

Unit 1: The Global Tapestry 1200-1450

1.1: Dev. in East Asia 1200-1450 t

- Song China (960-1279)
 - Leading power in ancient world and a continuity throughout history (dynasties)
 - CE 960 china was split into regions as Tang Dynasty (618-907) weakened
 - Zhao Kuangyin united the divided regions into Song Dynasty
 - Built off innovations of tang rulers and established chinese state structure that lasted over 1k years
 - Song State Structure
 - Bureaucracy led by **confucianism**
 - Meritocracy
 - Mandate of Heaven
 - 6 departments: personnel, finance, rites, army, justice, public works
 - Watched over by censorate
 - Confucian thought: reality is fundamentally hierarchical and everyone has their place in society
 - Led to revival of **civil service exam**
 - Shifted power from hereditary to scholarly leaders → **Scholar Gentry** class
 - Emphasized **Filial Piety** and a **Patriarchal** society
 - Respect towards parents, elders, and ancestors
 - **Foot binding** became a status symbol
 - Painful technique for upper class women that showed they didn't have to work on their feet
 - Trade
 - Participated heavily in trade such as **silk road** across afro eurasia
 - Commercialized chinese society → people began to produce goods for sale exclusively
 - Silk road had places for travelers to rest
 - Production of new goods for the market
 - Cast iron goods
 - Song iron production was so advanced, it rivaled 18th century Europe's iron production
 - Porcelain (Fine China)
 - Silk
 - Not enough metal to keep minting coins, led to paper money which was overprinted and created inflation → term **flying cash**

- The **Grand Canal** connected the north and south of China from the **Sui** to the **Yuan** Dynasty
 - Naval Innovations
 - Compass and navigation charts
 - Junk Ships, large ships with lots of cargo and square sails
 - **Gunpowder**
 - Discovered by alchemists with saltpeter and charcoal and spread to military
 - Agricultural Productivity
 - With new technologies such as **Metalworking** which developed iron plows
 - Led to population growth (25% to 40% of world's population)
- Japan and Chinese Influence
 - **Heian Japan (794-1185)** was contending with chinese influence
 - Wanted to form own identity to stay separate
 - Chinese influence was all over japan
 - Architecture, art, state system
- Religion in China
 - Center of trade routes so many religions met in china
 - Buddhism spread to china from India and new forms from trade routes
 - **Mahayana Buddhism** from Vietnam became very popular in china
 - Added deities and heavens and hells to originally atheistic Buddhism

1.2: Dev. in Dar al Islam 1200-1450 a

- **Abbasid Caliphate (750-1258 CE)**
 - Became leading power after **Umayyad**'s fall
 - Both were **Sunni Islam**
 - **Fatimid (909-1171)** was **Shia** caliphate
 - **Caliphs** were both religious rulers and state rulers
 - **Sultan** = non arabic ruler but still followed islam
 - 750: The Golden Age of Islam, lines up w/ the Song's golden age
 - **House of Wisdom** became center of learning where they expanded upon advancements of other cultures
 - Preserved ancient Greek Texts and translated to Arabic, adopted **papermaking** from china
 - Developed **Arabic Numerals** by studying math from India
 - Adopted papermaking from China
 - **Jizya** tax made more people convert to islam

- Many benefits to converting, majority was islam, no tax, one code of laws
 - Society
 - **Baghdad** “Round City” was capital, eventually became highly decentralized with competing regional caliphates from **Dar al-Islam’s** size
 - The power of the Islamic world was so immense that it rivaled the Christian kingdom of **Constantinople**
 - Cultural Flourishing and Trade
 - Increased Trade with **Dhows**
 - Used **lateen sails** which were triangular and could be used to tack into winds
 - Knowledge of the **monsoon wind** patterns
 - Joint ventures with Christians and Jewish traders
 - Because more religiously tolerant, and was very profitable
 - Credit system: eliminate risks with carrying coins
 - Receipts and bills system
 - Hospital and Medical Care improved
 - Relied heavily on slave labor
 - Decline leading to decentralization
 - Internal division
 - **Sunni vs. Shia**
 - Ethnic differences
 - External threats
 - Seljuk Turks (nomadic Sunni)
 - Persians, Byzantines
 - Europeans: **Crusades** (1000s-1200s)
 - Mongols
 - 1258 during Crusades: took over Baghdad, marking the end
- Preservation of Islam
 - New Islam states emerged
 - Egyptian **Mamluk Sultanate** (1250-1517)
 - Prospered by trading sugar and cotton
 - Fell when Portuguese/European trade increased
 - Delhi Sultanate (more in 1.3: S.Asia)
 - Seljuk Turk
 - Nomadic, established some states sometimes (not that important)
 - Absorbed by ottoman empire later
 - **Sufi Missionaries**
 - Mystic rituals
 - Appealed by adjusting to local culture
- **Ottoman Empire** (1299-1918)

