

Unit 2
Networks of
Exchange
C. 1200- C. 1450

Unit Overview

Between 1200 and 1450, activity along existing trade routes increased in volume and scope.

Technological and commercial innovations, imperial expansion, and demand for luxury goods were key factors in the ongoing expansion of trade. Growing trade networks accelerated cultural, biological, and technological diffusion across Afro-Eurasia.

Unit 2.1: The Silk Roads



What caused the growth of exchange networks?

Crusaders & Rise of New Empires

- Lords and their armies of knights brought back fabrics and spices from the East
- By 8th and 9th centuries, Arab merchants from Abbasid Empire revived Land and Sea Routes.
- Resurgence of China's Economy and production of luxury goods.



Mongols

- Controlled the Abbasid Caliphate and China, so were in charge of many trade routes, and had great respect for merchants
- For the first time, much of the Silk Roads were under control of an authority that respected merchants and enforced laws
- Improved roads and punished bandits



Improved Commercial Practices

- Caravans
- Camel saddle
- Magnetic compass, improved rudder, Junk boat
- Chinese paper money and flying cash

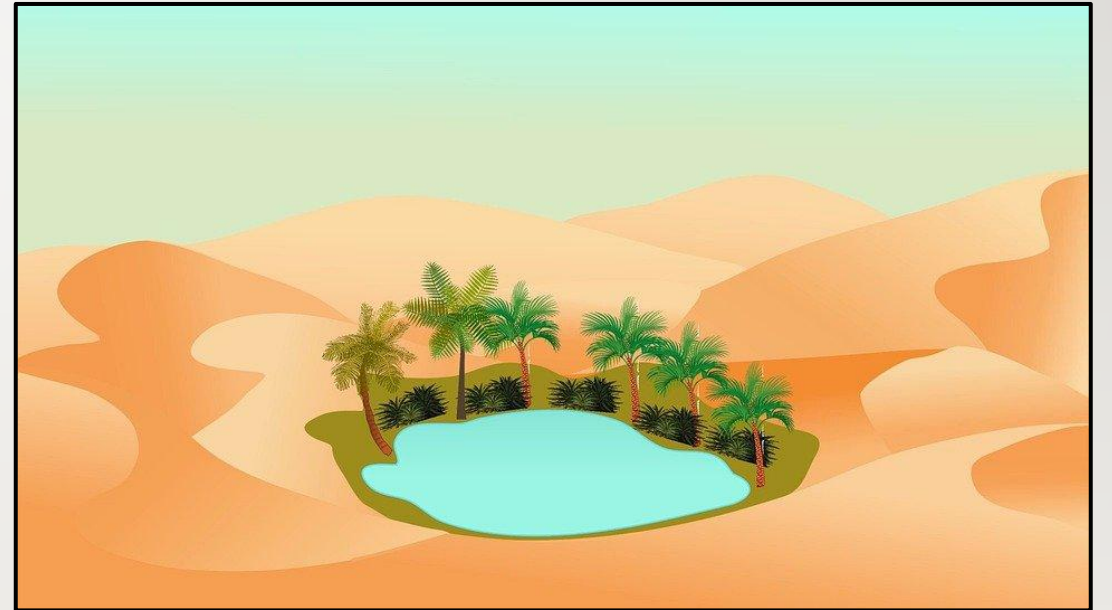


All expanded the volume and geographical range of trade

The networks of exchange have grown...what are the effects?

Effect #1: Development of Oases and Cities

- Trade routes were often brutal.
- Cities along routes that were watered by rivers became thriving centers of trade.
 - Kashgar in Western China
 - Samarkand in present day Uzbekistan
- Caravanserais
 - Inns that emerged along routes



Effect #2: Commercial Innovations

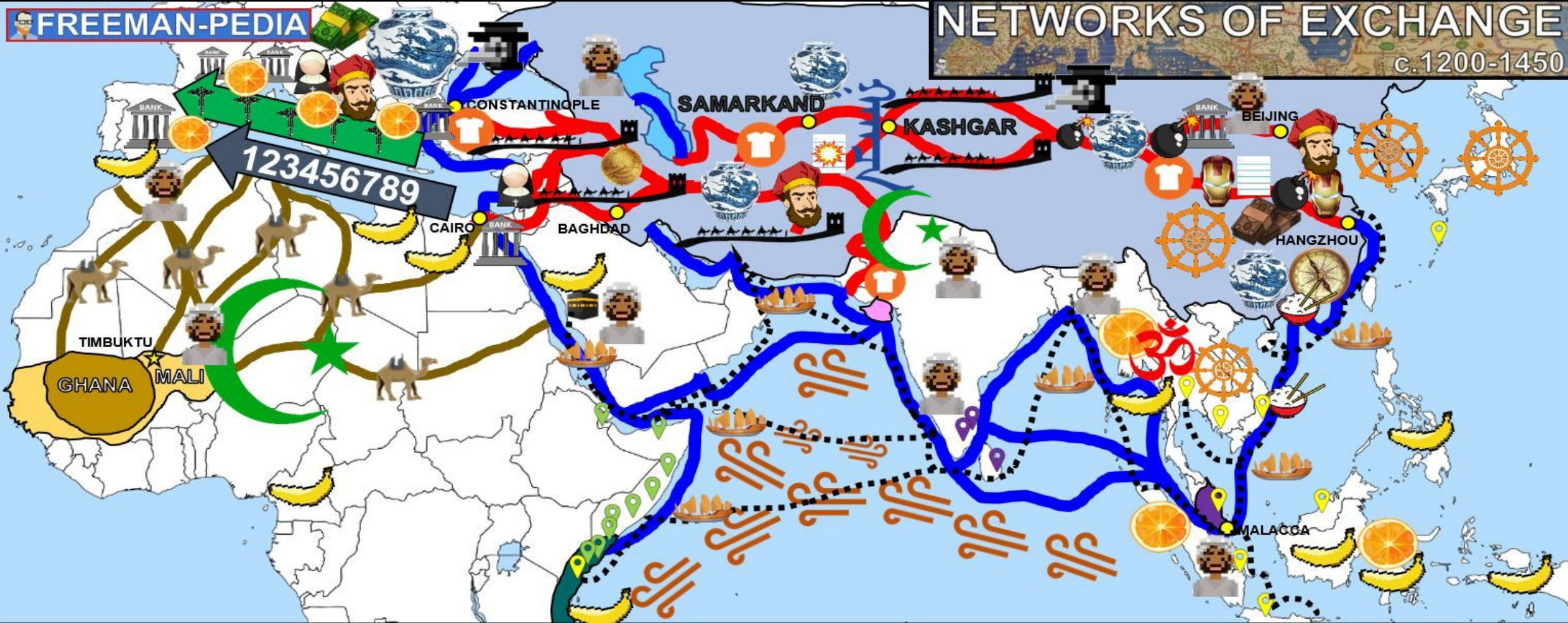
- Flying cash
 - Allowed merchants to deposit paper money under their name in one location and withdraw the same amount at another location. Became the model for modern banks.
- Banking Houses could allow people to present a **bill of exchange** and receive that amount of money in exchange.
- Hanseatic League



