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World Civilization II

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### Chapter 16 - Frame It Yourself

This chapter argues that the period 1500 to 1800 was Late Agrarian rather than "early modern." This chapter is also about states and their relationships to societies. Think about the political structures and issues you've read about in this chapter: Who ruled? What rights did people have? How was power distributed? List the differences and the similarities between the hierarchies described in this chapter and the society you live in today. Are the similarities more striking?

In the Agrarian Era, there were multiple societal classes which consisted of hierarchies and class divisions. This was a challenge in states and societies because there needed to be a "unified elite that was loyal to the ruler." (Morillo, 488). This was the elite building, and those who were over it was the hierarchy's unitary leader, which in some cases would be kings, emperors, sultans or czars. These were those who ruled over people. They were essentially over the hierarchies. Due to the hierarchies that were put in place, there were rights given to the people, however, it varied on how high or low one would be in the hierarchy. For example, in Ming China, the peasants would not have as many rights as the merchants and gentry would. There was the right to trade and sell commerce. Power was distributed in a hierarchical point of view in which the unitary leader would hold the most power, leading to the commoners holding little to no power. Some of the similarities I see would be that we can still have some countries to this day that live in monarchs, from parliamentary monarchy (like the United Kingdom) to absolute monarchy (Saudi Arabia). In this, although some of these countries have become more

developed and egalitarian, there are countries that still depend on hierarchies.

Works Cited

Morillo, Stephen. *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture*. Oxford University Press, 2014.