

AP World History

Time Periods

For each period, knowledge of major civilizations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe is expected.

FOUNDATIONS TO 600 CE

- > Once people settled and gradually organized into early civilizations, discovery of **agriculture** began to change lives rapidly:
 - Neolithic revolution
 - Copper and bronze tools and weapons
 - Wheel invented—transportation of heavy loads possible
- > Humans organized into families; **gender roles** emerged. Division of labor in agriculture deepened divisions, reinforced by religious and governmental systems
- > Major **belief systems** developed, spread, and shaped civilization:
 - Hinduism
 - Daoism
 - Judaism
 - Christianity
 - Confucianism
 - Buddhism
- > **Civilizations** emerged, which organized:
 - Governments
 - Public works
 - Complex religions
 - Systems of writing
 - Social structures
 - Arts and architecture
 - Job specialization
- > Some civilizations grew into **large and complex empires**:
 - Mesopotamia
 - Aryans
 - Egypt
 - Shang and Zhou
 - Indus
 - Mesoamerica
- > Exchange of goods and ideas shaped period and led to further changes. **Trade routes** grew and shaped development:
 - Silk Road
 - Indian Ocean
 - Mediterranean Sea
- > Use of **currency** emerged.

REGIONAL AND TRANSREGIONAL INTERACTIONS—600 TO 1450

- > Improved **technology** led to growth of four primary trade routes:
 - Silk Road
 - Indian Ocean
 - Trans-Saharan: In West African kingdoms, introduction of camels increased flow of trade
 - Mediterranean Sea
- > **Ideas, religions, and technology** spread through expanded trade routes
- > Compass improved **shipbuilding**
- > **Gunpowder** shaped development of world
- > **Movement of people** greatly altered world. Nomadic groups interacted with settled people, leading to further change:
 - Turks
 - Mongols
 - Vikings

- > **Religions** preached equality of all believers in the eyes of God:
 - **Patriarchal** values dominated
 - **Monastic life** of Buddhism and Christianity offered alternative path for women
- > Spread of religion and increase in trade was unifying force, though it sometimes caused conflict:
 - Christianity and the Church were centralizing force in **Western Europe**
 - In **East Asia** (China and Japan), spread of Confucianism and Buddhism solidified cultural identity
 - New religion of **Islam** created new cultural world, Dar al-Islam, which transcended political boundaries
- > **Political structures** adapted to new conditions:
 - **Centralized empires** built on successful models of the past:
 - Byzantine
 - Tang dynasty
 - Arab caliphates
 - **Decentralized areas** developed political organization to deal with unique issues:
 - Western European feudal system
 - Japanese family rule—samurai, shogun
- > Movements of **Mongols** altered much of Asia's political structure; recovery from Mongol period introduced **political structures** that defined many areas for centuries
- > Three civilizations flourished in Latin America:
 - Maya
 - Aztec
 - Inca
- > **The Crusades** (11th–13th centuries) had major impact on life in Europe
- > **Explorers** like Marco Polo began to travel in search of new lands, new materials to trade
- > **Diseases** like bubonic plague impacted populations

GLOBAL INTERACTIONS—1450 TO 1750

- > Search for faster ways to trade routes of the Indian Ocean led to:
 - Inclusion of Americas in global trade network
 - Beginning of true **globalization**
 - Colombian Exchange of goods, disease, and cultures spreads throughout world
- > Improvements in/spread of shipping **technologies** and gunpowder weapons allow European countries to exercise larger role in world affairs
- > Millions of Native Americans die due to exposure to previously unknown European **diseases**
- > African people are **forcibly transported** across Atlantic Ocean to fill need for forced labor on plantations
- > New **social structures** emerge:
 - In Americas, they're based on **race**
 - Few **women** exert power publicly, but women often wield considerable power behind the scenes

AP World History

Time Periods (CONT'D)

- > In Europe, **Renaissance and Reformation** challenge previously accepted beliefs and power of Roman Catholic Church
- > In others parts of world, like China, reaffirmation of more traditional beliefs is viewed as key to stability
- > **Empires** stretch their power.
 - Spain and Portugal conquer and control Americas
 - Dominant land-based empires: Ottoman, Mughal, and Qing
 - **Major empires:**
 - Ottoman, 1300–1923
 - Mughal India, 1523–mid-1700s
 - Songhay, 1454–1591
 - Kongo, 1300s–1600s
 - Spanish/Portugese overseas expansion/empire, 1500s–early 1800s
 - Qing Dynasty, 1644–1941
 - Russian, 1480–1917
 - Japan, 1600–1867

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION—1750 TO 1900

- > **Industrialization** led to interdependence. Factors leading to industrialization:
 - Technical knowledge/innovation
 - Large population as workforce
 - Natural resources
 - Money to build factories
 - Stable capitalist-minded government
- > Industrialized nations in search of **raw materials**, **new markets** imperialized areas to protect economic interests
- > **Populations** grew, people migrated to **cities** in search of work in factories:
 - **Free-wage laborers** more desirable than forced labor in market-driven economy than forced labor; **slaves and serfs were emancipated**
- > **Women** worked in factories but were paid considerably less than men; economic opportunities and Enlightenment ideals pushed women to fight for political rights
- > **Working class** emerged as force for change; workers advocated for improved working conditions through organization into unions
- > **Western culture** strongly influenced many Asian and African areas through colonization
- > **Asian and African** culture and art strongly influenced European intellectuals/artists
- > **Enlightenment ideals** became influential in many parts of world; ideas said government was responsible to its people, inspiring revolutions and independence movements, pushing some governments to experiment with democratic values
 - Equality - Freedom of speech - Freedom of religion

- > In other parts of world, traditional religious organizations maintained power and influence
- > **Democracy** extended to limited class of people
- > **"The nation" and nationalism** became new concepts of identity in the 19th century; spread to many parts of world
- > **Imperialism** left legacies:
 - Migration
 - Indentured servitude
 - Racism
 - Social Darwinism

ACCELERATING GLOBAL CHANGE AND REALIGNMENTS—1900 TO PRESENT

- > With improved health care and decreased death rates, **world population** grew from 1 billion in 1900 to 6 billion+
- > Movement of people increased. Many in search of better economic opportunities; some **refugees** forced to leave homelands
- > Traditional **social structures** challenged as a result of movements that attempted to empower working and peasant classes, like introduction of communist governments
- > **Women** gained right to vote in many parts of world and access to new economic opportunities and education; development of birth control pill further empowered women
- > World became integrated through **technology**, cultures blended, some came to dominate others
- > **Religious fundamentalism** developed in some regions, possibly to combat Western-dominated global culture
- > Rise in nation-state and nationalism led to adoption of **political systems** from totalitarianism to democracy
- > **World wars** demonstrated influence of technology on warfare, also marked decline of Europe as global power
- > Colonial areas asserted themselves and fought for independence but were later involved in new global conflict called the **Cold War**
- > Since end of Cold War, nations have attempted both economic and political reforms; international and multinational organizations have attempted to find new world order
- > Rise of more globally connected world may blur lines of nation-state

Themes

1. Interactions between Humans and Environment
2. Development and Interaction of Cultures
3. State Building, Expansion, and Conflict
4. Creation, Expansion, Interaction of Economic Systems
5. Development and Transformation of Social Structures