

## Unit Guide – Period 1 (1200 CE-1450 CE)

### *Unit I – The Global Tapestry*

#### TOPIC 1.1 - Developments in East Asia from c. 1200 to c. 1450

**Explain the systems of government employed by Chinese dynasties and how they developed over time.**

Empires and states in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity in the 13th century. This included the Song Dynasty of China, which utilized traditional methods of Confucianism and an imperial bureaucracy to maintain and justify its rule.

**Explain the effects of Chinese cultural traditions on East Asia over time.**

Chinese cultural traditions continued, and they influenced neighboring regions

Buddhism and its core beliefs continued to shape societies in Asia and included a variety of branches, schools, and practices.

**Explain the effects of innovation on the Chinese economy over time.**

The economy of Song China became increasingly commercialized while continuing to depend on free peasant and artisanal labor.

The economy of Song China flourished as a result of increased productive capacity, expanding trade networks, and innovations in agriculture and manufacturing.

TOPIC 1.2 - Developments in Dar al-Islam from c. 1200 to c. 1450

**Explain how systems of belief and their practices affected society in the period from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the core beliefs and practices of these religions continued to shape societies in Africa and Asia.

**Explain the causes and effects of the rise of Islamic states over time.**

As the Abbasid Caliphate fragmented, new Islamic political entities emerged, most of which were dominated by Turkic peoples. These states demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity

Muslim rule continued to expand to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion, and Islam subsequently expanded through the activities of merchants, missionaries, and Sufis.

**Explain the effects of intellectual innovation in Dar al-Islam.**

Muslim states and empires encouraged significant intellectual innovations and transfer.

TOPIC 1.3 - Developments in South and Southeast Asia from c. 1200 to c. 1450

**Explain how the various belief systems and practices of South and Southeast Asia affected society over time.**

Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism, and their core beliefs and practices, continued to shape societies in South and Southeast Asia.

**Explain how and why various states of South and Southeast Asia developed and maintained power over time.**

State formation and development demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity, including the new Hindu and Buddhist states that emerged in South and Southeast Asia.

TOPIC 1.4 - State Building in the Americas

**Explain how and why states in the Americas developed and changed over time.**

In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity, and expanded in scope and reach.

TOPIC 1.5 - State Building in Africa

**Explain how and why states in Africa developed and changed over time.**

In Africa, as in Eurasia and the Americas, state systems demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity and expanded in scope and reach.

TOPIC 1.6 - Developments in Europe from c. 1200 to c. 1450

**Explain how the beliefs and practices of the predominant religions in Europe affected European society.**

Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and the core beliefs and practices of these religions continued to shape societies in Europe.

**Explain the causes and consequences of political decentralization in Europe from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

Europe was politically fragmented and characterized by decentralized monarchies, feudalism, and the manorial system.

**Explain the effects of agriculture on social organization in Europe from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

Europe was largely an agricultural society dependent on free and coerced labor, including serfdom.

**TOPIC 1.7 - Comparison in the Period from c. 1200 to c. 1450****Explain the similarities and differences in the processes of state formation from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

State formation and development demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity in various regions.

- As the Abbasid Caliphate fragmented, new Islamic political entities emerged, most of which were dominated by Turkic peoples. These states demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity.
- Empires and states in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity in the 13th century. This included the Song Dynasty of China, which utilized traditional methods of Confucianism and an imperial bureaucracy to maintain and justify its rule.
- State formation and development demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity, including the new Hindu and Buddhist states that emerged in South and Southeast Asia.

- In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity, and expanded in scope and reach.
- In Africa, as in Eurasia and the Americas, state systems demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity, and expanded in scope and reach.

## **Unit II – Networks of Exchange**

### TOPIC 2.1 - The Silk Roads

#### **Explain the causes and effects of growth of networks of exchange after 1200.**

Improved commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade and expanded the geographical range of existing trade routes—including the Silk Roads—promoting the growth of powerful new trading cities.

The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods was encouraged by innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including the caravanserai, forms of credit, and the development of money economies.

Demand for luxury goods increased in Afro-Eurasia. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; manufacture of iron and steel expanded in China.

TOPIC 2.2 - The Mongol Empire and the Making of the Modern World**Explain the process of state building and decline in Eurasia over time.**

Empires collapsed in different regions of the world and in some areas were replaced by new imperial states, including the Mongol khanate

**Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.**

The expansion of empires—including the Mongols—facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade and communication as new people were drawn into their conquerors' economies and trade networks.

**Explain the significance of the Mongol Empire in larger patterns of continuity and change.**

Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires, including the Mongols, encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers.

TOPIC 2.3 - Exchange in the Indian Ocean**Explain the causes of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.**

Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade and expanded the geographical range of existing trade routes, including the Indian Ocean, promoting the growth of powerful new trading cities.

The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods was encouraged by significant innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including the use of the compass, the astrolabe, and larger ship designs.

The Indian Ocean trading network fostered the growth of states.

**Explain the effects of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.**

In key places along important trade routes, merchants set up diasporic communities where they introduced their own cultural traditions into the indigenous cultures and, in turn, indigenous cultures influenced merchant cultures.

Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers, including during Chinese maritime activity led by Ming Admiral Zheng He.

**Explain the role of environmental factors in the development of networks of exchange in the period from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on environmental knowledge, including advanced knowledge of the monsoon winds.

TOPIC 2.4 - Trans-Saharan Trade Routes

**Explain the causes and effects of the growth of trans-Saharan trade.**

The growth of interregional trade was encouraged by innovations in existing transportation technologies.

Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade and expanded the geographical range of existing trade routes, including the trans-Saharan trade network.

**Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.**

The expansion of empires—including Mali in West Africa—facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade and communication as new people were drawn into the economies and trade networks.

#### TOPIC 2.5 - Cultural Consequences of Connectivity

**Explain the intellectual and cultural effects of the various networks of exchange in Afro-Eurasia from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions, as well as scientific and technological innovations.

The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline and periods of increased urbanization, buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks

As exchange networks intensified, an increasing number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia wrote about their travels.

#### TOPIC 2.6 - Environmental Consequences of Connectivity

**Explain the environmental effects of the various networks of exchange in Afro-Eurasia from c. 1200 to c. 1450.**

There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens, with epidemic diseases, including the bubonic plague, along trade routes.



