

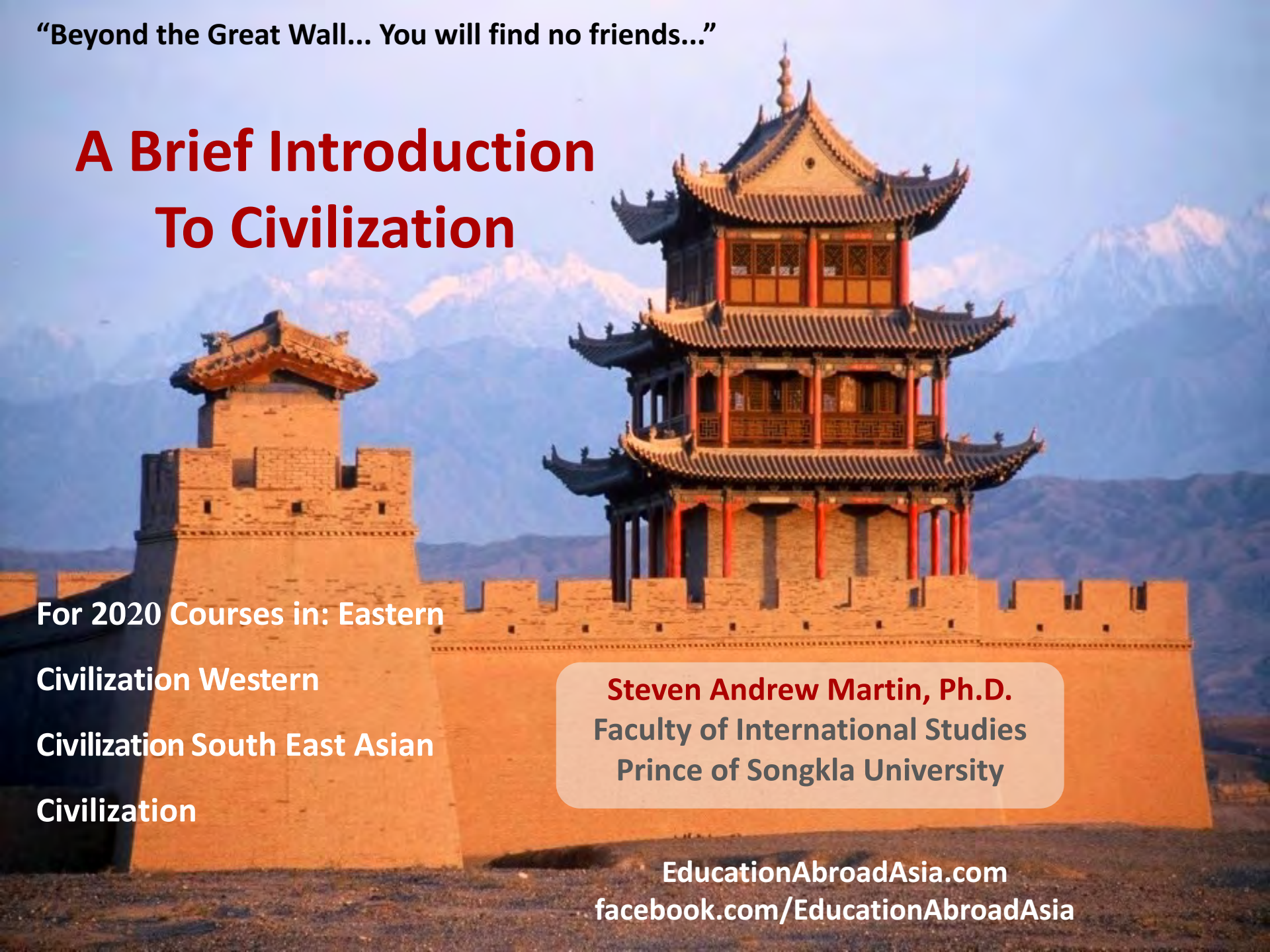
“Beyond the Great Wall... You will find no friends...”

A Brief Introduction To Civilization

**For 2020 Courses in: Eastern
Civilization Western
Civilization South East Asian
Civilization**

Steven Andrew Martin, Ph.D.
Faculty of International Studies
Prince of Songkla University

EducationAbroadAsia.com
facebook.com/EducationAbroadAsia



Understanding Historical Dates

- **B.C. (BC)** = Before Christ (before the birth of Christ)
- **A.D. (AD)** = Anno Domini (Latin phrase)
 - “In the year of our Lord”
 - The Julian Calendar (AD 525)
 - *Does not actually stand for “After Death”*
- **B.C.E. (BCE)** = Before Common Era
- **C.E. (CE)** = Common Era
 - The Gregorian Calendar
 - *Does not actually [necessarily] stand for “Christian Era”*
- **BP** = Before Present
- **Mya** = Million years ago

c. = Circa (Latin) =
“Around About”

The use of **B.C.** and **A.D.** was proposed by the monk Dionysius Exiguus (Dennis the Little) in A.D. 525 to represent the entrance of Christ into the world and as a turning point of history (i.e., the “**Julian Calendar**”).

The **BC** and **AD**, as designated dates, are likely off by as many as 10 years.

BCE is the same as **BC**
CE is the same as **AD**
BCE and **CE** avoid reference to Christianity.

Early Humans

- Early humans were hunter-gatherers.
- They relied on animals and plants for food.
- They moved constantly in search of their food.
- Early farmers used slash and burn techniques.

After the Ice Ages, people began to domesticate plants and animals and build mud- brick houses, eventually leading to permanent settlements



‘Civilization’

is an ambiguous concept

Agriculture

Architecture

Art

Astronomy

Coins & Currency

Culture

Economy

Education

Legal systems

Material culture

Mathematics

Metallurgy

Political organization

(organization above the family level)

Pottery

Religion

Science

Society

Technology

Transportation systems

Urbanization and Cities

Writing

What other
ways can we
identify
‘civilization’?

On the Road to *Civilization*...

- **Old Stone Age** (Paleolithic)
 - 2.6 Million years ago — 10,000 BCE
- **New Stone Age** (Neolithic)
 - c. 12,000 BCE
 - The rise of farming
- **Bronze Age**
 - The ability to smelt copper and its alloy bronze
 - c. 3,000 BCE
- **Iron Age**
 - The ability to smelt various iron ores
 - c. 1,200 BCE
 - Use of iron for cutting tools and weapons



- **Prehistory**
 - Before the advent of writing or written history
- **History**
 - The period of time after writing was invented.
 - The discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about past events.

The Ages of Man did not begin simultaneously around the world

How do we study *Ancient Civilizations*?

- Archaeology
- Anthropology
- Architecture & Monuments
- Written records
- Linguistics
- Social theory

What other
ways can we
study ancient
civilizations?



What is Civilization?

- **Civilization** (*n.*)
 - A relatively high level of cultural and technological development
 - Especially in the context of writing and the keeping of written records
 - The **cultural characteristics of a particular time or place**
- **Civilized** (*adj.*)
 - Developed beyond a primitive state
 - **Rationally ordered stage of cultural development**
 - Technically advanced
- **Civil** (*adj.*) (Latin *civilis*)
 - **Social**; *civil society*
 - The activities, needs, or affairs of people (distinguished from military or religious affairs)



Sumer (from 3200 BCE)



Egypt (from 3150 BCE)

- **Ancient settlements and cities**

- Organized and sedimentary communities became capable of producing a surplus of raw materials and engaging in trade
- City planning (grids) are evident, followed by the advent of running water and sewage disposal

- **Agrarian (Agricultural societies)**

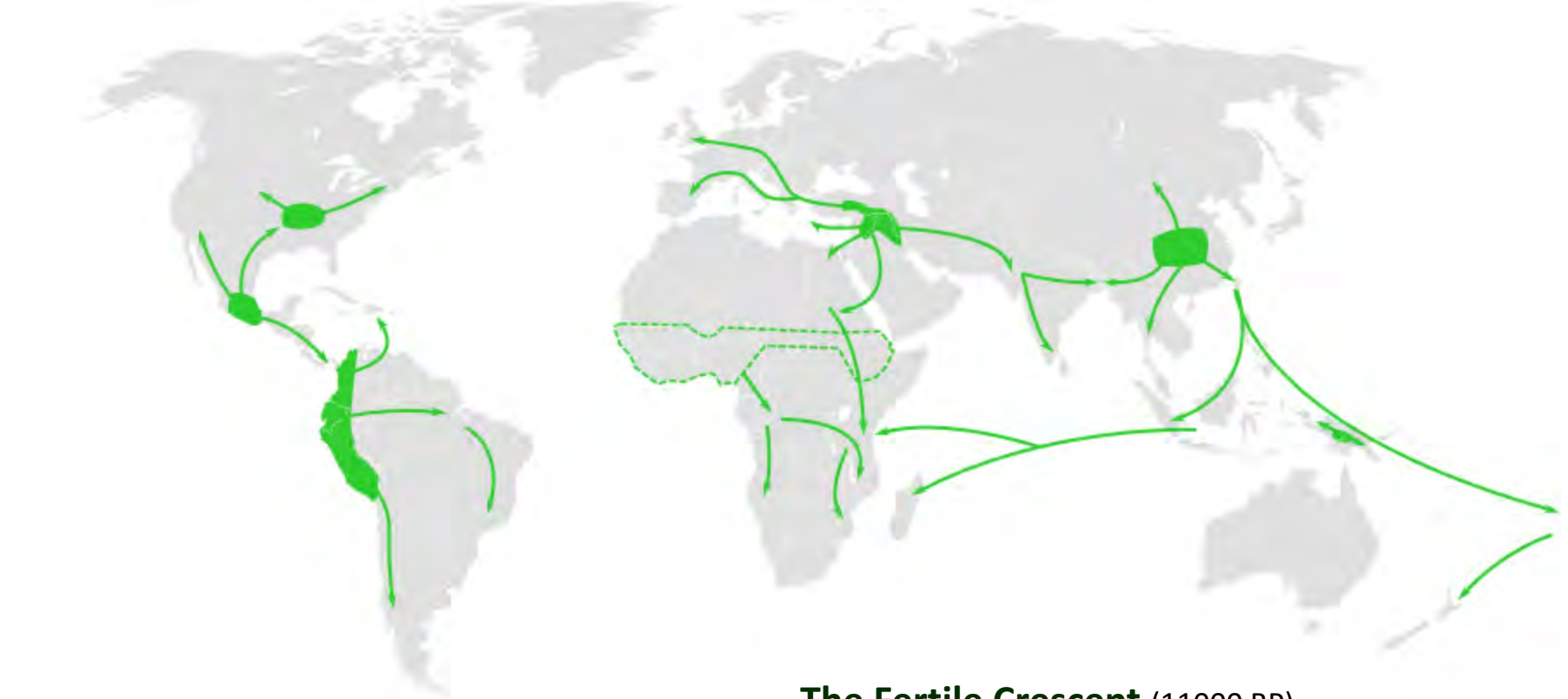
- C. 8,000 BCE
- The characteristics of farmers and their ways of life
- Agriculture and animal husbandry

