

Unit 1 Review

The main thing you need to know from unit 1:

Regional Societies are building on past developments and thriving.

Unified beliefs = Unified governments = Increased technology = Stability = Economic advancement

Contextualizing the Unit

Before 500 CE, many classical powers like Rome, Han China, and Gupta India dominated. However, between 500-1200, these powers fell and their regions became decentralized.

By 1200, these regions are once again unifying. Europe, China, South Asia, and regional powers in Africa and the Americas are both building on their paths by infusing traditional religions and philosophies into their societies while also advancing economically and technologically.

Main Events

1192: Japan installs a shogun

1206: Delhi Sultanate takes power in northern India

1215: King John of England is forced to sign the Magna Carta

1258: Mongols conquer the Abbasid Caliphate

1279: China's Song Dynasty falls

1321: Renaissance writer Dante dies

1324: Mali King Mansa Musa starts hajj to Mecca

1325: Aztecs found the city of Tenochtitlan

Major Trends Between 1200-1450

Political - Increase in state control and bureaucracies

Interaction with Environment - changed environments via canals, agriculture, cities and roads to meet societies' needs

Cultural- religions and philosophies built upon past teachings and spread across state borders

Economical - trade increased urbanization and created a more interconnected world

Technological - with political and economic stability, new technologies could be developed and spread

Your Notes:

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1.1 East Asia from 1200-1450

Developments in East Asia

Government Developments in the Song Dynasty

The Sui and Tang Dynasties were able to reunite China after centuries of war. The Song Dynasty, starting in 960, was able to build on this stability and help advance the government of China.

A **bureaucracy** is made up of all the people who work for the government. The Chinese government was unique for the era, as its large bureaucracy was based on merit.

Meritocracies are formed based on the abilities of the people versus their wealth and nobility. To help build this large bureaucracy, many took the Civil Service Exam.

The **Civil Service Exam** system started under the Han Dynasty and reemerged under the Tang and Song. Chinese men would spend years learning the Chinese classics like *The Analects* by the famous Chinese philosopher Confucius. Based on their abilities, they would take a series of exams that would award them greater power and influence. A person who passed any one level of these exams entered a new social class: the **scholar gentry**. This approach to governing lasted until around 1900!

Economic Development

The stability of the Tang and Song Dynasties allowed for the Chinese to economically develop. A lot of this development was based on their new technologies, regional trade, and their growing dominance.

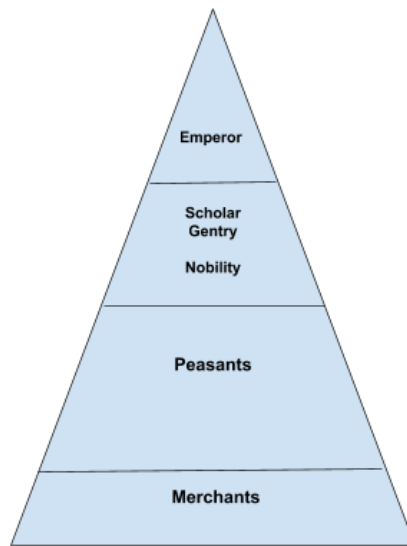
Next are a series of new developments that helped the Chinese to have the strongest economy between 1200-1450.

Economic Developments in China, 1200-1450

Grand Canal 🌊	This canal linked southern China's Yangtze River with northern China's Yellow River, thus promoting interregional trade
Gunpowder 💣	The Chinese invention of gunpowder led to the development of guns and trade along the Silk Road
Champa Rice 🍚	Champa is a region of Vietnam. Its rice allowed for multiple harvests per year. With more harvests came more food and, once it was imported to China, a growing population.
Coal ⚒️	The vast coal reserves of China allowed for the increased production of iron goods. With more iron came more construction
Artisan 🏠	An artisan is a person who specializes in the making of items like porcelain and silk. China had an emerging artisan class.
Public Works 🏗️	The Chinese government built roads and canals due to its wealth, food, and workers, which led to more interregional trade.
Tribute System 💰	The Chinese government was paid a tax, known as a tribute, by foreign powers. Japan, Korea, and Vietnam all paid China in money, food, materials, and even workers rather than have to go to war with the superpower!
Paper 📄	The Chinese development and use of paper allowed for its government to be more efficient, the arts to thrive, and for paper money to be used around the dynasty.

