UNIT III:
World Circa 1450-1750
Periodization

Age of Exploration

Start of Political Revolutions
Overall Themes

- Absolutism – centralized government
- Global Trade
- Consumerism (3 S’s)
- Rise of Europe
- Coercive Labor
- Religious Rivalry
- Decline of Nomads
Circa 1300

- Population Decline and growth
- Black Plague (@1348)
- Feudalism in Japan (Kamakura) and Europe
- Yuan dynasty in China, Kievan Rus under Mongol rule
- Rise of the Inca and Aztec empires
- Mali at its height
Circa 1300

- Delhi Sultanate in South Asia – rise of Islam, decline of Buddhism, competing power bases.
- Founding of Ottoman Dynasty (1281)
- Continued decline of Byzantium
- Trade circuits in Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, South China Sea, Trans-Saharan and across the Eurasian steppe.
Think about it…

• Predict what trends will change and which will stay the same.

• As the world continues to become more integrated circa 1300, predict which societies are in the best position to take advantage of new technologies and new discoveries. Think about virgin soils, location and luck.
Empires: Ming China 1368-1644
Manchu Qing Dynasty 1644 - 1912

Collection of The Palace Museum, Beijing.

Portrait on Silk of Emperor Kangxi in Court Robe
Early 18th Century. Ink and color on silk.
MING CHINA

- Yuan (Mongols) out – Ming Dynasty proclaimed.
- Revival of Chinese culture
- Neo-Confucianism (strict social structure)
  - Emperor - scholar-gentry - farmers - artisans - merchants
- Population Explosion
  - agriculture (champa rice)
  - public works (reforestation, irrigation)
- Chinese goods like paper, porcelain, and silks were in demand throughout Asia and Europe. Europeans were allowed to come to Macao and Canton to do business.
- Active traders in Indian Ocean (major ports were Hangzhou, Quanzhou, and Guangzhou). Traded for silver with Europe and Japan.
Ming China and Absolutism

- Hongwu removed chief minister position
- Established a bureaucracy
- Developed Imperial City and the Forbidden City
- Killed rivals, ruled through terror (public beatings)
- Civil service exam (stopped family connections)
- Chose imperial wives from humble families
- Limited number of eunuchs
- Censored writings
- Continued subordination of youth to elders and women to men
Exploration and Decline

Emperor Yongle – eunuch Zheng He
- 7 voyages between 1405-1433, collect tribute
- Stopped: too costly, internal factionalism, domestic concerns.

Decline –
poor leaders,
corrupt government,
public works fail,
foreign threats (Japanese ‘pirates’ and Manchus from North)
* Conquered by Manchus
Empires: Japan
Tokugawa Japan

Oda Nobunaga – started unification

Toyotomi Hideyoshi – continued and launched attacks on Korea

Tokugawa Ieyasu – 1600 – consolidated power, unified Japan, became shogun

“Ieyasu ate the pie that Nobunaga made and Hideyoshi baked.”
Tokugawa Japan

- Ieyasu created new capital at Edo.
- Did not continue Hideyoshi's overseas expansion plans (Korea), but concentrated internally.
- Led bureaucracy and controlled daimyo
- Ensured Tokugawa succession
- Agriculture increased - improved farming techniques.
- Welcomed trade at first – muskets, gunpowder for Japan’s silver
- Closed Country Edicts - Restricted foreign trade
  - feared foreign conquest
  - Banned Christianity (*threatened loyalty to the shogun*)
  - Banned Western books
  - Only Dutch and Chinese could trade at Nagasaki
- Ensured rigid class structure (Neo-Confucianism)
  ISOLATION for the next 250 years.
Empires: Ottoman 1281-1914

- 1350’s – Initial Ottoman Invasion of Europe (Osman)
- Janissary Corps raised to be loyal to Sultan
- 1453 – Ottoman capture of Constantinople (Sultan Mehmid II)
- Suleiman the Magnificent advances to Hungary and Austria
- 1683 – Failed Ottoman siege of Vienna
Ottoman Empire

Led by Sultan
- absolute monarch, political and religious authority

Bureaucracy – vizier (real power), granted on merit

Janissary protected Christians and Jews (diverse empire)

Gunpowder civilization

Land empire

DECLINE –

Sultans neglect power
Vague process of succession
Empire too large
Corrupt officials
Lack of change in military technology
Empires: Mughal India
1526-1739

- Babur invaded and conquered Northern India
- Empire based on military strength
- Akbar – Religious tolerance. Attempt to combine beliefs into new religion to unite Hindu and Muslim subjects: Din-I-Ilahi
- Indian textile trade – value to Europeans
- Patronage to the arts (Shah Jahan)
- Aurangzeb – No religious tolerance
Decline of Mughal Empire

- Corruption/neglect
- Army behind the times
- High taxes
- Lack of tolerance
- Peasant uprisings
- Foreign invaders
Rise of the West

Turned initial disadvantages into advantages
Age of Exploration

- European exploration
  Why then?
  Why?
  Who and where?