- **Hunter-gatherer**

- Cultures were sustained through hunting, fishing, and foraging
- Harvesting of wild grains



The Spread of Agriculture in Prehistory



Eastern USA (4000-3000 BP)

Central Mexico (5000-4000 BP)

Northern South America (5000-4000 BP)

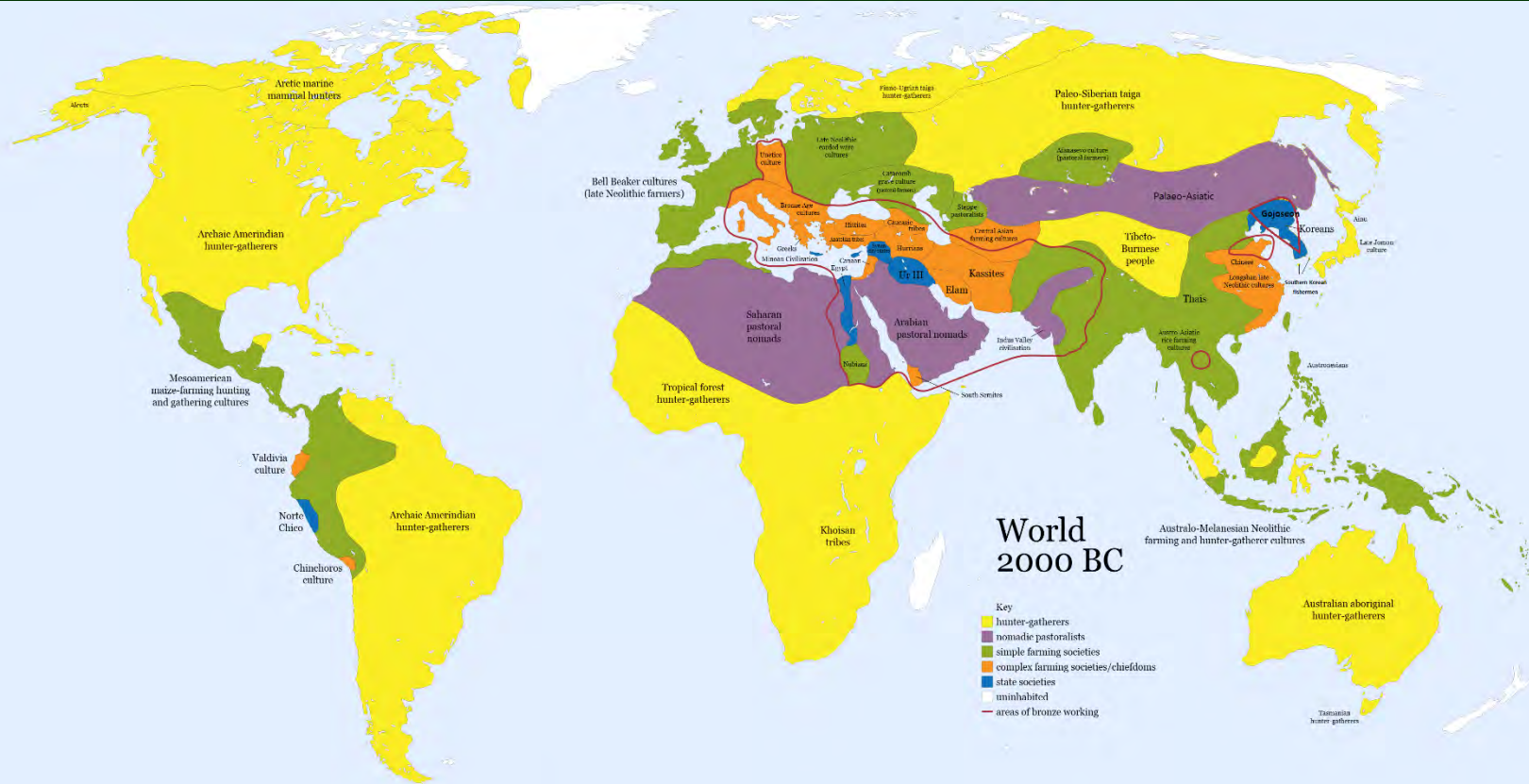
The Fertile Crescent (11000 BP)

Sub-Saharan Africa (5000-4000 BP)

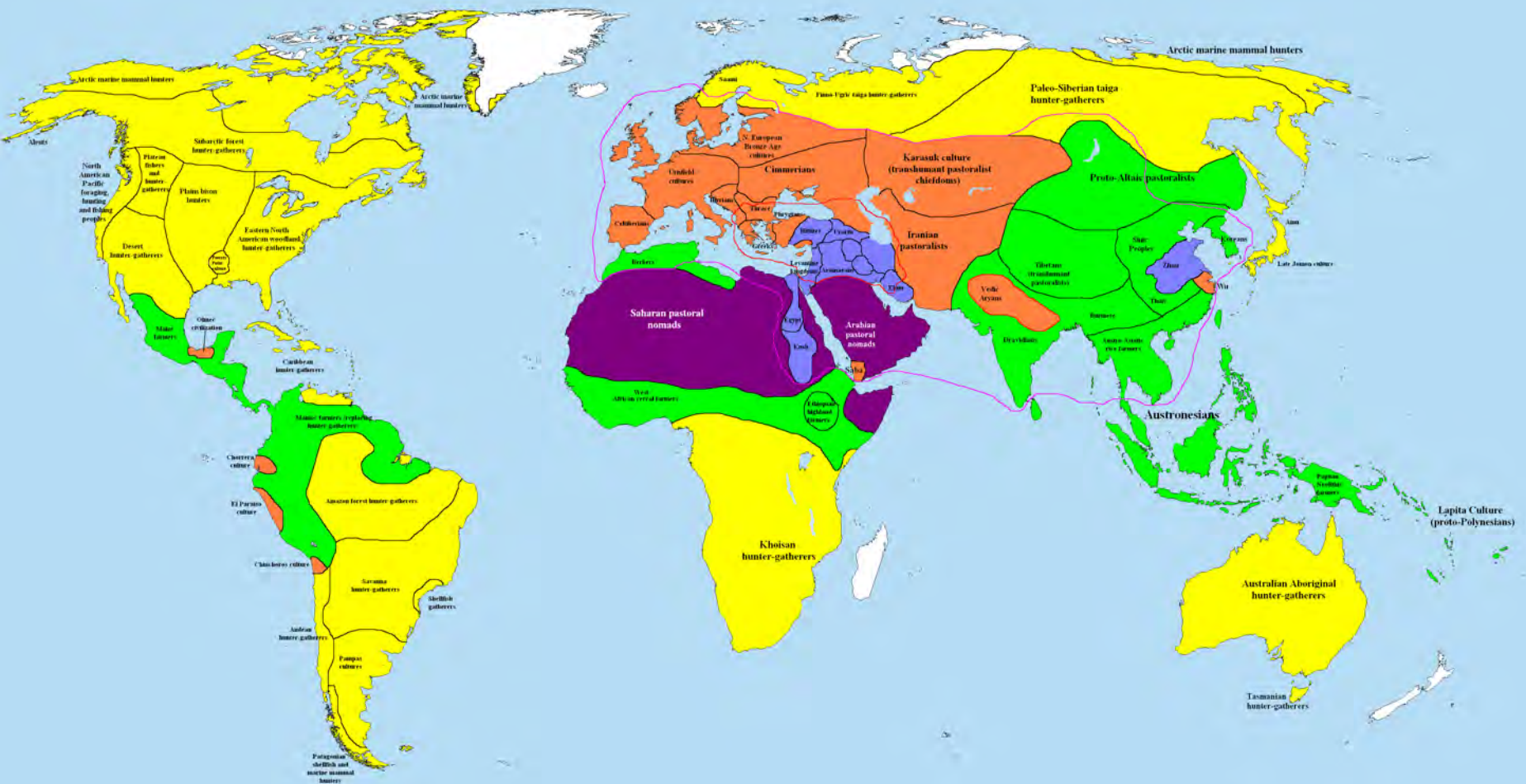
The Yangtze and Yellow River basins (9000 BP)

