

*3.3-1 Agricultural and industrial production was stimulated by the increase in new innovations and technologies*

**Technical innovations** led to **increased agricultural production** with such inventions as...

- Chinampa rice fields
- Improved terracing techniques

*Other technologies include:*

- movable-type printing
- compass
- gunpowder
- paper currency
- dhows and junks

**China**

- Tang and Song arguably world's most scientifically and technologically advanced society
- Developed compass in late 1000s, gunpowder, and improved printing techniques



To meet demands from Afro-Eurasia for foreign luxury goods, **materials were duplicated** from original locations to preset ecosystems. Examples include:

- cotton
- sugar
- citrus
- silk
- spices
- jewels

Chinese, Indian, and Persian artisans **increased production of textiles and porcelains** which **promoted the industry of steel/iron in China**.

- Silk remained best-known commodity traded along Silk Road however, other items included:
  - raw materials
  - foodstuffs
  - luxury goods (spices, gems)
  - manufactured products



*3.3-2 The fates of cities differed, ranging from affluent prosperity to poverty-stricken decline.*



Factors such as **invasion, disease, decrease in agricultural output, and the little ice age** result in the **decline** of various cities.

- Occasional natural disasters
- Recurring movements of smallpox, measles, and bubonic plague
- Deadliest epidemic: **Black Death** in early 1300s
- Little Ice Age: general cooling following medieval climatic optimum (a warming trend)

Unit 3 (500-1450 C.E.)  
Jackson Zeng, Junhyung Shim, and Vikram Hegde

The **revival of cities** were caused by:

- Declination in outside invasions
- More reliable transportation
  - dhows, junks, horses, camels, oxen
- Increase in commerce and population
  - revival of Silk Road under Mongols
  - increased trade along trans-Saharan routes and Mediterranean sea lanes
- Urban growth motivated by increased food
  - improved horse collar = improved agriculture
  - terrace farming, terrace farming, waru waru
  - water management
- Supply and warmer weather
  - medieval climatic optimum



**Newer cities** based on **functionality and urban roles** resulted in the **decline of older outdated cities**. Cities continued importance as political, religious, commercial, and social centers.

- monarchies and oligarchies
- rise of feudalism, Islamic caliphates, Mongols, city-states
- serfdom



*3.3-3 Despite traditional economic patterns, important changes in labor system and religious impact on gender/family occurred.*

Forms of **labor organization**:

- Free peasant labor
- Nomadic pastoralism
- Guild and craft unions
- Coercive labor (slavery/serfdom)
- Government promoted labor taxes/military duties



**Caste systems** and **social class hierarchy** shaped social systems.

- Elite classes: high-level clergy, civil servants of bureaucracy
- Commoners: scribes, lawyers, artisans, merchants, bankers, mid-/low-level bureaucrats
- Urban lower classes: farmers, peasants
- Untouchable/pariah classes: slaves, coerced laborers



Patriarchy existed, however, **women demonstrated increased power/influence** in certain societies:

- Mongols
- SE Asia
- Japan
- West Africa

*Women's rights:*

- could generally inherit and own property
- divorce
- limited education
- descent traced matrilineally in sub-Saharan Africa



**New forms of coercive labor** were initiated; thus, resulting in **increase of peasant revolts** and **increase in the demand for African slaves**.

- Japan/Europe: serfdom
- Inca: "mita" labor system

The **diffusion** of various **world religions** led to **changes in gender/family structure**.

- women required to veil themselves
- high degree of patriarchalism
- arranged marriages
- polygamy (more than one wife)
- foot binding
- Hinduism
  - restricted by dictates of caste
- Christianity
  - women subordinate to men, more sinful
- Islam
  - assigned women a secondary status to men
- Neo-Confucianism
  - similar thinking in China and East Asia

