

NON-WESTERN EVENTS

323–146 B.C.

In Africa, the founding of the settlement of Jenne-jeno on the Niger delta in modern Mali, about 250 B.C., which by A.D. 800 became one of West Africa's first urban centers

In Andean culture, Chavín culture, final phase, spread along coastal Peru; noted for improved maize and back-strap loom

In Europe, in Britain, invasion of La Tene people, about 250 B.C.

In China, the philosophers Mencius, 372–299 B.C., and Hsun-tse, 315–235 B.C., developed the ideas of Confucius; the religious teacher Mo-Ti, about 441 to about 376 B.C., rejected Confucianism; the death of Sun-tsi, 233 B.C., marked end of classical philosophy in China

In Himalayan region, in Kashmir, founding of Gonandiyā dynasty, about 500 B.C. to A.D. 622; Kashmir was part of Mauryan Empire after 319 B.C.; later part of the Kushan Empire; in Nepal, memorial column to Emperor Asoka of India's Mauryan dynasty, fourth century B.C.; Buddhist monuments, including the Piprahva stupa and the Chabahil complex with its Carumati stupa, at Patan, third century B.C.

In India, Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire in North India, 319 B.C.; Mauryan rule extended to south by grandson Asoka (r. ca. 265–238 B.C.); Mauryan culture, 319–185 B.C.; the Indian epic "Mahabharata" being written (perhaps to A.D. 350); rainfall is measured; the emperor Asoka established India's first hospitals and herbal gardens, placing both under Buddhist control, Hellenistic influence in about 260 B.C.; erected forty-foot-high columns inscribed with his laws, about 250 B.C.; raising of stambas, freestanding pillars topped by a capital supporting symbolic animals or inanimate figures, a device adapted from Persian culture; the stamba evolved into the amalaka, the cushion-shaped capital that is characteristic of Indian architecture; beginning of rock-cut architecture; the cave of Sudama containing a chaitya (sanctuary) cut from rock, about 256 B.C.; major texts of Hindu tradition are now in place; codification of laws, grammar, science, arts; gods Shiva and Vishnu are major figures; spread of Sanskrit culture to South India; Shunga dynasty replaced Mauryan dynasty, 185–30 B.C.

In Japan, Yayoi culture, about 300 B.C. to about A.D. 300; metals and wheel-turned pottery, wet-rice farming

In Mesoamerica, Olmec culture, 400 B.C. last phase, followed by collapse