New Guinea Highlands (9000-6000 BP)

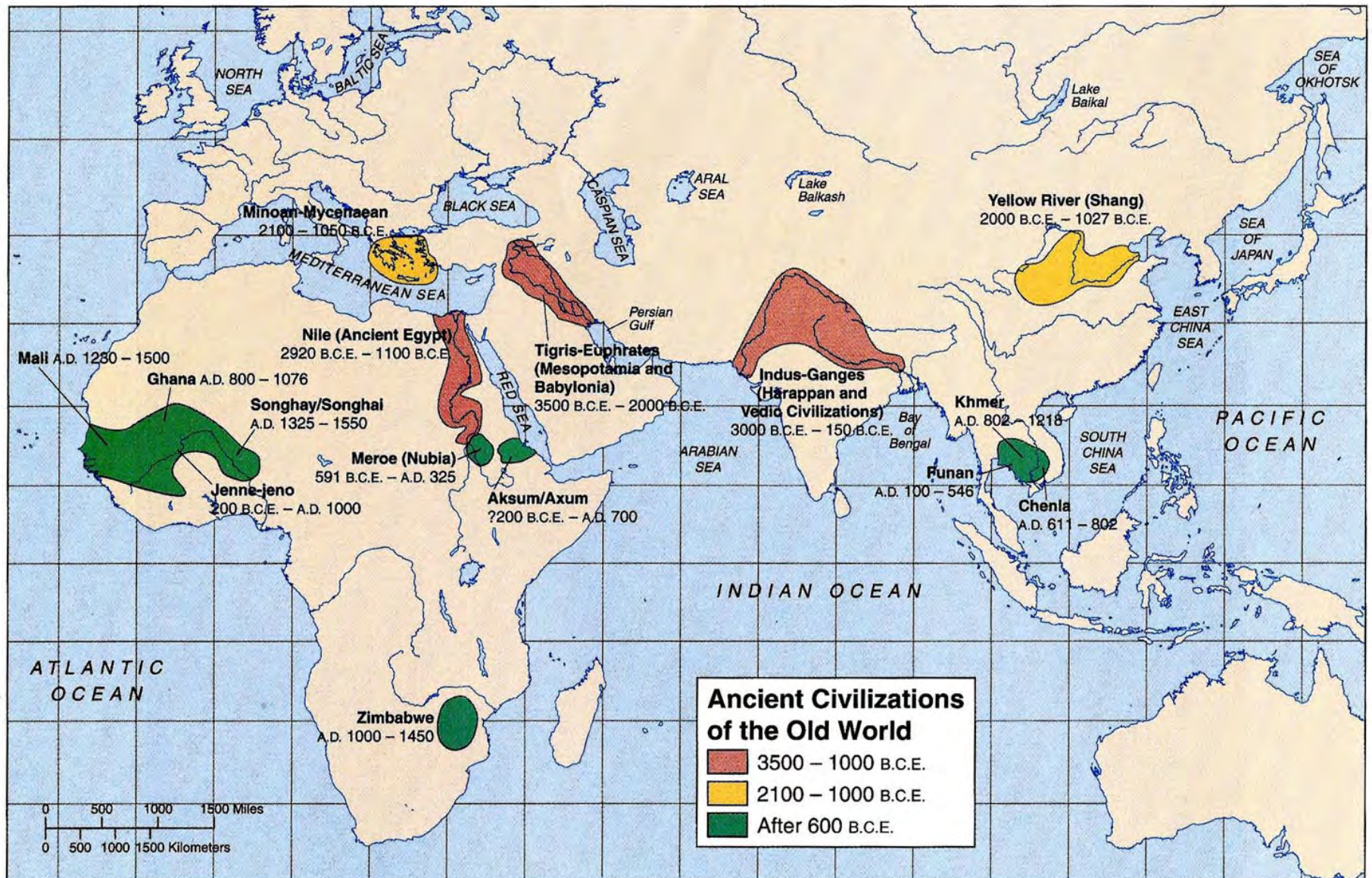
The World at 4000 Years BP



The World at 3000 Years BP



Ancient Civilizations of the Old World



Great Civilizations of the World

Egyptian (Egypt, Africa)

Sumerian (Iraq, *Mesopotamia*, Central Asia)

Persian (Iran, Central Asia)

Greek (Greece, Western Europe)

Roman (Italy and the greater Mediterranean)

Chinese (China, East Asia)

Khmer (Cambodia, Southeast Asia)

Indus River Valley (Pakistan, South Asia)

Aztec (Mexico, Central America)

Mayan (Central America)

Incan (Andean Mountains, South America)



Can you
name some
other
ancient
civilizations
of the
world?



Ancient Egypt (c. 5000 BP)



- The Nile River flooded every year providing fertile farmland in the desert.
- The Egyptians developed irrigation and other techniques to control Nile floodwaters.



Mesopotamia (c. 5000 BP)

- “The land between the two rivers”
 - The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
- Provided water and transportation
- Yearly flooding created rich soil allowing for agriculture and early civilizations

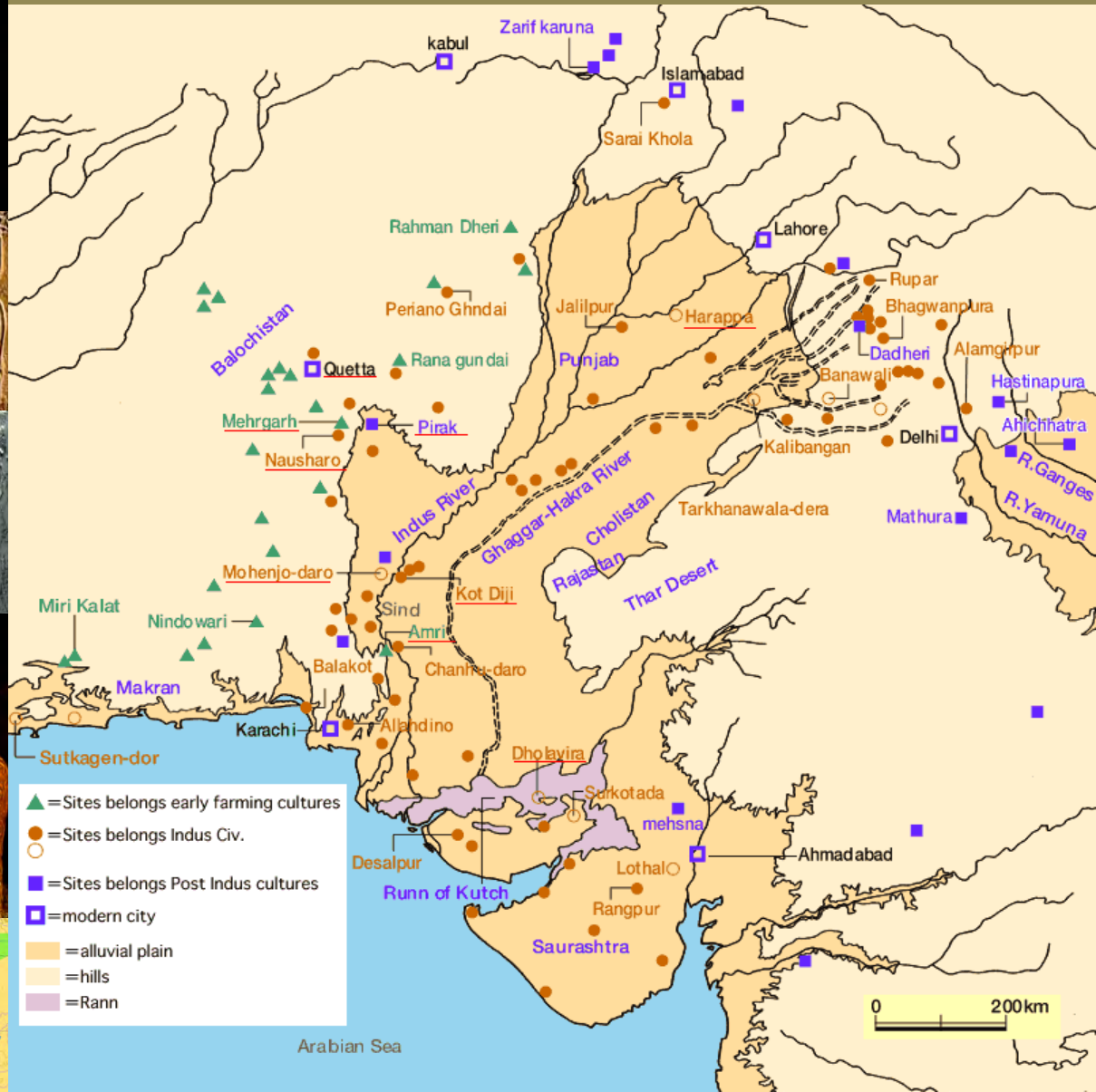


Indus River Civilization

(c. 3000 BP)



- c.2300-c.1900 BC
 - Indus Valley civilization (*mature*)
- c.1900-c.520 BC
 - No records. Indo-Aryan migrations.
- c.520-c.326 BC
 - Persian Empire Under direct Persian control and/or local control under Persian suzerainty.
- c.326-c.305 BC
 - Occupied by Alexander the Great and Macedonian generals



