



The Medieval World

900-1400

Development of International System

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Faculty of Political Science

A Eurasian-African World versus Americas

- Western European discontinuities
- Successions:
 - Caliphate
 - Sinosphere
 - Africa
- Parallel Trajectories:
 - The Americas

East Hemisphere, 900 AD

Author: Thomas Lessman
www.WorldHistoryMaps.info
Updated: 8-24-2008



Eastern Hemisphere, 1000 AD

Created by Thomas A. Lessman
www.WorldHistoryMaps.info

Updated: 2-27-2008



Eastern Hemisphere, 1100 AD

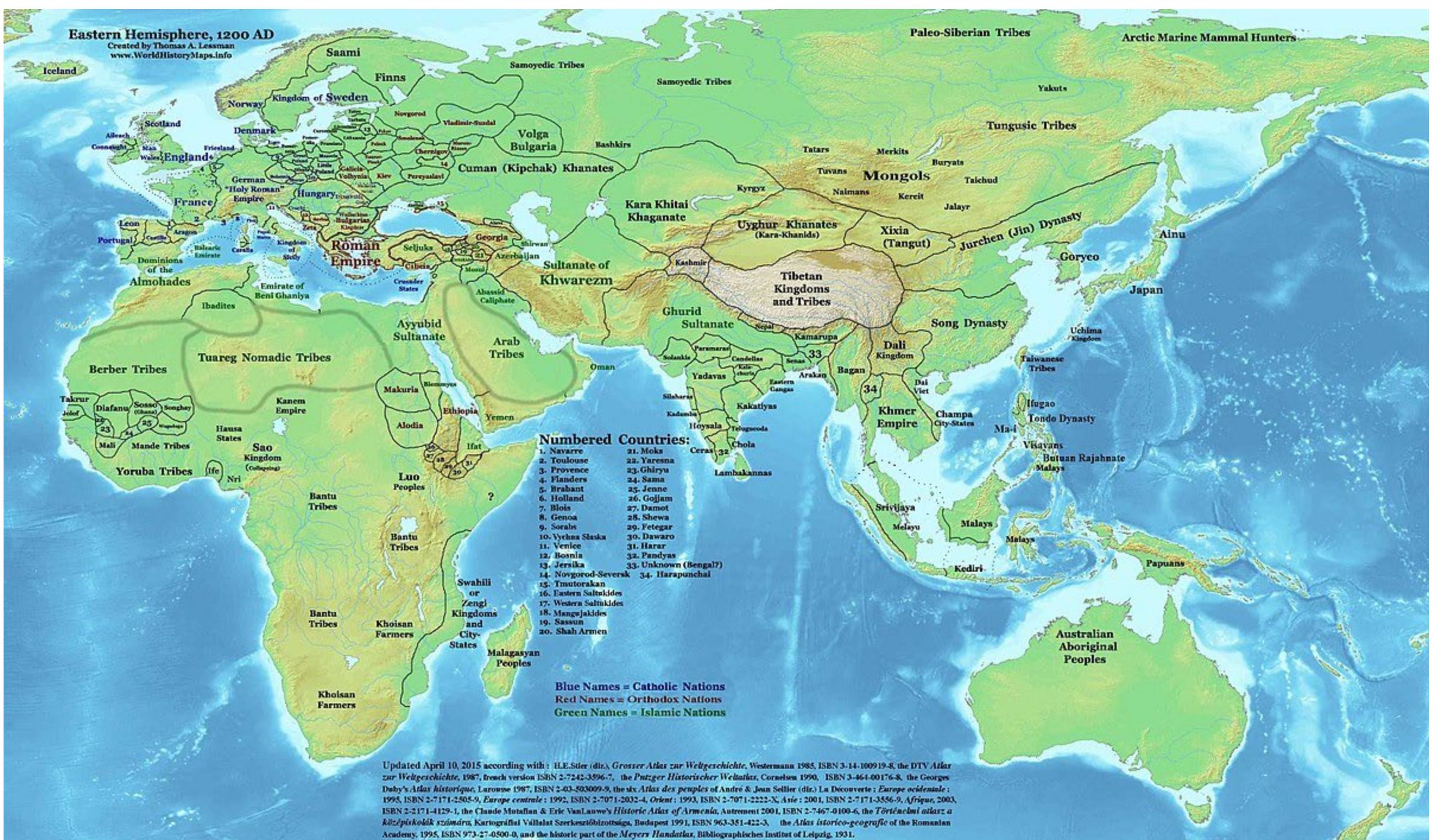
Created by Thomas A. Lessman
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Updated: 3-12-2008



Eastern Hemisphere, 1200 AD

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Eastern Hemisphere, 1300 AD

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Source: www.WorldHistoryMaps.info

Updated: 2-19-2008



Medievalism: a misfit???

- The Idea of Medievalism
 - Constructed by historians of later period to describe the period between the collapse of the Western Roman Empire and the Renaissance
 - Related to: Feudalism and Dark Ages
 - Shaped by contemporary intellectual fashions and social needs, rather than being a reflection of actual medieval society and conditions.
- Medieval according to different schools of historians
 - English schools: the term medieval is closely associated with English nationality; mostly applied to Anglo-Saxon and Tudor history
 - Greater emphasis on interconnectedness of the Medieval World, its complex social structures, and Byzantine influences (Mark Whittow)
 - European schools: approaches on transition between antiquity and modernity
 - US-based history: More focused on historiography, cultural and social history. → for those doing disciplinary comparison “medieval” is a bad word!!



SIX MYTHS ABOUT THE MIDDLE AGES



Linearity

- Linearity in Medieval Rulership:
 - Actual progression of power, authority and governance that follows a predictable, structured path by rules of succession, consolidation of power, and shaped by the characteristics of the leader.
 - Centralised authority
 - Succession Law via Primogeniture: firstborn son inherits the throne upon the death of king → clear and linear transition of power
 - Weakness: power disputes in non-linear events (all the Henry!!)
 - Royal power → consolidation of territories under direct royal control (estates), reducing influences of lords → disputes between crown and lords. → Norman Conquest of England in 1066
 - Royal Charters and Law
 - Development of common law → centralization of power under legal authority → centralization of power of legal authority (lords) paved way for the Magna Carta
 - Dynastic Expansion: Expansion of kingship power → Capetians kings created France



Charismatic Leadership

- Personal magnetism: individual perceived as ‘extraordinary and endowed with qualities that sets them apart from ordinary people’
- Visionary Leadership: articulate a clear and compelling vision that offers solutions to the problems or challenges faced by their followers
- Emotional Appeal: Skilled in using emotional appeals to unite and mobilise people → fosters loyalty and strong sense of commitment
- Crisis Leadership: Emerge in times of crisis as a strong and decisive leader
- Personal Sacrifice: demonstrate willingness to make personal sacrifices for the greater good
- Legitimisation of Authority
 - Usage of divine right and personal charisma
 - Louis IX of France (Saint Louis), Wu Zetian, Fatima-al Fihri, Ban Zhao, Empress Suiko, Ratu Shima, Tribhuwana Wijayatunggadewi
- Unifying the Realm
 - War leaders that could inspire troops and subjects
 - Joan of Arc, Richard the Lionheart, Anawrahta Minsaw, Ramkhamhaeng, Princess Pingyang, Empress Jingu, Camadevi, Ken Dedes
- Dynastic influence
 - Founders and Reformers: influence the trajectory of a dynasty or state
 - Emperor Charlemagne, Justinian I, Mansa Musa famines, invasions, or internal rebellions
 - King Alfred the Great of Wessex, Empress Theodora I, Saladin of Ayyubid, Genghis Khan, Amina of Zazzau, Qin Liangyu
 - Queen Padmini → sacrifice
- Charismatic Nobles and Clergy: usage of charisma and moral authority to challenge even kings in shaping the political and religious landscape
 - Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, Christine de Pizan, Tomoe Gozen, Gahja Mahda

The Medieval World

“Tabula Rogeriana” by
Muhammad al-Sharif al-Idrisi
(1154)



Social Hierarchy

- A matter of who write the records
 - Often sources comes from government and learnt men
- The ruler and his/her might: bounded morality
- Political administration transformed by social and economic mobility and access
 - ‘survival of the collective’
 - Power versus Government

Medieval Foundations to International Relations

- “God as a supreme law giver”
- Realists versus Nominalists
 - Nominalists: Social order was not given by God and revealed by human reason, but rather created by the application of human reason
 - Realists: Extramental existence of common natures or essences

Latinised Concepts of Power Legitimacy

Translatio Imperii (Transfer of Empire)

- Imperial authority and the right to rule are transferred from one civilisation or empire to another over time
 - Successors of the Roman Empire
 - Construction of cultural identity that linked current rulers to the glories of the ancient empires

Translatio Studii (Transfer of Knowledge)

- Transmission of knowledge, culture, and learning from one civilization to another → continuity and progression of intellectual traditions across different cultures and epochs
 - Intellectual continuity, cultural and educational legitimacy, diplomatic and scholarly exchange

Auctoritas

- Moral and legal authority or influence of a person, institution or a body of text
- Legitimation of Rule → Divine Right, Military Power, and the inheritance of translation imperii
- Religious authority → The church's approval → church had supreme auctoritas over secular rulers
- Legal and intellectual influence → philosophical corpus + the Bible had auctoritas in determining the foundational legal and intellectual discourse.

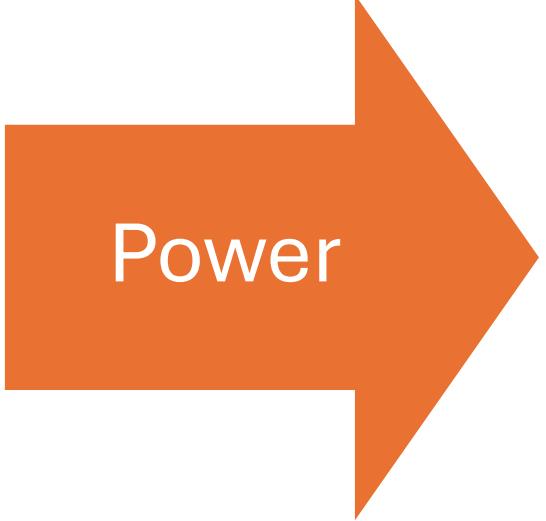
Non-Latinised Concepts of Power Legitimacy

Tianming (Mandate of Heaven)" provided a framework for understanding the transfer of authority from one dynasty to another → granted by Heaven to a **virtuous** ruler, and it could be withdrawn if the ruler or his descendants failed to govern justly and effectively.

Chakravartin (Universal Ruler): an ideal universal ruler, who rules ethically and justly over the entire known world. The ruler must possess divine sanction and universal authority

Bounded by Dharmashastra

Caliphate (Khilafah): The Caliph was adopted by the leaders of the Muslim community, beginning with the Rashidun Caliphs → successor of the Prophet



Power

Legitimate Power



Authority

Individual/Organisation ability to control or direct others

- Not always legal
- Uses elements of force, coercion, control
- Essence of politics
- Brutal manifestation of power
- Political polarization of the desire interest of the people

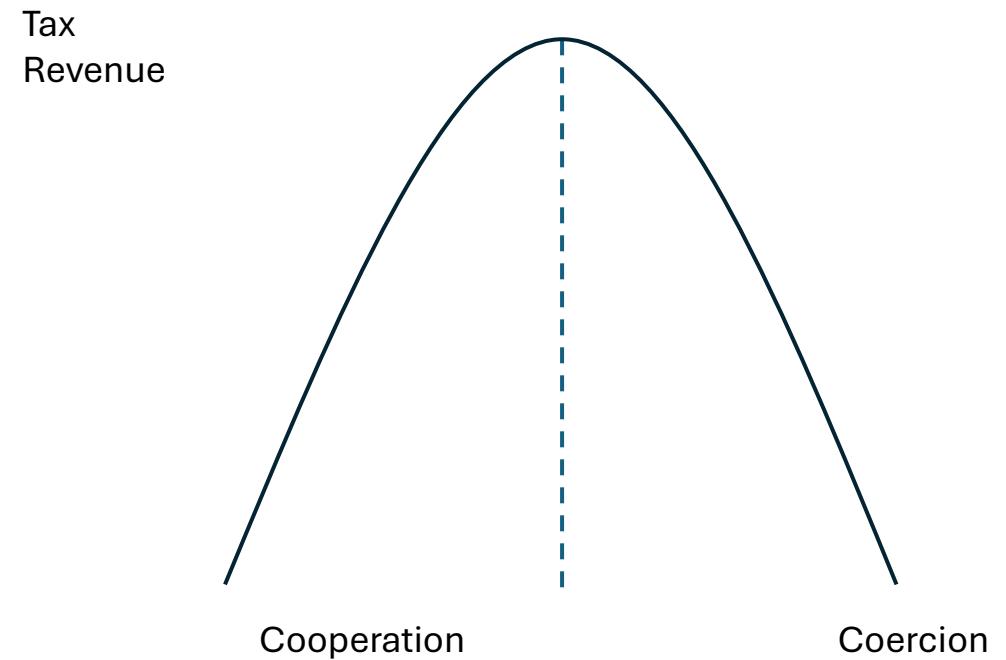


Balance
depends on:
Time and Space
Context

Influences that is predicated or perceived legitimacy

- Legally enforced
- Permeates to peaceful times
- Legitimate use of power
- Legitimate use of institution
- Rooted in regulations of government

Powerful?



Irogoin and Gafe, 2014

Before you think that everything is about the
Glorious Romans:

The European relationships with the “Romans”
weren’t always so endearing or sacred...

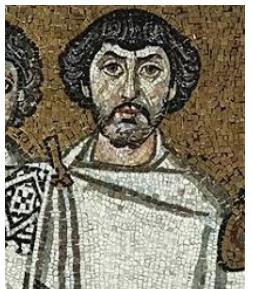
The Inconvenient Medieval State: “Byzantine” Empire (Eastern Roman Empire)

- Population at its height: 26 to 28 million (During Justinian's Reign)
- Constantinople: 300,000 - 500,000
- Constant Territorial Struggle with Barbarian Kingdoms
- Byzantine Authority Kept Church (Papacy) power in checked
 - Byzantine practiced “Caesaropapism”
 - The Great Schism
- The Crusades 1054
- Iconoclasm Controversy



