**CHAPTER 13 – The Commonwealth of Byzantium**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. What elements did Byzantium inherit from the Roman Empire that helped it to survive?
2. What were the major accomplishments of Emperor Justinian?
3. What was the theme system? How did it work? Why was it so successful? What led to its demise?
4. What was the relationship between the Byzantines and the Slavic people, including the Russians?

**CHAPTER 14 – The Expansive Realm of Islam**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did Bedouin life influence the beliefs and practices of early Islam?
2. How did the Abbasids come to power, and how did their rule differ from the Umayyads?
3. How did social structures in the Islamic Caliphate differ from other civilizations studied so far?

**CHAPTER 16 – India and the Indian Ocean Basin**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did Islam diffuse to South and Southeast Asia and why was it so easily spread? What impact did it have on Indian society?
2. What were the major strengths of the Indian economy? Why?
3. Why is Hinduism so durable in India compared to other belief systems? What impact did the introduction of Islam have on Hinduism and the Caste System?

**CHAPTER 15 – The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Compare and contrast the Tang and the Song dynasties.
2. Explain how China's view of itself as the Middle Kingdom shaped foreign relations.
3. What important agricultural, technological, industrial, and commercial innovations occurred during this period? How did they transform the Chinese economy?
4. What were the major functions of Chinese government? How did China’s geography influence political developments in East Asia?

**CHAPTER 17 – The Foundations of Christian Society in Western Europe**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. What is the significance of Charlemagne’s reign in Western Europe? How influential was his empire in shaping Western European politics?
2. What was the Feudal system and how did it serve as a political and social institution? Why was the manor system important to life in Western Europe?
3. Explain the importance of the Catholic Church in Western Europe? What was the role of the Pope in Western Europe? How did his role influence political leaders in the time period?

**CHAPTER 20 – Western Europe during the High Middle Ages**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. What do the journeys of the Polos represent about European society during the high middle ages?
2. Voltaire once said the Holy Roman Empire was “neither holy, nor roman, nor an empire.” Was he right or wrong? Why or why not?
3. How did political structures in Western Europe change in the High Middle Ages? What were the catalysts for these changes?
4. What is scholasticism and what broader intellectual movements did it reflect? How did it contrast with popular religion?

**CHAPTER 18 – Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did the geography of central Asia affect the development of the nomadic cultures? How did these people adapt to their environment? What advantages did their adaptations give them?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the Mongols?
3. What impact did the Mongols have on Eurasian culture?

**CHAPTER 19 – States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did Sub-Saharan social and political structures differ from those of Europe and Asia?
2. Where and how did Islam spread to sub-Saharan Africa? How was it different from Islam within the Caliphate? Why?
3. Why was the Mali Empire significant to world history? What impact did Mansa Musa have on Mali and the larger Afro-Eurasian world?
4. How was East Africa culturally unique from other regions of Africa? Why?
5. Discuss the history of slavery in Africa. How did the developments in the slave trade from 1000 to 1500 set the stage for the Atlantic slave trade to come?

**CHAPTER 21 – Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. How did the Mexica people establish their authority over the peoples of central Mexico? How did the Mexica treat conquered peoples?
2. What are the distinctive features of the Mexica social structure?
3. What role did Meso-American and South American religion play in the daily lives of Americans? How was it unique when compared to religions in Eurasia in this time period?
4. How were civilizations in North America different from those in South and Meso America?
5. What role did geography play in Oceania and the Pacific? How were these societies structured politically and socially?

**CHAPTER 22 – Cross Cultural Interactions**

**Critical Thinking Questions**

1. Ibn Battuta suggested that, in regard to the people of Mali, “Amongst their good qualities is the small amount of injustice amongst them, for of all people they are the furthest from it.” At the same time Battuta could be quite critical. How valuable is Battuta as a source? Compare him to Marco Polo.
2. What was the significance of the Chinese decision to end the journeys of Zheng He? Why did Yongle send Zheng He out in the first place? Compare Zheng He’s journeys of exploration to their European equivalent. Why were the Chinese journeys stopped? What did this change mean for China?
3. What factors explain the increasing trade and interaction between various parts of the world in the centuries immediately following 1000 C.E.? Who was making these journeys and why? What were the results? Relate this information to the role that trade played in other societies.
4. Examine European exploration. What were their motives? Were their motives different from the Chinese reasons? What were the results of these journeys?
5. Examine the Renaissance. What were its foundations? In what ways was it different from earlier European thought?