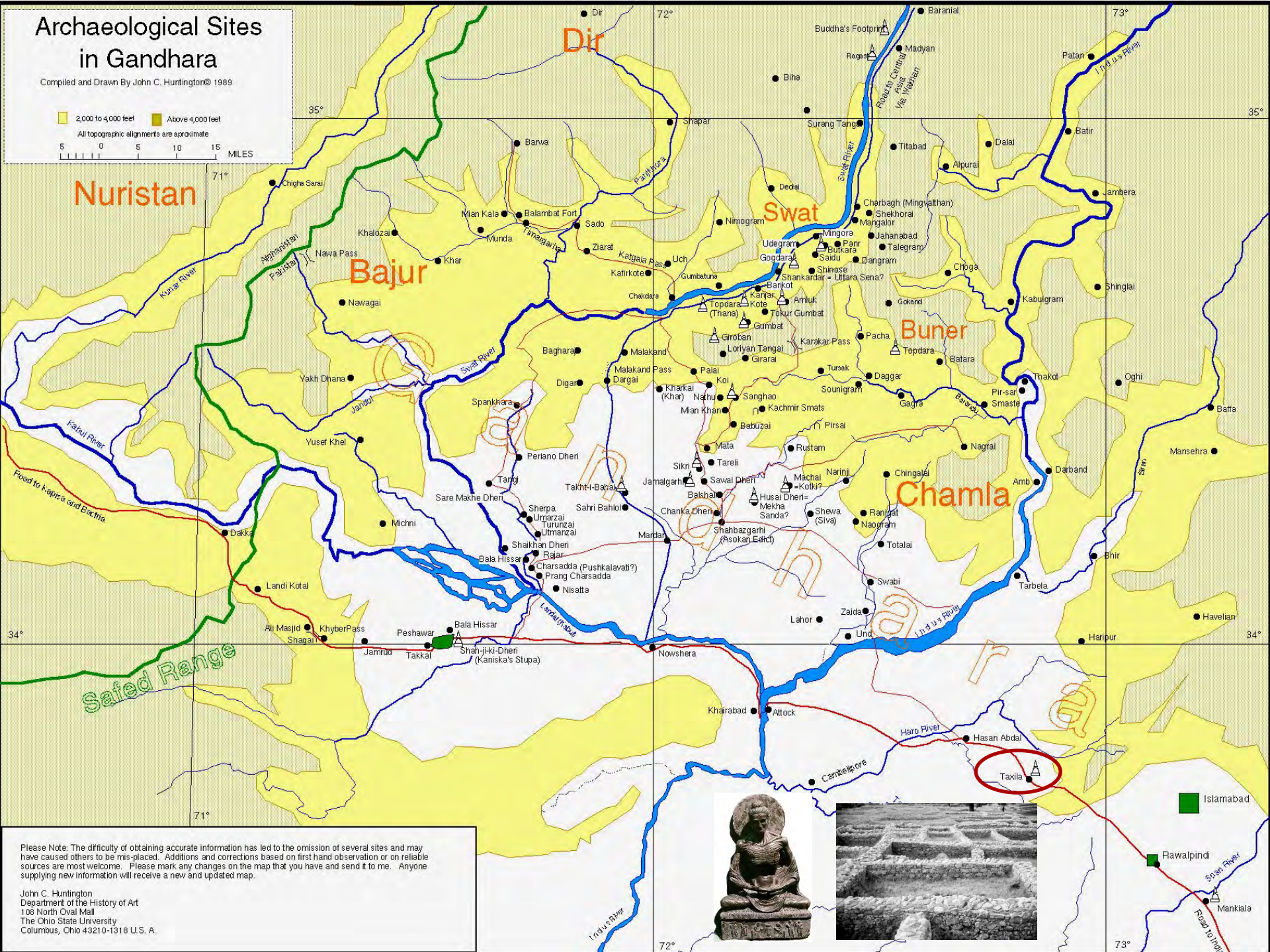
Archaeological Sites in Gandhara

Compiled and Drawn By John C. Huntington© 1989

2,000 to 4,000 feet Above 4,000 feet

All topographic alignments are approximate

5 0 5 10 15 MILES



Please Note: The difficulty of obtaining accurate information has led to the omission of several sites and may have caused others to be mis-placed. Additions and corrections based on first hand observation or on reliable sources are most welcome. Please mark any changes on the map that you have and send it to me. Anyone supplying new information will receive a new and updated map.

John C. Huntington
Department of the History of Art
108 North Oval Mall
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210-1316 U.S. A.



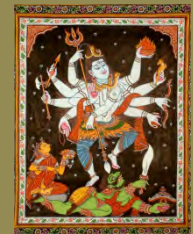
Islamabad

Rawalpindi

Mankiala



Indian Caste System



Organized Indians into four classes

— Brahmins

- Teachers, scholars and priests

— Kshatriyas

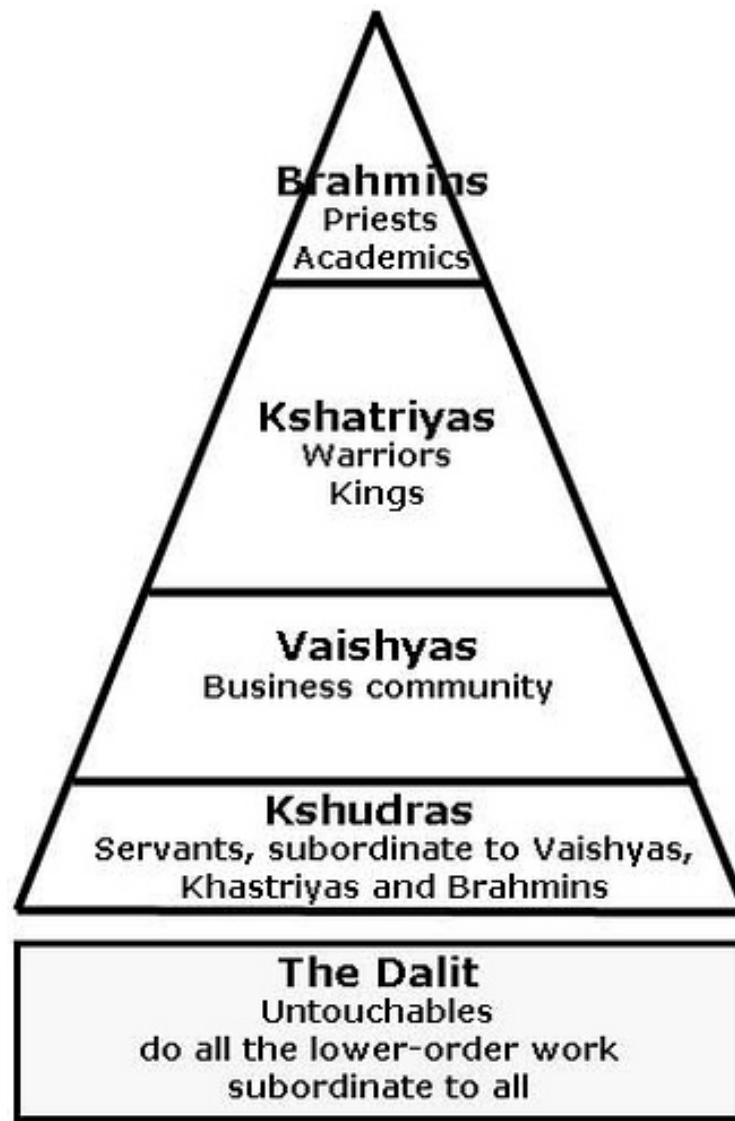
- Kings and warriors

— Vaishyas

- Traders

— Sudras

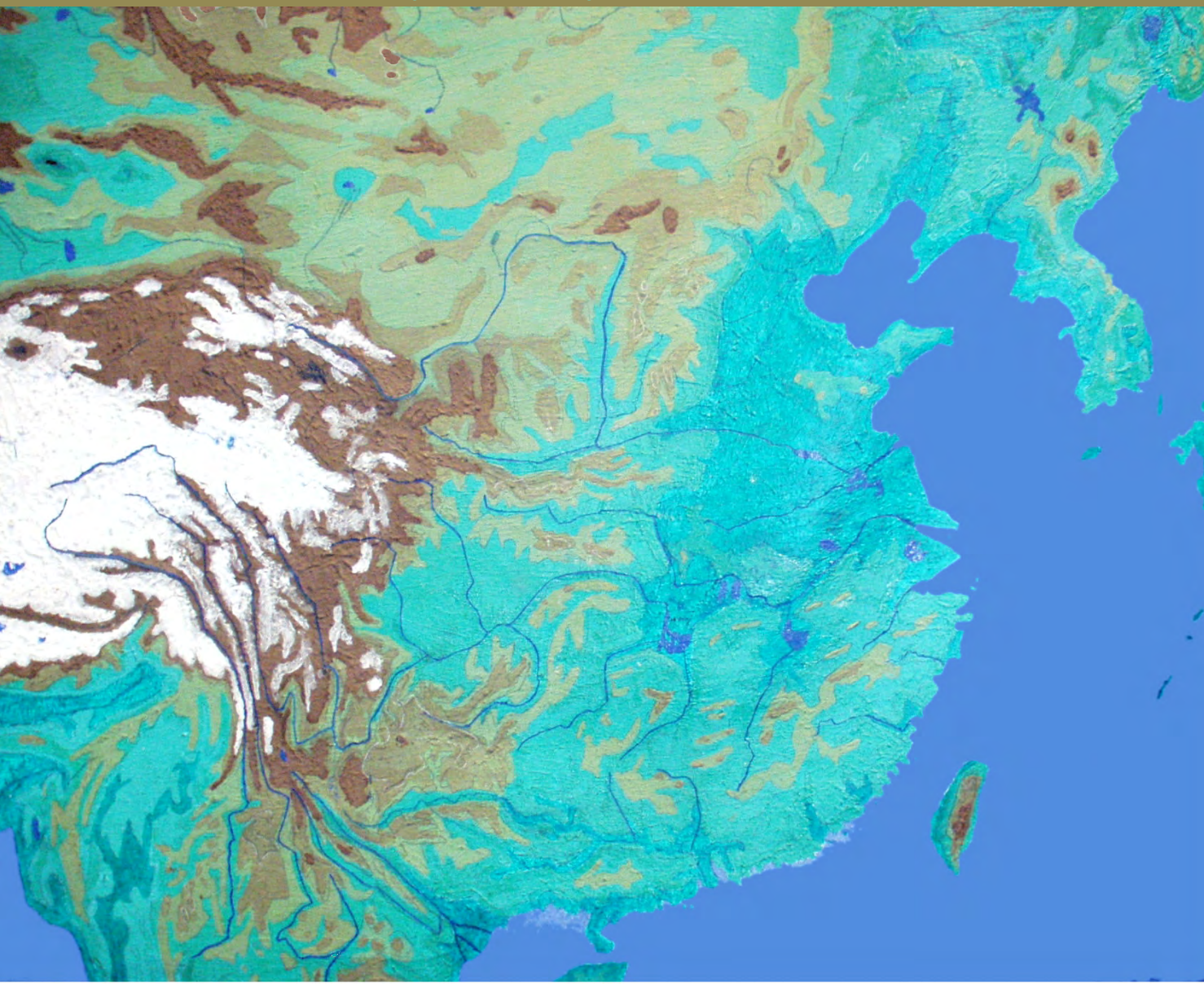
- Agriculturists, service providers, and some artisan groups