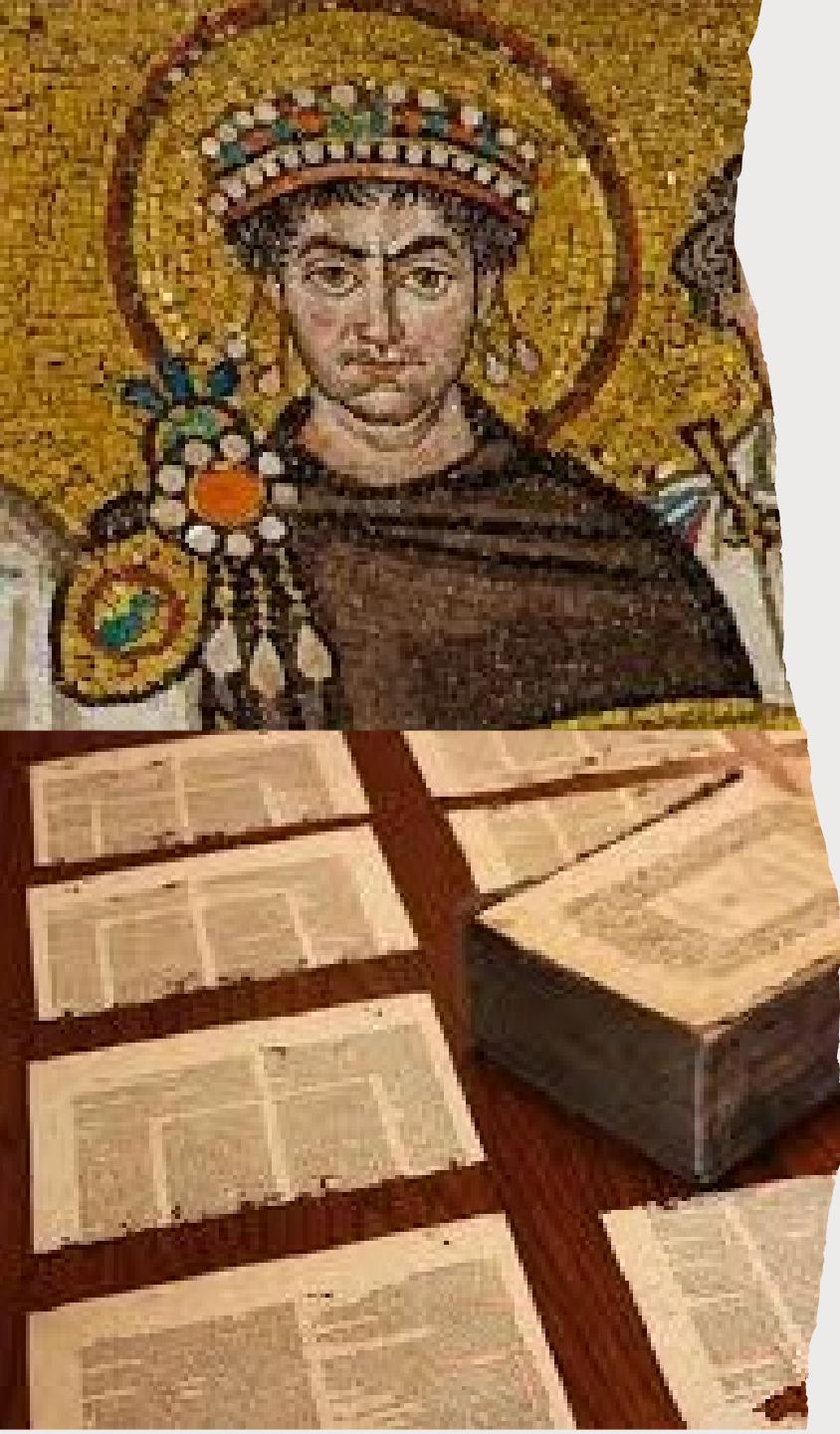
Theodora on the Nika Riot in 532

"My lords, the present occasion is too serious to allow me to follow the convention that a woman should not speak in a man's council. Those whose interests are threatened by extreme danger should think only of the wisest course of action, not of conventions. In my opinion, flight is not the right course, even if it should bring us to safety. It is impossible for a person, having been born into this world, not to die; but for one who has reigned it is intolerable to be a fugitive. May I never be deprived of this purple robe, and may I never see the day when those who meet me do not call me empress. If you wish to save yourself, my lord, there is no difficulty. We are rich; over there is the sea, and yonder are the ships. Yet reflect for a moment whether, when you have once escaped to a place of security, you would not gladly exchange such safety for death. As for me, I agree with the adage that the royal purple is the noblest shroud." (Procopius)



"her whole body was a mass of foul ulceration caused by her whoredom."
The Secret History, Procopius
(Historian and Secretary to the General Belisarius)



A detailed mosaic portrait of Emperor Justinian I, wearing a golden crown and a purple robe with a gold chain. He is seated on a wooden throne, holding a large open book (the Codex) in his left hand and a golden orb with a cross in his right hand. The background shows a stone wall.

Corpus Iuris Civilis (Body of Civil Law / Ιουστινιάνειος Κώδικας (Justinian's Codex))

- Justinian I (527-565 CE) initiated a series of comprehensive reforms
- Key Characteristics:
- Codification of Roman Law
 - Legal framework that influenced civil and canon law
 - Arranged the old Roman Laws into Codex categories for easier execution, reforms, and categorization
 - Criminal Justice, Marriage, Property Rights, Slavery, and Women's Right
 - Bedrock for secular and ecclesiastical law
 - Strengthened the relationship between Church and State → promoted religious unity
 - Active promotion of Christianity, persecution of Jews, Pagans and Polytheists
 - Attempted to reconcile different Christian fractions: Monophysite (Jesus is the ONE divine) versus Chalcedonian (Jesus is both Divine and Human)
 - Attempt backfired and ended up setting the grounds for the Great Schism by rejecting the Three Chapters that started the divide during the Nestorian Controversy

Characterisation of Roman Law in the Medieval Period

- Imperium and Potestas (Authority to Legislate, Command and Judge)
 - Imperium: The supreme authority to govern, legislate, and command
 - Potestas: legal power or authority
- Plenitude Potestatis (Fullness of Power) and Ecclesiastical Authority
 - Papal Authority
 - Assertion of plenary power (complete absolute power with no limitations)
- Dominus Mundi (Lord of the World) and Imperial Sovereignty
 - Emperor's sovereignty
 - Debates on Sovereignty: de facto versus de iure

Medieval Foundations to International Relations

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Conquest and Kingdoms

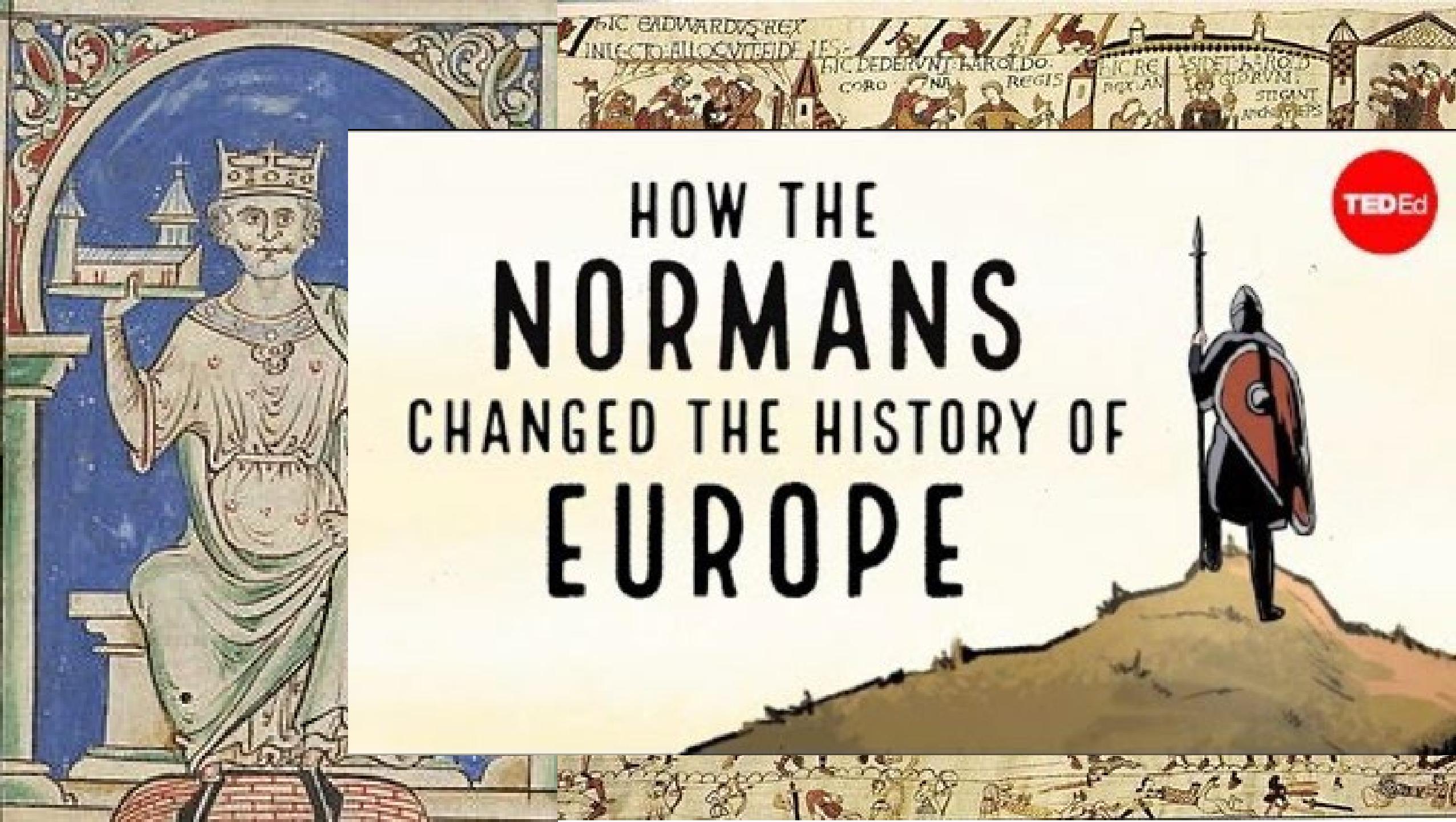
Europe's age of homogenization and power consolidation

“Politics of Differences” that relied on nation-state building



The Franks, Merovingians, and Carolingians

- Charlemagne, also known as Charles the Great, was the King of the Franks
 - Carolingian dynasty was originally a Frank nobility clan → Became prominent because of Charles' grandfather Charles Martel and his father Pepin the Short
- Charles consolidated power and crowned himself as Emperor on Christmas day in 800 CE by Pope Leo III in St. Peter's Basilica
- Significance of Charlemagne's rule:
 - Foundation of the Holy Roman Empire, creation of the new Roman Empire model, Christianisation of Europe
 - Championed the revival of learning and culture and standardization of Latin
- Charlemagne is known as the “Father of Europe” and the creation of French identity
 - Delegated governance and power to local lords in exchange for military services → paved way for fiefs and vassals



HOW THE **NORMANS** CHANGED THE HISTORY OF **EUROPE**

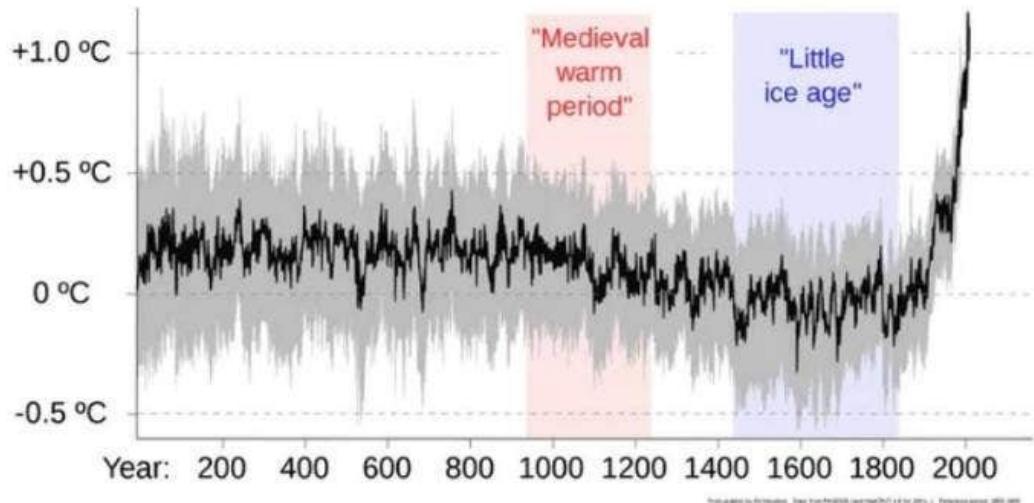
Double or tripling of urban population between 1100 and 1200

TABLE I
THE THIRTY LARGEST CITIES IN EUROPE BY POPULATION (in Thousands), 10

	c. 1050	c. 1200	c. 1330	c. 1500	c. 1600	c. 1700		
Cordova*	450	Palermo	150	Granada	150	Paris	225	Paris
Palermo*	350	Paris	110	Paris	150	Naples	125	London
Seville	90	Seville	80	Venice	110	Milan	100	Naples
Salerno	50	Venice	70	Genoa	100	Venice	100	Lisbon
Venice	45	Florence	60	Milan	100	Granada	70	Venice
Regensberg	40	Granada	60	Florence	95	Prague	70	Milan
Toledo	37	Cordova	60	Seville	90	Lisbon	65	Amster
Rome	35	Cologne	50	Cordova	60	Tours	60	Rome
Barbastro	35	Leon	40	Naples	60	Genoa	58	Madrid
Cartagena	33	Ypres	40	Cologne	54	Ghent	55	Palermo
Naples	30	Rome	35	Palermo	51	Florence	55	Seville
Mainz	30	Bologna	35	Siena	50	Palermo	55	Florence
Merida	30	Toledo	35	Barcelona	48	Roma	55	Vienna
Almeria	27	Verona	33	Valencia	44	Bordeaux	50	Granada
Granada	26	Narbonne	31	Toledo	42	Lyon	50	Marseille
Speyer	25	Salerno	30	Bruges	40	Orleans	50	Copenhagen
Palma	25	Pavia	30	Malaga	40	London	50	Genoa
Laon	25	Messina	30	Aquila	40	Bologna	50	Bologna
London	25	Naples	30	Bologna	40	Verona	50	Antwerp
Elvira	22	Genoa	30	Cremona	40	Brescia	49	Brussels
Cologne	21	Angers	30	Pisa	38	Cologne	45	Lyon
Trier	20	Palma	30	Ferrara	36	Seville	45	Rouen
Caen	20	Speyer	30	London	35	Marseille	45	Danzig
Lyon	20	Worms	28	Montpellier	35	Malaga	42	Leiden
Paris	20	Ferrara	27	Rouen	35	Valencia	42	Valencia
Tours	20	Orléans	27	St. Omer	25	Florence	42	Perugia



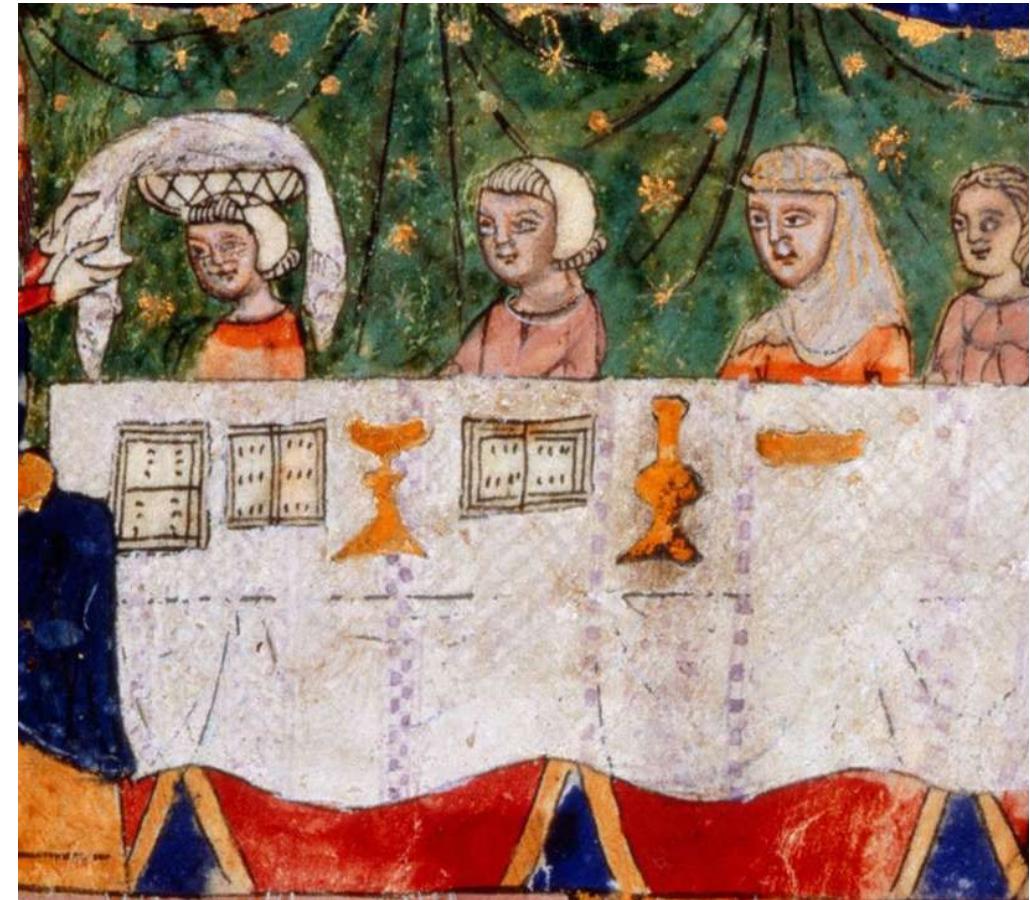
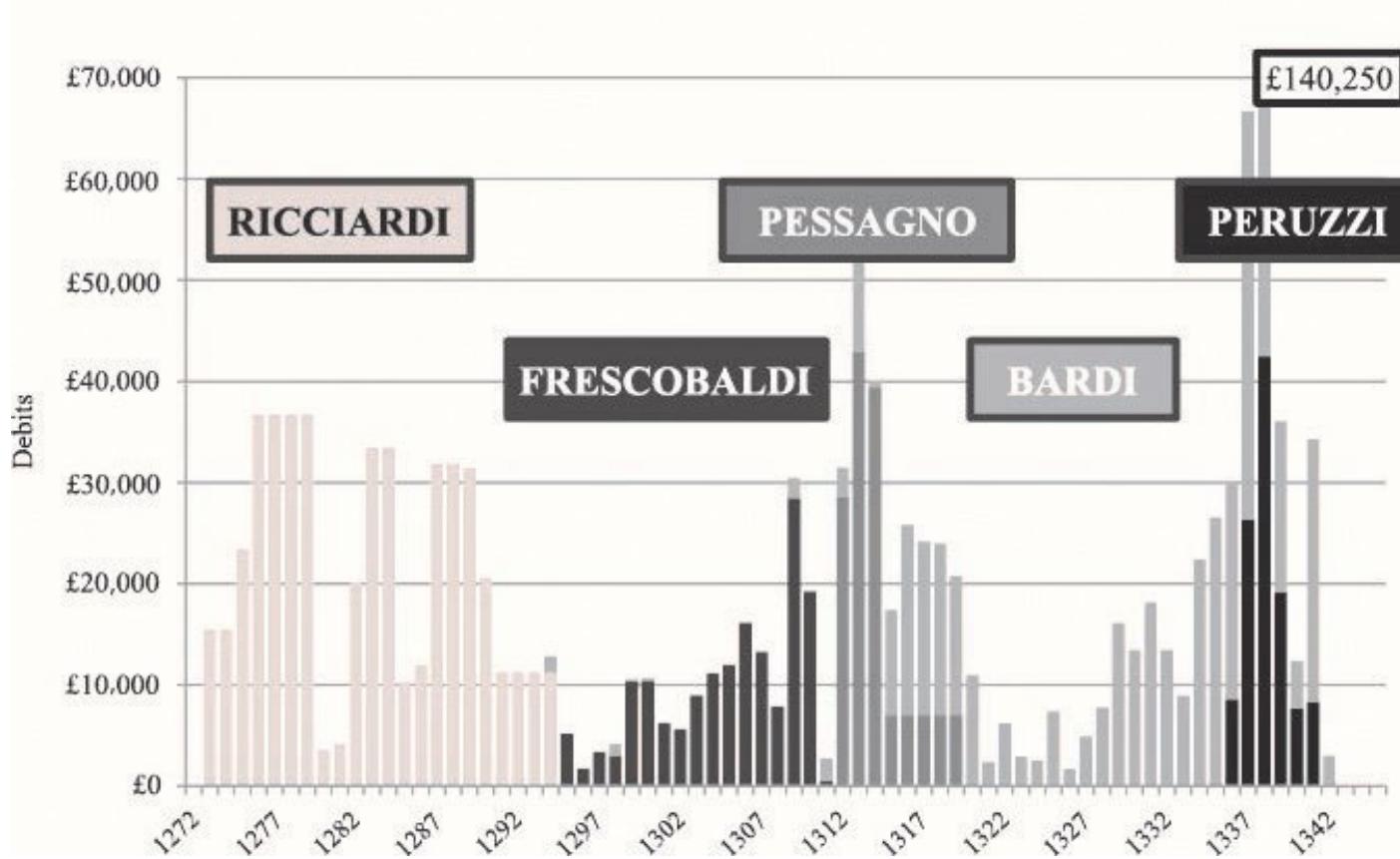
Global Average Temperature Change

