

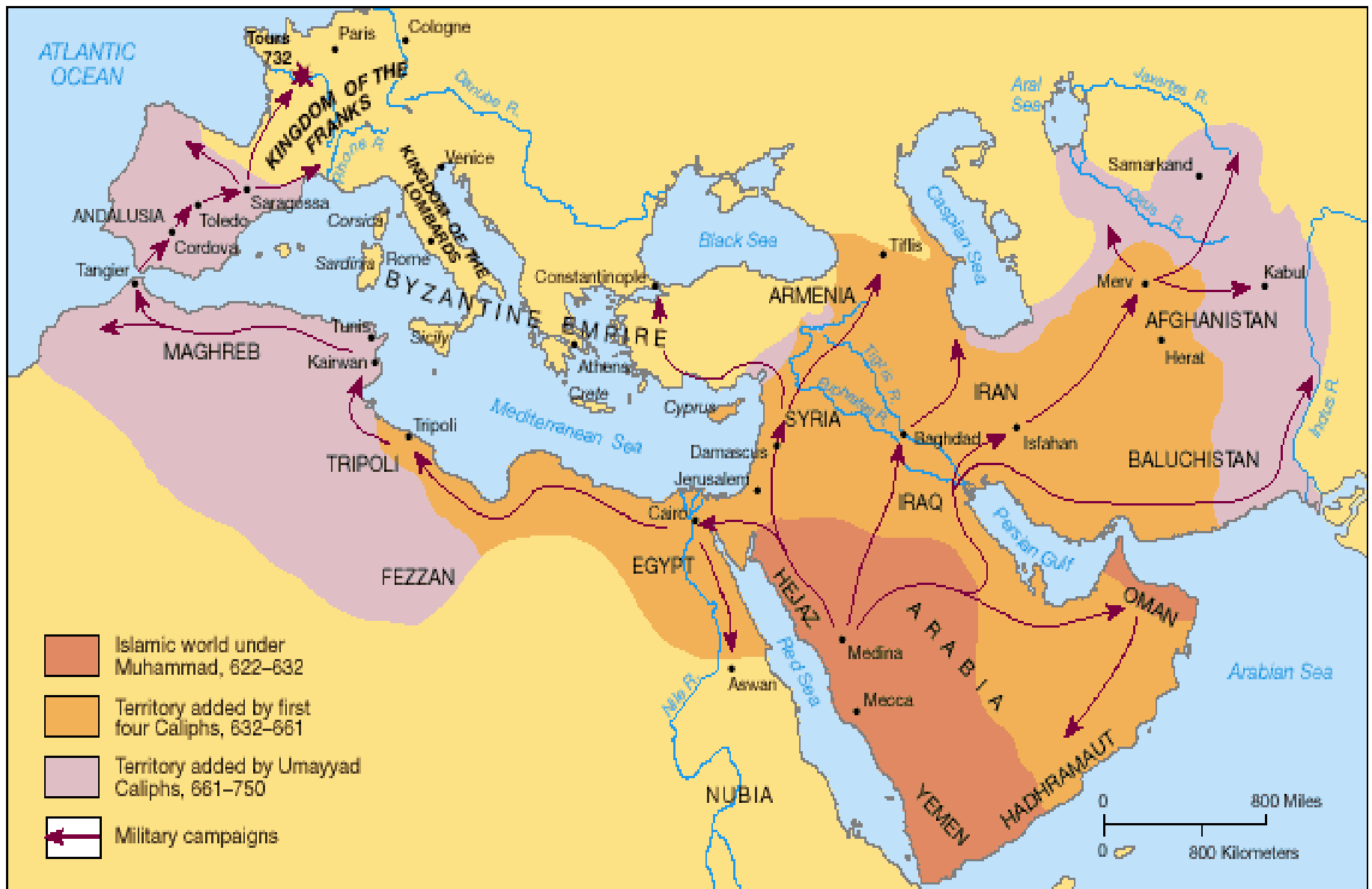


# Unit Overview

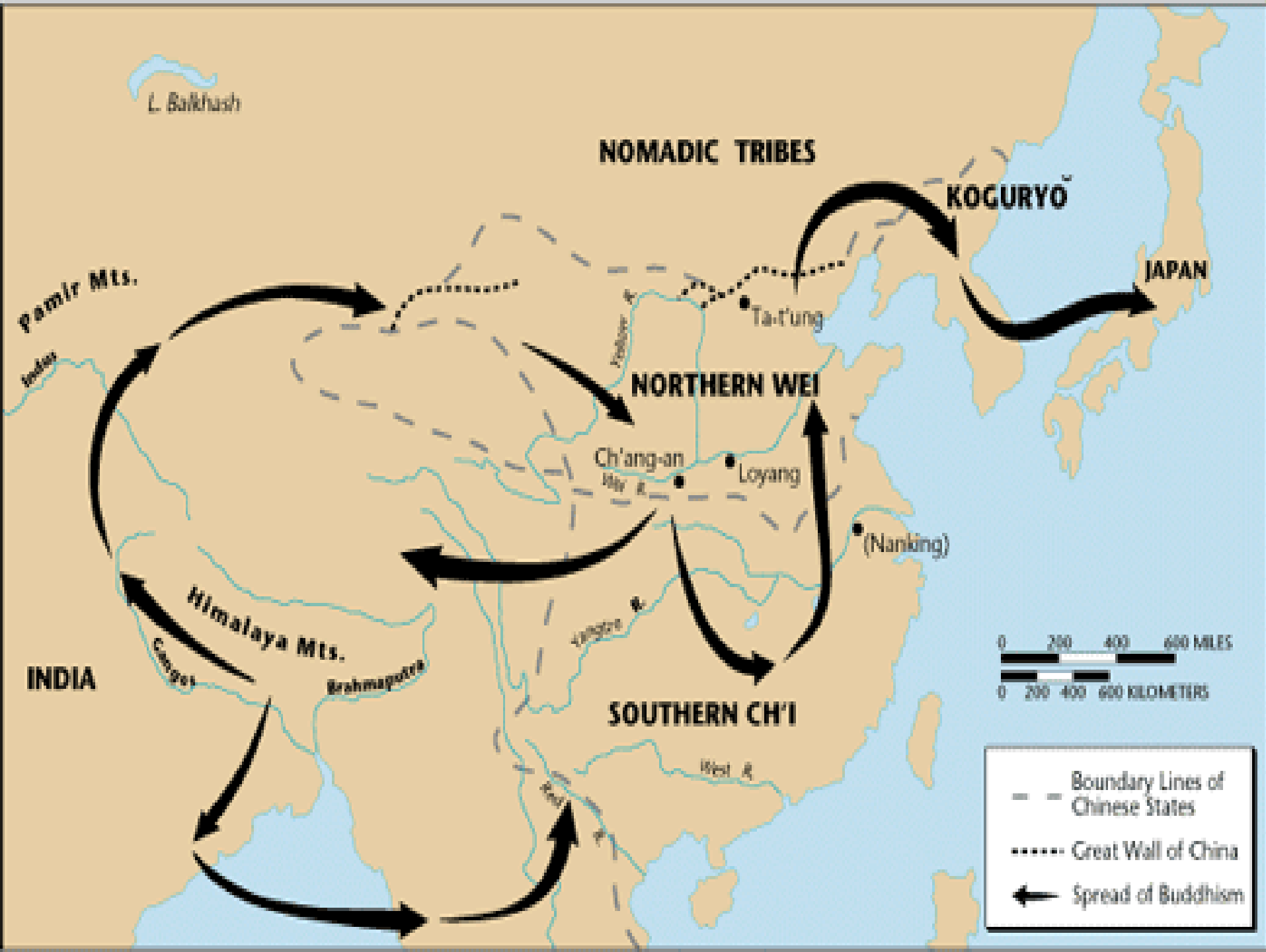
600 – 1450 C.E.

After 1000 CE .....

- **CONVERGENCE** (increasing contact)
  - Spread of new religions
  - New interregional (*not* national, no nations!) trading pattern – **AfroEurasia**
- **Mongol khanates facilitated trade**



