holiness of such images but by 843 AD Church council under Emperor Michael III ruled out such restrictions and allowed the display of religious images.

9.2.2 Period of 10th and 11th Centuries

The period of late 10th and the early 11th centuries AD has been interpreted by historians as the golden period of Byzantine Empire. The rule of Macedonian dynasty under Basil enjoyed the much freedom. Byzantines had more control over the trade and commerce, more wealth and even more international prestige in comparison to any Byzantine ruler. This era also credited with the patronising Byzantine art and Byzantine mosaics. The rulers of this era focused on restoring churches, palaces and other cultural institutions along with promotion of ancient Greek history and literature. Greek was given the status of official language of the state and Mount Athos was identified as a center of monasticism was some of the major achievements of this period. However, the Byzantine missionaries entered to central and eastern Balkans and Russia to win many converts to Christianity among the Slavic people.

9.2.3 Beginning of Crusades

The end of the 11th Century witnessed the beginning of the Crusades i.e. the holy wars led by European Christians against Muslims. Emperor Alexius I was initially responsible for these Holy Wars because his turning towards the West against the Turks resulted into the declaration of holy war by Pope Urban II. The Battle of Manzikert in 1071 opened the path for the Turks to settle in Anatolia. The empire was regained during the Komnenian restoration and by 12th Century AD Constantinople became the richest and the wealthiest city of Europe. It was during 4th Crusade when the Constantinople was ransacked and looted in 1204 AD and as a result the empire was divided into Byzantine Greeks and Latin realms. Despite the concluding recovery of Constantinople in 1261 AD, Byzantine Empire existed as a small rival state for two centuries. Its adjoining territories were forcefully seized by the Ottoman Empire during 14th and 15th Century AD. The sack of Constantinople to the Ottoman Empire in 1453 AD proved to be the end of the Byzantine Empire. However, the last imperial Byzantine state, the Empire of Trebizond was captured by the Ottomans in 1461 AD, thus occupying the whole Byzantine.

Though the Byzantine was wholly occupied by Ottoman but the culture of the Byzantine like art, literature etc. remained there for a long time and its influence was also felt in the countries like Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece.

9.2.4 Contribution of Byzantines

If we analyse the contribution of Byzantines to modern world, we get a series of activities and experiments performed by Byzantines that laid the foundation of technological advancement in the coming time. Byzantine science was linked to ancient philosophy and metaphysics. The Greek Mathematician Isidore of Miletus compiled the Archimedes work. Leo, the Mathematician evolved an optical telegraph, system of beacons which was used as an alarm to make aware of the enemies raid well in advance. The concept of Pendentive architecture was evolved by Byzantines. The mechanical sundial device with complex gears, implementation of Antikythera mechanism, toys full of mechanical tricks are examples of some of the high skills that were patronised by Byzantines. Such mechanical devices were very delicate and sophisticated and it impressed visitors in first instance. The Byzantines also discovered hydraulics and its implementation because they introduced ship mill as means to grind their grains using hydraulic power.

Byzantine also excelled in providing medical aid and cure for the diseased at a place called hospitals. They were aware of the uroscopy because a physician called Theophilus Protospatharius used it to diagnose diseases when no microscope was invented and this technique was spread to Europe as well. Vienna Dioscorides, Paul of Aegina and Nicholas Myrepsos renowned Byzantine doctors contributed with the medicinal works and also invented antidote.

In the field of military, Byzantines used their skills in inventing grenades. Ceramic jars filled with nails, glass and explosives were used for this purpose. Hand held flame throwers were also described in Byzantine literature. Byzantine also tried their hand in developing equipments used to devastate citadels and fortifications giving a base for canon development. During the phase of Byzantine declination, the city Trebizond became the popular center of learning for astronomy and mathematics and the scholars were also attracted towards the study of medicine as well.

Check Your Progress-1

1) Who were Byzantines? Where were they originated?

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2) Write a note on “Beginning of the Crusades”.

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3) Describe the technological contribution of Byzantines.

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9.3 CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION

The Christian civilization includes the history of Christian religion, Christian Church beginning from Jesus to till date. So far as Christianity is concerned, it is the religion who believes in worshipping single god and the main principle lies in life, birth, death, resurrection and teachings of Jesus Christ.

