


Communities

AN INTRODUCTION



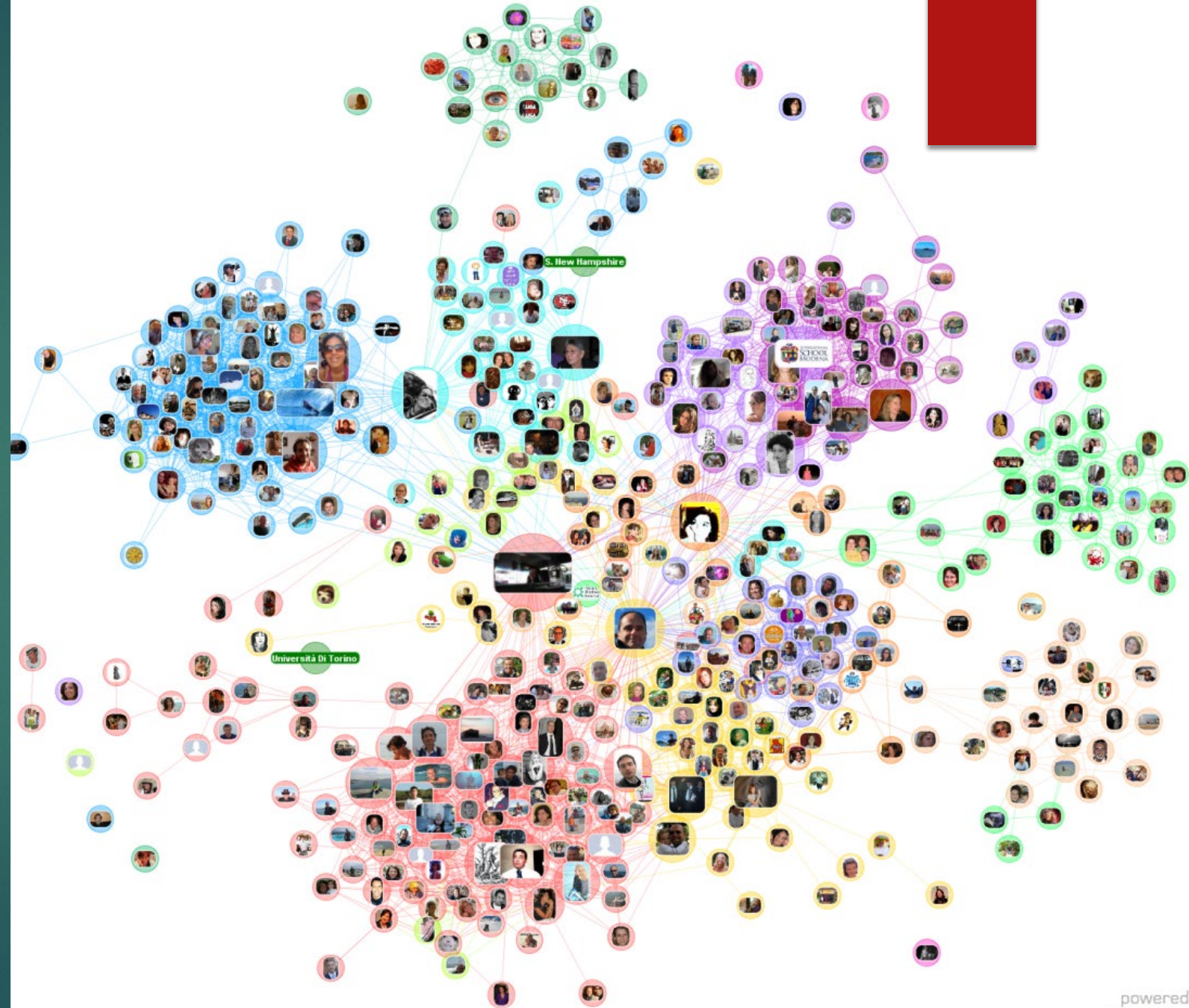


“Alone, we can do so little.
Together, we can do so much”
- Helen Keller

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- ▶ Living in a community is a universal, shared characteristic of all humans.