2.1 Big Takeaways

- There was a growth of exchange (trade) networks between 1200-1450, which was caused by:
 - Crusades
 - Mongols
 - Technological improvements
- This had multiple effects on the world, including:
 - Growth of cities and oases
 - Commercial innovations like flying cash and banking houses
 - Increase in demand for luxury goods

c. 1200-1450



THE SILK ROADS
c. 1200-1450

SILK ROAD
● SAMARKAND ● KASHGAR

PRINTED PAPER MONEY BEGAN IN CHINA IN 960
MOVING WITH MONGOLS, EUROPE PRINTED IN 1661

BANKING CARAVANSERAI

TEXTILES PORCELAIN IRON/STEEL

MONGOL EMPIRE
c. 1200-1450

KHANATES

TRANSFER OF GRECO-ISLAMIC MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE TO WESTERN EUROPE

TRANSFER OF "ARABIC" NUMERALS TO EUROPE

MONGOL ADOPTION OF UYGHUR SCRIPT

EXCHANGE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN
c. 1200-1450

SWAHILI GUJARAT MALACCA

COMPASS 1ST USED DIRECTIONALLY BY SONG DYNASTY c. 1000 (REACHES EUROPE BY 1200)

ASTROLABE INVENTED BY GREEKS, PERFECTED BY MUSLIMS c. 900 (REACHES EUROPE BY 1000)

DIASPORIC COMMUNITIES
ARABS/PERSIANS CHINESE/MALAY MERCHANTS/PEOPLES

ZHENGHE MONSOON

TRANS-SAHARAN TRADE
c. 1200-1450

GHANA MALI

★ TIMBUKTU

TRANS-SAHARAN TRADE ROUTE

CAMEL SADDLES CARAVANS

CULTURAL CONSEQUENCES
c. 1200-1450

SPREAD OF RELIGION
BUDDHISM HINDUISM ISLAM

SPREAD OF TECHNOL
GUN-POWDER PAPER

IBN BATTUTA MARCO POLO MARGE KEMPE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES
c. 1200-1450

BUBONIC PLAGUE ORIGINATED IN THE STEPPE & SPREAD WITH THE MONGOLS ORIGINATING IN S.E. ASIA BEFORE SPREADING TO AFRICA & EUROPE

FAST-GROWING CHAMPA RICE WAS GIVEN AS TRIBUTE TO SONG IN 1000

ORIGINATING IN S.E. ASIA, CITRUS FRUITS ARRIVED IN EUROPE FROM ARAB TRADERS

Goods Traded



Topic 2.2
The Mongol Empire and the Modern World

Who were the Mongols?

- A people from Central Asia (current Mongolia)
- Multiple clans of pastoral nomads
- High expectations of all members of their society
- Highly valued courage, horsemanship, and hunting

Genghis Khan=Ruler of All

- Born “Temujin” in 1162
- Leader of the Mongolian Kingdom
- Created a large tribal alliance, or “khanate”
- Considered loyalty to be the most important personality trait
- Liberal social policies
- Ruthless



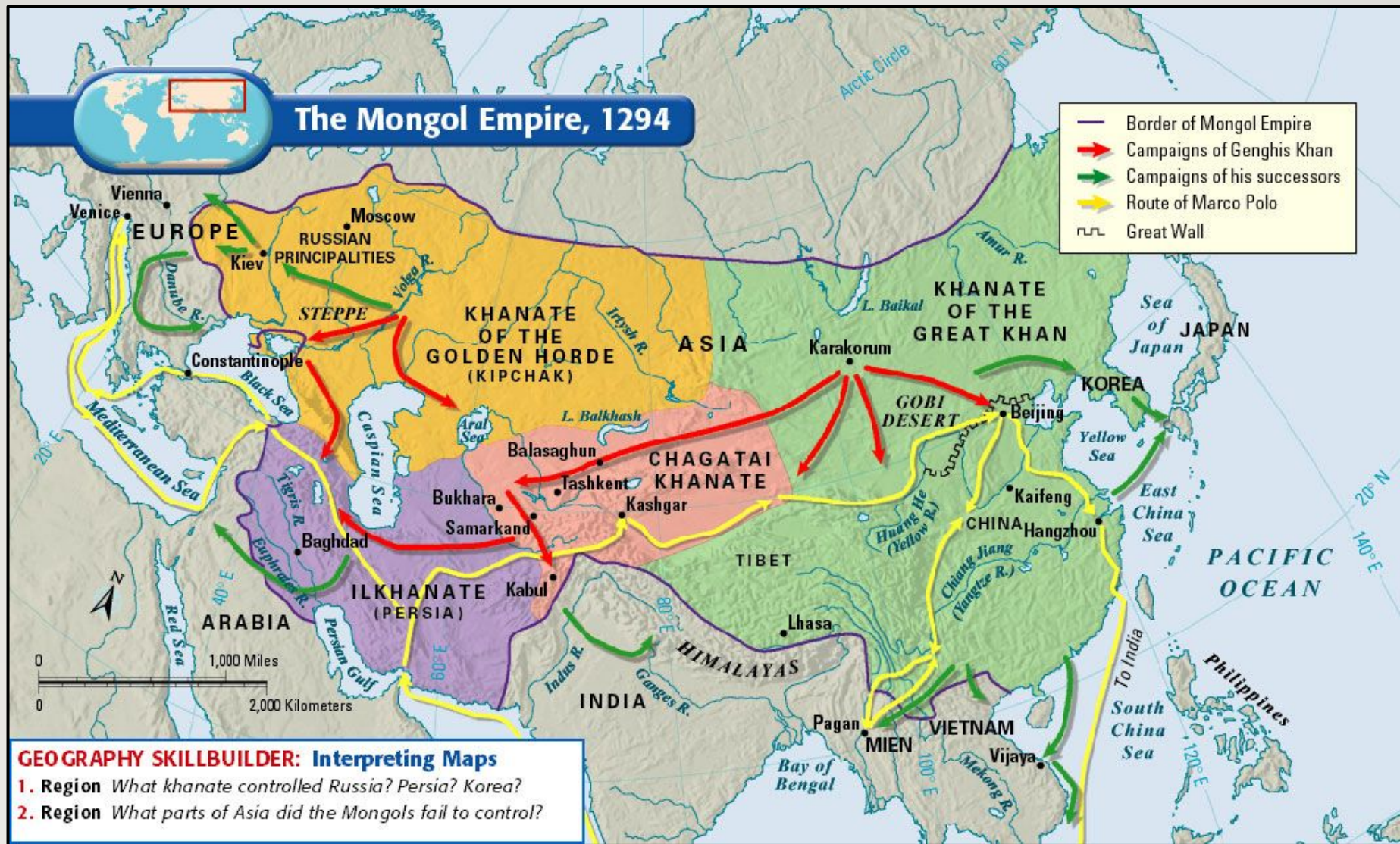


Mongol Strategy

- Required military service
 - Military officials were chosen based on **skill and loyalty**
- Eliminated loyalty to individual tribes
- Strong horse riding skills
 - Could travel long distances
 - Outmaneuver enemies

