

NON-WESTERN EVENTS

5000–3000 B.C.

In Africa, beginning of Sahara, as a result of overworking the soil and overgrazing; in the Sahara Desert, more than 30,000 rock engravings and paintings, half of which are in the region known as Tassili; varied styles, scale, and subject matter, such as human beings, alone and in groups with other human beings or animals, figures of elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, buffalo, camels, horses, sheep, and domestic cattle along with weapons carried by human beings, such as axes, throwing sticks, bows, javelins, and swords; dating of figures is controversial, starting perhaps about 5500 B.C. and continuing until about 100 B.C.; in about 4000 B.C., pastoral life with pottery, polished stone axes, grindstones, and arrowheads, as well as domestication of cattle, sheep, and goats

In Andean culture, Lithic period, 10,000 to 3000 B.C.; village culture; domestication of maize, potatoes, chilies, gourds, beans, and cotton, and the first works of art in America, two gourds decorated with masks; domestication of llama and alpaca; longest continuous textile record in the world, starting with fibers in Guitarrero cave, 10,000 B.C.

In Australia, rock paintings

In southwest Asia, first use of bronze hard enough to hold an edge, 3600 B.C.

In Caribbean, settlement of islands by colonists from the Yucatán

In China, multicolored ceramics, made in Russia, reach China

In Japan, Jomon culture, about 2500 B.C.–about 300 B.C.; handmade pottery with rope pattern designs; circular and rectangular huts, with the floor in a pit

In Mesoamerica, thriving village culture and domestication of maize and cotton; trade with southwestern North America

In Native North America, maritime Archaic Indian settlements in northern Labrador; use of harpoons, large boats, and burial mounds

3000–2000 B.C.

In Afghanistan, large cities of Mundigak and Shahr-i-Sokhta on the Hilmand River, about 2500 B.C.; influence reached the Arabian peninsula; less complex than the Indus River cultures

In Andean culture, Pre-Ceramic period, 3000–1800 B.C.; at Huaca Prieta, on Peru's coast, fishnets, textiles, and cotton scraps with polychrome patterns and zigzag edges; monumental architecture and sculpture, and jaguar, snake, and bird imagery; Kotosh, a ceremonial site built of stone and earth, including the Crossed Hands temple, about 2450 B.C.; metallurgy begins about 3000 B.C.

In China, the potter's wheel in about 3000 B.C.; silk weaving by about 2700 B.C.; meeting houses in villages; Banshan (painted) pottery around 2500 B.C.;

zenith of Lungshan (black) pottery, 2500–2000 B.C.; Lungshan villages, built on hills and surrounded by walls of rammed earth; yang and yin philosophy of nature is begun by the legendary ruler Fu Hsi, in about 2800 B.C.; the principles of herbal medicine and acupuncture, originated by the legendary ruler, Shen Nung, in about 2700 B.C.; *Nei Ching*, the most ancient medical text, by the ruler Huang Ti in 2595 B.C.; civilization begins with the Xia (about 2200–1766 B.C.); tithe system with annual distribution of fields; first bamboo musical pipe; equinoxes and solstices determined; the making of bronze, before 2000 B.C.; architecture, moving slowly from simple to more complex forms, usually made of wood and based on the pavilion

In China and India, start of regular astronomical observations

In Europe, in Norway, rock carvings depict skiing

In India, Indus River Civilization, about 2600–1900 B.C.; development of urban grain-growing culture on the Indus River; Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are two main cities; cities are laid out on a grid, with dwelling units made uniform according to social class of inhabitants, built of baked bricks but with ample use of wood; caravan resting places at street crossings, grain silos, public baths, drainage canals, and sewerage systems; economy based on agriculture, on the growing of cotton and flax; trade over a vast area; proto-Dravidian script that remains untranslated

In Turkmenistan, the large cities of Namazatepe and other centers on the Tedzent River, about 2500 B.C.; less complex than the Indus River cultures

In Southeast Asia, the making of bronze, by 2500 B.C.

2000–1500 B.C.