Yellow & Yangtze Rivers of China

(c. 5000 BP)

(c. 7000 BP) ?



表師世萬



至誠至聖與兩間功化同流

先覺先知為萬古倫常立極

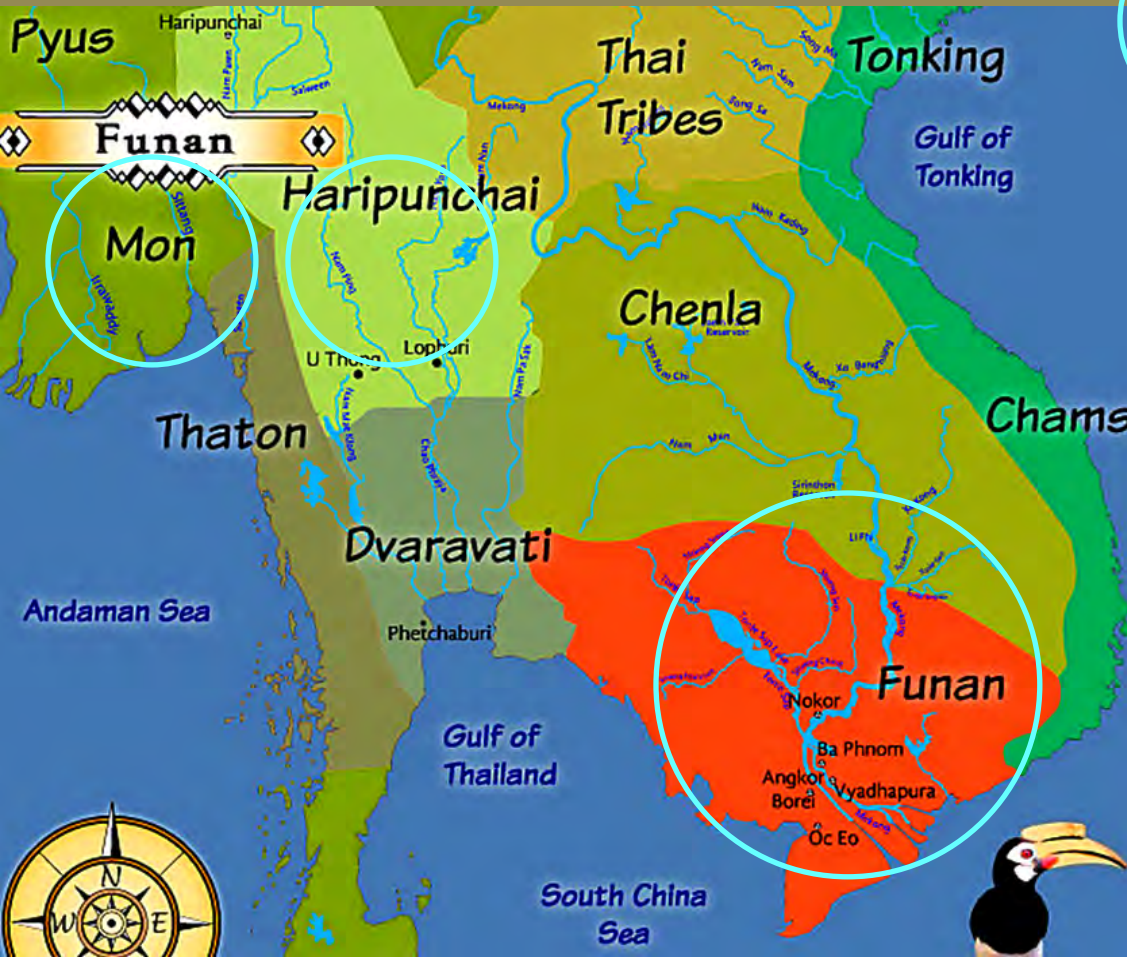


Mainland Southeast Asia

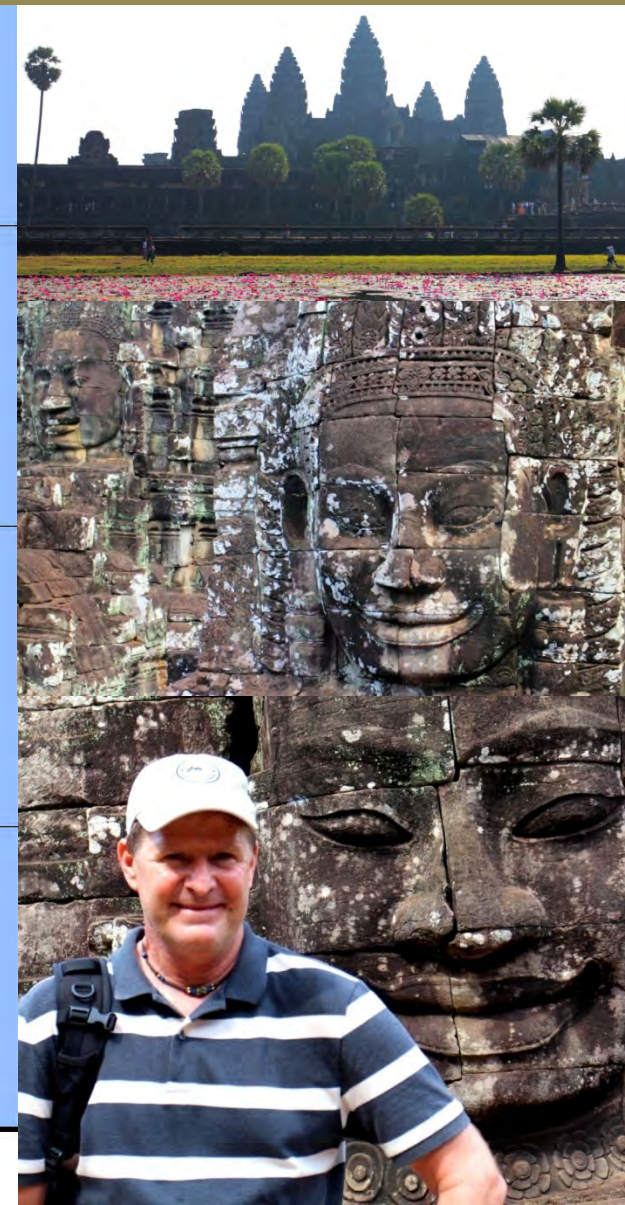
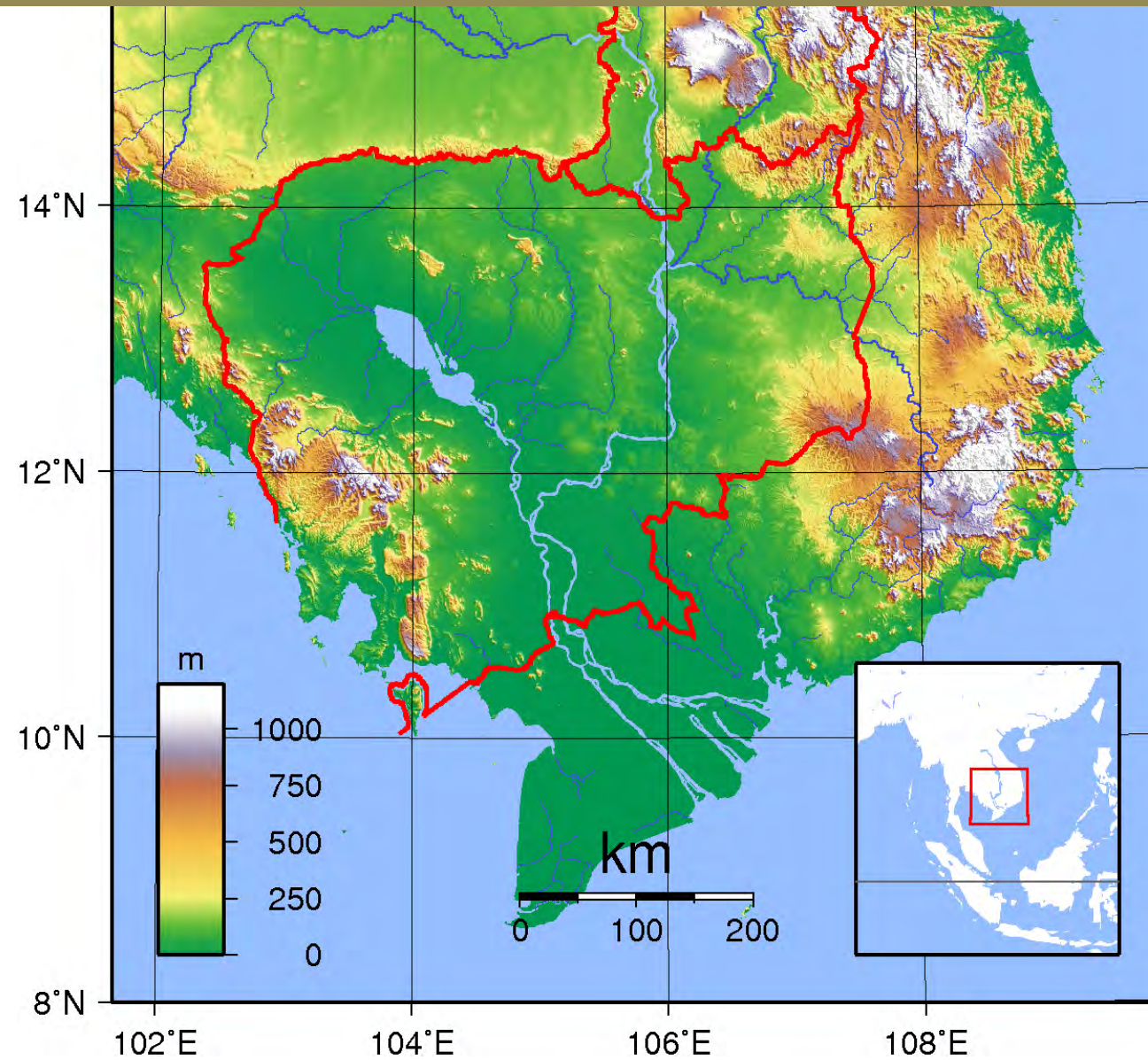
- Irrawaddy
- Salween
- Chao Phraya
- Mekong

