

BACKGROUND: *The subject heading **Civilization**, the free-floating subdivision **-Civilization**, and headings for particular types of civilization or special topics in relation to civilization are assigned to works that discuss human cultural advances and aspirations in general or of a particular time, place, or people. Civilization is related closely to other concepts such as culture, history, and social history, but places particular emphasis on cultural advances, including the arts, learning and scholarship, intellectual life, manners and customs, the development and growth of religion, advances in science and technology, etc. Culture is a term used by social scientists to describe a people's whole way of life, whether simple or complex, consisting of learned ways of acting, feeling, and thinking. History is the chronological account of specific events, emphasizing political, diplomatic, military, and economic developments. For instructions on use of the subdivision **-History**, see H 1647. Social history is the history of social problems, policies, movements, institutions, etc., treated collectively.*

1. General principle. Because of the close relationship between civilization and history, it is sometimes difficult to decide whether subject headings for history or civilization should be assigned to a particular work. In borderline cases, let the intention of the author and the terminology of the text be the guide in determining which type of heading to assign.

2. Civilization in general. Assign the heading **Civilization** to general works on the concept of civilization. Assign the heading **Civilization-History** to comprehensive works on the history of all civilizations in all time periods. Assign headings of the type **Civilization, [broad time period]**, further subdivided by **-[. . .] century**, if appropriate, to works on the general history of civilization during a particular period of time. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Civilization, Ancient.
650 #0 \$a Civilization, Medieval \$y 12th century.
650 #0 \$a Civilization, Modern \$y 19th century.

3. Types of civilization.

a. Major civilizations. Assign headings of the type **Civilization, [type of civilization]** only to works on the special civilizations of major groups of people not limited to one country. Do not subdivide these headings by place. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Civilization, Greco-Roman.
650 #0 \$a Civilization, Oriental.
650 #0 \$a Civilization, Semitic.

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3. *Types of civilization.* (Continued)

b. Major religious groups. Assign headings for the civilizations of the world's major religious groups. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Buddhist civilization.
650 #0 \$a Christian civilization.
650 #0 \$a Jews \$x Civilization.

c. Ethnic groups, religious sects, ancient peoples, etc. To works on the civilizations of groups of people not covered by sec. 3.a. or 3.b., assign the heading for the name of the group. Do not establish a heading for the civilization or subdivide the name of the group by **-Civilization**. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Indians of North America.
[*not* 650 #0 \$a Indians of North America \$x Civilization.]

650 #0 \$a Lithuanian Americans.
[*not* 650 #0 \$a Lithuanian Americans \$x Civilization.]

650 #0 \$a Mennonites.
[*not* 650 #0 \$a Mennonites \$x Civilization.]

650 #0 \$a Minoans.
[*not* 650 #0 \$a Civilization, Minoan.]

4. Civilization of particular places. Use the free-floating subdivision **-Civilization** under names of regions, countries, cities, etc., for works on the history of civilization of a particular place. Do not subdivide further by **-History**.

a. Free-floating period subdivisions under the subdivision-Civilization. Use free-floating subdivisions for centuries, in accordance with H 1140, under headings of the type [*place*]-**Civilization**.

4. *Civilization of particular places.* (Continued)

b. Other period subdivisions. Establish period subdivisions, if appropriate, under **[place]–Civilization** in situations not covered by the free-floating subdivisions for centuries. Establish these subdivisions at broad levels, usually covering forty years or more, and use them only in situations where files are likely to become large. *Examples:*

651 #0 \$a Great Britain \$x Civilization \$y 1945-
651 #0 \$a United States \$x Civilization \$y 1970-

c. Civilization of narrow time periods. Headings of the type **[place]–Civilization** and **[place]–History** usually are not assigned to the same work. However, if the work deals primarily with the civilization of a country but is tied closely to the events of a narrow time period, such as the reign or term of office of a ruler or head of state, assign an additional heading to bring out the history of the particular period. *Example:*

Title: The nineteen twenties in Britain.

651 #0 \$a Great Britain \$x Civilization \$y 20th
century.
651 #0 \$a Great Britain \$x History \$y George V,
1910-1936.

d. Special civilizations of particular places. For works on special civilizations of particular places, assign two headings, as shown in the example below, or, if appropriate, a heading of the type **[place]–Civilization–[...] influences**, as described in sec. 5.a. Do not assign headings of the type **[place]–Civilization, [type of civilization]**. *Example:*

Title: Indian culture in the days of the Buddha.

651 #0 \$a India \$x Civilization \$y To 1200.
650 #0 \$a Buddhist civilization.
[not 651 #0 \$a India \$x Civilization, Buddhist.]

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5. Influence.

a. Influence of one civilization. Assign headings of the type [*name of civilization*]-[...] **influences** or [*place*]-**Civilization**-[...] **influences** to works on the influence of one civilization on another or on civilization as a whole. When establishing such headings, add a 5XX (broader term) field for the country or group of people providing the influence, subdivided by **-Civilization**. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Civilization $x Hungarian influences
551 ## $w g $a Hungary $x Civilization

150 ## $a Islamic civilization $x Greek influences
551 ## $w g $a Greece $x Civilization

151 ## $a United States $x Civilization $x African American
      influences
550 ## $w g $a African Americans

151 ## $a United States $x Civilization $x Spanish
      influences
551 ## $w g $a Spain $x Civilization
```

Do not establish **-. . . influences** under [*city*]-**Civilization**. Assign two headings to cover the concept, if necessary. *Example:*

```
Title: American influences in Paris.
651 #0 $a Paris (France) $x Civilization.
651 #0 $a France $x Civilization $x American
      influences.
[not 651 #0 $a Paris (France) $x Civilization
      $x American influences.]
```

b. Influence of several civilizations. Use the free-floating subdivision **-Foreign influences** under [*name of civilization*], [*name of ethnic group*], or under [*place*]-**Civilization** for works on the influence of four or more countries on a place or type of civilization. *Examples:*

```
651 #0 $a United States $x Civilization $x Foreign
      influences.
650 #0 $a Indians of North America $x Foreign influences.
```

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6. [Topic] and civilization. Assign headings of the type **[topic] and civilization** to works that discuss the effect of a particular subject on the history of civilization. *Examples:*

650 #0 \$a Technology and civilization.
650 #0 \$a War and civilization.