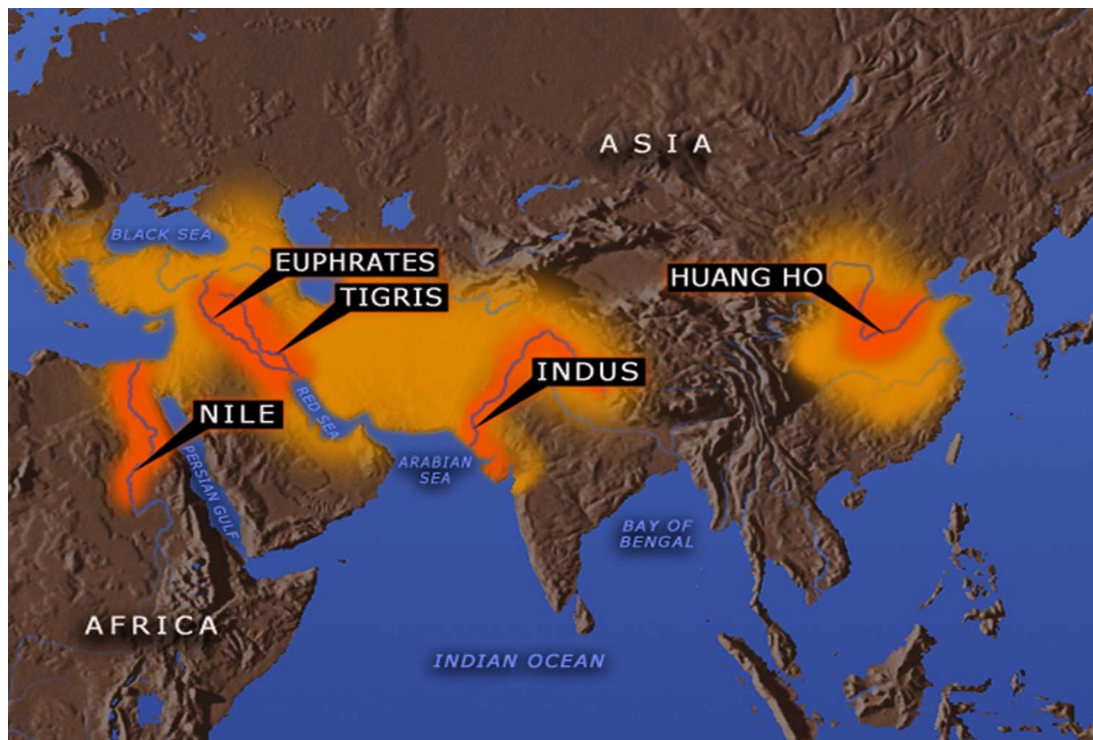


Ancient and Modern Cultures

MAPS



In Europe, man began to build shelters, plant crops, and raise animals for food and companionship. This began around 7,000 BC. Farmers in Mexico grew maize in about 5,000 BC.



By 6,000 BC, cities—even large urban centers—had formed around the major river valleys—the Nile, the Indus, the Huang Ho, and the Tigris and Euphrates.



By 100 BC, traders crossed Asia to Africa and Europe on the Silk Road. Silk traveled west to Europe, while wool, gold, and silver went east. Much of the Silk Road fell under control of a new Roman Empire, whose territories spread through wars and conquest from a small region in central Italy to a huge portion of Europe, parts of Asia and northern Africa.