

Social hierarchy and slavery in the age of Empires

What's the BIG deal?

- With civilization and the development of empires, human societies also developed complex social hierarchies with small groups of people controlling most of the resources and power.
- Slavery was part of these early social hierarchies, and slaves were at the bottom of the hierarchy. Slavery developed along with civilization, specialization, the development of agriculture, and a growing desire for cheap labor.
- Slavery was organized differently in different places and at different times, but always revolved around forced labor and the unequal treatment of certain groups of people. In empires like Rome, slavery became an important part of the overall economy.
- Slavery affected people differently, depending upon their place in the social hierarchy.