

## **2.1 The Silk Roads**

### **Causes of the Growth of Exchange Networks**

#### Rise of New Empires

- After the collapse of strong classical empires like Rome & the Han Dynasty, the Silk Roads' Golden Age was over.
- In the 8th & 9th century, Arab merchants revived this land route as well as other sea routes.
- China began trading its new innovations such as gunpowder, paper, and the compass.
- Mongols conquered the Abbasid Caliphate & China, fully uniting the Silk Road under one ruler.
- The Mongols improved road conditions, and punished bandits on the Silk Roads, making travel safer.

#### Improvements in Transportation Technologies

- Travelers discovered that caravan travel with others was much safer than traveling alone.
- They designed saddles for camels that allowed the camels to carry much more weight.
- Chinese naval innovations allowed it to control sea based trade in the South China Sea. Some of the innovations include the compass, an improved rudder, and stronger walls making sinking less likely.

### **Effects of the Growth of Exchange Networks**

#### Cities and Oases

- Water was scarce throughout the Silk Road so cities near rivers/water on the road became huge trade centers.
- Some examples are the cities of Kashgar and Samarkand that became known for their artisans, ideas, and food.

#### Caravanserais

- As the Silk Road stabilized, inns called Caravanserais began popping up every 100 miles so that camels and travelers could rest.

#### Commercial Innovations

- The increase in trade made copper coins too unwieldy for transactions so the government switched to a "flying cash" credit system.
- Merchants could deposit paper money and draw the same amount at a different location, these banking houses became the model for modern day banks.
- Europeans grew more interested in Asian luxuries during the Crusades and started to organize trade in Europe
- Cities in Germany and Scandinavia set up the Hanseatic League to control trade in the North and Baltic Sea. The league lasted until the mid 17th century when countries finally became strong enough to protect their merchants.

#### Increase in Demand

- The increase in demand for luxury goods led to the increase of craftspeople and their businesses and production of goods.
- This also led to more manufacturing as seen in China's very high industrialization.

## **2.2 The Mongol Empire and the Modern World**

### **Genghis Khan**

- Temujin created a series of tribal alliances, and defeated neighboring groups. He built strategic friendships and was obsessed with building power.
- In 1206, he gathered all of the Mongol chieftains at a kuriltai(meeting) and was elected khan of the Mongol Empire. Genghis Khan means “ruler of all”

#### **The Beginning of Conquest**

- 1210, Genghis Khan’s troops attacked the Jin Empire. During this campaign he became known as a fierce warrior. Stories of his brutality led some leaders to just surrender before he attacked them.
- By 1227, Genghis Khan’s khanate reached from the North China Sea to eastern Persia.

#### **Genghis Khan at War**

- Mongolian warriors were skilled on horseback and with a shortbow
- They were very disciplined and an efficient command structure with good communication allowed them to ride for days without stopping, even sleeping while their horses continued to go.
- They had special units that mapped terrain and used many military strategies. If the enemy refused to surrender, Genghis Khan would kill all the aristocrats and recruit everyone else who had skills such as craftworkers, miners, and people who could read and write.
- The Mongols absorbed weapons used in places they conquered and set up a “pony express” to keep in contact with far reaches of the empire.

#### **Genghis Khan at Peace**

- Eurasia in the 13th and 14th centuries is called the Pax Mongolia(Mongolian Peace), with the capital of the Mongol empire at Karakorum(the center of modern day Mongolia).\
- In building his cities he consulted with engineers from China and Islam and instituted a policy of religious tolerance, unusual in the 13th century.
- Warriors protected the Silk Roads leading them into their 3rd golden age. They also constructed new trade channels.
- Those who survived the Mongolian conquest greatly benefitted from the amount of trade happening.
- Genghis Khan also attempted to unite his empire under one written system, the Uyghur alphabet, although this failed the Uyghur alphabet is still used in present day Mongolia.

### **Mongolian Empire Expands**

#### **Batu and the Golden Horde**

- Genghis Khan’s sons set up their own khanates, further expanding the empire. His oldest son Batu conquered Russian kingdoms with his army, the Golden Horde.
- Western Europe was sympathetic to the Mongols but after the Golden Horde attacked Russia, a Christian region, this sentiment changed.
- Batu went home for a funeral and upon returning to Europe he decided he didn't want to conquer Europe anymore.
- Russians set up an Anti-Mongol Coalition and defeated the Golden Horde at the Battle of Kulikovo. After this Mongol influence declined, and Russian states recovered.
- Note that, due to rule from Mongols, Russia was cut off from the rest of Europe and because of this, cultivated a very strong culture.