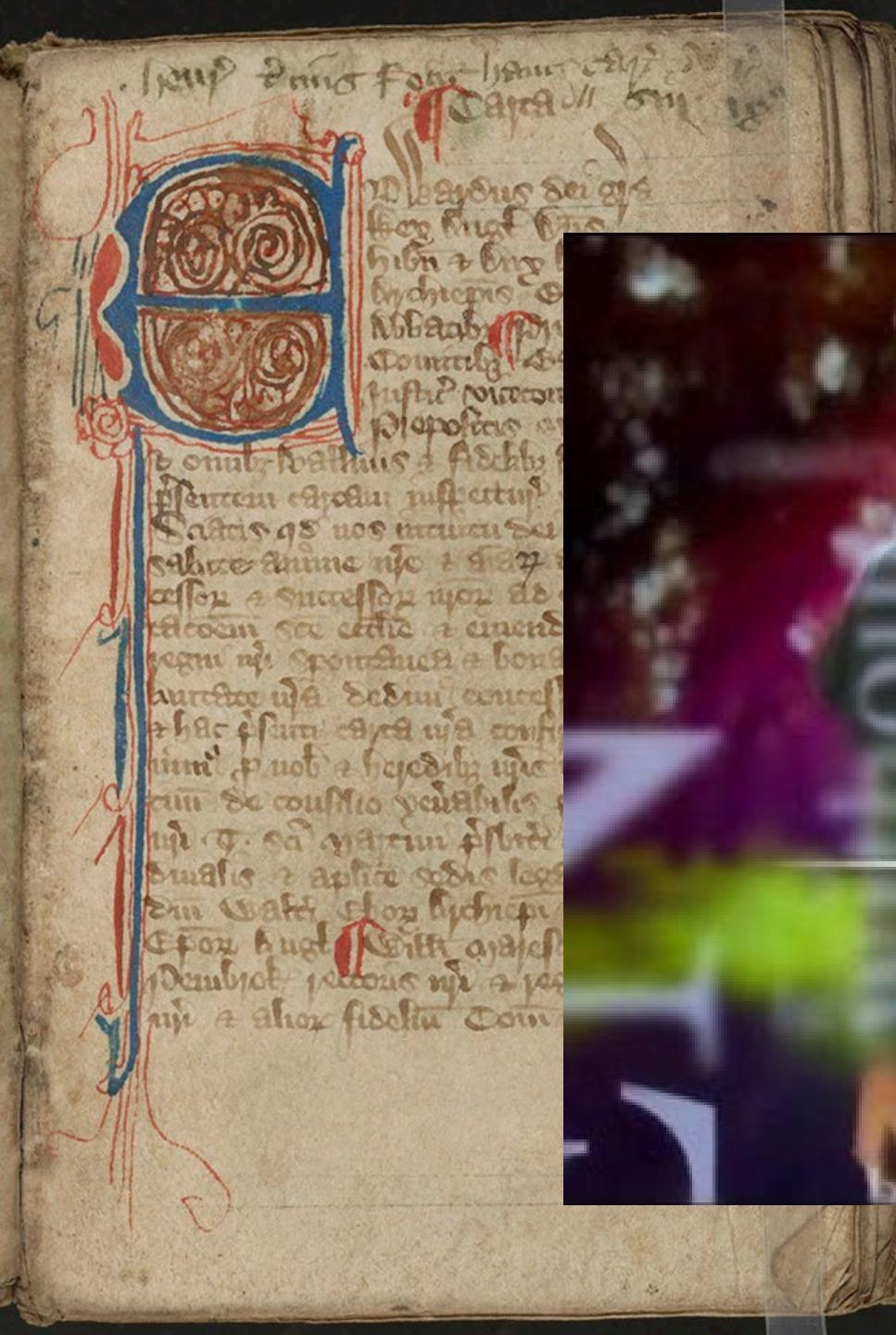


Source: (Wright 1942, 1: Tables 29, 45, 46); (Levy 1983) leads to similar results.

Note: The principal European powers are defined as France, Austria, Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Turkey, and Poland.

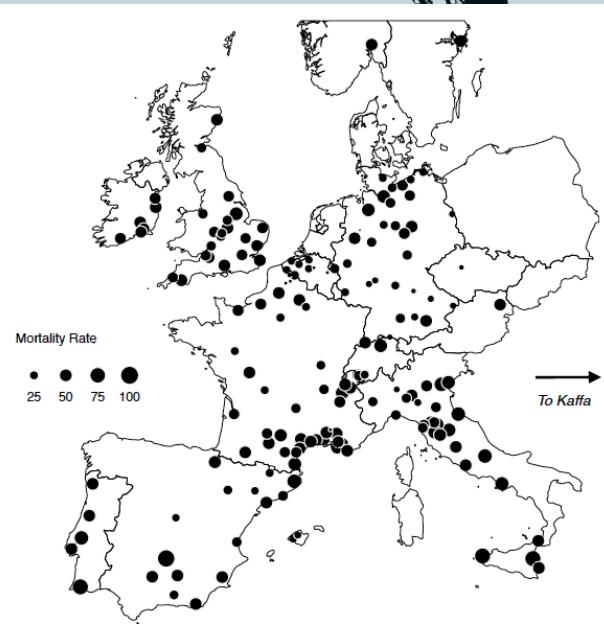
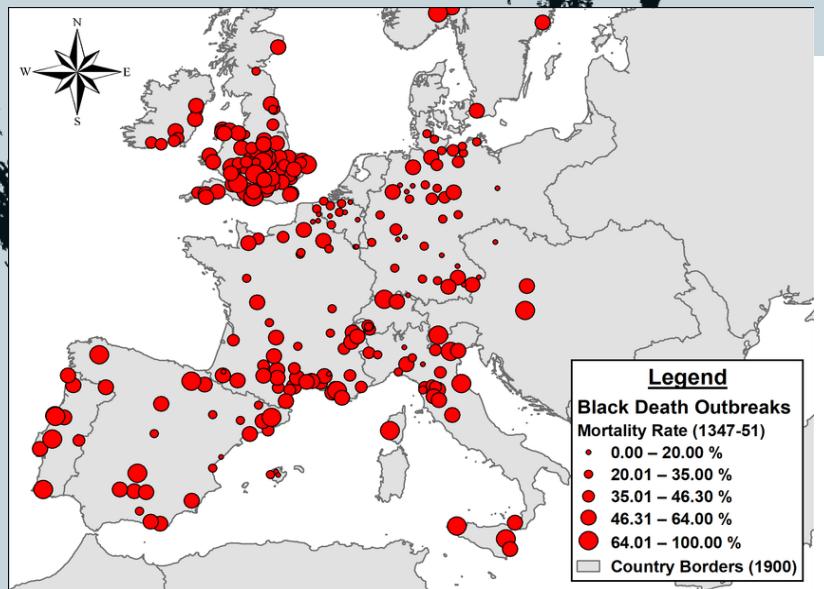
Sovereign Debt





The Magna Carta (1215)

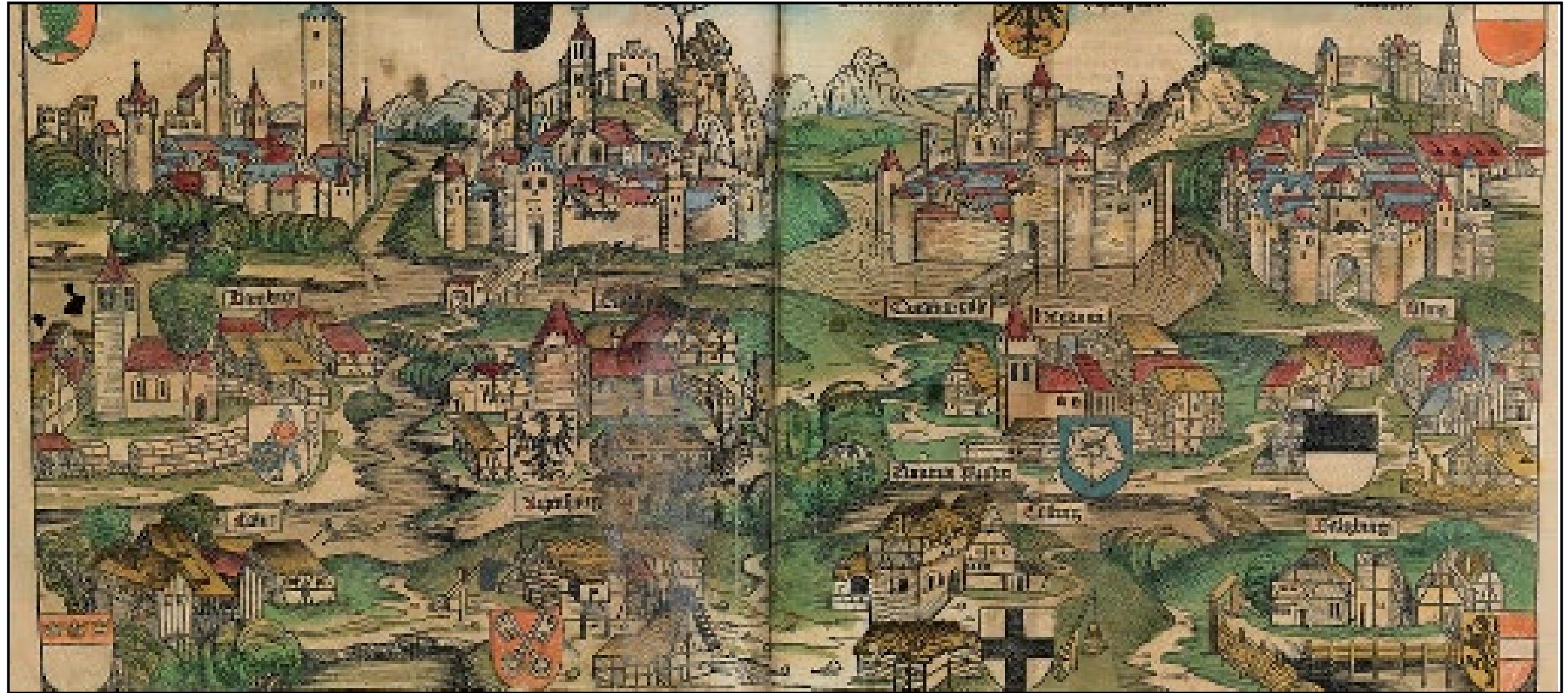




The Black Death

- More autonomous cities had less death rates.
- Had unintended effect of boosting European Urbanisation rates and wage
- Led to the growth of Guilds: associations of artisans, craftsmen, and merchants
 - Organised to protect and regulate trade, craft or commerce within towns and cities





Free Imperial Cities

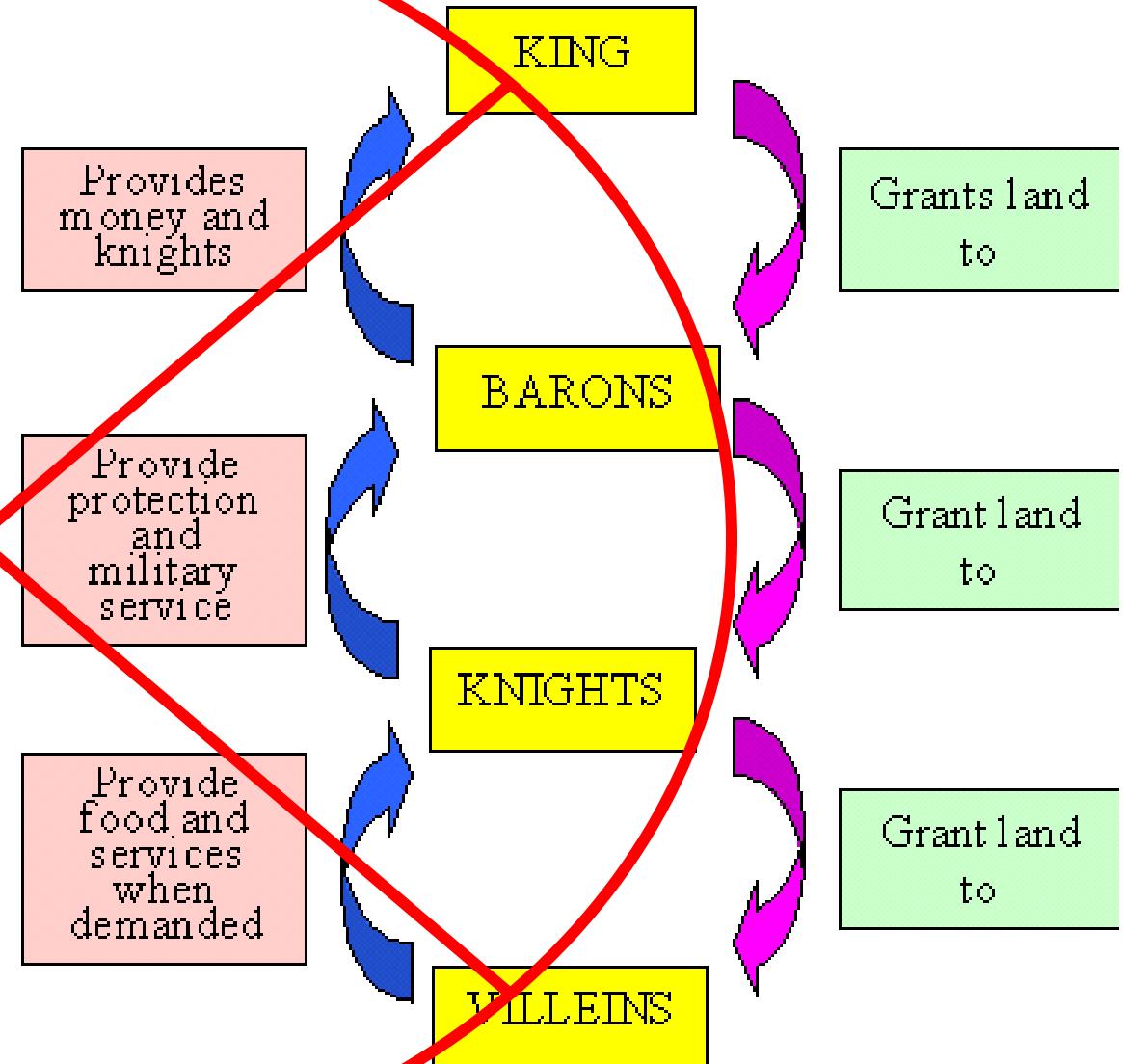


100 Years War (1337-1453)

- War that defined England...and the world later on
- Roger Mortimer takeover of England, Edward III took back control. Modelling England after Camelot.
- French actually had a claim over Gascony via Henry II + Elenore of Aquitaine: This was a war between two tightly linked dynasties the Valois and the Plantagenets
- 1337 confiscation of Gascony

The Usual Definition

- A dominant form of political organization in medieval Europe.
- A hierachal system of social relationships wherein a noble lord GRANTED land known as fief to a free man, who in turn swore fealty to the lord as his vassal and agreed to provide military and other services.
- A vassal could also be a lord granting portions of the land held to other free vassals: "subinfeudation" and often led all the way up to the king
- The land granted to each vassal was inhabited by serfs who worked the land for him, providing him with income to support his military endeavors; in turn, the vassal would protect the serfs from attack and invasion.