In Andean culture, Pre-Ceramic period, 3000–1800 B.C.; Initial period, 1800–800 B.C.; two basic architectural styles emerge, U shaped pyramids on the coast and sunken circular courts in the highlands; the U-shaped style at Huaca la Florida, Rimac Valley, about 2000 B.C.; the sunken circular format at Moxeke; Sechín Alto, the largest ceremonial center in the Americas, from about 1700 to 500 B.C.; the beginning of state formation in South America, 1700 B.C.

In China, Xia (about 2200–1766 B.C.), Shang (about 1766–1122 B.C.), and Chou (about 1122–771 B.C. in the West and about 1122–481 B.C. in the East) dynasties; the Shang is the first dynasty for which archeological evidence exists; writing system, practice of divination, walled cities, bronze technology, and use of horse-drawn chariots; first city, around 1900 B.C. at Erlitou on the Yellow River; jadeworking, pottery, bronze tools, weapons, and vessels; in North China, use of hangtu, or rammed earth technique for building; first of seven periods for Chinese literature

In Europe, in England, the building of Stonehenge

In India, Indus River Civilization, about 2600–1900 B.C.; ended by ecological change and migrations; Aryan Migration, about 1750–1000 B.C.; migration into northwest India of nomadic tribes from Iranian plateau;

beginning of Indo-European language; four basic elements known: earth, air, fire, and water

In Mesoamerica, Formative period, 2000–200 B.C.; earliest village settlements were at Las Charcas in Guatemala and El Arbolillo and Zacatenco in Mexico, about 2000 B.C.; domestication of chilies, tomatoes, cacao, beans, squashes, and tobacco; pottery with geometric designs; “pretty lady” type figurines from the village of Tlatilco, Mexico; rise of Olmec culture, the “jaguar people,” in about 1500 B.C.; the Olmecs, originating along the rivers of the tropical Gulf Coast, are the “mother culture” from which the theocratic cultures of the Classic period derived; beginning of Mayan culture, before 1500 B.C.

In Native North America, cultivation of gourds, sunflowers, and marsh elder; first mound complex, Poverty Point, Louisiana, after 1300 B.C.; red jasper beads; from Maine to Labrador, trade in burial goods, especially ramah chert, a translucent stone; in Great Lakes region, copperworking

In Pacific Islands, colonization by Lapita people, about 1600 B.C.

1500–1000 B.C.

In Africa, Ethiopia becomes an independent power; the arrival of Libyan horsemen disrupts pastoral life, as represented in the Saharan rock paintings and engravings, 1200 B.C.; horses and war chariots allow Libyans to cross the Sahara, as represented in the art though the artists themselves don’t appear to be horse-owning

In Andean culture, use of terraces dates from about 1200 B.C.

In China, Shang (about 1766–1122 B.C.) and Chou (about 1122–771 B.C. in the West and about 1122–481 B.C. in the East) dynasties; under the Chou dynasty, a hierarchical political and social system; power held by aristocratic families as lords of their domains; Chinese “feudalism” depended on ancestral cults; Shang and Chou dynasties create long-lasting building and structural prototypes; first Chinese dictionary; silk fabrics; elaborate bronze sculptures; Shang capitals successively at Erlitou, Zhengzhou, and Anyang; urban planning at Anyang, including chessboard pattern layout and royal tombs; slavery and human sacrifice practiced; cowrie shells for currency; jade for trade; Fu Hao’s Shaft Tomb; ivory objects with turquoise inlays; introduction of soybeans from Manchuria, about 1200 B.C.

In India, Aryan Migration, about 1750–1000 B.C.; the beginning of the Upanishad tradition, literary works speculating about the world system; the first oral versions of the Rig Veda, “songs of spiritual knowledge,” composed in Sanskrit and eventually numbering ten books and 1,028 hymns; introduction of ironworking, before 1000 B.C.

In Native North America, in Lovelock Cave, Nevada, duck decoys, dating to 1500 B.C.; in Great Lakes region, trade with Gulf of Mexico