

Foundations 14% of the AP Exam

Climate

Climate has been a major factor in determining where people settled. People settled in areas that has climates that would accommodate agriculture and livestock.

Time Periods

- The Paleolithic Age refers to about 12,000 BC. During this time people were nomadic.
- The Neolithic Age refers to the age from about 12,000 BC to about 8000 BC. It is during this time that people settled in communities and civilization began to emerge.
- River Valley Civilizations refers to about 3500 to 1500 BC. The major River Valleys are described below.
- Classical Civilizations refers to about 1000 BC to 600 CE. The major civilizations to emerge were Zhou and Han China, Greece and Rome, and the Gupta Empire.

THE RIVER-VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

Each early civilization developed its own unique ways of life, but they all shared some common characteristics

- **Complex irrigation systems**
- **legal codes**
- **money**
- **art and written literature**
- More formal scientific knowledge, numbering systems, and calendars
- Intensification of **social inequality**

COMPARISONS OF EARLY RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

| | CULTURE | POLITICAL ORGANIZATION | SOCIAL STRUCTURE |
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| MESOPOTAMIA (developed by 3500 BCE) | Cuneiform; Extensive trade with Egypt and the Indus Valley Epic of Gilgamesh Early use of bronze tools, chariots Advanced astronomy; math based on 60 Pessimistic view of world, perhaps due to irregular, unpredictable flooding of the rivers Polytheism - gods powerful and often cruel Kings powerful, but not divine | City-states and warrior kings Hammurabi's Code Competition among city states as well as frequent invasions led to less political stability than in Egypt | Job specialization - farmers, metallurgist, merchants, craftsmen, political administrators, priests; Social classes; Marriage contracts, veils for women; women of upper classes less equal than lower class counterparts |
| EGYPT(developed by 3000 BCE) | Concerned with decorative arts, shipbuilding, some medical knowledge Less advanced in math and astronomy than Mesopotamians Less extensive trade, especially in earlier eras Polytheism, with pharaoh as a god Optimistic view of life | Divine kingship - the pharaoh; highly centralized, authoritarian government Generally stable government throughout the 3 kingdoms Extensive bureaucracy; pharaoh's power channeled through regional governors | Smaller nobility than Mesopotamia; fewer merchants Some social mobility through the bureaucracy Priests have high status (only ones who understand the complex hieroglyphic written language) Women - probably higher status than in Mesopotamia; love poetry indicates some importance placed on male/female relationships |

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| | (regular, controllable flooding of the river) Strong belief in the afterlife; Book of the Dead Hieroglyphics - complex, pictorial language | | One female pharaoh - Hatshepsut Influential wife of pharaoh - Nefertiti |
| INDUS VALLEY (developed by 2500 BCE) | Writing system only recently decipherable Soapstone seals that indicate trade with both Mesopotamians and China pottery making with bulls and long-horned cattle a frequent motif Small figurines of women Cruder weapons than Mesopotamians - stone arrowheads, no swords Polytheism - naked man with horns the primary god; fertility goddesses Two cities: Harappa and Mohenjo-Dara | Assumed to be complex and thought to be centralized Limited information, but large granaries near the cities indicate centralized control | Priests have highest status, based on position as intermediaries between gods and people Differences in house sizes indicate strong class distinctions Statues reflects reverence for female reproductive function |
| SHANG CHINA (developed by 1700 BCE) | Oracles bones used to communicate with ancestors Pattern on bones formed basis for writing system; writing highly valued, complex pictorial language with 3000 characters by end of dynasty Uniform written language became bond among people who spoke many different languages Bronze weapons and tools, horse-drawn chariots Geographical separation from other civilizations, though probably traded with the Indus Valley | Centralized government, power in the hands of the emperor Government preoccupied with flood control of the rivers Job specialization - bureaucrats, farmers, slaves | Social classes - warrior aristocrats, bureaucrats, farmers, slaves Patriarchal society; women as wives and concubines; women were sometimes shamans |
| MESO AND SOUTH AMERICA (developed by 1200 BCE) | Olmecs in Mesoamerica: Highly developed astronomy; used to predict agricultural cycles and please the gods Polytheism; religious rituals important, shamans as healers Ritual ballgames Irrigation and drainage canals Giant carved stone heads; probably with religious significance | Olmecs: apparently not united politically; unusual for ancient civilizations Chavin: probably political unification; public works operated by reciprocal labor obligations; had a capital city | Olmec: craft specializations; priests have highest status; most people were farmers Chavin: Priests have highest status; capital city dominated the hinterlands; most people were farmers |

