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THE TIMELINE

   Welcome to Timeline! We have all seen historical timelines;
they are a marvelous visual device for condensing and displaying
a vast amount of data. This timeline is different from those you
have seen before and so a few comments are in order about how it
was designed and what information was selected for inclusion.

   Most historical charts focus upon great political events and
show a distinct bias towards events that happened as Western
Culture developed. The classical world of the Near East and the
Mediterranean thereby received great emphasis. This bias is not
entirely due to Eurocentric First World arrogance, as current
'politically correct' thinking would have it, although there is
an element of cultural blindness in such research. Writing did
arise first in the ancient Near East and so the time depth of
written records is greatest for this region and classical
cultures in Mediterranean Europe. Furthermore, historical and
archeological research, as we know it, did arise first as
deductive, analytical disciplines in Europe and the United States
and it was only natural that expeditions and scholars went first
to those cultures that are our immediate forebearers. It is an
intuitive and instinctive priority to study first that which
seems closest to us, both in personal and broad historical-
cultural terms.

   Furthermore, scholars in classical Asia, when interested in
history, did not conceive of it as we do in the West. History did
not exist as an objective narrative of events in secular time.
History meant the establishment, through oral epic poetry, of
one's mythological ancestry (and thereby credibility) and the
accurate recitation of the mythological ancestors from the time
of creation to the present. Such a process contacted mythological
space-time, the sacred time of Mercea Eliade, and enabled the
participants to transcend the cares of everyday life and be
uplifted, renewed and momentarily feel the greatest of their
potential. History, as we conceive it, did not exist and by
comparison it is certainly a one dimensional intellectual
exercise, however valuable from a data aquisition point of view.
The multidimensional nature of nonEuropean history mandates that
a narrative of events in secular time is but one component of the
whole. 'History' was mythic and ritualistic and so retrieving
what we in the West need for an informational timeline from such
records is extremely difficult. Nonetheless, the work has begun
and the rewards are flowing in. As Westerners, I do not propose
rejecting our heritage. I do propose assimilating it and then

widening our vision to integrate other dimensions. Therefore I begin as a Westerner with an informational, fact filled, timeline.

Only in the second half of this century has a broad , based, systematic, global effort begun to understand the Neolithic, classical and medieval history of continental and northern Europe and Asia. I have made a serious effort to incorporate much of this work into the timeline and as a result there is a great deal of information collated here for northwest Europe, the Indian subcontinent and Tibet, China and Japan that does not appear in any other published timeline as of this date. As a result, you have a more balanced view of history, albeit the great wealth of data that fills the column for the circum-Mediterranean region.

As no timeline can contain every published, dated event for the period in question. a word about the data selection process is in order. My larger, overriding project concerns the history of mythology and religion with a particular focus upon the mytho-poetics of the Great Goddess. This timeline emphasizes and highlights (literally in the decision where to use italics and bold type) events critical to the historical narrative of evolving mythologies and the history of religion. Important political and cultural developments are here as well, for they form the essential secular context against which mythologies and rituals are to be explored. The timeline begins at 10,000 B.C. as the great Wurm ice sheets of the last glaciation began to melt and recede northward, setting the stage for a global warming and the Agricultural Revolution of the early Neolithic. My closing date is certainly atypical. I chose 900 A.D.in order to reduce further the Eurocentric bias. 1056 A.D. (Norman Invasion and the birth of a familiar England) is a more obvious choice to a Westerner if the timeline is designed to stop before the high Middle Ages of Europe when Christianity had solidified its hold over a vast region. About 900 A.D, the great Islamic empire was at its zenith, the enormous Tibetan empire over Central Asia was under attack and beginning to disintegrate and the Russian state had just been formed around Novorogod and Kiev. These observations point to a feature of this timeline that speaks to our own times. Many of the republics that chose to assert their independence in this century have national identities based upon ancient ethnic integrity that has a cultural validity of great time depth. Hidden within this compacted data are many examples: notice the origin points for the Slavs, Serbs, Croats and Magyars for example. Above all, reflect upon the Chinese invasion and continual occupation of Tibet since 1950. In the eighth and ninth centuries A.D., Tibet was the imperial power of Central Asia and invaded China, captured the capital and dictated treaty terms. The Chinese have never forgiven the Tibetans, who are a distinct ethnic group as well, and they now have their revenge. The time clock runs very differently in the Orient.