What was going on?

- Feudalism was not the ‘dominant’ form of political organisation in Medieval Europe!
 - No hierachal systems of lords and vassals engaged in a structured agreement for defenses
 - No subinfeudation, or subdivision of a feudal estate by a vassal who in turn becomes feudal lord over tenants
 - The system of serfs working the land for a lord in return for protect, however, was know as ‘manorialism’.
- Regardless of the problem, the idea was picked up by two Scottish lawyers, Thomas Craig and Thomas Smith → They applied it to Scottish land tenure

Challenging the Tyrants of History

- "The Tyranny of a Construct: Feudalism and Historians of Medieval Europe," Elizabeth A.R. Brown
 - Feudalism construct bore little resemblance to actual medieval society, and have lost any useful meaning when it come to properly examining evidence concerning medieval law and society.
 - Scholars viewed land agreements and social relationships through the warped lens of the feudalism construct

How did social relations work?

- Time and Place
- What about places like Scandinavia? Spain? Bulgaria?
- Social relations was likely about fealty, homage, and investitures
(Backman Clifford, R. The Worlds of Medieval Europe. 2015)

What were fiefs?

- They were something bestowed in exchange for service....which could be ANYTHING. They were essential...hiring contracts that applies to those parties in agreement. (Wickham, 2009)
 - Taxes were ridiculously low...5-10%

Leaving Behind the World of Western Europe....



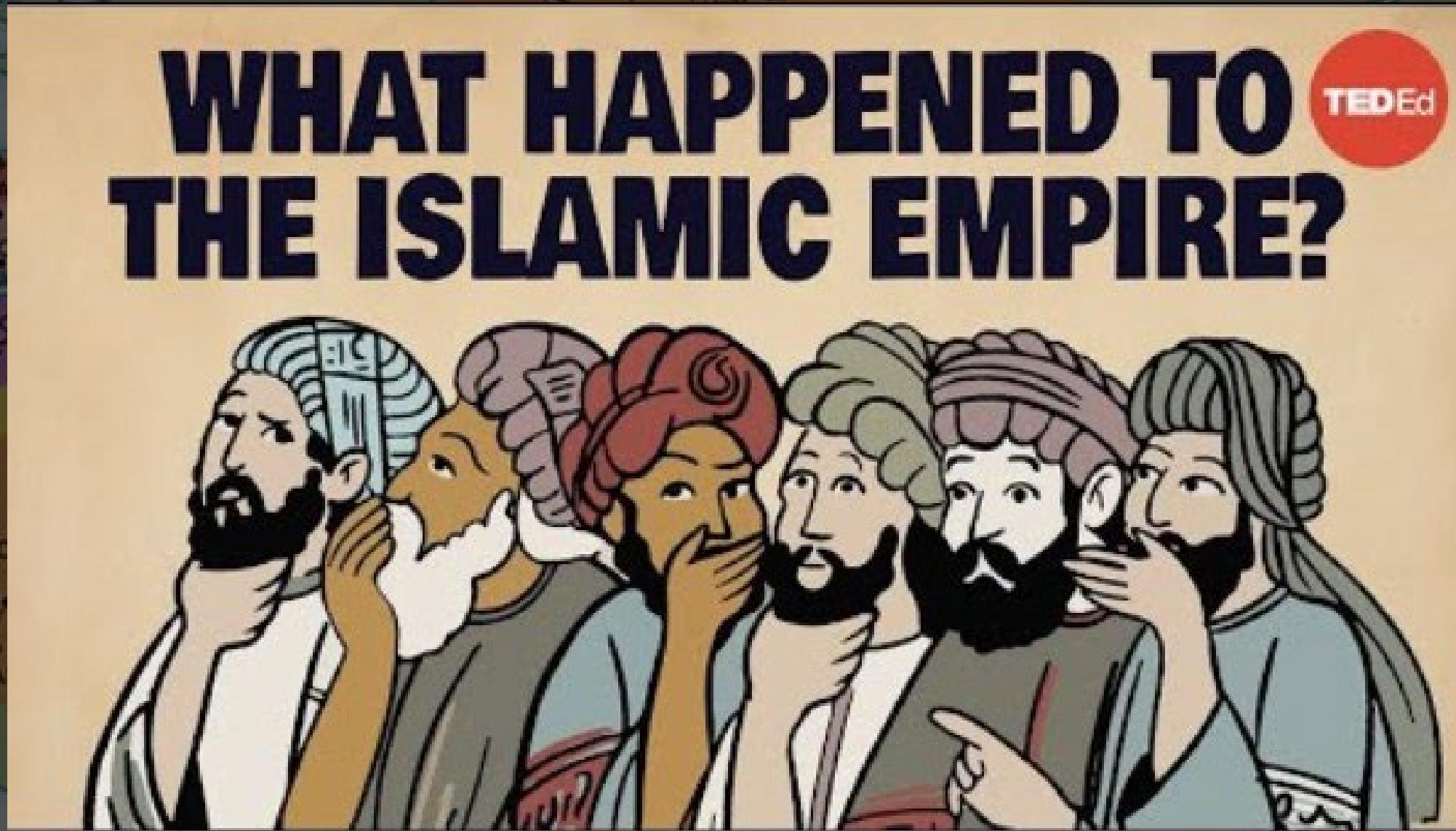


Inheritor of Rome: Rise of Islam and the Caliphate

Caliphate

- What is a caliphate?
- Why is this important?
 1. The caliph is chosen by the Muslims themselves
 2. Prophet's tribe *Quraysh* for Sunni or even direct descendants through *Fatima* and their son in law *Ali* for Shi'ites
 3. *Nass*: choice or designation by previous ruler
 - Heredity through the Holy Family (divine ruler)
 - Learned scholars and intellectuals? Via Hadith and Ulamas
 - Incorporation of previous dynastic traditions like the Romans and Persians? -→ not valid → relied on *akhbar* (*khabar*) short stories or anecdotes

The Caliphate



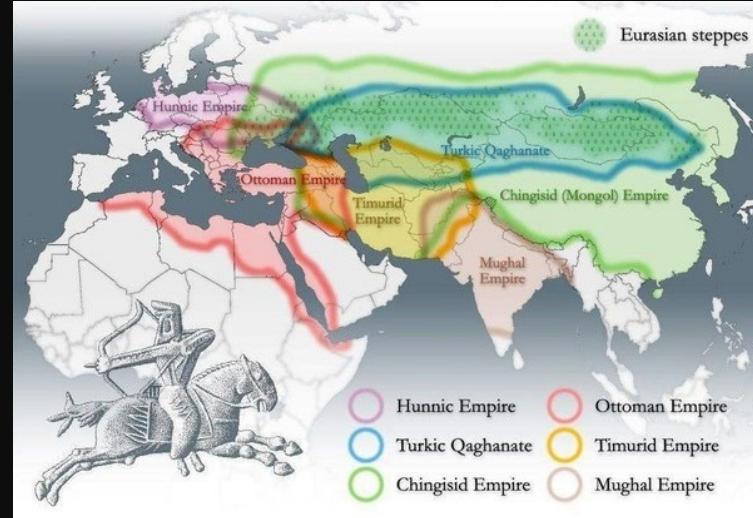
Islamic Scholars

- Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi (Father of Modern Surgery)
 - Alhazen (optics)
 - Ibn Khaldun (wrote the Muqqaddimah, worked on sociology historiography and modern economics)
 - Averroes (Ibn Rushd)
 - Ismail al-Jazari (automation and robots)
 - Al Biruni
-



Beginning of Turkic-Khaghan Ascendancy

- “Mamluk” : one who is owned
 - Non-Arab (usually, Turkic, Caucasian, Eastern and Southeastern European)
 - Slave-soldiers and freed slaves
 - Assigned military and administrative duties
 - Essentially enslaved mercenaries, an experiment by an Abbasid prince



Rules of Conquest

- Arabs are forbidden from assuming ownership of conquered lands
- Soldiers lived in military camps and were paid
- Life must be preserved in the countryside
- No evidence of forced conversions or missionary activities

Governance and Rule of Law

- Property Rights
- Inheritance laws
- Dispute of over Fadak and Inheritance: Split between Sunni and Shi'ite
- Accountability of Rulers
 - Islamic responsibilities to the public
 - Caliphs who are unjust or severely ineffective can be impeached via Majlis ash-Shura (Consultative Council)
- Sharia
 - Generated by Quran + Hadith
 - Qardi (Judge) was not allowed to discriminate on grounds of religion, race, colour, kinship, or prejudice.

Women in Early Islam

- Muhammed first wife was Khadija, a successful merchant.
 - He did not marry more wives until her death
 - He married Umm Habiba whose father led an opposition to him
- It was common for wealthy men to have four wives, but divorce and widowhood was also common. Many women had two to four husbands in their lifetime.
- Women were allowed to practice law and operate businesses
- While female rulership was not common, women played a large part in early politics.

The economy

- Bayt al mal: department of revenues and economic matter
 - Central Treasury set up: separation of Treasury (kept for future spendings) and Accounts
 - Welfare and Pension introduced via Zakat
 - Taxes provided income for the needy: poor, elderly, orphans, widows, and disabled.
 - Government had to stockpile food supplies in every region in case a disaster or famine occurred
 - Welfare program for the unemployed and retirement pensions
 - Rashidun Caliphate limited the amount of wealth rulers and officials were allowed.



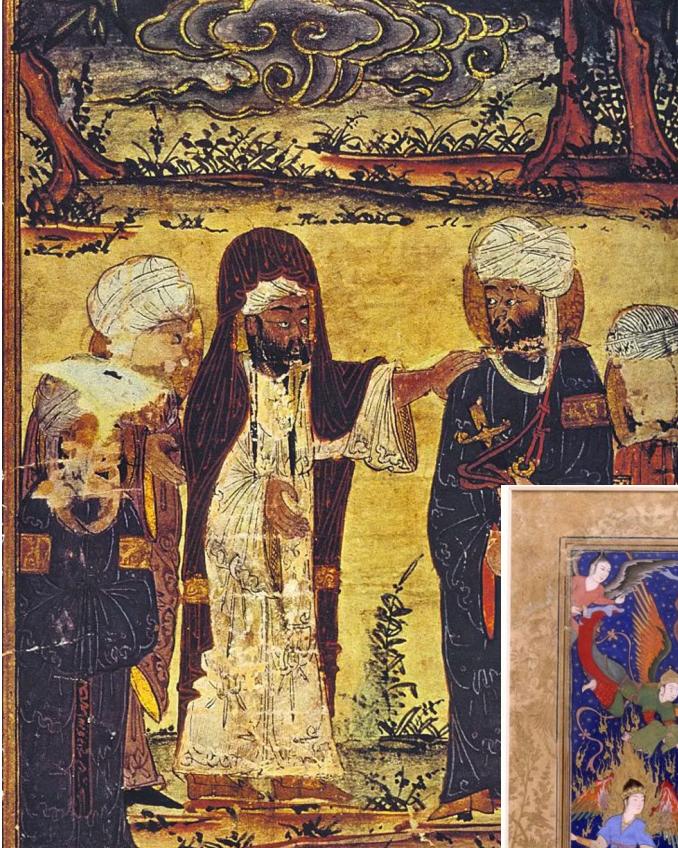
Gold Dinar adopted from Solidus
of Heraclius

Art and Depiction

- Islam nurtured a manuscript tradition that would influence the world via its illuminated art technique
- But art is also sensitive....



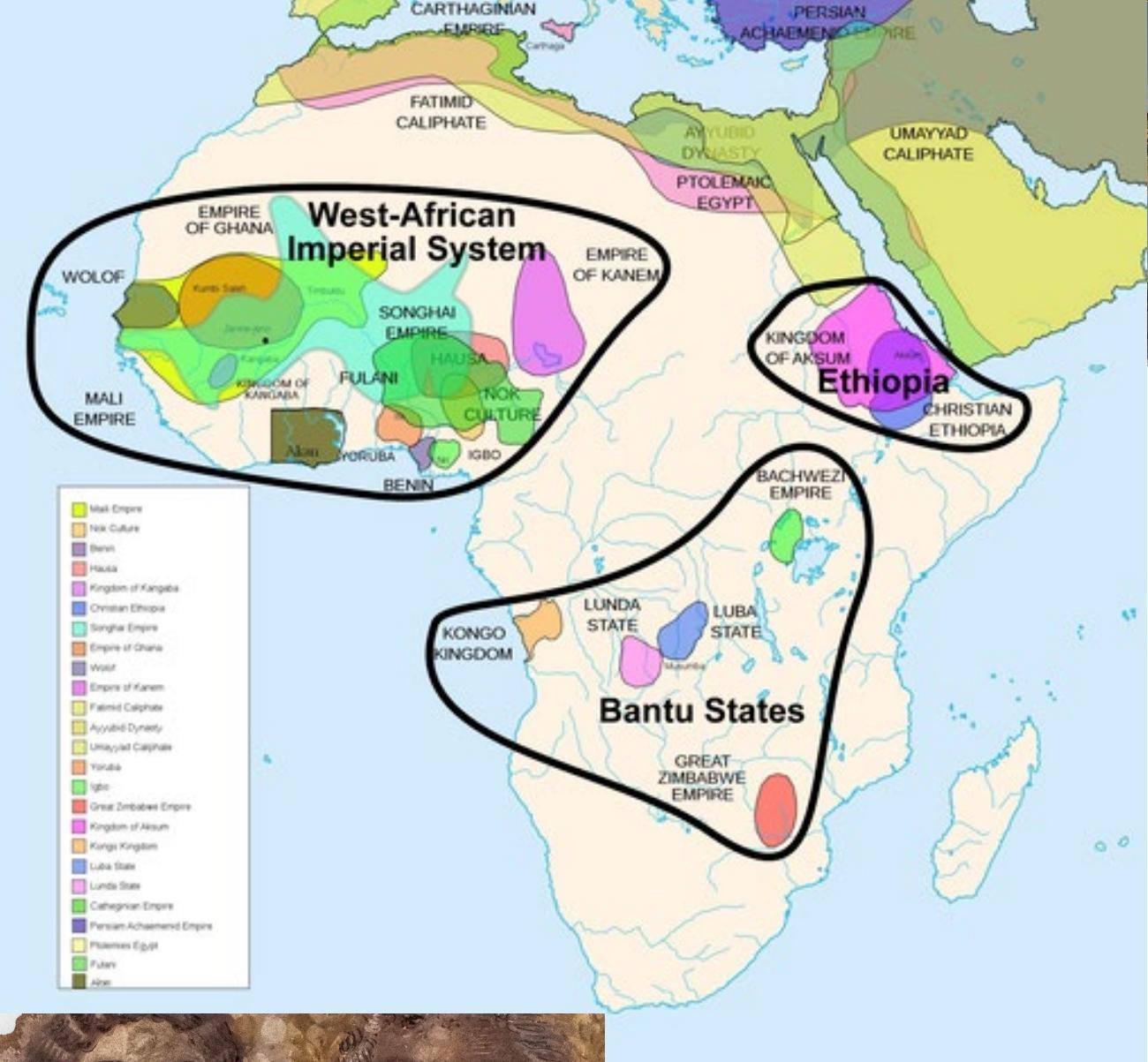
1320 manuscript from Tabriz



1307
miniature by
Rashid al-din
Fadlalah



1540
miniature
by
Nazami at
Tabriz
(Safavid
painting)

