

## CHAPTER 15 READING QUESTIONS - CARTER BREHM

- Describe the signs of decline in the Middle East and in China.
  - On the middle eastern side, the major sign of decline was when they turned towards religious societies. This led to less scholars, which led to less advances in art, science, and math, which gradually lessened the power of the Middle East. In China, expeditions stopped which meant that new land wasn't being added to the empire, signaling signs of the eventual decline.
- Describe the nature of the Italian Renaissance. To what extent was it strictly an Italian experience?
  - The Italian Renaissance was interesting because most literature and art wasn't religiously themed, instead the painters and authors focused on their own lives and experiences, which set them apart from their predecessors. This was strictly Italian because it was right in the country.
- Define the nature of early Western exploration and colonial patterns.
  - The Vivaldis looked for a western route to India in the Straits of Gibraltar. Around 60 years later, sailors from Barcelona found Sierra Leon, with the African Coast as their guide.. Then, the Portuguese and Spanish settled, building organized colonies that were dependent on money-making crops. They used the locals as slaves.
- Outline the relative decline of civilizations outside the world network.
  - In the Americas, society was falling apart due to lack of technology, internal conflict, and especially European decline. the Polynesians were the opposite, and they were almost completely cut off from interactions with other societies. Africa was the best off, however, because they had grown used to these diseases and Europe was helping to develop technology in their area.
- Summarize the transitions taking place in world history circa 1450.
  - Around 1450, colonization and exploration was a hot topic, and many countries were cashing in on the newfound land. Slowly, the West began to emerge as the leader in international trade. This brought lots of diseases, but the world ultimately came out on top with this new economic system.