

The Emergence and Spread of World Religions

? What's the BIG deal?

- As larger civilizations formed at the end of Era 2 and the beginning of Era 3, new opportunities arose for the development and spread of common belief systems, both philosophies and world religions, which could appeal to a wide range of people.
- These religions were “world religions” in the sense that they united people with different cultures across different places. World religions are portable, as opposed to local religions that are more rooted to a specific place, and they spread through networks of contact and exchange.
- These world religions offered belief systems that appealed to many people. For example, they offered salvation or new life in different forms to all people, even the poor. They also provided common values and practices that shaped government and facilitated trade and communication across different cultural regions.