

Unit 2: Networks of Exchange (1200CE-1450CE)

Topic 2.1: The Silk Roads

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.

A. The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods along the Silk Roads was encouraged by innovations in existing transportation and commercial technologies.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the effects of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.

A. Improved commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade along the Silk Roads and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities.

B. Demand for luxury goods increased in Afro-Eurasia.

C. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded production of textiles and porcelains for export while iron and steel production expanded in China.

Topic 2.2: The Mongol Empire

Learning Objective 1: Explain the process of state building and decline in Eurasia over time.

A. Empires collapsed in different regions of the world and in some areas were replaced by new imperial states, including the Mongol Khanates.

Learning Objective 2: Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.

A. The expansion of the Mongol Khanates facilitated trade and communication as new people were drawn into their empire.

Learning Objective 3: Explain the significance of the Mongol Empire in larger patterns of continuity and change.

A. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires, including the Mongols, encouraged technological and cultural transfers.

Topic 2.3: Exchange in the Indian Ocean

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.

A. Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade in the Indian Ocean Trade Network.

B. The Indian Ocean trading network fostered the growth of states.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the effects of the growth of networks of exchange after 1200.

A. Merchants set up diasporic communities in key places along the Indian Ocean Trade Network.

B. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged technological and cultural transfers along the Indian Ocean Trade Network.

Learning Objective 3: Explain the role of environmental factors in the development of networks of exchange in the period 1200-1450.

A. The expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade Network relied on advanced knowledge of monsoon winds.

Topic 2.4: Trans-Saharan Trade Routes

Learning Objective 1: Explain the causes of the growth of trans-Saharan trade.

A. The growth of trans-Saharan trade was encouraged by innovations in existing transportation and commercial technologies.

Learning Objective 2: Explain how the expansion of empires influenced trade and communication over time.

A. The expansion of West African empires facilitated trade and communication as new people were drawn into their empires.

Topic 2.5: Cultural Consequences of Connectivity

Learning Objective 1: Explain the intellectual and cultural effects of the various networks of exchange in Afro-Eurasia from 1200-1450.

A. Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions.

B. Increased cross cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of scientific and technological innovations.

C. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline and periods of increased urbanization.

D. An increased number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia wrote about their travels.

Topic 2.6: Environmental Consequences of Connectivity

Learning Objective 1: Explain the environmental effects of the various networks of exchange in Afro-Eurasia from 1200-1450.

A. There was continued diffusion of crops along trade routes.

B. There was continued diffusion of epidemic diseases along trade routes.