<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>POLITICAL</strong></th>
<th><strong>Olmec</strong></th>
<th><strong>Chavin</strong></th>
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<td>Loose confederation of villages, scattered from the coast to the highlands and in large part nestled in river valleys and along the shores of swampy lakes.</td>
<td>Villages = decentralized but had hundreds, possibly thousands of households apiece. Priestly class who made sure villagers adhered to highly ritualized practices. Those at the top of the hierarchy of chieftainships commanded villages scattered over larger areas; the larger the domain, the greater the ability to ship the produce of workshops and fields to the chief’s centers or priests’ capitals.</td>
<td>Human trophy heads indicate raiding, warfare and violence among local centers before about 900 B.C.E. when the village of Chavin became the focal point. No Chavin Empire. Widespread religious cult that traveled on the back of a trading network provided economic and cultural integration to much of the Andes.</td>
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<td>Many centuries of advancing agriculture based on the early cultivation of corn and the use of turkeys, dogs, and guinea pigs. Villages traded with each other. People paid taxes to rulers. Olmec = “Inhabitants in the land of rubber” – one of their main exports. Subsistence farmers who cultivated most of the foodstuffs needed by their villages, such as maize, beans, squash, and cacao, while shipping lightweight products such as ceramics and precious goods (jade, obsidian, or quetzal feathers) to other villages.</td>
<td>Situated on trade routes to both the coastal region to the west and the Amazon rain forest to the east. Andean trade routes spread religion and culture of the Chavin. Weavers produced elaborate textiles of both cotton and wool from llamas and alpacas.</td>
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<td>Religious statues and icons blended human and animal subjects (snakes, jaguars, and crocodiles). Worshipped the same gods. Precious goods (jade, obsidian, or quetzal feathers) used to create masks and ritual figurines for religious purposes. Devotional activities in all centers/cities. Shamans = humans who were believed to have special power to commune with the supernatural and the ability to transform themselves wholly or partly into beasts, such as the were-jaguar (a being that was part man, part animal). Ceremonial life revolved around agriculture and annual rainfalls. Major cities = athletic hubs with intricate ball courts for entertainment and devotion to the gods. Practiced human sacrifice, perhaps even with children.</td>
<td>Elaborate temple complex, including galleries hidden passageways, staircases, ventilation shafts, drainage canals, and distinctive carvings. Artwork suggests religion drew ideas from both the desert coastal region and the rain forests. Major deities were represented as jaguars, crocodiles, and snakes of the Amazon basin. Shamans or priests likely made use of the San Pedro cactus for its hallucinogenic properties.</td>
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<td>Many tiers of social ranking (unusual with an agrarian society). Priestly class, raised and trained in the palaces of the major cities, directed the exchanges of sacred ritual objects between farming communities. Ruling families helped in exchanging these objects and other immense resources, which gave credence to their claims of being descended from divine ancestors as well as adding to their fortunes by controlling the commerce in precious goods. Chiefdoms supervised agrarian transactions among farmers, oversaw a class of artisans, and accepted tribute from inhabitants of their villages; set up specialized workshops run by foremen were craftworkers created various goods using precious resources. Probably had a merchant class who controlled imports and exports. Large peasant or farmer population. Ball Games – Intricate ball courts made room on the sidelines for fans to applaud and jeer at the sweating contestants, who struggled to bounce hard rubber balls off parallel side walls and their bodies and into a goal; noble players, bearing helmets and heavy padding, could touch the six-pound rubber ball only with their elbow, hips, knees, and buttocks, and were honored when they knocked the ball through the stationary stone hoop. Monuments appeared for famous ballplayers. Olmec archeological sites are now filled with the remains of game equipment and of the trophies awarded to the victors. Some trophies were buried in the tomb of a dead ruler so that he could play ball with the gods in the otherworld.</td>
<td>Clear distinctions between an elite class, who lived in stone houses, and ordinary people, with adobe dwellings.</td>
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### Olmec, Chavin, Hebrew e. 8000BCE – 600 C.E. PERSIAN Chart

| INTERACTIONS | • Developed in total isolation of other early civilizations and could not benefit from cultural diffusion and technology  
• In 1500 B.C.E., residents from hundreds of hamlets started integrating themselves into a single culture to spread ideas beyond their heartland.  
• Increasing evidence that the Olmec practiced warfare to supply rulers with humans whose death and torture meant to ensure that the soil would be fertile and the rains would continue  
• Exported rubber, cocoa, pottery, ceramics, figurines, refined jaguar pelts, and crocodile skins throughout Mesoamerica  
• Disappeared without a trace in 400 B.C.E.; alters and massive heads were defaced and buried in La Venta, yet little evidence of a war, uprising, or other major event; other religious centers not destroyed but abandoned as Olmec systems collapsed  
• Olmec culture influenced later Indian civilizations in Central America (especially in religious and artistic areas) | • Chavin became a pilgrimage site and training center for initiates from distant centers.  
• Temple locations three or more weeks from Chavin by llama caravan were remodeled to resemble that of Chavin. |
| --- | --- |
| ARTS | • Lacked a writing system  
• Shared a common language  
• Colossal heads, some of which are 9 feet high and weigh up to 20 tons  
• Produced massive, pyramid-shaped religious monuments  
• Specialized buildings that featured massive earthen mounds, platforms, palaces, and capacious plazas  
• Artistic forms, such as jaguar sculptures and basalt thrones with semi-precious stones, such as jade  
• Accurate and impressive calendars (based on seasons and rainfall patterns that shaped the livelihoods of agrarian peoples) marked passage of seasons and generations | • Jaguar-human images and other artwork may reflect visions of religious leaders.  
• Chavin architecture, sculpture, pottery, religious images, and painted textiles were widely imitated within the region.  
• Intricate stone carvings  
• Experimentation with minerals led to the discovery of gold, silver, and copper metallurgy; fashioned metals into pieces of jewelry or other decorative items as well as tools |
| ENVIRONMENTAL | • Central America between the highland plateaus of Central Mexico and the Gulf Coast around modern-day Veracruz  
• Primary cities (smaller in scale in comparison to other civilizations) were San Lorenzo, La Venta, and Tres Zapotes  
• Cities were religious and secular hubs for banding together the surrounding agricultural hamlets (smaller villages)  
• Successors built the first great city, Teotihuacan, in the Americas | • Coastal and highland regions of Peru  
• Village called Chavin de Huantar became the focus of a religious movement that soon swept through the area  
• Town of 2,000 to 3,000 by 750 B.C.E. but no real cities until after the Chavin disappear  
• Ceremonial centers of temples constructed in a characteristic U shape, associated with small-scale irrigation projects, and suggest the growing power of religion leaders |

### Hebrews 2000 B.C.E. – 1000B.C.E.

- East coast of the Mediterranean  
- Monotheism  
  - Descendants of Abraham  
  - Migrated from Mesopotamia to Canaan  
  - Descendants of Abraham fled Egypt with Moses  
  - Exodus – 10 commandments  
- Canaan/Palestine – Theocracy  
- Covenant between God and Abraham (Yahweh) would be their God and the Jews his people  
- 1000 B.C.E – Kingdom of Israel – Jerusalem  
- 722 B.C.E. – Northern part of the kingdom falls to the Assyrians  
  - First diaspora (exile) as Jews spread out from homeland  
- Judah – Southern Kingdom thrives until 586 B.C.E.  
  - Conquered by Chaldeans and allowed Jews to return to Palestine 70 years later  
- Palestine under Persian rule until it became a province of Judea under the Roman Empire in 63 C.E.  
- Rebels against Romans in 132 C.E. – 2nd Diaspora

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