Michigan World History & Geography
Era 4: 300-1500 CE

4.1 Cross-Temporal or Global Expectations
4.1.3 Trade Networks and Contacts - Analyze the development ... of interregional trading systems both within and between societies.

4.2 Interregional or Comparative Expectations
4.2.2 Unification under the Mongols: Describe the geographic patterns of Mongol conquest ... and describe the characteristics of the Pax Mongolica.
4.2.3 The Plague: Explain the causes and spread of the Plague and analyze the consequences of this pandemic.

4.3 Regional Expectations
4.3.1 Africa to 1500: analyzing the African trading networks by examining trans-Saharan trade.. And connect these to interregional patterns of trade.
4.3.3 China to 1500: Explain how Chinese dynasties responded to the ... challenges caused by ... Mongol invasion.
4.3.5 Western Europe to 1500: Explain how agricultural innovation and increasing trade led to ... cities; explain the the role of the Bubonic Plague
### Michigan World History & Geography
#### Era 5: 15th to 18th Centuries

<table>
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<tr>
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The Afroeurasian Web
World history does have a primal spatial category.

Or specifically, the earth’s outer surface, or biosphere, which humans inhabit.
For the period from about 10,000 B.C.E. to 1500 C.E., we can identify three primal spaces within which humans interacted.
The Afroeurasian Web

Conventional continental divisions
The “internal seas” of Afroeurasia

- Baltic Sea
- Black Sea
- Caspian Sea
- Mediterranean Sea
- North Sea
- Persian Gulf
- Red Sea

Which is which?
The Afroeurasian Web of Communication
about 1450
Heavy-volume routes only
Characteristics of the Afroeurasian Web

- Technology of communication and transport was slow compared to today.
  - pack animals
  - horse and rider
    - Relay messengers could travel about 200 miles a day
  - wagons
    - not more than about 25 miles a day
  - human portage
  - ships and boats (wind or oar power)
Characteristics of the Afroeurasian Web

• These items moved along transport routes:
  – luxury goods (silk, spices, porcelain, gems)
  – bulk goods (grain, fish, iron, timber)
  – plants and seeds
  – technologies
  – ideas
    • books
    • religious preaching
    • news, gossip, and rumors
  – Micro-organisms
Major long-distance communication routes about 1400 C.E.

Silk Roads: Overland routes east-west across Eurasia
Chinggis Khan (Genghis Khan)
Eurasian empire builder
Ruled 1206-1227
The Mongol Invasions/Conquests in the 13th Century CE
Yuan Dynasty

Chagatay Khanate

Khanate of Kipchak (The Golden Horde)

Khanate of Persia and Iraq

1260 – late 14th century
Four Mongol Empires
Between about 750 and 1300 C. E., China’s numbers doubled to around 120 million.

120 million represented about a third of the world’s total population.

By comparison, Southwest Asia (including the Tigris-Euphrates valley) had only about 21 million in 1300.

Within China, north and south switched places as the center of demographic growth. In 750, about 60 per cent of the population lived in the north. By 1200, about 75 per cent lived in the Yangzi valley or further south.
The Pax Mongolica (Mongol Peace)
A period of intense interaction across Afroeurasia
1230-1350

• Mongols built the largest empire ever known to that time.
• Mongols were both destroyers and builders.
• Trade on the trans-Eurasian “silk roads” flourished.
  – Inventions introduced from China to Europe: the compass, the printing press, gunpowder
  – Roman Catholic Christianity introduced to China
  – Islam spread more widely in Asia
  – Silk Road travelers: Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta
Silk Road trade declined during the later 14th century because of what primarily?