Social Structures in China

The social structure of China has been extremely stable since the Han Dynasty. This is because it is very hierarchical. A **hierarchy** is a system in which people or groups are ranked according to their status.



Part of this hierarchy is the fact that China is a **patriarchal** society where men dominate most systems of power. Though women were charged with raising the children, they rarely were given political or economic roles. This is exemplified in the process of foot binding. Much like modern-day cosmetics, **foot binding** was done to make women more desirable for men as well as a sign of wealth.

Periphery of China

A core society impacts the societies in its periphery. Much like how the US impacts nations around it and New York City impacts communities around it, China has had a long-lasting impact on the development of Japan, Korea, and Vietnam:

Post-Classical Japan, Korea, and Vietnam

Japan:

This archipelago (series of islands) region has unique elements to it like the religion of Shintoism, stories like **The Tale of Genji**, and a unique feudal hierarchy. The **Emperor** and **Shogun** (military leader) would rule over various **Daimyo** (landowners) who would all hire Samurai to protect their land. The **Samurai** would practice a unique brand of chivalry called

the **Bushido Code**. Though feudal and largely decentralized, Japan was able to develop its own unique society.

Though Buddhism did spread to Japan, the Japanese government did not embrace the civil service system nor did the society accept Confucianism.

Korea:

Korea has been the most influenced by China, adopting Confucianism, Buddhism, and the civil service system. However, the aristocracy in Korea did not allow for social mobility or true unity of the Korean peninsula.

Vietnam:

Vietnam has tried very hard to maintain its own independence from China. Though closely translating to 'southern people', the Vietnamese do not think of themselves as Chinese. They do not have as a hierarchical society; rather life is dominated by villages and smaller nuclear families. Though Confucianism and Buddhism spread there, the impact of Confucianism is limited.

Your Notes:

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1.2 Dar al-Islam from 1200-1450

Developments in Dar al-Islam

Islam was founded and spread quickly in the 600s. **Muhammad** is believed to be the last true prophet of **Allah** (Arabic for god). Though it is built upon principles of Judaism and Christianity, Islam has blended the role of religion and government together so well that it spread from India to Spain within a few hundred years. This Islamic world is often referred to as **Dar al-Islam**, or House of Islam.

Islamic expansion across North Africa and through the Middle East saw more connections because of trade. Muslim caliphates conquered and often tolerated different beliefs as long as non-Muslims paid a tax called a **jizya**.

The Muslim expansion was stopped in France at the Battle of Tours. The Islamic region of Spain was referred to **Al-Andalus**. The architecture of Cordoba and the iron work of Toledo are directly related to this era of Islamic expansion.



Women in Dar al-Islam enjoyed a lot more freedom than their counterparts in Christendom. They could divorce, own land, and pass on property, giving them a higher status than before the spread of Islam. However, over time, conservative elements in Islam saw an increased role of harems and facial coverings.

Periphery of the Abbasids

The Umayyad and the Abbasid Caliphates helped develop and spread Islam from Spain to India. As the Abbasid Caliphate falls to the Mongol invaders, new Islamic powers emerge:

New Islamic Powers

Egyptian Mamluks:

Mamluks are slave soldiers that won political control of several Muslim states during the Middle Ages. Mamluk generals used their power to establish a dynasty that ruled Egypt and Syria from 1250 to 1517.