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| | Jaguar symbol important Chavin in Andean region: Polytheism; statues of jaguar men Square stone architecture, no mortar Well-developed agriculture based on maize Unique geography: lived on coast, in mountains, and in jungle | | |
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Economic Systems

| Type of System | Types of technology developed rate of technological development | Main geographic locations |
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| Agricultural societies – cultivate crops 8,000 BCE | domestication of plants and animals iron tools writing systems constant development | river valleys in Mesopotamia, Nile River valley, India, China, MesoAmerica, Andes |
| Pastoral societies – domesticated animals 8,000 BCE | domestication of horses and camels | steppes, grasslands, deserts, mountain ranges |
| Foraging societies – hunting and gathering 35,000 BCE | baskets for gathering and storing and hunting tools | everywhere until sedentary agricultural societies and then empires took over the most fertile areas |

Classical Civilizations

COMMON FEATURES OF CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

The three areas of classical civilizations developed their own beliefs, lifestyles, political institutions, and social structures. However, there were important similarities among them:

- Patriarchal family structures - Like the river valley civilizations that preceded them, the classical civilization valued male authority within families, as well as in most other areas of life.
- Agricultural-based economies - Despite more sophisticated and complex job specialization, the most common occupation in all areas was farming.
- Complex governments - Because they were so large, these three civilizations had to invent new ways to keep their lands together politically. Their governments were large and complex, although they each had unique ways of governing
- Expanding trade base - Their economic systems were complex. Although they generally operated independently, trade routes connected them by both land and sea.

CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

| | Culture | Political Organization | Social Structure |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Greece (about 800-300 BCE) | Most enduring influences come from Athens: Valued education, placed emphasis on importance of human effort, human ability to shape future events Interest in political theory: which form of government is best? Celebration of human individual achievement and the ideal human form | No centralized government; concept of polis, or a fortified site that formed the centers of many city states Governing styles varied (Sparta a military state, Athens eventually a democracy for adult males) Athens government first dominated by tyrants, or strong rulers who gained power from military prowess; later | Slavery widely practiced Men separated from women in military barracks until age 30; women had relative freedom; women in Sparta encouraged to be physically fit so as to have healthy babies; generally better treated and more equal to men |