Mongol Conquests

- By 1277, Genghis Khan's empire reached from the North China sea to modern-day Turkey
- Conquests were possible because of the skill and ferocity of the Mongols
- Once conquered, the **Pax Mongolica, or Mongolian Peace**, came about.
- GK's grandson, **Batu**, led the **Golden horde** into modern Russia and conquered the country
- Another grandson, **Hulegu**, marched with troops to Baghdad and the Abbasid territories. This conquered area became known as **Il-khanate**
- Another grandson, **Kublai Khan**, tried conquering China from 1235-1271, and eventually established the **Yuan Dynasty**



MONGOL EMPIRE



MONGOL POLITICS

Persia:

- ❖ Persians were allowed to serve in government positions
- ❖ Tolerated all religions

China:

- ❖ Anti-chinese policies put in place
 - Outlawed marriage between Chinese and Mongols
 - Attempted to rid their empire of Chinese influence
 - No Chinese could serve in government
 - Ended Confucian education system



MONGOLS and Trade

- Mongols needed to trade for military items
 - Offered protection along the trade routes (like the silk road)
- Merchants were **granted higher social status** in the Mongol empire than China and Persia
- Offered **tax exemption** to merchants and **low interest rate** to borrowers
- Created **merchant associations (ortogh)**
 - Shared risk in caravan adventures

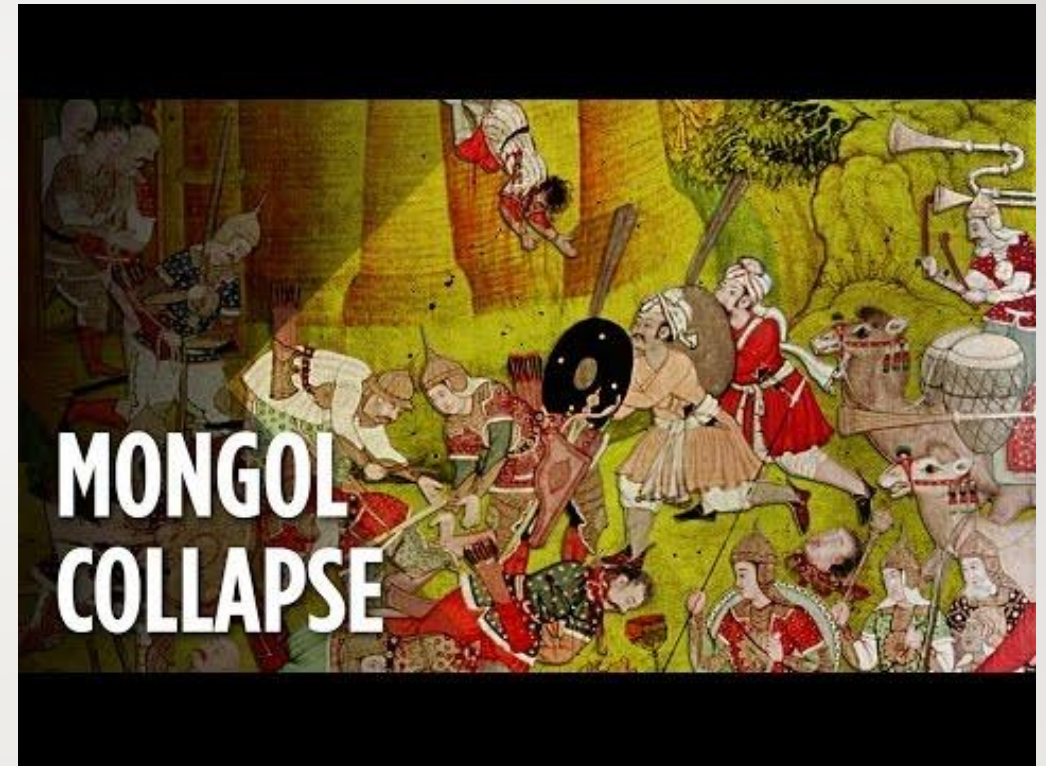
How did the Mongols maintain power in these areas?

- Mongols ruled successfully because of their understanding of centralized power, a capacity that would transfer in many cases to the occupied civilizations.
- They devised and used a single international law for all their conquered territories.
- Thus, after their rule ended, the countries and areas they left continued the process of centralizing power.