Seljuk Turks:

The Seljuk Turks ruled parts of Central Asia and the Middle East from the 1000s to 1300s. The Seljuks migrated from the northern Iranian provinces in Central Asia into mainland Iran, formerly known as Persia.

Delhi Sultanate:

Central Asian Turkish warlords established this Muslim kingdom in northern India at the turn of the 1200s and it continued until their conquest by the Mughals.

Your Notes:

1.3 South and Southeast Asia from 1200-1450

South Asia

South Asia is the region below the Hindu Kush mountains and Himalayas. This region, dominated by the modern-state of India, claims one of the world's oldest faiths and a tradition of regional trade.

Post-Classical South Asia

Social:

The Hindu **caste system** created a hierarchy of power that was both religious and inherited. Hindus, born into a caste, typically had to remain in that caste until their death and hopeful **reincarnation**. This promoted stability, though it also allowed for the stagnation that emerges when there is no competition for power.

Political:

Since the fall of the Mauryan and Gupta Empires, South Asia has broken into various kingdoms. Various Hindu **Rajput Kingdoms** emerged in northern India, keeping a centralized power from emerging for hundreds of years. They competed with each other, allowing for Islamic armies to start to expand into Afghanistan and Pakistan. The **Delhi Sultanate** emerged from this expansion as a powerful kingdom for nearly 300 years. United by Islam and funded by the Silk Road, the Delhi Sultans were able to hold back the Mongol expansion into South Asia.

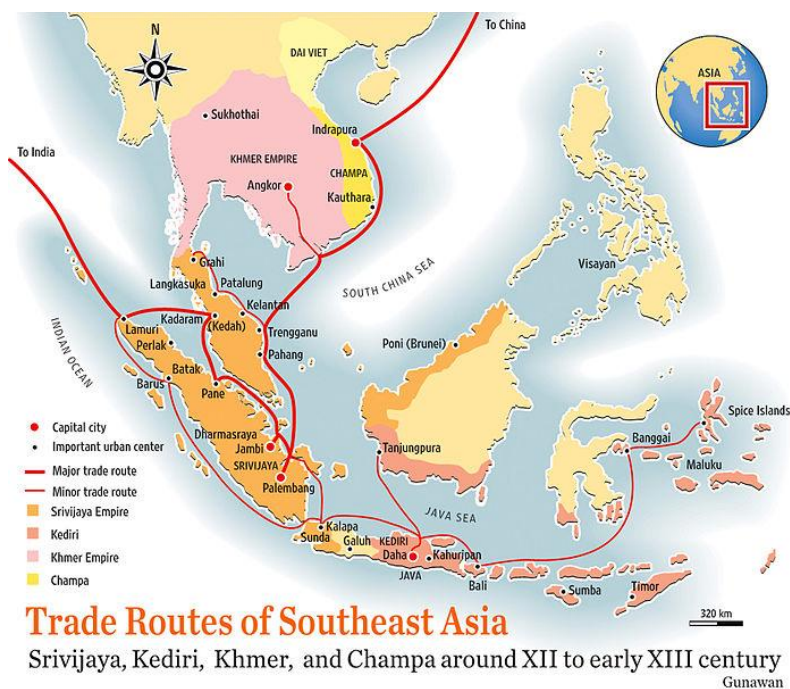
Cultural:

Though still predominantly Hindu, South Asia's development was largely impacted by Buddhism and Islam. Hinduism is a polytheistic faith that is probably best known because of its belief in samsara, or reincarnation. The vast majority of Indians are Hindu. However, unlike many monotheistic faiths, Hinduism is very decentralized. Islam, spreading from the Middle East, is a monotheistic faith that is more cohesive since it blended political leadership with

religion. By 1450, Islam has spread to northern India and helped the Delhi Sultanate create a stable regional empire.

Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia consists of modern nations like Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia. This region has developed within a mountainous and jungle environment, making a large empire impossible. The people of Southeast Asia have been heavily influenced by China to the north and the trade with the west within the **Indian Ocean Trade Network**.



