

3.2 Continuity and Innovation of Political Units and their Interactions

Empires Collapsed - some were re-established - in some regions new forms of states emerged

- A. Re-established empires, such as the **Byzantine Empire** and the **Chinese Dynasties (Sui, Tang, Song)**, combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy (Patriarchy, Religion, Land-owning Elites) with new innovations (New methods of taxation, Tributary systems, Adaptation of religious institutions) that better suited current needs.
- B. New forms of political systems developed such as those in various **Islamic States (Abbasids, Muslim Iberia, Delhi Sultanates)**, the **Mongol Khanates**, **city-states (Italian Peninsula, East Africa, Southeast Asia, Americas)** and **Feudalism** in Medieval Europe and **Japan**.
- C. Some states combined local and borrowed governance traditions
Ex. Persian traditions that influenced **Islamic states**
Ex. **Chinese** traditions that influenced states in **Japan**
- D. Political Systems expanded in scope and power in the **Americas**, Networks of **city-states** flourished in the Maya region, and Imperial **Aztec and Inca states** at the end of the period.

Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers

- A. Between **Tang China** and the **Abbasids**, throughout the **Mongol Empire**, and the **Crusades**.

How did state formations develop in the post-classical era?

Continuities:

- European and Japanese Feudalism
- Chinese cultural patterns/ Dynastic cycle
- Major cities center of trade, religion, government, culture
- Trans-regional trade
- Roman legal system maintained in Byzantine Empire basis for western European legal system
- Shintoism, Buddhism, Confucianism in Japan and Japanese Imperial Family
- Patriarchy- regional inequality increased
- Slavery and forced labor
- Mixture of African agricultural, nomadic, and urban centers
- Nomadic trade and conflict with settled, urban cultures

How did post-classical states avoid the mistakes of classical empires in the regions where classical empires collapsed?

Changes:

- Increase in long-distance trade, interactions of Indian Ocean and Trans-Saharan trade routes
- Revival of earlier Silk Road trade and interactions (under Mongols)
- Bantu migrations
- Diffusion of Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism
- Restriction on women's legal rights, foot binding
- Early European Renaissance
- Long distance trade between Mesoamerica and North America

What technological and cultural exchanges did states encourage?