### Hulegu and the Islamic Heartlands

- Another one of Genghis Khan's grandsons, Helegu took charge of the southwest, his army took control of the Abbasid caliphate and sacked Baghdad.
- The empire stretched from Byzantium to the Oxus River when they were defeated by the Muslim Mamluks.
- Eventually Hulegu and the other Mongols in this area converted to Islam, which switched Mongol policies from being tolerant to all religions to supporting massacres of Christians and Jews.

### Kublai Khan and the Yuan Dynasty

- Kublai Khan, another grandson, took the east and marched on China, then controlled by the Song dynasty. It took from 1235 to 1271 to conquer China.
- Kublai established the Yuan dynasty, conforming to Chinese traditions rather than forcing Mongolian customs.
- He instituted religious tolerance, improved trade, and side note, Mongol women were treated a lot better and could wear pants.

### Mongols Lose Power

- Mongols hired foreigners instead of Chinese and dismantled the civil service exam, destroying the scholar gentry class in China.
- Batu had reached the limit in the west and the Mongols could not push past China, failing to conquer Japan.
- In 1368, the Ming dynasty overthrew the Yuan dynasty.

### **The Long-Term Impact of the Mongolian Invasions**

- Mongols conquered a larger area than the Romans, and their bloody reputation was usually well-earned. Their empire was the largest continuous land empire in history.
- During the period known as the Pax Mongolica (c. 1250-c. 1350), Mongols revitalized interregional trade between Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. The Mongols built a system of roads and continued to maintain and guard the trade routes.
- Interregional cultural exchange occurred as well. Islamic scientific knowledge made its way to China, and paper from China made possible the revolution in communication powered by the Gutenberg printing press (see Topic 1.6). The Mongols transferred Greco-Islamic medical knowledge and the Arabic numbering system to Western Europe.
- The Mongol conquests helped to transmit the fleas that carried the bubonic plague, termed the Black Death, from southern China to Central Asia, and from there to Southeast Asia and Europe. It followed familiar paths of trade and military conquest.
- The Mongols ruled successfully due to their understanding of centralized power, a capacity that would transfer in many cases to the occupied civilizations. The Mongols devised and used a single international law for all their conquered territories. Thus, after the Mongols declined in power, the kingdoms and states of Europe, Asia, and Southeast Asia continued or copied the process of centralizing power.
- Mongol fighting techniques led to the end of Western Europe's use of knights in armor. The heavily clad knights could not react in time to the Mongols' use of speed and surprise.
- The era of the walled city in Europe also came to an end, as walls proved useless against the Mongols' siege technology. Some consider the cannon a Mongol invention, cobbled together using Chinese gunpowder, Muslim flamethrowers, and European bell-casting techniques.

## **2.3 Exchange in the Indian Ocean**

### **Causes of Expanded Exchange in the Indian Ocean**

#### Spread of Islam

- Islam connected Indian trade routes to many more cities in East Africa and South & Southeast Asia. Muslim Persians and Arabs were the dominant sea traders.
- Ports on India's west coast like Calicut became bustling trade centers with foreign merchants from everywhere exchanging goods.

#### Increased Demand for Specialized Products

- Regions specialized in different things and the need for them grew. Some examples are fabric, steel, leather, and stonework from India; spices from Malaysia/Indonesia; enslaved peoples, ivory and gold from Africa; silk and porcelain from China; and horses, figs, and dates from Southwest Asia.

#### Environmental Knowledge

- Knowledge of monsoon winds was essential for merchants to plan their trips in order to not get swept up in the northeast winds in winter and southwest winds in summer.

#### Advances in Maritime Technology

- Arab sailors invented triangular lateen sails, the Chinese created the stern rudder, and the astrolabe allowed navigators to see how north or south they were from the equator.

#### Growth of States

- Malacca, a Muslim state, became very prosperous by building a navy that inhabited the straits of Malacca, which many used to get from China to India.
- The sultanate of Malacca ended when the Portuguese invaded the city in order to generate wealth for their empire, however this was not successful as this conflict caused traders to diversify the routes and ports that they used.

### **Effects of Expanded Exchange in the Indian Ocean**

#### Diasporic Communities

- Because merchants had to wait for favorable winds, they interacted with surrounding cultures and even settled elsewhere because they had married a woman there. In fact, merchants from Dar-al Islam were the first to introduce Islam to South Asia, not through missionary work but through intermarriage.
- Settlements of peoples away from their homelands are called a diaspora( think Jewish diaspora).