This timeline is designed to stand alone; it is self contained. You may construct a large single chart by the following procedure. The Excel version consists of 54 printed

pages. The entire chart is three pages across and 18 pages deep (landscape orientation). The printout is programmed for 'over than down' and thus the first three pages are the top three pages of the complete chart. Arrange pages 4 through 6 under them, left to right, and proceed accordingly for each succeeding group of three pages. Cut off the footers on pages 1 through three. Cut off the headers (optional) and footers on all other pages (except pp 52-54), align and tape together or glue down on a piece of masonite. One of the nice features of Excel 4.0 is that the larger font size will produce a chart that does not need to be read close up. Final dimensions are approximately 33" x 144", depending upon exactly where you cut. A single chart will present a majestic sweep of a vast period of history.

This third edition of Timeline (Timeline3) explores one of the most fascinating and mysterious observations contained in the data (see sonsgod.dos). Over a period of some seven centuries (700 B.C. to 0 A.D.), the world was changed irrevocably by interaction with all but one of the 'sons of god'. During this period the following were born and lived: Zoroaster, Siddharta Gautama, Vardhamana, Confucius, Lao-Tzu and Jesus Christ. Only Mohammed's life lies outside this time period. If we take the beginning of recorded history to be c.3000 B.C., then there is a span of some 4000 years to consider within this timeline, approximately 5000 years if we wish to bring our observations up to the present. It is impossible to imagine a mechanism that would structure the birth of extraordinary human beings ('sons of god'); the probability of such a 'being' appearing in one year or another should be random. One year, or century, should be just as likely as any other to contain such divinity. Yet the dull recitation of historical facts say otherwise, however mysterious the underlying mechanism may be! There was something extraordinary special about the first milllenium B.C. in that it produced 6 of the 7 global religious geniuses known to history. Why this clustering of such lives at this time? This clustering has been noted before by historians and mention of it is buried in many books. The numbers are here subjected to statistical analysis in order to demonstrate how improbable, in quantitative terms, those events of the first millenium B.C. were.

As mentioned above, this timeline is also an adjunct to an extensive software publishing project about the history and mythololgy of the Great Goddess. It forms an invaluable historical context against which to assess that research. On disc flyers will introduce these studies which are available from Reality Software.

If you have thoughts or comments about this timeline, please write! I do want to hear from you, and while all letters will not be answered, all will be read and thoughtfully considered, I assure you.

If you wish to explore history beyond the ancient Near East and classical/medieval Europe, several of these references may be unfamiliar and extremely valuable.

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REGISTRATION FOR TIMELINE VERSION 3.0

   The shareware version of the Timelin3 does not contain a
complete timeline as did that for Timelin2, merely six pages
from the complete chart. Timelin2, which was distributed via the
shareware system in its complete form, was extremely attractive
to many folks judging by the hundreds of downloads. However, only
a handful of people chose to register and therefore I did not
feel justly compensated for the many, many hours of research that
went into the project. You must register to obtain the complete
Timeline3 (54 pages in the Excel version). It includes several
dozen new data items and an extensive rewrite of about 3/4 of the
material. Timeline3 is a major revision of Timelin2 and
represents a vast expansion of the quantity and quality of
information.

   Upon registration, you will be sent a second disc that
contains the complete Timeline3. On disc flyers introduce you to
other software from Reality Software that discuss various themes
in the history of religion. You will also be placed on our
permanent mailing list to receive future updates of the timeline
at special reduced rates.

   To register, simply fill out the form below and mail to:

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Name _____ Date _____

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TIMELINE V3.0(Excel 3.0 or 4.0 for Windows 3.0 or 3.1):
Disc Size 5 1/4 (Quant) _____$13 each. Total _____

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density media are unacceptable.)

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* Timeline v3.0 for Dos was 'cleaned up' with Boxer, a professional
ASCII text editor. Depending on the file viewer you use, all
formatting may not be preserved and some line items may be out of
alignment. If you own an ASCII editor, you can remove such
formatting gliches yourself, if the appearance is bothersome.