CHAPTER 15

The West and the Changing World Balance

CHAPTER SUMMARY

By 1400, there was a shifting balance between world civilizations. The international role of the Islamic world, with the fall of the Abbasids and other Mongol disruptions, was in decline. The Ming dynasty of China attempted, for a time, to expand into the vacuum. The most dynamic contender was western Europe. The West was not a major power, but important changes were occurring within its civilization. Italy, Spain, and Portugal took new leadership roles. The civilizations outside the international network, the Americas and Polynesia, also experienced important changes.

The Decline of the Old Order. In the Middle East and north Africa, the once-powerful civilizations of Byzantium and the Abbasids had crumbled. The Byzantine Empire was pressed by Ottoman Turks; Constantinople fell in 1453. The Abbasids were destroyed by the Mongols in 1258.

Social and Cultural Change in the Middle East. By around 1300, Islamic religious leaders had won paramountcy over poets, philosophers, and scientists. A rationalist philosopher like Ibn-Rushd (Averroës) in Spain was more influential in Europe than among Muslims. Islamic scholarship focused on religion and legal traditions, although Sufis continued to emphasize mystical contacts with god. Changes occurred in economic and social life as landlords seized power over the peasantry. From 1100, peasants became serfs on large estates. As a result, agricultural productivity fell. Tax revenues decreased and Middle Eastern merchants lost ground to European competitors. The Islamic decline was gradual and incomplete. Muslim merchants remained active in the Indian Ocean, and the Ottoman Turks were beginning to build one of the world’s most powerful empires.

A Power Vacuum in International Leadership. The rise of the Ottomans did not restore Islam’s international vigor. The Turkish rulers focused on conquest and administration and awarded less attention to commerce. The result was a power vacuum beyond Ottoman borders. The Mongol dominions in Asia provided a temporary international alternative, but their decline opened opportunities for China and western Europe.

Chinese Thrust and Withdrawal. The Ming dynasty (1368-1644) replaced the Yuan and pushed to regain China’s previous borders. It established influence in Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam, and Tibet. In a new policy, the Ming mounted state-sponsored trading expeditions to India, the Middle East, and eastern Africa. The fleets, led by Chinese Muslim admiral Cheng Ho and others, were technological world leaders. Ming rulers halted the expeditions in 1433 because of their high costs and opposition from Confucian bureaucrats. Chinese merchants remained active in southeast Asian waters, establishing permanent settlements in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia, but China had lost a chance to become a dominant world trading power. The Chinese, from their viewpoint, had ended an unusual experiment, returning to their accustomed inward-looking policies. Since internal economic development flourished, there was little need for foreign products. The withdrawal opened opportunities for European expansion.
The Rise of the West. The small states of the West were still backward during the 14th and 15th centuries. The staples of medieval culture, including the Catholic church, were under attack. Philosophy had passed its creative phase. Warrior aristocrats lost their militaristic focus and indulged in courtly rituals. The economic activities of ordinary Europeans were in disarray. Growing populations outstripped food supplies, and famines were a recurrent threat after 1300. The arrival of the Black Death (bubonic plague) during the 14th century cost Europe one-third of its population.

Sources of Dynamism: Medieval Vitality. The West, despite the reverses, remained a dynamic society. Strengthened feudal monarchs provided effective government. The Hundred Years War stimulated military innovation. In Spain and Portugal, regional rulers drove back Muslim occupiers. Urban economic growth continued to spur commerce, and the church accepted key capitalistic principles. Technology, especially in iron working and timekeeping, continued to progress.

Imitation and International Problems. New opportunities for imitation occurred when the rise of the large and stable Mongol empire provided access to Asian knowledge and technology. Western elites sought Asian luxury products, paying for them by exporting raw materials. The ensuing unfavorable trade balance had to be made up in gold. By 1400, gold shortage threatened the economy with collapse. The rise of the Ottoman Empire and other Muslim successes further threatened Europe’s balance of trade with Asia. The reaction included the expansion in the Adriatic of the city-state of Venice and the beginning of explorations to bypass Muslim-dominated routes to Asia.

Secular Directions in the Italian Renaissance. A final ingredient of the West’s surge was internal change. The Renaissance, a cultural and political movement grounded in urban vitality and expanding commerce, began in Italy during the 14th century. The earlier phases involved literary and artistic themes more friendly to the secular world than the previous religiously oriented outlook had been. Artists and writers became more concerned with personal reputation and glory. In commerce, merchants sought new markets. City-state governments, eager for increased revenue, supported their expansion.

