**periodization Cheat sheet:**

1. **Foundations 1,000,000 BCE to 600 CE**
2. **Pre-History: Paleolithic and Neolithic Eras to c. 5,000 BCE**

***This is the era of the Stone Age when societies went from hunter and gatherer to villages, sedentary farming, and pastorialism. This period ends at different times in different places. It is sub-divided between the two lifestyles: hunting and gathering as opposed to sedantarism and/or pastoralism. Agriculture as the predominant lifestyle continues in most of the world until the 20th century and the Industrial Revolution.***

1. **River Valley Civilizations 5000 BCE to 1200 BCE**

***This period represents the eras of the first civilizations with a culture based upon urban living, the rise of gender and social hierarchies including inequalities and institutions, technological advances including the Bronze Age and interactions within regions. This period can begin at different times in different places. Some places do not have this period and acquire civilizations from neighboring regions; an example would be Kush-Meroe of Axum. In other places such as the Olmecs of Veracruz, this period begins and ends later than other places in the world.***

1. **Classical Civilizations 1200 BCE to 600 CE**

***During this period often called the Iron Age and the Age of Classical Empires, civilizations tended towards trans-regional empires, trans-regional contacts, and cosmopolitan institutions especially religions and philosophies. All civilizations end through nomadic movements leaving behind cultures which form the basis of major traditions today. This period ends much later in the Americas than elsewhere in the world. The Classical Mayans and Teotihuacan represent the height of the Pre-Columbian classical civilizations which includes Chimu, Mohica, and other Andean Indian civilizations (note: some historians would not include many of the Andean cultures as civilizations).***

1. **Post-Classical Civilizations 600 - 1450 CE**
   1. **Early Post-Classical 600 to 1000 CE**

***This sub-period saw the rise of Islam and the development of Dar al Islam. Counterbalancing the Muslim world was a revived China. Civilization spread to peripheral zones including Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. This period is dominated by the spread of universalizing faiths, aristocratic traditions, and trans-regional exchanges such as trade and ideas.***

* 1. **High Post-Classical 1000 - 1250 CE**

***During this sub-period, the larger cultural zones fragmented into regional groupings and developed regional styles yet all regions were linked through trade and other contacts. It is often considered an Age of Faiths especially in Western Europe, the Islamic World, and India.***

* 1. **Late Post-Classical 1250 - 1450 CE**

***This period begins with the rise of the Mongols and the reorganization of Afro-Eurasia caused by their movements, trade connections, and expansion of technologies. It ends with the collapse of the Mongols, the Black Death and the end of many post-classical traditions including the only surviving classical civilization, the Byzantine Empire.***

* 1. **The Post-Classical Americas (c. 900 - 1521 CE)**

***The American civilizations in Meso-America (Post-Classical Mayans, Toltecs, and Aztecs) as well as the Incas represent the height of post-classical American development. Nevertheless their civilization is often not much advanced over the Classical Period and often not nearly as advanced as Post-Classical Civilizations in other parts of the world.***

1. **Early Modern 1450 - 1750 CE**
   1. **The Age of Gunpowder Empires 1450 - 1600 CE**

***Guns heralded the rise of centralizing state structures and new styles of rulers; consequently the name of this sub-period. Alternate names for the period are the Age of Reconnaissance (due to the circumnavigation of the globe and explorations), The Commercial Revolution, the First Age of Colonialism, and the Age of Columbian Exchanges. New institutions and traditions arose from commerce, intellectual pursuits, and changes in religion. It also represented the appearance of Europeans on the world stage, which however at this time they could not dominate except for the Americas. This period also saw a Demographic Transition in the Americas due to the massive deaths caused by disease.***

* 1. **The Beginning of European Dominance 1600 - 1750 CE**

***European technology and institutions gradually began to give European states a predominant influence including in their commercial operations. Within Europe changes in state structures and institutions heralded many future revolutions. Globally this period was an Age of Absolutism as well as increased attempts to fend off European influences and advances. And the period saw the rise of a new great power, Russia and the decline of the Muslim world’s great powers, the Ottoman and Mughal Empires.***

1. **Modern 1750 - 1914 CE**
   1. **Early Atlantic Revolutions 1750 - 1800 CE**

***Beginning with intellectual revolutions, many nations in the Americas, Europe and Africa experienced political, economic or industrial, and social changes. This was also the height of the Slave Trade from Africa.***

* 1. **The Industrial Revolutions 1800 - 1870 CE**

***During this sub-period, Europe, the Americas including the United States, and Japan were transformed by industrial revolutions, numerous wars and revolutions as the Age of Steel began. These changes often provided the basis for future imperialistic expansion. The period saw the end of the Slave Trade as well as increased immigration around the world or to cities often as labor to replace former slave or serf systems. The period begins a worldwide period of intellectual transitions and developments covering all aspects of life including politics and economics, the arts, and sciences.***

* 1. **European Hegemony and Responses 1870 - 1914 CE**

***This era represents the second age of European global imperialism and the Asian, African, and Muslim responses to Westernization and Modernization. Three new actors on the international scene included the United States, Germany, and Japan. It is also the era of the Second Industrial Revolution. Alternative names for this period are the Age of Imperialism.***

1. **Contemporary 1914 CE – Present**
   1. **1914 - 1945 The Era of the World Wars**

***Two world wars and the intervening armistice of 20 years led to the shattering of European world hegemony and the rise of the United States and USSR to superpower status. It also represented increased attempts by non-Western peoples to organize their lives and cultures in light of western dominance and collapse. This period includes the Great Depression and continues intellectual developments from the previous period. Alternate names for this period include the Age of Totalitarianism.***

* 1. **1945 - 1990  The Cold War and Decolonization**

***While the USA, USSR and their allies waged "cold" wars for international dominance among the new nations throwing off western dominance, the rest of the world rejected a bi-polar perspective and searched for a middle or third way encouraging modernization and industrialization without necessarily westernization. This period is dominated by ethnic tensions as peoples attempted to define their states and identities. It is also an Age of Consumerism and saw the rise of environmental issues and non-governmental organizations such as the United Nations.***

* 1. **1990 - Present Globalization and Responses**

***Following the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet bloc, and the breakup of the USSR, nations became increasingly linked by globalizing influences as they struggled to maintain local identities. This era also represents the spread of democracy as a model for many nations. It is also a time of conflict between models of consumerism and secularization and older, more traditional systems.***