

**Introduction**  
to  
**(Multi)cultural Education**  
and  
**Axiological Dimension**  
in  
**Diverse World**

# What is axiological dimension?

- **Axiology** – philosophical study of values, Greek words „logos“ = word + „axias“ = worth, equivalent x equal ("Equal" and "equivalent" are equivalent, but they're not equal)
- at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as a study

x

everlasting desire of human beings for values :  
what is good, what is right?

# What is culture?

- From latin noun „cultura“ or verb „colere“ = cultivate („cultura animi“ Plato)
- CULTivate in religious way
- *What does it mean CULTIVATE?*

# Cultivate

- Cultivate = take care of something
- Agriculture:
  - „ager“ + „cultura“
  - = take care of the soil/land/field
- to be responsible for, to respond to, to attend to it caringly
- To reclaim, be active →
- In Czech language *zemědělství*

# Culture

- system of *things* acquired by a member of particular society: language, knowledge, religion, art, law, morals, tradition...
- not natural, must be learnt to become a member of a society;
- not created by one;
- it is collective and anonymous, been created in long-term;
- kept by caring;
- it units the society and makes it different from another



# Culture

- Human doings since the 16<sup>th</sup> century
- High culture
- Low culture (popular culture) since 18<sup>th</sup>
- nowadays mix of these

# Culture

Culture is linked with us = our culture

There are vertical levels:

- Family (home, relatives)
- Neighbourhood
- Village / town
- Province / state / county
- Country

# Culture

There are horizontal levels of ours:

- Nation / ethnicity (now and then)
  - Race
    - Political views
      - Religion
        - Socio-economic class (competitive)
          - Gender
            - Language



# 5 „Miracles“ of Western Culture

1. Ancient Greece
2. Ancient Rome
3. Jewish-Christian Europe
4. Gregorian reform
5. Liberal democracy

# Miracle 1

**Ancient Greece** gifted Western civilization with:

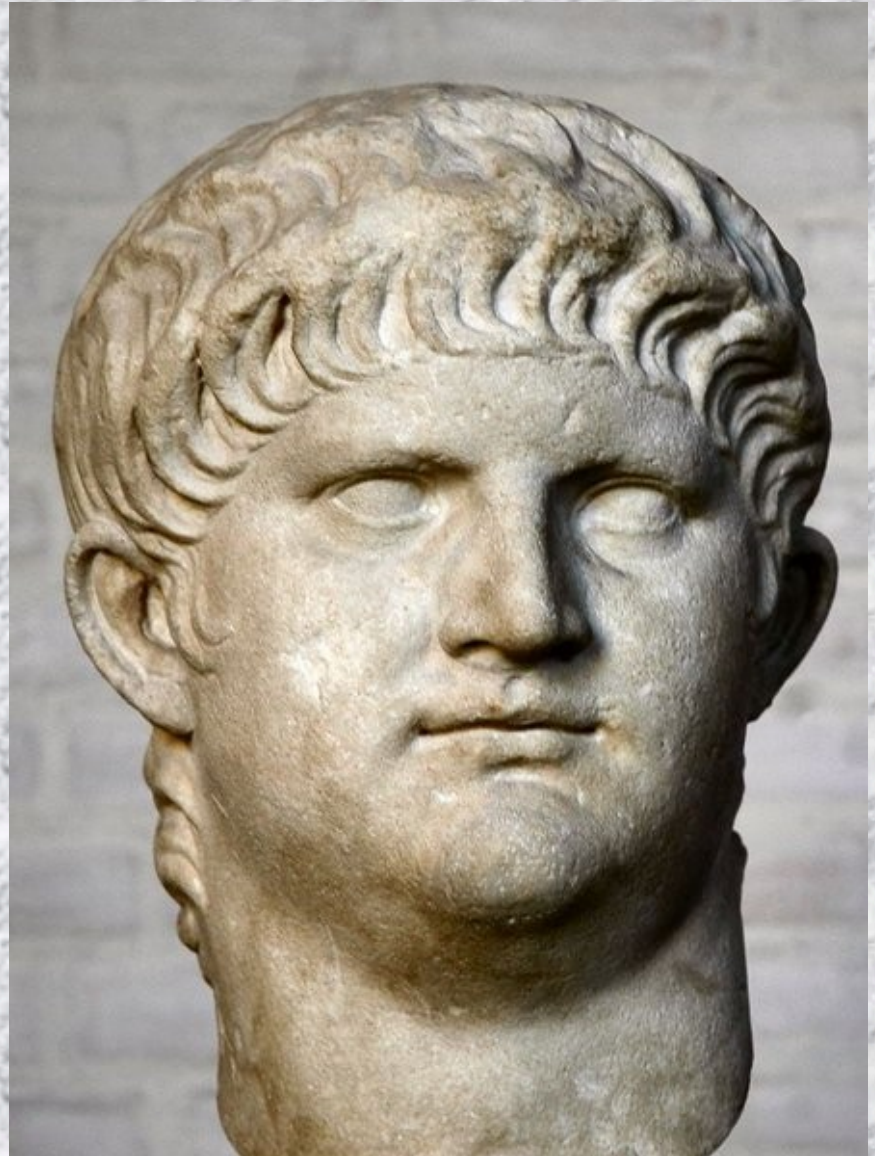
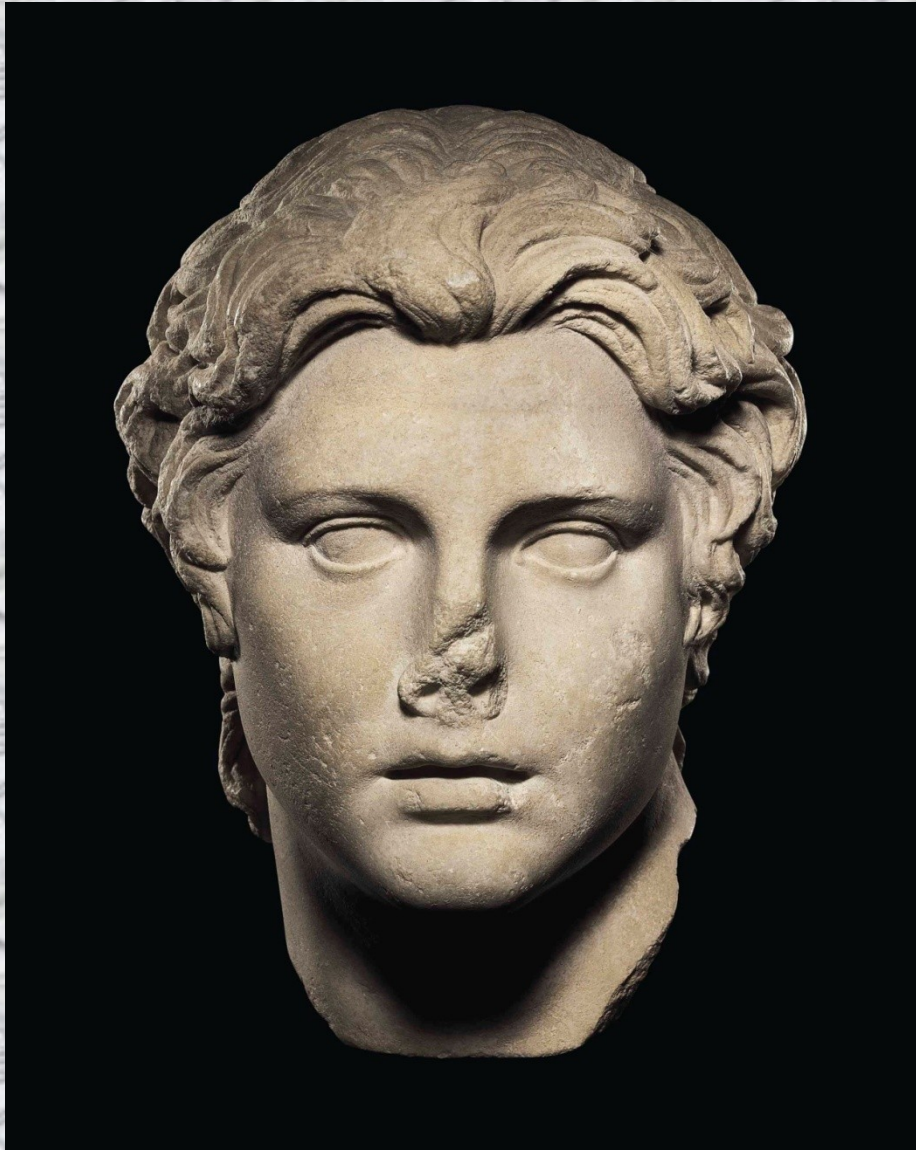
- The invention of Polis  
Res publica x omnipotent ruler
  - Public space – agora
    - Rise of word and reason (collective laws)
    - Equality before the law (known by all)
    - Rule of Law modified by man not by gods
- Science-s (experiments, not divination; individual)  
→ Schools (read, write, count) but no will to change the world...
- Care about soul (cultura animi)

