

By 1400, there was a shifting balance between world civilizations. International role of Islamic world, with fall of Abbasids and other Mongol disruptions, was in decline. Ming dynasty of China attempted, for a time, to expand into vacuum. Most dynamic contender was western Europe. The West was not a major power, but important changes were occurring within its civilization. Italy, Spain, and Portugal took new leadership roles. The civilizations outside the international network, the Americas and Polynesia, also experienced important changes.

**Decline of the Old Order:** In Middle East and North Africa, Byzantine and Islamic caliphate had crumbled. The Byzantine Empire was pressed by Ottoman Turks; Constantinople fell to the Turks in 1453. The caliphate were destroyed by the Mongols in 1258

**Social and Cultural Change in the Middle East:** 1300, Islamic religious leaders won over poets, philosophers, and scientists. In literature, emphasis on secular themes: joys of feasting and hunting, gave way to more strictly religious ideas. Persian poets starting to write in own language, led the way and religious poetry became part of education of upper-class children. Rationalist philosopher like Ibn-Rushd (Averroës) in Spain more influential in Europe than among Muslims. Typical philosopher in Middle East claimed to use Aristotle's logic to show that it was impossible to discover religious truth by human reason, in a book revealingly titled *The Destruction of Philosophy*. Islamic scholarship focused on religion and legal traditions, although Sufis continued to emphasize mystical contacts with god. Islamic Science continued, but its role diminished. Changes occurred in economic and social life as landlords seized power over the peasantry and the authority of caliphate declined. From 1100, peasants became serfs on large estates. As a result, from 1100 onward, Middle Eastern peasants lost their freedom, becoming serfs and agricultural productivity fell. Landlords turned to sucking what they could from their estates than trying to develop a more vital agriculture. Tax revenues decreased and Middle Eastern merchants lost ground to European competitors. The Islamic decline was gradual and incomplete. The reduced dynamism in trade did not take Arabs out of major world markets. Muslim merchants remained active in the Indian Ocean, and the Ottoman Turks were beginning to build one of the world's most powerful empires. The emerging Ottoman Turkish state soon mastered most of the lands of the old caliphate and south-eastern Europe.

**Power Vacuum in International Leadership:** Rise of Ottomans did not restore Islam's international vigor. Mongols developed 1st alternative global framework, encouraged interregional travelers and provided unprecedented opportunities for exchanges of technology and ideas. Turkish rulers focused on conquest and administration and awarded less attention to commerce. Result was a power vacuum beyond Ottoman borders. Mongol dominions in Asia provided a temporary international alternative, their decline opened opportunities for China and western Europe and turned attention to seaborne trade, overland Asian trade routes disrupted.

**Chinese Thrust and Withdrawal:** Rebel leader from a peasant family seized Mongol capital of Beijing and proclaimed Ming dynasty (1368-1644) replaced Yuan and pushed to regain China's previous borders. Established influence in Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam, and Tibet. New policy, after 1400 Ming mounted state-sponsored trading expeditions to India in 1405 with 62 ships

carrying 28,000 men, Middle East, and eastern Africa. Chinese shipping at its height consisted of 2,700 coastal vessels, 400 armed navy ships and many long distance ships. Fleets, led by Chinese Muslim admiral Zhenghe were technological world leaders. Ming rulers halted expeditions in 1433 as of high costs and opposition from Confucian bureaucrats. Zhenghe, a eunuch, castrated for service at royal court. China's Ming emperors retained harem wives and eunuchs were to guard them without threat of sexual rivalry; many gained bureaucratic power well beyond this service. Zheng He's expedition had hugged the coastlines and had an improved compass and maps and huge vessels with ample supplies and goods for trade. Zhenghe brought gifts and several missions visited from China from the Middle East and Africa. From Africa: Ostriches, Zebras, and giraffes for the imperial zoo. Chinese merchants remained active in southeast Asian waters, establishing permanent settlements in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, but China had lost a chance to become a dominant world trading power. The Chinese, from their viewpoint, had ended an unusual experiment, returning to their accustomed inward-looking policies. Since internal economic development flourished, there was little need for foreign products. The withdrawal opened opportunities for European expansion.