MONGOL Decline

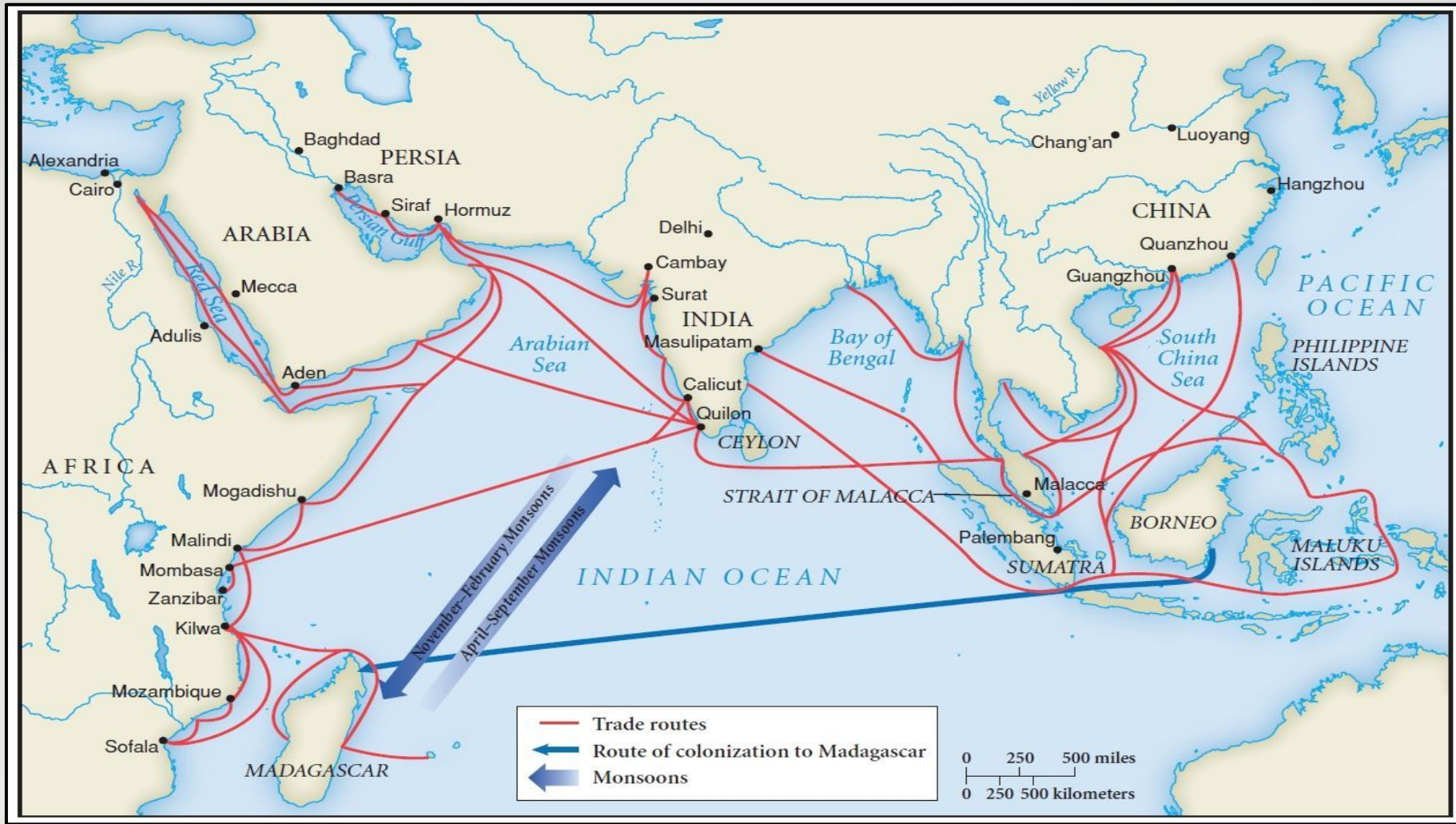
➤ Government

- Excessive spending
 - Paper money
 - Seen as worthless
 - Merchants stopped business
- Mongol ruler died without an heir



Topic 2.3

Exchange in the Indian Ocean

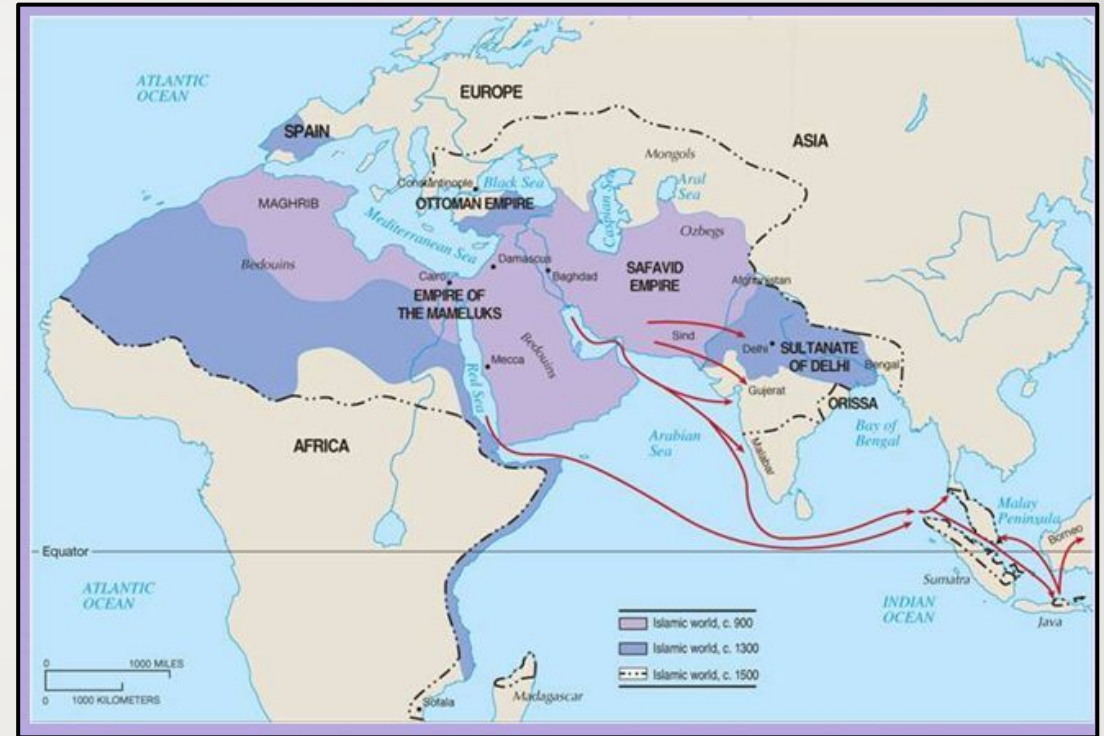


Growth of trade

Reasons for growth:

→ Islam

- ◆ Islam spread throughout the Indian ocean area
- ◆ Tied cities together
- ◆ Rise of Islamic Caliphates= support for trade



Growth of trade

Reasons for growth:

- Demand increased
- Specialized products by area

India:

- Cotton fabrics
- Carpets
- Steel
- Pepper

China:

- Silks
- Ceramics

Swahili city states

- Ivory
- Slaves
- Gold

Indonesia/Malaysia

- Spices
 - Nutmeg
 - Cinnamon
 - Cloves

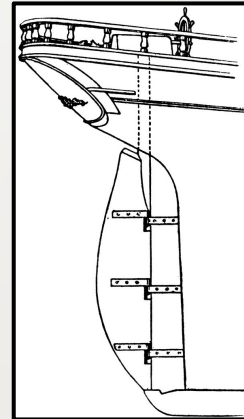
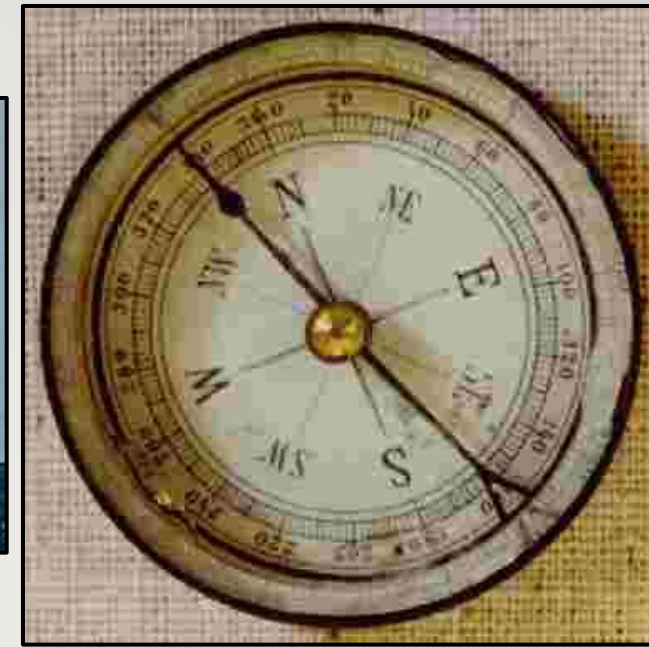
SW Asia

- Horses
- Figs
- Dates

Growth of trade

Reasons for growth:

- State support
 - ◆ States in China, India, East Africa, and the Middle East supported trade
- Knowledge
 - ◆ Monsoon winds
 - ◆ New maritime advances
 - Stern rudder, lateen sails, compass, astrolabe



Effects of trade

Diasporic Community:

- Interaction between merchants
- Marriage between merchants and locals

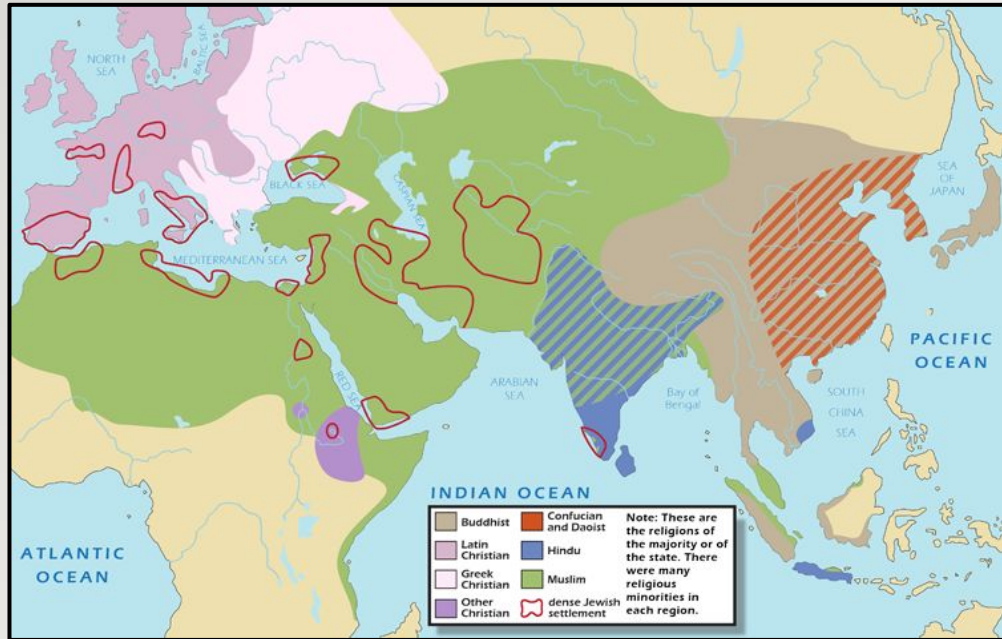
Diasporic: Group migration; a group that has moved out of homeland

Merchant Community	Regions	Products
Muslim	China, Indian Ocean Basin, Europe	Silk, paper, porcelain, spices, gems, woods, gold salt, amber, furs
Chinese	Southeast Asia, Africa	Cotton, tea, silk, metals, opium, salt
Sogdian (in Samarkand)	Main caravan merchants along silk road (China)	Silk, gold, wine, linens
Jewish	China, India, and Europe	Glass beads, linens, dyes, spices
Malay	Sri Lanka	Nutmeg, pepper, cloves

Effects of trade

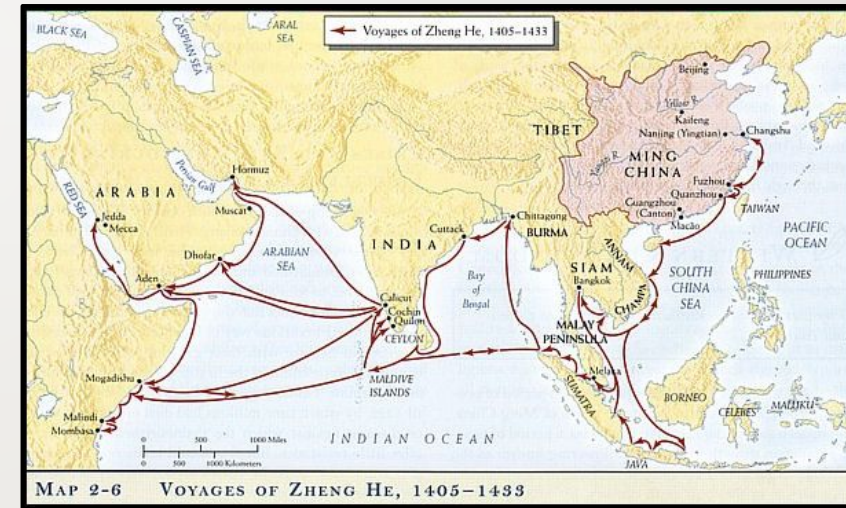
Cultural transfers:

- ★ Spread of religion



Zheng He

- ★ Chinese explorer
- ★ Brought back goods to China
 - Animals from Africa
- ★ Show off Ming wealth



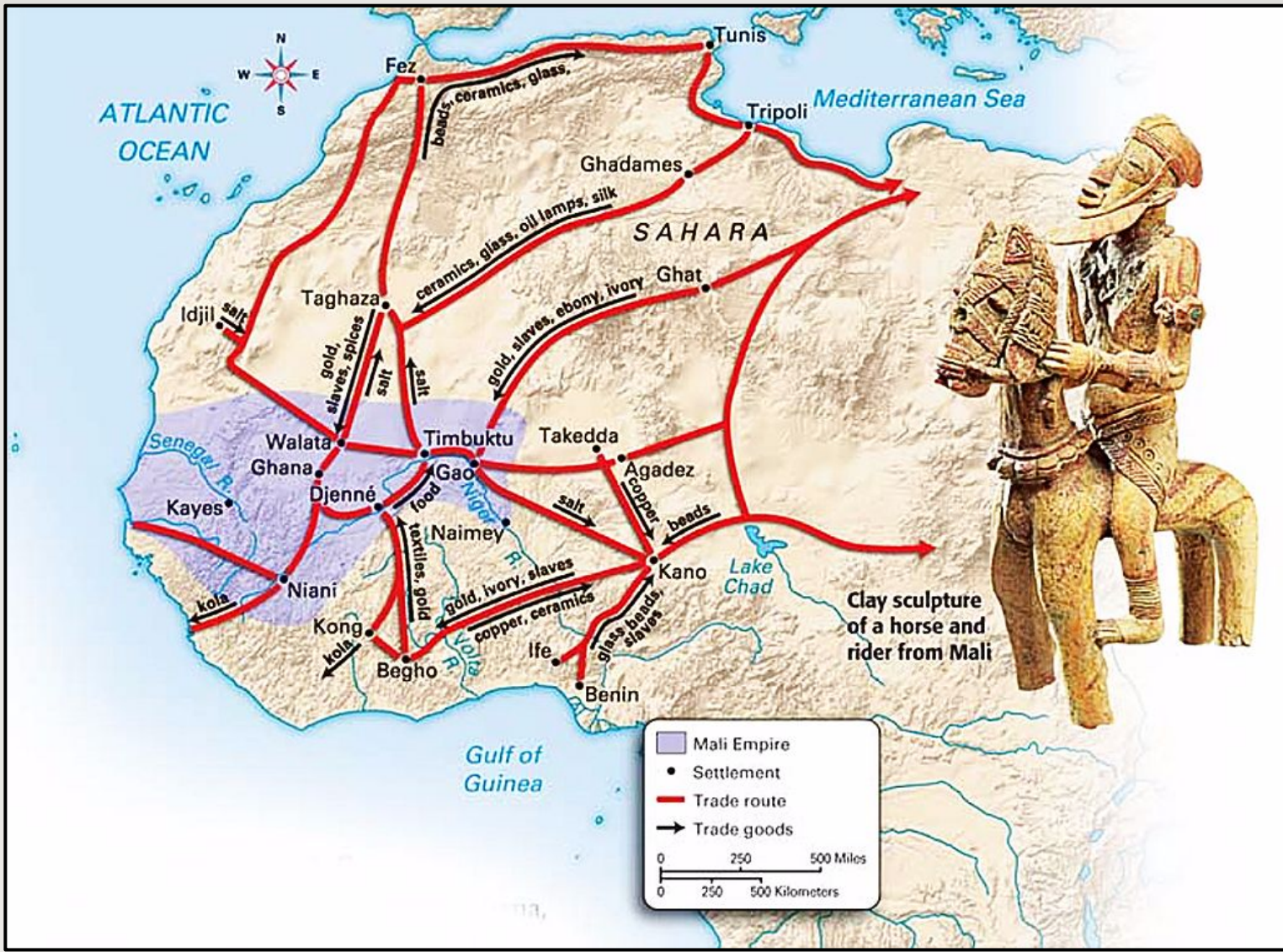
Effects of trade

Rise of states:

