

Unit 3- 500-1450: Key Concepts: 3.1

Intensification and extension of communication and exchange- Silk Roads, Trans-Saharan, Indian ocean, and the American Network

Trade:

Silk Road, Trans-Saharan, Indian Ocean, American Network led to ☐☐

- Powerful new trading cities---Example: Novgorod, Timbuktu, Swahili city-states, Hangzhou, Calicut, Baghdad, Melaka, Venice, Tenochtitlan, OR Cahokia. The

--In cities, the rise of trade and commerce made merchant classes larger and more influential. Also, in urban settings, a key form of labor organization was craft production, with artisan together in guilds.

---Trading organizations like Northern Europe's Hanseatic League came into existence.

The Crusades had the ultimate consequence of bringing Europeans squarely into the major world trade circuits.

--Europeans were first brought into the trade loop through cities like Venice and Genoa on the Mediterranean.

--Two major sea-trading routes - Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean - linked the newly created Muslim Empire together, and Arabic sailors come to dominate the trade. Muslims also were active in the Silk Road trade to India and China. (To encourage the flow of trade, Muslim money changers set up banks throughout the caliphate so that merchants could easily trade with those at far distances. Cities along the trade routes became cosmopolitan mixtures of many religions and customs)

--Islam expanded from the Arabian Peninsula to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion and the activities of merchants and missionaries.

New Commercial Tech. aided this spread

--Caravanserai (Roadside Inns)

--Camel Saddles (Saddles for camels)

New Navigational Technology aided this spread ⇒⇒⇒

-Compass (from CHINA)

--Astrolabe (from Hellenistic world)

--Larger Ship Designs

New Economic tools ⇔⇔⇔⇔

--Bills of exchange

--Credit, checks and banks w

-Government coins/paper money

--Government commercial infrastructure

-One example of caravan organization: caravanserai OR camel saddles One example of new forms of credit and monetization: bills of exchange, credit, checks, OR banking houses. ← In Afro-Eurasian, trade was made easier and safer by emergence of new forms of banking and monetization.

Diaspora >>>>(People living away from their Homeland)

--Muslims in the Indian Ocean

--Chinese in Southeast Asia

--Jews in the Medd.

Cross- Cultural diffusion☐☐☐

- Islam developed in the Arabian Peninsula, reflecting interactions among Jews, Christian, Zoroastrians with Arabs. Muslim rule expanded to many regions of Afro-Eurasia due to military actions, merchants, missionaries, and other factors.

- Merchants often set up diasporic communities (away from ancestral homelands) in cities along important trade routes, where they introduced their own cultural traditions into local/indigenous culture.
- Writings of interregional travelers illustrate both the extent and limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding
- Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions - One example: influence of Neo-confucianism and Buddhism in East Asia, Hinduism and Buddhism in SE Asia, Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and SE Asia, OR Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America.
- Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions - One example: influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars.

Cross-Cultural Exchanges:

- Vikings: longships
- Arab/Berber: Camels
- Central Asian Horses

Trans-Saharan:

Ghana - By the 700s, grew rich from taxing the goods that traders carried through their territory. Their most important asset was gold from the Niger River area that they traded for salt from the Sahara.

Mali - During the 11th century, the Almoravids, a Muslim group from northern Africa, conquered Ghana. By the 13th century, a new empire, called Mali, dominated West Africa. Mali too based its wealth on gold. New deposits were found east of the Niger River, and African gold became a basic commodity in long distance trade. Mali's first great leader was Sundiata, whose life inspired an epic poem -The Legend of Sundiata -. Mali's capital city, Timbuktu, became a world center of trade, education and sophistication.

The Swahili city-states -Eastern coast of Africa. The cities were not united politically, but they were well developed, with a great deal of cultural diversity and sophisticated architecture. The people were known as the Swahili, based on the language that they spoke - a combination of Bantu and Arabic. Most were Muslims, and the sailors were renown for their ability to maneuver their small boats through the Indian Ocean to India and other areas of the Middle East via the Red Sea and back.

