

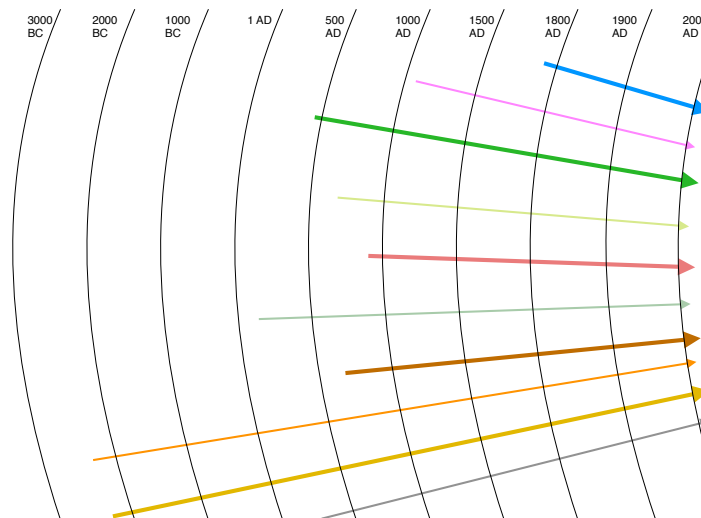
III. The Interconnected World We Live In

A. Interconnectivity

1. We have learned to see the world in terms of ten major cultural blocks. Now we learn to see how closely, multiply, and complexly connected they are. The world we live in is an *inter-connected* world.
2. Many forms of connection exist between the cultural blocks:
 - a) communication - such as phones and the Internet
 - b) transportation - air, sea, and land travel, including tourism and migration
 - c) trade - We buy cars made in Japan, electronics assembled in China, coffee harvested in Sub-Saharan Africa, and clothing made in the Iberosphere, etc.
 - d) cultural interaction - yummy food from tacos to sushi; sporting festivals like the Olympics; and movies and music
 - e) war - although the world has been exceptionally peaceful since the world wars, wars still occur, and the United States is almost always involved

B. Showing Interconnection on a Timeline, Part 1: The Major Blocks

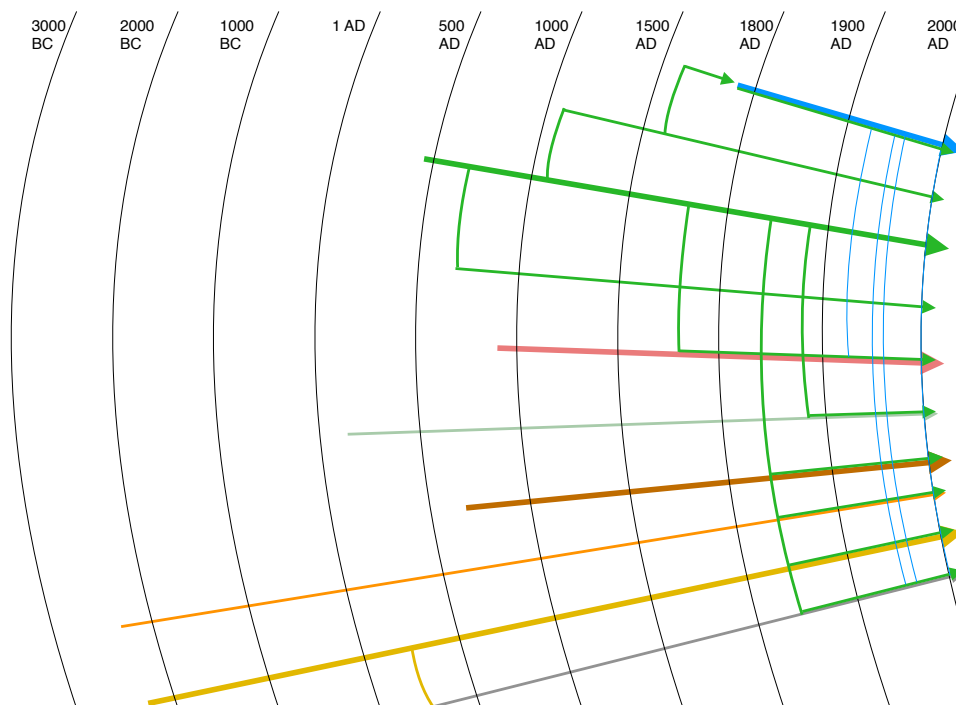
1. Using a timeline to stand for the history of different cultures, we can color-code the various cultures of the world, and represent them as arrows. (See the next page.)
2. On this diagram, the lines are for each major block: 1) America (blue), 2) Anglosphere (pink), 3) Europe (green), 4) Iberosphere (lime green), 5) Russia (faded red), 6) Sub-Saharan Africa (faded green), 7) Islamic world (brown), 8) India (orange), 9) China (yellow), and 10) Japan (gray).]



A timeline of world history can be used to separate cultural blocks coming closer together.

C. Showing Interconnection on a Timeline, Part 2: Western Civilization

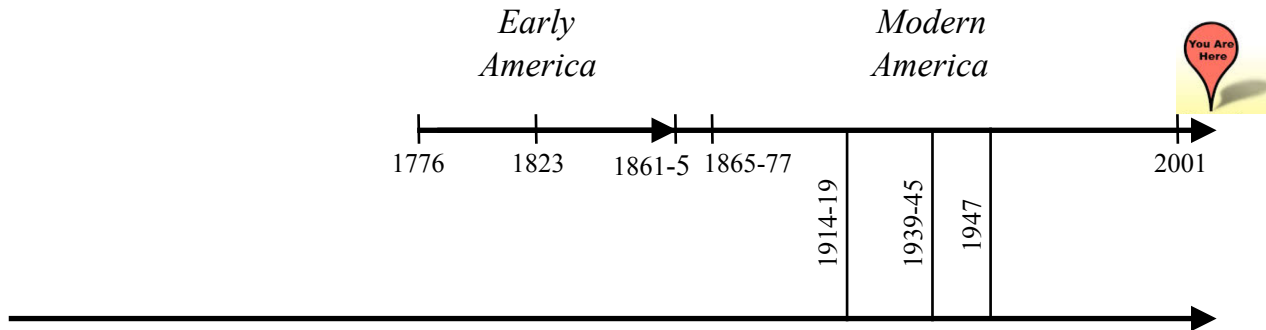
1. In order to better understand the world we live in, we must learn to see that America, the Anglosphere, Europe, and the Iberosphere are all related. This is called “Western Civilization.”
2. All the other blocks have also been “westernized” in modern history, which means they now include parts of Western culture.
3. These connections can be shown in a new timeline, where all the Western blocks are green, and the green color also connects and combines with the lines of the other blocks. (Note: America is Western, but also special. Its blue is combined with green.)



Western Civilization (with all its parts in green) includes Europe, the Iberosphere, and the Anglosphere, and America (which is unique—ever since it declared its independence!—and thus blue *and green*). Green lines reach out to the other blocks in what is called “globalization.” Also, *blue* interconnections show the action of the United States as “world police power.”

D. Learning to See America and Europe As Interconnected

1. The interconnected world is very complex. We have to learn about it piece by piece.
2. Our first step in this direction will be to take the timeline of American history and connect it to a timeline of European history, as follows:



3. On this new double timeline, we will use lines instead of “tick marks” for the modern events of World War I, World War II, and the Truman Doctrine (1947) because these *connect* America (on top) and Europe (at the bottom).
4. This double timeline will now serve as the model for learning more about American history and how it is connected to European history.