- Ottoman Turks reunified Dar al Islam in 1299
- **Al-Andalus** (711-1492)
 - Islamic empire in Spain/Iberian peninsula
 - Center of learning
 - Ex. scholar Ibn Rushd aka Averroes
 - Religions tolerated each other
- Culture and Life
 - Women
 - Higher status than Christian or Jewish
 - Respected by Muhammad (founder of Islam)
 - Forbade female infanticide
 - Oppression increased with developments of cities and towns
 - **Hijab**
 - **Harem**: dwelling for wives (polygamy)

1.3: Dev. in South and Southeast Asia 1200-1450 t

- South/SE Asia = India to vietnam/indonesia
- **India**
 - Ruled by Muslims in north (**Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526)**) and Buddhism was important
 - Hindu kingdoms still had most significant influence in India
- **Ghaznavid Empire (977-1186)**
 - Mahmud of Ghazna launched many expeditions from Afghan heartland and established capital Ghazni
 - Muhammad Ghuri led another wave of Islamic Turkish invasions Afghanistan to north India
 - All of north india until the rajas fell one by one (**Rajput Kingdoms**)
 - Before the Turks, rival chiefs called **rajas** ruled
 - Gained power by giving grants to **brahmans** who spread religion (hinduism) and taught the indigenous people how to cultivate
 - Brahmans repaid raja's support with complex genealogies consolidating their power
 - In return, rajas demonstrated that they were well versed in **Sanskrit** culture by patronizing different artists and poets
 - Ghaznis established their own systems, accepted other local customs like hierarchical varna (caste) system
 - Brought political integration but also strengthened the cultural diversity of india
 - Sultans hired local artisans to build many building projects

- Islam never fully dominated South Asia bc sultans didn't force their subjects to convert
 - The Hindus **assimilated** the invading Turks
 - Adopted each others beliefs
 - Turkish speaking Sultans used **Persian** as administrative language cementing varna system as local hindus spoke local languages
 - Rulers collected the **jizya**
 - Permitted communities to administer their own law
 - Islam found that it did not have to be an all conquering religion to prosper in India
- The leaders didn't pay much attention to the life on the Indian coast (southern)
 - Traders settled around the coast
 - **Persian-Zoroastrian** traders around modern day mumbai
 - Arab traders in **Malabar** coast
 - Brought rich and powerful political integration but didn't enforce cultural homogeneity
- **Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526)**
 - The **Turkish** Delhi Sultanate dominated most of north/middle India
 - **Converted** many indians to Muslim (forcefully at first but peacefully later)
 - Enacted **jizya** (nonbeliever) tax
 - Two brothers from Delhi Sultanate were sent to south india to gain influence
 - They had converted to islam for social mobility, so they converted back to Hinduism once they left
 - Established new hindu kingdom in south india called **Vijayanagara Empire (1336-1646)**
 - Trading hub, 2nd largest population in 1000 CE
- Religion in India
 - Dominant religion was **hinduism**, **buddhist** minority
 - Concept of hinduism: through cycle of **reincarnation**, the soul wants to escape the cycle to become one with brahman (a deity) depending on **karma**
 - **Bhakti** movement 12th century
 - Emphasized emotional side and devotion to one god within the polytheistic religion
 - Similar to muslim **sufis** with experience and direct relationship with gods
 - **Caste system** divided hindu society into 5 groups
 - Zero **social mobility** because to move up would mean to die and be reborn
- India and cultural exchange
 - Intellectual exchange with middle east
 - Arabs built on advances in astronomy begun by indians