Interregional Travellers: Ibn Battuta,Marco Polo, XuanZang

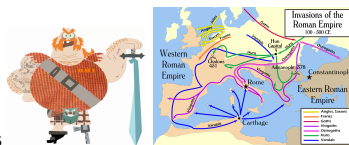
-Migrations (Bantu, Vikings, Polynesians)

-Effects of migration: The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects. Some migrations had huge impact, such as the migration of the agricultural Bantu peoples in forested regions of Sub-Saharan Africa, and the maritime migrations of the Polynesian peoples who cultivated transplanted foods and domesticated animals.



• **Bantu**

Both the Indian Ocean Trade and the Silk Road were disrupted by major migrations during this period, but both recovered and eventually thrived. The Bantu speaking people throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. Notable for spreading iron working, language, and farming techniques, etc.



• **Vikings**

-Location: North Atlantic

-Significance: Vikings used their longships to travel in the ocean and into riverways(usually to the detriment of people they met).

- **Polynesians**

_Deliberate movement of the people of Polynesia throughout the Pacific Ocean. Notable for carrying language, plants, animals, etc. Perhaps reaching as far as Europe.

Silk Road:

The Silk Road spanned different regions while carrying many goods and ideas. Spices included were that of Indian and Chinese. Cotton from India was almost very common. Silk given from the name as also traded quite frequently. Ideas included were religions: Confucianism and Buddhism. Islam was also there.



Trans-Saharan:

This trade route occurred in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa. Most of the trade occurred with the Middle East and even with Europeans. Some of the most common items traded were slaves, gold spices, and certain varieties of salt. Because Africa had a large abundance of gold and slaves, many people came through the Trans-Saharan ports to get their goods. This was successful as not only did that region increase their economy but everything seemed well.



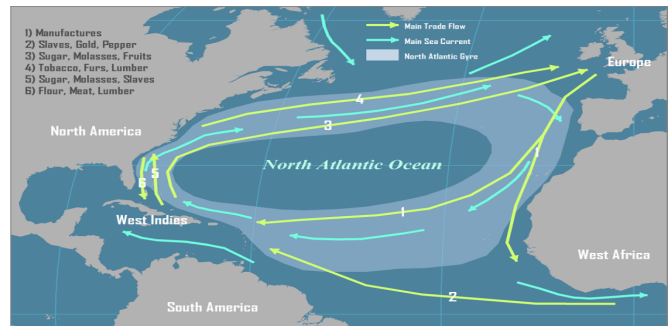
Indian Ocean:

In the Indian Ocean trade, many goods were exchanged with the Middle East and even with China. In exchange for silk from China and Islam from the Middle East, cotton was in great demand for both regions. Given by its name, the trade occurred in the Indian Ocean and was dominated by Arab merchants.








American Network:

While the Americas may have been relatively isolated with trade, when they needed help of some sort, they would often times trade within different regions in their areas. For example, when looking at this map, it clearly visualizes that America traded with Africa, Mexico, Guatemala and other South American countries. They often times exchanged slaves for new crops from the Old World and weaponry from the Africans or Americas. Given that most trade occurred in oceans AND on land.



Establishment of exchange methods(currency, banking, trade alliances,etc)

Name of Region	Currency	Who they traded with?	Type of Govt.	What was traded?
China	Paper money, Silver	India, Europe, Coast of Africa	Bureaucracy 	porcelain, tea, paper, silk, compass, rice 
India	Paper money	Europeans, China,	Regional, constitutional, parliamentary	cotton, spices, opium, cloth, textiles, black pepper 
Africa	Gold coins then the use of Paper money	Europeans, America,	Regional	gold, salt, slaves, spice, ivory, timber 
Americas	Gold Coins and use of paper money	Europeans, Coast of Africa	Hierarchy, Decentralized	corn, weaponry 
Europe	Gold coins and Paper money	China, Africa, Americas,	Absolute Monarchy, Parliamentary	slaves, spices, silver, wealth, gold, glory! 