

Period 3 Key Concepts: Regional and Interregional Interactions c. 600 C.E. to c. 1450 C.E.

Note: If it's in the Key Concepts, then it's fair game for the test. Use this as a guide and framework for studying. Test questions are connected to themes and thinking skills that we use throughout the course.

Key Concept 3.1 Expansion & Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks	Student Annotations (notes, study questions, diagrams, etc.)
<p>Although Afro-Eurasia and the Americas remained separate from one another, this era witnessed a deepening and widening of old and new networks of human interaction within and across regions. The results were unprecedented concentrations of wealth and the intensification of cross-cultural exchanges. Innovations in transportation, state policies, and mercantile practices contributed to the expansion and development of commercial networks, which in turn served as conduits for cultural, technological, and biological diffusion within and between various societies. Pastoral or nomadic groups played a key role in creating and sustaining these networks. Expanding networks fostered greater interregional borrowing, while at the same time sustaining regional diversity. The prophet Muhammad promoted Islam, a new major monotheistic religion at the start of this period. It spread quickly through practices of trade, warfare, and diffusion characteristic of this period.</p> <p>I. Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly active trade networks.</p> <p>A. Existing trade routes flourished and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities. (<i>Examples of new trading cities: Novgorod, Timbuktu, Swahili city-states, Hangzhou, Calicut, Baghdad, Melaka, Venice, Tenochtitlan, Cahokia</i>)</p> <p>Required examples of existing trade routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Silk Roads • The Mediterranean Sea • The Trans-Saharan • The Indian Ocean basins <p>B. Communication and exchange networks developed in the Americas. (<i>Ex: Mississippi River Valley, Mesoamerica, Andes</i>)</p> <p>C. The growth of interregional trade in <u>luxury goods</u> (<i>Ex: silk and cotton textiles, porcelain, spices, slaves, precious metals/gems</i>) was encouraged by significant innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including the <u>caravanserai</u>, use of the compass, <u>astrolabe</u>, and larger ship designs in sea travel; and new forms of credit and monetization (<i>Ex: bills of exchange, credit, checks, banking houses</i>).</p> <p>D. Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices, including the Incan road system; trading</p>	

organizations including the Hanseatic League; and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures, including the Grand Canal in China.

- E. The expansion of empires facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conquerors' economies and trade networks.

Required examples of empires:

- China
- The Byzantine Empire
- The Caliphates
- The Mongols

II. The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects.

- A. The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on environmental knowledge and technological adaptations to it. (*Ex: Scandinavian Vikings used long ships to travel in coastal and open waters, Arabs and Berbers adapted camels to travel across the Sahara, Central Asian pastoral groups used horses to travel the steppes*).

- B. Some migrations had a significant environmental impact.

Required examples of migration and their environmental impact:

- The migration of Bantu-speaking peoples who facilitated transmission of iron technologies and agricultural techniques in Sub-Saharan Africa
- The maritime migrations of the Polynesian peoples who cultivated transplanted foods and domesticated animals as they moved to new islands

- C. Some migrations and commercial contacts led to the diffusion of languages throughout a new region or the emergence of new languages. (Ex. of language diffusion: spread of Bantu languages including Swahili, spread of Turkic and Arabic languages)

III. Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing, or the creation of new, networks of trade and communication.

- A. Islam, based on the revelations of the prophet Muhammad, developed in the Arabian Peninsula. The beliefs and practices of Islam reflected interactions among Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians with the local Arabian peoples. Muslim rule expanded to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion, and Islam subsequently expanded through the activities of merchants and missionaries.

- B. In key places along important trade routes, merchants

set up diasporic communities where they introduced their own cultural traditions into the indigenous culture. (*Examples of diasporic communities: Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean, Chinese merchant communities in SE Asia, Sogdian merchant communities throughout Central Asia, Jewish communities in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean basin, or along the Silk Roads*)

C. As exchange networks intensified, an increased number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia wrote about their travels. Their writings illustrate both the extent and the limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding. (*Examples of interregional travelers: Ibn Battuta, Marco Polo, Xuanzang*)

D. Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions. (*Examples: influence of Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in East Asia, Hinduism and Buddhism in SE Asia, Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and SE Asia, Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America*)

E. Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions, (*ex: spread of Christianity throughout Europe, influence of Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in East Asia, spread of Hinduism and Buddhism into Southeast Asia, spread of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, influence of Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America*) as well as scientific and technological traditions. (*Ex of diffusion of scientific and technological innovations: influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars, return of Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe via Muslim al-Andalus in Iberia, spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from E. Asia into the Islamic empires and Western Europe*)

