**Periodization III: 600 CE to 1450**

**State Building and Expansion**

1. Fall of the “classical” civilizations – Early: Rome, Han, Mauryan-Gupta. Later: Tang, Ummayad, Abbasid
2. Feudalism in Western Europe develops – then early centralization/monarchies (by 1400’s)
3. Spanish Reconquista (1492)
4. Islamic Caliphates – caliphs (religious and political leaders) – Ummayad, Abbasid
5. Mandate of Heaven continues in China
6. Tang-Song dynasties utilize “tributary states” (like Aztecs)
7. City-states in Italy, Meso-America, East Africa (Swahili states)
8. Mongol Khanates – single political rule had ended in mid - 1200’s – two most important khanates: Golden Horde (isolation of Russia), and Yuan China (established by Kublai Khan)
9. Byzantine Empire – “caesaropapism” (emperor is supreme authority in worldly and spiritual affairs)

**Economics**

1. Massive transregional trade!! – Silk Roads, Mediterranean Sea routes, Trans-Saharan caravan trails, Indian Ocean Basin
2. Exchanges between Abbasid and Tang dynasties – after initial warfare, then normalized relations and borders leads to a flourishing of trade along the Silk Roads – Arab diasporic communities in China and its ports as well as westward movement of: printing, paper currency, the compass and gunpowder weapons
3. New cities emerge and urbanization based on trade expands – Venice, Baghdad, Swahili states (Zanzibar, Mogadishu), Timbuktu, Malacca, Constantinople, Calicut
4. Demand for luxury goods: silk, cotton, porcelain, spices, ivory, iron, gold
5. Warming global trends facilitate travel
6. Trade made easier: banking, money (credit, banking), coins, paper money
7. Jizya – system of taxation for non-believers of Islam
8. Labor: mita (Andes), slavery, serfdom
9. Crusades – their role in stimulating demand for goods and trade in Europe

**Culture, Science, Technology, Human Interaction**

1. Spread of Islam – Sunni/Shia split
2. Feudalism – chivalry vs. Bushido
3. Renaissance in Europe – impact of the Crusades on Europe
4. Impact of Byzantine Empire on early Russia
5. Spread of scientific knowledge – interconnectedness of: East Asia – India – Middle East – Europe: algebra, pi, zero, Arabic numerals, medicine, astronomy
6. Gunpowder (1200’s) and magnetic compass (1100’s) from China
7. Block printing from China – movable type developed in Europe (Guttenberg)
8. Travelers of the period – created links and geographic and cultural awareness: Xuanzang, Marco Polo, Zheng He, Ibn Battuta, Mansa Musa
9. Xuanzang – Chinese monk (mid 600’s)

* Travels to India to learn about Buddhism
* Returns with art, artifacts, texts in Sanskrit for translation
* Influences Buddhist doctrine in China
* Novel about him written during the Ming Dynasty – he becomes a glorified fictional character in a fantastical Indian adventure

1. Spread of languages – facilitators of trade: Latin, Swahili, Arabic
2. Diasporic communities develop
3. Diffusion of Buddhism – from China to SE Asia, Korea, Japan
4. Neo-Confucianism – spread of Confucian thought and teachings (revived during the Song after fall of Tang) and Later Ming dynasties – becomes a unifying factor that stressed hierarchy and obedience
5. Technical and agricultural improvements: dhow, junk, astrolabe, magnetic compass, horse, horse collar, terracing, chinampa techniques, raised seedbeds with drainage, Arab berber camel expertise, Grand Canal
6. Interaction evidenced by diasporic communities
7. Nomadic peoples: Vikings, Bantus, Mongols
8. Black Plague (Death) – 1300’s
9. Key crops: bananas (SE Asia to Middle East to Africa), sugar (SE Asia – New Guinea to mainland Asia and India, then to China)

**Social Structure**

1. Continuation of population growth in the world
2. Nomadic pastorialism continues
3. Urbanization occurring due to increase in trade
4. Class hierarchies, caste, and stratification continue but social mobility does increase where urbanization, trade, and commerce begin to dominate
5. Merchant classes develop and grow due to commerce in cities – still may not have status though
6. Patriarchy and gender inequality continues to be the norm (often supported by traditional religion)
7. Upper class women tended to have easier lives but often came with constraints and restrictions on behavior: veiling, foot binding, seclusion/purdah, polygamy, concubinage, arranged marriages, European witch hunts, dowries/bride price, sati