- State stepped in to meet rising demand
 - Increased taxes
- Growth of Swahili city states
- Wealth of states increased

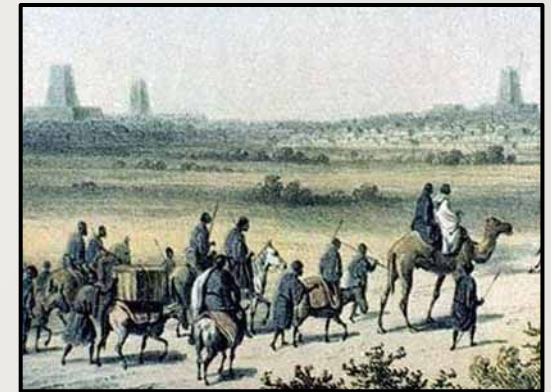


Sub-Saharan Trade Routes



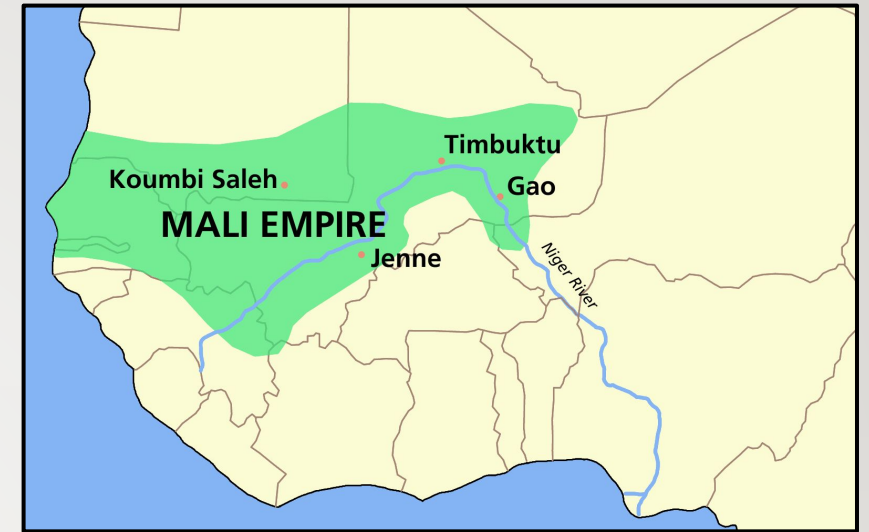
Growth of trade

- ❖ Growth of States
 - Promoted trade
- ❖ Camels-adapt to climate
 - Camel saddles
- ❖ Caravans
- ❖ Expansion of Muslim rule connected trade routes
- ❖ Increase in travelers
 - Spread knowledge



Effects of trade

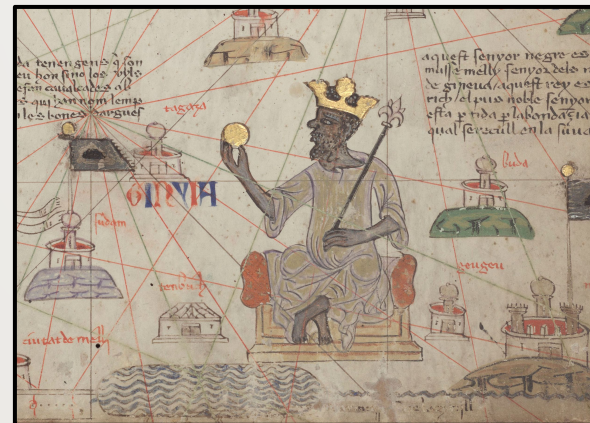
- ❖ Mali
 - Took over after fall of Ghana
 - Growth of Islam
 - Cities became centers for learning
- ❖ Universal currency in states
- ❖ Spread of luxury items
- ❖ Spread of states helped to maintain control of trade routes.



Effects of trade

Mansa Musa

- Grand-nephew of Sundiata (founder of Mali)
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - Displayed Mali's wealth
 - Spread Islam



Increased connectivity




- Travelers like Mansa Musa spread culture, ideas, etc.
- Trade linked Afro-Eurasia
- Spread of luxury items, religions, and knowledge

2.3 Big takeaways

- Causes of Expanded Indian Ocean Trade:
 - Spread of Islam
 - Increase in Demand for new/specialized products
 - Slave trade in the Indian Ocean
 - Environmental knowledge
 - Advances in maritime technology
 - Growth of states
- Effects of expanded IOT
 - Diasporic communities
 - Response to increased demand
 - Swahili city states (East coast of Africa)
 - Significant cultural transfers

2.4 Big Takeaways

- Camels, Saddles, and Trade
 - Camel Saddle
- Gold most precious commodity traded
- West african Empire expansion
 - Mali
 - Timbuktu
- Expanding role of states
 - With growing trade and wealth, someone needed to administer and maintain it.