Human Values and Renaissance Culture. The Renaissance, above all, was a cultural movement. It began in Florence and focused on literature and the arts. The movement stressed stylistic grace and a concern for a code of behavior for urban gentlemen. There was innovation in music and the visual arts. Painters realistically portrayed nature and individuals in religious and secular themes and introduced perspective. The early Renaissance did not represent a full break from medieval tendencies. It had little effect outside of Italy, and in Italy it focused on high culture and was little concerned with science. Still, the Renaissance marked the beginning of important changes in Western development. The developing scope of Italian commerce and shipping; ambitious, revenue-seeking city-states; and sailors with the Renaissance goal of personal glory set the stage for future expansion.

The Iberian Spirit of Religious Mission. The Iberian Peninsula also was a key center for change. Spanish and Portuguese Christian military leaders had for centuries been pushing back the borders of Islam. Castile and Aragon established regional monarchies after 1400; they united through royal marriage in 1469. Iberian rulers developed a religious and military
agenda; they believed they had a mission to convert or expel Muslims and Jews and to maintain doctrinal purity. Close links formed between church and state. The changes stimulated the West’s surge into wider world contacts.

**Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase.** European efforts to explore the Atlantic began in the late 13th century. After early discoveries, a rapid move was made to a colonial system.

**Early Explorations.** The Genoese Vivaldi brothers in 1291 had vanished after passing the Strait of Gibraltar in search of a route to the “Indies.” Other Genoese explorers reached the Canary Islands, the Madeiras, and perhaps the Azores during the 14th century. Vessels from Spain sailed southward along the west African coast as far as Sierra Leone. Technological barriers hindered further exploration until 1430. Europeans solved problems through building better ships and learning from the Arabs the use of the Chinese compass and astrolabe. European mapmaking also steadily improved.

**Colonial Patterns.** The Portuguese and Spanish began to exploit the discovered island territories of the Azores, Madeiras, and Canaries. Prince Henry of Portugal, motivated by a combination of intellectual curiosity, religious fervor, and financial interest, reflected many of the key factors then stimulating European expansion. Land grants were given to colonists who brought along Western plants, animals, and diseases. They began a laboratory for later European imperialism. Large estates produced cash crops—sugar, cotton, tobacco—for Western markets. Slaves were introduced for crop cultivation. The developments were modest, but their patterns established precedents for the future.

**Outside the World Network.** The international framework developing during the postclassical period left out many regions and peoples. The Americas and Polynesia were not part of the new international exchange. Some of their societies experienced new problems that placed them at a disadvantage when experiencing outsider intervention.

**Political Issues in the Americas.** Both the Aztec and Inca empires experienced difficulties after 1400. Aztec exploitation of their subject peoples roused resentment and created opportunities for outside intervention. The Inca system created tensions between central and local leadership, stresses exacerbated by imperial overextension. The complications stemming from European invasion changed all of the developing dynamics of the peoples of the Americas.

**Expansion, Migration, and Conquest in Polynesia.** Polynesian culture between the 7th century and 1400 experienced spurts of migration and conquest that spread peoples far beyond the initial base in the Society Islands. One migration channel brought Polynesians to the Hawaiian Islands. After 1400, Hawaiian society was cut off from Polynesia. In Hawaii, the newcomers, living from agriculture and fishing, spread widely across the islands; pigs were introduced from the Society Islands. Warlike regional kingdoms were formed. In them a complex society emerged in which priests and nobles enjoyed special privileges over commoners. Rich oral traditions preserved their cultural values.

**In Depth: The Problem of Ethnocentrism.** The presence of ethnocentric outlooks in most cultures creates problems of interpretation in world history. The practices of foreign peoples are often regarded as inferior. Although many civilizations looked down on others, the present power of Western standards makes ethnocentrism a real issue. It is necessary to remain open-
minded when thinking about other cultures and to consider how their patterns are the result of their particular historical development.

**Isolated Achievements by the Maoris.** A second channel of migration brought settlers to New Zealand perhaps as early as the 8th century. The Polynesians adapted to the different environment, producing an expanding population and developing the most elaborate Polynesian art. Tribal military leaders and priests dominated a society that possessed many slaves gained in warfare. The Polynesians did not work metals, but they created a vigorous economy based on agriculture and domestic animals. They produced a rich oral tradition. As in Hawaii, all the accomplishments were achieved in isolation from the rest of the world.

**Adding Up the Changes.** Clearly, the era around 1400 was a time of transition in world history. It marked the most significant shift since the fall of the classical empires. The rising of the West was part of a series of complex events all over the world. There were shifts in international trade leadership, in power relationships, and civilization dynamism. The changes even affected societies where existing patterns endured. Although sub-Saharan Africa continued along independent paths of evolution long after 1400, the altering world patterns were drawing Africans into a new relationship with Europe.