As per the Acts of the Apostles, the ever first Christians were Jews who adopted this religion either by birth or conversion and they are known in the history as Jewish Christians. The message of Gospel was spread initially in Aramaic but it spread in Greek as well. During Middle age, Christianity was expanded up to Northern Europe and Russia. At the Age of Exploration it spread throughout world and became the largest religion of the world with maximum followers in comparison to any other religion. Due to the conflicts raised on the issues of schism and theology, the Christianity has been divided into three main branches namely Roman Catholic Church, the eastern Orthodox Churches and Protestant Churches. The account of New Testament records the city of Jerusalem as the place of first Christian community. It is considered as the place of Peter, James and John the Apostle who were the leaders of the Christians. The Apostles left Jerusalem and spread the message of Jesus to whole Hellenistic world. They propagated Jesus as the God of Israel who has been transformed into human life and as a Messiah. They adopted Judaic form of practices like liturgical worship, use of incense sticks, making an altar, playing of sacred music during prayer, reading of holy books, following a religious calendar, male priesthood and ascetic.

It was during Roman Empire; early Christians suffered threat due to the pagan population which was forcing the imperial authorities to take action against Christians who were responsible for bringing misfortune to them as their god was dishonoured by their deeds. However, by the end of the first century, Christianity prevailed over paganism and was recognised as a gentile religion leaving behind Judaism because of the efforts of church leaders who interpreted human needs in a resulted manner along with producing more attractive doctrine. It was during post apostolic period when the position of the apostles as a leader of the Christians was taken over by the bishops. It continued up to the period of Constantine who legalised Christianity and also credited to become the first Christian Emperor. But it was Theodosius I who declared Christianity as a state religion of Rome; since then the term Christianity has been in vogue. When Christianity became legalised, the Church took over the provinces as administrator and called them dioceses. The Bishops of Rome became supreme above all and possessed the title of Pope. There were certain Ecumenical Councils who were responsible for all the Christological disputes. These councils used to condemn Arianism while other criticised Nestorianism and announced the Virgin Mary as Theotokos. While Council of Chalcedon suggested that Christ had both the nature of a human being as well as God. It is also indicated that the early Christians gave importance to the Hebrew Bible and used it as their religious text. Early Christians contributed with many religious literatures like canon of the New Testament which focused on canonical gospels, acts, letters of the Apostles and Revelation. These literary works further recognised as the holy books to be read in church. The Mosaic Law is still considered as moral prescriptions that concentrate on Ten Commandments, Great Commandment and Golden Rule. Initially, Christians established some beliefs and practices which were criticised later declaring them heretical. The baptism practice was one of such example which was practiced by certain Jewish and Jesus disciples. In this practice either the water was sprinkled on the fore head of the person or they were immersed into the water symbolising the purification process entitling them to enter into the church. This ceremony was also called as name giving and was performed on young children too.

Persecutions in Christianity: Persecution means death. It was during Roman Empire when larger scale persecution took place. The Emperor Nero blamed Christians for the great fire of Rome and the big names like Saint Peter and Saint Paul became martyrs during his regime. Several New Testament mentions that for nearly 250 years, Christians suffered from persecutions because they refused to confess the supremacy of Roman Emperor as a god. Despite of all the hurdles, Christianity continued to be flourishing throughout the Mediterranean region and as a result by 4th Century AD Christianity became the dominant religion of the Roman Empire.

Churches: During Post apostolic period bishops emerged out of the urban Christian population and designed their own hierarchy in the form of episkopoi (overseers), presbyteroi (elders) and diakonoi (Ministerial servants). This hierarchy was not fixed for every place as it varied with time and locations. The writers of New Testament have also used the words like overseers and elder as synonyms. The Didache mentions the appointment of bishops and deacons on many occasions. Within the Christian Churches itself, there aroused disputes regarding the role and responsibility of church leaders like bishops and presbyters. Churches like Catholic and Orthodox used the word priest against Baptist. While the title “priest” has not been recognised in congregational churches instead they focused on the terms like presbyter or elder. On many occasions such churches have also rejected the role of bishops in their organisation. Post apostolic bishops became Apostolic Fathers. As the Christianity grew in rural areas, each community deputed presbyters who in later phase called as priests. Deacons also charged with certain responsibility of tending sick and poor people. By the second century, the apostolic succession principle was adopted where a bishop used to become a spiritual successor of the earlier bishop in a sequence. As a result, the churches within Roman Empire had more than hundreds of bishops who were holding the jurisdiction over others. Jerusalem became the place of first church and retained its significance. During the first Council of Nicaea, Jerusalem was treated with special honour but it was not conferred with metropolitan authority with its own province and only after five years of its first council Constantinople, a Byzantium city came into existence as a center of early Christianity because of its closeness to Anatolia.