Before the modern-states of Southeast Asia, there were various empires, both land-based and sea-based, that helped unite the people politically, economically, and religiously.

The **Khmer Empire** was a powerful state in Southeast Asia, formed by people of the same name, lasting from 802 CE to 1431 CE. At its peak, the land-based empire covered much of what today is Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, and southern Vietnam. Its capital, **Angkor Wat**, was originally a Hindu temple, developed over time into a vast Buddhist temple.

The **Srivijaya Empire** was an Indonesian Hindu empire based on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, which influenced much of Southeast Asia. Srivijaya was an important center for

trade between China and India as well as for the expansion of Buddhism from the 8th to the 12th century.

The **Majapahit Kingdom** was a smaller Javan Buddhist kingdom that controlled the shipping lane leading to and from the **Strait of Malacca**.

Southeast Asia benefited economically from the Indian Ocean Trade Network, while it also became very diverse. Islamic merchants and **Sufi** (mystical sect of Sunni Muslims) missionaries brought their faith to Indonesia, making it the most populated Islamic nation in the world today.

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1.4 The Americas from 1200 to 1450

Developments in the Americas

Big Picture

When talking about North, Central, and South America in the time period before 1200, the lack of unity and consistency needs to be understood. Because of its limited population and large amount of land, Native Americans were able to live in smaller, regional tribes. Some of these tribes developed into larger civilizations and even empires.

The Mississippian culture is a civilization in modern-day southeastern United States. The Mississippian people created large earthen mounds demonstrating their unity to build large monumental structures. Instead of tracing family lineage through the father's family, the Mississippian culture was matrilineal, passing social standing through the mother's blood line.

Major Empires of the Americas

The Maya and Aztecs each dominated a region of Mesoamerica between 250 CE and 1550 CE. The **Maya** thrived in the rainforest of the Yucatan peninsula. Largely a kingdom of **city-states** that worked for mutual benefit, the Maya were able to build large temples, cities, and trade networks.

Because of internal conflict and lack of food, the Maya empire collapsed around 900 CE. Before they collapsed, the Maya thrived, building a famous accurate calendar, a complex writing system, and pyramids that rival those of the Middle East.

The **Aztec Empire** came years after the collapse of the Maya and occupied modern-day Mexico City and south. Their capital, **Tenochtitlan**, is where Mexico City is today. The city was enormous, housing nearly 200,000 people at a time when London had 50,000! The Aztecs built a series of great pyramids in their city, demonstrating their power and authority.

The amazing part of this city is that it was built on Lake Texcoco. Aztecs would build **chinampas**, or floating gardens, in the lake to grow a bounty of food. These chinampas would be filled in over time, creating a larger and larger city.



The Aztecs practiced **human sacrifice**. Many of the temples in Tenochtitlan were used for these rituals. The people sacrificed were either captured in battle or were tributes given to the Aztecs by neighboring city-states that did not want to be attacked. These prisoners and tributes were often sacrificed to the sun god, **Huitzilopochtli**. This process of human sacrifice was both part of their polytheistic religion and part of the political rule of the region. The Aztecs were very militaristic, had a thriving merchant class, and promoted education for many of its men.

The **Incan Empire** thrived around the same time as the Aztecs. They dominated a north to south region along the Andes Mountains in South America. They had a lot of clear contrasts with the Aztecs:

1. They were much more of a united monarchy, while the Aztecs were largely a city-state empire controlled by Tenochtitlan.
2. While the Aztecs sacrificed humans, the Inca sacrificed llamas.
3. While the Aztecs had a vast trade network, the Inca believed in state-led economy.
4. The Aztecs had city-states pay a tribute in humans to Tenochtitlan, while the Inca required a labor tax called **mit'a**. In this system, for example, the numerous roads that led to the capital of Cuzco were built by Incans who would work for about 1-2 years. They were not slaves, rather they paid their tax, or mit'a, with labor instead of money.