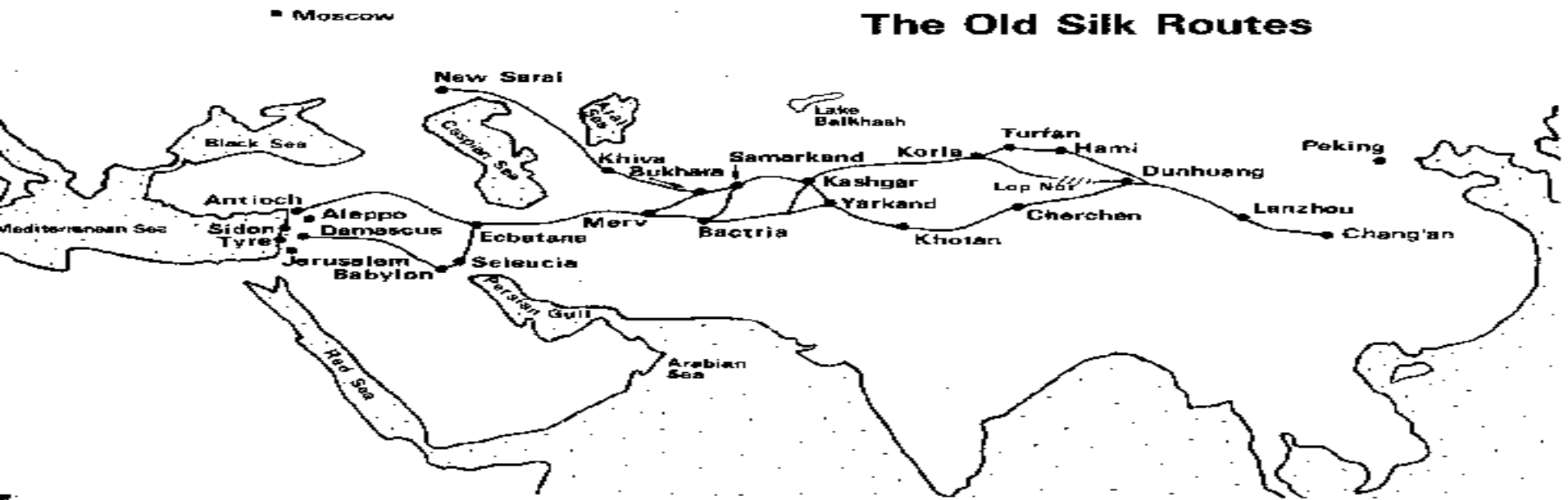
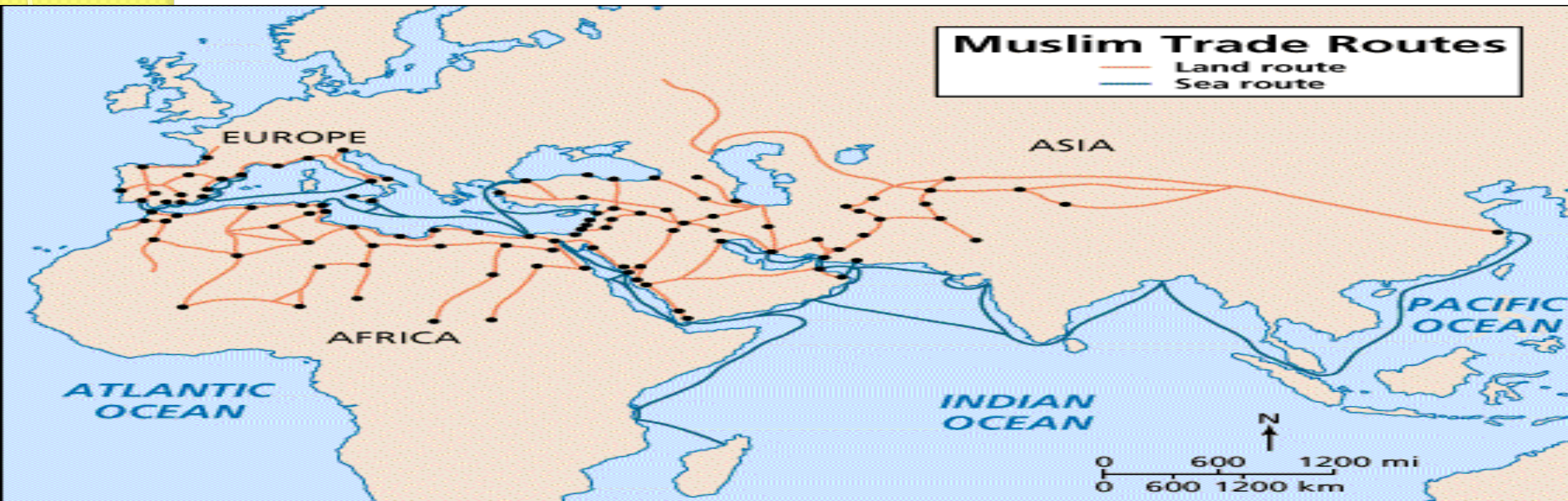
 *The Spread of Islam. The rapid spread of Islam created within a century a unified cultural and economic zone from India to the Atlantic Ocean within.*





# Major Comparison

## Muslim Trade routes v. Silk Road routes





# **A Great Deal of Change**

## **2 Themes**




# **I. Religions**

## **Embrace or reject**





## **2. New Trading Systems Including slaves as an item of trade**



There would be tensions  
brought on by those 2 themes

Example: growing materialism  
(due to increased trade) and its  
impact on Islam, Christianity and  
Buddhism



**Period shaped by cultural & commercial change**

**Supplemented by technological change**

**NOT systematic political change – no *world* pattern**

# Patterns of Gender Change

- **Conditions of women deteriorate**
  - **Ironic since religions change by recognizing equality of souls**
  - **i.e., foot-binding in China, suttee in India, seclusion & complete veiling of women in Middle East – although isolated**

- **1 possible cause: use prosperity to make women ornamental, don't need women's work as much**
  - **Earlier patriarchy – men controlled women to make sure they have sons as heirs**
- **Involvement in religion may have marginalized them in other aspects of society**