FUNAN
(2000 BP)

KHMER
(1000 BP)



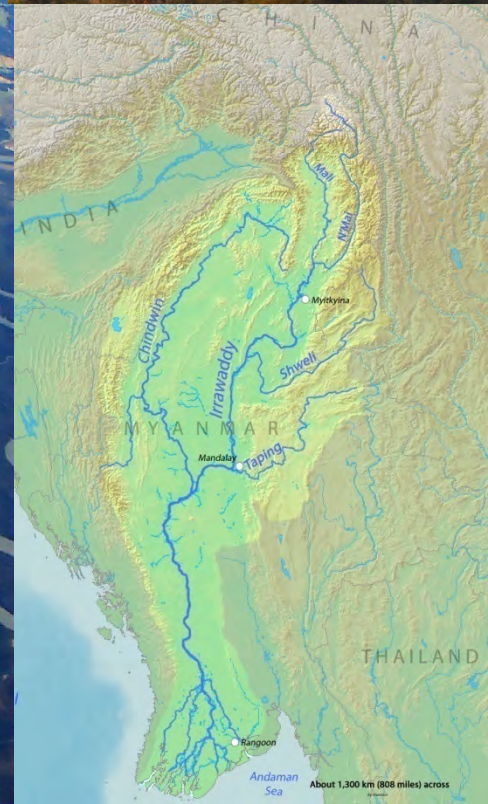
Mekong River & The Tonle Sap



Irrawaddy River



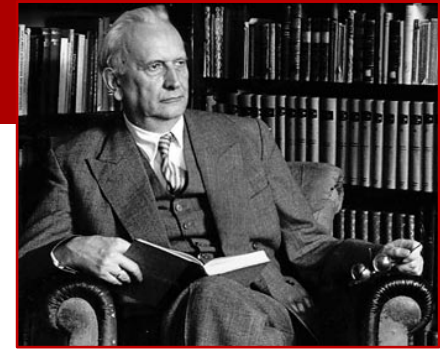
Began



The Axial Age

800 BCE – 200 BCE

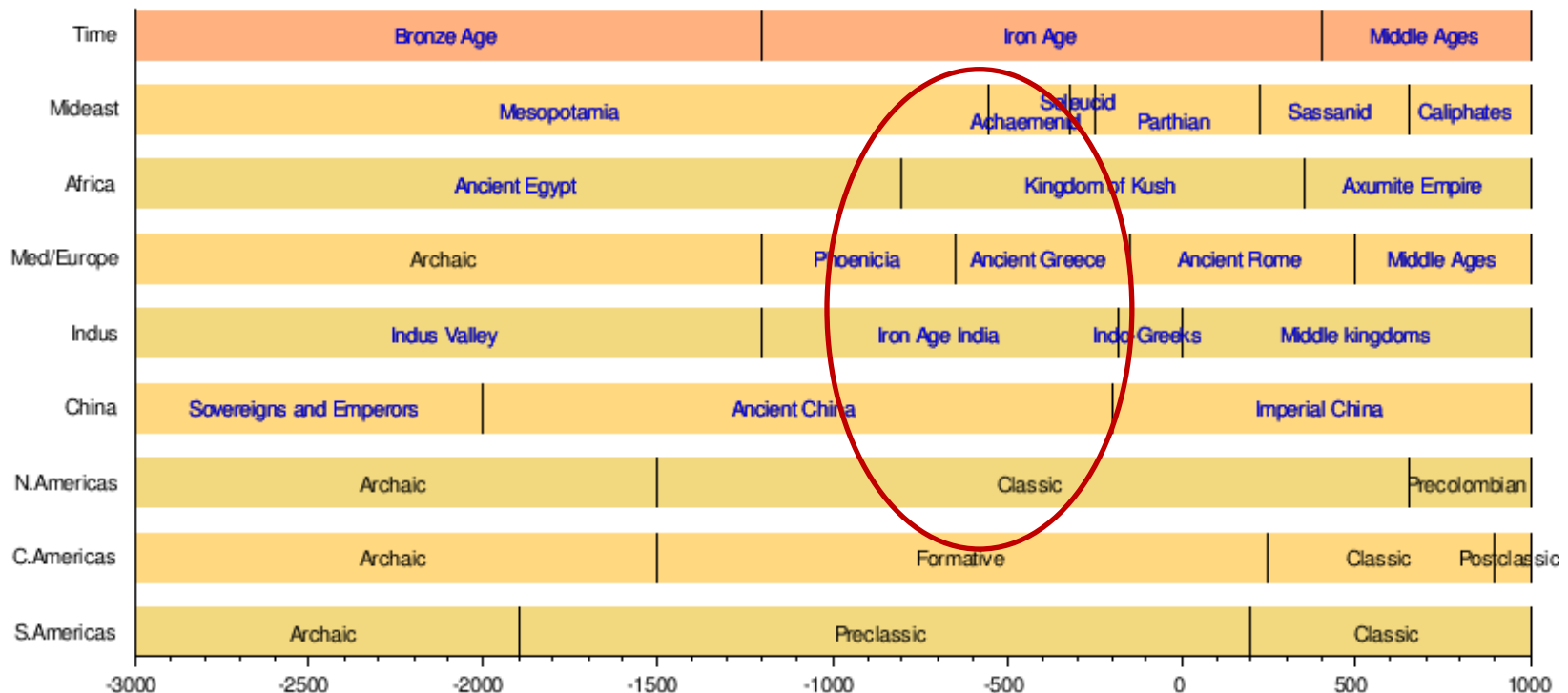
Ancient civilizations around the world simultaneously and independently transformed

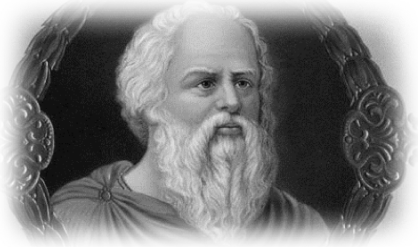


Karl Jaspers (1883-1969)
German historical philosopher

- The profound emergence of male sages, prophets, religious reformers and philosophers

— China, India, Iran, Israel and Greece.





