

**600–1450 Time Period – 22% of the Exam  
Cram Packet**

*Nature and causes of changes in the world history framework leading up to 600–1450 as a period:*

Major events which caused change:

- Islam emerges; Islamic empire emerges
- Industrial Revolution in China (Sung dynasty)
- Spread of Neo-Confucianism (in China) – mixture of Confucianism with some Buddhism
- Schism in Christianity (when the east and the west churches divided into Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodox Christianity; they divided over the issue of icons)
- Camels in Sahara – increased trade
- Black Death – decimated Europe’s population, political, and economic systems
- Italian Renaissance – began the dominance of Europe in culture

*Emergence of new empires and political systems*

- Tang Dynasty (618 – 906) A merit-based bureaucracy -This system was well developed during the Han Dynasty, but the Tang made good use of it by recruiting government officials who were well educated, loyal, and efficient. Although powerful families used their resources to place relatives in government positions, most bureaucrats won their posts because of intellectual ability.
- Mongols
- Caliphate System – religious leader and the political leader one in the same
- Feudalism – King; Lords; Knights; Peasants

*Continuities and breaks within the period (e.g. the impact of the Mongols on international contacts and on specific societies):*

Why do historians think the following events created a new historical period?

- The Byzantine Empire remained a major factor. It held numerous different groups of peoples. Bureaucracy key to success – SIMILAR TO TANG
- The impact of the Viking raids – challenged Europeans to get better protection – begins European feudalism; invaded rural areas rather than large towns and cities
- The Crusades – Europeans travel to Holy Land – creating a desire to Eastern goods – leads to exploration
- Mongolian empires – new group of “invaders” – from Mongolia; under the leadership of Genghis Khan
- Mamluk rule in Egypt (non-Arab slaves in Egypt who overthrew the Egyptians)

**2. The Islamic World**

*The rise and role of Dar al-Islam as a unifying cultural and economic force in Eurasia and Africa*

- Islam was a unifying force in culture aspects of Eurasia and Africa – similar religion (Islam), similar language (Arabic), similar art (forbids art of humans so has a lot of geometric designs. COMPARE TO EUROPEAN CATHOLICISM)

*Islamic political structures, notably the caliphate*

- Caliphate was a theocracy with the political and religious leader the same. It included Sharia (Islamic Law).
- Sultanate – monarch

*Islamic Arts, sciences, and technologies*

- Art: Arabesque design – geometric designs; no human figures in art  
Miniature painting in Persia  
Poetry  
Mosques with domes, pillars, and minarets
- Science: Knowledge of earth rotating on its axis and revolving around the sun  
More accurate calendar than Europe’s  
Improved astrolabe  
Medical treatises  
Use of steel for swords

Math: Contact with Chinese brought paper and printing to the Arab world  
Algebra, Arabic numerals, decimal system, and concept of zero

### ***Interregional networks and contacts***

#### ***Development and shifts in interregional trade, technology, and cultural exchange:***

##### ***Trans-Saharan trade***

- Gold, ivory, slaves and spices from below the Sahara with salt, cloth, and metalware from the Sahara
- Across the Sahara between North Africa and Europe beyond to West Africa
- Aided the rise of African empires and kingdoms in West Africa and spread Islam through West Africa

##### ***Indian Ocean trade***

- Slaves, ivory, gold, and iron from Africa; porcelain from China; pottery from Burma; cloth from India
- Major route between East Africa and Asia; made possible by the monsoons; traded with China through Arabs, Indians, Malaysians, and Indonesians; lasted until 1400s when direct trade began
- Brought prosperity to East Africa through the development of trading networks into the interior of the continent; set stage for the rise of African trading cities such as Sofala and Kilwa; Swahili, mix of Arabic and Bantu languages; brought Islam to coastal Bantu speakers

##### ***Silk routes***

- Silks and porcelain from China; woolen and linen cloth, glass, horses, ivory from other trading partners
- Silk Road from China across Asia to Middle East
- Spread Buddhism and Christianity; spurred European interest in finding a water route to China

##### ***Missionary outreach of major religions***

Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism all had missionaries traveling through Asia

##### ***Contacts between major religions, e.g. Islam and Buddhism, Christianity and Islam***

- Islam and Buddhism – trade; peace
- Islam and Christianity – Crusades; war

##### ***Impact of Mongol empires***

- Created the largest land empire in the world
- Spread other cultures
- Improved trade throughout Asia and eastern Europe
- Paper money, banking, and letters of credit
- Once areas were conquered a period of extended peace normally resulted

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MONGOLS**

The Mongol invasions and conquests of the 13th century are arguably among the most influential set of events in world history. This nomadic group from Central Asia swept south and east, just as the Huns had done several centuries before. They conquered China, India, the Middle East, and the budding kingdom of Russia. As it is, the Mongols established and ruled the largest empire ever assembled in all of world history. Although their attacks at first disrupted the major trade routes, their rule eventually brought the Pax Mongolica, or a peace often compared to the Pax Romana established in ancient times across the Roman Empire.