#### Response to Increased Demand

- Increased demand caused trade to expand and people to become more efficient/
- The state became more heavily involved in making sure it was efficient and imposing taxes on imported goods and fees for the use of ports.

#### Swahili City-States

- Indian Ocean trade created thriving port cities on the East Africa coast. They sold ivory, gold, and enslaved peoples and brought much wealth to East Africa.

## Significant Cultural Transfers

- Knowledge transferred as trade spread. For example muslim general Zheng He went on the first great voyage and traveled to Indonesia, India & Africa for the sole purpose of displaying the might of the Ming dynasty.
- This won prestige for China and introduced them to new exotic goods, like the giraffe, and brought back greater understanding of the world outside China.
- It was also controversial because Confucianism teaches a frugal lifestyle and people were worried too much interaction with other cultures could destroy China's social order.
- The next Chinese emperor ended Zheng's voyages and discouraged Chinese from sailing at all. Also, pirate activity returned now that no more merchant ships were stopping them from stealing.

## **2.4 Trans-Saharan Trade Routes**

### **Trans-Saharan Trade**

#### Camels, Saddles and Trade

- Camels were well adapted to the harsh Arabian Desert and therefore much more suitable than horses for crossing the Sahara. Because of this, many saddles were invented in order to maximize camel riding, one saddle developed by nomadic Somalis who need to carry their possessions with them allowed a camel to carry up to 600 lbs
- Caravans crossing the Sahra often had thousands of camels and by the 8th century CE, the trans saharan was famous. People came from all over seeking ivory, gold, and enslaved peoples; this also brought islam to africa.
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### **West African Empire Expansion**

#### Mali's Riches

- Mali profited from gold trade Most Mali residents were farmers but the gold trade allowed City such as Timbuktu to accumulate wealth and become centers of Muslim life and Islamic learning

#### expanding role of states

- the growth in trade led to a need to establish currency rulers also continue to expand with each expansion giving bringing more and more people into the Empire's economy the founder of Mali Sundiata is a legend because of his skills and his time in Exile

#### Mansa Musa

- when he planned a pilgrimage to Mecca and gave out so much money that he decreased the price of gold substantially
- After Mansa Musa's death the Mali Kingdom began to decline and by the late 1400s the Song Kingdom had taken its place

## **2.5 Cultural Consequences of Connectivity**

### **Religious, Cultural, and Technological Effects of Interaction**

#### Influence of buddhism on east asian culture

- When Buddhism came to China it was fused with elements of taoism and although some leaders did not want China's native religions diminished Buddhism remain popular among Chinese citizens The Scholar gentry class adopted Buddhism into their daily lives Japan and Korea also adopted Buddhism along with Confucianism

#### Spread of hinduism and buddhism

- Indian religions like Hinduism also made their way to Southeast Asia buddhism's influence was so strong that these priests often advised monarchs in the Khmer Empire in Cambodia there's much Hindu artwork and sculptures

#### Spread of islam

- Islam was spread through missionaries merchants and conquests in Africa most kingdoms adopted Islam and in South Asia many converted to Islam

#### Scientific and technological innovations

- Islamic scholars translated Greek literary Classics which Save The Works of Aristotle and most other Greek thinkers Scholars studied medicine mathematics and astronomy also improvements in agriculture such as Champa rice spread from India to China with a reliable food supply population grew and industries such as porcelain silk and metals seafaring technology also improved such as the Latin sales stern rudder astrolabe and magnetic compass also gunpowder and guns
- Hangzhou in China was it important center of trade as well as novgorod in Russia Timbuktu in Africa and Calicut in India also samarkand and kashgar in Dar es Salaam

#### Declining cities

- Cash Card declined after series of conquests by nomadic Invaders another city Constantinople also suffered a series of Crusades and conquests which we can content to Noble the city finally fell to the Ottomans in 1453 event that some believe marks the end of the high Middle Ages

#### Effects of the crusades

- Some effects of the Crusades were knowledge beyond the Western world and openings to go global trade however this also opened Europeans up to disease like the black death with Europe's reduced population economic activity declined and there was a shortage of people to work this had lasting effects on the feudal system this also contributed to the Renaissance and the rise of secularism this being new ideas from Byzantium and the Muslim world