- End of Ming Treasure / Tribute Voyages / Zheng He
Portugal
Empires: Portugal

• Search for Maritime route to Asia

• Advanced naval technology: caravels, carracks, astrolabe and compass

• Established fortresses along the Gold Coast – sugar plantations and African slave labor

• Indian Ocean trade and Da Gama: Malindi, Sofala and Kilwa, Calicut and Goa, and later Macao

• Atlantic trade with conquest of Brazil – sugar plantation
Brazil: Plantation colony

- Portuguese due to Treaty of Tordesillas 1494
- African slave labor used to support the plantation complex (sugar)
- Largest producer of sugar in world first half of 17th C.
Spain
Empires: Spain

- Reconquista ended with the fall of Granada
- Columbus’ voyage
- Arrival of Cortez in Mexico and Pizarro in Peru
- Took over existing tributary empires: labor (mita), silver, gold, and foodstuffs
- Demographic impact: disease, death, and mestizos
Empires: Dutch

• Dutch East India Company – In 1660, employed 12,000 people and had 257 ships. Sought monopolies and large profits.

• North America (fur trade along the Hudson river, New Amsterdam)

• Caribbean islands for plantation settlements

• Capetown South Africa – way station

• Southeast Asia – spice trade (*nutmeg in Banda islands, cloves in Melaka and pepper in Banten*)
Empires: France

- Absolute Monarchy - King Louis XIV
  "I am the State"
  Palace of Versailles

- Mercantilism

- Territorial expansion in Europe and fur-trading colonies in Saint Domingue (Haiti) and New France (Quebec)
Empires: England

- Limited Monarchy and the emergence of Constitutional Monarchy
- Civil Wars: Commonwealth - Charles II – James II and the Glorious Revolution – Bill of Rights
- Enlightenment Ideas
- Colonies in Americas
Iberian Peninsula vs. Northern Europe

- Catholic
- Agricultural
- For crown

- Protestant
- Manufacturing
- For trading companies
Americas 1450-1750

- Conquest – arrival of Spanish in western hemisphere
- Population impacts: disease, racial intermingling (Castas system)
  - Peninsulare, Creole, Mestizo, Mulatto, African, Native American and Zambos
- Columbian exchange
- Colonial societies
- Encomienda System
Changes in Trade, Technology and Global Interactions

- Exploration
- Gold, Glory and God?
- Empire Building
- Cartography
- Commodities
Commodities: Sugar, Silver and Slaves
Commodities

• Coffee beans used first in Yemen and then later in Europe and the Americas
• European using chocolate technology from the Aztecs 17th Century
Cartographic Changes
Empires: African

• Characteristics of:
  Stateless societies - organized around kinship, often larger than states, forms of government

  Large centralized states – increased unity came from linguistic base – Bantu, Christianity and Islam, as well as indigenous beliefs

  Trade – markets, international commerce, taxed trade of unprocessed goods.
African Empires

Slave Trade – Europeans on coast with African middlemen
Slaves in exchange for firearms

- **Benin** – Eware the Great
- **Kongo** – King Afonso
- **Asante** – Osei Tutu (Asantehene)

* Centralized kingdoms
East Africa – Indian Ocean Trade

- Swahili trading cities
- Zanzibar – clove plantations
- Trade with Ottomans – ivory, gold, silver, people
Empires: Russia

- Mongol occupation stalled Russian unification and development
- Increasing absolutist rule and territorial expansion by 16th Century – Ivan the Terrible
- Multicultural Empire
- Boyars, Cossacks, serfs
- Role of Russian Orthodox Church
- Peter the Great accelerated westernization process
Changing Beliefs

• Protestant Reformation

• Neo-Confucianism

• Missionaries: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism
Cultural and Intellectual Development

- Scientific Revolution
- Enlightenment
- Patronage of the Arts
Comparisons

Be able to compare the following:

- Imperial systems: European monarchy vs. a land-based Asian empire
- Coercive labor systems
- Empire building in Asia, Africa and Europe
- Russia’s interaction with the west compared to others
Conclusions

- What are the major themes that seem apparent?

- What global processes are in action?
Do You Know Your Stuff?

Using the regions below, explain how each exemplifies the ‘Big Picture’ themes of the time period.

**Ming China** - **Tokugawa Japan** - **Ottoman Empire** - **Mughal Empire** - **Western Europe** - **Africa** - **Americas** - **Russia**

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