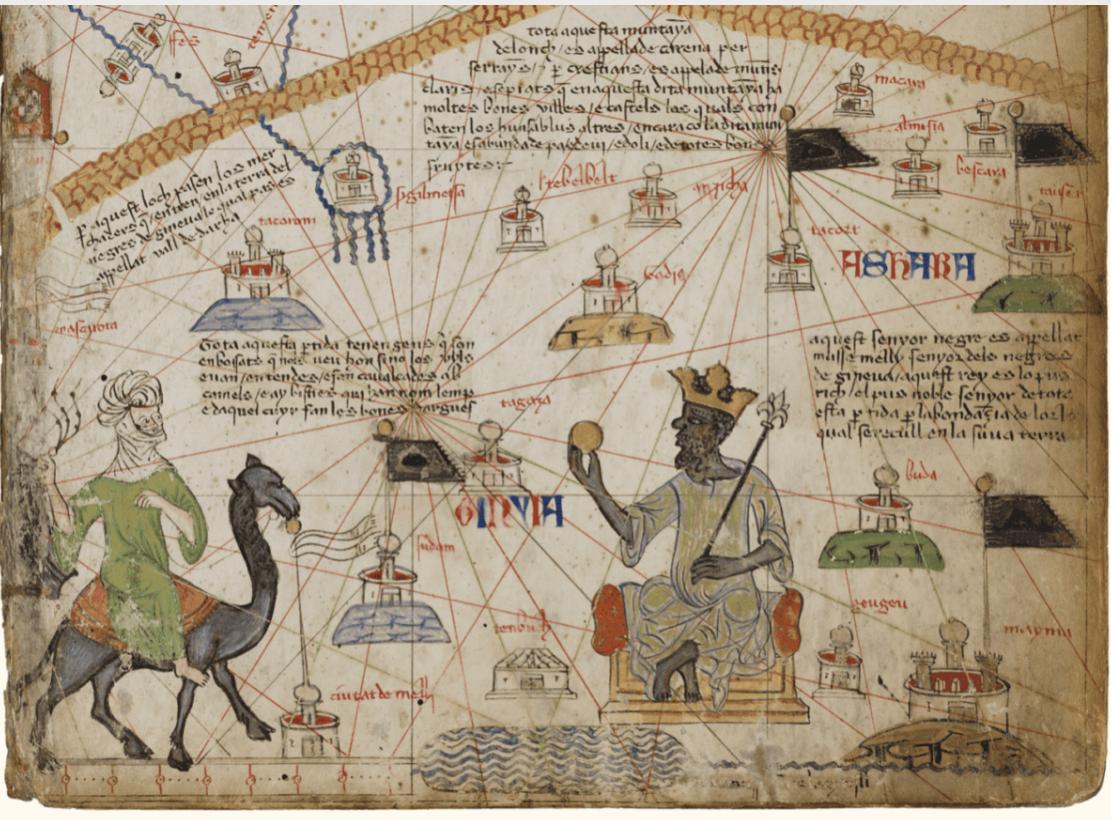


Africa

- Various political structures, heavily influenced by Christianity (Ethiopian) and Islamic (North African Caliphate) ideas.
 - Monarchies, regal and federated kingdom
 - Oligarchies
 - Heavily entwined with spiritual authority, community sanction and control of trade routes and resources
 - Centre of learning: Timbuktu, Djenne, Swahili Coast
 - Population: 35-50 million by 1500 CE



Before ‘racial’ construct



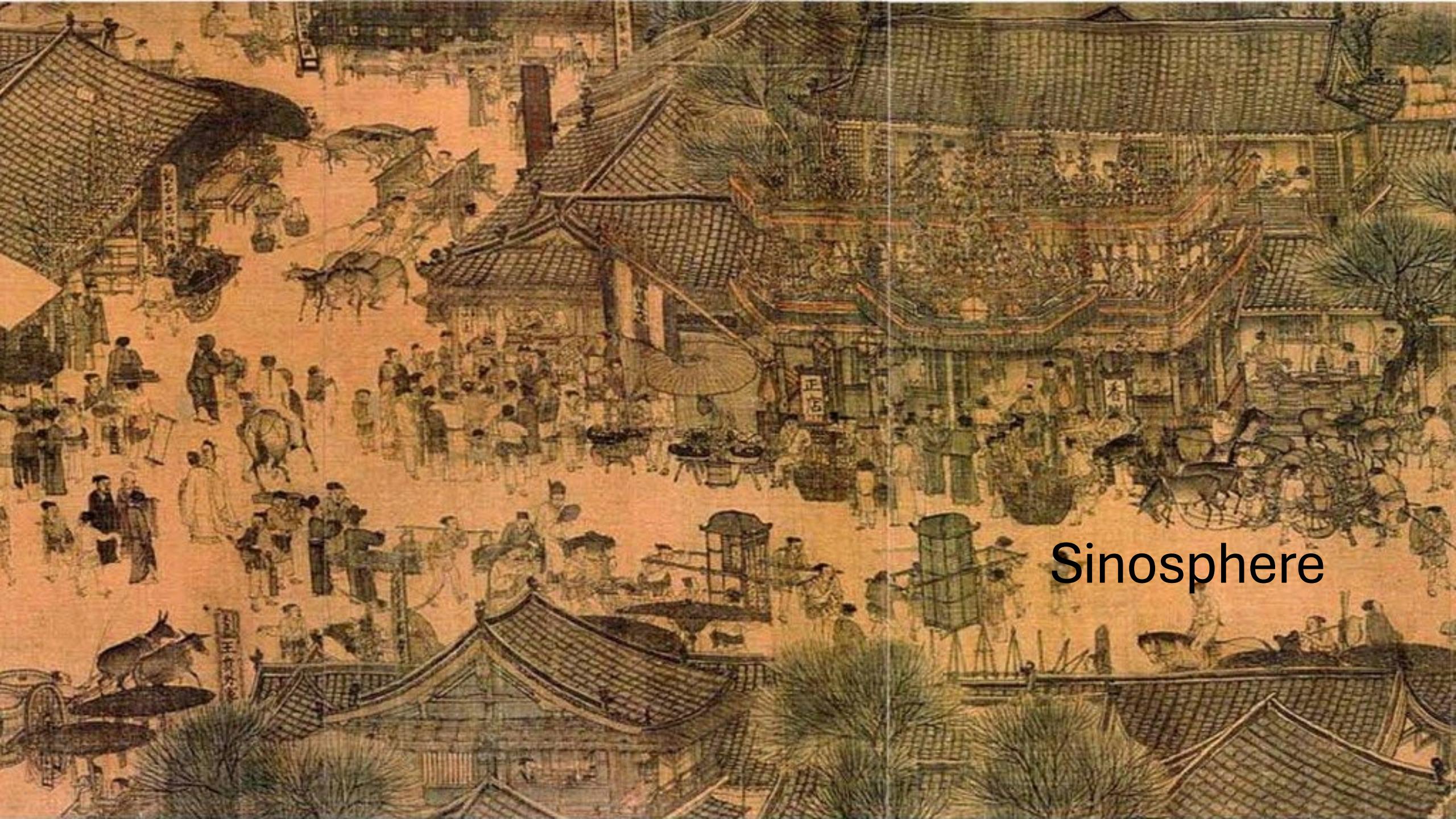
Bondage: Plantation Slavery and Failures without Guns and Institutions (1)

- Roman Legacy
 - Hadrian's Reform on Chattel Slave Treatment
 - Made killing a criminal offence, Constantine made it homicide
 - Ban on forced gladiatorial combats
 - Ban on forced prostitution
 - Abolishment of slavery camps (brutal ergastula)
 - Constantine's reforms (306-337 CE)
 - Manumissimo in ecclesia
 - Family protection
 - Prevention against wrongful enslavement (circumduction)
 - Slaves had a broad term back then; no one was technically bound for life
 - Nuances: series of revolts (Spartacus)

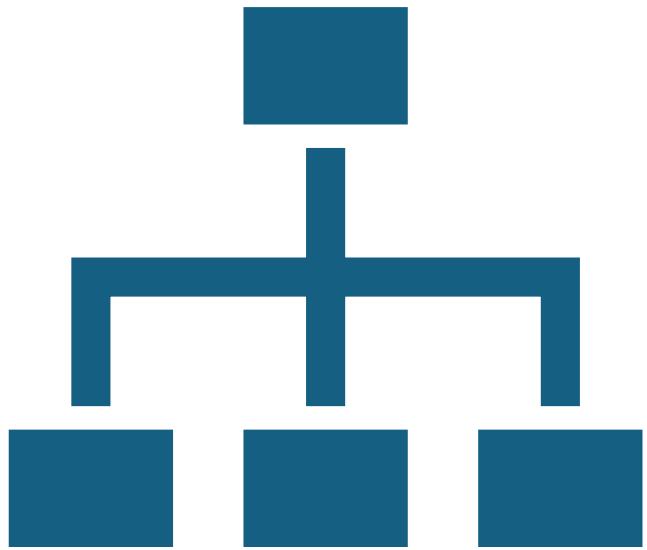
Bondage: Plantation Slavery and Failures without Guns and Institutions (2)

- Zanj Rebellion (869-883 CE)
 - Ended short lived plantation style system (30-40 years)
- Turks
 - Seljuks Expansion from Central Asia
 - Ottoman Conquest (1299-1453)



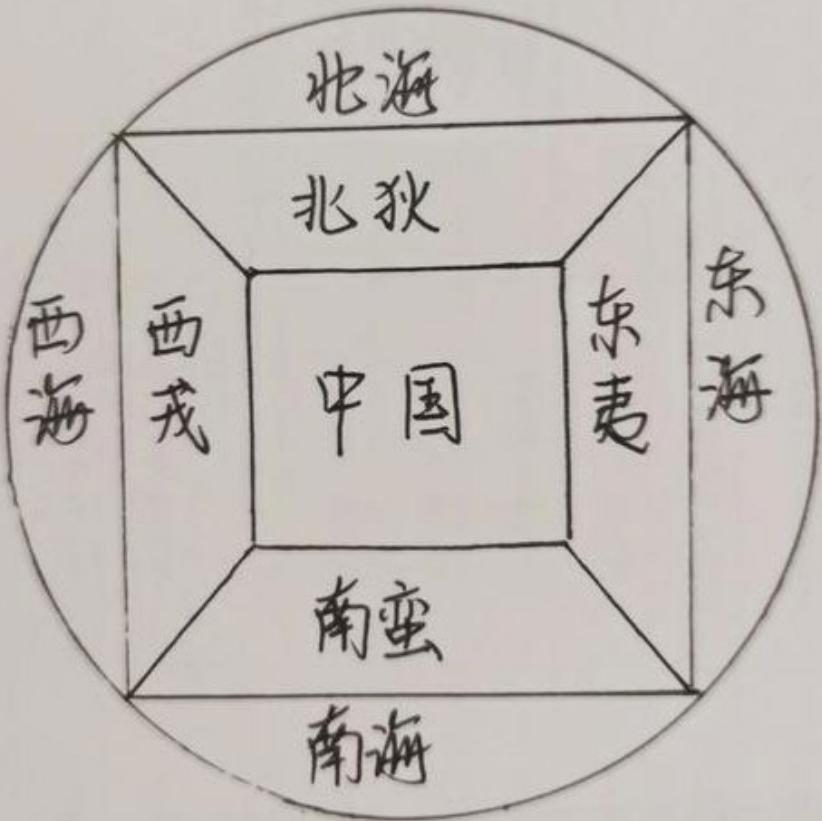
A detailed illustration of a traditional Chinese city street scene. The scene is filled with people in traditional attire, horses, carriages, and buildings with dark, tiled roofs. In the center, there is a building with a sign that reads "正店" (Zhengdian). The style is characteristic of Chinese ink wash painting.

Sinosphere



Political Institution, Social Structure, Property Rights

- The paradox of Centralisation:
- Sky is high and emperor is far away: centralized bureaucracy and decentralized governance.
- Lineage, guilds, informal bureaucracy, corruption and informal rule.
- Guanxi networks (Ambrose King):
 - neither individualism nor collectivism,
 - neither completely closed nor open.
- Property Rights esp. in land (Kishimoto):
 - Imperial “ownership” but private contracting
 - Neither individual nor completely collective.
 - Relational and relative.



Huaxia (華夏)

- "those foreign to us surely have different minds" ... "When foreign tribes enter into the Central Plains, they will be centralized; when people of Central Plains enter into foreign tribes, they will be foreignized" (Confucius, Spring and Autumn Annals)

The spatial China: centre vs. periphery, challenge and response

Viewing traditional China through the lens of geography and civilization.

Empire versus nation-states:

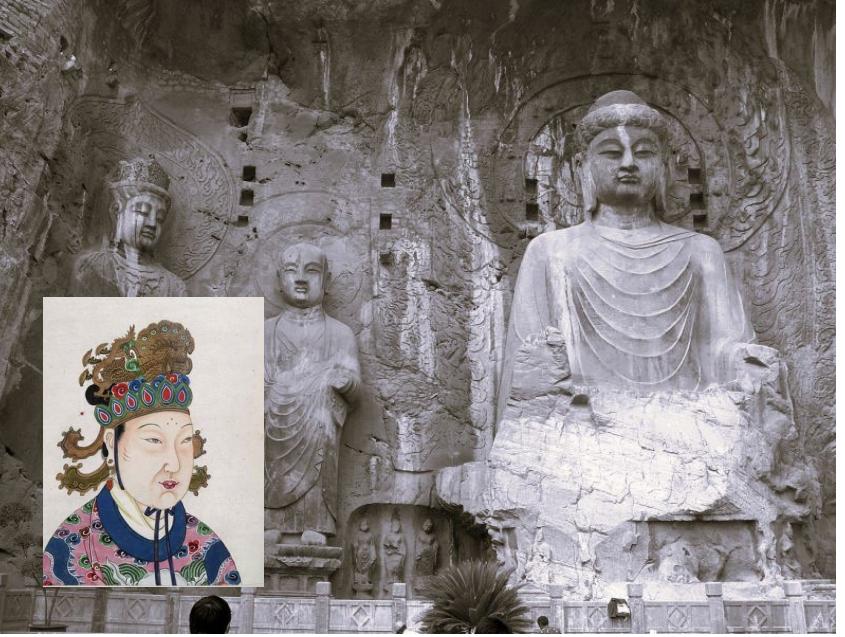
- hierarchy versus horizontal (nation-states).
- Core versus periphery

The empire rose and sustained as a response to historical challenges and shocks.

Often changes (or mutation) came from the periphery.

Historically, the frontier outside the Great Wall (or China proper) represents the periphery.

From the mid-19th century, this becomes China's coastal fringe.



