CBSE NCERT · Class 11 · History

History

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 11 | HUMANITIES
Themes in World History
CBSE / NCERT core lessons | Academic year 2026-27
7 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology reference.

Contents
01 Writing and City Life
02 An Empire Across Three Continents
03 Nomadic Empires
04 The Three Orders
05 Changing Cultural Traditions
06 Displacing Indigenous Peoples
07 Paths to Modernisation
Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/SecPart2/History_SecP2_2026-27.pdf
2. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php
3. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/curriculum_2027.html

CHAPTER 01
Writing and City Life
Quick understanding
Explore how urban life, writing and state organisation developed in Mesopotamia using archaeology and written records.
Core points Check your learning
Cities depended on agricultural surplus, labour and Explain the link between writing and city exchange. administration.
Cuneiform made administration and cultural memory Evaluate a tablet or archaeological durable. object as evidence.
Sources reveal elite institutions more clearly than ordinary lives.
Timeline anchor
Mesopotamian urban development: from the fourth millennium BCE.
One-line recall Cities depended on agricultural surplus, labour and exchange.

CHAPTER 02

An Empire Across Three Continents
Quick understanding
Study the Roman Empire through government, army, economy, society, religion and late-antique change.
Core points Check your learning
The Mediterranean connected diverse provinces. Compare Roman imperial regions.
Citizenship, taxation and the army supported imperial Explain two changes associated with late rule. antiquity.
Late antiquity brought transformation, not a single sudden collapse.
Map focus
Mediterranean Sea, Rome, Constantinople and major imperial provinces.
One-line recall The Mediterranean connected diverse provinces.
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CHAPTER 03
Nomadic Empires
Quick understanding
Understand how mobile pastoral societies, especially the Mongols, created large political networks.
Core points Check your learning
Pastoral mobility was an adaptation, not absence of Explain Mongol military effectiveness. organisation.
Assess contrasting views of Mongol rule.
Chinggis Khan combined military discipline with alliances and law.
Mongol rule could destroy cities while also protecting long-distance exchange.
Timeline anchor
Chinggis Khan unified the Mongols in 1206 CE.
One-line recall Pastoral mobility was an adaptation, not absence of organisation.
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CHAPTER 04
The Three Orders
Quick understanding
Examine medieval European society through clergy, nobility and peasantry, then trace economic and social change.
Core points Check your learning
The three-order model expressed hierarchy more Describe a manor and peasant neatly than lived reality. obligations.
Manorial relations organised land, labour and dues. Explain how towns or the fourteenth-century crisis changed feudal society.
Towns, trade, technology and demographic crisis weakened older arrangements.
One-line recall The three-order model expressed hierarchy more neatly than lived reality.
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CHAPTER 05
Changing Cultural Traditions
Quick understanding
Trace Renaissance humanism, art, science, printing and religious debate in Europe.
Core points Check your learning
Humanists renewed interest in classical texts and Relate humanism to Renaissance art. human agency.
Compare older cosmology with new

Patronage and urban wealth shaped artistic scientific approaches.
production.
Print widened circulation, while women and non-elites
faced unequal access.
Timeline anchor
Italian Renaissance flourished from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries.
One-line recall Humanists renewed interest in classical texts and human agency.
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CHAPTER 06
Displacing Indigenous Peoples
Quick understanding
Compare European settlement and indigenous dispossession in North America and Australia.
Core points Check your learning
Settlers treated land as property in ways that Compare settlement processes in North
conflicted with indigenous relationships to country. America and Australia.
Disease, violence, treaties and law enabled Explain why source perspective matters
dispossession. in frontier history.
Indigenous communities resisted, adapted and
continue to assert rights.
Map focus
Native territories, settler colonies and major zones of expansion.
One-line recall Settlers treated land as property in ways that conflicted with indigenous relationships to country.
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CHAPTER 07
Paths to Modernisation
Quick understanding
Compare the political and economic transformations of Japan and China under internal and external
pressure.
Core points Check your learning
Meiji leaders combined centralisation, industry and Compare the Meiji Restoration with
selective borrowing. Chinese revolutionary change.
China moved through imperial crisis, revolution, war Assess how external pressure shaped
and socialist reconstruction. reform.
Modernisation followed different paths and carried
social costs.
Timeline anchor
Meiji Restoration 1868; Chinese Republic 1911; People's Republic 1949.
One-line recall Meiji leaders combined centralisation, industry and selective borrowing.
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