

Period 3:**Regional and Transregional Interactions,
c. 600 C.E. to c. 1450****Key Concept 3.1. Expansion and Intensification of
Communication and Exchange Networks**

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.

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.

A. *Existing trade* routes flourished and promoted the growth of powerful *new trading cities*.

Required examples of *existing trade routes*:

- The Silk Roads
- The Mediterranean Sea
- The Trans-Saharan
- The Indian Ocean basins

Teach one illustrative example of *new trading cities*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Novgorod
- Timbuktu
- The Swahili city-states
- Hangzhou
- Calicut
- Baghdad
- Melaka
- Venice
- Tenochtitlan
- Cahokia

B. New trade routes centering on Mesoamerica and the Andes developed.

Teach one illustrative example of *luxury goods*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Silk and cotton textiles
- Porcelain
- Spices
- Precious metals and gems
- Slaves
- Exotic animals

Teach one illustrative example of caravan organization, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Caravanserais
- Camel saddles

Teach one illustrative example of new forms of credit and monetization, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Bills of exchange
- Credit
- Checks
- Banking houses

C. The growth of interregional trade in *luxury goods* was encouraged by significant innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies, including more sophisticated *caravan organization*; use of the compass, astrolabe, and larger ship designs in sea travel; and *new forms of credit and monetization*.

D. Commercial growth was also facilitated by *state practices*, *trading organizations*, and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures like the Grand Canal in China.

Teach one illustrative example of *state practices*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Minting of coins
- Use of paper money

Teach one illustrative example of *trading organizations*, either the one below or an example of your choice:

- Hanseatic League

E. The expansion of *empires* facilitated Trans-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.

Teach one illustrative example of *environmental knowledge and technological adaptations*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- The way Scandinavian Vikings used their longships to travel in coastal and open waters as well as in rivers and estuaries
- The way the Arabs and Berbers adapted camels to travel across and around the Sahara
- The way Central Asian pastoral groups used horses to travel in the steppes

A. The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on *environmental knowledge and technological adaptations to it*.

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

Teach one illustrative example of the *diffusion of languages*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- The spread of Bantu languages including Swahili
- The spread of Turkic and Arabic languages

C. Some migrations and commercial contacts led to the *diffusion of languages* throughout a new region or the emergence of new 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.

C. The writings of certain *interregional travelers* illustrate both the extent and the limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding.

Teach one illustrative example of *diasporic communities*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean region
- Chinese merchant communities in Southeast Asia
- Sogdian merchant communities throughout Central Asia
- Jewish communities in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean basin, or along the Silk Roads

Teach one illustrative example of *interregional travelers*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Ibn Battuta
- Marco Polo
- Xuanzang

Teach one illustrative example of the *diffusion of literary, artistic and cultural traditions*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- The influence of Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in East Asia
- Hinduism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia
- Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia
- Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America

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

Teach one illustrative example of the *diffusion of scientific and technological traditions*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- The influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars
- The return of Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe via Muslim al-Andalus in Iberia
- The spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from East Asia into the Islamic empires and Western Europe

E. Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the *diffusion of scientific and technological traditions*.

IV. There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes.

- A. *New foods and agricultural techniques* were adopted in populated areas.
- B. The spread of epidemic diseases, including the Black Death, followed the well established paths of trade and military conquest.

Key Concept 3.2. Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions

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.

I. Empires collapsed and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged.

- 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 with innovations* better suited to the current circumstances.

Teach one illustrative example of *new foods and agricultural techniques*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Bananas in Africa
- New rice varieties in East Asia
- The spread of cotton, sugar, and citrus throughout Dar al-Islam and the Mediterranean basin

Teach one illustrative example of *traditional sources of power and legitimacy*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Patriarchy
- Religion
- Land-owning elites

Teach one illustrative example of *innovations*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- New methods of taxation
- Tributary systems
- Adaptation of religious institutions.

Teach one illustrative example of *Islamic states*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Abbasids
- Muslim Iberia
- Delhi Sultanates

Teach one illustrative example of *city-states*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- In the Italian peninsula
- In East Africa
- In Southeast Asia
- In the Americas

Teach one illustrative example of such *synthesis by states*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Persian traditions that influenced Islamic states
- Chinese traditions that influenced states in Japan

B. In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various *Islamic states*, the Mongol Khanates, *city-states*, and decentralized government (feudalism) in Europe and Japan.

C. Some states *synthesized local and borrowed traditions*.

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.

II. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant *technological and cultural transfers*.

Required examples of *technological and cultural transfers*:

- Between Tang China and the Abbasids
- Across the Mongol empires
- During the Crusades

Key Concept 3.3. Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences

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.

I. Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.

A. Agricultural production increased significantly due to *technological innovations*.

B. In response to increasing demand in Afro-Eurasia for foreign luxury goods, crops were transported from their indigenous homelands to equivalent climates in other regions.

C. 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.

Teach one illustrative example of *technological innovations*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- Champa rice varieties
- The chinampa field systems
- *Waru waru* agricultural techniques in the Andean areas
- Improved terracing techniques
- The horse collar

II. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline, and with periods of increased urbanization buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.

A. *Multiple factors* contributed to the declines of urban areas in this period.

Required examples of *these factors*:

- Invasions
- Disease
- The decline of agricultural productivity
- The Little Ice Age

B. *Multiple factors* contributed to urban revival.

Required examples of *these factors*:

- 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 also contributed to urban growth

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 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. As in the previous period, there were many forms of *labor organization*.

Required examples of forms of *labor organization*:

- Free peasant agriculture
- Nomadic pastoralism
- Craft production and guild organization
- Various forms of coerced and unfree 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.

Teach one illustrative example of *regions where free peasants revolted*, either from the list below or an example of your choice:

- China
- The Byzantine Empire

D. The diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Neoconfucianism often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structure.

Period 4: Global Interactions, c. 1450 to c. 1750

Key Concept 4.1. Globalizing Networks of Communication and Exchange

The interconnection of the Eastern and Western hemispheres made possible by transoceanic voyaging marked a key transformation of this period. Technological innovations helped to make transoceanic connections possible. Changing patterns of long-distance trade included the global circulation of some commodities and the formation of new regional markets and financial centers. Increased transregional and global trade networks facilitated the spread of religion and other elements of culture as well as the migration of large numbers of people. Germs carried