

5.3 Why do some societies develop the “Civilization Package”?

Do Now: Examine the image, read sections A-E, and answer questions 1-4.



- A. Jared Diamond in the book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* (1997) asks why some regions of the world dominate over other regions. He believes much of history can be explained by geographical accident. Some regions had the natural conditions for growth and others did not. These regions had a head start in the development of the “civilization package”.
- B. The “civilization package” starts with the availability of wild plants that can be transformed into crops, animals suitable for domestication, sufficient water supply, and fertile soil.
- C. The production of surplus [extra] food can lead to increased population, workers with specialties like farming, crafts, soldiers, government officials, and religious leaders.
- D. Social institutions emerge in these new societies that organize work, how people behave [laws], what people believe [religion], and how wealth is divided among people and groups [social classes]. They include a military, police, tax collectors, government bureaucrats, and organized churches.
- E. New knowledge and technology support the growth of societies. Some advances include money, banking, weights and measures, literacy [reading and writing], and numeracy [math].

Questions

1. What geographical factors (land forms and climate) will make possible growth of the “civilization package”?
2. Why is production of extra food essential for the development of the “civilization package”?
3. Why do societies develop laws, religions, and social classes as part of the “civilization package”?
4. How do money, banking, weights and measures, literacy and numeracy support the growth of societies?