

Chapter 5

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

Aspasia and Pericles: A foreign woman resident in Athens (ca. 470–400 B.C.E.) who was famed for her learning and wit. She was the partner of the statesman Pericles, who worked to extend the rights of Athenian citizens.

Caste as varna and jati: The system of social organization in India that has evolved over millennia; it is based on an original division of the populace into four inherited classes (varna), with the addition of thousands of social distinctions based on occupation (jatis), which became the main cell of social life in India. (*pron.* VAR-nah /JAH-tee)

China's scholar-gentry class: A term used to describe members of China's landowning families, reflecting their wealth from the land and the privilege that they derived as government officials.

Empress Wu: The only female "emperor" in Chinese history (r. 690–705 C.E.), Empress Wu patronized scholarship, worked to elevate the position of women, and provoked a backlash of Confucian misogynist invective.

Ge Hong: Born into an upper class family in China during troubled times (283–343 C.E.), his efforts to balance Confucian service to society and his own desire to pursue a more solitary and interior life in the Daoist tradition reflected the situation of many in his class.

Greek and Roman slavery: In the Greek and Roman worlds, slaves were captives (and their descendants) from war and piracy, abandoned children, and the victims of long-distance trade; manumission was common. Among the Greeks, household service was the most common form of slavery, but in parts of the Roman state, thousands of slaves were employed under brutal conditions in the mines and on great plantations.

helots: The dependent, semi-enslaved class of ancient Sparta whose social discontent prompted the militarization of Spartan society.

patriarchy: Literally "rule of the father"; a social system of male dominance.

Pericles: A prominent and influential statesman of ancient Athens (ca. 495–429 B.C.E.), he presided over Athens's Golden Age. (*pron.* PEAR-ih-klees)

"ritual purity": In Indian social practice, the idea that members of higher castes must adhere to strict regulations limiting or forbidding their contact with objects and members of lower castes to preserve their own caste standing and their relationship with the gods.

Spartacus: A Roman gladiator who led the most serious slave revolt in Roman history (73–71 B.C.E.).

the "three obediences": In Chinese Confucian thought, the notion that a woman is permanently subordinate to male control: first to her father, then to her husband, and finally to her son.

Wang Mang: A Han court official who usurped the throne and ruled from 8 C.E.–23 C.E.; noted for his reform movement that included the breakup of large estates. (*pron.* wahng mahng)

Yellow Turban Rebellion: A massive Chinese peasant uprising inspired by Daoist teachings that began in 184 C.E. with the goal of establishing a new golden age of equality and harmony.