Chapter 10: Mediterranean Society: The Greek Phase

Chapter Outline

I. Early development of Greek society
   A. Minoan and Mycenaean Societies
      1. Minoan society arose on the island of Crete, late third millennium B.C.E.
      2. Mycenaean society: named after important city, Mycenae
      3. Chaos in the eastern Mediterranean after Trojan War (1200 B.C.E.)
   B. The world of the polis gradually emerged in Greece
      1. Sparta began to extend control during eighth and seventh centuries B.C.E.
      2. Spartan society
      3. Athens gradually broadened base of political participation
      4. Athenian society
      5. Pericles (ca. 443-429 B.C.E.), most popular democratic leader of Athens

II. Greece and the larger world
   A. Greek colonization
      1. Greeks founded more than four hundred colonies
   B. Conflict with Persia and its results
      1. The Persian War (500-479 B.C.E.)
      2. The Delian League
      3. The Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.E.)
   C. The Macedonians and the coming of empire
      1. The kingdom of Macedon, a frontier state north of peninsular Greece
      2. Philip of Macedon (reigned 359-336 B.C.E.) brought Greece under control
      3. Alexander of Macedon succeeds Philip at age twenty and begins conquests
   D. Hellenistic Empires: Alexander's realm was divided into Antigonid, Ptolemaic, Seleucid
      1. Antigonid empire: Greece and Macedon
      2. The Ptolemaic empire: Egypt—the wealthiest
      3. The Seleucid empire: largest, from Bactria to Anatolia

III. The fruits of trade: Greek economy and society
   A. Trade and the integration of the Mediterranean Basin
      1. Trade and commerce flourished resulting in population growth and more colonies
      2. Panhellenic festivals (like Olympic Games) became popular
   B. Family and society
      1. Greek society in Homer's works
      2. Patriarchal society was the norm
      3. Sappho: Talented female poet wrote poems of attraction to women
      4. Slavery: private chattel, property of their owners

IV. The cultural life of classical Greece
   A. Rational thought and philosophy
      1. The formation of Greek cultural traditions: philosophy based on human reason
      2. Socrates (470-399 B.C.E.): "An unexamined life is not worth living"
      3. Plato (430-347 B.C.E.): A zealous disciple of Socrates
      4. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.E.): Plato's student, but distrusted theory of Forms
      5. Legacy of Greek philosophy
   B. Popular religion and Greek drama
      1. Greek deities: Zeus and scores of subordinate deities
      2. Various types of religious cults; Cult of Dionysus most popular
      3. Drama was performed at annual theatrical festivals
   C. Hellenistic philosophy and religion
      1. The Hellenistic philosophers: search for personal tranquility
      2. Religions of salvation spread through trade routes