Tang,
Song,
Yuan,
Ming



A traditional China-centered political order: the tributary system. (Tianxia)

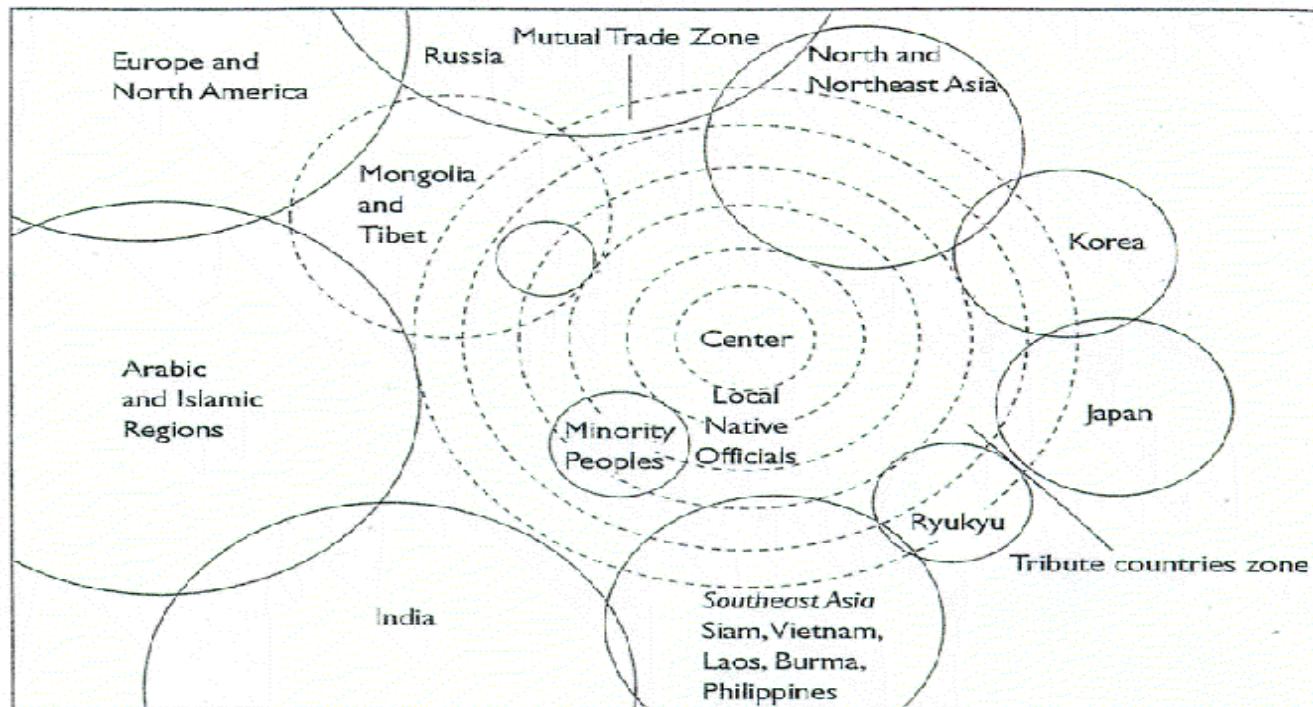
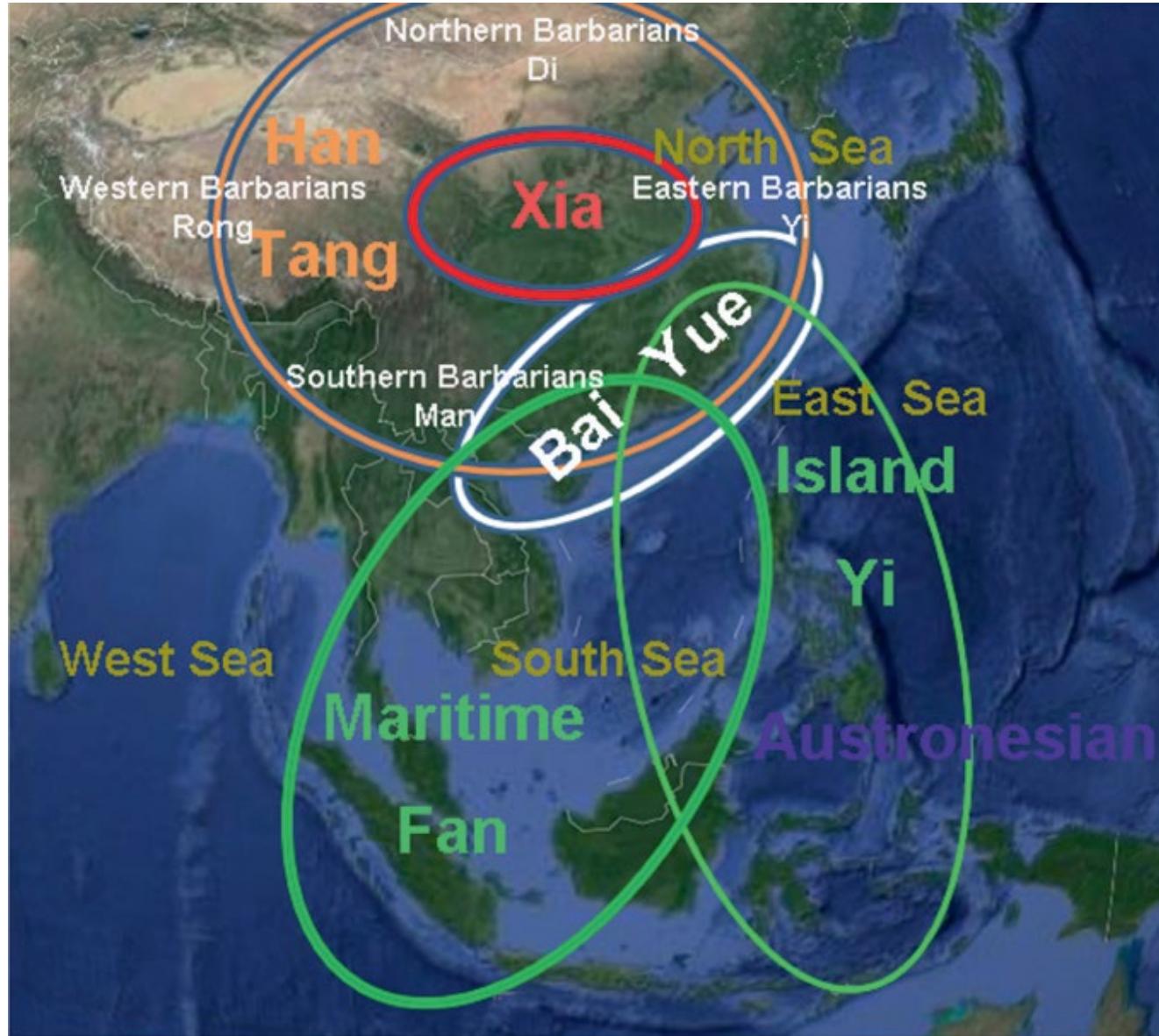


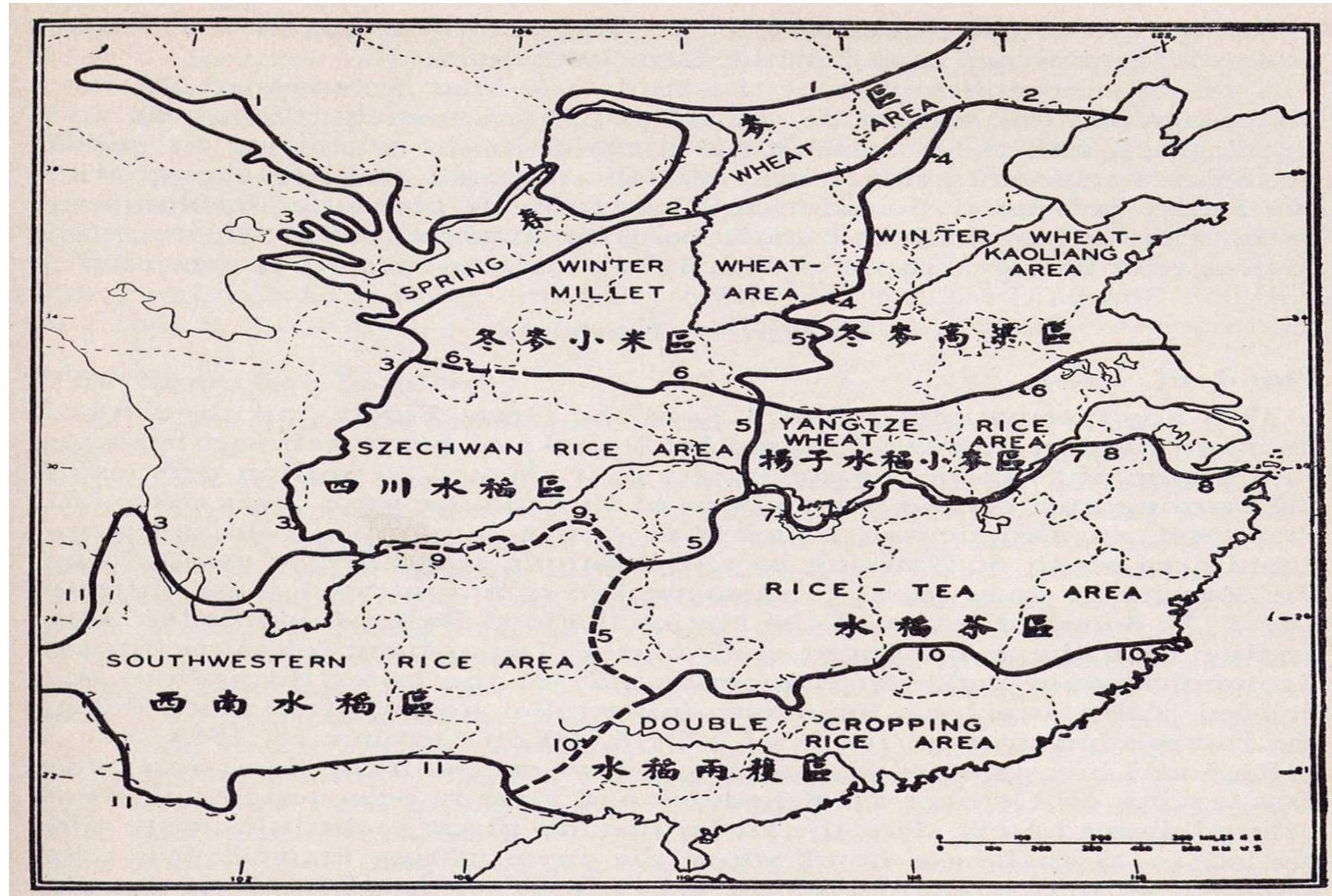
Figure 1.1 Sino-centric world and inter-regional relations in Asia

Source: Adapted from Takeshi Hamashita, *Network Power. Japan and Asia* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997), p. 122.



Wu, C., 2021. Southeastern Peripheries of Huaxia: The Historical-Cultural Interaction and Assimilation from Southern Man and Bai Yue of Mainland to Island Yi and Maritime Fan. In The Prehistoric Maritime Frontier of Southeast China (pp. 25-58). Springer, Singapore.

John Buck's Agricultural Zones: Wheat versus Rice (North versus South)



Skinner's core macro-regions (core regions in shade)

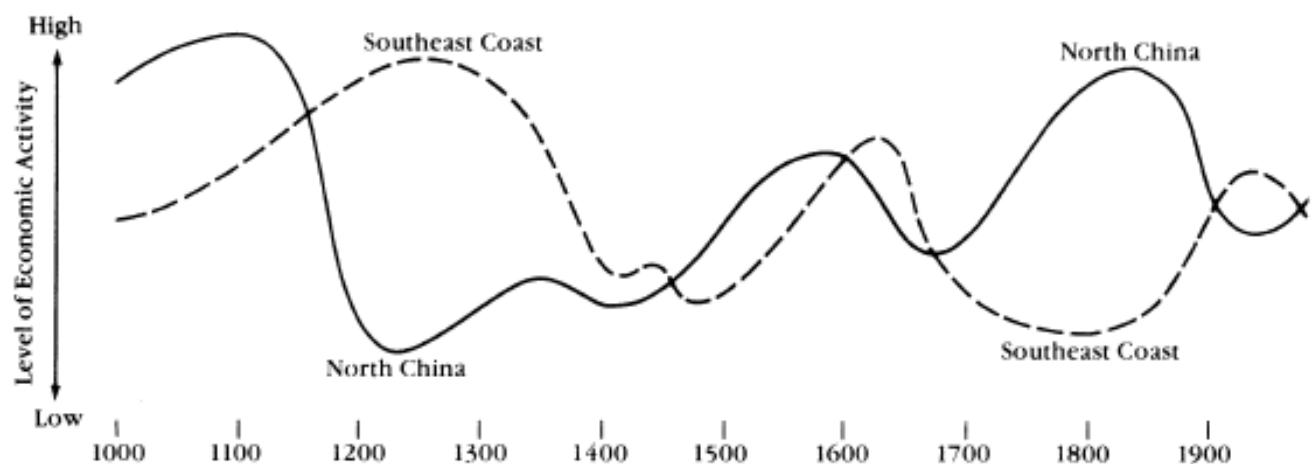


Figure 1. Regional Cycles of Development, North China and the Southeast Coast, 1000–1980.
(The vertical axis should be thought of as a per capita index.)



The Traditional View: the Song peak thesis

- Song China (960-1279) represents the peak of Chinese civilization (downhill or stagnation afterward)?
- The Needham thesis (by Joseph Needham): Science and technology.
- The Song lead is comprehensive, just to give some examples:
 - Technological inventiveness
 - Industrial and iron production
 - Urbanization
 - Commercialization and the introduction of paper money
 - National civil service examination system and rise of civil bureaucracy.
 - Education, printing and a reading public.



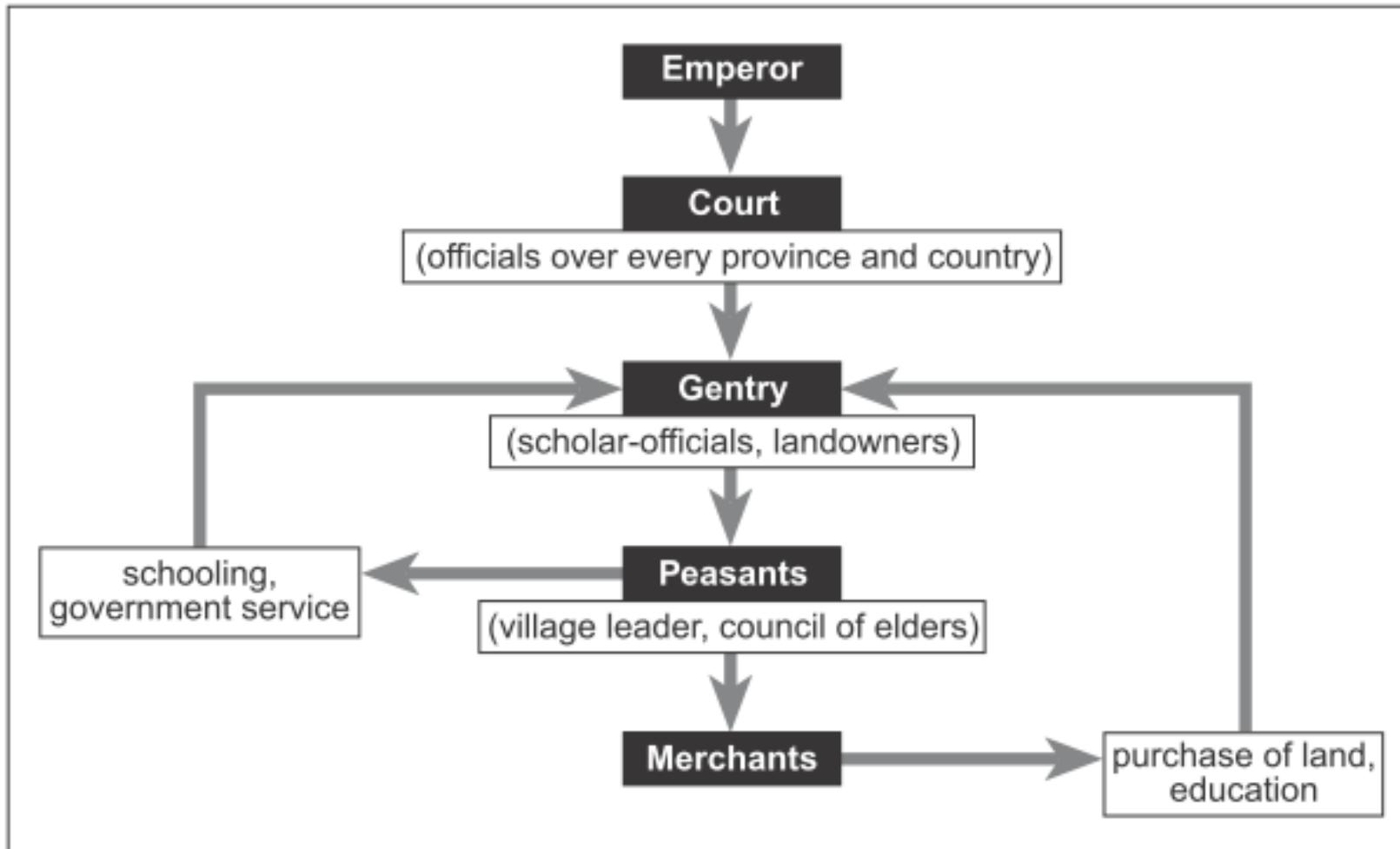
War and the Chinese Path towards Centralized Absolutism

- Phases of unification and fragmentation in Chinese history: China was unified only less than half of the time during the past two millenia.
- But clearly trending towards unification after the 10th century.
- Sino-Nomadic rivalry and coalition building on both sides of the Great Wall.
- China became more unified earlier and longer over a larger territory than any other major civilization.



