

**World Civilizations: The Global Experience, AP Edition, 6e (Stearns)**  
**Chapter 15 The World in 1450: Changing Balance of World Power**

**Multiple-Choice Questions**

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1) Which of the following was NOT a symptom of decline in the Arabic caliphate by 1400?

- A) The narrowing of intellectual life symbolized by the triumph of religion over literature, philosophy, and science
- B) Landlords seizing power over peasants
- C) The decline of the Sufis
- D) Decline of tax revenues for the state

Answer: C

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

2) By what date had the Arabs been virtually excluded from European trade?

- A) 900
- B) 1000
- C) 1100
- D) 1350

Answer: C

Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

3) Which of the following statements concerning Arab trade after 1100 is most accurate?

- A) Arab control of the seas was strengthened following 1100.
- B) Although Arab trade was reduced, Muslims remained active in world markets.
- C) The total collapse of the Islamic world in the 12th century can best be compared to the fall of the Roman Empire.
- D) The Arab trading complex was reduced after 1100 to the Middle East.

Answer: B

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

4) Which of the following statements concerning the political fragmentation of the Arabic world in the 1400s is most accurate?

A) After the fall of the Abbasid caliphate, the emerging Ottoman Empire soon mastered most of the lands of the old caliphate plus the Byzantine corner.

B) The political fragmentation caused by the fall of Baghdad lasted for several centuries under the decentralized administration of the Seljuk Turks.

C) The Mongol conquests eliminated any form of centralized government in the Middle East until the 17th century.

D) Following the fall of the Abbasid caliphate, the Middle East became part of the colonial empire of the emerging feudal states of western Europe.

Answer: A

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

5) Which of the following statements concerning the Ottoman Empire is most accurate?

A) The rise of the Ottoman Empire restored the full international vigor that the Islamic caliphate had possessed.

B) Turkish rulers promoted trade more actively than did their Arab predecessors.

C) The expansionist power of the Ottoman Empire was very real, but it was not the sole hub of an international network.

D) The Ottoman Empire had no expansionist interests or capabilities.

Answer: C

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

6) What area represented a new conquest for the Ottoman Empire in the late 1400s?

A) Asia Minor

B) North Africa

C) Southeastern Europe

D) Russia

Answer: C

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

- 7) Which of the following statements concerning the Ottoman Empire is most accurate?
- A) Turkish rulers did not promote maritime trade as vigorously as had the Arabs.
  - B) Scientific and philosophical investigations reached the level of innovation that they had enjoyed under the Abbasids.
  - C) The Turks refused to patronize the traditional Persian artists and craftsmen who had dominated the later Abbasid court.
  - D) The Ottomans were more interested in cultural patronage than in military organization.

Answer: A

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

- 8) Which of the following civilizations first attempted to fill the commercial vacuum created by the decline in Arabic trade?

- A) Russia
- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) India

Answer: C

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

- 9) What Chinese dynasty succeeded the Mongol Yuan dynasty in China?

- A) Chou
- B) Ming
- C) Han
- D) Tang

Answer: B

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

10) What was the innovation launched by the Ming dynasty?

- A) Receiving tribute payments from Korea and Japan
- B) Extending their political control over Vietnam and Korea
- C) Use of a centralized bureaucracy but under the direct control of the emperor
- D) Mounting huge, state-sponsored trading expeditions to southern Asia and beyond

Answer: D

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

11) In what year did the Ming dynasty halt state-sponsored commercial voyages?

- A) 1358
- B) 1405
- C) 1433
- D) 1487

Answer: C

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

12) What admiral commanded China's great overseas expeditions between 1405 and 1433?

- A) Zheng He
- B) Jung Tzi Lung
- C) Xun Xi
- D) Yan Xuanshang

Answer: A

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Factual

13) Which of the following was NOT a reason for the Ming dynasty to halt the trading expeditions?

- A) The opposition of the scholar-gentry and bureaucracy
- B) The technological inferiority of Chinese ships and navigation
- C) The growing military expenses of the campaigns against the Mongols
- D) The traditional preference of the Chinese for Asian products

Answer: B

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

14) Which of the following statements concerning the cessation of state-sponsored trade by the Ming dynasty is most accurate?

- A) The cessation of trade severely damaged the internal economy of China and produced the inevitable peasant revolutions that overthrew the Ming dynasty.
- B) The end of international trade signaled a general decentralization of government in Ming China.
- C) Because of the Chinese dependence on imports from abroad, the decision to end the state-sponsored expeditions was particularly critical in initiating cultural decline.
- D) In Chinese terms, it was the brief emphasis on trading and commerce that was unusual, not its cessation.

