


SSWH3: Examine the political, philosophical, and cultural interaction of Classical Mediterranean societies from 700 BCE to 400 CE

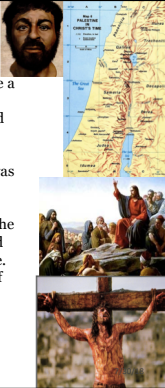


Element E: Explain the origins and diffusion of Christianity in the Roman World.

7/30/18

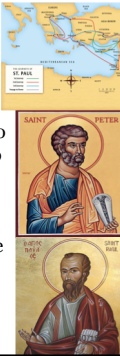
ORIGINS OF CHRISTIANITY

- ❑ Christianity developed in the Jewish community of Roman controlled Palestine.
- ❑ Jesus of Nazareth was born to a humble Jewish family and became a traveling teacher as an adult.
 - He preached a message of reform that argued that charity and compassion were more important than strict obedience to rabbis and Jewish customs.
- ❑ With time, Jesus developed a devoted following that believed he was the messiah foretold in Hebrew prophecy.
 - This developed into a belief that Jesus was the Son of God.
- ❑ While the teachings of Jesus Christ were popular among some of the common people of Palestine it was a direct threat to the power and influence of the traditional Jewish leadership and the Roman state.
 - Pressured by Jewish religious leaders, the Roman governor of Palestine ordered the arrest and execution of Jesus.
- ❑ After the crucifixion, the disciples of Jesus preached of his resurrection from the dead and ascension to Heaven. The resurrection served to prove the divinity of Christ to his followers.



DIFFUSION OF CHRISTIANITY

- ❑ While Christianity only had a limited appeal to the Jewish community of Palestine, it found much greater acceptance among the Gentile population of the Roman Empire, particular among oppressed groups like slaves, commoners and women.
 - This was in large part thanks to the work of Paul who was among the first to take the teachings of Christ to the Roman heartland.
- ❑ While the Roman government continued to see Christianity as a threat and persecuted Christians, the community became increasingly organized thanks to the work of disciples like Peter who established the first formal centers of worship that would over time evolve into the Roman Catholic Church.



STATE RELIGION

- ❑ In 313 CE the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and issued the Edict of Milan that legalized Christianity in the empire.
- ❑ With imperial support, Christianity grew quickly to become the dominate religion of Europe.



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Element C: Analyze the impact of Greek and Roman culture, politics, and technology 7/30/18

IMPACT OF GRECO-ROMAN POLITICS

- ❑ The classical age Greeks and Romans laid many of the political foundations for the modern western world.
 - The Athenian and Roman approach to governance that allowed at least a portion of the population to participate as citizens rather than simply obey as subjects served as an inspiration to the Enlightenment thinkers of the 18th century.
 - French and English philosophers found inspiration in the writings of the Greeks and Romans during the European Enlightenment and this ultimately led to the emergence of modern participatory democracy.
- ❑ Roman law codes survived in Europe long after the collapse of the empire, serving as the starting point for the development of many modern European law codes.



IMPACT OF GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE

- The Greeks and Romans also left a wide and long-lived cultural legacy.
 - Humanism and rational philosophy, developed in Greece and explored further in Rome served as the intellectual foundation of the European Renaissance and Scientific Revolution.
 - It has since become an important element of modern educational systems around the world.
 - This legacy is apparent in the use of the term humanities as a category of study, the endurance of Latin as discipline, the ubiquity of Greek and Roman literature in modern curriculum and the scientific method whose origins are found at Aristotle's Lyceum.
 - This cultural legacy serves as a unifying force in the modern western world.
 - Greek and Roman contributions to science and engineering also diffused to the Arab world where they were key in the development of navigational technologies that spurred the Age of Exploration.



IMPACT OF GRECO-ROMAN CULTURE

- The endurance and sophistication of this legacy was a product of Greece and Roman's security and longevity as classical age states.
- This security and longevity was, in part, a product of advanced technologies developed within these states.
 - Greek and Roman engineers developed technique for the construction of monumental architecture, irrigation and municipal water systems, and roads that contributed to a prosperous and cosmopolitan society.
 - This prosperity facilitated the development of sophisticated scholarship that endured much longer than the states themselves.