Father of Churches: The Father of Church denotes a group of ecclesiastical writers who were appealed by the authorities on doctrinal matters. The certain traditional prerequisites like orthodoxy of doctrine, holiness of life, authorization by Church etc were required for becoming the Father of the Church. The initial Christian writings are nothing except a group of letters attributed to the Apostolic Fathers namely Epistle of Barnabas, Shepherd of Hermas, Epistles of Clement and Didache. This collection is remarkable for its simplicity, zeal and shows no impact of Hellenistic philosophy. The Father, Ignatius of Antioch has advocated for the authority of bishops.

Sabbath: Sabbath is a religious observance which can be scheduled for any week day. Like Jews observe Saturday as their Sabbath while Christians keep Sunday as their Sabbath day. It is contested that it was due to Emperor Constantine the day of Observance was shifted from Saturday to Sunday. It seems that early churches did not give required importance to Sabbath.

Christology: Majority of the Christians considered Jesus as a heavenly soul who had incarnated as a human being on this earth as a unique messenger of

God. New Testament also mentions the divine character of Jesus. However, there has been a scholarly debate on this issue whether Jesus should be called as God. After the death of Jesus, Paul who was a descendent of Jesus refers him as a Son of God who resurrected and returned from the heaven to save his faithful, dead and living from the looming decaying world. The similar concept has also been propagated by Synoptic Gospels, Gospels of Marks and Gospel of John. The Book of Revelation portrays Jesus as the Alpha and Omega which means first and last, thus he was the beginning and the end of the universe. The terms “logo” has been used in Greek philosophy to denote the ordering principle of the universe. Those who were discarding the logo were called as Alogi and they also rejected the Gospel of John. Adoptionists seem to be convinced that Jesus was like a common man who was born to Joseph and Mary and because of his baptism, transfiguration and resurrection became the Son of God.

Eschatology: The branch of theological study that deals with the last things like death, end of the world, judgement, the final destiny of the soul and humanity. The references of the eschatology can be traced in Old Testament, New Testament, Gospel of Matthew, General epistles, Pauline epistles and the Book of Revelation.

Ecclesiology: During First and Second century, the population of Christians increased leaps and bounds. This exceptional growth forced Christians to think for a social change along with their relations to the political and socio economic environment. With the growth of Christianity, their social network also increased along with their geographical expansion. This also laid the foundation of the adoption of some new teachings putting behind the original apostles teachings. The apostle’s teachings became heterodox and it opened the path of controversy between the churches itself. Early Catholicism saw its development as ecclesiology and stood against church unity. The solution against heterodox teaching was tighter and standardised. It existed in the form of tri-partite church leadership comprising bishops, elders and deacons. This organisational structure became a universal model to be adopted and churches like Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican followed the pattern. The New Testament mentions bishops but whether it supports dioceses and monepiscopacy, is not clear. In fact the existence of many bishops in Rome proves that monepiscopacy was practiced during Ignatius who was influencing his tri-partite structure to the other churches.

Religious Writings: Primitive Christians contributed with many religious scriptures like the canon of the New Testament which incorporated Canonical Gospels, Acts, letters of the Apostles and Revelation. By mid of second Century, there was a remarkable growth in the writing of religious literature both in Jewish and Christianity. The existence of New Testament canon shows that the practice and belief was not dependent on Old Testament only. Some of the literatures dedicated to prophets like the Torah were also written. Canons also became the source of religious practice and belief like the split of early Christianity and Judaism gave birth to Jewish canon. There is no clear cut information regarding the adoption of own scriptures by Christians except Septuagint. But Papias mentions that by 2nd century Christians favoured the oral tradition of scriptures. When the Rome was occupied by Greeks, the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek and were the dominant translation. During Protestant Reformation majority of the Christians started rejecting those books of Septuagint which were not mentioned in the Jewish text declaring such books as biblical apocrypha. Some of the New Testament books like Antilegomena were equally disputed.