Chinese Social Organisation

Chinese Social Organization During the Tang and Song Dynasties



Source: *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

The Dynastic Cycle

NEW DYNASTY

- BRINGS PEACE
- (RE)BUILDS INFRASTRUCTURE
- GIVES LAND TO PEASANTS
- PROTECTS PEOPLE



GENERATIONS GO BY
NEW DYNASTY BECOMES...

OLD DYNASTY

- TAXES PEOPLE TOO MUCH
- STOPS PROTECTING PEOPLE
- LETS INFRASTRUCTURE DECAY
- TREATS PEOPLE UNFAIRLY



NEW DYNASTY CLAIMS
MANDATE OF HEAVEN



OLD DYNASTY LOSES
MANDATE OF HEAVEN



PROBLEMS

- CORRUPTION
- FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, ETC.
- PEASANT REVOLTS
- INVADERS ATTACK EMPIRE
- BANDITS RAID COUNTRYSIDE



Three Phases of Unification and Incidences of Violence

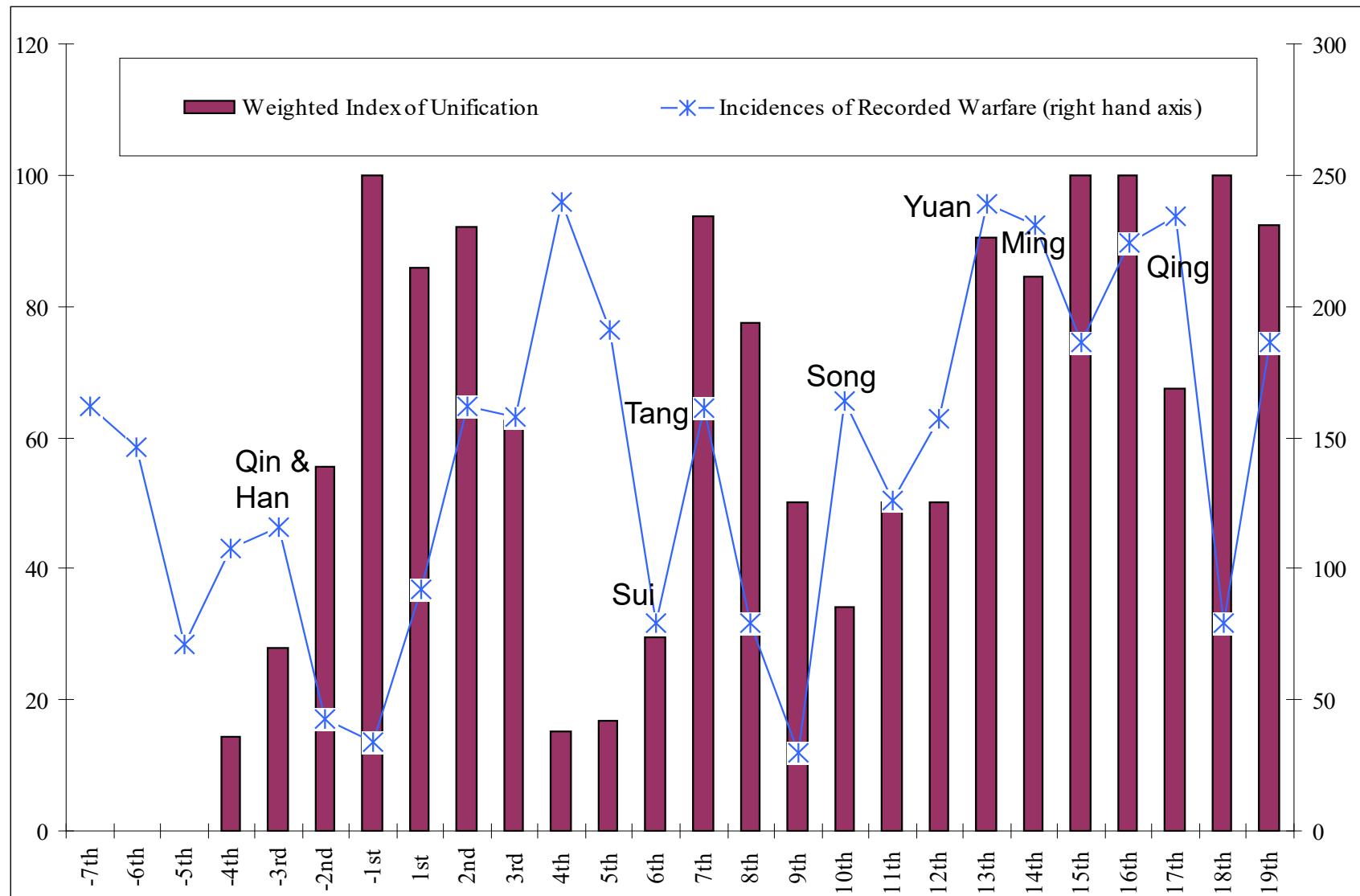
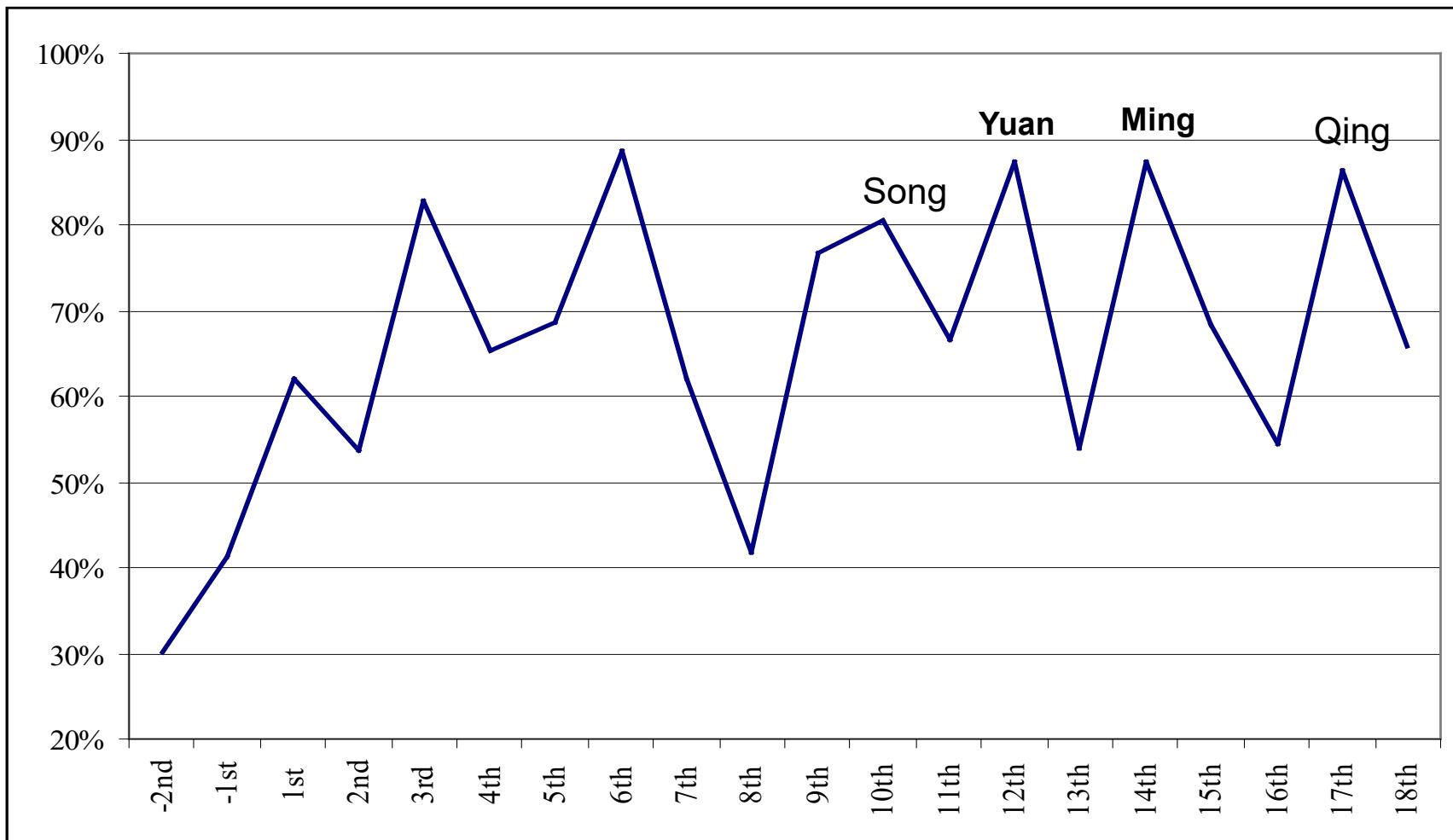


Figure 2. Incidences of Warfare fought between Nomads and Han Chinese per Century as a share of Total Warfare (in percent)



I. China was unified as often by non-Han as by Han-Chinese.

II. Distinction between Han and non-Han is less clear cut.

III. All unifications (except Ming China and later Republic China) originated from the north.

Table 1. Imperial unifications in China from the Shang era to the present.

Unification	Period	Ethnicity	From	Capital
Shang	1766–1122 BCE	??	North central (Huang He)	Anyang (Huang He)
W. Zhou	1122–771 BCE	Frontier Han (‘Western barbarians’)	North-west (Wei River Valley)	Loyang (Huang He)
Qin	221–206 BCE	Frontier Han	North-west (Wei River Valley)	Xianyang (Wei)
Han	202 BCE–220 CE	Han	North-west (confluence of Wei and Huang)	Chang'an (Wei)
W. Jin	280–316	Han	North central (Huang He)	Loyang (Huang He)
N. Wei	386–534	To-ba (Mongolian)	North-west	Loyang (Huang He)
(partial)				
Sui	581–618	Han	North-west (Wei River Valley)	Chang'an (Wei)
Tang	618–907	Han (ruling family of Turkic descent)	North-west (Wei River Valley)	Chang'an (Wei)
Liao (partial)	907–1125	Kitan (Altaic?)	North-east (S. Manchuria)	Beijing
N. Song	960–1127	Han	North central (lower Huang He around Kaifeng)	Kaifeng (Huang He)
(partial)				
Jin (partial)	1115–1234	Jurchen (Tungus)	North-east (Manchuria)	Beijing
Yuan	1206–1368	Mongol	North-west (Mongolia)	Beijing
Ming	1368–1644	Han	East (Nanjing area)	Beijing
Qing	1644–1911	Manchu (Tungus)	North-east (Manchuria)	Beijing
Communist	1949–	Han	North-west (Long March to Wei River Valley; unification from there)	Beijing

Source: Compiled from various sources: Eugene Anderson, University of California (personal communication); Victor H. Mair, ‘The north(west)ern peoples and the recurrent origins of the “Chinese” state’, in J. A. Fogel, ed., *The teleology of the modern nation-state: Japan and China*, Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 2005, pp. 46–84, table 1087; and Peter N. Stearns, *The encyclopedia of world history*, 6th edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2001, table 490. Not all of these states controlled territory exceeding a million square kilometres, and thus only some of them are reflected in Table 2.

Economic Consequences of this political equilibrium

- Fixed Target of Revenue by the state (fixed rent “landowners”).
- Hence, the state turned into an absentee landlord.
- The “liberation” of peasantry from overlords.
- De-facto property rights in land and labor
 - The rise of small-scale independent farming household.
 - The rise of factor markets in land and labor (including the transaction of multiple user rights).
- National Examination as avenue to power and “rents” (Political “participation” and social mobility).
- The virtues of Centralised Absolutism: the birth of “public” interest (Liu ZhongYuan, Han Yu)



Chagatai Khanate ■

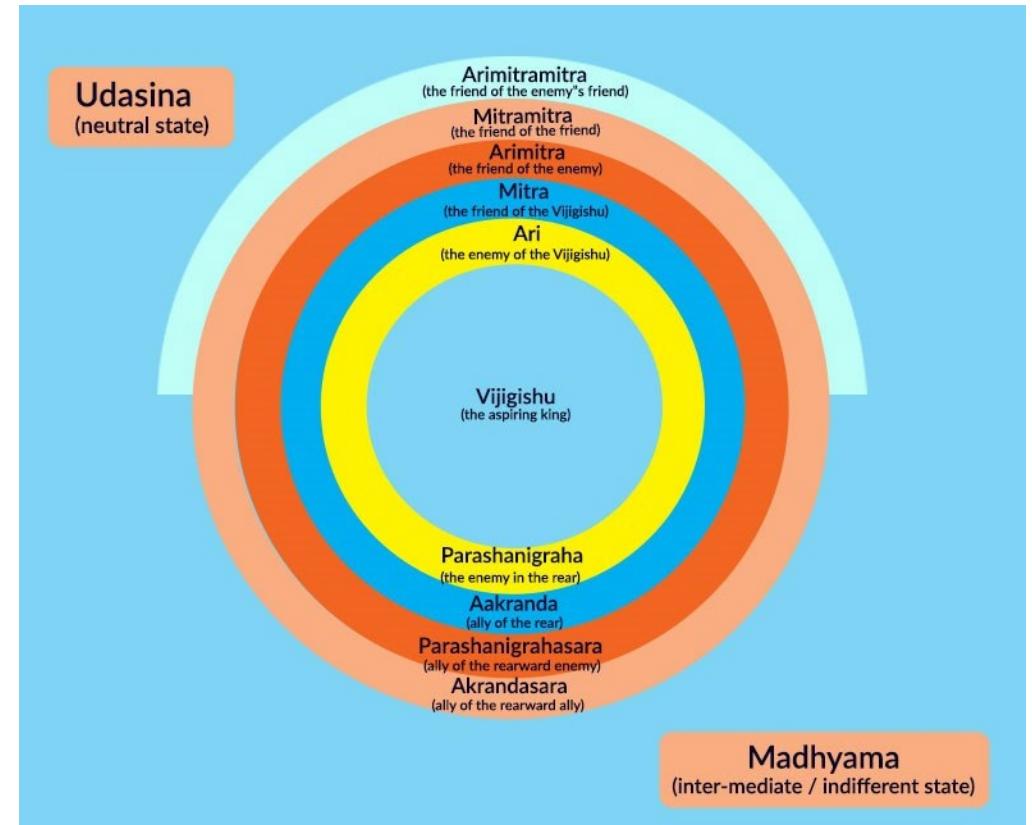
MONGOL EMPIRE



Bharata

The World According to Vedic Culture

- Dharmashastra refers to a genre of Sanskrit texts that outline the moral, legal and social duties.
 - Laws of Manu (Manusmriti)
 - Yajnavalkya Smriti: practical approach to laws and ethics
 - Narada Smriti: Judicial procedures and legal matters
 - Apastamba Dharmasutra: personal conduct and ritual duties
 - It includes details on Raja Dharma (king's duties)