The Axial Age (800 – 200 B.C.E) Centers and Religions



Socrates (c. 470 – 399 BCE)

Plato (c. 428 – 348 BCE)

Aristotle (c. 384–322 BCE)

Greece

Western
Philosophy

Israel

Judaism

Old Testament (c. 500 BCE)

Jain expansion (c. 500 – 300+ BCE)

Vrihaspati (c. 500 BCE)

**Gautama Buddha
(c. 563 – 483 BCE)**

India

Hinduism
Buddhism
Jainism

Ashoka (304 - 232 BCE)

China

Confucianism
Taoism

Confucius (c. 551 – 479 BCE)

Lao Tzu (c. 600 BCE)

Chuang Tzu (c. 369 – 286 BCE)

THINKERS AND THOUGHTS OF THE AXIAL AGE

REGION	SAGE/THINKER AND TIME PERIOD	PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION	DISTINCTIVE IDEAS
Southwest Asia	Jewish sages, ca. 700-500 BCE	Judaism	Monotheistic; trials of faith; punishment for sins; covenant with God
Southwest Asia	Zoroaster, ca. 600 BCE	Zoroastrianism	Eternal conflict between good and evil (dualism)
India	Gautama Siddharta, a 560 BCE	Buddhism	Meditation; karma; Four Noble Truths; escaping desire
India	Mahavira, ca 559 BCE	Jainism	Sanctity of life; nonviolence (<i>ahimsa</i>)
Greece	Pythagoras, 550 BCE	Mathematics	Geometrical and mathematical ideas; ratios; ideas that numbers are real
China	Conficius, ca 500 BCE	Secular Philosophy	Loyalty to God, state, and family; importance of ethics and right behavior
Greece	Parmenides, ca 425 BCE	Rationalism	Objects of thought are more real than sense perception
China	Mozi, ca 400 BCE	Secular Philosophy	Universal love
Greece	Zeno, ca. 390	Stoicism	Nature is morally neutral; happiness is achieved by accepting misfortune
Greece	Plato and Aristotle, ca. 380 BCE	Secular Philosophy	Logic; science; political thought
India	Nyaya school, 350 BCE	Rationalism	Logic; reason as an extraordinary perception conferred by God
China	Laozi, ca 300 BCE	Daoism	Detachment from world; quest for immortality
Greece	Epicurus, ca 280 BCE	Skepticism	Centrality of matter; soul is not immortal; if God exists he is indifferent to human affairs
China	Xunzi, ca 250 BCE	Secular Philosophy	Human goodness can be attained through progress and freedom
China	Han Feizi, ca. 225 BCE	Legalism	Only good is the good of the state; law and order more important than tyranny and injustice
Southwest Asia	Jesus, ca 30 CE	Christianity	Importance of faith, divine love

The Axial Age (5th Century BCE)



Plato (424 – 348 BCE)

Aristotle (384–322 BCE)

- **Great break between ordinary human existence and “cosmic order”**
 - Each culture questioned and reinterpreted their previous cosmologies
- **The closely timed changes in China, India, Palestine and Greece**
 - regions that are widely separated from each other
 - too remarkable to be dismissed as accidental

The Axial Age (6th Century BCE)

Major advances in the world's political, philosophical, and religious systems

- Emergence of new ideas, worldviews and values
- Radical changes in humanity's spiritual development and basic religious concepts
- Major source of most of our present-day faith traditions
- New beginning (more than just an incorporation of mankind's traditional rituals and beliefs)



Axial Cultures

(excerpted from *The Historical Atlas of the Ancient World*,
John Haywood [Metrobooks 1998], pl. 1.06)
"The World, 500 BC"



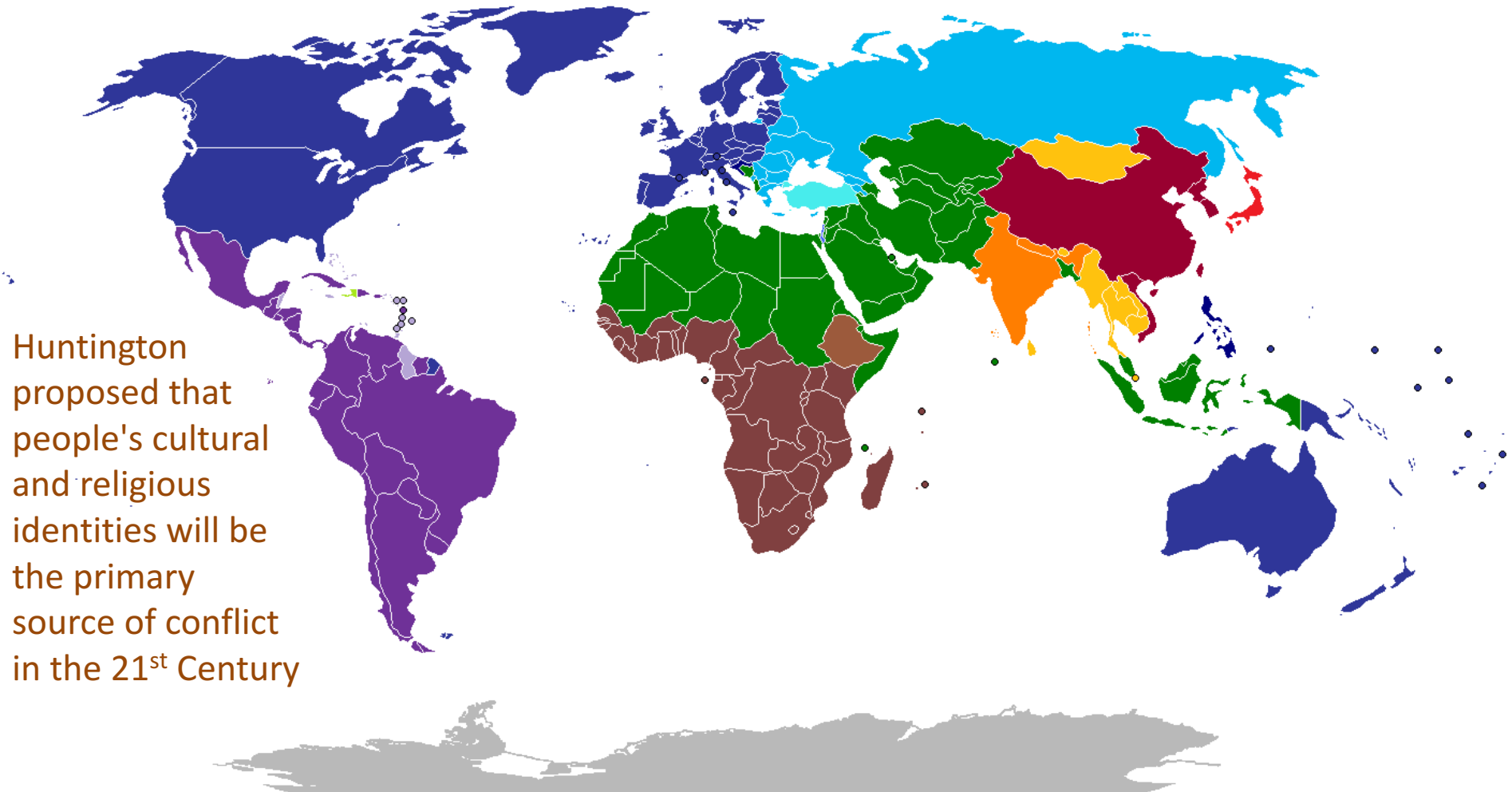
The Axial Age (5th Century BCE)

- Great advances in religion, philosophy, science, democracy, and many forms of art
- Occurred independently and almost simultaneously
- China, India, the Middle East, and Greece
- Spiritual foundations were laid which humanity still uses today
- Great religious leaders rose to prominence attracting a mass following
- Eagerness for discovering the fundamental principles of existence and the implications they had on human life and behavior



Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations*

Huntington proposed that people's cultural and religious identities will be the primary source of conflict in the 21st Century



Western

Protestant

African

Sinic

Hindu

Hispanidad/
Latin American

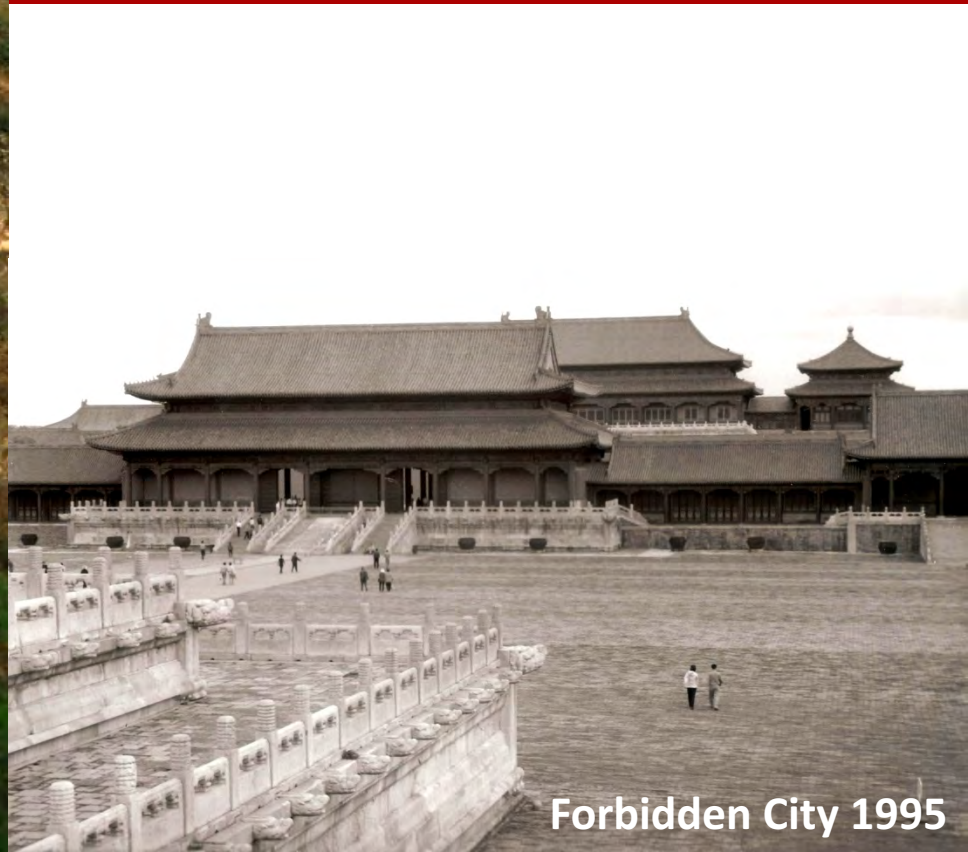
Islamic

Orthodox

Japanese

Buddhist

Civilization in the Chinese Context



Forbidden City 1995

Civilized vs. Barbarian

Nei Ren (inner-persons)
Wai Ren (outer-persons)