### **THE RISE OF THE MONGOLS**

The Mongols originated in the Central Asian steppes, or dry grasslands. They were pastoralists, organized loosely into kinship groups called clans. Their movement almost certainly began as they sought new pastures for their herds, as had so many of their predecessors. Many historians believe that a severe drought caused the initial movement, and that the Mongols' superior ability as horsemen sustained their successes.

Around 1200 CE, a Mongol khan (clan leader) named Temujin unified the clans under his leadership. His acceptance of the title Genghis Khan, or "universal leader" tells us something of his ambitions for his empire. Over the next 21 years, he led the Mongols in conquering much of Asia. Although he didn't conquer China in his lifetime, he cleared the way for its eventual defeat by Mongol forces. His sons and grandsons continued the conquests until the empire eventually reached its impressive size. Genghis Khan is

usually seen as one of the most talented military leaders in world history. He organized his warriors by the Chinese model into armies of 10,000, which were grouped into 1,000 man brigades, 100-man companies, and 10-man platoons. He ensured that all generals were either kinsmen or trusted friends, and they remained amazingly loyal to him. He used surprise tactics, like fake retreats and false leads, and developed sophisticated catapults and gunpowder charges.

The Mongols were finally stopped in Eurasia by the death of Ogodai, the son of Genghis Khan, who had become the Great Khan centered in Mongolia when his father died. At his death, all leaders from the empire went to the Mongol capital to select a replacement, and by the time this was accomplished, the invasion of Europe had lost its momentum. The Mongols were also contained in Islamic lands by the Mamluk armies of Egypt, who had been enslaved by the Abbasid Caliphate. These forces matched the Mongols in horsemanship and military skills, and defeated them in battle in 1260 before the Mongols could reach the Dardanelle strait. The Mongol leader Hulegu decided not to press for further expansion.

### **THE MONGOL ORGANIZATION**

The Mongol invasions disrupted all major trade routes, but Genghis Khan's sons and grandsons organized the vast empire in such a way that the routes soon recovered. They formed four Khanates, or political organizations each ruled by a different relative, with the ruler of the original empire in Central Asia designated as the "Great Khan," or the one that followed in the steps of Genghis. Once the Mongols defeated an area, generally by brutal tactics, they were generally content to extract tribute (payments) from them, and often allowed conquered people to keep many of their customs. The Mongol khans were spread great distances apart, and they soon lost contact with one another. Most of them adopted many customs, even the religions, of the people they ruled. For example, the Il-khan that conquered the last caliphate in the Middle East eventually converted to Islam and was a great admirer of the sophisticated culture and advanced technologies of his subjects. So the Mongol Empire eventually split apart, and the Mongols themselves became assimilated into the cultures that they had "conquered."

#### *China's internal and external expansion*

#### *The importance of the Tang and Song economic revolutions and the initiatives of the early Ming dynasty:*

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|--------------------------|---|
| ■ Paper money            | ■ Champa rice                                       |
| ■ Mass production of tea | ■ Canton city in China becomes a major trading city |
| ■ Porcelain              | ■ Exploration and trade (Zheng He)                  |
| ■ Silk                   |   |

### **ECONOMIC REVOLUTIONS OF THE TANG AND SONG DYNASTIES**

Even though the Song military weakness eventually led to the dynasty's demise, it is notable for economic revolutions that led to Chinese hegemony during the era. China's economic growth in turn had implications for many other societies through the trade that it generated along the long-distance routes. The changes actually began during the Tang Dynasty and became even more significant during Song rule. Some characteristics of these economic revolutions are:

- Increasing agricultural production - Before this era, Chinese agriculture had been based on the production of wheat and barley raised in the north. The Tang conquest of southern China and Vietnam added a whole new capability for agriculture; the cultivation of rice. In Vietnam they made use of a new strain of fast-ripening rice that allowed the production of two crops per year. Agricultural techniques improved as well, with the use of the heavy iron plow in the north and water buffaloes in the south. The Tang also organized extensive irrigation systems, so that agricultural production was able to move outward from the rivers.
- Increasing population - China's population about 600 C.E. was about 45 million, but by 1200 (the Song Dynasty) it had risen to about 115 million. This growth occurred partly because of the

agricultural revolution, but also because distribution of food improved with better transportation systems, such as the Grand Canal and the network of roads throughout the empire.