- Arabs translated indian work on algebra and geometry and spread them throughout Dar al-Islam
- Southeast Asia
 - Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam
 - Filled with hindus and buddhists
 - Religion spread through trade
 - **Majapahit Empire (1293-1527)**
 - **Sea based empire** on island of Java
 - Buddhists
 - Gained wealth and power by controlling sea routes and taxing spices
 - **Khmer Empire (802-1431)**
 - **Land Based empire** in modern day Cambodia
 - Flourished because of complex irrigation and drainage systems going to and from river
 - Led to huge agriculture progress and prosperity
 - Originally hindu but converted later to buddhism
 - Islam also spread to these empires
- Trading Empires in Southeast Asia
 - **Meleka entrepôt** close to **Malaysia** in Southeast Asia
 - Close to Malayan tropical produce
 - Received trade from India, China, and Java—traded all over asia
 - Traders waited for winds to change before moving on
 - **Port of Quilon** in **South Indian Chola Dynasty (300B.C.-1279C.E.)**
 - In between trade routes from China and the Mediterranean → trading hotspot
 - Personal relationships important to trade, large muslim population
 - Received trade from Africa and by land

1.4: State Building in the Americas a

- **Mayan Empire (250-1697)**
 - Central America
 - Relied on Maize
 - Governance: **city-state**
 - No standing army; Fought to gain tribute
 - Collected payment and captives
 - Decentralized
 - Religion
 - Polytheistic
 - Human sacrifice

- Gods of sun, rain, corn
 - Science/technology
 - Astronomy: calendar for religion
 - Used pyramids to observe
 - Concept of zero
 - Writing system
- **Aztec Empire (1300-1521) aka Mexicas**
 - Capital: **Tenochtitlan** (modern day Mexico City)
 - Lake Texcoco
 - Expansion policy
 - Expanded with conquest and alliances
 - Professional army
 - Extremely respected in society
 - 12 million people
 - Government: **Theocracy**
 - Emperor was also religious leader
 - Human sacrifice
 - Conquered areas
 - Heavy taxes and captives
 - Allowed to self-govern (not a bureaucracy)
 - Used local rulers to collect tributes
 - Developments
 - Roads linked areas → trade flourished
 - Irrigation
 - **Chinampas**: floating gardens
 - Women
 - Expected to do housework
 - Engaged in crafts and sometimes commerce
 - Important producing cloth
 - Decline
 - Late 15th
 - Inefficient agricultural technology
 - No wheels
 - Overexpanded → tribes resented
 - Spaniards arrival 1519
- **Inca Empire (1438-1533)**
 - South America: Andes Mountains in Peru
 - Governance
 - Bureaucracy in provinces
 - Ruler claimed to be the sun god Inti's representative

- **Mita System**
 - Mandatory public service
 - Professional army
- Religion
 - Sun god Inti most important
 - Dead rulers mummified
 - Sometimes human sacrifice
 - **Animism**: elements of the physical world can have supernatural powers
- Achievements
 - Numeric record keeping with strings
 - Terrace farming and irrigation
 - Bridges and Roads: **Carpa Nan** (25k mile roadway system)
- Decline
 - Civil war weakened army at the time of Spanish conquistador invasion in 1532
 - Machu Picchu: remaining ruins
- **Mississippian culture (700-1350)**
 - **Earthen mounds**
 - **Cahokia**
 - Largest mound
 - Governance and social structure
 - **Matrilineal** society
 - Chief called Great Sun ruled each town
 - Decline
 - Abandoned for unknown reasons
 - Maybe European diseases or agricultural failure from flooding

1.5: State Building in Africa

- By 1000, most sub-Saharan Africans had adopted agriculture but not centralized governments
 - Organized themselves into **kin-based networks**
 - Led by a **chief** and those close together connected in loose federations
 - Chiefs formed councils to solve problems
 - Bantu migrations spread Swahili language, ironwork, and irrigation around Africa
- **Hausa Kingdom (c.1300-c.1800)**
 - Group of many kin-based networks into a kingdom w/ 7 states but had no central authority
 - Each state **specialized**
 - Plains state specialized, western states provided military