**Global Connections: 1450 and the World.** Changes and continuities affected many societies in Asia, Africa, and Europe. Muslim traders and missionaries continued to be active, but the Mongols introduced a new set of contacts. Subsequent Mongol decline returned attention to trade in the Indian Ocean. The question of leadership in global contacts was in flux in 1450. African merchants continued to rely on interactions with the Middle East. Western Europe’s position was strengthening. Southeast Asia was increasingly drawn into trade and missionary activity.

**KEY TERMS**

**Ibn-Rushd (Averroës):** Iberian Muslim philosopher; studied Greek rationalism; ignored among Muslims but influential in Europe.

**Ming Dynasty:** Replaced Mongol Yuan dynasty in China in 1368; lasted until 1644; initially mounted large trade expeditions to southern Asia and Africa; later concentrated on internal development within China.

**Zhenghe:** Muslim Chinese seaman; commanded expeditions throughout the Indian Ocean.

**Black Death:** 14th-century bubonic plague; decimated populations in Asia and Europe.

**Renaissance:** Cultural and political elite movement beginning in Italy circa 1400; based on urban vitality and expanding commerce; produced literature and art with distinctly more secular priorities than those of the European Middle Ages.

**Portugal, Castile, and Aragon:** Regional Iberian kingdoms; participated in reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Muslims; developed a vigorous military and religious agenda.

**Francesco Petrarch:** Italian author and humanist; a major literary figure of the Renaissance.
**Vivaldi brothers:** Genoese explorers who attempted to find a western route to the “Indies”; precursors of European thrust into southern Atlantic.

**Vasco da Gama:** Portuguese explorer; first European to reach India by sea around Africa.

**Henry the Navigator:** Portuguese prince; sponsored Atlantic voyages; reflected the forces present in late postclassical Europe.

**Ethnocentrism:** Judging foreigners by the standards of one’s own group; leads to problems in interpreting world history.

**LESSON SUGGESTIONS**

**Leader Analysis**
Henry the Navigator

**Peoples Analysis**
Maoris

**Change Analysis**
European Renaissance

**Societal Comparison**
Medieval and Renaissance Europe

**Document Analysis**
Italian Renaissance Culture

**Dialectical Journal**
In Depth: The Problem of Ethnocentrism

**LECTURE SUGGESTIONS**

Evaluate the following statement: the relative rise of the West after the 14th century was not so much the result of Western innovation as the decline of civilizations in the Middle East and Asia. The statement is justified with respect to the changes occurring in the Middle East and China, but only so far as it is recognized that change rather than absolute decline took place in those regions. In the Middle East, the end of the Abbasids, the rise of the Seljuk Turks, and the disruption of the Mongol empires did not cause total decline. The Ottomans began building their future major empire. The Muslim trade empire disintegrated, since the Ottomans were less interested in commerce than their predecessors were. This opened the door for Western trade expansion. In China, there was no political disruption of traditional centralization under the Ming; there was a brief effort to expand Chinese trade throughout Asia. The Chinese withdrawal in 1433 left opportunities for the West. It can be argued that Western advances were the result of perceived weaknesses; an unfavorable balance of trade with other civilizations and a fear of Ottoman expansion led to exploration and new trade routes.

Compare the world of 1250 and the world of 1450. The demise of the Mongol empires led to the disruption of the links connecting the civilizations of the East. There was relative decline in the Middle East as the great trade empire fragmented. The rise of the Ottoman Empire, with its political center in Asia Minor and southeast Europe, was a major political factor. In eastern Europe, Russian independence from the Mongols created a new civilization. In China under the Ming, traditionalism was reasserted after the expulsion of the Mongols. In the Americas, the
Aztec and Inca empires were disintegrating from internal weaknesses. Polynesian groups remained culturally isolated and technologically primitive. In the West, the cultural forms of the Renaissance challenged medieval culture, and Westerners were beginning exploration and attempts to gain control of worldwide trade. The steps marked the beginning of change in international leadership and dynamism.

**CLASS DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS**

Describe the signs of decline in the Middle East and in China.

Middle East: Religious leaders gained the upper hand over poets, philosophers, and scientists. Also, the landlords seized power over the peasantry, forcing tax revenue to decline. China: It halted its expeditions so that no more land was gained.

Trace the reasons for the relative rise of the West.

After the decline of the old order in the Middle East and China’s short rule in trading, the West started to rise. In a short time, Europe became the leader in the international trade. However, before it could accomplish this, Europe went through important changes within itself.

Describe the nature of the Italian Renaissance. To what extent was it strictly an Italian experience?

