**Empire and Exchange: 1200BCE-500CE**

**Widening the World History Lens**

**Overview:**

In the years between 10,000-1000 BCE, the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, humans in several parts of the world began to produce food, adopt new forms of social organization, and interact more intensively with one another over longer distances than in any earlier times. As humans entered the Iron Age, those patterns continued, though at a faster pace. In the years between 1200 BCE-500 CE, the world transformed into a more complex and interrelated world. The total world population increased in the first millennium BCE, though it leveled off in the early centuries CE. More cities appeared. States, which first emerged in the Neolithic and Bronze ages, as a way of organizing large populations under a single governing authority, now appeared in new forms that were bigger, more complex, and more efficient at collecting taxes from the population.

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Interregional systems of communication allowed goods, technologies, and ideas to move, sometimes thousands of miles. Interlocking networks of roads, trails, and sea-lanes connected almost all parts of Afroeurasia and, in the Americas, extensive areas of Mesoamerica the Andean mountain spine of South America. Among the ideas transmitted along these routes were new belief systems, which invited peoples of differing languages and cultural traditions to share common standards of morality and trust. **This is the Age of empire, exchange and encounter.**

**Directions:**

1. Go to the Weebly and look at the powerpoint titled, “Big Era 4 – Population Growth Reasons”
2. Complete the following worksheet as you learn.

**Part I: Population Growth**

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| **Year** | **Number of largest cities** | **Size of largest cities** | **Total population of largest cities** |
| BCE 1200 | 16 | 24,000-50,000 | 499,000 |
| BCE 650 | 20 | 30,000-120,000 | 894,000 |
| BCE 430 | 51 | 30,000-200,000 | 2,877,000 |
| CE 100 | 75 | 30,000-450,000 | 5,181,000 |
| CE 500 | 47 | 40,000-400,000 | 3,892,000 |

1. What are the four reasons the population surged during this era?
2. What are three consequences of population growth?
3. The surge in population was not without consequences. From time to time during this era famines (shortages of food) occurred in some places. How might any of the consequences described have caused or contributed to a famine?
4. For each of the cities outlined in the slides, provide one summarizing sentence of the information and include the continent each city is on.
5. Notice that between 100 and 500 CE, the number of large cities declined. What do you think might have been responsible for this decline?