**Zoroastrianism (Light vs. Dark):**
- Religion of the Ancient Persians
- Created by Persian prophet named Zarathustra
- Monotheistic religion, supreme god is Ahura Mazda, “Wise Lord”
- Main belief was choices that affect one’s fate
- When someone dies, they are judged on the decisions they made in their human life, either sent to heaven (Ahura Mazda) or to hell (Ahriman, “destructive spirit”)
- Define life as battle between truth/order vs. falsehood/disorder, believed in free will
- Sacred form of literature “Avestas”: Yasna, Khorda, Visperad, Venidad

**Media:**
- The Medes were an ancient Iranian people
- With the Babylonians defeated the Neo-Assyrian Empire
- 549 BCE, Cyrus the Great established the Achaemenid Empire by defeating Astyages, king of Media

**Persepolis:**
- Sacred national Persian shrine
- Walls were made of mud bricks, ornamented with painted and floral designs
- Ivory, gold, and precious stones were used in the mosaics on the walls

**Cause and Effect of War:**
- First Peloponnesian War (Sparta vs Athens): 431–404 BCE
- Persian king Artaxerxes II demands return of Ionian cities, humiliating peace treaty follows
- Alexander the Great enters Asia and defeats the Persian king Darius III, ending his empire: 330 BCE

**Geography/Climate:**
- Climate ranges from hot and humid to hot and dry
- Located in modern Southwest Asia

**Legacy/Accomplishments:**
- Coins and banking, taxation system, modern economy
- Diplomacy
- Transportation infrastructure
- Trade
- Gender equality
- Capital cities and regional governments were connected by roads
- Communication networks
- Government bureaucracies

**Fall Of Civilization:**
- After death of Xerxes (486-464 BCE), the Persian Empire lacked strong authority figure
- Revolts caused serious economic problems for the empire
- Taxes became heavier and more oppressive, which led to economic depression and revolts, which in turn led to more repression, heavier taxes and so on
- 400 B.C.E., Cyrus the Younger, rebelled against his brother and king, Artaxerxes
Women actively participated in society, with freedom of action, public displays of affection, and wife sharing (all seemingly shocking morals) were all common practices. Constant struggle between the Patricians (the upper class) and the Plebeians (the lower class).

- Etruscan Influence on Early Rome
  - Language Dialect
    - Etruscan alphabet lead to creation of Latin
  - Etruscan Engineering and Mathematics
  - Roman numerals numeric system
  - Drainage swamps, urban planning
  - Religious and Divine Practices
    - Gods speak through nature and deities
    - Interpreting future events through omens/augurs
  - Politics and Military
    - Blood Sports, “Duels to the Death”
    - Magistrate purple symbolism, the fasce symbolism (A bundle of rods and an ax lashed with leather)
  - Extravagance of Wealth
  - Luxury goods and services (ie. The Vomitorium)

iii. The Republic of Rome
- The Conquest of Italy
  - Established following the overthrow of the Etruscan Tarquin monarchy by Junius Brutus in 509 BCE due to the rape of Lucretia, a vestal priestess by the Etruscan king
  - Checked in their conquest by the invasion of the Gauls, who sacked Rome in 387 BCE, leading to the fortification of the city walls and creation of the central military
  - Dismantled the Latin League and took control of all of Latium in 338 BCE
  - Defeated the Samnites and other Greek cities to the south, taking total control over central Italy by 280 BCE

- Founding of the Republic of Rome
  - Derived from the words res publica (A public business)
  - New Roman government limited holders of enormous amounts of power, laying down the new traditions and institutions of the new government

- Roman Government
  - The apex of the Roman social pyramid, consisting of approximately 300 ex-magistrates
  - Originally made up of a council of important clan heads who served as advisors to kings, now advised the following magistrates:
    - Consuls, two leaders with extended terms of office for military campaigns
    - Quaestors, two financial officers of Rome
    - Praetors, central generals of Rome; also extended terms of office during military campaigns
Most numerous of other barbarian tribes, consisting of Franks, Vandals, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Frisians, Burgundians, and [most notably] the Goths

- **Ostrogoths**
  - Eastern Gothic kingdom stretching from the Black Sea to the Baltic sea
  - First barbaric kingdom to be attacked and controlled by the Huns
  - Rebelled against their conquerers in 474 CE

- **Visigoths**
  - Western Gothic kingdom in present day Romania
  - Allied with the Romans to fight against the Huns, an alliance which failed several years later
  - Disappeared throughout history after assimilating into other groups

- The Slavic People
- Another barbaric tribe in present-day Eastern Germany
- The Wends being their strongest tribe

### iii. The Rise of Islam

- The Prophet Muhammad
  - Born an Arab in Medina, married into a merchant family
  - Claiming to have been visited by the Angel Gabriel starting in 610 CE
  - Began preaching his new reform of Christianity, initially be creating the Five Pillars of Islam
    - Confession of faith in Allah and Muhammad as prophet
    - Prayers at least five times a day to Mecca
    - Charitable contributions to the poor and needy
    - Fasting from dawn to sunset during the month of Ramadan
    - Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once per lifetime
    - A sixth pillar (Wage holy war and struggle, or jihad, to defend the faith) is sometimes added

- Muslim Factions
  - Sunni
    - Believe that religious rulers should be chosen based on the majority of the faithful
    - Make up the majority of Muslims
    - Interpretations by religious imans are non-binding
  - Shia
    - Believe the religious ruler of Islam should be direct descendants of Muhammad’s family (through his cousin, Ali, and wife, Fatima)
    - Make up the minority of Muslims
    - Believe their iman’s beliefs are infallible