

Context

Follows collapse of major classical civilizations

Basically Mongols and Muslims

Major Empires

Imperial China

Experiences golden age with the Sui dynasty, then it was the Tang and finally the Mongols

Byzantine Empire

Eastern half of the Roman Empire, capital in Constantinople under emperor Justinian

Islamic Caliphates

Established by Muhammad, leads in trade, astronomy, mathematics, science, philosophy, etc.

Mongol Empire

More egalitarian nomadic group that established an empire

Expansion of Communication/Exchange Networks

Concentrations of wealth and intensification of cultural exchanges

Transportation, state policies, and mercantile practices increased expansion

Pastoral and nomadic groups played a big role in creating and sustaining transportation networks

Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly active trade networks

Major trade routes to know

Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, Silk Road, and Trans Saharan

Trade of luxury goods encouraged by innovations

silk and cotton textiles, porcelain, spices, precious metals and gems, slaves, exotic animals

Expansion of Communication/Exchange Networks (cont)

Innovations and technologies include:

caravanserais, compass use, the astrolabe, larger ship designs in sea travel

Trade facilitated by laws

Inca Road System, Hanseatic League, Grand Canal

A Helpful Link/Source

<http://www.freeman-pedia.com/early-modern-600-ce-to-1450-ce/>

New Technological Agricultural Innovations

Mesoamerica	Chinampas	Floating gardens
Andean Region	Waru Waru	limited erosion improved irrigation
Most of the planet (specifically in China)	Terracing	create arable land in mountains
Afro-Eurasia	Horse Collar	help plow fields
Medieval Europe	Three Field	crop rotation
Most of the planet	Swamp Drain	increase land and reduce disease spreading mosquitos