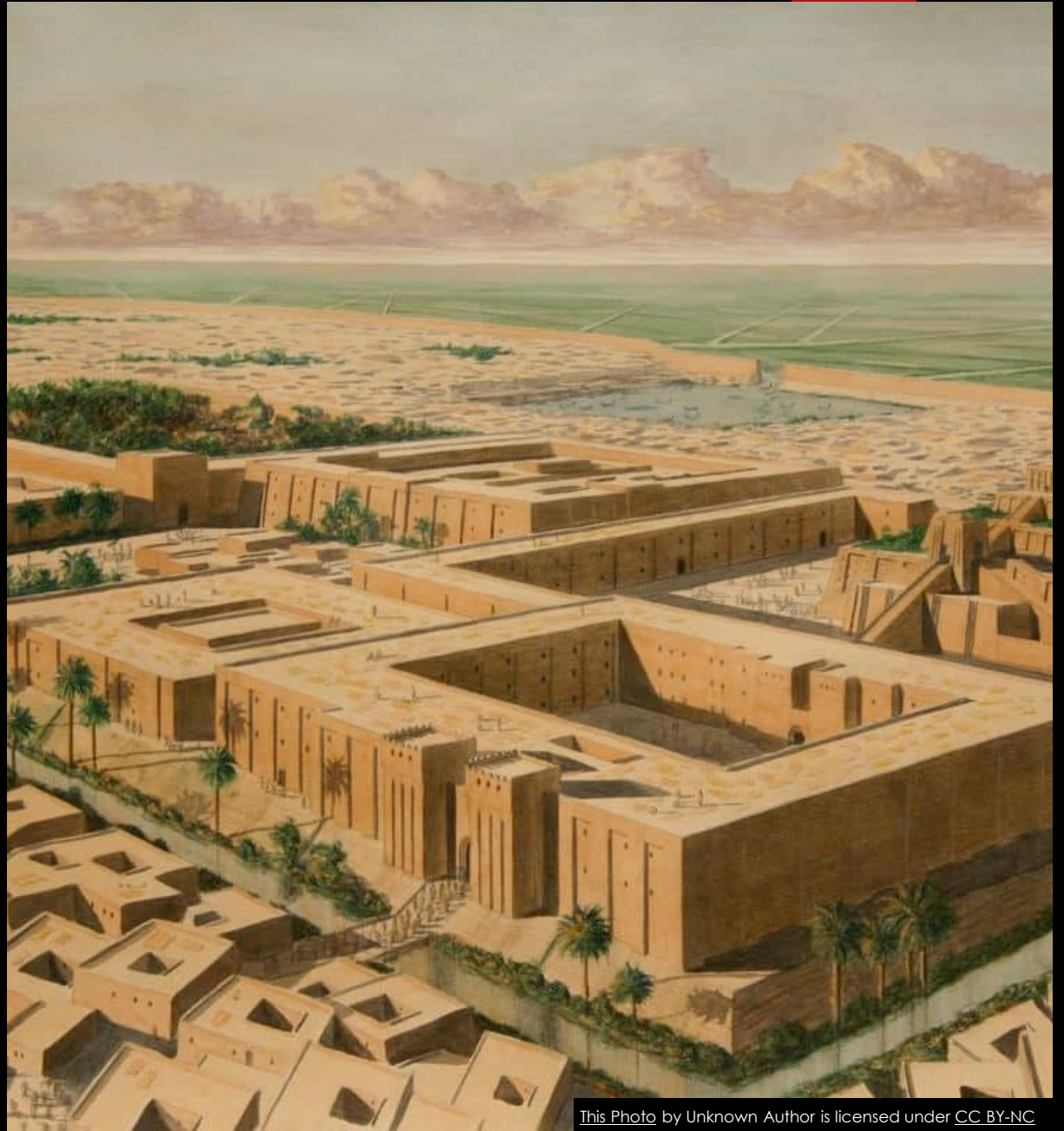
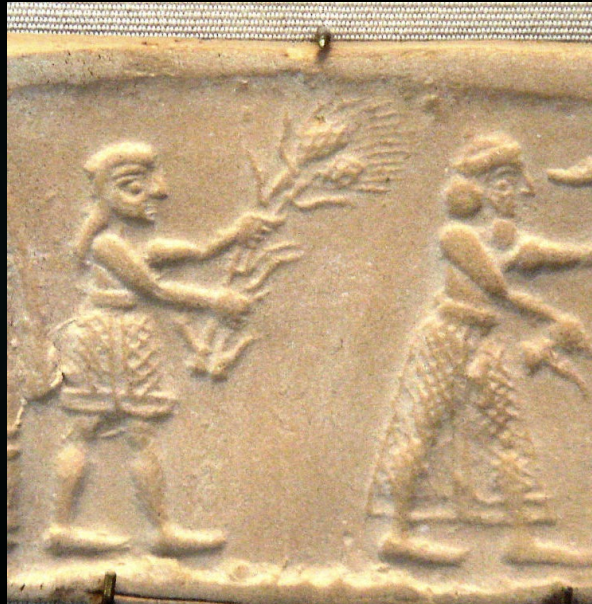
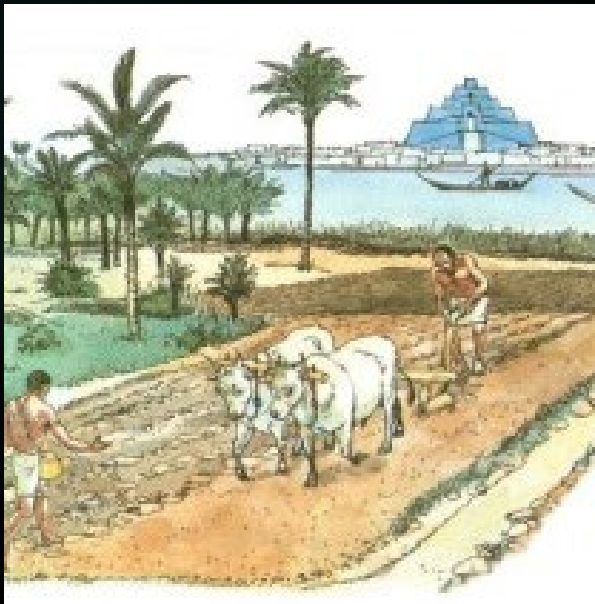
The Communities Frame through the Eras