9.4 SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY

The early Christianity finds its root in Hellenized Roman Empire that gradually engulfed whole east Africa and south Asia. The Christian Apostles left Jerusalem and widely travelled and formed ethnic communities in cities and regions falling under en-route throughout the Empire. It was apostles, merchants, preachers and soldiers who propagated Christianity in Northern Africa, Asia, Armenia, Albania, Arabia, Greece and other adjoining areas. By the end of first Century, Christianity had been expanded up to Greece and Italy. During 201 AD Osroene declared as the first Christian state while Kingdom of Armenia became the second state who declared Christianity as its official religion in 301 AD. Till today the Armenian Apostolic Church stands to be the world's oldest national church.

There emerged various questions in the minds of learners that what made Christianity so successful and popular in comparison to other religions. Some Christians are of this opinion that the truth of the religion and interference of the God are the responsible factors. Few scholars are of this opinion that Christianity took over paganism because it improved the life of its devotees in many folds. Christianity focused on the principle of resurrection of the dead that matched with the traditional system of Greek belief and more over Christianity explains the process how is it going to happen actually when the world is going to end. There are another set of researchers who points out that apologies and translation of the New Testament are the two prime causes for the expansion of Christianity.

Check Your Progress-2

1) What is Christianity?

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2) What do you mean by "Sabbath" and "Christology"?

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3) Write a note on spread of Christianity.

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9.5 ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

The second half of the sixth century witnessed political disturbances in Arabia. Religious fragmentations played key role in turmoil like Yemen saw flourishing Judaism as a dominant religion; Christianity emerged in Persia putting Arabia into dilemma to follow polytheist but still there was a scope for more form of new religion yet to be appeared. There were others who were unwilling to adopt any foreign faith besides such religions provided intellectuality and spirituality to the society. Jewish and Christianity remained there to remove old pagan words of Arabic language throughout the peninsula. Quraysh was the chief sect of the Mecca and he started observing sacred month and as a result all the violence was stopped and people started travelling peacefully to the polytheistic Kabba shrine located in Mecca, a famous pilgrim destination generating a lot of revenue to the city. According to the tradition, it has been estimated that Prophet Muhammad was born in Quraysh family in Mecca in the year 570 AD. At the age of forty he started receiving divine exposure through the angel Gabriel that was compiled in form Quran. His message attracted masses while he received opponents too from Mecca. Due to increasing pressure from the notables of Mecca, he left Mecca and reached to Medina (Yathrib) where he was warmly welcomed by his followers. This was the starting period of Islamic era known as the Hijra. In Madina (Yathrib) Muhammad founded new Islamic society with the support of new Quran which provided direction and guidance in formulating law and religious observance. Gradually, Mohammad secured the control of Mecca and proved the loyalty of the Quraysh. He forced the existing tribal chiefs to enter into various agreements like creation of alliance, follow Islamic practices, paying the alms to the government which included Islamic army, deputies and treasury. The final verse of the Quran was produced only after his last sermon was over. In his last sermon he ordered the Muslims to show their faithfulness to Ali. After his death, a series of four Caliphs namely Abu Bakr, Umar ibn al Khattab, Uthman ibn Affan and Ali ibn Abi Talib ruled over Islamic state. These leaders were called as “Rashidum”. They succeeded in propagating the Islamic principles to the countries like Persia, Syria, Levant, Egypt and North Africa. While in 649 AD Muawiyah I who was appointed as the governor of Syria, established his own navy platoon comprising of Christians, Copts, Syrian Christians, sailors and Muslims and in the Battle of the Mast which took place in 655 AD defeated the Byzantines thus opening the path of Mediterranean for the Muslims. During wars, Muslim armies used to stay in military camp away from the main town which in later time developed into the cities. The Basra and Kufa in Iraq and Fustat in Egypt are some of the names of the cities as examples. In between the time 650 and 656, Uthman ibn Affan, the next caliph after Umar ordered for the standard copy of the Quran to be written and as a result in between 650 and 656 it was ready to be sent to the different centers for the expansion of the Islamic empire. After the assassination of Uthman in 656 AD, Ali ibn Abi Talib became the next caliph and shifted his capital to Kufa (Iraq). The conflict created by Marwan I attracted the first civil war i.e. the First Fitna. Ali was assassinated by Kharijites in 661 while Muawiyah established a dynasty called the Umayyad Dynasty and Damascus as its capital. The only living grandson of Muhammad, Husayn Ali was killed in the battle of Karbala inviting Second Fitna on the occasion. However, Muslim empire continued to rise under Muawiyah and they extended to Rhodes, Crete, Kabul, Bukhara and Samarkand. By 664 Arab armies managed to win Kabul while Maghreb by 665.