The Black Death and recurring epidemics
Trans-Hemispheric Spread of the Black Death, 1330-1354
Major long-distance communication routes about 1400 C. E.
The Eleven Seas of Afroeurasia

1. English Channel
2. Overland Passage
3. Gibraltar
4. Overland Passage
5. Bab al-Mandeb
6. Malacca
7. Hormuz
8. 10.
9. 11.
10.
11.
Major long-distance communication routes about 1400 C. E.
Indian ocean vessels had triangular (fore-and-aft) sails for sailing close to the wind.
Characteristics of Indian Ocean Trade

• The monsoon wind cycle gave trade a certain regularity and predictability.
• Goods were “relayed” from one trading group to another, each one operating in one region (e.g. Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea)
• These traders were predominantly Muslims but of diverse ethnic origins.
• Trade relations were mostly peaceful.
Some Ports of the Indian Ocean about 1400 CE

- Hormuz
- Aden
- Cambay
- Chittagong
- Calicut
- Samudra
- Mogadishu
- Kilwa
Palace of the Swahili-speaking sultan (ruler) of Kilwa
Ruin of the Central Mosque in Kilwa

Tippu Tip, a famous 19th-century East African Merchant
The Voyages of Zheng He 1405-1433

• China the largest economy in the world in 1400.
• The Yongle emperor (1401-24) wanted to create new relations of tribute with overseas lands.
• Admiral Zheng He was a Muslim and a eunuch.
• Fleet of 297 ships: 62 enormous “treasure ships” and 225 smaller ones.
• Total crew of 28,000.
• Seven major voyages.
• Ship captains had compasses, star charts, and coastline maps.
China was the largest economy in the world in the 15th century.

China was still the greatest economic power on earth [in the 15th century]. It had a population probably in excess of 100 million, a prodigiously productive agricultural sector, a vast and sophisticated trading network, and handicraft industries superior in just about every way to anything known in other parts of Europe.


Of the peoples outside of the Caucasian race that have made some figure of civilization, the Chinese, Mexicans, and Peruvians stand alone. But though these races rose considerably above the savage state, their civilization was stationary, and they had no marked influence on the general current of the world’s progress.

*William Swinton, 1874*
### Population 2006 (thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population 2006 (thousands)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,311,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,109,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>298,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>223,042</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>188,694</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>144,345</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>142,368</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>127,565</td>
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### Total Gross Domestic Product 2006 (millions of $US)

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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>13,201,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>4,340,133</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>2,906,681</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>2,668,071</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>2,345,015</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,230,721</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1,844,749</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,251,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1,223,988</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,067,962</td>
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Representations of Zheng He
Multiple masts
Full keel
Stern-post rudder
Hull divided into water-tight compartments
Chinese “treasure ship” compared to vessel of Vasco da Gama
The Voyages of Zheng He 1405-1433

• Voyages ended when Chinese policy changed.
  – Chinese officials wished to blunt the influence of eunuchs on the imperial government.
  – Government thought money better spent protecting western land frontiers from Mongols.
  – Deforestation hiked the costs of building large vessels.

• Chinese ships continued to trade in East and South China Seas.

• But when Portuguese arrived in the western Indian Ocean in 1499, the Chinese navy was not there to fight or compete with them.
Major long-distance communication routes about 1400 C. E.
What factors motivated trade across the Sahara Desert?
What factors motivated trade across the Sahara Desert?

- Gold Fields
- Slaves
- Other Northbound Products:
  - Ivory
  - Grain
  - Ostrich Feathers
  - Animal Hides
What factors motivated trade across the Sahara Desert?

Salt Mines

Other Southbound Products:
- Copper
- Horses
- Ironware
- Textiles
- Jewelry
- Books
A major trade route leading from Morocco to the caravan center of Sijilmasa on the northern edge of the Sahara Desert
A modern market town near the site of the ruins of Sijilmasa (Southern Morocco)
A market scene on the Niger River near Timbuktu at the southern end of a main trans-Saharan trade route.
Was the voyage of Columbus to America merely an extension of the Afroeurasian web?
Europe was growing in population and economy in the later 15th century. Therefore, affluent Europeans wanted greater access to luxury products.
The Portuguese crossed the Sahara by sea, as it were.
Route of the first voyage of Christopher Columbus (1492-93)
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