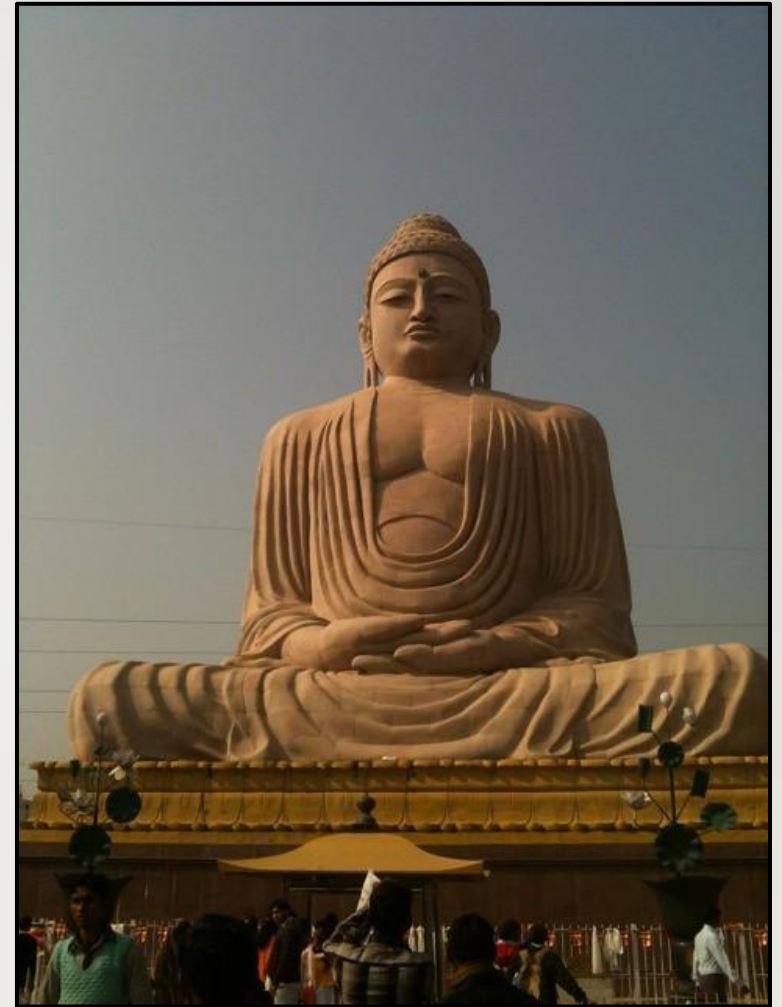
2.5 Cultural Consequences of Connectivity

Overall, what happened?

The diffusion of different religions between 1200-1450 had varying effects. In some cases, the arrival of a new religion served to unify people and provide justification for a kingdom's leadership. It often also influenced the literary and artistic culture of areas to which it spread, where themes, subjects, and styles were inspired by the spreading religion. In other places, it either fused or coexisted with the native religions. The interactions resulting from increased trade also led to technological innovations that helped shape the era.

Buddhism and East Asia

- Buddhism + Taoism = Chan (Zen) Buddhism
- Some leaders in China did not want China's native religions diminished
- Chan Buddhism gained popularity among ordinary citizens
- Japan and Korea also adopted Buddhism and Confucianism
- Neo-Confucianism emerged, which fused rational thought with the abstract ideas of Daoism and Buddhism



Spread of Hinduism and Buddhism

- Originated in South Asia (India) and spread to Southeast Asia mainly through trade
- Khmer Empire (Angkor Kingdom), in modern Cambodia, was the most successful kingdom of Southeast Asia. Their monuments have evidence of both Hinduism and Buddhism



Cultural Influences of Islam



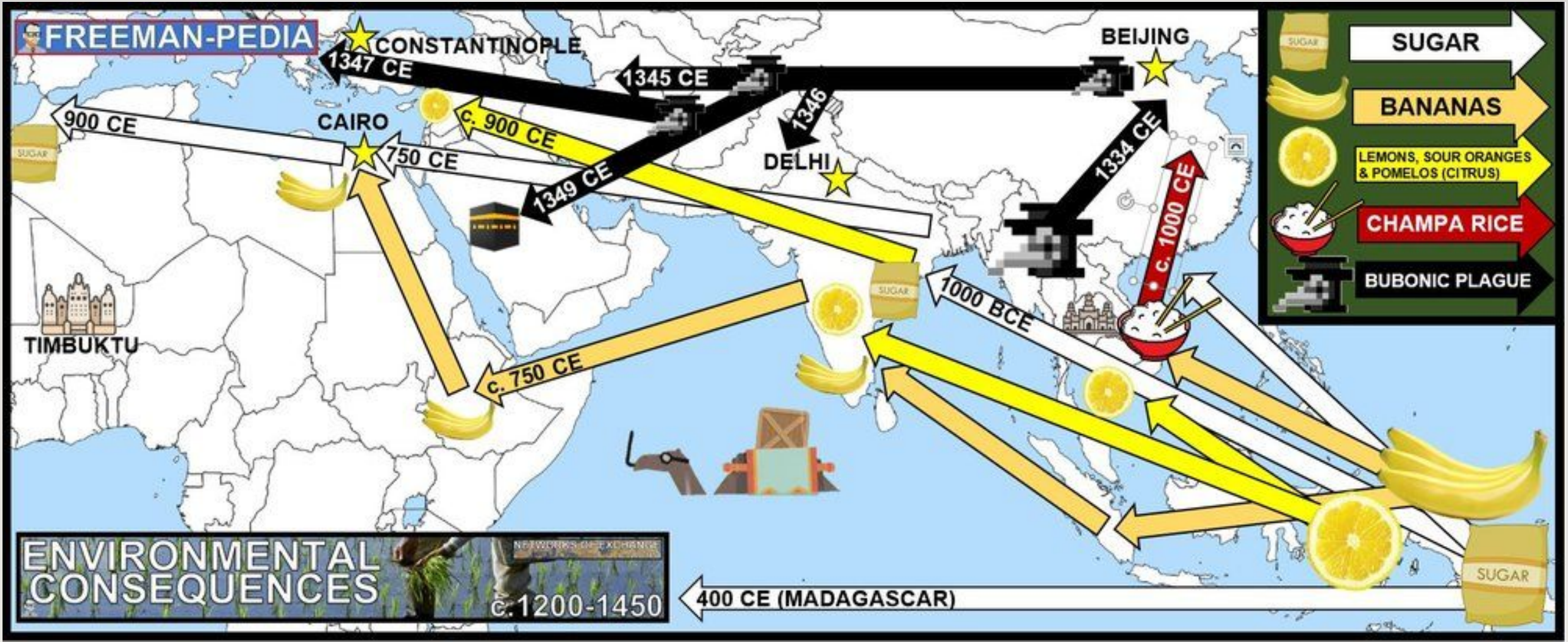
Science/Tech Innovations

- Seafaring technology (lateen sails, stern rudder, astrolabe, compass)
- Agricultural improvements (champa rice)
- Trade supported urbanization (Hangzhou in China)
- Growth of cities (Samarkand and Kashgar)
- Decline of cities too (Constantinople)



2.6

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF EXCHANGE NETWORKS



SUGAR

BANANAS

LEMONS, SOUR ORANGES & POMELOS (CITRUS)

CHAMPA RICE

BUBONIC PLAGUE

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

NEWSWEEKS GIVE KORNICKE

c. 1200-1450

Great Zimbabwe

Reasons for decline:

“One is environmental: that a combination of **overgrazing** and drought caused the soil on the Zimbabwe Plateau to become exhausted. It is estimated that between 5,000 to 30,000 people lived on and around the site. A decline in land productivity would easily have led to famine.”

