AMSCO Chapter 1

From Hunter-Foragers to Settled Societies

1. Migrating Across the Globe
2. Modern humans first appeared in East Africa and were hunter gatherers eatig seeds, nuts, fruit and roots
3. Populations migrated following food or fleeing dense population areas, adapting to new climates and environments as needed
4. Climate change was a driving force, with people moving toward the equator in times of cooling and spreading out more in times of global warming.
5. At a period of low ocean levels, the Bering Strait became dry and nomads crossed from Asia to the Americas. As water levels rose again, these nomads in the Americas were cut off from their original lands
6. By 10,000 BCE all continents except Antarctica were inhabited.
7. Paleolithic Period- AKA Stone Age, use of stone tools and weapons, as well as from wood, animal bones and antlers
8. Adapting to the Environment – tools developed as necessary in each climate zone i.e. scrapers in northern areas for fur, nets for fishing in warmer areas, rafts near water, axes in forests
9. B. Control of Fire – light, heat, cooking, protection from wild animals, smoke for controlling bees, driving animals over cliffs for food
10. Hunter-Forager Society
11. Nuclear family and extended family groups that moved together were kinship groups (20-40 people)
12. Several kinship groups might form a clan and several clans a tribe led by a priest or a chief
13. Trade consisted of tools, clothing and people, with ideas also spreading
14. Roles in Society - no written records, so inferences from artifacts and modern nomadic groups reflect egalitarian society with little difference in wealth.
15. Patriarchal societies dominated by men, who hunted, fought and provided labor; women prepared food and cared for children, including breast feeding
16. Religion and Art
17. Gods were forces of nature, animals, rivers and natural elements were spirits – animism, shamans with the ability to cure the sick and influence the future
18. Ritual sacrifice to gods, burial practices
19. Cave paintings, musical instruments
20. Neolithic Revolution – climate warming and development of agriculture, seven major developments
21. Agriculture – planting, tending and harvesting led to surplus, occurred first in lands east of Mediterranean
22. Wheat, barley, rice, corn depending on geography
23. This reduced the variety of their diet, as only grew one or two crops, versus foraging
24. Farmers accumulated possessions but did not often interact with other peoples.
25. Pastoralism – tame wild animals, domestication of dogs for hunting and protection came first
26. Goats, cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, chickens – required pastures so nomadic lifestyle continued
27. Over grazing could lead to erosion of the soil
28. Pastoralists did not accumulate possessions but did interact with many other tribes
29. Specialization of Labor – surplus good enabled some to dedicate themselves to non-food producing roles, such as artisans, merchants, soldiers, priests
30. Growth of Villages, Towns and Cities
31. Development of towns, social stratification where some people accumulated wealth and others did not, leading to more distinct social classes.
32. Jericho – west bank of Jordan River, Catal Huyuk in Turkey
33. Governments – surplus food necessitated groups of people working to clear land or irrigate crops and groups needed to be organized
34. Powerful leaders protected surplus food, priests held religious ceremonies
35. Religions – overfarming, overgrazing led to problems, religion was attempt to explain why and hold ceremonies to honor the gods
36. 600 BCE Hebrews emerged under Abraham, monotheistic. Vedic in South Asia were polytheistic. Zoroastrianism in Iran first focused on battle between good and evil.
37. Technological Innovations
38. Food storage in clay pots
39. Drilling sticks, plows
40. Wheel, axle
41. Textiles through weaving
42. Metallurgy – Bronze Age
43. First Civilizations
44. Civilization – large society with cities and powerful states
45. River Valley civilizations – Mesopotamia, Nile, Yellow, Indus rivers, plus Chavin and Olmec in the Americas.