

NON-WESTERN EVENTS

A.D. 284–500

In Africa, Axum culture (Ethiopia) became Christian in fourth century A.D.; Ghana kingdom begins; the Nobatian kingdom, famous for its cavalry in fifth century A.D.; introduction of rice into the Niger delta; the palace at Enda Mikael, Ethiopia; Nok culture ends

In Andean culture, Early Intermediate period, 200 B.C.–A.D. 500; flutes and horns, about 475

In China, period of Disunity, or Six Dynasties, 220–581; Nanking, capital of southern dynasties; poets Tao Ch'ien, 365–427, and Hsieh Ling-Yun, 385–433, exploring the theme of retreat in a time of chaos, reflecting both their era and the tension between the Confucian principle of service to society and Daoist mysticism; tea growing now common south of Yangtze River; Buddhism popular in North China, after fourth century; invention of the stirrup, about 350; Buddhist cave temples in North China, about 476

In Himalayan region, in Nepal, the rise of the Licchavi dynasty to 585; Thakuri dynasty, founded by Amsuvarman, 585–650

In India, Gupta dynasty, 320–550; the zenith of Buddhism in India, soon to be eclipsed by Hinduism; *Yoga Aphorisms of Patanjali*, the classic textbook of yoga, fourth or fifth century A.D.; *Eight Anthologies* and *Ten Songs*, the corpus of classical Tamil poetry, first century B.C. to third century A.D.; K-alid-asa, *Meghaduta*, monologue on being separated from one's love, in Sanskrit, about 400; K-alid-asa's *Shakuntala*, a heroic drama with a romantic theme, in Sanskrit, about 400; Sudraka's *Little Clay Cart*, a romance, in Sanskrit, about 400; Bhartrihari's cynical love poems, in Sanskrit, fifth century; temple no. 17, at Sanchi, fifth century; invasions of Huns, about 455–528; Huns and other central Asian tribes destroyed Gupta empire (about 550)

In Japan, Kofun period begins about 300; great earthen grave mounds (called kofun) and funerary objects; Yamato clan (400s), whose leaders began the imperial dynasty currently ruling Japan; first records of Japanese history, about 400; first Shinto shrines, 478; native kingdoms; earliest haniwa (tomb pottery figures), fifth century; founding of the capital, Osaka, fourth to fifth centuries; settlers from central Asia may have given Japan a seminomadic tradition, as seen in houses not built to last and with few furnishings; Chinese script and characters adapted into Japanese writing

In Mesoamerica, Classic period, 150–900; the Huastecs, a Mayan people, were cut off from the mainstream and flourished near Tampico, from 700 B.C. to about A.D. 1000; the Huastecs are noted for their expressive and dramatic stone sculpture; Zapotec culture; Veracruz culture

In Sri Lanka, complex urban center at Anuradhapura with monasteries, Brazen Palace, amusement garden, stone baths, sacred buildings, hospital, third

century; monasteries have hygienic facilities with sewers and water pipes for baths nearby