

**DIRECTIONS: As you watch each video, respond to the question prompts below.**

## **Frame Concept Introduction**

How can we organize the massive number of historical events and sources in a way that makes the past understandable and usable? Frames are a tool that historians use to sort through, group, and think about long-term historical trends. In this course, we use three frames—communities, networks, and production and distribution. This first video explains how frames help us to connect events, people, and trends across eras and how we might use them to create stories that make the past meaningful.

What is a frame, and how is it like a map?

Why are frames useful?

What are the three frames we use in this course?

Why is it useful to have more than one frame?

You are going to be given Frame Stories in this part of the course. Later, you will be asked to “test their claims”. What does this mean?

## **Communities Frame Introduction**

All humans live in communities. Communities help define who we are. They provide us with support, protection, and a sense of shared identity. Examples of communities include families, neighborhoods, states, religions, and even online forums. Human communities have generally grown, and frequently changed, over time. Many new forms of communities have emerged in the last 800 years. By exploring the history of communities, this video reveals the role community plays in the present, and the possibilities for building and strengthening the communities of the future.

How does the quote, from Helen Keller, relate to the idea of “communities”?

What did human communities generally look like in 1200?

According to the video, what are some different types of human communities that have emerged during the period covered by this course (c. 1200-Present)?

According to this video, has globalization made us all members of a single community, and made all smaller communities irrelevant? Why or why not?

### **Networks Frame Introduction**

In the last 800 years, humans have lived in incredibly diverse communities. There is much that distinguishes us from each other. But we also share ideas, goods, people, and diseases across communities. The systems through which this sharing happens are called networks. Networks are ways in which interaction is organized, but they are not unchanging. In general, humans have built larger and larger networks over time, leading up to the global exchange of ideas that has emerged in the period covered in this course. But very small networks, often within this bigger pattern, are still important today.

The video begins with a philosophical statement common to the Zulu people of southern Africa. What idea does this statement express?

How did networks expand during the period from 1200-1450?

What transformations in networks have occurred in the period from 1450-1750?

In the past two hundred years, in the period from 1750-1914, how have new technologies helped develop networks that spread ideas rapidly?

According to the video, what are some of the unexpected consequences of growing interconnection?

The video ends with several questions. What problems does it suggest people might have within the new sorts of networks?

## **Production and Distribution Frame Introduction**

We already know that humans live in communities and share things and ideas across networks. The production and distribution frame helps us understand human history by examining how we make things and share, sell, or trade them within our communities and across networks of interaction. Humans have become increasingly sophisticated in the ways we produce goods and tools, and how we distribute them. As our world has globalized, this increasing sophistication has caused many problems that we deal with today. Exploring these changes and the challenges they have created can orient us to the present and help prepare us for the future.

The video starts with a saying we believe emerged from Chinese society several hundred years ago. What does this saying suggest about some values common to that society in that period?

How did systems of production and distribution expand during the period from 1200-1450?

What transformations in production and distribution have occurred in the period from 1450-1750?

How did the use of fossil fuels transform systems of production and distribution?

How did empires help drive the new global industrial system?

According to this video, how have our systems of production and distribution changed over the last hundred years?