- ▶ The Community Frame begins with the Early Humans (250,000BP to 3000 BCE) with the first human communities.
- ▶ Over a few thousand years in many regions across the globe, communities grew and connected



Historical Trajectories

	Fertile Crescent	China	England	Andes	Amazonia	Mesoamerica	Eastern U.S.
Plant domestication	8500 BCE	By 7500 BCE	3500 BCE	By 3000 BCE	3000 BCE	By 3000 BCE	2500 BCE
Animal domestication	8000 BCE	By 7500 BCE	3500 BCE	3500 BCE	?	500 BCE	-
Pottery	7000 BCE	By 7500 BCE	3500 BCE	3100-1800 BCE	6000 BCE	1500 BCE	2500 BCE
Villages	9000 BCE	By 7500 BCE	3000 BCE	3100-1800 BCE	6000 BCE	1500 BCE	500 BCE
Chiefdoms	5500 BCE	4000 BCE	2500 BCE	By 1500 BCE	1 CE	1500 BCE	200 BCE
Widespread metal tools	4000 BCE	2000 BCE	2000 BCE	1000 CE	-	-	-



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The State

- ▶ The cities with villages around them began to form the first complex political communities.
- ▶ The State = political communities with power over the people.

Types of Societies

Keep in mind this is more of a continuum.

	Band	Tribe	Chiefdom	State
Membership				
Number of people	Dozens	Hundreds	Thousands	Over 50,000
Settlement pattern	Nomadic	Fixed: 1 village	Fixed: 1 or more villages	Fixed: many villages
Basis of relationships	Kin	Kin-based clans	Class and residence	Class and residence
Ethnicities and languages	1	1	1	1 or more
Government				
Decision making, leadership	"egalitarian"	"egalitarian" or big-man	Centralized, hereditary	Centralized
Bureaucracy	None	None	None, or 1 or 2 levels	Many levels
Monopoly of force and information	No	No	Yes	Yes
Conflict resolution	Informal	Informal	Centralized	Laws, judges
Hierarchy of settlement	No	No	No-paramount village	capital

Cities, States –
to Empires:

6,000 BCE –
700 CE

Empires

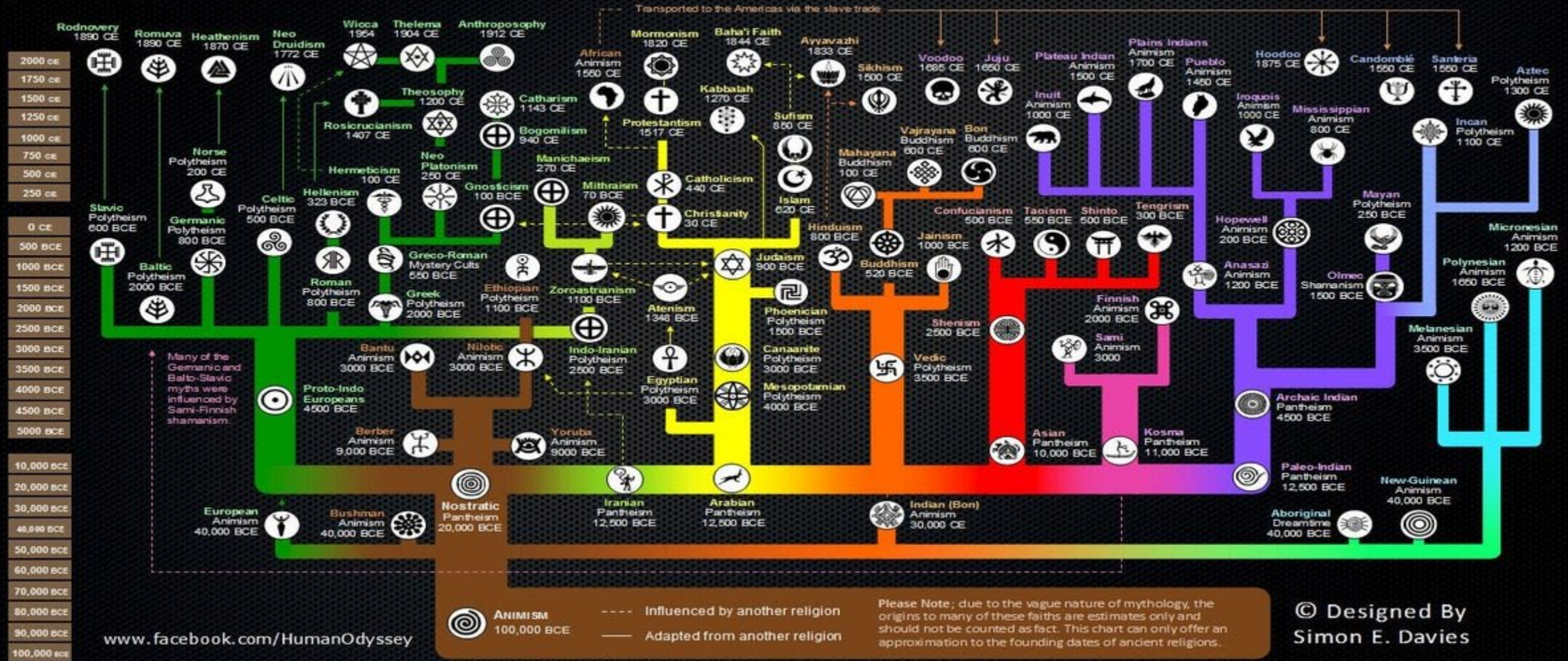
- ▶ As States conquered neighboring people to rule very large territories. These territories, which include communities with many different languages, customs, and religions.
- ▶ Historians refer to these territories as Empires.





THE EVOLUTIONARY TREE OF RELIGION (Faith, Myths & Mysticism) v1.1

European African Iranian Arabic / Semitic Indian East Asian Arctic N. American S. American New Guinean / Australian Oceanic



Nation-State

In this type of community, the **Nation-State**, political authority was technically vested in the nation (a population of people with a shared identity).



Key Ideas and Understanding

- ▶ How does the quote, from Helen Keller, relate to the idea of “communities”?
- ▶ What did human communities generally look like in 1200?
- ▶ What are some different types of human communities that have emerged during the period covered by this course (c. 1200-Present)?
- ▶ Has globalization made us all members of a single community, and made all smaller communities irrelevant? Why or why not?

Evaluating and Corroborating



1. What communities of which you are a part of?
2. The nation-state communities of our present time are very different from the communities of locally based kingdoms, chiefdoms, tribes, and empires. Or are they? What kinds of evidence would you need to test the claims made in this video about how communities changed over time?