- Urbanization - The agricultural revolution also meant that established cities grew and new ones were created. With its population of perhaps 2,000,000, the Tang capital of Xi'an was probably the largest city in the world. The Song capital of Hangzhou was smaller, with about 1,000,000 residents, but it too was a cosmopolitan city with large markets, public theatres, restaurants, and craft shops. Many other Chinese cities had populations of more than 100,000. Because rice production was so successful and Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade was vigorous, other farmers could concentrate on specialty fruits and vegetables that were for sale in urban markets.
- Technological innovations - During Tang times craftsmen discovered techniques for producing porcelain that was lighter, thinner, more useful, and much more beautiful. Chinese porcelain was highly valued and traded to many other areas of the world, and came to be known broadly as chinaware. The Chinese also developed superior methods for producing iron and steel, and between the 9th and 12th centuries, iron production increased tenfold. The Tang and Song are best known for the new technologies they invented, such as gunpowder, movable type printing, and seafaring aids, such as the magnetic compass. Gunpowder was first used in bamboo flame throwers, and by the 11th century inventors had constructed crude bombs.
- Financial inventions - Because trade was so strong and copper became scarce, Chinese merchants developed paper money as an alternative to coins. Letters of credit called "flying cash" allowed merchants to deposit money in one location and have it available in another. The Chinese also used checks which allowed drawing funds deposited with bankers.

#### ***Chinese influence on surrounding areas and its limits***

- Japan: copied Tang government, architecture, Buddhism; but NO foot binding
- Conquered most of Asia
- Neoconfucianism
  - The conflict between Buddhism and Confucianism during the late Tang Dynasty eased under the Songs, partly because of the development of Neo-Confucianism. Classical Confucians were concerned with practical issues of politics and morality, and their main goal was an ordered social and political structure. Neo-Confucians also became familiar with Buddhist beliefs, such as the nature of the soul and the individual's spiritual relationships. They came to refer to li, a concept that defined a spiritual presence similar to the universal spirit of both Hinduism and Buddhism. This new form of Confucianism was an important development because it reconciled Confucianism with Buddhism, and because it influenced philosophical thought in China, Korea, Vietnam, and Japan in all subsequent eras.

#### ***Developments in Europe***

##### ***Restructuring of European economic, social, and political institutions***

- After the fall of the Roman Empire, the Church took control of all aspects of life
- European society was restructured with the Pope as the ultimate religious authority.
- Feudalism rises as the main form of defense and government.
- Kings and knights supported the Pope's call for Crusades.
- Crusades take many knights to the Middle East to fight
- Many kings start becoming powerful

##### ***The division of Christendom into eastern and western Christian cultures***

- The Church was divided in 1054 over the issue of icons. Two churches emerged: Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic.
- After the schism, the Pope continued to be head of the Roman Catholic Church and was selected only by the cardinals. The Byzantine emperor selected the patriarch.

***Social, cultural, economic, and political patterns in the Amerindian world***

Amerindian civilizations	Economic	Cultural Religious Architectural	Gender Roles	Political Structure; Reason for Collapse
Maya	agricultural trade craftwork in jade	mathematics astronomy medicine pyramids hieroglyphic writing	patriarchy	city-states diverse explanations for causes: environmental: overuse of resources; warfare
Aztec	mercenaries war provided slaves	human sacrifice capital - Tenochtitlan	patriarchy	emperor rigid class system tributary states lack of immunity to AfroEurasian diseases like smallpox tributary states allied with Spanish
Inca	agricultural inherited array of domesticated plants and animals, e.g. potatoes, quinoa, guinea pigs trade tribute roads	quipu for record keeping textiles important for religious ceremonies	patriarchy	dynastic emperor rigid class system lack of immunity to Afro Eurasian diseases like smallpox tributary states allied with Spanish

***Demographic and environmental changes***

***Impact of nomadic migrations on Afro-Eurasia and the Americas (e.g. Aztecs, Mongols, Turks, Vikings, and Arabs)***

Nomadic Peoples	Areas Conquered	Impact
Arabs	North Africa; Spain; West Africa; Central Asia; East Africa	Unified political unit Spread of religion Religious toleration Preservation of Greek and Roman culture
Turks	Central Asia; Middle East; Asia Minor	Islam Defeated Byzantine Empire Takes Jerusalem – Crusades
Mongols	Persia; China; Russia; Eastern Europe	
Slavs	Eastern and Central Europe	Trading Orthodox Christianity
Aztecs	Central Mexico	Conquered large areas Human sacrifices Large trading network
Vikings	Raped and pillaged along European water routes	Led to Europeans seeking better protection methods Some women taken as slaves to Scandinavia