IV. There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens, including epidemic disease like the bubonic plague, throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes. (*Ex: bananas in Africa, new rice varieties in East Asia, spread of cotton, sugar, and citrus throughout Dar al-Islam and the Mediterranean basin*)

Key Concept 3.2. Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions	Student Annotations (notes, study questions, diagrams, etc.)
<p>State formation in this era demonstrated remarkable continuity, innovation, and diversity in various regions. In Afro-Eurasia, some states attempted, with differing degrees of success, to preserve or revive imperial structures, while smaller, less centralized states continued to develop. The expansion of Islam introduced a new concept — the Caliphate — to Afro-Eurasian statecraft. Pastoral peoples in Eurasia built powerful and distinctive empires that integrated people and institutions from both the pastoral and agrarian worlds. In the Americas, powerful states developed in both Mesoamerica and the Andean region.</p> <p>I. Empires collapsed and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged</p> <p>A. Following the collapse of empires, most reconstituted governments, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties (Sui, Tang, and Song), combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy (<i>like the patriarchy, use of religion, and land-owning elites</i>) with innovations better suited to their specific local context (<i>like new methods of taxation, <u>tributary systems</u>, and the adaptation of religious institutions</i>).</p> <p>B. In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various Islamic states (<i>Abbasids, Muslim Iberia, Delhi Sultanates</i>), the Mongol Khanates, city-states (<i>Italian peninsula, East Africa, SE Asia, Americas</i>), and decentralized government (feudalism) in Europe and Japan.</p> <p>C. Some states synthesized local and borrowed traditions. (<i>Examples: Persian traditions that influenced Islamic states, Chinese traditions that influenced states in Japan</i>)</p> <p>D. In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems expanded in scope and reach; networks of city-states flourished in the Maya region and, at the end of this period, imperial systems were created by the Mexica (Aztecs) and Inca.</p> <p>II. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers. Including between Tang China and the Abbasids, transfers across the Mongol empires, transfers during the Crusades, and transfers during Chinese maritime activity led by Ming Admiral Zheng He. (Technological and cultural transfers: paper-making techniques between Tang China and the Abbasids, gunpowder during the Mongol Empire, Neoconfucianism from China to Korea and Japan).</p>	

Key Concept 3.3 Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences	Student Annotations (notes, study questions, diagrams, etc.)
<p>Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes. Productivity rose in both agriculture and industry. Rising productivity supported population growth and urbanization but also strained environmental resources and at times caused dramatic demographic swings. Shifts in production and the increased volume of trade also stimulated new labor practices, including adaptation of existing patterns of free and coerced labor. Social and gender structures evolved in response to these changes.</p> <p>I. Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.</p> <p>A. Agricultural production increased significantly due to technological innovations. (Examples: <u>champa rice</u> varieties, the <u>chinampa field systems</u>, <u>waru waru</u> agricultural techniques in the Andean areas, improved terracing techniques, the horse collar)</p> <p>B. Demand for foreign luxury goods increased in Afro-Eurasia. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; industrial production of iron and steel expanded in China.</p> <p>II. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline, and with periods of increased <u>urbanization</u> buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.</p> <p>A. Multiple factors contributed to the declines of urban areas in this period.</p> <p>Required examples of these factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasions • Disease • The decline of agricultural productivity • The Little Ice Age <p>B. Multiple factors contributed to urban revival.</p> <p>Required examples of these factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of invasions • The availability of safe and reliable transport • The rise of commerce and the warmer temperatures between 800 and 1300 • Increased agricultural productivity and subsequent rising population • Greater availability of labor <p>C. While cities in general continued to play the roles they had played in the past as governmental, religious, and commercial centers, many older cities declined at the</p>	

same time that numerous new cities emerged to take on these established roles.

III. Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management and in the effect of religious conversion on gender relations and family life.

- A. The diversification of labor organization that began with settled agriculture continued in this period. Forms of labor organization included:
- Free peasant agriculture
 - Nomadic pastoralism
 - Craft production and guild organization
 - Various forms of coerced and un-free labor
 - Government-imposed labor taxes
 - Military obligations
- B. As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted; however, in some areas, women exercised more power and influence, most notably among the Mongols and in West Africa, Japan, and Southeast Asia.
- C. New forms of coerced labor appeared, including serfdom in Europe and Japan and the elaboration of the mit'a in the Inca Empire. Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts. The demand for slaves for both military and domestic purposes increased, particularly in central Eurasia, parts of Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean.

Regions where free peasants revolted:

- China
- Byzantine Empire

- D. The diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Neoconfucianism often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structure. (*Ex. of changes in gender relations and family structure: divorce for both men and women in some Muslim states, the practice of foot-binding in Song China*).