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| | <p>Philosophy and science emphasized the use of logic</p> <p>Highly developed form of sculpture, literature, math, written language, and record keeping</p> <p>Polytheism, with gods having very human characteristics</p> <p>Cities relatively small</p> <p>Great seafaring skills, centered around Aegean, but traveling around entire Mediterranean area</p> | <p>came to be ruled by an assembly of free men who made political decisions.</p> <p>Both Athens and Sparta developed strong military organizations and established colonies around the Mediterranean. Sparta theoretically equal; wealth accumulation not allowed</p> | <p>than women in Athens</p> <p>Athens encouraged equality for free males, but women and slaves had little freedom. Neither group allowed to participate in polis affairs.</p> <p>Social status dependent on land holdings and cultural sophistication</p> |
| <p>Rome (about 500 BCE to 476 CE, although eastern half continued for another thousand years)</p> | <p>Perfection of military techniques: conquer but don't oppress; division of army into legions, emphasizing organization and rewarding military talent</p> <p>Art, literature, philosophy, science derivative from Greece</p> <p>Superb engineering and architecture techniques; extensive road, sanitation systems; monumental architecture - buildings, aqueducts, bridges</p> <p>Polytheism, derivative from Greeks, but religion not particularly important to the average Roman; Christianity developed during Empire period, but not dominant until very late</p> <p>Great city of Rome - buildings, arenas, design copied in smaller cities</p> | <p>Two eras:</p> <p>Republic - rule by aristocrats, with some power shared with assemblies; Senate most powerful, with two consuls chosen to rule, generally selected from the military</p> <p>Empire - non-hereditary emperor; technically chosen by Senate, but generally chosen by predecessor</p> <p>Extensive colonization and military conquest during both eras</p> <p>Development of an overarching set of laws, restrictions that all had to obey; Roman law sets in place principle of rule of law, not rule by whim of the political leader</p> | <p>Basic division between patricians (aristocrats) and plebeians (free farmers), although a middle class of merchants grew during the empire; wealth based on land ownership; gap between rich and poor grew with time</p> <p>Paterfamilias - male dominated family structure</p> <p>Patron-client system with rich supervising elaborate webs of people that owe favors to them</p> <p>Inequality increased during the empire, with great dependence on slavery during the late empire; slaves used in households, mines, large estates, all kinds of manual labor</p> |
| <p>China (about 500 BCE to 600 CE)</p> | <p>Confucianism developed during late Zhou; by Han times, it dominated the political and social structure.</p> <p>Legalism and Daoism develop during same era.</p> <p>Buddhism appears, but not influential yet</p> <p>Threats from nomads from the south and west spark the first construction of the Great Wall; clay soldiers, lavish tomb for first emperor Shi Huangdi</p> <p>Chinese identity cemented during Han era: the "Han" Chinese</p> <p>Han - a "golden age" with prosperity from trade along the Silk Road; inventions include water mills, paper, compasses, and pottery and silk-making; calendar with 365.5 days</p> <p>Capital of Xi'an possibly the most sophisticated, diverse city in the world at the time; many other large cities</p> | <p>Zhou - emperor rules by mandate of heaven, or belief that dynasties rise and fall according to the will of heaven, or the ancestors. Emperor was the "son of heaven."</p> <p>Emperor housed in the forbidden city, separate from all others</p> <p>Political authority controlled by Confucian values, with emperor in full control but bound by duty</p> <p>Political power centralized under Shi Huangdi - often seen as the first real emperor</p> <p>Han - strong centralized government, supported by the educated shi (scholar bureaucrats who obtained positions through civil service exams)</p> | <p>Family basic unit of society, with loyalty and obedience stressed</p> <p>Wealth generally based on land ownership; emergence of scholar gentry</p> <p>Growth of a large merchant class, but merchants generally lower status than scholar-bureaucrats</p> <p>Big social divide between rural and urban, with most wealth concentrated in cities</p> <p>Some slavery, but not as much as in Rome</p> <p>Patriarchal society reinforced by Confucian values that emphasized obedience of wife to husband</p> |
| <p>India</p> | <p>Aryan religious stories written down into Vedas, and Hinduism became the dominant religion, although Buddhism began in India during this era;</p> | <p>Lack of political unity - geographic barriers and diversity of people; tended to fragment into small kingdoms; political authority less important than</p> | <p>Complex social hierarchy based on caste membership (birth groups called jati); occupations strictly dictated by caste</p> |

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| <p>Mauryans Buddhist, Guptas Hindu</p> <p>Great epic literature such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata</p> <p>Extensive trade routes within subcontinent and with others; connections to Silk Road, and heart of Indian Ocean trade; coined money for trade</p> <p>So-called Arabic numerals developed in India, employing a 10-based system</p> | <p>caste membership and group allegiances</p> <p>Mauryan and Gupta Empires formed based on military conquest; Mauryan Emperor Ashoka seen as greatest; converted to Buddhism, kept the religion alive</p> <p>"theater state" techniques used during</p> <p>Gupta - grand palace and court to impress all visitors, conceal political weakness</p> | <p>Earlier part of time period - women had property rights</p> <p>Decline in the status of women during Gupta, corresponding to increased emphasis on acquisition and inheritance of property; ritual of sati for wealthy women (widow cremates herself in her husband's funeral pyre)</p> |
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- **The Silk Road** - This overland route extended from western China, across Central Asia, and finally to the Mediterranean area. Chinese silk was the most desired commodity, but the Chinese were willing to trade it for other goods, particularly for horses from Central Asia. There was no single route, but it consisted of a series of passages with common stops along the way. Major trade towns appeared along the way where goods were exchanged. No single merchant traveled the entire length of the road, but some products (particularly silk) did make it from one end to the other.
- **The Indian Ocean Trade** - This important set of water routes became even more important in later eras, but the Indian Ocean Trade was actively in place during the classical era. The trade had three legs: one connected eastern Africa and the Middle East with India; another connected India to Southeast Asia; and the final one linked Southeast Asia to the Chinese port of Canton.
- **Saharan Trade** - This route connected people that lived south of the Sahara to the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The Berbers, nomads who traversed the desert, were the most important agents of trade. They carried goods in camel caravans, with Cairo at the mouth of the Nile River as the most important destination. There they connected to other trade routes, so that Cairo became a major trade center that linked many civilizations together.
- **Sub-Saharan Trade** - This trade was probably inspired by the Bantu migration, and by the end of the classical era people south of the Sahara were connect to people in the eastern and southern parts of Africa. This trade connected to the Indian Ocean trade along the eastern coast of Africa, which in turn connected the people of sub-Saharan Africa to trade centers in Cairo and India.