- ## Your Notes:

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1.5 Africa from 1200 to 1450

Developments in Africa

Big Picture

Much like the Americas before 1450, Africa was largely tribal or clan-based. Clans are kin-based networks where many people within the community are related. Led by a chief, these smaller communities work with and have conflict with other communities in their area. Islam, the Trans-Saharan Trade Network and the Indian Ocean Trade Network are examples of unifying factors for many of these clans.

Around 1,000 CE and later, many empires did emerge. These kingdoms brought unity, continuity, and complexity to the regions they controlled.

Post-Classical Africa

Ghana:

300 CE - 1000 CE, Western African Trade gold for salt with North African **Berbers** (nomads) who were the middle men with Europe. No state religion. Not as unified as empires that come later

Mali:

Mansa Musa is a famous and powerful king who built mosques and famous libraries in **Timbuktu** (capital). Mansa Musa travels the Trans-Saharan Trade Network on his **hajj** (pilgrimage) to Mecca in Arabia, exposing those along the way to Mali's wealth and power
1200 CE - 1400 CE, replaced Ghana, Islam unites Mali and those it conquers.

Songhay:

1400-1500, replaced Mali, Conquered Mali and then collapsed because of slave trade.

Swahili Coast:

This region is along the eastern coast of Africa allowing its use of both the Trans-Saharan Trade Network and the Indian Ocean Trade Network. Its city-states were united in trade and variations of the **Bantu language**. Its largest city-state, **Great Zimbabwe**, was protected by a large wall demonstrating the unity of its people.

Ethiopia:

This eastern kingdom was a lone Christian kingdom in a region converting to Islam.



These African societies have many shared characteristics. Family and communal activities were the centerpiece of the clan or village. Music and dancing were a common way of both entertainment but also veneration of the dead. Most Sub-Saharan societies did not have a written language rather passed on their history, literature, and culture through oral tradition. **Griots** were storytellers who would make kings famous for generations.

Your Notes:

1.6 Europe from 1200 to 1450

Developments in Europe

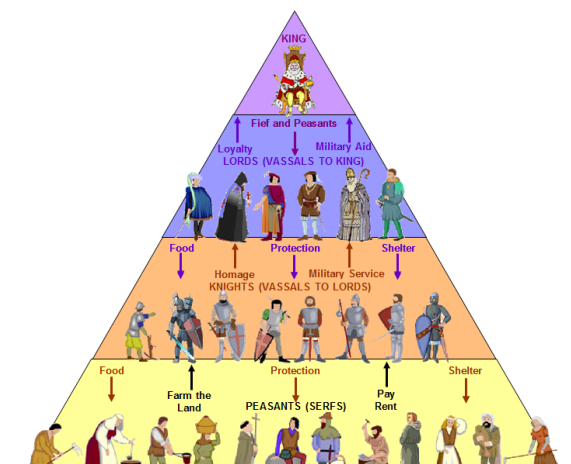
Feudal Society

After the fall of Rome, Europe, specifically Western Europe, was dominated by smaller kingdoms and regional powers. Between 1200 and 1450, many of the modern states today were formed as powerful kingdoms replaced localism.

In places like France and England, the people were feudal. Feudalism is a political, economic, and social hierarchy which helped organize land, work, and people's roles.

At the top is the monarch, often a king. He basically “owned” all of the land and would grant land, called **fiefs**, to elites called **lords**. The lords would then grant some of their own land to other individuals. Those who were granted land were called **vassals**. Vassals owed food, labor, and military service to the lords above them. Many kings and lords, as well as the church, would hire **knights** to protect their wealth and power.

Land was sometimes worked on by those who were not the lords to others. These **serfs** were not slaves but owned no land, thus were very tied to the lord who granted them permission to work the land. Serfs and the manors they worked on would practice the **three-field system**, where the farmers were careful to not overuse the soil by rotating wheat, beans, and/or let land lay **fallow** (unused) during the harvest.



