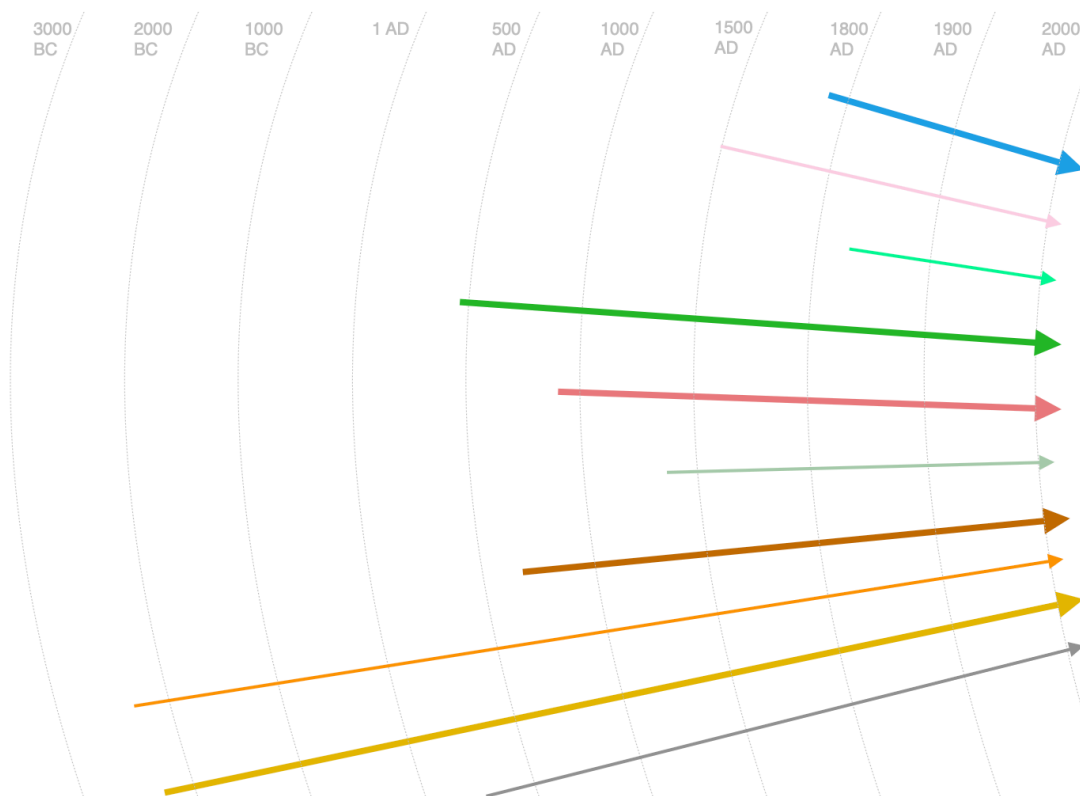


AMERICA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

I. Western Civilization

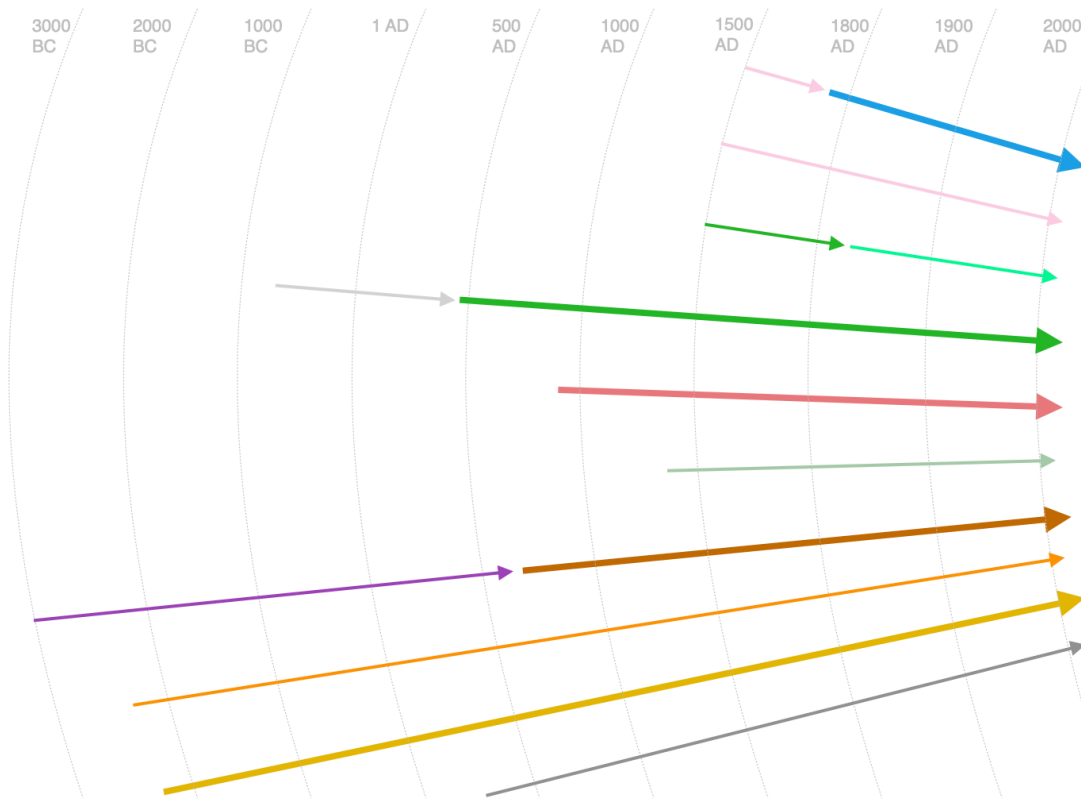
A. A Family of Four

1. We know how organize the world into ten “cultural blocks.” There are five nations—the United States, China, Russia, India, and Japan. There are also five groups—the European Union, the Islamic world, the Anglosphere, the Iberosphere, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. If we use the colors from our map on page 10, we can draw lines for the histories of these ten cultural blocks like this:

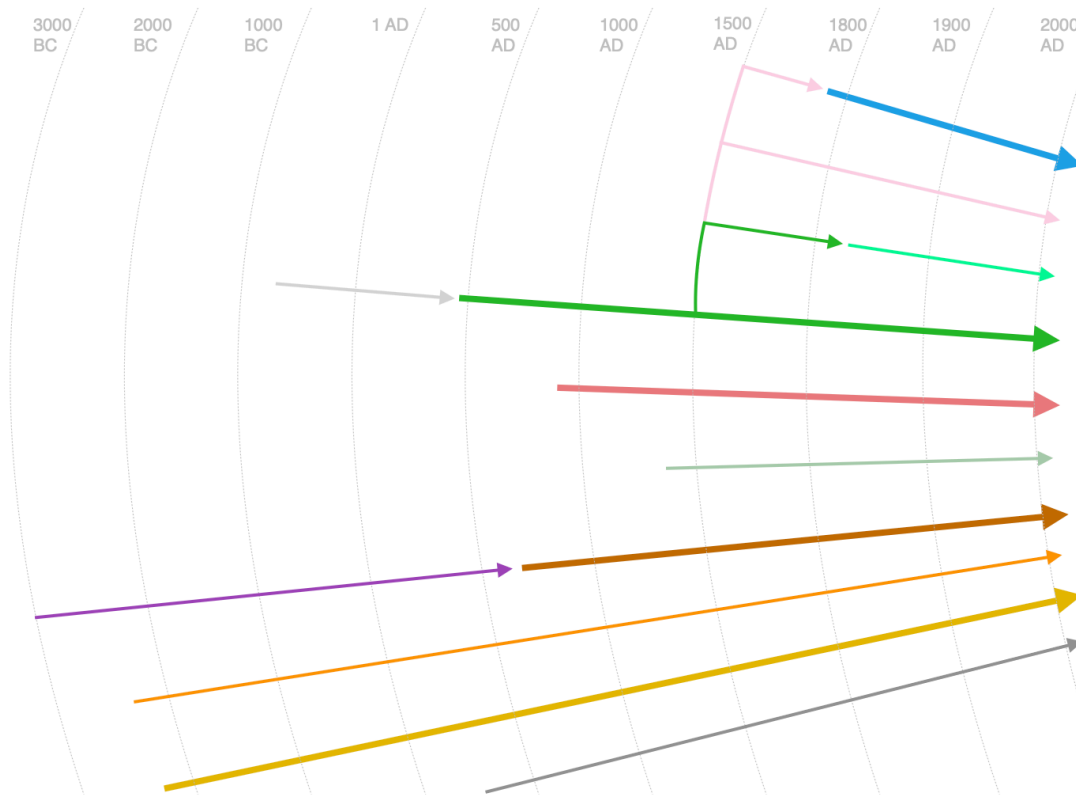


3. The order (from the top down) is: the United States, the Anglosphere, the Iberosphere, Europe, Russia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Islamic world, India, China, and Japan.
4. The length of the lines shows us how long each story is.
5. The thicker lines are for *cardinal* culture (the most important) and the thinner lines are for the “major” cultures.

6. The lines get closer together on the timeline as a way to show that the cultures of the world are “closer” together, because of transportation and communication technology, especially in modern times.
7. We can also show that some histories have a background story, like this:



7. These new lines show us that America was once part of the British Empire, that the Iberosphere was once a set of colonies belonging to Europe (Spain & Portugal), that Greece & Rome (light gray) came before Europe, and that Islamic culture was preceded by cultures like ancient Egypt (purple).
8. To make this timeline complete, however, requires another step. It requires including a way to show that America, the Anglosphere, and the Iberosphere were all created by Europe.
9. If we include a connection to show Europe’s role in making these other cultures, then the timeline can be improved as follows:



10. What this timeline allows us to see is that four of the world's cultures have a special connection. They are like a *family* of cultures. This family, including its ancient roots (Greece & Rome), is a group known as "Western civilization."