Fall of Civilizations

Recall that all of the river-valley civilization areas experienced significant decline and/or conquest in the time period around 1200 BCE. A similar thing happened to the classical civilizations between about 200 and 600 CE, and because the empires were larger and more connected, their fall had an even more significant impact on the course of world history. Han China was the first to fall (around 220 CE), then the Western Roman Empire (476 CE), and finally the Gupta in 550 CE.

SIMILARITIES

Several common factors caused all three empires to fall:

- Attacks from the Huns - The Huns were a nomadic people of Asia that began to migrate south and west during this time period. Their migration was probably caused by drought and lack of pasture, and the invention and use of the stirrup facilitated their attacks on all three established civilizations.
- Deterioration of political institutions - All three empires were riddled by political corruption during their latter days, and all three suffered under weak-willed rulers. Moral decay also characterized the years prior to their respective falls.
- Protection/maintenance of borders - All empires found that their borders had grown so large that their military had trouble guarding them. A primary example is the failure of the Great Wall to keep the Huns out of China. The Huns generally just went around it.
- Diseases that followed the trade routes - Plagues and epidemics may have killed off as much as half of the population of each empire.

DIFFERENCES

Even though the empires shared common reasons for their declines, some significant differences also may be seen.

- The Gupta's dependence on alliances with regional princes broke down, exhibiting the tendency toward political fragmentation on the Indian subcontinent.
- Rome's empire lasted much longer than did either of the other two. The Roman Empire also split in two, and the eastern half endured for another 1000 years after the west fell.
- The fall of empire affected the three areas in different ways. The fall of the Gupta probably had the least impact, partly because political unity wasn't the rule anyway, and partly because the traditions of Hinduism and the caste system (the glue that held the area together) continued on after the empire fell. The fall of the Han Dynasty was problematic for China because strong centralized government was in place, and social disorder resulted from the loss of authority. However, dynastic cycles that followed the dictates of the Mandate of Heaven were well defined in China, and the

Confucian traditions continued to give coherence to Chinese society. The most devastating fall of all occurred in Rome. Roman civilization depended almost exclusively on the ability of the government and the military to control territory. Even though Christianity emerged as a major religion, it appeared so late in the life of the empire that it provided little to unify people as Romans after the empire fell. Instead, the areas of the empire fragmented into small parts and developed unique characteristics, and the Western Roman Empire never united again.

COMMON CONSEQUENCES

The fall of the three empires had some important consequences that represent major turning points in world history:

- Trade was disrupted but survived, keeping intact the trend toward increased long-distance contact. Trade on the Indian Ocean even increased as conflict and decline of political authority affected overland trade.
- The importance of religion increased as political authority decreased. In the west religion, particularly Christianity, was left to slowly develop authority in many areas of people's lives. Buddhism also spread quickly into China, presenting itself as competition to Confucian traditions.
- Political disunity in the Middle East forged the way for the appearance of a new religion in the 7th century. By 600 CE Islam was in the wings waiting to make its entrance onto the world stage.