#### Travelers Tales

##### Marco Polo

- Marco Polo a merchant by trade visited the court of Kublai Khan and wrote a book about his travels however many Europeans doubted his descriptions of China's size and wealth only when Europeans came to China did they see that China was very prosperous

##### Ibn Mattuta

- Ibn Battuta, a Muslim scholar set out to see the world and told his tails about every event that he remembered unlike Marco Polo, Battuta had the point of view of a Muslim and his journey was in large part to learn as much as he could about Islam

##### Margery Kempe

- Margaret Kemp wrote one of the first autobiographies in English she dictated her book to scribes who wrote down her description of her pilgrimage to Jerusalem and other countries her book is very significant because it's a first-hand account of a middle class medieval woman's life with 14 children

## **2.6 Environmental Consequences of Connectivity**

### Agricultural Effects of Exchange Networks

#### Migration of Crops

- Champa rice yielded a huge influence on Vietnam India and China because of its drought resistant blood resistant and capable of yielding two crops a year it could meet China's population needs it and also had a low impact on land use it also could be grown where land was thought unusable for growing rice Indonesian seafarers introduced bananas and this nutrition rich food led to a spike in population as caliphs conquered lands they spread Islam Arabic and the cultivation of cotton sugar and citrus fruits the markets of samarkand also introduced new fruits and vegetables to Europe Europeans demand for sugar would become so high that it became a key factor in the use of enslaved people in the Americas

#### Environmental Degradation

- increases in population put pressure on resources such as overgrazing in Great Zimbabwe that was so severe that people had to abandon the city and feudal Europe over use of farmland and deforestation reduced agriculture production due to soil and environmental degradation was also a factor in the decline of the Mayas and the Americas

#### Spread of Epidemics through Exchange Networks

- although people are working in developing advances in medical systems nobody could stop the black plague the Mongols also help transmit the fleas by continually conquered some people believe that can't Caravan survive contributed to the spread of disease the Black Death killed one third of the population of Europe within a few years because of this each person's labeled became more valuable and workers could demand higher wages

## **2.7 Comparison of Economic Exchange**

### Similarities Among Networks of Exchange

- the Silk Roads were where Merchants specialized in luxury goods
- in the Indian Ocean trade routes were Monsoon dependent Merchants exchange goods too heavy to transport by land
- in the trans-saharan merchants traded salt and gold

#### Origins

- Interregional big trade began well before the Common Era but the trade that flourished between 1200 and 1450 was built on the routes of early traders as kingdoms expanded so did the trailer routes that they controlled stable kingdoms protected trade routes so the merchants would be protected they also supported technological upgrades that made trade more profitable like nautical equipment and new saddles

#### Purpose

- trading next words Network shared a purpose to exchange what people were able to get for what they wanted it was primarily economic but people used it for negotiating alliances and exchanging ways of life

#### Effects

- The Exchange not works experience similar effects as some grew others also grew stronger the growth of trading cities also gave rise to centralization Malacca for example grew wealthy from fees they put on ships passing through the Strait of Malacca they use its wealth to develop a strong Navy and trading cities on all of these trade routes under a similar developments
- another aspect of trade with standardized currency widely accepted currency sped up transitions

#### Differences Among Networks of Exchange

- trading networks had unique currencies and Commercial practice for example silk was a currency on the Silk Roads and ingots were used as currency in Southeast Asia in West Africa they used Cavalry shells however shapes shifted to a money-based economy on gold and other metal coins the Chinese then invented flying cash an established Banks including the practice of extending credit

#### Social Implications of Networks of Exchange

- the demand for luxury goods made production more efficient China went through a phase of industrialization and the production of textiles and Porcelain in China spices in the South and Southeast increased many cities began to focus on just produce it

#### Labor

- the need for labor or forced and free peasant Farmers craft workers and Artisans and people forced to work to pay off debts and enslaved people's large-scale projects like irrigation Channel

#### Social and Gender Structures

- Social structures made mostly the same with class and / class systems and patriarchal societies however in some key places such as the Mongol Empire women were even top advisors and had much more freedom in Europe women worked but outside of these areas women experience far fewer opportunities and freedom than men

#### Environmental Processes

- interconnections spread so much cultural Exchange led to a steep population decline as Merchants diplomats and missionaries transferred the Black Death changes in trade networks led to cultural diffusion and the development of educational centers in cities like Canton somewhere like Timbuktu Cairo and Venice increased agriculture staying the environment like soil erosion and deforestation and overgrazing