Regionalism to Kingdoms

Between 1200 and 1450, regional kingdoms of France, England, and the Holy Roman Empire became solidified. In the beginning, each power was tied to the Catholic Church and feudal. However, over time, the Catholic Church began to lose influence leading to the Reformation of the 1500s. Feudalism also weakened as monarchs like King Philip II of France created a larger bureaucracy that worked with a legislative body called the **Estates-General**.

The **Holy Roman Empire** laid where modern day Germany is today. Unlike France, regional kingdoms with powerful princes and the church had a lot of power versus the central government. The **Concordat of Worms** (Worms is a German city) allowed the Pope of the Catholic Church to appoint bishops in HRE but gave the king the ability to veto those choices.

Unlike France, English kings were being checked by the nobility. King John was forced to sign the **Magna Carta**, giving the people more rights in trials and taxation. The English Parliament will eventually form to be a strong legislative body. Over time, the competition for trade, land, and resources led the English and French to war. The **Hundred Years War** is an example of this type of conflict. Conflicts like this created a new spirit of **nationalism** and an end to feudalism.

Religious Conflict

This era saw a lot of religious tension in Europe. The predominantly Christian Europe saw the spread of Islam up the Iberian peninsula as a threat. Charles The Hammer Martel stopped its advance at the **Battle of Tours** in southern France. By 1492, the Catholic Church had expelled the Muslims from Spain in the **Reconquista**.

The Catholic Church started the **Crusades** in order to take the Holy Land back from the Muslims. The series of Crusades saw the Crusaders also attacking the **Orthodox Christians** in **Constantinople**. In the end, the Crusades failed to win back Jerusalem, rather it just weakened the Catholic Church and increased the power of regional monarchs. However, this cross-cultural contact did slowly awaken Europe to the science and mathematics that the Islamic world had been developing.

The Renaissance

By 1450, Europe saw an increase in literacy, urbanization, and connection to the global community. At one time, the only literate people of Europe were monks and other men tied to the Catholic Church. **Gutenberg's printing press** will change this. At one time, Europe was closed from trade with the rest of the world. The Crusades and Mediterranean trade will end this. This will see the beginning of the Renaissance.

The **Renaissance**, or “rebirth”, was a period of European cultural, artistic, political and economic activity following the Middle Ages. Generally described as taking place from the 1300s through the 1600s, the Renaissance promoted the rediscovery of classical philosophy, literature and art. Some of the greatest authors, scientists and artists in human history thrived during this era, while global exploration opened up new lands and cultures to European commerce.

Your Notes:

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1.7 Comparisons in the Period from 1200-1450

A direct comparison is a clear statement identifying similarities and differences. These statements are great for topic sentences and are powerful assertions to drive a student's writing.

Direct Comparisons

College Board will challenge students to find comparisons during the same period from dramatically different parts of the world. Here are a few:

- While Song China had a large bureaucracy to rule, Japan was very feudal and regional.
- While the Abbasid Caliphate used religion to help solidify its power, Western European kingdoms were separate from the power of the Roman Catholic Church.
- While the Swahili Coast was very interconnected to trade routes, Western Europe was very slow to develop because it was outside these trade routes.
- While the Silk Road connected large empires of Song China and the Abbasid Caliphate, Western Europe had no land-based trade routes to help it develop.
- In Europe, the three-field crop rotation, and Champa rice in China promoted larger populations
- Both the Mali Kingdom and the Abbasid Caliphate used Islam to unite peoples who were not united before.
- Both Song Dynasty and northern India kingdoms saw an increase in religious diversity.
- Both Song Dynasty and northern India kingdoms saw an increase in religious diversity causing political and religious conflict.
- Both Christianity and Buddhism saw various divisions in their faiths causing political and religious conflict.