| Compare causes for collapse of empires including role of nomads | Results of collapse |
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| Han Dynasty, 300 BCE - 300 CE imperial expansion beyond military control, especially pressure of Xiung Nu nomadic groups | period of disunity; rise of Buddhism; continuation of Confucian bureaucratic model; Sui and then Tang dynasty |
| Roman Empire, 100 BCE - 471 CE imperial expansion beyond military control, especially pressure of Hun nomadic groups | rise of Christianity; creation of Byzantine empire; feudalism in Latin West; rise of Arab caliphates |

MAJOR MIGRATIONS

- Phoenicians - By about 2000 BCE this small group of seafaring people from a coastal area of the eastern Mediterranean Sea had set up colonies in North Africa and southern Europe. Pressured by both lack of space in their homeland and desire for prosperity from trade, the Phoenicians traveled widely over the entire Mediterranean area. To facilitate their trading, they simplified the cuneiform system, producing an alphabet with 22 characters that was far easier to learn and use. Not only did the Phoenicians spread their maritime skills, but their alphabet became the basis for alphabets in Greece, Rome, and eventually for many modern languages.
- Israelites - According to Judaism, the Israelites actually originated about 2000 BCE in the Mesopotamian city of Ur with the founder of the religion, Abraham. Abraham and his family migrated to the eastern Mediterranean, where they settled in a land they called Canaan. The Jews were distinctly different from other people of the area because they were monotheistic, believing in only one god. They later migrated to Egypt to escape a spreading drought. There they became slaves, and under their leader Moses, they returned to Canaan where they eventually formed the kingdom of Israel. The Jewish religion greatly influenced the people that they contacted, although it did not actively encourage conversion of non-Jews. Jewish beliefs and traditional stories were written down and later became basic to Christianity and Islam. The religion stressed the importance of prayer, worship, and good behavior – tenets that have become characteristic of many other monotheistic religions.
- Aryans - These herding peoples originated in the Caucasus area, but they began migrating in many directions about the mid 2nd millennium BCE. Waves of Aryan migrants invaded the Indian subcontinent, decimating the cities of the Indus Valley. The Aryans remained a nomadic people for many years, but eventually pushed eastward, settling in the fertile Ganges River area as agriculturalists. The Aryans imposed their caste system on the natives, a complex social structure with strict social status differences and virtually no social mobility. Their stories also became the basis for Hinduism.
- Huns – 300-400s C.E.; originated in the Gobi Desert (China) and moved to what we now call Hungary; Pushed the natives out and the natives (Goths) started to move into Roman Empire. Attila the Hun invaded Gaul (France) in 451, but they were pushed back. They then invaded Rome in 453, but Attila died and the Hun Empire quickly collapsed.
- Germanic Peoples – found from the Black Sea to the Rhine. In 476, Odoacer, a Visigoth, officially became the leader of Rome.

Basic features of major world belief systems

| BELIEF SYSTEMS | BASIC FEATURES, INCLUDING GENDER ROLES | MAJOR AREAS |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Polytheism | belief in a number of deities that can be anthropomorphic or related to the non-human world | everywhere |
| Confucianism | Five Relationships Mandate of Heaven | East Asia |
| Daoism | Yin-Yang, Dualism in Nature, People part of the balance in Nature | East Asia |
| Hellenism | Greek philosophy; trade and common culture throughout Mediterranean science and technology developments at Alexandria -- Library | Mediterranean |
| Hinduism | caste system multiple expressions of deities emphasis on ritual prayer sacred texts | South and Southeast Asia |
| Buddhism | Four Noble Truths Eight-Fold Path | South Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia |
| Judaism | monotheistic, emphasis on daily prayer, sacred text -- Torah | Mediterranean world |
| Christianity | monotheistic Jesus Christ as savior Gospels, emphasis on saints | Mediterranean world and then expansion into Latin West, areas controlled by Byzantines, Ethiopia, India |
| Islam | monotheistic Mohammad as prophet Qu'ran, Sufi emphasis on saints Sunni, Sh'ia split | Arabian peninsula, Mediterranean world then expansion into Islamic Spain, Persia, India, North Africa, Sudanic Africa |

