Key Concept 3.1. Expansion and Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks

Although Afro-Eurasia and the Americas remained separate from one another, this era witnessed a deepening and widening of old and new networks of human interaction within and across regions. The results were unprecedented concentrations of wealth and the intensification of cross-cultural exchanges. Innovations in transportation, state policies, and mercantile practices contributed to the expansion and development of commercial networks, which in turn served as conduits for cultural, technological, and biological diffusion within and between various societies. Pastoral or nomadic groups played a key role in creating and sustaining these networks. Expanding networks fostered greater interregional borrowing, while at the same time sustaining regional diversity. The prophet Muhammad promoted Islam, a new major monotheistic religion at the start of this period. It spread quickly through practices of trade, warfare, and diffusion characteristic of this period.

I. Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly active trade networks.

A. Existing trade routes flourished and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities (Novgorod, Timbuktu, Swahili city-states, Hangzhou, Calicut, Baghdad, Malacca, Venice, Tenochtitlan, Cahokia.)

Required examples of existing trade routes: Trade routes—construction of roads, bridges, and large imperial states provided ease of movement and protection for merchants. Long-distance trade brought wealth and access to foreign products that enabled local producers to specialize in
items suited to their region. Trade also enabled the spread of religions far beyond their homeland as well as devastating diseases.

- **Silk Roads**

  **Silk Roads** included land and sea routes—connected China to the Mediterranean since the era of the Roman Empire. Any discussion of international trade must include this road.

  2000 BCE—begins to function as trade route  
  100 BCE—Europeans have interest in silk  
  600 BCE—Golden Age of Silk Road  
  1200 CE—Pax Mongolica the road was used heavily  
  1400 CE—trade declines

  **Hangzhou as a trade center**

  Classical civilizations such as the Romans, Han, and Parthians [Persians] maintained order helping the development of overland trade routes.

  **Goods Traded along the Silk Road**—silk, spices [used in condiments, perfumes, medicines, magic potions], cotton textiles, jewels, horses, etc. Trade happened in stages with few merchants traveling the entire extent of the road.

- **Mediterranean Sea**

  [map includes the Middle Ages—look at Phoenician colonies for the routes as well]

  This connected Western Europe, Byzantine Empire, and the Islamic Empire

  **Venice as a trade center**
Trans-Saharan Trade

Trans-Saharan caravan routes

7th-14th centuries
Timbuktu—trading city example

Arab traders helped spread Islam and expand knowledge of Africa
The economy was regulated by the monarchy
Exports of salt, gold, honey, slaves, and ivory

Indian Ocean basins

100-1500 CE
Calicut as a trade center

Great need to understand the monsoon season and wind directions.

Persians and Arabs dominated trade with the Arabs controlling the western part, Indian kingdoms controlling the middle zones, and China controlling the eastern part

Sailors married local women at the end of the routes resulting in mixing of cultures and creation of bilingual/bicultural families. During the 15th century the Ming Dynasty refocused trade in the Indian Ocean sending Zheng He on expeditions. This trade was ended with China returning to only local and regional trade.

B. New trade routes centering on Mesoamerica and the Andes developed.

C. The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods (silk and cotton textiles, porcelain, spices, precious metals and gems, slaves, exotic animals) was encouraged by significant innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including more sophisticated caravan organization (Caravanserai).

- Caravan organization—Caravanserai and camel saddles helped increase amount and distance goods could travel
- use of the compass, astrolabe, and larger ship designs in sea travel; and new forms of credit and monetization.
D. Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices (Minting of coins, use of paper money, trading organizations), and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures like the Grand Canal in China
  - New forms of credit—bills of exchange, credit, checks, banking houses also allowed for ease of long-distance trade—keeping records established business relationships which later helped facilitate international business
  - Hanseatic League
  - How did the Hanseatic League facilitate trade? In 1241 cities along the Baltic and North Sea Regions banded together to create common trade practices, fight off pirates and foreign governments, as well as establish a trade monopoly. 100 cities joined this league. The effect was a large middle class in Northern Europe and a precedent for large, European trading operations which later affected the Dutch and English