The Renaissance was centered in Italy because of the closeness it had to the Roman Empire, which inspired most of the Renaissance itself. The Italian Renaissance began to create more secular thoughts within philosophy, art, literature, etc. It also started to remove the church from politics and daily life.

Define the nature of early Western exploration and colonial patterns.

Europe started out by sailing along the African coast and trading colonies and seaports. But because of the lack of technology it was unable to penetrate the ocean any further. Eventually, technology did get better and it was able to sail to the Americas, which Columbus thought was the Indies. The Europeans brought over many diseases when colonizing the Americas, which caused the deaths of many of the native inhabitants.

Outline the relative decline of civilizations outside the world network.

In some areas, trade routes moved or shifted around other countries, locking them out of trade and business. In addition to that, dynastic cycles circled through and rulers rose and fell. In areas with no centralized government, their society’s basic foundations began to crumble, causing the decline and fall of a civilization.

Summarize the transitions taking place in world history circa 1450.

Around 1450, exploration was becoming popular, and many countries were sending people out on expeditions. Slowly but surely, the West became the world’s leader in international trade, soon rising to power. New exchanges of foods, ideas, and diseases followed from the emergence of a new economic system.
MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. By what century was the European economy sufficiently strong to drive Muslim merchants from European markets?
   A) 10th  
   B) 11th  
   C) 12th  
   D) 13th  
   E) 14th

2. The Ottoman Empire gained greater territorial influence than was ever possessed by the Arabic dynasties in
   A) Asia Minor.  
   B) north Africa.  
   C) Mesopotamia.  
   D) southwestern Europe.  
   E) southeastern Europe.

3. Which of the following statements concerning the Ottoman Empire is most accurate?
   A) Turkish rulers did not promote maritime trade as vigorously as had the Arabs.  
   B) Scientific and philosophical investigations reached the level of innovation that they had enjoyed under the Abbasids.  
   C) The Turks refused to patronize the traditional Persian artists and craftsmen.  
   D) The Ottomans were more interested in cultural patronage than in military organization.  
   E) The Turks believed that art was the best way to honor the sultan.

4. What Chinese dynasty was associated briefly with the establishment of state-sponsored international commerce?
   A) Chou  
   B) Ming  
   C) Han  
   D) Tang  
   E) Shang

5. For how long did the Chinese government sponsor international commercial voyages in the 15th century?
   A) Five years  
   B) 12 years  
   C) 28 years  
   D) 57 years  
   E) 89 years
6. What was the disease that accounted for the enormous loss of life in the 14th century?

   A) Gonorrhea  
   B) Influenza  
   C) Typhus  
   D) Syphilis  
   E) Bubonic plague

7. Where were the two major regional monarchies that were established soon after 1400?

   A) La Rioja and Andalucia  
   B) Castile and Aragon  
   C) Aragon and La Rioja  
   D) Castile and Barcelona  
   E) Aragon and Barcelona

8. What was the innovation launched by the Ming dynasty?

   A) Receiving tribute payments from Korea  
   B) Extending its political control over Vietnam  
   C) Use of a centralized bureaucracy  
   D) The concept of Mandate of Heaven  
   E) Mounting huge, state-sponsored trading expeditions throughout Asia and beyond

9. After 1400, the Aztec and Inca empires

   A) were unified under a single ruler.  
   B) created international trading expeditions outside the Americas.  
   C) ran into difficulties as a result of overextended empires.  
   D) were replaced by the Zapotec Empire at Zaachila.  
   E) suffered a series of natural disasters.

10. By which of the following dates did the Americas and Polynesia still remain unaffected by the international exchange?

    A) 1400  
    B) 1500  
    C) 1550  
    D) 1600  
    E) 1700
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. The __________ was a Turkic government established in Asia Minor and eventually spreading throughout the Middle East following the retreat of the Mongols.

2. The __________ dynasty was established in China following the overthrow of the Mongol Yuan dynasty.

3. The cultural and political movement that begin in Italy circa 1400 and that created a literary and an artistic style with distinctly more secular priorities was called the __________.

4. Two kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula, __________, pressed the reconquest of Spain from the Muslims.

5. One of the earliest major literary figures of the Western Renaissance, __________, was an Italian author and humanist.

6. Two Genoese brothers who attempted to find a western route to the “Indies,” the __________, disappeared in 1291.

7. The first cash crop introduced in the Americas to be imported by Europe was __________, which had previously been imported from Asia.

8. The Polynesians who migrated to New Zealand, the __________, successfully adapted to a colder and harsher climate than that of their original homeland.

9. The __________, with their interlocking holdings in Eurasia, actively encouraged international travelers and exchanges of technology.

10. Despite its political and commercial roots, the Renaissance was first and foremost a(n) __________ movement.
TRUE/FALSE. Write ‘T’ if the statement is true and ‘F’ if the statement is false.