Overgrazing refers to what happens when livestock feeds on pasture to the point where there is

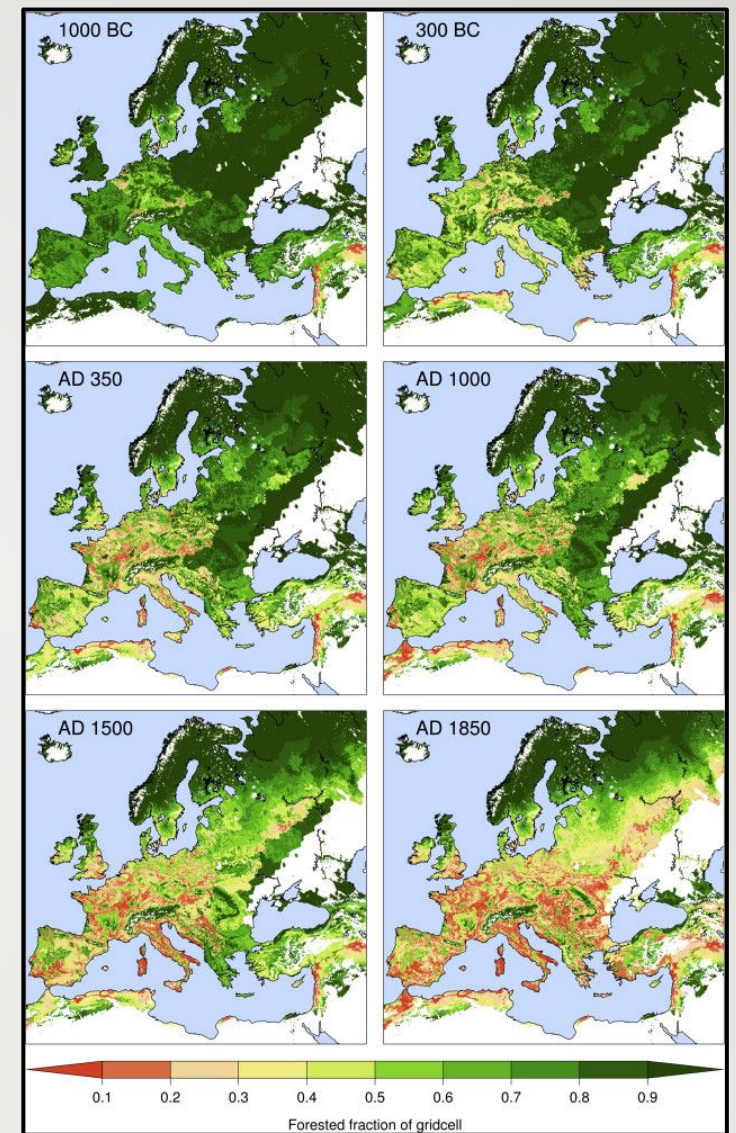


Europe

Deforestation: “permanent destruction of forests in order to make the land available for other uses” like farming or development of cities

Soil erosion: erosion or wearing away of the top soil or top layer of soil

- Occurs naturally
- Is accelerated by deforestation and farming
- Decreased the nutrients in the soil; less productive farming



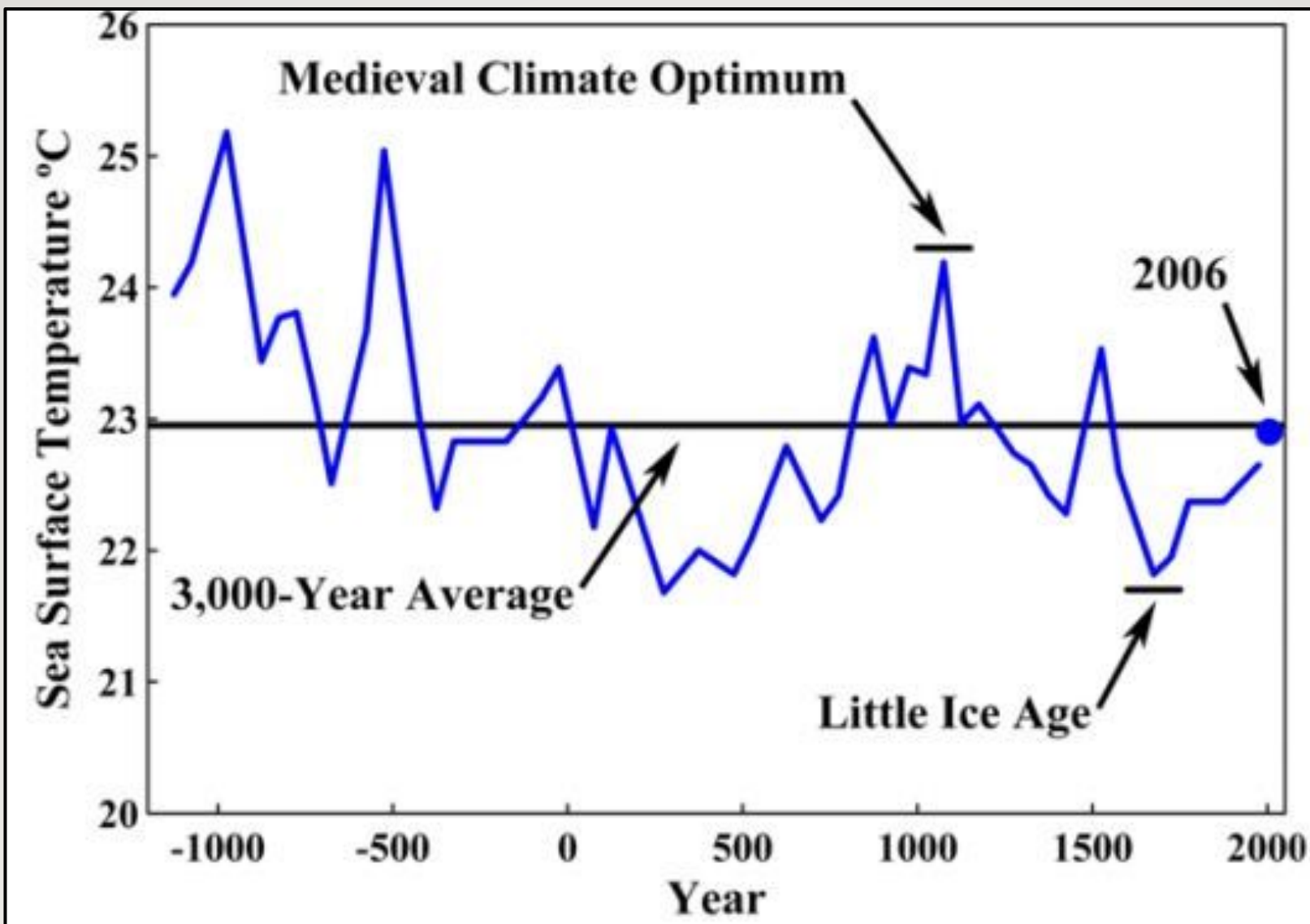
Little Ice Age

“The Little Ice Age was a period of regionally cold conditions between roughly 1300 and 1850.

The Baltic Sea froze over, as did many of the rivers and lakes in Europe.

Pack ice expanded far south into the Atlantic making shipping to Iceland and Greenland impossible for months on end. Winters were bitterly cold and summers were often cool and wet. These conditions led to widespread crop failure, famine, and population decline. The tree line and snowline dropped and glaciers advanced, overrunning towns and farms in the process. There were increased levels of social unrest as large portions of the population were reduced to starvation and poverty.”

<https://www.eh-resources.org/little-ice-age/>



THE BUBONIC PLAGUE

