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Historical Perspectives

Chapter Two

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Topics for today:

- read about the origins of Nursing in text please
- highlight very briefly:
 - ❖ contributions of few early civilizations
 - ❖ early efforts of nursing
 - ❖ development of *modern* nursing
 - ❖ history of nursing in the US
 - ❖ Florence Nightingale


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Contributions of Early Civilizations


- Early civilizations:
 - concerned about survival of the group, therefore primitive health-care practices grew from trial & error process
 - amazing contributions:
 - Egyptians- surgery, birth control, midwives, bandaging & preventative health care
 - Hebrews- C-sections, amputations, circumcisions
 - Greeks- wholistic health care
 - Romans- >600 meds, ID infections, ID job-related dangers, medical texts, clean water & spas

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- Early efforts in nursing:
 - early Christian writing: women ministered to the sick/ provided care
 - Dark Ages: Catholic church set up monasteries and convents for care of sick and poor
- Development of modern nursing (Renaissance)
 - Catholic- nation states- health care remained unchanged, except that the number of male nurses declined
 - Non-Catholic- nation states- health care degenerated, so secular nursing orders took over (Sisters of Charity in the 1600s!)


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- History of nursing in the US:
 - eventually followed the form of Europe
 - greatly influenced by war and therefore, a need
- Much propaganda arose to get people involved in war efforts, and that included nurses....

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Florence Nightingale....

- Founder of modern nursing (1820-1920)
- Highly educated, trained in Germany for 3 months, and later ran a private nursing home
- Improved health care by educating women to be reliable, 'highly quality' nurses
- Volunteered services during the cholera outbreak, and then took 37 nurses to the Crimean War front. After 6 months, the mortality rate dropped from 42% to 2%!!!!
- Developed schools of nursing that were independent of hospitals and physicians
- Focus of nursing was the 'need of client' not the 'need of the physician'


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The lady with the lamp



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See you next class....

Please do your readings & bring thoughtful questions!