1. The rising Sufi movement and its emphasis on piety in Islam were both the cause and the result of the narrowing of intellectual life among the Muslims.  
   - T

2. China had long emphasized internal development, amid some international isolation, while maintaining suspicion of merchant values and any policy that would unduly elevate commercial activity.  
   - T

3. Italy was the center of initial Renaissance cultural definitions because it retained more contact with Roman tradition than did the rest of Europe.  
   - T

4. Early Western colonization was based on small, single-family holdings seeking to establish agricultural self-sufficiency.  
   - T

5. Unlike the civilizations of the Americas, Polynesia was not vulnerable to the importation of European diseases.  
   - F

6. By 1300, religion became predominant in the Islamic Middle East.  
   - T

7. Once the Mongol Empire fell, people were able to start using overland trade routes in Asia that had previously been too dangerous to travel.  
   - T

8. Although the Hundred Years War was destructive, it stimulated military innovations that enhanced the power of centralized monarchies.  
   - T

9. The Italian Renaissance involved a firm rejection of all religious works in favor of a humanistic approach.  
   - F

10. The early Renaissance had a tremendous impact on almost all of western Europe.  
    - T
ANSWER KEY

Multiple Choice

2. E  7. B
3. A  8. D
5. C  10. A

Short Answer

1. Answer: Ottoman Empire
2. Answer: Ming
3. Answer: Renaissance
4. Answer: Castile and Aragon
5. Answer: Francesco Petrarch
6. Answer: Vivaldis
7. Answer: sugar
8. Answer: Maori
9. Answer: Mongols
10. Answer: cultural

True/False

1. T  6. T
2. T  7. F
3. T  8. T
4. F  9. F
5. F  10. F
CHAPTER 15

TIMELINE

Insert the following events into the timeline. This should help you to compare important historical events chronologically.

fall of Constantinople to Ottoman Turks
unification of Castile and Aragon
outbreak of Black Death in Europe
end of Ming commercial expeditions
Portugal establishes control of Azores
expedition of the Vivaldis into the Atlantic

___ 1291
___ 1348'
___ 1433
___ 1439
___ 1453
___ 1469

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

The following terms, people, and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. Define each one on a separate sheet of paper.

Ottoman Turks  Ibn-Rushd  Ming dynasty
Zhenghe  Beijing  Black Death
Hundred Years War  Renaissance  Marco Polo
Francesco Petrarch  Giotto  Christopher Columbus
Iberian Peninsula  Castile  Aragon
Inquisition  Vivaldi brothers  ethnocentrism
Polynesia  Society Islands  Maori
Sufi movement
MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter. Locate the following places on the map.

Jidda  Bay of Bengal  Ormuz  Calicut
Sri Lanka  Arabian Sea  Mogadishu  Indonesia

How might world history have been different if Zhenghe’s journey westward had been allowed to continue?
Chapter 15 Notes
The West and the Changing World Balance

I. Introduction
A. 1400 – world in period of transition
   1. Downfall of Arab caliphate
   2. Spread of Mongols
   3. Who would take new international trade role? Maybe China?
B. But…Enter the Europeans – finally, they’ve been behind everyone for 8000 years
   1. Italy, Spain, Portugal took leadership role
   2. Americas couldn’t respond to European invasions
C. Key question – why did different civilizations react differently?
   1. This could be a key question – notice the word differences
      a. This class just loves to compare civilizations

II. The Decline of the Old Order
A. 1200 – Middle East run by Byzantine Empire (North) – Arab Empire (South)
   1. But…Turks took over Byzantines in 1453, 1258 Mongols - Caliph
B. Social and Cultural Change in the Middle East
   1. Religious leaders gained power over artistic leaders in Arab world
      a. New piety – think about orthodox Muslims today
      b. Religious art themes
      c. Rationalism of Greece (Hellenism) now seen as bad, a threat
         1. …don’t think this is just Arab world, Europeans getting scared of logic/rationalism as well
   2. Economic shifts
      a. As centralized power slows, provincial leaders (landlords) get more power
         1. Hmmmm…what an interesting pattern I’ve never seen before
      b. But…bad things resulted
         1. Lower agricultural yield
         2. Less taxes
         3. Less trade
         4. Indian Ocean trade still strong
      c. A gradual decline, not sudden like in Rome
      d. But…even though politically weak, other political areas took more power
         1. Ottoman Turks took over control – more powerful than before
C. A Power Vacuум in International Leadership
   1. Ottoman Turks not an international leader like Islamic caliphate
   2. Mongols provided next global leader
      a. Encouraged interregional trade
      b. Exchanged technology/ideas
      c. End of empire turned to seaborne trade, as land trade less protected
D. Chinese Thrust and Withdrawal
   1. Ming “brilliant” dynasty took over 1368-1644
      a. pushed out Mongols first
      b. re-established tributary links with Southeast Asian states
   2. State-sponsored trade expeditions
      a. Admiraly Zhenghe – 1405-1433 led vast, unparalleled fleet
         1. Former eunuch – why do you think leaders like eunuchs for advisors?
         2. Brought fleet of 28,000 troops – scared the willies out of local leaders
b. Eventually brought back – threatened the Confucian bureaucrats
   1. Remember – they don’t like merchants having power
   2. Other reasons – cost
      a. Money better spent building Beijing, fighting Mongols
3. What if Chinese kept trading? Lost chance to be world power
   a. Dainty little European ships no match
   b. Followed Chinese pattern of spending money internally, practically
      1. Not like West, where power is judged by expansion
4. Instead – worked on infrastructure – population increased, manufacturing improved
5. Arabs on decline, Mongols dying out, China not stepping to the plate…leads to…

