

## Unit 2: Networks of Exchange, c. 1200 to c. 1450

### Learning Objectives and Historical Developments

#### Topic 2.1 The Silk Roads

- *Explain the causes and effects of growth of networks of exchange after 1200.*
  - ECN: 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.
    - **Illustrative Example Trading Centers:** Kashgar, Samarkand
  - ECN: 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.
    - **Illustrative examples New Forms of credit and money economies:** Bills of Exchange, banking houses, use of paper money
  - ECN: 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.*
  - GOV: Empires collapsed in different regions of the world and in some areas were replaced by new imperial states, including the Mongol khanates
- *Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.*
  - ECN: 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.*
  - CDI: Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires, including the Mongols, encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers.
    - **Illustrative Examples Technological and Cultural Transfers:** Transfer of Greco-Islamic medical knowledge to western Europe, Transfer of numbering systems to Europe (i.e. "Arabic" numerals), adoption of Uyghur Script

#### Topic 2.3 Exchange in the Indian Ocean

- *Explain the causes of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.*
  - ECN: 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.
  - ECN: 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.
  - ECN: The Indian Ocean trading network fostered the growth of states.
    - **Illustrative Examples of Growth of States:** City-States of the Swahili Coast, Gujarat, Sultanate of Malacca
- *Explain the effects of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.*
  - CDI: 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.
    - **Illustrative Examples of Diasporic Communities:** Arab and Persian Communities in East Africa (i.e.- Swahili Trading Coast cities), Chinese Merchant communities in Southeast Asia, Malay Communities in Indian Ocean Basin,
  - CDI: 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.*
  - ENV: The expansion and intensification of long distance trade routes often depended on environmental knowledge, including advanced knowledge of the monsoon winds.

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#### Topic 2.4 Trans-Saharan Trade Routes

- *Explain the causes and effects of the growth of trans-Saharan trade.*
  - **TEC:** The growth of interregional trade was encouraged by innovations in existing transportation technologies.
  - **TEC:** 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.
    - **Illustrative Examples of Technologies encouraging interregional trade:** Camel Saddle, Caravans
- *Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.*
  - **GOV:** 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.*
  - **CDI:** Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions, as well as scientific and technological innovations.
    - **Illustrative Examples of Diffusion of Cultural Traditions:** The influence of Buddhism in East Asia, the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism into Southeast Asia, the spread of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia
    - **Illustrative examples of diffusion of scientific or technological innovations:** gunpowder from China, paper from China
  - **CDI:** The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline and periods of increased urbanization, buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.
  - **CDI:** As exchange networks intensified, an increasing number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia wrote about their travels.
    - **Illustrative Examples Travelers:** Ibn Battuta, Margery Kempe, Marco Polo

#### 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.*
  - **EVN:** There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens, with epidemic diseases, including the bubonic plague, along trade routes.
    - **Illustrative Examples Diffusion of Crops:** bananas in Africa, New Rice Varieties in East Asia, Spread of citrus in the Mediterranean

#### Topic 2.7 Comparison of Economic Exchange - REVIEW

- *Explain the similarities and differences among the various networks of exchange in the period from c. 1200 to c. 1450.*
  - A deepening and widening of networks of human interaction within and across regions contributed to cultural, technological, and biological diffusion within and between various societies.
  - 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.
  - Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes.
  - 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.