- Benefitted from **Trans-Saharan Trade Network**
- **Mali (1235-1600)**
 - **Sundiata** was the founder of Mali, a Muslim who took power from a disintegrating Ghana
 - **Epic of Sundiata** told by **griots**, described his rise to power
 - Griots are oral storytellers
 - Used his Islamic faith to establish trade relations with North African and Arab Merchants
 - Created a thriving gold trade
 - Nephew **Mansa Musa**
 - Under his rule, became very wealthy with gold and ivory
 - Well known for his **pilgrimage** to **Mecca**
 - Flaunted wealth throughout journey showing wealth of Mali, and devalued gold through his travels from extravagant spending
 - Built **Mosques** and **madrasas** throughout his trip
 - **Madrasas** = islamic schools of learning
 - Built a large mosque and university in **Timbuktu**, an **entrepôt** to attract people from all over the Islamic world
- **Songhai (1375-1591)**
 - Songhai took power from Mali as it began to disintegrate in the late 14th century. They converted to **Sunni Islam** in order to integrate the empire
- **Ghana (c.300-c.1100)**
 - Around the 5th century, the kingdoms of Ghana were established all throughout north Africa
 - Before Ghana, strong central govt were uncommon, communities were organized through **Kinship**, age and gender
 - Before the time of **Muhammad**
 - Reached its peak in 8th and 11th centuries
 - Ghana's rulers sold **gold** and ivory to Muslim traders in exchange for salt, copper, cloth, and tools
 - **Caravans** for trade along with camels which were so important for the trade network
 - 12th century, wars with neighboring societies→ holy war from muslims led by Abu Bakr weakened Ghana and new trading societies emerged in its place → Mali
- **Great Zimbabwe (c.1000-c.1400)**
 - Centralized govt. under a king, spoke **bantu**
 - Architecture demonstrated wealth of the kingdom
 - Traditionally houses were made of wood
 - Known for great walls

- Created by a largely pastoral society coming together for protection and society with homes enclosed on large walls
 - Mixture of agriculture, grazing, trade, and **gold**
- Traded with coastal cities, Indian Ocean basin, which led to blending of Bantu and Arabic to create **Swahili**
 - **Lingua franca** of African continent
- Zimbabwe collapsed when population left to new lands due to overharvesting
- **Ethiopia/Abyssinia (1270-1974)**
 - Beginning in 7th century the spread of Islam made the region religiously diverse
 - Rulers expressed power through architecture and churches
 - Ethiopia had a fusion of faith with traditional **animism** and cultural beliefs with Christianity
 - **Ethiopian Christianity** developed separately from **Rome and Orthodox Church**
 - 12th century Ethiopia and **Kingdom of Axum** emerged
 - Christian led
 - Prospered by trading goods obtained from India, Arabia, the Roman empire, and Africa

1.6: Dev. in Europe 1200-1450 a

- Western half of **Roman empire (625 B.C-476 C.E)** fell in 476
 - Eastern half continued as **Byzantine Empire (395-1453)** in the east
- **Feudalism**: during this time Europe was fractured politically into small tribal kingdoms who were constantly at battle for dominance
 - System of mutual obligations that exist between classes
 - **King** gave land to **Vassals**(lords) in exchange for service and tribute
 - Vassals employed **Knights** for protection in exchange for money
 - **Serfs** lived on land of lords and were tied to land and worked in exchange for a home and some food
 - Feudalism period known as **Dark Ages** because standard of living and intellectual life declined
 - Developed **three-field system** (rotation between seasons for maximum production)
 - **Manorialism**: economic system
- **High Middle Ages (c.1000-c.1450)**
 - Rise of more powerful monarchs
 - Power from feudal lords to kings
 - Two ways to establish power
 - Established large bureaucracies to carry out will of king

- Conscripted giant standing armies
 - Both directly answerable to king
- **Magna Carta 1215**
 - Power shifted back to nobles
 - Gave rights such as right to a jury trial, right of all free citizens to own and inherit property
 - **English Parliament 1265**
 - Body that represented the interests of the noble class
- Continuity of the **Roman Catholic Church's** power
 - Established first universities in Europe during this time
 - Most philosophers and educators were religious at the time
 - Most of art produced during the time was funded by church
 - Funded for visual education for illiterate
- Power struggle between church and state
 - Church continued to provide cultural and ideological unity across Europe
- **Crusades (1096-1291)** were advocated for by the **Pope** and christendom to take up arms to reclaim **Jerusalem** from Muslims
 - Example of churches power, shifted people's loyalties back to the church
 - Ideologically modified to say that it was **holy war** to take land back, and fighting in it would allow entrance to heaven
- Exploration
 - Late 13th century **Marco Polo** left his home to explore the world and found himself in China at the court of Kublai Khan
 - Polo wrote an account of his travels which became popular in Europe and it opened European's imagination to the exotic culture and wealth of the far East
 - Innovations in mapmaking and **cartography**
- Rise of the **middle class (bourgeoisie)**
 - Shopkeepers, merchants, small landowners
- **Small Ice Age**
 - For a few years temperatures slowly fell leading to a sharp decrease in agricultural productivity and thus population
 - Less population, less trade, sinking economic conditions
- **Renaissance (c.1300-c.1600)**
 - Rebirth of ancient greek and roman culture, art, and literature
 - Lots of new art created during this time
 - Ideas of **humanism** stressing importance of individuality
- **Nation States**
 - Feudal kingdoms were decentralized
 - England centralized faster (**Magna Carta**)