Important Caliphates

The Umayyad caliphate: The name Umayyad dynasty has been derived from Umayya ibn Abd Shams who was the great grandfather of the Umayyad caliph who ruled from 661 to 750. This dynasty was migrated from Mecca who established its capital city at Damascus. After the death of Abdul Rahman in 666, Muawiyah I sat on the throne and did a number of changes in the empire. This was the mark of the advent of new family into power. The Umayyad's rule brought dissatisfaction to the local population especially new converts mawali. In the mean time Abbas ibn Abd al Muttalib won the confidence and over thrown Umayyad and established a new dynasty "Abbasid" in 750 with its capital at Baghdad. As a matter of fact the Umayyad dynasty ruled over more than 5,000,000 square miles. The period of Muawiyah II witnessed Second Fitna (Civil War). Besides all the impediments, he succeeded in getting translation of all his important documents into Arabic. He introduced currency notes for Muslim world. He improved agriculture and commerce activities in his reign. Abd-al-Malik continued with the practice of expansion of Muslim rule. Arabic was declared as the state language and implemented postal services. Under Al-Walid Islamic world extended up to Egypt, Carthage and reached to west of North Africa. While Tariq ibn Ziyad crossed the strait of Gibraltar and conquered Iberian Peninsula. In the east Islamic territory was expanded up to Indus Valley. The reign of Al Walid has been notable because the Islamic power was on its peak during his reign. After the death of Al Walid, Sulayman ibn Abd al Malik became caliph and remained in Ramalla. He sent his troop to attack Constantinople but they incurred heavy losses. He died in 717. Yazid II became the ruler after the death of Umar II. He fought with Kharijites and killed his leader Shawdhab and he expanded the territory of Caliphate up to Caucasus. Hisham ibn Abd Al Malik came to power after the demise of Yazid. His reign faced many problems like the revolt of Berber and revolt of Zayd ibn Ali are notable. Marwan II was the last Umayyad ruler who ruled from Damascus. His death declared the end of Umayyad's reign in the east. The Abbasids who had gradually gained popularity in the area started killing Umayyads and as a result entire Umayyads were killed except Abd al Rahman who fled away to Iberian Peninsula and established a dynasty there.

Abbasid Caliphate: The Abbasid dynasty came to existence in 750 AD. They conquered Mediterranean and expanded up to Sicily. The Abbasid existed because of the annoyance and dissatisfaction against the Umayyads. Under Abbasids, the golden era of Islamic civilization commences. During this era only the Arabic prose and poetry were developed. During the reigns of Al Mansur, Harun al Rashid and al Mamun Abbasid art, science, commerce and industries flourished and the capital was shifted from Damascus to Baghdad by understanding the strategic location of Persia and Transoxania. At this point of time, the caliphates were fractured and established regional dynasties. Harun al Rashid appointed Aghlabids as independent rulers but they ruled for a shorter period and they were removed by the Shiite Fatimid dynasty in 909 AD. Fatimids conquered Abbasid Egypt and declared al Qahirah as their capital in 973 AD. In Persia, it was Turkic Ghaznavids who seized the throne from the Abbasids. The expansion of Islamic religion continued either by force or by proselytizing. In India by the period 1193–1209 AD the areas up to Ganges River was under the territory of Islamic religion. In West Africa Muslim advent was seen just after the year 1000 AD. Between 1081 to 1097 the Muslim rulers ruled in Kanem, in Gao Muslim

were reported by 1009, while in Mali the Islamic kingdom was established in 13th Century. The Abbasids primarily focused on Islamic unity. Different sects of the Muslim communities were brought to a single platform. Abbasids keep on attacking on the social and the moral character of the Umayyads. Shariah was codified along with the establishment of four Madhabs. During this time Suffism saw its rise and the canonical collections of Sahih Bukhari were completed. The Islam saw Shia and Sunni as its two denominations who divided its followers on the ground of theology. Such trend was even continued during Fatimid and Ayyubid periods too.