Social Structure: The Caste System and its transformation

Mixture of system

Sanskritization

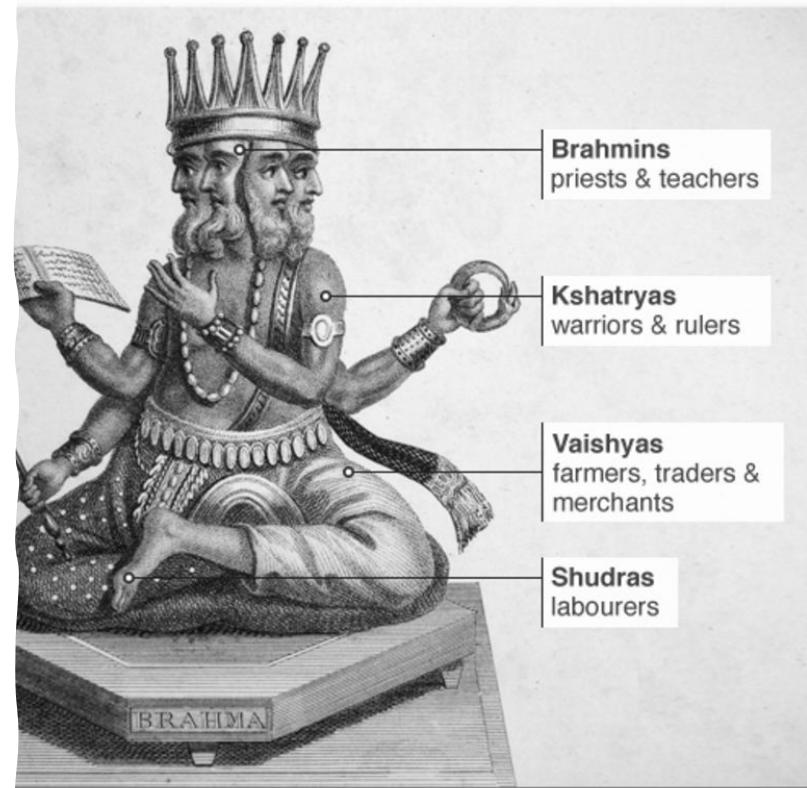
Brahminism

The “Caste” System

Varna: Brahmins, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Sudra

Varna versus Jati

Hinduism and the British

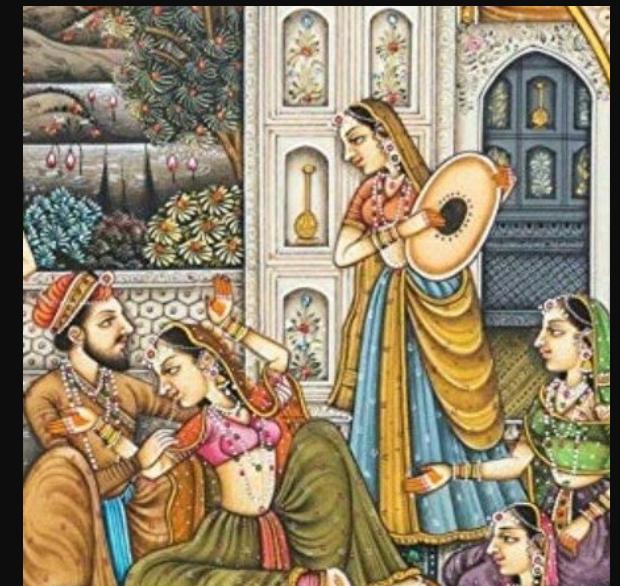
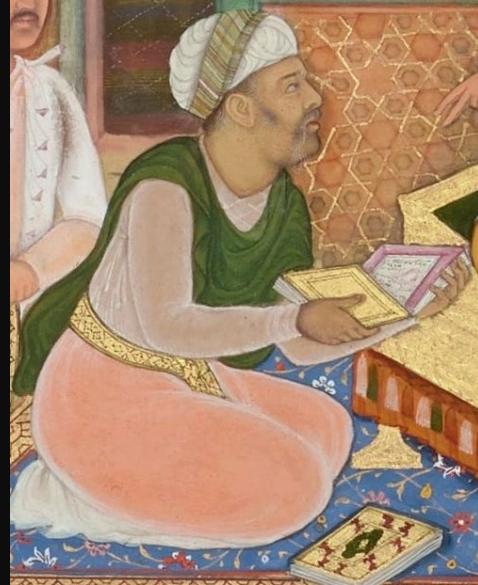


BBC



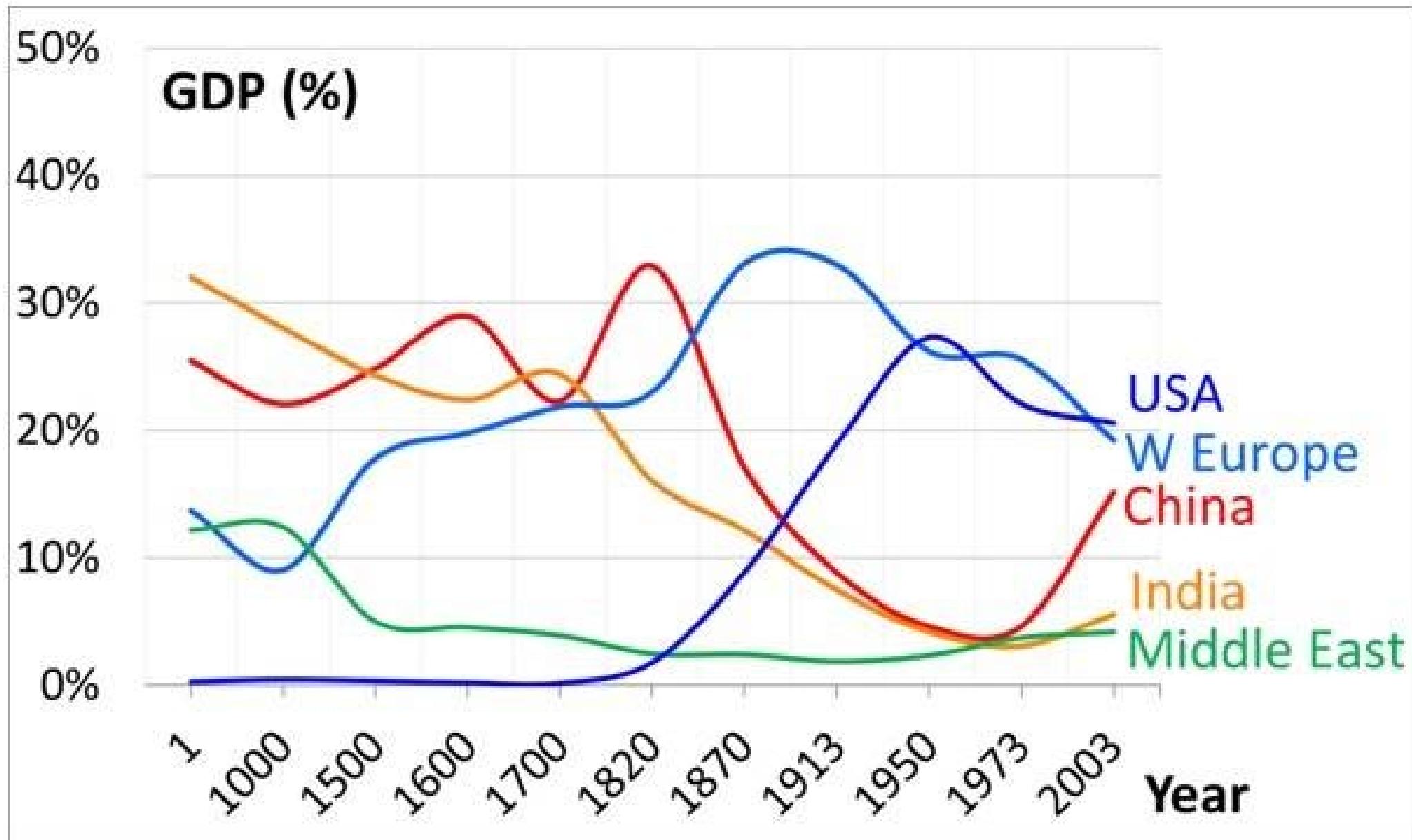
Islam in India

- “Rajput-Mughal Empire”
- Establishment of the divine right to rule under Emperor Akbar (1542-1605)
- Abul Fazl wrote three volumes of Akbarnama (Ain I Akbari) --? Record of the administrative and legal framework
 - Stresses centralized governance
 - Zabt System (revenue)
 - Promotion of Religious Tolerance under Sulh-i-Kul (universal peace)
 - Cultural Synthesis



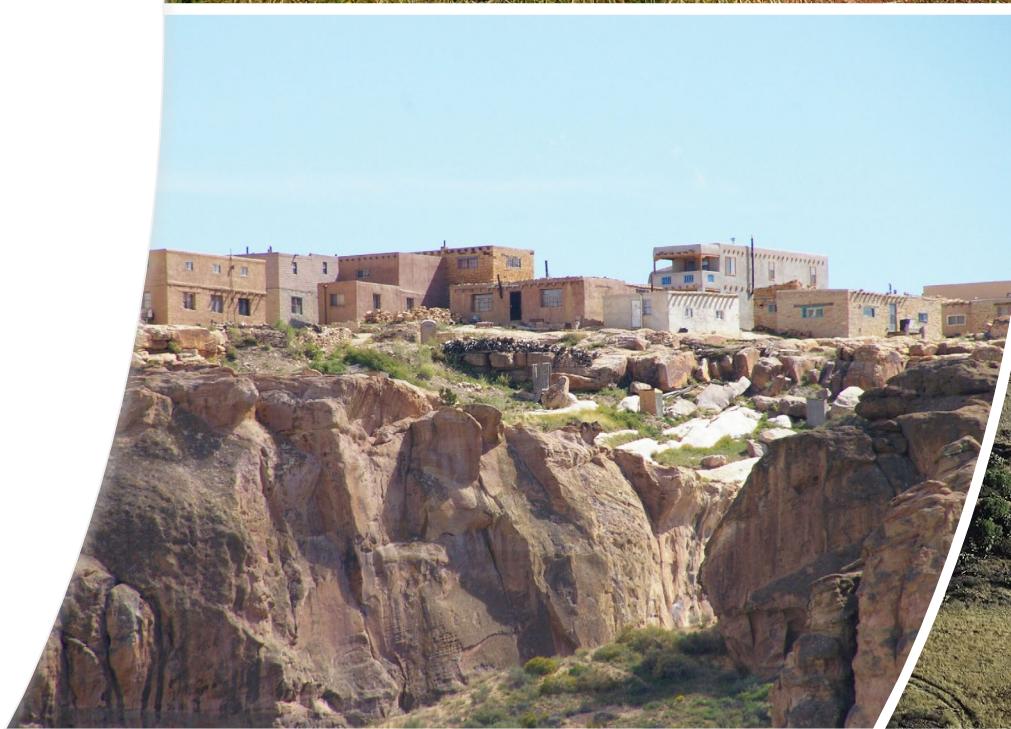
Legacies of the Caliphate, China, and India

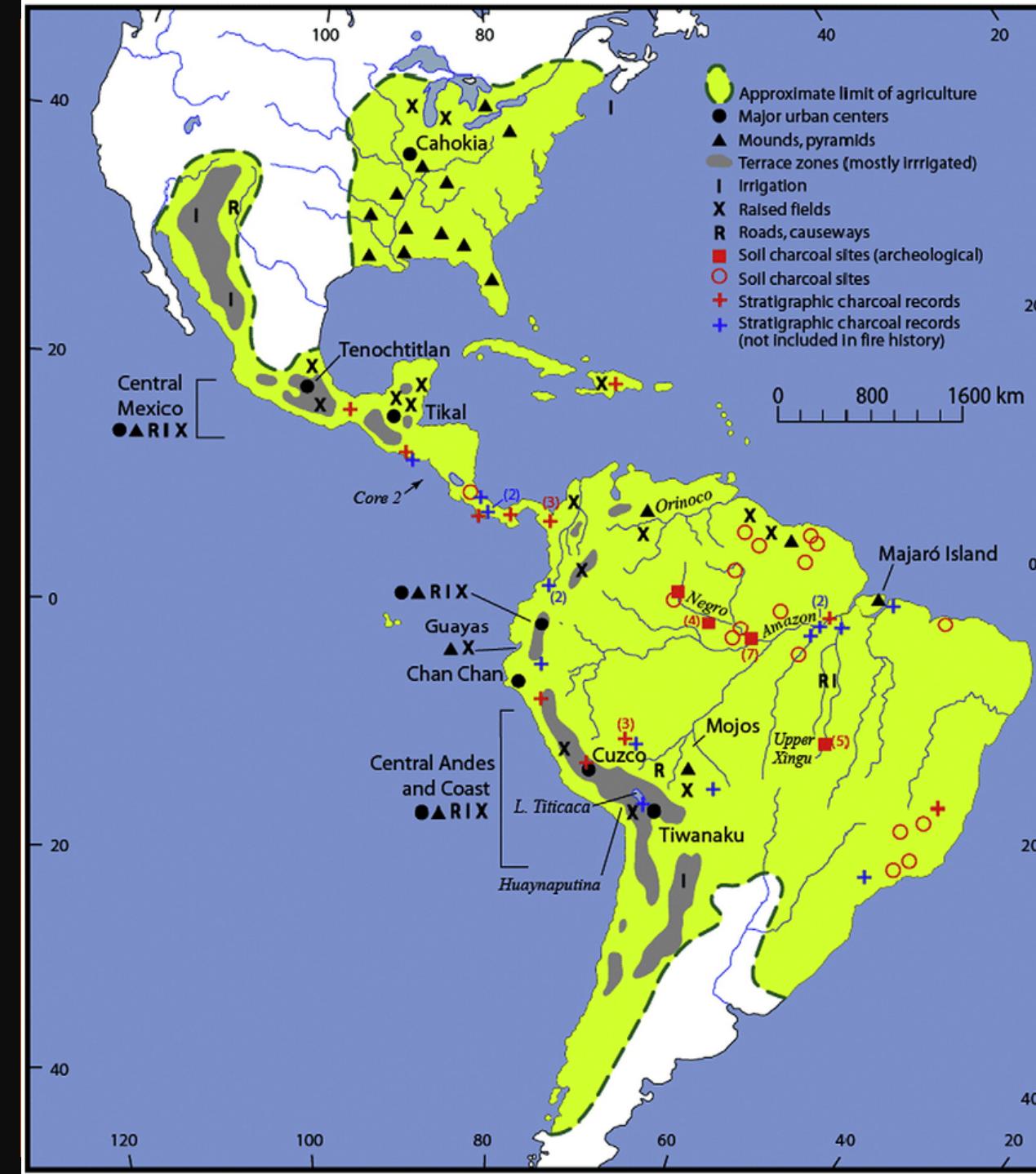
- Caliphate
 - Centralised Governance
 - Legal and Administrative Systems: Sharia Law and Administrative practices such as tax collection
 - Expanded trade and diplomacy network
 - Intellectual and Cultural Integration: the Islamic Golden Age
- Chinese Imperial System
 - Meritocratic Civil Service
 - Centralised State model
 - Tributary system: regional order and hegemony
 - Cultural diplomacy: Sinocisation
 - Innovation and Trade
- Indian Empires
 - Spread of Buddhism and Hinduism
 - Cultural Diplomacy
 - Influence on Southeast Asian kingdoms → legal traditions
 - Trade network



Major Civilisations and Political Structures in Pre-Columbian North America

- Mississippian Culture thrived from 800 to 1600 CE with large urban centers.
- Mesoamerican Empires included Maya, Toltec, Aztec, Mixtec, and Inca civilizations.
- Southwest and Northwest Cultures developed unique political and social systems.





- **Chiefdoms:** Most advanced societies, like the Mississippians, were organised as chiefdoms—a form of ranked society led by hereditary chiefs thought to possess divine or supernatural sanction. Authority was both political and religious, with major settlements serving as ceremonial and administrative centres.
- **Elite and Commoner Divide:** Societies were strictly stratified into elites (leaders, priests, skilled artisans) and commoners (farmers, labourers). Elites were accorded special privileges, believed to have supernatural connections, and controlled surplus resources and decision-making.
- **Urbanism:** Cahokia (peak c.1100–1300 CE) was North America's largest urban complex, with 6,000–40,000 people, 120+ mounds over 6 square miles, and ties as a major ceremonial and trading hub.
- **Decentralised Polity:** Outside the great urban centres, many groups remained semi-nomadic, politically decentralised, and organised by extended kin networks, with flexible local leadership

Population Estimates for the Americas (800–1600 CE)

Continental Totals: 50 and 60 million people just prior to European contact c.1492.

Demographic Change:

Population Peak and Decline: Archaeological evidence shows a population peak c.1150 CE in North America, declining before 1450 CE in many

Regional Distribution (c.1492):

- United States & Canada: 3.8 million
- Mexico (including Aztec, Maya): 17.2 million
- Central America: 5.6 million
- Andean South America (Inca heartland): 15.7 million
- Caribbean: 3 million
- Lowland South America: 8.6 million