# Postclassical period seen in 3 layers

- **Zone 1 (1<sup>st</sup> world)**
- **Zone 2**
- **Zone 3**

# Zone I: 1st World

- **Most developed** = most manufacturing, largest cities, richest upper class
- Trade amongst each other (silk, porcelain)
- Middle East, N. Africa, China, India, Byzantine



# Zone 2



- Japan, SE Asia, Subsaharan Africa (Swahili Belt, W. Africa), Russia, NE Europe, parts of W. Europe
- Located geographically around 1<sup>st</sup> zone



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2**

**Participate actively in  
interregional trade system  
BUT...  
zone 2 at a slight  
disadvantage (production  
systems not as advanced, 1st  
zone has more raw  
materials)**

# • Imitate like crazy! Deliberately!

## Particularly cultural systems:

- Writing, alphabet, artistic forms, technologies (W.Europe)
- Touched by social forms – do end up deteriorating the condition of women
- Seek to imitate political forms
  - **Why?** Not economically prosperous enough (tax base), literacy not as high
  - Either don't imitate fully or they fail at it
  - Do develop their own forms in the end, ones that are successful for them

# Zone 3



- No connection with interregional trade network
- **Central America, Andes**
- **Hugely disadvantaged** by interregional trade network especially when it reaches them

# 4 “big stories” that shape entire era

- 1. China and Europe - 2 Centers of Growth**
- 2. The Long Reach of Islam**
- 3. The Age of Mongol Dominance**
- 4. Empires of the Americas**

# China & Europe - 2 Centers of Growth

## • China

- **Burst of technological innovation, commercialization, urbanization**
- **Largest economy in the world (exported silk & porcelain, imported spices)**

# Western & Central Europe

- **New center of Christian civilization**
- **Expanding in agricultural production, population, commerce, military might**
- **New challenge to Muslim dominance in Mediterranean**
- **Drawn more tightly into commercial economy & cultural interchange of the hemisphere**

# The Long Reach of Islam



- **Eurasia and Africa (W.Africa, E.African coast, Central Asia, India, SE Asia)**
- **Spread tied to migrations of Turkic conquerors & herders AND to growth of Muslim commercial enterprise all across the hemisphere**
- **Muslim merchants, scholars, long-distance travelers were principal mediators in interregional exchange of goods, ideas, technical innovations**

# The Age of Mongol Dominance



- Under Genghis (Chinggis) Khan, largest land empire the world had ever seen
  - From Poland to Korea and Siberia to Indonesia
- Conquests terrifying but Mongol rule stabilizing
  - Century of fertile commercial & cultural interchange across continent
- Eurasian unification - disastrous consequence in 14th century = Black Death & its impact on Europe, the Islamic world, & probably China



# Empires of the Americas

- **Empire-building reached an unprecedented scale**
- **Political styles of Aztec & Inca profoundly different**
  - **However both demonstrated that human labor & creative endeavor could be organized on a colossal scale...**
  - **DESPITE absence of iron technology or wheeled transport**



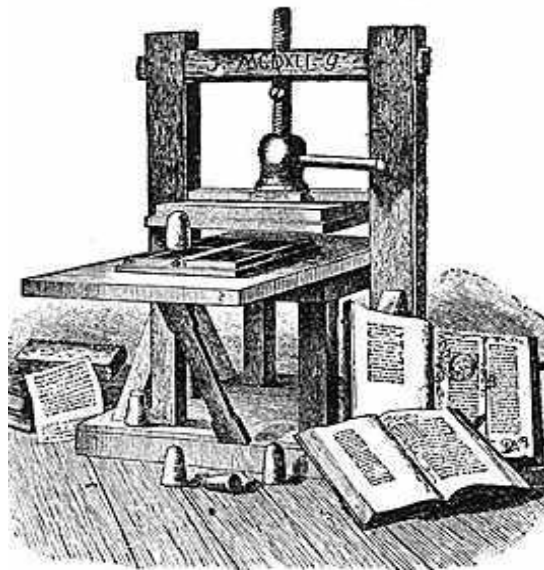


**Ok... 1450**

**Where do things sit?**

- **Mongols gone (Russians still concerned)**
- **China discontinues expeditions**
- **1<sup>st</sup> world still 1<sup>st</sup> world as we defined it (some decline in Arab power)**
- **Chinese economy still very strong (strongest in world in manufacturing)**
- **Key elements in Americas showing deterioration – just coincidence**
- **Japanese feel they don't have to be connected to outside world (sees China fall to Mongols), view shifts to more of themselves**

- **W. Europe –**
  - **new assets – assimilated a lot of borrowed technology (printing, gunpowder – warfare)**



# EUROPE



- **Disadvantage in interregional trade – don't control major trade routes – depend on Muslim intermediaries – don't have much to trade**
- **Begin to compensate militarily**



- **Sub-Saharan Africa sitting just fine – no trading problems – political system works fine**