

CRITICALLY REFLECT UPON
CONCEPTS OF CIVILISATION,
CULTURE AND SOCIETY AND
THEIR RELEVANCE TO YOUR
CHOSEN “ANCIENT
CIVILISATION”.

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Definition of a civilisation

civilization

(British **civilisation**)

- 1 The stage of human social development and organization which is considered most advanced.

'the Victorians equated the railways with progress and civilization'

- 1.1 The process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization.

+ Example sentences

- 1.2 The society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.

'the great books of Western civilization'

[count noun] 'the early civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt'

+ More example sentences

+ Synonyms

- 1.3 The comfort and convenience of modern life, regarded as available only in towns and cities.

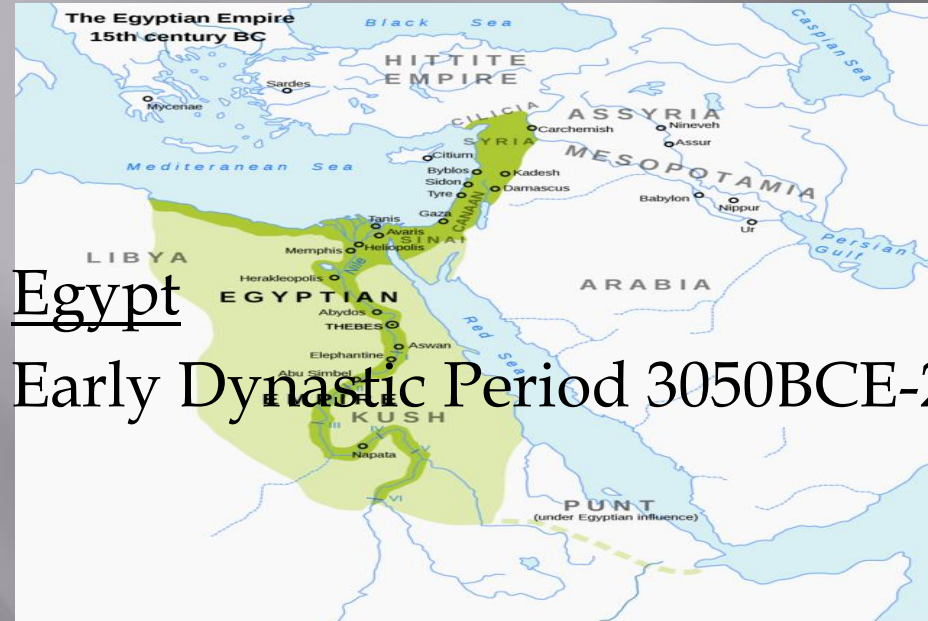
'in the UK nowhere is very far from civilization'

(Oxford Dictionaries English. 2019)

Is there a time period for a civilisation forming?

China

Shang to Zhou Dynasty 16th Century BCE- 1048BCE



Egypt

Early Dynastic Period 3050BCE-2686BCE



Rome

Founding of Rome supposedly in 753 BCE

Rivers



Urban Revolution

Childe's key aspects of complex civilisations

In Gordon Childe's 'The Urban Revolution' he prioritises different aspects of civilisations. His list mentions several key aspects of almost all thriving societies ranging from population to government officials and which are more important in the context of an urban revolution. (Childe, V. 1950.)

Childe's Highest and Lowest points

'In point of size the first cities must have been more extensive and more densely populated than any previous settlements.'

Looking into the formation of Chinese society, whether looking at the beginning of the Shang Dynasty or the Zhou Dynasty the region around the Yellow River became the most populated. And also became the political centre of the Zhou.



Main agreements and Disagreements

Childe focuses on concepts that are key to civilisations but it also must be understood that the prioritisation of these requirements differs in each society and when you are defining the beginning of the civilisation.