**Rise of the West:** Medieval Culture was questioned in 1400 and the church was under a new attack. Warrior aristocrats, a key leadership in feudalism, softened their style of life, preferring court rituals and jousting tournaments and adopting military armor unmanageable enough that real fighting was difficult. The small states of the West were still backward during the 14th and 15th centuries. Philosophy had passed its creative phase. The economic activities of ordinary Europeans were in disarray. Growing population outstripped food supplies, and famines were a recurrent threat after 1300. No new food production techniques were discovered. The arrival of the deadly Black Death (bubonic plague) during the fourteenth century cost Europe one third of its population. Economic dislocation produced bitter strikes and peasant uprisings

**Sources of Dynamism: Medieval Vitality:** West, despite reverses, remained a dynamic society. Strengthened feudal monarchs provided effective government. Hundred Years' War between Britain and France stimulated military innovation. Strong regional monarchs took parts of Spain and Portugal, regional rulers drove back Muslim occupiers. Urban economic growth continued to spur commerce, and church accepted key capitalistic principles as profit seeking. Technology, ironworking for bells and weapons and timekeeping, continued to progress.

**Imitation and International Problems:** New opportunities for imitation occurred when the rise of the large and stable Mongol empire provided access to Asian knowledge and technology from printing to the compass and explosive powder. Western elites sought Asian luxury products: spices like cinnamon and nutmeg, silks, sugar, perfumes and jewels, paying for them by exporting raw materials: wool, tin, copper, honey and salt. The ensuing unfavorable trade balance had to be made up in gold. By 1400, gold shortage threatened the economy with collapse. The rise of the Ottoman Empire and other Muslim successes threatened Europe's balance of trade with Asia. The reaction included the expansion in the Adriatic of the city-state of Venice and the beginning of explorations to bypass Muslim-dominated routes to Asia.

**Secular Directions in the Italian Renaissance:** A final ingredient of the West's surge was internal change. The Renaissance in 1400, a cultural and political movement grounded in urban vitality and expanding commerce. The earlier phases involved literary and artistic themes more friendly to the secular world than the previous religiously oriented outlook had been. Religious art remained dominant, but used more realistic portrayals of people and nature, and some non religious themes surfaced. Artists and writers became more concerned with personal reputation and glory. Active commerce and urban manufacturing gave Italian cities the wealth to sponsor new cultural activities and contacts with some foreign scholars. In commerce, merchants sought new markets. City-state governments, eager for increased revenue, supported their expansion.

**Human Values and Renaissance Culture:** Renaissance, cultural movement. Began in Florence, focused on literature and the arts. Stressed stylistic grace and a concern for a code of behavior for urban gentlemen. 1 writer, Francesco Petrarch, took pride in his city and his age and explored glories of personal achievement with new confidence. Innovation in music and the visual arts. Painters realistically portrayed nature and individuals in religious and secular themes and introduced perspective. Florentine painter Giotto led the way, departing from medieval formalism and stiffness. Other painters in 14th century, started to introduce perspectives while using new colors and other materials. The early Renaissance did not represent a full break from medieval tendencies. It had little effect outside of Italy, and in Italy it focused on high culture and was little concerned with science. Still, the Renaissance marked the beginning of important changes in Western development. By the 14th century ships, particularly western Italian city of Genoa was less placed than Venice for eastern Mediterranean trade and the resultant links to Asia were ready for new roles. City State governors encouraged new ventures, eager to collect more tax money and promote commerce as one of the explicit functions.

**Iberian Spirit of Religious Mission:** Iberian Peninsula, key center for change by 14th century, where Christian leaders had for several centuries and pressing back boundaries of the Muslim state in Spain. Castile and Aragon established regional monarchies after 1400; united through royal marriage in 1469. Before the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella, Spanish and Portuguese rulers had developed a vigorous military and religious agenda. Supported effective armies, infantry and feudal cavalry; Believed that government had a mission to promote Christianity by converting or expelling Arabs and Jews and by maintaining doctrinal purity within the church. Close links formed between church and state: portrayed in art, provided revenues and officials for the royal government. In return, the government supported church courts in their efforts to enforce moral and doctrinal purity. 15th century, led to reestablishment of church-run courts of Inquisition in Spain, designed to enforce religious orthodoxy: Spain and Portugal developing effective new government with special sense of religious missions and religious support. Changes stimulated West's surge into wider world contacts.

**Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase.** European efforts to explore Atlantic began in the late 13th century. After early discoveries, a rapid move was made to a colonial system.