**Migration of agricultural peoples (e.g. Bantu migrations, European peoples to east/central Europe)**

- Bantus were agricultural people who traveled throughout Africa; spread language; slave trade networks established
- Various Germanic and Slavs moved throughout Europe; caused political instability
- Increased agriculture and population puts strain on the environment

**Consequences of plague pandemics in the 14<sup>th</sup> century**

- Kills massive amounts of people – upward of 30% of population
- Major changes in economic systems
- Affects population centers
- lawlessness

**Growth and role of cities**

- Many cities became prominent due to trade (Canton, Samarkand, Timbuktu, Cairo, and Venice)
- Centers of education
- Cultural diffusion

**Diverse interpretations**

**What are the issues involved in using cultural areas rather than states as units of analysis?**

- Many areas, such as Europe, had large areas of boundaries, such as France. Studying states can be overwhelming because of the number of states involved. Cultural areas go over boundaries, but provide the ability to study a “culture” (such as Western Europe) rather than a state.

**What are the sources of change: nomadic migrations versus urban growth?**

- Many areas, such as Song China had large amounts of growth from urbanization as did some cities of Europe. Examples of nomadic inspired growth include Mongols, Turks, and Arabs.

**Was there a world economic network in this period?**

- There was a world economic network as far as the “known” world for different groups. Europeans had a world network in trade with Africa and Asia, but because of a lack of ability, there was not trade with the Americas or the South Pacific Islands. The Americans had a world trade system – their known world. In the next time period world exploration and trade allowed for true world trade.

**Were there common patterns in the new opportunities available to the constraints placed on elite women in this period?**

- Many women gained right to keep dowry
- Managed households
- Supervised education of children
- Cultural patrons
- Nuns

**Major Comparisons and Snapshots  
Japanese and European Feudalism**

	Japanese	European
Date Established	Mid 800s in opposition to the power of the Fujiwara	By 800s after the division of Charlemagne’s Holy Roman Empire
Title of Main Ruler	Emperor as puppet ruler or figurehead Shogun as real power between 1100s and 1945	King, queen, emperor
Length of Office of Ruler	Emperor hereditary unless deposed Shogun by force and intrigue	Hereditary unless deposed
Ranks	Emperor Provincial aristocrat as lord Vassal as lord Samurai	Ruler Vassal as lord Knight who had no vassal under him

Economic Base	Small agricultural population	Large population engaged in agriculture Change over time as trade and cities grew
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***Developments in political and social institutions in both eastern and western Europe***

- In Western Europe the Catholic Church was a major unifying force, not so in the east.
- Feudalism in the West

***Compare the role and function of cities in major societies***

- Centers of religion, trade, government

**TWO TRAVELLERS**

Much of our knowledge of the world in the 13th and 14th century comes from two travelers, Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo, who widened knowledge of other cultures through their writings about their journeys.

- Marco Polo - In the late 13th century, Marco Polo left his home in Venice, and eventually traveled for many years in China. He was accompanied by his father and uncle, who were merchants anxious to stimulate trade between Venice along the trade routes east. Polo met the Chinese ruler Kublai Khan (Genghis Khan's grandson), who was interested in his travel stories and convinced him to stay as an envoy to represent him in different parts of China. He served the khan for 17 years before returning home, where he was captured by Genoans at war with Venice. While in prison, he entertained his cellmates with stories about China. One prisoner compiled the stories into a book that became wildly popular in Europe, even though many did not believe that Polo's stories were true. Europeans could not believe that the fabulous places that Polo described could ever exist.
- Ibn Battutu - This famous traveler and prolific writer of the 14th century spent many years of his life visiting many places within Islamic Empires. He was a Moroccan legal scholar who left his home for the first time to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. After his hajj was completed, he traveled through Mesopotamia and Persia, then sailed down the Red Sea and down the east African coast as far south as Kilwa. He later traveled to India, the Black Sea, Spain, Mali, and the great trading cities of Central Asia. He wrote about all of the places he traveled and compiled a detailed journal that has given historians a great deal of information about those places and their customs during the 14th century. A devout Muslim who generally expected fine hospitality, Ibn Battutu seldom kept his opinions to himself, and he commented freely on his approval or disapproval of the things that he saw.