III. The Rise of the West

A. Why is their rise surprising?
   1. Still awed by other bureaucracies
   2. Church under attack
   3. warrior aristocrats softened life – ridiculous tournaments/armor
   4. lives of ordinary Europeans falling apart
      a. famine
      b. vulnerable to bubonic plague
         1. China’s population hit by 30%
         2. Europe lost 30 million
            a. Led to strikes/peasant uprisings

B. Sources of Dynamism: Medieval Vitality
   1. Why was Europe still strong?
      a. Strong regional governments created during feudalism
      b. Military innovations thanks to Hundred Years War
         1. Nonaristocratic soldiers – regular guys not paid by gov’t
         2. Paid by central gov’t = more taxes = more central power
      c. Growth of cities – helped commerce
      d. Church content with capitalism – notice alliteration
      e. Technology improving – metalwork

C. Imitation and International Problems
   1. Technology pushes expansion
      a. During Mongol period – Europe has ideal access
         1. Not controlled, but still involved in trade
         2. Internal conflict spurs regions to improve technology to win battles
   2. International Factors push expansion
      b. Interest in luxury goods
      c. Nobody wants European products, so they have to pay in gold
         1. Europe doesn’t have gold…so…they need to go find some
      d. Fears of a Muslim threat
         1. Need to secure Western ports
         2. Need to create sea trade since Muslims now control land trade

D. Secular Directions in the Italian Renaissance
   1. First…I can’t believe we’re going to spend two paragraphs talking about the Renaissance when this was discussed ad nauseum in Western Civ
   2. West’s surge forward – rebirth of culture and political views of Classical Europe
      a. Artists create more human-centered works of art – humanism
      b. Artist/writers pushed for own reputation
      c. Works now secular, and religious simultaneously
d. Italy started – wealthy merchants want to impress others – patrons

1. Help sponsor cultural activities, scholars – competition

E. Human Values and Renaissance Culture
1. Focus of art changes – it’s a cultural revolution
   a. Subject – people, nature, portraits
   b. Created perspective
   c. Vivid, realistic statues – like classic Rome/Greece
2. But…not a full break from Medieval World…usually had to involve religion too
3. Change mindset – looking outward
   a. Building ships, pushing commerce
   b. Ambitious city-state governments funded new ventures
   c. Human ambition, pursuit of glory focused on exploration/conquest

F. The Iberian Spirit of Religious Mission
1. Spanish and Portuguese rulers pushing military/religious agenda
   a. Goal of armies – push Christianity, kick out Arabs/Jews
   b. Government enforced Church codes
   c. Inquisition courts to enforce orthodoxy
   d. Key…government with religious mission

IV. Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase
A. Early Explorations
1. Western route to the Indies – spice trade area?
   a. Vivaldis from Genoa sailed off to the land of nowhereville
   b. Mostly had to stick to the coast of Africa
2. After 1430, some navigational problems solved
   a. compass/astrolabe – navigation by stars – from Arabs
   b. Improved mapmaking
   c. but…geographically inaccurate maps give false confidence
   d. 1498 – Vasco de Gama heads to Indian Ocean

B. Colonial Patterns
1. How to make expeditions profitable?
   a. Henry the Navigator pushed for scientific, intellectual, religious, economic
2. Islands off Africa became test ground for colonialism
   a. large agricultural estates
      1. sugar, cotton, tobacco
   b. brought in slaves by Portuguese
3. Success of early programs led to expansion
4. Forces influencing European expansion
   a. inferiorities and fears - Muslims
   b. energies of Renaissance merchants
   c. economic pressures
   d. population surge

