

WORLD HISTORY

Course Review

Social Classes of the Ancient World

Ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia (3500 B.C.E. – 200 B.C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (King, Queen and Royal Family were at the top of the Social Pyramid)
2. Nobility (Wealthy Land Owners, Priests, Government Officials and Military Commanders)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Tradesmen (Merchants, Traders, Artisans and Craftsmen)

LOWER CLASS

4. Laborers (Peasant Farmers and Laborers)
5. Slaves (Foreigners Captured in Battle, Criminals, Debtors, and those Born into Slavery)

Social Classes of the Classical World

Classical Greeks (2000 B.C.E. – 300 B.C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Citizens (Greek Born Citizens - Wealthy Land Owners and Political Leaders)

MIDDLE CLASS

2. Metics (Primarily Merchants and Artisans, but could also be former slaves and foreigners)

LOWER CLASS

3. Freedman (Former Slaves who could hold positions of political and economic power)
4. Slaves (Foreigners Captured in Battle, Criminals, Debtors, and those Born into Slavery)

Classical Romans (2000 B.C.E. – 300 B.C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Patricians (Roman Born Citizens– Wealthy Land Owners and Political Leaders)

MIDDLE CLASS

2. Plebeians (Roman Born Citizens – Descendants of Merchants, Traders, Artisans and Farmers)
3. Provincials (Non-Citizens – Foreign Born Merchants, Traders, and Farmers who Paid Taxes)

LOWER CLASS

3. Freedman (Former Slaves who could hold positions of political and economic power)
4. Slaves (Foreigners Captured in Battle, Criminals, Debtors, and those Born into Slavery)

Classical China (2000 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (Emperor, Kings and Governors)
2. Nobility (State Officials, Noble Land Owners, Scholars, Priests and Military Commanders)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Peasants (Peasant Farmers – Considered Honorable because they feed the growing population)
4. Tradesmen (Merchants, Traders, Artisans and Craftsmen)

LOWER CLASS

3. Soldiers (Basic Defenders of the Empire)
4. Slaves (Foreigners Captured in Battle, Criminals, Debtors, and those Born into Slavery)

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Classical India (2000 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Brahmins (Priests and Scholars – Preservers of Knowledge and Wisdom)
2. Kshatriyas (Rulers and Warriors – Leaders and Defenders of the Physical World)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Vaisyas (Merchants, Traders and Farmers)

LOWER CLASS

4. Sudras (Peasant Laborers)
5. Untouchables (Outcasts considered to be unclean Physically and Spiritually)

Social Classes within the Age of Expansion

The Muslim World (600 C.E. – 1250 C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Muslims by Birth (Those born to Muslim Parents and raised within the Islamic Faith)

MIDDLE CLASS

2. Converts to Islam (Those born within Judaism or Christianity who converted to Islam)
3. Protected People (All people of the “One God” considered “People of the Book” – Jews & Christians)

LOWER CLASS

4. Slaves (Foreigners Captured in Battle, Criminals, Debtors, and those Born into Slavery)

MesoAmerica and South America (250 C.E. – 1500 C.E.):

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (King and Royal Family)
2. Nobility (Warriors and Priests)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Tradesmen (Merchants and Artisans)

LOWER CLASS

4. Peasants (Farmers and Laborers)

Social Classes of the Feudal Age (Feudalism)

Middle Age Europe (700 C.E. – 1500 C.E.)

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (Kings and Queens)
2. Nobility (Nobles and Church Officials – Barons, Dukes, Counts, Lords and Bishops)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Warriors (Military Commanders and Knights)
4. Cottars (Merchants, Traders, Artisans and Craftsmen)

LOWER CLASS

5. Villiens (Land Managers – Supervisors of the Noble Lands)
6. Serfs (Peasant Farmers tied to the land and service to their Feudal Lord)

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Social Classes of the Feudal Age (Feudalism) - Continued

Feudal Japan (1100 C.E. – 1800 C.E.)

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (Emperor and Shogun)
2. Nobility (Daimyo and Priests - Landowning Nobles)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Warriors (Military Commanders and Samurai)
4. Peasants (Farmers – Honorable because they Produced the Food for the Population)

LOWER CLASS

5. Tradesmen (Artisans and Craftsmen – makers of tools and weapons for the Middle & Upper Class)
6. Merchants (Least honorable because they work to make a financial gain or personal profit)

Social Classes During the Age of Change

Spanish America (1400 C.E. – 1800 C.E.)

UPPER CLASS

1. Spaniards (People born in Spain who only visited the American Colonies and returned home)
2. Peninsulares (People of the Spanish Colonies who were born in Spain but settled in America)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Creoles (People Born in the Spanish Colonies who's parents were both born in Spain)

LOWER CLASS

4. Mestizo (People of the Spanish Colonies who were of mixed Spanish and Indian Descent)
5. Mulattos (People of the Spanish Colonies who were of mixed European and African Descent)
6. Slaves (People of Native Indian or African Descent forced to work as laborers for the Spanish)

Social Classes During the Age of Revolutions

The Western World of the Industrial Age (1700 C.E. – 1914 C.E.)

UPPER CLASS

1. Royalty (Kings, Queens and Descendents of Royalty)
2. Aristocracy (Descendents of Nobility, Wealthy Landowners, Politicians)

MIDDLE CLASS

3. Businessmen (Factory Owners, Merchants and Bankers)
4. Working Class (Factory Workers, Miners, Warehouse Workers)

LOWER CLASS

5. Farmers (Farmers)
6. Laborers (Migrant Day Laborers who traveled from job to job)

Marxist Ideology of the Russian Revolution (1850 C.E. – 1917 C.E.)

UPPER CLASS

1. Nobility (Tsar, Royal Family, Political Leaders of the Duma, and Wealthy Aristocracy)

MIDDLE CLASS

2. Bourgeoisie (Capitalist Employers or “Have’s” that were corrupted by money and Western Values)

LOWER CLASS

3. Proletariat (Working Class “Have Not’s” who would overthrow the Wealthy Ruling Class)