- Grand Canal in China

E. The expansion of empires facilitated Trans-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conqueror’s economies and trade networks
  - China—
    - Sui [581-618]
      - Wendi won wide support by lowering taxes, establishing granaries to ensure a reserve of food supply in case of floods or drought as well as to keep the price stable in times of food shortages.
      - Yangdi killed his father Wendi to take the throne.
- Restored the examination system.
- Building of the Grand Canal established the foundation for cultural and political unity in China as north and south economies were integrated. The Canal was built with conscripted labor and high taxes which caused resentment.
- Buddhism patronized by rulers
- Natural disasters led to famine.
- Attempts to conquer Korea failed bringing unrest and rebellion

  o **Tang** [618-907]
    - Empress Wu tried to elevate Buddhism to status of state religion—after her death there was a backlash against Buddhism
    - Expanded territory to Tibet and part of Korea. Creation of tributary states
    - Stable bureaucratic system based on the civil service exam which was based on Confucian principles [continued in Song]
    - Meritocracy not aristocracy; leaders changed but the bureaucrats remained to run the government; scholar-gentry [continued in Song]
    - Trade and travel along Silk Road protected. New business practices including paper money and letters of credit ‘flying money’.
    - Overseas trade began with increased trade throughout the Pacific Coast and Southeast Asia.
    - Built a network of roads, inns, and postal stations.
    - Gunpowder invented
    - Fast growing rice from Vietnam caused increased population in the south surpassing that of the millet growing north
    - **An Lushan revolt**—following years of foreign influence which were resented by the people especially the upper classes, a foreigner, An Lushan, led a revolt against the Tang this resulted in increasing xenophobia and desire to return to earlier times of “purity”. Criticisms of Buddhism increased.

  o **Song** [960-1279]
    - Conflict with northern border area resulted in paying tribute
    - Scholar-gentry rose in prestige as civil service exams were emphasized as a prerequisite for government jobs
    - Neo-Confucianism arose as a blend of Confucianism and Buddhism—promoted respect for authority and family; reinforced gender and class distinctions
    - Emphasis on scholar-gentry over the military weakened its ability to withstand threats from the north
    - Song continued to thrive in the south
    - Overseas trade continued with the compass being used
    - Printing and movable type
    - Footbinding practiced to attract a good husband.

  o **Byzantine Empire**—
    - Stood at a crossroad of trade between Europe, Africa, and Asia
    - They profited from the Silk Road but also suffered as disease was brought along the road
    - Justinian’s reign is noted for his law code, the Hagia Sophia, and his wife’s role as advisor
    - Conflicts with the west arose with the differences in the two Christian churches
- Constantinople was the largest European city for centuries
- The land was agriculturally productive
- After the 6th century they smuggled silkworms out of China
- Women were isolated in separate apartments to protect their honor
- The poor lived in tenements with women important in the economy of the family
- 1453 Constantinople was sacked by the Ottoman Turks

**Caliphates**—a theocratic Islamic empire—ex. Umayyads were Sunnis with a capital in Damascus, they were replaced by the Abbasids who were Shiites. The Abbasids became too large to rule effectively and failed to address the problems of succession

**Mongols**—13th-15th centuries-- Biggest effect of Mongols was that they were a conduit for cultural exchange. They were also responsible for the spread of the Black Death

- Basic unit was the tribe with them forming a confederation in times of warfare
- Mongol women could speak at tribal councils
- **Genghis Khan** [died in 1227] Prior to Genghis rivalries between tribes/clans prevented earlier unification. He managed to break individual clan loyalties and construct military units loyal to him
- Genghis Khan created the largest land based empire in the history of the world
- Leaders were chosen for ability not family relations
- Successful because of their ruthlessness, organization, mobility, weaponry, network of spies, cultural borrowing, and because you were punished for failure and rewarded for success
- The **Pax Mongolica** resulted in increased trade as the roads were safe and protected.
- They had a written language, adopted religions of those they conquered including Buddhism and Islam, they used paper currency they had acquired from China, and a postal system to carry messages.
- **Russia**—1237; Golden Horde; serfdom arose as peasants gave up their lands to the aristocracy in exchange for protection from the Mongols; Moscow benefited as tribute collectors for Mongols; kept Russia culturally isolated from Western Europe including the Renaissance
- **China**—1271-1368-- called the Yuan led by Kublai Khan where Mongols and Chinese were segregated, the examination system for government advancement was abolished, and the Grand Canal was extended. Mongol women had more freedom than Chinese women. Religious toleration. Used expertise from scholars and artisans from other regions. Merchants given higher status in government than under Chinese control. Failed attempts to take Japan. By mid-14th century desire for wealth weakened government, overspending, banditry, famine, peasant rebellion, plague, and poor leadership resulted in the end of the empire.
- **Persia**— In 1258 they destroyed Baghdad, the capital for the Abbasids. 1243 Seljuk Turks defeated. Mongol threat to the Islamic world ended with their defeat by the Mamluks of Egypt in 1260.
- They declined in part because of the death of Genghis Khan, overextension of territory with unfamiliar terrain, failure to conquer Japan.
II. The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects.