V. Outside the World Network
A. Introduction
1. America/Polynesia not affected by world exchange – they’d be centuries behind
2. New problems left civilizations vulnerable

B. Political Issues in the Americas
1. Resentment for leadership
   a. For some reason tribute regions tired of being enslaved, sacrificed
2. Overextension – difficult to control
3. Other cultures developing – maybe would have surpassed
4. All irrelevant, because when Europeans arrive…

C. Expansion, Migration, and Conquest in Polynesia
   1. Between 7th and 14th spread eastward – Hawaii – spread culture
      a. Society in caste system – military leaders/priests dominate
      b. No written language – oral history

D. Isolated Achievements by the Maori
   1. 8th century – Maori in New Zealand
      a. Most elaborate art
      b. Military leaders/priests have great power
      c. Slaves
   2. Because developed in isolation
      a. Vulnerable to disease
      b. Inferior weapons
      c. Cultural disintegration

E. Adding up the Changes
   1. Master plan that Europeans would dominate or series of coincidences?
      a. Political instability in Americas
      b. Developed in isolation left technologically inferior
      c. Vulnerable to diseases
      d. China decides not to continue pursuit of world trade domination
      e. Individuals try to improve Europe’s trade deficit – Henry the Navigator
      f. Muslim impact on Africa less control
      g. Africans don’t benefit from trade with Mongols

VI. Global Connections
A. Global contacts
   1. Muslim traders/missionaries still active
   2. Mongols readily shared ideas from one end of empire to the other
   3. China made new contacts
   4. But by 1450…who would dominate next was in flux

B. Key continuity
   1. Regions required trade to survive
      a. Africa relied on Middle East
      b. Southeast Asia linked to Muslim traders/China
      c. Western Europe contacts increasing
      d. China, India, Middle East see Africa/Europe as consumer source

C. And that’s it…not that painful of a chapter, agree?
The West and the Changing Balance of World Power

(A.D. 500 – A.D. 1450)
Lasting Effects of the Mongol Conquest?

- Initial destruction & shock of conquest yielded quickly to an unprecedented rise in cultural communication, expanded trade, & improved civilization.
Regional Effects: Europe

- Mongols defeated Germans, Poles, Bulgars, & Hungarians (whose land was most desired because of grassy plains).

- Eastern Europe was poor compared to Chinese & Muslim areas, so the Mongols turned away from several areas leaving Europe to suffer the least from the Mongol attacks.

- Europe gained much from the advantages of the contact through merchants & exchange of diplomatic & religious envoys.

- Clerics looked to Bible for answer & thought the Mongols were a missing Hebrew tribe that was acting in collusion with European Jews.

— Unable to defeat the Mongols, the Europeans could defeat the Jews (their imagined enemies at home) and began attacking Jewish quarters in cities throughout Europe: setting fire to homes, massacring residents, forcing Jews to flee as refugees thru Europe ...prompting the Catholic Church to order Jews to wear distinctive clothes & emblems in order to identify newly arrived Jews in communities.
Invasions of Eastern Europe
More Effects on Europe

- Disappointed with loot from European invasions, Mongols allowed **Italian merchants** in Crimea to take many of their European prisoners to sell as slaves (esp. to Egypt) in exchange for large amounts of trade goods.

- This began a long & profitable relationship between **Mongols & merchants of Venice & Genoa** who set up trading posts in Black Sea: Italians supplied Mongols with manufactured goods in return for the right to sell the Slavs as slaves in the Mediterranean market ...slaves who would ultimately defeat the Mongols as the Mamluks in Egypt.

- Silk routes opened ... & then spread **Bubonic Plague** to Europe.
Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase

- In 1291, two Italian brothers, the Vivaldis from Genoa, sailed with two galleys through the Straights of Gibraltar, seeking a western route to the “Indies” to obtain spice.
- They were never heard from again.
- In the 14th century, explorers rediscovered the Canary Islands and the Madeiras, possibly reaching the Azores by 1351 and eventually Sierra Leone.
- Until 1430, technological barriers prevented further exploration.
  - Innovations in cartography, the compass, the astrolabe, and oceangoing ships eventually made it possible for Vasco de Gama to reach the Indian Ocean.
- Henry the Navigator sponsored Portuguese voyages until his death in 1460.
Regional Effects: Russia “the Golden Horde

- In Russia...After the initial attack of Eastern Europe in 1221, Mongol forces successfully attacked Russia in 1224 by defeating Kiev Rus.

- Destroyed most cities & demanded **high tribute**.

- However, the Mongols left Russia largely to its own devices & few Mongol officials were there (**INDIRECT** rule). Russia had lots of independent principalities, each required to send tribute ...or else.