Fatimid Caliphate: They originated in Ifriqiya i.e the area comprising of modern Tunisia and eastern Algeria. This dynasty was established in the year 909 by Abdullah al Mahdi Billah by the name of Muhammad's daughter Fatima as-Zahra. The Faramids and the Zaydis used the Hanafi jurisprudence as most of Sunnis did. Soon the area of Fatimid Caliphate extended up to central Maghreb (The areas of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya) with Tunisia as its capital. They entered Egypt by defeating the Ikhshidid dynasty and established their capital at al Qahira (Cairo) in 969 AD. After Egypt, the Fatimid entered to Syria, Sicily and Southern Italy. Egypt became the center of the dynasty and who controlled the areas of North Africa, Sicily, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, coastal areas of Red Sea, Yemen and the Hejaz. Fatimid also established trade and commerce activities in Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean, further it was extended up to China as well.

9.6 MAJOR EMPIRES AND ISLAMIC MOVEMENT

Ayyubid Empire: Centered in Egypt, it was founded by Saladin in 1174. The Ayyubids ruled during 12 and 13 centuries and covered the area including Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Hejaz, Yemen and modern Tunisia. By 1230, Ayyubid rulers of Syria tried to become independent from Egypt but were failed. By 1250, the slave regiment overthrown Egyptian dynasty. By 1260, the Mongols took the control of Ayyubid territories.

Mongol Invasions: In 13th Century, the Mongols invaded putting an end of the golden era of Islam. It was under the leadership of Genghis Khan that put an end of the Abbasid era. The social and economic life of the Central Asia became pathetic due to invasion of Mongols. They expanded their dynasty throughout the Central Asia and Persia. Mongol targeted Bagdad, the capital city of the Abbasid. The fall of Bagdad took place in the year 1251 and the last Abbasid caliph was killed. The tyrannies looted and destroyed the Bagdad city. However, by 1260 Egyptian Mamluks in the Battle of Ain Jalut forced Mongol army to turn back.

Mamluk Empire: By 1250 CE the Slave regiments took the throne from Ayyubid Egyptians and thus Mamluk dynasty came into existence. Military exercise was their main achievement and due to which they forced Mongolians to leave from the north east territories. During the Battle of Hims, The Mangols were again defeated and thus Mamluks went to Syria. They were succeeded in uniting Syria and Egypt. The Mamluks faced the challenges like political instability, military invasions, economic slums and proxy wars between Muslim territory and non

Muslim territory. The orthodox Mamluks contributed with many religious buildings especially mosques, madarsaa and khanqahs in Cairo whose evidences can be traced even today in old Cairo.

Islamic Mongol Empires: According to available historical evidences, the Ilkhanate, Golden Horde and the Chagatai Khanate adopted Islam. They all replaced the Ilkhanid rulers and a new Mongol power was emerged in the name of Timur who invaded Persia in 1360. They moved to India against Delhi Sultanate and finally conquered Ottoman Turks in Anatolia. They established their capital city in the Samarqand. The plague which began in China reached to Alexandria (Egypt) in 1347 killing one third of the total population. The combination of war and plague proved to be fatal for Middle East Islamic areas. Finally, Timurid dynasty divided into many branches of Islam like Mughals of India were one of them.

9.7 EXPANSION OF ISLAM

Islam in Africa: After the death of the Prophet Muhammad Saheb in 632, the Umayyad conquered North Africa. By 640 Arabs expanded up to Mesopotamia, included Armenia and Byzantine Syria into their territory. Damascus became the central figure of Umayyad caliphate while by 641 all of Egypt came under the control of Arabs.

Maghreb: The first ever city founded by Muslims was Kairouan located in Tunisia. The Arab general Uqba ibn Nafi established the city and constructed the Great Mosque of Kairouan. This area enjoyed much independence during Islamic history. The dynasty Idrisid, named after first sultan Idris I, ruled over western Maghreb i.e. Morocco from 788 to 985. The Almoravid dynasty from Sahara emerged from the North West of Africa by 11th Century. Moorish empire ruled to major areas comprising modern Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, Gibraltar, Algeria, modern Senegal and Mali in the south, Spain and Portugal in the north. Another dynasty called Almohad Dynasty or Unitarians founded the fifth Moorish dynasty in 12th Century and occupied whole North Africa including Egypt along with Al Andalus.