A. The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on environmental knowledge and technological adaptations to it
   - Viking long ships—traveled along coasts, in open waters, as well as up rivers
   - Arabs and Berbers used camels to travel across the Sahara Desert
   - Pastoral groups in Central Asia used horses to travel across the steppes

B. Some migrations had a significant environmental impact. Required examples of migration and their environmental impact:
   - The migration of Bantu-speaking peoples who facilitated transmission of iron technologies and agricultural techniques in Sub-Saharan Africa—Bantu acquired bananas from Southeast Asia
   - The maritime migrations of the Polynesian peoples who cultivated transplanted foods and domesticated animals as they moved to new islands
C. Some migrations and commercial contacts led to the diffusion of languages throughout a new region or the emergence of new languages.

Modern-Day map of Swahili speaking nations. The Swahili Language is spoken in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Somalia, Oman, Comoros Islands & Mozambique. It is the official language in Tanzania, Kenya & Uganda.

Modern-day Distribution of Arabic as an official language in the Arab World. Majority Arabic speakers (blue) and minority Arabic speakers (green).
III. Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing, or the creation of new, networks of trade and communication.

A. Islam, based on the revelations of the prophet Muhammad, developed in the Arabian Peninsula. The beliefs and practices of Islam reflected interactions among Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians with the local Arabian peoples. Muslim rule expanded to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion, and Islam subsequently expanded through the activities of merchants and missionaries.

B. In key places along important trade routes, merchants set up diasporic communities (Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean region, Chinese merchant communities in Southeast Asia, Sogdian merchant communities throughout Central Asia, Jewish communities in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean Basin, or along the silk roads) where they introduced their own cultural traditions into the indigenous culture.

   A. Muslim merchants set up communities in the Indian Ocean region

C. The writings of certain interregional travelers (Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, Xuanzang) illustrate both the extent and the limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding.

Travels of Ibn Battuta depicted on map above
D. Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions (Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia, Hinduism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia, Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America).

E. Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions (Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars, return of Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe via Muslim al-Andalus in Iberia, Spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from East Asia into the Islamic empires and Western Europe).

- Arab contributions with transmission of Indian knowledge as well as their own to the Western world
- Printing and gunpowder technologies spread from East Asia to the west

IV. There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes.

A. New foods and agricultural techniques (Bananas in Africa, New rice varieties in East Asia, Spread of Cotton, sugar, and citrus throughout Dar-al-Islam and the Mediterranean basin) were adopted in populated areas.
   - New rice varieties [champa] was fast ripening therefore population increased

B. The spread of epidemic diseases, including the Black Death, followed the well established paths of trade and military conquest.
   - During the 14th century the plague spread along trade routes and through military conquest—this wiped out large populations in China and Europe which eventually led to the decline in feudalism in Western Europe

Key Concept 3.2. Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions

State formation in this era demonstrated remarkable continuity, innovation and diversity in various regions. In Afro-Eurasia, some states attempted, with differing degrees of success, to preserve or revive imperial structures, while smaller, less centralized states continued to develop. The expansion of Islam introduced a new concept —
the Caliphate — to Afro-Eurasian peoples in Eurasia built powerful and integrated people and institutions from agrarian worlds. In the Americas, powerful both Mesoamerica and the Andean

- Caliphate—created after area controlled by a caliph and religious leader of a with the Umayyads [661-

and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged.