- New places --like **Moscow** (Muscovy) to the north --began to grow with the Mongol’s implementation of a postal system, financial structures, & census. Moscow & it’s ruling prince (Ivan) became a cultural & economic center.

- Armenians, Georgians, & Russians thought Mongols were a punishment from God who “fetched the Tartars against us for our sins.”

- **Limited Russia’s interaction** with Western Europe (e.g. Russia was isolated from the cultural effects of the Renaissance) --a period of cultural decay except in northern Russia.

- Lasted the **longest** of the all the khanates (until 1480)
Regional Effects: East Asia

- **Failed to invade Japan twice (kamikaze)**

- **Korea:** conquered Koryo dynasty; burdened economy & peasants (ordered to build ships for Japanese invasion); left existing Koryo ruling family in place but forcibility arranged marriages to legitimize rule as well as Mongolize it.

- **Conquered & directly ruled China:** abolished exams, patronized popular culture & identified with masses.
Regional Effects: SE Asia

- After failed invasion of Japan, Mongols turned toward SE Asia & went back to land conquests: success in Burma & Laos, which became **tribute areas** (not directly administered by Mongols).

- Conquests results in gradual increase in trade volume & value.

- Kublai Khan launched 3 **failed invasions** of Vietnam in the late 13th c. and sacked the capital each time but it had already been evacuated.
  - Disease, supply shortages, the climate, and the Vietnamese strategy of harassment and scorched earth tactics stopped the first two invasions.
  - The 3rd invasion, of 300,000 men & a vast fleet, was also defeated by luring the Mongols across a riverbed nested with iron-tipped stakes --resulting in the sinking, capture, and/or burning of the 400 ships ...after which the army retreated to China.
Vietnam defeats Mongols

- Didn’t conquer Java (Indonesia islands) --couldn’t translate successfully land campaigns to sea ones despite the newly built massive navy.
- Less Indian influence in region as a result of conquests: Mongols encouraged Chinese to emigrate to SE Asia & establish trading stations in foreign ports (in order to expand trade into new areas)
Regional Effects: SW Asia

- Muslim societies had highest levels of commerce & had renowned civilization -- likewise, Mongol invasion did **most damage** here.

- They sacked **Baghdad** -- the heart of the Muslim world -- using pontoon boats along rivers, more powerful gunpowder, & exploiting religious differences among people.

- No other non-Muslim troops would conquer Baghdad until 2003 & not since the birth of Islam had so much of the Muslim world by ruled by non-believers.
Regional Effects: SW Asia

- While the Crusaders had only managed to seize a few ports, the Mongols had then conquered every Muslim kingdom & city from the Indus River to the Mediterranean.
  - Only the Arabian Peninsula & North Africa were outside their control.
- Finally, in 1260 the Mamluks slave warriors of Egypt led by Babar defeated the Mongols near the Sea of Galilee, marking the western border of the Mongol Empire.
- Under the Ilkhanate of Persia, Persian culture reemerged from centuries of Arab domination.
Decline after Kublai & in Timurlame’s wake

- In 1294 Kublai Khan died in China, and Mongol power began to decline in Asia & elsewhere.
- The Yuan suffered from financial woes from the failed invasions of Japan & Java.
- In 1368 the Yuan dynasty was overthrown by the Ming.

- In the 1370's Tamerlane (“Timur the lame”) --a Turkish-Mongol warrior claiming descent from Genghis Khan -- fought his way to leadership of the Mongol states of Central Asia and tried to restore the Mongol Empire.
Decline after Kublai & in Timurlame’s wake

- He swept into Russia & Persia fighting mainly other Muslims.
- In 1398 he sacked Delhi & murdered 100,000 people, and then died in 1405 while marching on China.
- He preferred capturing wealth and lots of slaughtering, without pausing to install stable governments.
- Because of this, the huge realm inherited by his sons fell apart quickly after his death.
The Ming Empire Restores Chinese Rule

- Heavy taxes, corruption, and natural disasters had led to many uprisings.
- Zhu Yuanzhang, a peasant leader, and his rebel army defeated the Mongols.
- He started the Ming dynasty and restored Chinese culture, including Confucian thought and the civil service.
Fall of the Yuan Dynasty

- In 1368, the Mongol forces retreated here after the Chinese succeeded in overthrowing them.
- In 1374, the new Chinese ruler, Zhu Yuanzhang, sent an envoy to Yunnan, urging the Mongol prince Basalawarmi to accept Ming rule.
- In 1381, the emperor ordered one of his most capable generals and an army of 300,000 to invade Yunnan and subdue the Mongols.
- The Chinese showed no mercy, butchering 60,000 Miao and Yao tribesmen, as well countless Mongols.