Class/Social Systems:

| social structures a | Social stratification | Family structure | Roles of women |
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| The caste system in Indian subcontinent | Major castes: brahmin -- priests merchants farmers untouchables | patriarchal and patrilineal | ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries Rare cases of women rulers. |
| Major slave systems | Slaves could not be citizens in ancient Greece or Rome. Slaves under Islam could become free if they converted. In all agricultural societies, slavery or serfdom was a common last resort for farmers in debt or in need of military protection. | Under Islam, the mother's status determined if the child was free or slave. | Female slaves were usually for domestic work, but in large empires female slaves might be brought in the household of the elite to bear children. Under Islam, the mother's status determined if the child was free or slave. |
| Confucian social hierarchy | Rulers -- hereditary unless overthrown and challenger gains "mandate of heaven" Civil servants selected by examination (this system is begun during the Han dynasty) Farmers Craftspeople | patriarchal and patrilineal | ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries. Rare cases of women rulers. (e.g. Empress Wu during the Tang dynasty) |

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| | Merchants | | |
| Patriarchal family structures and trends in Latin West and Byzantium | Roman Catholic Church for Latin West (remember -- power of sacrament) Rulers (lords/kings) knights serfs merchants in cities Byzantine emperors and Orthodox patriarch merchants peasants slave soldiers (Mamluks) | patriarchal and patrilineal | ideal: wife and mother but their labor was needed for agricultural work and domestic industries. Rare cases of women rulers. |
| Pastoral groups and other non-urban societies (some Bantu) | head of clan, tribe, lineage shepherds, horse, yak, llama, and camel breeders and trainers craftspeople slaves | combination of matriarchal and patriarchal matrileneal and patrilineal | Women included in political decision-making and major economic activities, including war sometimes |

Diverse interpretations

What are the issues involved in using “civilization” as an organizing principle in world history?

This is a very “politically correct” topic. Civilization is a “western word” that is defined as having: 1) a food producing based that generated surpluses, 2) an increase in population, 3) specialization of labor, 4) a social hierarchy, 5) growth of trade, 6) centralization of political and religious authority, 7) monumental building, and 8) the development of writing and written records. Many historians would suggest that a better way of organizing world history is through studying human creativity. Civilization often implies superiority. Not all settled agricultural societies had monumental architecture or writing systems, so they appear to be "lesser" than those that did.

What is the most common source of change: connection or diffusion versus independent invention?

Major question: do civilizations develop major ideas on their own (pyramids in Egypt, ziggurats in Mesopotamia, and temples in Mayan Empire) or do they get their ideas because they had been exposed to them elsewhere. Once trading networks and missionaries travel, there's almost constant connections that lead to diffusion. Independent inventions often happened before 1000 C.E. when humans were isolated geographically from each other.

Major comparison and snapshots:

| Compare development of political systems, trade systems, and migrations in major early civilizations | Major similarities | Major differences |
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| | Compare Indian compared with Chinese political traditions and institutions | Indian king linked to Brahm religious traditions that say the ruler is a god-king Chinese rulers, "son of heaven", dependent on gaining and keeping the mandate of heaven |
| Compare The role of nomadic groups in Central Asia with The impact of Bantu migrations in Africa | environmental causes for migration or attacks: population density made Bantu move south and east drought or cold made Xiungnu/Huns move south or west | the Bantu migration displaced foraging groups and continued creating new, small density of agricultural settlements. Central Asia nomads caused Chinese ruling elites and Roman ruling elites to lose political power. |
| Compare trans-Saharan trading system with the Silk Road | dependent on the role of trading cities land-based | trans-Saharan: periphery of Afro-Eurasian trade networks |

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| trading system | luxury, non-perishable trade goods: porcelain, silk, gold, salt slaves commonly traded dependent on camel and horse transportation Muslim merchants prominent | Silk Road: heart of Afro-Eurasian trade networks, therefore more goods and people involved |
| Compare Indian Ocean with East European trading system | dependent on the role of trading cities both centered around major bodies of water: Indian Ocean and Black Sea slaves commonly traded syncretism: Indian Ocean -- Swahili as trading language, mix of religions in port cities East European -- Vikings used Byzantine coins and Orthodox Christianity adopted by Russians | Indian Ocean: more extensive sea routes, more technological developments with shipbuilding, use of compass from Sung China, more extensive exchange of goods and ideas, not dominated by any one political or religious group East European -- dominated by Byzantine Christians though others were allowed to participate by paying tribute |