Chapter 8 Terms

1. American web
2. Black Death
3. Borobudur
4. bubonic plague
5. Ghana, Mali, Songhay
6. Great Zimbabwe
7. Ibn Battuta
8. Indian Ocean trading network
9. Jie people
10. Malaysians
11. Monsoons
12. *pochteca*
13. Sailendras
14. Sand Roads
15. Silk Roads
16. Srivijaya
17. Swahili civilization
18. Sudan
19. third-wave civilizations
20. trans-Saharan slave trade
21. Venice

Margin Questions

1. What lay behind the emergence of Silk Road commerce, and what kept it going for so many centuries?
2. What were the major economic, social, and cultural consequences of Silk Road commerce?
3. What was the impact of disease along the Silk Roads?
4. What is the relationship between the rise of Srivijaya and the world of Indian Ocean commerce
5. What was the role of Swahili civilization in the world of Indian Ocean commerce?
6. What lay behind the flourishing of Indian Ocean commerce in the postclassical millennium?
7. What changes did trans-Saharan trade bring to West Africa?
8. In what ways did networks of interaction in the Western Hemisphere differ from those in the Eastern Hemisphere?

Document 8.1: A Chinese Buddhist in India

1. What do you think surprised or impressed Xuanzang on his visit to India? What features of Indian life might seem most strange to a Chinese visitor?
2. What can this document contribute to our understanding of Buddhist practice in India?

Document 8.2: A European Christian in China

1. Why did Marco Polo describe the city as “the finest and the noblest in the world”?
2. What marks his account of the city as that of a foreigner and a Christian?
3. What evidence of China’s engagement with a wider world does this account offer?

Document 8.3: A Moroccan Muslim in West Africa

1. What does Ibn Battuta’s description of his visit to Mali reveal about his own attitudes and his image of himself?
2. What might historians learn from this document about the nature and extent of Islam’s penetration in this West African empire? What elements of older and continuing West African cultural traditions are evident in the document?
3. What specifically does Ibn Battuta find shocking about the women he encountered on his travels in West Africa?
4. What indications of Mali’s economic involvement with a wider world are evident in the document?