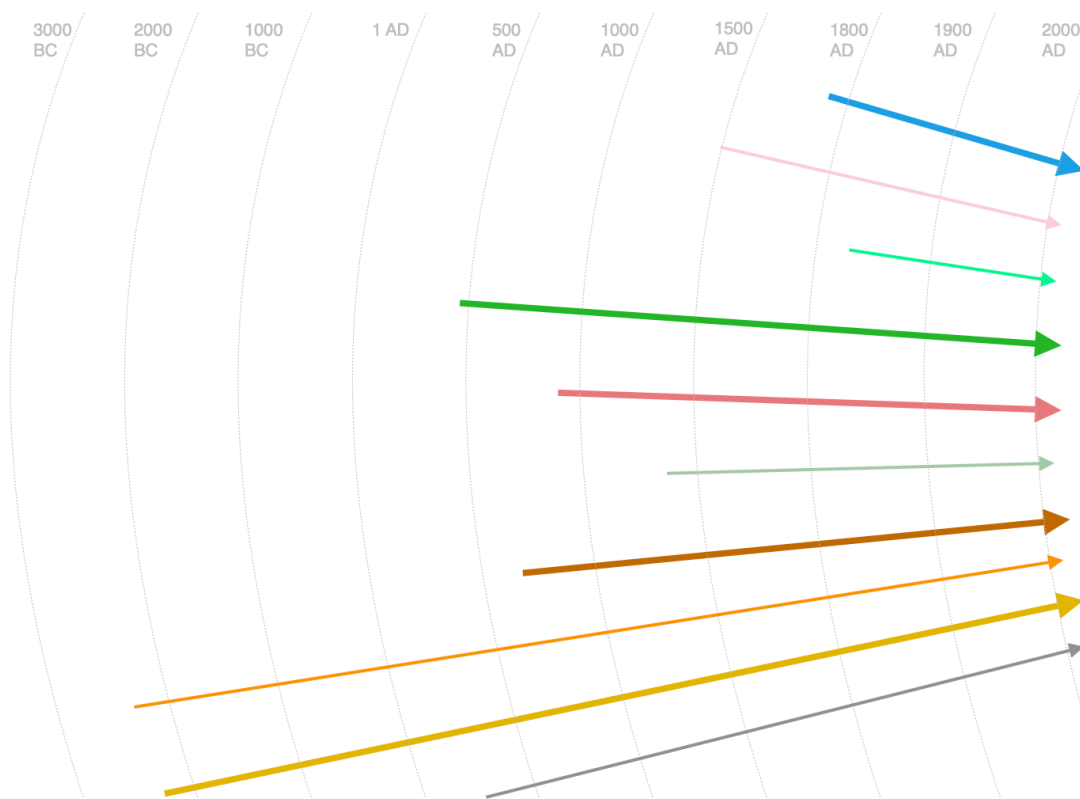


AMERICA AND ITS NEIGHBORS

I. Western Civilization

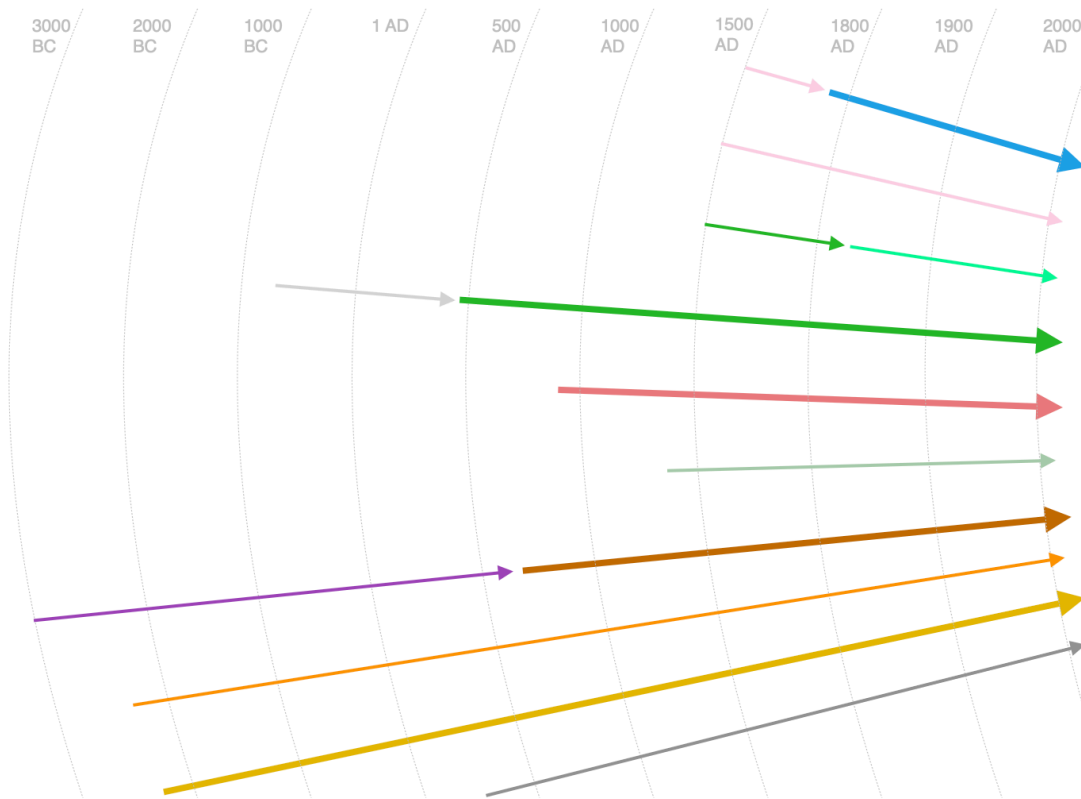
A. A Family of Four

1. Earlier this year, we saw how helpful it is to organize the world into “cultural blocks,” of which five are major nations—the United States, China, Russia, India, and Japan—and five are groups of related cultures—the European Union, the Islamic world, the Anglosphere, the Iberosphere, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
2. In keeping with the color scheme used on our map from page 2, it is possible to draw the histories of the ten major cultural blocks on a timeline like this:

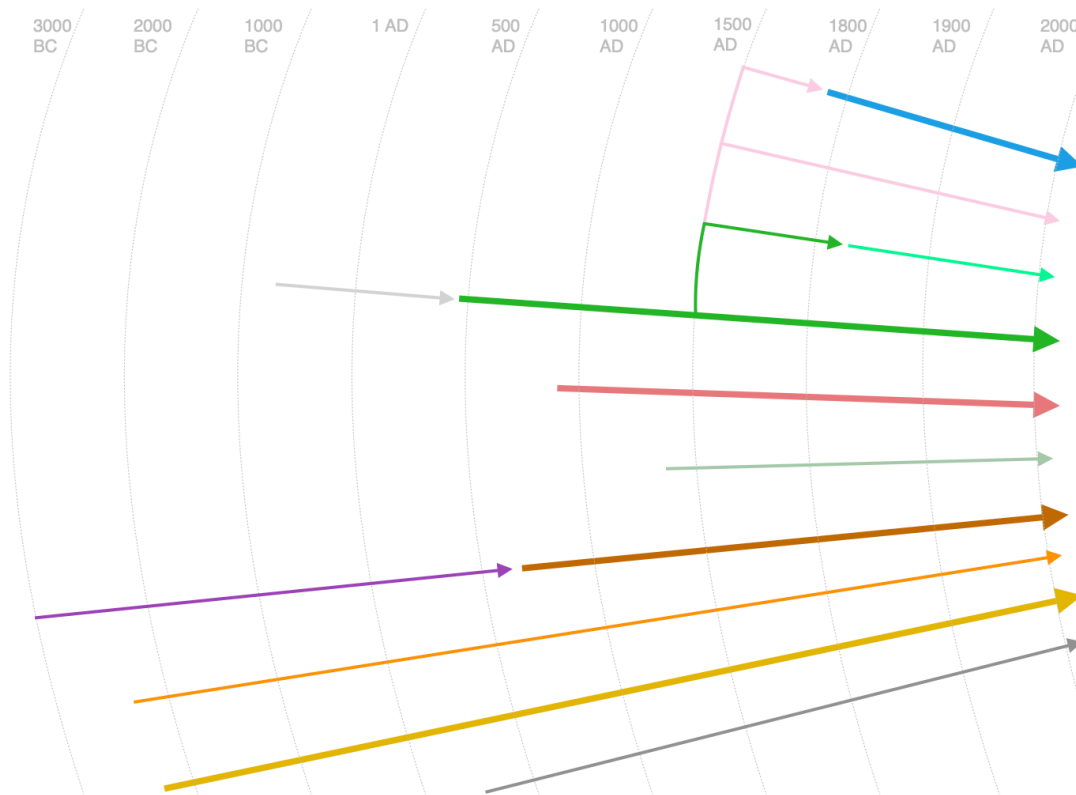


3. From top to bottom, the order on this diagram is: the United States, the Anglosphere, the Iberosphere, Europe, Russia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Islamic world, India, China, and Japan.
4. The length of the lines shows us how long each story is.
5. The thicker lines are for *cardinal* culture (the most 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. What this view captures is the fact that America was once part of the British Empire, that the Iberosphere was once a set of colonies belonging to Europe (Spain & Portugal in particular), that European civilization was preceded by Greco-Roman civilization (light gray) and the Islamic culture was preceded by a cluster of cultures including ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia and Israel (grouped together in 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 within the world's configuration of ten major cultures, four of them 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."