A. Following the collapse of empires, most reconstituted governments, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties — Sui, Tang, and Song — combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy (Patriarchy, Religion, Land-owning elites) with innovations (New methods of taxation, Tributary systems, Adaptation of Religious Institutions) better suited to the current circumstances.

B. In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various Islamic states (Abbasids, Muslim Iberia, Dehli Sultanates), the Mongol Khanates, city-states (Italian Peninsula, East Africa, Southeast Asia, Americas), and decentralized government (feudalism) in Europe and Japan.

C. Some states synthesized local and borrowed traditions (Persian traditions that influenced Islamic States, Chinese traditions that influenced Japan)

D. In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems expanded in scope and reach: Networks of city-states flourished in the Maya region and, at the end of this period, imperial systems were created by the Mexica (“Aztecs”) and Inca.

II. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers.

- Required examples of technological and cultural transfers
  - Between Tang China and the Abbasids-robust trade occurred between the Tang and Abbasids centered in Baghdad. Later the Abbasids defeated the Tang at the Battle of Talas River
  - Across the Mongol empires
  - During the Crusades Christians from Europe were exposed to new foods, goods, medical knowledge, etc.
    - The Islamic world had preserved ancient Greek learning and acquired new learning from India which was transmitted during the Crusades. They also made advances in navigation with the astrolabe and more detailed maps. The merchant class in Europe supported stable
monarchies which would protect their trade. The Church in Rome became more politically involved

Key Concept 3.3. Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences

Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes. Productivity rose in both agriculture and industry. Rising productivity supported population growth and urbanization but also strained environmental resources and at times caused dramatic demographic swings. Shifts in production and the increased volume of trade also stimulated new labor practices, including adaptation of existing patterns of free and coerced labor. Social and gender structures evolved in response to these changes.

I. Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.

A. Agricultural production increased significantly due to technological innovations (Champa rice varieties, chinampa field systems, Waru waru agricultural techniques in the Andean areas, Improved terracing techniques, horse collar)

Chinampa Field System or "Floating Gardens" of Mexico
South American Waru Waru or raised beds next to water irrigation channels

Terracing. A means of successfully growing crops on a sloped mountain/hillside

B. In response to increasing demand in Afro-Eurasia for foreign luxury goods, crops were transported from their indigenous homelands to equivalent climates in other regions.
C. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; industrial production of iron and steel expanded in China.

II. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline, and with periods of increased urbanization buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.

A. **Multiple factors** contributed to the declines of urban areas in this period. Required examples of **these factors**:

- Invasions
- Disease
- The decline of agricultural productivity
- The Little Ice Age

B. **Multiple factors** contributed to urban revival. Required examples of **these factors**

- The end of invasions
- The availability of safe and reliable transport
- The rise of commerce and the warmer temperatures between 800 and 1300
- Increased agricultural productivity and subsequent rising population
- Greater availability of labor also contributed to urban growth

C. While cities in general continued to play the roles they had played in the past as governmental, religious, and commercial centers, many older cities declined at the same time that numerous new cities emerged to take on these established roles.

- Invasions, disease, decline in agricultural production, etc. caused the decline
III. Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management and in the effect of religious conversion on gender relations and family life.

A. As in the previous period, there were many forms of labor organization. Required examples of forms of labor organization:
   - Free peasant agriculture—Nomadic pastoralism
   - Craft production and guild organization
   - Various forms of coerced and unfree labor including serfdom and slavery
   - Government-imposed labor taxes
   - Military obligations

B. As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted; however, in some areas women exercised more power and influence, most notably among the Mongols and in West Africa, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

C. New forms of coerced labor appeared, including serfdom in Europe and Japan and the elaboration of the mit’a in the Incan Empire. Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts. The demand for slaves for both military and domestic purposes increased, particularly in central Eurasia, parts of Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean.

   - Teach one illustrative example of regions where free peasants revolted either from the list below or an example of your choice:
     - In China some resisted attempts to raise dues/taxes by revolting such as the An Lushan
     - The Byzantine Empire

D. The diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Neoconfucianism often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structure.

Terms to Know:
1. facilitate
2. state
3. infrastructure
4. pathogens
5. zones of interaction
6. conscription
7. dar-al-Islam
8. caliph/caliphate
9. scholar-gentry
10. meritocracy
11. bills of exchange