Horn of Africa: The emergence of Islam in the Horn of Africa is as old as the history of this faith. The merchants and sailors residing nearby Red Sea and Arabian Peninsula through extensive interactions get motivated by the newly converted trading Muslim partners and in this way Horn region saw the emergence of new religion. Also Islamic disciples fled to Zeila (northern Somalia) to save themselves from Quraysh. Those disciples were provided safe places at different locations of the Horn region to promote their religion. The victory of the Muslims over Quraysh in the seventh century put stress on the local merchants and sailors to think for their existence and as a result they all adopted Islam and the trade routes of Mediterranean and Red Sea came under the control of the Muslim caliphs. Due to the disturbances in Arabian Peninsula, a large number of migrations took place to Somali sea border. These migrations acted like a catalyst to promote Islam in the Horn region.

Great Lakes: Great lakes witnessed the advent of Islam because of the trade exercises that prevailed in this region. The inhabitants of the Great Lakes learned the basic etiquettes and manners of the Muslims from the Muslim Arabs and

this opened the path of their conversion to Muslim community. The Zayds also came to Great lakes as immigrants; Ulema emerged as an Islamic authority and Qadi were recognised as religious authorities. These are some of major mile stones in the development of Islamic religion in the Great Lakes region.

Islam in the East and South East Asia: Islam reached to South East Asian countries especially in Indonesia in the seventh Century through the traders from Mecca. The Arab traders from Yemen used to travel by sea to the places of Europe and Africa. They traded the goods from Africa, India and many more along with Arabian goods. Their major trade items included ivory, gold, spices and fragrance. There are certain evidences that the Arab traders has been in trade with Ceylon through Indian Ocean also. Sufi missionaries started translating Sufi literature of Arabic and Persian into Malay. As a result Malay was inclined towards Islam; most of the inhabitants get converted to it. Through trade and commerce the root of Islam reached up to Borneo and Java. Philippines saw the emergence of Islam in 15th Century. Three important Muslim Sultanates emerged in East and South East Asia namely the Aceh Sultanate that controlled the area between South East Asia and India by keeping Sumatra as their center, the Sultanate of Malacca that controlled Malay Peninsula and the Sultanate of Demak which ruled in Java.

Islam in Indian Subcontinent: For the first time in India Islam appeared in Kerala. According to legends there was a group of Sahaba who preached Islam at the Malabar Coast. At this place the first mosque of India was constructed by Chera king Cheraman Perumal who later adopted Islam and renamed him as Thazuddin. By 8th Century, Muhammad bin Kasim occupied Sindh while during 12th Century Mahmood Ghaznavi expanded Islam. Qutb ud Din Aibak took the throne of Delhi in 1206 and it was the beginning of the Delhi Sultanates. During 14th Century, Alauddin Khilji expanded Islam to Gujarat, Rajasthan and Deccan. There existed many other dynasties from 13 to 18th Century in India who contributed in expanding the Muslim rule but nobody stood in comparison to the Mughals who besides promoting Islam contributed with magnificent monuments, gardens, kingship pattern and many more.

Check Your Progress-3

1) What do you mean by Caliphate?

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2) Write a note on expansion of Islam.

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9.8 LET US SUM UP

The unit introduces Byzantine, Christian civilization, Islamic civilization and their spread in the world. Byzantine word is used to denote, an ancient Greek colony founded by a man named Byzas. It was located on the European side of the Bosphorus which was used as trade and transit point between Asia and Europe. Justinian I who ruled by 527 AD to 565 AD was the first ruler of the Byzantine Empire. During his regime the Justinian army captured the areas of Western Roman Empire and his empire was expanded up to North Africa. The period of late 10th and the early 11th centuries AD has been analysed by historians as the golden period of Byzantine Empire.

The unit also discussed the beginning of the Crusades, Christianity and spread of Islam. It is true that Islam was originated in deserts but developed in Arabic culture. The transmission of culture in Islam takes place through their poetic and narrative literatures. These literatures had profound impact on Islamic civilization and the root of which lies in the value of education. The Islam also contributed to art and architecture. The monuments like the Haram Mosque of Mecca, the Mosque of Al Aqsa located in Jerusalem, the great Umayyad Mosque of Damascus, the Blue Mosque of Istanbul, Cordoba Mosque of Spain, are considered as the masterpieces of Muslim architecture. Apart from this, magnificent geometric designs painted in blue and green are also notable contributions of Muslims. The wood carving in the form of “Masharabiyah” has given Muslims a distinguished identification in the field of art. Muslims extended their inventions towards music also. They evolved new instruments and new techniques of sounds. They also developed musical harmony synchronizing with mathematical sciences.