**Early Explorations:** Genoese Vivaldi brothers in 1291 had vanished after passing the Strait of Gibraltar in search of a route to the "Indies", the spice producing area of south and southeast Asia. They were precursors of a major Western thrust into the southern Atlantic but was not clear in what they mean by "Indies." In the 14th century other Genoese explorers reached the Canary Islands populated by hunter gatherers, the Madeiras, and perhaps the Azores by 1351. Vessels from Spain sailed southward along the West African coast as far as Sierra Leone. Technological barriers hindered further exploration until 1430. Without navigation instruments, Europeans could not venture into the Atlantic: Needed better ships than the shallow-drafted, oar propelled Mediterranean galleys. Efforts were made to develop ocean going sailing vessels. Europeans solved problems through building better ships and learning from the Arabs the use of the Chinese compass and astrolabe. European mapmaking also steadily improved. In 1498, the Portuguese explorer Vasco de Gama was the 1st European to reach India by sea, preparing Portuguese entry into the Indian ocean.

**Colonial Patterns:** Portuguese and Spanish began to exploit the discovered island territories of the Azores, Madeira, and Canaries. Prince Henry of Portugal/Henry the Navigator, student of astronomy and nautical science, motivated by a combination of intellectual curiosity, religious fervor, and financial interest, reflected many of the key factors then stimulating European expansion. Sponsored  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Portuguese voyages before his death in 1460. Land grants in Portugal 1439 were given to colonists who brought along Western plants, animals, and diseases. Spaniards and Portuguese had conquered and colonized Madeiras and Canaries. They began a laboratory for later European imperialism. Large estates produced cash crops: sugar; an item from Asia and is now growing in the West; cotton, tobacco: for Western markets. Slaves from northwestern Africa brought in by Portuguese ships were introduced for crop cultivation. The developments were modest, but their patterns established precedents for the future.

1. What was the political state of the Middle East following the fall of the Abbasid Empire and the withdrawal of the Mongols? : **The** emerging Ottoman Empire soon mastered most of the lands of the old caliphate plus the Byzantine corner
2. Chinese dynasty associated briefly with establishment of state-sponsored international commerce : **Ming**
3. Time of Chinese government sponsor international commercial voyages in the 15th century

28 years

4. Which of the following statements concerning the cessation of state sponsored trade in China is most accurate? :In Chinese terms, it was the brief trading flurry that was unusual, not its cessation
5. By what century was the European economy sufficiently strong to drive Muslim merchants from European markets? : **12th**
6. The Ottoman Empire gained greater territorial influence than ever possessed by the Arab dynasties in: **Southeastern Europe**
7. Which of the following statements about the Ottoman Empire is accurate?

Turkish rulers did not promote maritime trade as vigorously as had the Arabs

8. Disease that accounted for the enormous loss of life in the 14th century: **Bubonic** Plague
9. Which of the following is associated with the Renaissance?

Greater interest in nature and things of this world

10. What allowed Italy to emerge as the center of the early Renaissance?

Italy had closer contacts with foreign scholars, particularly those in late Byzantine

11. Where were the 2 major regional monarchies that were established after 1400?

Castile and Aragon

12. Why did the West begin the exploration of new trade routes 1400

Technological barriers that had been a problem previously were overcome

13. Innovation launched by the Ming Dynasty

Mounting huge, sponsored trading expeditions throughout Asia and beyond

1. The Ottoman was a Turkic government established in Asia Minor and eventually spreading throughout the Middle East following the retreat of the Mongols
2. The Ming dynasty was established in China following the overthrow of the Mongol Yuan dynasty
3. The cultural and political movement that began in Italy 1400 and that created a literary and an artistic style with distinctly more secular priorities was called the Renaissance
4. Two kingdoms of the Iberian peninsula, Aragon and Castile, pressed the reconquest of Spain from the Muslims
5. 1 of the major literary figures of the Western Renaissance, Francesco Petrarch, was an Italian author and humanist

6. Two Genoese brothers who attempted to find a western route to the “Indies” the Vivaldis disappeared in 1291
  7. The 1st cash crop introduced in the Americas to be imported by Europe was sugar which had previously been imported from Asia
  8. Despite its political and commercial roots, the Renaissance was 1st and foremost a cultural movement
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1. The rising Surfi movement and its emphasis on piety in Islam were both the cause and the result of the narrowing of intellectual life among the Muslims: True
  2. China had long emphasized internal development , amid some internal isolation,while maintaining suspicion of merchant values and any policy that would unduly elebale commercial activity : True
  3. Italy was the center of initial Renaissance cultural definition because it retained more contact with Roman tradition that did the rest of Europe: True
  4. Early Western colonization was based on small, single-family holding seeking to establish agricultural self-sufficiency