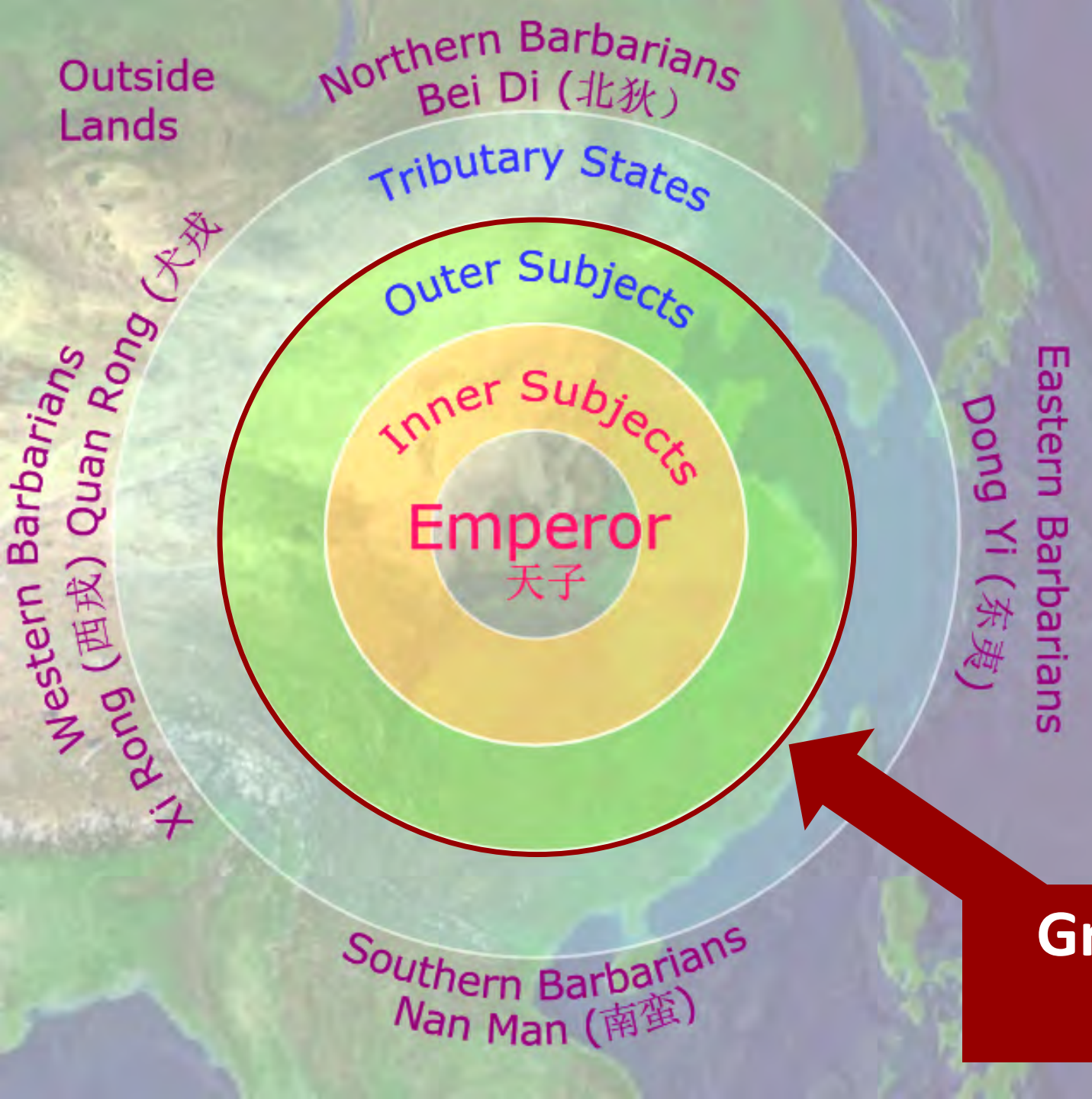
- **Cooked (Sinicized)**
 - shufan 熟番
- **Raw (Barbarian)**
 - shengfan 生番

中
国



“In Weicheng, the central town, it rains lightly in the morning. All the houses and the willows look fresh after the rain. I suggest you have another cup of wine, **because as soon as you leave Yangguan Pass, there are no friends.**”

Tang Dynasty Poem by Wang Wei



Han-
centric
cosmos

Zhongguo
Middle
Kingdom

中国

Great Wall is
Here

StudyAbroadJournal.com

Thanks for
your time
and
attention!



APPENDICES

ANIMISM *(n.)*

- The idea that an immaterial force animates the universe.
 - Inanimate objects, such as hills, trees, rocks, rivers, and other elements of the natural landscape, possess souls and can help or hinder human efforts on earth.
- The belief that the existence of individual spirits that inhabit natural objects and phenomena.
- The belief in the existence of spiritual beings that are separable or separate from bodies.

Indigenous belief systems



Related terms

Animistic

Animism

Animate

Totem

Totemic

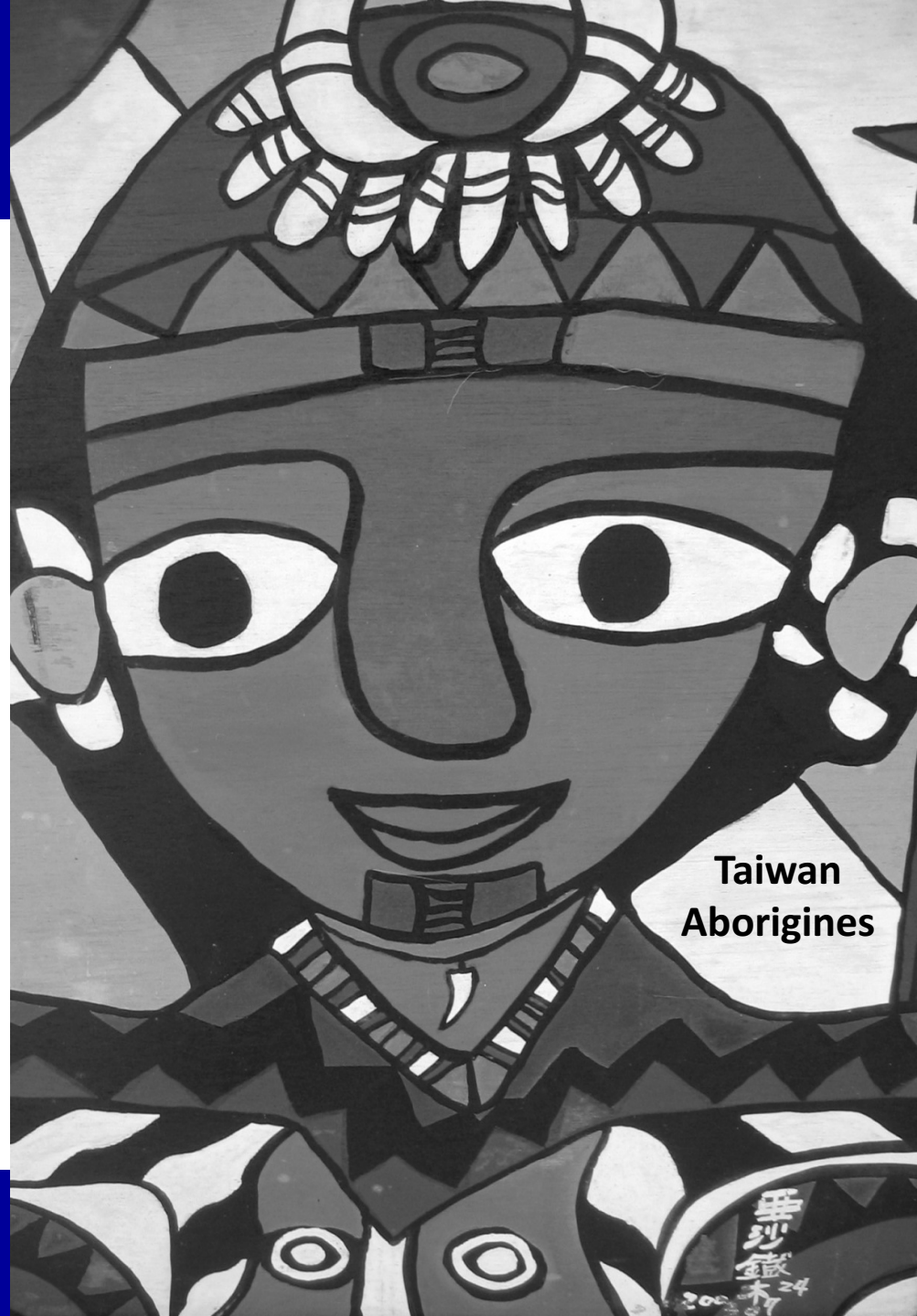
Is *Animism* a
type of
Polytheism?

ecological ethics

ETHNIC RELIGION

- A religion that is particular to one, culturally distinct, group of people.
 - Do not actively seek converts
 - e.g. through evangelism or missionary work

Universalizing vs. Ethnic



Taiwan
Aborigines