# Miracle 2

**Ancient Rome** gifted Western civilization with:

- Rights (no magics, myths, but objective human nature)
- Civil Law (root of modern western law)
- Personal Ownership (mine → yours) →
- The discovery of man
  - individual human *persona* – human nature and personal nature
  - Public (gr) vs. Individual (rom)









# Miracle 3

**Jewish-Christian** gifted Western civilization with:

- Refused to consider evil as a normal part of life
- Basis for ethics → justice (done from above) vs. compassion (coming from humans)
- Me ↔ You, responsibility for others
- Put mercy above justice = injustice
- Seneca and Nero (forgiveness vs *pardon*)

Eschatology:

- Cyclic (Myth of the Eternal Return) vs linear time
- History , presence , future (not to “nothing new under the sun”)

# Miracle 4 – 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> C.

- Gregorian reform: reorganization of **knowledge**, **values**, **laws** and institutions → progress (x Islam, China, India, Eastern Europe)
- Resurrection of **Roman Law** - the Roman law became more humane which resurrected and reconciled with **biblical ethics**, so ethics became less utopian but more oriented on real life
- consciously established the use of reason in form of Greek science and Roman law
- **University** – education
- One is part of society, every deeds is counted (x monks=deserters from the world → Buddhism x Jesus “**Do** to others what you want them to do to you.”)
- Work – curse x changing world in the name of good (roots of economy)
- Western x Eastern(orthodox) Europe: horizontal – vertical way  
Human responsibility, deeds, reason, work → organization of world  
→ Economical and technological progress
- X Eastern – God in the centre, and so Islam did-does since Averroes

# Miracle 5

## The birth of liberal democracy

- de-sacralization of power (exp. 20<sup>th</sup> C.)
- rise of pluralism and modernity
- (representative) democracy
- Right to vote
- Independent justice
- Human rights
- Religious freedom
- Freedom of speech
- Diplomacy
- Freedom to think and criticize
- Market
- Industrial revolution