Answer: D

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

15) Which of the following was NOT a drawback to the West's emergence as a global power?

- A) Western nations lacked the political coherence and organizing ability of imperial China.
- B) The West did not begin to establish key maritime and commercial links until after 1450.
- C) The Catholic church, long one of the organizing institutions of Western civilization, was under attack.
- D) Population loss caused further economic disarray and lack of strong leadership.

Answer: B

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

16) Which of the following was NOT a contributing factor to the economic crises of the 14th century?

- A) Withdrawal from the global trading network
- B) Bubonic plague
- C) Lack of technological advance in agriculture
- D) Recurrent famine

Answer: A

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

17) What proportion of the European population died as a result of the 14th century plague?

- A) One tenth
- B) One fourth
- C) One third
- D) One half

Answer: C

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

18) Which of the following was NOT a source of Western dynamism in the 14th and 15th centuries?

- A) The strengthening of feudal monarchy
- B) The growth of cities and urban economies
- C) Advances in metallurgy
- D) Two centuries of peace among the major European nations

Answer: D

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

19) Strong regional monarchies took hold in the decades around 1400 in

- A) Russia and Poland.
- B) the Ottoman Empire.
- C) Spain and Portugal.
- D) Germany and Austria.

Answer: C

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

20) In what region of Europe did the Renaissance begin?

- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) France
- D) Spain

Answer: B

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

21) In comparison to medieval culture, Renaissance culture was

- A) more concerned with Aristotelian philosophy.
- B) more concerned with things of the earthly world.
- C) disinterested in classical models.
- D) more other-worldly and religious.

Answer: B

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

22) Which of the following was NOT one of the reasons that Italy emerged as the center of the early Renaissance?

- A) Italy was spared the Black Plague due to its geographic location.
- B) Italy retained more contact with Roman traditions than did the rest of Europe.
- C) Italy led the West by the 14th century in banking and trade.
- D) Italy had closer contacts with foreign scholars, particularly those in late Byzantium.
- E) Italy was more urbanized than most of Europe.

Answer: A

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

23) What Florentine painter led the way in the movement toward nature and people as the primary subject matter of Renaissance art?

- A) Giotto
- B) Petrarch
- C) Masaccio
- D) Boccaccio

Answer: A

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

24) What Italian city-state was best placed to engage in the new, Western-oriented commercial ventures of the 15th century?

- A) Rome
- B) Florence
- C) Genoa
- D) Venice

Answer: C

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

25) Along with Italy, a key center for change in the 14th and 15th centuries was

- A) France.
- B) Germany.
- C) England.
- D) the Iberian peninsula.

Answer: D

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Factual

26) What was unique about the development of states in the Iberian peninsula?

- A) These governments were based on city-states rather than nation-states.
- B) Based on Castile and Aragon, the Iberian states were unique in their adoption of Islam.
- C) Spain and Portugal developed effective new governments with a special sense of religious mission and religious support.
- D) The states of Spain and Portugal were able to develop without emphasis on the military.

Answer: C

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Topic: Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase

Skill: Conceptual

27) What was the Western European response to the problems of international trade experienced in 1400?

- A) Western nations halted trade with Asia and the East and became more dependent on European-produced commodities.
- B) Many nations sought to establish alliances with the Ottoman Empire in order to restore the trade routes.
- C) Overland trade routes through northern Russia were established to the East.
- D) Western nations began explorations of alternative routes to Asia that would bypass the Middle East and Muslim realms.

Answer: D

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Topic: Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase

Skill: Factual



- 28) The key theme of Polynesian culture from the 7th century to 1400 was
- A) the adoption of Japanese civilization in the island societies.
  - B) large-scale expeditions of discovery that were aimed at establishing colonies in South America.
  - C) contraction as a result of the world-wide epidemic of the 14th century.
  - D) spurts of migration and conquest that spread beyond the initial base in the Society Islands.

Answer: D

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Conceptual

- 29) Which of the following was NOT characteristic of Hawaiian culture?

- A) Urbanization
- B) Animal husbandry featuring swine
- C) Warlike regional kingdoms
- D) Highly stratified social structure

Answer: A

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Factual

- 30) Which of the following represents a significant difference between New Zealand and Hawaii?

