

# AP World History: Modern Summary Notes

## Session 1

### Skill Focus: Multiple-Choice Questions Strategies

- Fill in every answer
- Trust your intuition
- Look for clues
- Eliminate incorrect answers
- Answer the easiest questions first

### Unit 1: The Global Tapestry, 1200-1450

Developments in Eurasia (East Asia, South & Southeast Asia, Europe)

	Government	Culture	Economy
<b>East Asia</b>	Multicultural empires <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Song: 960–1279</li> <li>• Yuan (Mongol): 1271–1368</li> <li>• Ming: 1368–1644</li> </ul> Japan feudalism (shogun)	China = cultural and religious influence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buddhism, Daoism</li> <li>• Neo-Confucianism</li> <li>• Architecture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansive transregional trade (Silk Road)</li> <li>• Demand for luxury goods (silk, porcelain) assumed a more prominent role in interregional commerce</li> </ul>
	Government	Culture	
<b>South and South-east Asia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power flowed to newer political units               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Delhi Sultanate vs. resistance of Hindu states</li> <li>◦ Sinhalese dynasties in Sri Lanka Khmer Empire (800s–1400s) and Sukhothai kingdom (1200s–1400s)</li> <li>◦ Majapahit Empire (1293–1500s)</li> <li>◦ Southeast Asian city-states (Malay sultanates, Melaka)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival of Islam in India</li> <li>• Diffusion of Buddhist, Hindu cultures</li> <li>• Trade growth</li> <li>• Diasporic communities</li> <li>• Mingling of religious beliefs</li> </ul>	
	Government	Culture	Social
<b>Europe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political decentralization led to feudalism</li> <li>• Rich Italian city-states</li> <li>• Feudalism eventually gave way to centralized nation-states</li> <li>• Church-state struggles (Avignon Papacy)</li> <li>• Fall of Constantinople</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tensions between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy</li> <li>• Crusades result in Euro-Islamic cultural transfer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider array of social classes emerged</li> <li>• Unfair treatment of serfs, peasants leads to revolts</li> <li>• Diasporic communities formed</li> </ul>

### Developments in Dar al-Islam, 1200–1450

Culture	Government	Technology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Islamic Golden Age: Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258) fostered tremendous artistic and intellectual sophistication</li><li>• Islamic influence in Asia, Africa grows</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fall of Abbasid Caliphate</li><li>• Islamic theology divided the world into two spheres<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Dar al-Islam (“house of peace”): Sharia law was dominant and Muslims worshipped freely</li><li>◦ Dar al-Harb (“house of war”): Islam was not established</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improvements in geographical knowledge and technological changes made trade &amp; travel easier</li></ul>

#### **AP Expert Notes**

- Keep in mind how interregional contacts and conflicts impacted artistic and intellectual developments. Scholars at the House of Wisdom, built in Baghdad during the rule of the fifth Abbasid caliph, sought out Greek and Persian texts and translated them into Arabic. Muslim scholars also reexamined the works of Greek philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. These texts would later be reintroduced to Europe, helping to spark the Renaissance. In 1258, the Mongols defeated the Abbasid Caliphate and burned the city of Baghdad, destroying the House of Wisdom; this event is considered to mark the end of the Islamic Golden Age.
- Spread by a general increase in trade, religion often acted as a unifying social force. Throughout East Asia, the development of Neo-Confucianism solidified a cultural sphere. Dar al-Islam transcended political and linguistic boundaries in Asia and Africa. Christianity likewise served as unifying forces in Europe.

## State Building in Africa & the Americas

Africa	The Americas
<p><u>North Africa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Converted to Islam rapidly</li> <li>Egypt: Mamluk sultanate (1250s–1500s)</li> </ul> <p><u>West Africa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Powerful Hausa kingdoms</li> <li>Islam introduced in 1450s</li> <li>Mali (mid-1200s–1600s)</li> </ul> <p><u>East Africa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swahili city-states (1000–1500)</li> <li>Multiethnic (local Africans, Persians, Arabs, Indians, Southeast Asians)</li> <li>Islam played prominent role</li> </ul> <p><u>Non-Islamic Sub-Saharan Africa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kongo, Benin, Mutapa, Great Zimbabwe</li> </ul>	<p><u>North America</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southwest: Ancestral Puebloans (400–1300) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful agriculture</li> <li>Complex dwellings</li> </ul> </li> <li>Southeast: Mississippi River (700–1500) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth mound building, City of Cahokia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Mexico and Mesoamerica</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Olmeecs (1200 B.C.E. – 400 B.C.E.)</li> <li>Maya (300 B.C.E. – 900 B.C.E.)</li> <li>Toltecs (900 C.E. –1521)</li> <li>Aztec (1300 C.E. –1521)</li> </ul> <p><u>The Andes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chimú culture (900–1470)</li> <li>Incas (1300s–1500s)</li> </ul>

### AP Expert Notes

- Changes in terminology are the result of historical evidence being analyzed and debated. The term *Aztec* was popularized by earlier historians, but in recent years there has been a shift to the more historically accurate *Mexica*.
- Governmental systems vary by region and era. Centralized empires like the Arab Caliphates and the Song Dynasty built on the successful models of the past, while decentralized areas (Western Europe and Japan) developed feudal political organization to more effectively deal with their unique issues. The peoples of the Americas, such as the Inca, saw new, large-scale political structures develop.

### Comparison in the Period 1200–1450

- Examples of similarities: Song Dynasty & Andean civilizations
- Examples of differences: Blend of traditional sources of legitimacy and new governing techniques, Feudalism, new forms of governance