**Anth 204- Study Guide**

**What is the relationship between agriculture, alcohol, and social complexity?**

The production of alcohol is associated with a high level of social complexity. As agriculture grew and expanded, alcoholic beverages were fermented and consumed. The production, exchange, and consumption of alcoholic beverages form a significant element and regularity in the emergence of complex, hierarchically organized societies, along with the restructuring of labor and gender relations.

**Where do we find the oldest evidence for fermented beverages?**

ChinaMesopotamia Greece

**What are some of the characteristics of Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, and States?**

Bands:

Tribes:

Chiefdoms: More Complex than tribes, less complex than states. Ranked system, not egalitarian. Individuals are placed in a hierarchy of power and prestige.

States: Class society, often rigidly stratified into social levels. The ruling class controls the populace not by consensus but by coercion and force. The rulers in a state society have the power to levy and collect taxes, establish and enforce laws, and to conscript people to do the work of the state.

**How do civilizations/states differ from Chiefdoms?**

Chiefdoms are less rigidly structured than state societies and a chief’s power is less than that of a king or pharaoh. They are more complex than tribes, less complex than states.

**What is the relationship between social complexity and monumental architecture?**

As societies become more complex, you begin to see more monumental architecture pop up. It is a sign of a more stratified class system and a more complex hierarchical system.

**What are the characteristics of early states/civilizations?**

More complex agriculture systems, more ornate burials, larger, more ambitious building structures, some monument building, development of other technology.

**What are the characteristics of mature Harappan sites?**

Complex urban centers, a sophisticated drainage system, communal granaries, bathhouses, and citadels consisting of palaces, temples, or granaries built atop artificial mounds.

**How did the Aztec Empire expand? What strategy did they use?**

The Aztec did not want to convert or change the groups it overtook. They just wanted wealth. Aztec merchants were basically an advanced column of unarmed soldiers whose job it was to make sure local people were paying what the Aztec overlords deemed due. If they refused or held back, the Aztec military was called in to slaughter whoever stood in their way. Basically—the Aztec mob.

**What are chinampas?**

Artificial islands in lakes and swamps produced by the Aztecs of central Mexico that were intensively farmed.

**In what way was the early European view of the site of Zimbabwe similar to that of mounds in eastern North America?**

In both cases, the Europeans refused to believe that the current natives of the land had created the mounds. Instead, they created the Myth of the Mound Builders: a vanished race of people created the mounds before the current, and inferior people lived there. It was their way of coping with all of their displacing and maltreatment of the current people that lived there. They told themselves that the people of Zimbabwe and those in North America were too inferior to have created these mounds, despite clear evidence and sophisticated artifacts found in and around the mounds.

**What is meant by the term Hopewell?**

Of or relating to an advanced mound-building and agricultural Amerindian culture 100 b.c.–a.d. 400, centered in Ohio and Illinois and characterized by geometric earthworks, many large conical or dome-shaped burial mounds, corded and stamped pottery, ornamental knives and tobacco pipes, and the extensive trading of raw materials and artifacts

**What likely happened to the former inhabitants of Chaco Canyon?**

There are several factors that may have contributed to their abandonment of the site. They may have outstripped the environment’s ability to support them, especially as they were experiencing the worst drought in the last quarter of the 13th century. There may have also been shortages of wood for fuel and construction. It is also possible that the introduction of a new religion lead them away from the area.

**What are some of the ideas offered for why civilizations collapse? Critique the concept of “collapse” as used by archaeologists.**

Resource Depletion: the large, dense populations associated with civilization use up all the resources in the land.

New Resources: the discovery of new resources eliminates the need for the more complex and stratified social hierarchy of civilizations, and this decentralization leads to the dissolution of the society.

Catastrophes: hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, etc. are the root cause of civilizational collapse.

Insufficient Response to Circumstances: As a result of their inherent complexity, some civilizations are unable to adapt and change quickly enough to respond to internal or external pressures.

Other Complex Societies: competition or conflict with other civilizations can lead to the collapse of a civilized society.

Intruders: attacks by more mobile, more aggressive groups can lead to collapse.

Mismanagement: the elite may abuse their power and direct so much of the surplus wealth and labor to their own benefit that not enough is left for maintenance of the economic and political system.

Economic Explanations: Civilizations are expensive, and require increasing amounts of labor and wealth to maintain themselves. As civilizations grow, so do their needs on surplus wealth. Costs of supporting the system increase and civilizations can become too economically nonviable, leading to diminishing returns and collapse.

**What was different about how the Inca kept accounts and government records than in other early state societies?**

The Inca used conventionalized, rule-bound symbolic records in the form of knotted strings called khipu, which could be read by those who understood the code. It was the record keeping system in which a series of knotted strings were used as a mnemonic device to help record keeps remember information. It is thought that these khipu hold mostly census data, information about quantities of goods, amounts of taxes and tribute, calendrical information and genealogies.

**Discuss the origins and collapse of Mayan city-states.**

Middle Pre Classic Period:The Maya began to take what was previously unremarkable, small farming hamlets and began building structures that were differentiated from other buildings. A highly productive agriculture system focusing on maize and beans provided for a growing population. As a result of this growth as well as an apparent movement of people from the countryside in to the population centers, at this time some of the Maya villages evolved into true urban settlements with large, dense populations.

Between the 8th and 9th century: Maya civilization experienced a series of significant changes and dislocations. Some believe the fall of the Maya was cause by a severe drought that began in A.D. 800 and lasted until A.D. 1000. Others say it was an ecological trap of their own making. The Maya developed in a region of tropical and subtropical rainforests. This means the soil there was depleted of nutrients, and the only way to get nutrients in the soil was to use a slash-and-burn method. This meant cutting down trees, which lead to soil erosion. This made it harder to grow crops. This lead to conflicts over competition for agricultural lands on which farmers could produce the needed food surplus. Eventually it became too much for the Maya, and it collapsed.

**When did urbanism begin in southern Mesopatamia?**

**What does the first writing tell us about the rise of cities and states?**

**What are some of the theories offered for why cities and states appeared in Mesopotamia (and elsewhere)?**

**What does the site of Mehrgarh tell us about plant and animal domestication in the Indus region?**

Mehrgarh is located along the course of the Bolan River as it exits the foothills of the mountainous region called Baluchistan. They survived by hunting wild animals, especially deer, gazelle, and wild pig, but even the earliest levels of the site show there is evidence that people there raised domesticated goats and planted some wheat and primarily barley. Both the goats and the wheat had been brought in from the west; it would seem that the site’s residents borrowed the idea of food production from their neighbors on the western Iranian plateau.

**What is a mastaba?**

Mud-brick structures built over the tombs of a developing elite in Egypt before the pharaohs. Became larger through time, were stacked on top of each other, and ultimately evolved into the pyramid tomb emblematic of ancient Egyptian civilization.

**What is Cultural Resource Management?**

Cultural Resource Management is, essentially, a process by which the protection and management of the multitudinous but scarce elements of cultural heritage are given some consideration in a modern world with an expanding population and changing needs. Often equated with archaeology, CRM in fact should and does include a range of types of properties: “cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, historical records, social institutions, expressive cultures, old buildings, religious beliefs and practices, industrial heritage, folklife, artifacts [and] spiritual places.”