- France
 - Decentralized but expansion collided with English → Hundred Years War
 - Joan of Arc
 - Fueled national identity and unified France
- Spain
 - **Marriage of Isabella and Ferdinand** unified Spain and transformed it to a major european power
 - Allied with catholic church to show importance of christianity in their state
 - Son became emperor of holy roman empire
 - Area used to be under islamic, religiously tolerant rule
 - **Spanish Inquisition (1478-1834)**
 - Judicial institution claiming to combat heresy in spain
 - In practice, consolidated power for Spain by killing 30,000-300,000 religious minorities (muslims and jews) who had converted to catholicism
 - Claimed they had false religious beliefs
- Russia
 - Tatars (Mongolians) ruled 1242-1400s
 - Late 1400s: Ivan III expanded Muscovy territory into modern-day Russia
 - Established himself as czar
 - Moscow became center of Eastern Orthodox Church (Third Rome)
 - Mid-1500s: Ivan the Terrible centralized powers
 - Secret police
 - Nationalism

1.7: Comparison in the Period from 1200-1450 t

- Direct comparisons based on time
 - Europe in 1200s vs. 1400s
 - 1200s: **feudalism**
 - Decentralized society
 - 1200s: external threats from Mongols, Ottomans
 - 1400s: early stages of **renaissance**
 - Cultural and intellectual movement towards individualism
 - 1400s: less threats from outside forces
 - More effort on expansion and exploration overseas
 - Catholic Church in 1200s vs. 1400s
 - 1200s: powerful force with influence over politics
 - 1400s: challenged by **protestant** movements

- Africa and Middle East in 1200s vs. 1400s
 - 1200s: important centers of trade through **trans-Saharan** and **Indian Ocean** trade networks
 - 1400s: Europe began to emerge as major player in global trade
 - Exploration from **Columbus** and **Vasco da Gama**
- Direct Comparisons based on Dynasties
 - **Song China**: large bureaucracy
 - **Japan**: feudal, regional
 - **Abbasid Caliphate**: ruler closely linked with religion to solidify power
 - Western European kingdoms were separate from Roman Catholic Church's power
 - Swahili coast had many interconnected trade routes
 - Western Europe had no access to these trade routes or similar ones
 - Silk road connected Song China to Abbasid caliphate (and everything in between)
 - Western Europe had no access to these trade routes
 - Both Europe and China experienced agricultural productivity through **three-field crop rotation** and **Champa rice** respectively
 - **Mali Kingdom** and **Abbasid Caliphate** used Islam to unite ununited people
 - Song Dynasty and north India saw increase in religious diversity and thus religious conflict
 - **Christianity** and **Buddhism** had divisions in their faiths resulting in conflict
- New States
 - **Mamluk Sultanate** (former Abbasid) see above
 - **Seljuk Empire** (Former Abbasid) see above
 - **Delhi Sultanate** (Former Gupta) see above
- Old empires revived
 - **Song Dynasty** (based on Han) see above
 - **Mali Empire** (based on Ghana) see above
 - **Holy Roman Empire** (based on Kuman Empire) see above
- Different Traditions synthesized
 - Japan combined Chinese and Japanese
 - Delhi Sultanate combined hindu and islamic
 - Neo-confucianism
- Expansion in Scope
 - **Aztecs** in Mexico → tribute system
 - **Incas** in south america → mit'a system
 - City-States in East Africa → swahili, ethiopia
 - City-States in SE Asia → Srivijaya, Khmer