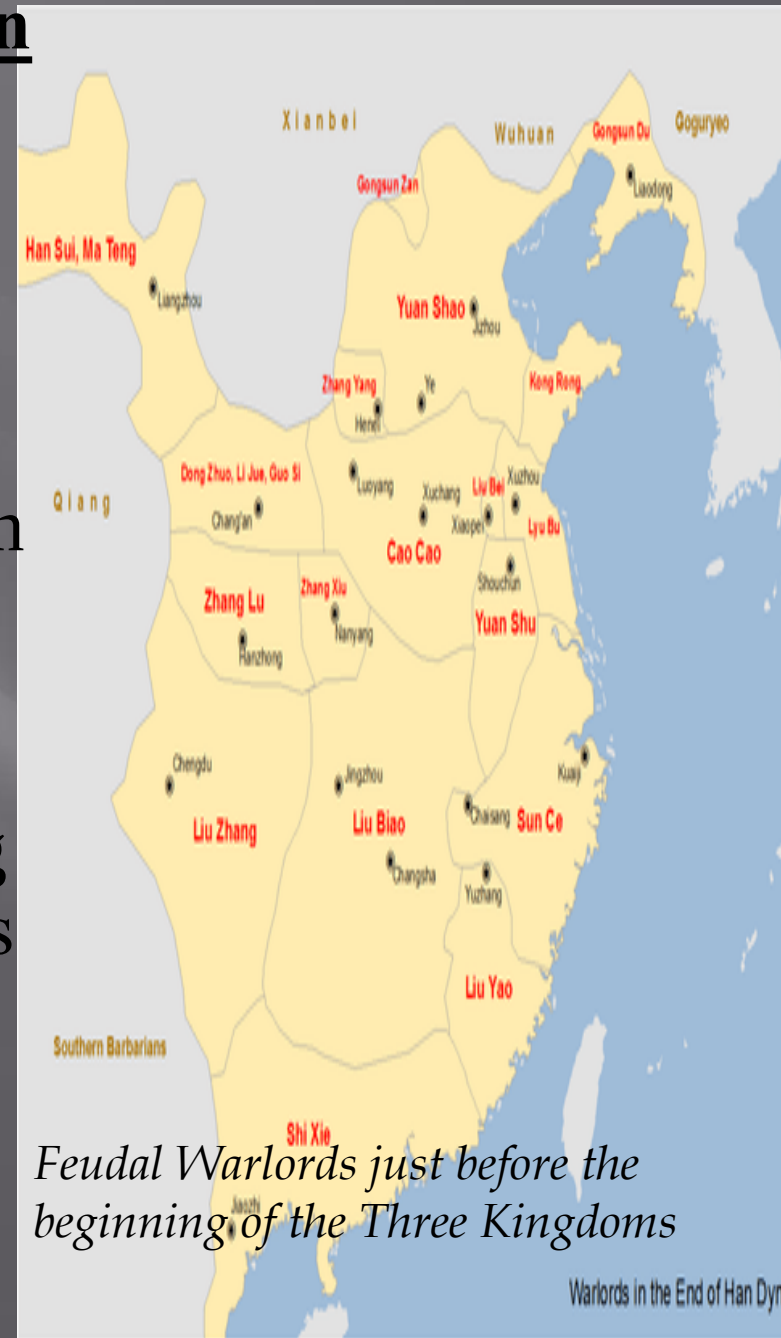
Childe specialised in Civilisations based in Europe and therefore his prioritisation of aspects of complex civilisations

These are very different cultures
Geographically
Religiously
Traditionally



‘A State organisation based now on residence rather than kinship.’
(Childe, V. 1950.)

I am looking into ancient Chinese society and due to China's vast landmass and different landscapes under one emperor, feudalism was an extremely significant feature of Chinese society, along with the idea that China's capital changes from Xian, to Luoyang and even Xuchang at different points in its history. This would disagree with Childe's statement that the government organisations begins to rely on residence more than Kinship.



Feudal Warlords just before the beginning of the Three Kingdoms

Mythology

Chinese Mythology has a strong connection to many aspects of Chinese history and even modern day society. So much so the character “Nu” is the Chinese character for female, with also being the first name of the first woman in Chinese mythology.



The key reason I want to study how Chinese mythology affected the society and culture that followed is due to how different it is to Greek and Roman. Chinese mythology focuses on great and deservedly revered human beings (Ebrey.P.2010)

Where the Greeks and Romans differentiate gods and people, much of Chinese mythology intertwines the both. Fu Xi, referred to as the “original human” was credited with creating the traditional styles of hunting and farming. The reason this is interesting is because Fu Xi was of course not human as he had the body of a snake.

In not differentiating humans from Gods much of China’s dynastical history has links to celestial beings setting the standard for how society should operate.

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