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Key Terms and Names

TERMS

absolute chronology the arrangement of events by specific dates.

anthropologist a scientist who studies the origin and the physical and cultural development of human beings.

archaeologist a scientist who studies the remains of past cultures.

artifact a human-made object, such as a tool, weapon, or piece of jewelry.

capitalism an economic system based on private ownership and on the investment of money in business ventures in order to make a profit.

communism an economic system in which all means of production—land, mines, factories, railroads, and businesses—are owned by the people, private property does not exist, and all goods and services are shared equally.

constitutional republic a republic established by a constitution, or set of basic laws.

constitutional system of government a system of government that operates according to a set of basic laws.

constitutionalism a constitutional system of government.

democracy a government controlled by its citizens, either directly or through representatives.

democratic-republican government a government that gets its power from citizens who elect representatives.

Eastern civilization civilization that has its origins in ancient East Asian civilizations.

Enlightenment an 18th-century European movement in which thinkers attempted to apply the principles of reason and the scientific method to all aspects of society.

era broad time period characterized by a shared pattern of life.

Fascism a political movement that promotes an extreme form of nationalism, a denial of individual rights, and a dictatorial one-party rule.

feudalism a political system in which nobles are granted the use of lands that legally belong to their king, in exchange for their loyalty, military service, and protection of the people who live on the land.

frames of reference a set of ideas that are necessary for interpreting or understanding events or other ideas.

genocide the systematic killing of an entire people.

geographic distribution the geographic occurrence or range of a feature, such as the location of cities.

geographic pattern the geographic configuration of a feature, such as the grouping of cities along a coast.

Greco-Roman relating to ancient Greece and Rome.

historical context the past circumstances in which an event occurred.

historical inquiry close examination of sources in a search for accurate information about past events.

Holocaust a mass slaughter of Jews and other civilians, carried out by the Nazi government of Germany before and during World War II.

imperialism a policy in which a strong nation seeks to dominate other countries politically, economically, or socially.

individualism belief in the importance and value of the individual, or the doctrine that the interests of the individual have priority over those of the state.

Indus river valley area along the Indus River in what is now Pakistan, where one of the world's first civilizations arose about 2500 B.C.

industrialization the development of industries for the machine production of goods.

Judeo-Christian having historical roots in Judaism and Christianity.

Judeo-Christian ethics a set of moral principles or values that has its roots in both Judaism and Christianity.

Key Terms and Names continued

manorialism economic system in medieval Europe in which a lord gives serfs land, shelter, and protection in exchange for work, and almost everything needed for daily life is produced on the manor, or lord's estate.

Mesoamerica an area extending from central Mexico to Honduras, where several of the ancient civilizations of the Americas developed.

Nazism the fascist policies of the National Socialist German Workers' party, based on totalitarianism, a belief in racial superiority, and state control of industry.

Neolithic agricultural revolution the major change in human life caused by the beginnings of farming—that is, by people's shift from food gathering to food producing.

Nile river valley area in Egypt along the Nile River where one of the world's first civilizations arose between about 3000 and 2000 B.C.

oppression unjust or cruel exercise of power.

parliamentary system of government system in which legislative and executive functions are combined in a legislature called a parliament.

primary source material produced during the period being studied.

relative chronology the arrangement of events in relation to other events.

republicanism belief in a system of government in which political power rests with citizens who vote for representatives responsible to them.

scientific revolution a major change in European thought, starting in the mid-1500s, in which the study of the natural world began to be characterized by careful observation and the questioning of accepted beliefs.

secondary source material prepared after the period being studied by a person who used primary sources.

secularism the view that religious considerations should be kept separate from political affairs or public education.

social mobility the ability to move from one social class to another.

socialism an economic system in which the factors of production are owned by the public and operate for the welfare of all.

Strait of Hormuz a strait, or narrow channel of water, connecting the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

thematic maps maps that focus on a specific idea, such as vegetation, natural resources, or historical trends.

Tigris and Euphrates river valley area in Southwest Asia along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers where the earliest Asian civilization arose about 3000 B.C. The area is also referred to as Mesopotamia and the Fertile Crescent.

totalitarianism government control over every aspect of public and private life.

validity truth or soundness.

Western civilization civilization that has its origins in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.

Yellow (Huang He) river valley area in China along the Huang He where an early civilization emerged about 2000 B.C.

Key Terms and Names continued

NAMES

- Archimedes** (287?-212 B.C.) Hellenistic scientist who estimated the value of pi and invented the compound pulley and Archimedean screw.
- Boyle, Robert** (1627-1691) Irish scientist who is considered the father of modern chemistry and is best known for his experiments on gases and for introducing new methods of identifying the chemical composition of substances.
- Churchill, Winston** (1874-1965) British prime minister who inspired the British to fight against Hitler in World War II and helped lead the Allies to victory.
- Copernicus, Nicolaus** (1473-1543) Polish astronomer who proposed the theory that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun.
- Curie, Marie** (1867-1906) French chemist who conducted research on radioactivity.
- Edison, Thomas** (1847-1931) American inventor who developed practical electric lighting and the modern research laboratory.
- Einstein, Albert** (1879-1955) American scientist who proposed the theory of relativity.
- Erastosthenes** (276?-195? B.C.) Greek mathematician who found a way of estimating the circumference of the earth.
- Fulton, Robert** (1765-1815) American inventor who developed the first practical steamboat.
- Galileo** (1564-1642) Italian astronomer who first used a telescope to study the stars and who was persecuted for supporting Copernicus's theory that the sun was the center of the universe.
- Gandhi, Mohandas** (1869-1948) Indian political and religious leader who helped India gain its independence from Great Britain by a method of nonviolent resistance.
- Hitler, Adolf** (1889-1945) German dictator who initiated World War II and the Holocaust.
- Lenin, Vladimir** (1870-1924) Russian dictator who founded the Communist Party in Russia and established the world's first Communist Party dictatorship.
- Mao Zedong** (1893-1976) Chinese dictator who led the Communist revolution in China.
- Mother Theresa** (1910-1997) Roman Catholic nun from Macedonia who worked among the poor of Calcutta, India, and established an order of nuns to serve the poor.
- Newton, Sir Isaac** (1642-1727) English mathematician and scientist who formed the theory of universal gravitation.
- Pasteur, Louis** (1822-1895) French chemist who invented the process of pasteurization.
- Pope John Paul II** (1920-) Leader of the Roman Catholic Church since 1978 and first Polish-born pope.
- Pythagorus** (580?-? B.C.) Greek philosopher and mathematician famous for the Pythagorean theorem.
- Tutu, Desmond** (1931-) South African leader in the antiapartheid struggle.
- Watt, James** (1736-1819) British inventor who improved the steam engine.
- Wilson, Woodrow** (1856-1924) American President during World War I.