9.9 KEY WORDS

- Pendentive Architecture** : A pendentive is a constructive device permitting the placing of an elliptical dome over a rectangular room or a circular dome over a square room.
- Uroscopy** : Medical practice of visually examining a patient’s urine.
- Eschatology** : The branch of theological study that deals with the last things like death, end of the world, Judgement, the final destiny of the soul and Humanity.
- Christology** : Majority of the Christians considered Jesus as a heavenly soul who was incarnated as a human being on this earth as a unique messenger of God.
- Sabbath** : Sabbath is a religious observance which is scheduled for any week day. Like Jews observe Saturday as their Sabbath while Christians keep Sunday as their Sabbath day.

9.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress-1

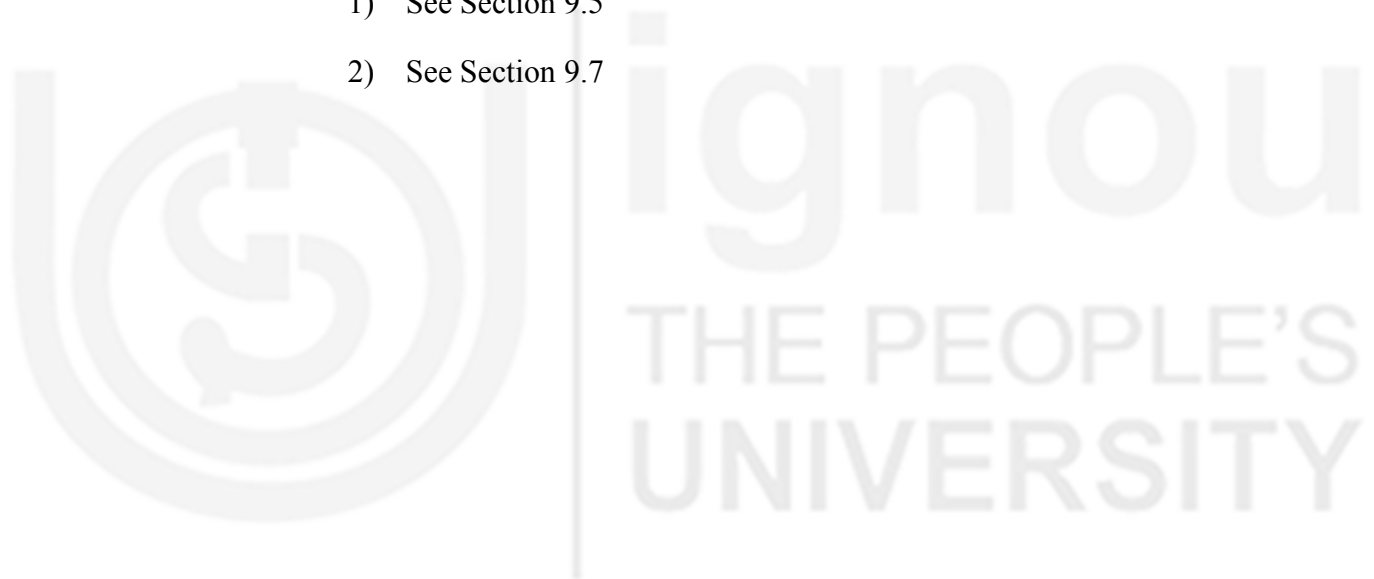
- 1) See Section 9.2
- 2) See Sub-section 9.2.3
- 3) See Sub-section 9.2.4

Check Your Progress-2

- 1) See Section 9.3
- 2) See Section 9.3
- 3) See Section 9.4

Check Your Progress-3

- 1) See Section 9.5
- 2) See Section 9.7



SOME USEFUL BOOKS & RESEARCH PAPERS FOR THIS BLOCK

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ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BLOCK

Note: Discuss the results of Activities with your Counsellor.

Activity-1

Locate a few of your friends who intend to visit places. Try to know what motivates them and accordingly suggest some destinations.

Activity-2

Draw a tourist map of China region with the help of a general map.

Activity-3

Suppose the place you are living (or near about areas) that is famous for some historical attractions. Plan a visit to that historical area and enlist type of resources and availability of infrastructure at that historical site. Also seek information about its history and chronological development.

Activity-4

On world map, draw the location and spread of all ancient civilization discussed in this block.