- A) Art based on carved wood
- B) A colder and harsher climate
- C) A highly stratified society
- D) A society based on warfare

Answer: B

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Factual

- 31) Which of the following statements is most accurate?

- A) Without European intervention, there is no reason to believe that the Inca and Aztec empires could not have survived for several more centuries.
- B) Without European interference, the likelihood is that the Inca Empire would have overwhelmed the Aztecs and established a unified government in the Americas.
- C) Because of internal weaknesses, both the Inca and the Aztec empires were receding and might not have survived, even if the Europeans had not arrived.
- D) Prior to the arrival of the Europeans, both the Inca and the Aztec empires had been replaced by other, indigenous governments.

Answer: C

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Conceptual

32) Which of the following was NOT a result of the European contact with sub-Saharan Africa after 1500?

- A) Trade patterns in west Africa shifted from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic
- B) Trade shifted in west Africa from Muslim to European hands
- C) Seizure of slaves for European use affected many regions deeply
- D) Regional kingdoms lost all influence in west Africa and were replaced by European governments

Answer: D

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Conceptual

33) The practice of judging other peoples by the standards and practices of one's own culture of ethnic group is called

- A) ethnocentrism.
- B) localism.
- C) anthropomorphism.
- D) aversionism.

Answer: A

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Topic: Thinking Historically: The Problem of Ethnocentrism

Skill: Conceptual

## Essay Questions

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1) Account for the decline of the Middle East in the 1400s.

Answer: A decline of intellectual vigor accompanied disintegration of Abbasid Empire; emphasis shifted to religion and away from philosophy and science; rise of Sufis; landlords seized control of land, reduced peasantry to serfdom; decline in state revenues from taxation; decline of interest in international trade.

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

2) Evaluate the position of China in the international balance of power in 1450.

Answer: China had restored political unity under Ming dynasty; temporary interest in expansion of international trade; ended in 1433 with withdrawal to internal economy; remained economically prosperous; required little from other civilizations, but shut off from technological and scientific dynamism of post-1500 West.

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Topic: Key Changes in the Middle East

Skill: Conceptual

3) What were the sources of dynamism that fueled the Western advances relative to other civilizations?

Answer: Population expanded at more rapid rate than on any other continent; feudal monarchy provided beginnings of more centralized political units; growth of cities and urban economies spurred commercial development; technology, particularly iron working, continued to advance; sense of weakness in comparison to other civilizations led to search for new trade routes leading to Atlantic exploration; Renaissance opened up new cultural avenues in West.

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Topic: The Rise of the West

Skill: Conceptual

4) Describe early Western exploration and colonization patterns.

Answer: Need for new routes to avoid Ottoman dominance of eastern Mediterranean, establish more favorable balance of trade; explorations begun in Atlantic, reached island groups, Canaries, Madeira, Azores; some exploration of African coastline; role of Prince Henry; early settlement of island groups established patterns for later colonization of Americas; establishment of large agricultural estates to produce money crops (sugar, cotton, tobacco); extensive use of slave labor.

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Topic: Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase?

Skill: Conceptual

5) In what sense were the civilizations outside the world network of cultural exchange (the Americas, Africa, and Polynesia) vulnerable to interaction with other civilizations?

Answer: Americas: empires (Aztec and Inca) disintegrating due to internal stresses; lacked technology; unexposed to diseases common in Europe. African political units experienced various success; decline of Zimbabwe, Mali, rise of Songhay; Africa better equipped to deal with interaction; had metallurgy; exposed to European diseases; already involved in long-distance trade systems; less isolated than other civilizations. Polynesia, like Americas, totally isolated from world trade network; individual island groups becoming more isolated; unexposed to European diseases; lacked metallurgy.

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Topic: Outside the World Network

Skill: Conceptual

## Document-based Questions

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1) Which description most closely approximates Ibn al Wardi's description of the plague?

A) Though al Wardi would prefer that God spare the people from the plague, he urges all believers to remember that God is all-powerful and to seek comfort in these words.

B) He believes that the Chinese caused the plague.

C) People in the maritime plain were spared.

D) The plague is a punishment to Muslims.

Answer: A

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Topic: Bubonic Plague

Skill: Conceptual

2) Which people were seen as causing the plague according to Jean de Venette?

A) The sister of the Hôtel-Dieu.

B) Merchants

C) Jews

D) Timid priests

Answer: C

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Topic: Bubonic Plague

Skill: Factual