



Frames in Unit 5

When viewed through each of the three frames, the collapse of societies and communities can lead to dramatic changes, but not always in predictable ways.



<p>0:06 Frames in Unit 5</p>	
<p>0:09 <i>Dr. Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background.</i></p> <p><i>Graphic of Industry, Community, and Networking icons with graph line headed in straight upward trajectory. Industry icon is captioned with Production, Community icon is captioned with Size and Complexity, and Networking icon captioned with Length and Breadth.</i></p> <p>0:31 <i>Dr. Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background.</i></p>	<p>Looking back at world history using our frames, it often seems like change within and across the frames followed a simple straightforward pathway:</p> <p>Production and distribution became more sophisticated over time, more things got made and exchanged, communities became bigger and more complex, networks of ideas and relationships stretch further and further until they reach across the globe.</p> <p>But nothing in history happens in a straight line. Things change at different speeds, and change happens sometimes in one direction, and sometimes in another.</p>
<p>0:41 Unit 5: Regional Webs <i>Timeline with 200 to 1500 CE marked.</i></p> <p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background. Communities icon appears next to Bain, with the caption Decline of Teotihuacan, and an photograph of ancient Teotihuacan pyramid-like structures.</i></p> <p><i>Caption Collapse of Roman Empire and Han China appears, with an image of a Roman battle.</i></p>	<p>In this Era we see some unexpected events in the history of communities.</p> <p>Large cities like Teotihuacan declined or were abandoned.</p> <p>Two great empires: Rome and Han Dynasty China collapsed into chaos and disorder.</p> <p>In the wake of these catastrophes, similar changes happened in production and distribution: instead of expanding, both shrank. Sophisticated production techniques</p>



<p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background. Industry icon appears next to Bain. Photograph of a domed Roman rooftop appears with the caption Production Techniques Lost.</i></p> <p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background. Networking icon appears next to Bain. Photograph of ancient ruins appears with the caption Networks Contract.</i></p>	<p>were lost. For example we still don't really understand how the Romans made concrete in their day.</p> <p>Routes were no longer safe, and people didn't travel as far. Trade shriveled, and as a result networks also contracted. Ideas stopped traveling as much as they had, and in many places were lost.</p>
<p>1:25</p> <p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background.</i></p> <p><i>Photograph of a massive shipping dock filled with shipping containers appears and takes over the screen.</i></p> <p><i>Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background.</i></p> <p><i>Photographs of an Islamic writing artifact and an Irish religious artwork appear next to Bain.</i></p> <p><i>Photographs of a Chinese artifact and a Mayan pyramid-like structure appear next to Bain.</i></p> <p><i>Images of traders on camelback and traders on large ships appear next to Bain.</i></p>	<p>But logically we know these collapses and destructions were not permanent.</p> <p>In fact when we look around today we see even more extensive networks, many and bigger states, and much, much more production and distribution than we saw 1700 years ago.</p> <p>So how did things turn around again? Historically it turns out, collapse usually isn't really the end of a story. There are some continuities even when societies and states seem to fall almost completely, and there is recovery.</p> <p>Late in this Era we see societies, like the Islamic world and Ireland, where important innovations and knowledge survived, ready to be spread again when neighboring societies recovered.</p> <p>We see communities like China that recovered quite rapidly under new dynasties and rulers. We see communities, like the Mayan cities of the Yucatan Peninsula, that stepped in to replace neighboring cities that had declined or collapsed.</p> <p>We see systems of trade that reformed, reconnecting distant regions with new players and new types of organizations.</p>

**2:30**

Graphic of Industry, Community, and Networking icons with a graph line headed in an up and down zigzag-like trajectory.

*Caption **Decline and Recovery** appears.*

*Caption **Change and Continuity** appears.*

Bob Bain speaking in front of a blue background.

By investigating both decline and recovery in the context of the three frames, we can modify and better understand the big patterns of change and continuity over time. We can see how these events modify and challenge broad stories we may have about each frame, but they also help us to perceive their wider pattern over time.

By comparing and contrasting examples from around the world, we can better understand how our present world came into being. Can it also better prepare us for the future?



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