

# 1.7 ap world history

**1.7 ap world history** focuses on a crucial period of global transformation during the early modern era, roughly between 1450 and 1750. This era witnessed the expansion of empires, the intensification of global trade networks, and significant cultural and technological exchanges across continents. Understanding 1.7 ap world history entails analyzing the rise and impact of maritime empires, the role of the Columbian Exchange, and the development of global economic systems such as mercantilism. Additionally, this period highlights the consequences of European colonization on indigenous populations and the growth of the Atlantic slave trade. This article will explore these key themes in detail, offering a comprehensive overview that supports mastery of the AP World History curriculum topic 1.7. The following sections will delve into the expansion of empires, global trade networks, cultural interactions, and economic transformations during this pivotal era.

- Expansion of Maritime Empires
- Global Trade Networks and Economic Systems
- Cultural Exchanges and the Columbian Exchange
- Impact on Indigenous Populations and the Atlantic Slave Trade

## Expansion of Maritime Empires

The period covered by 1.7 ap world history is marked by the significant growth of maritime empires, primarily driven by European powers seeking new trade routes and territorial acquisitions. The Portuguese and Spanish were pioneers in oceanic exploration, establishing overseas colonies and trading posts that reshaped global geopolitics. Following their lead, other European nations such as the Dutch, British, and French expanded their presence across the Americas, Africa, and Asia. These empires relied on naval technology advancements, including the caravel ship and improved navigation instruments, to facilitate long-distance voyages and assert control over vast territories.

## Portuguese and Spanish Empires

The Portuguese established a maritime empire centered on controlling key ports along the African coast, India, and Southeast Asia. Their strategic outposts enabled dominance over the Indian Ocean trade. Spain, on the other hand, focused on the Americas after Columbus's voyages, creating vast colonial holdings in the Caribbean, Central, and South America. The Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 divided newly discovered lands between Spain and Portugal, formalizing their spheres of influence. Both empires implemented *encomienda* and other colonial systems to exploit native labor and resources.

## **Emergence of Dutch, British, and French Empires**

By the 17th century, the Dutch, British, and French challenged Iberian dominance, establishing their own colonies and trading companies. The Dutch East India Company became a major force in Asian trade, while the British and French expanded in North America and the Caribbean. These powers competed for control of lucrative commodities such as sugar, tobacco, and spices, leading to military conflicts and shifting alliances. Their maritime empires contributed significantly to the globalization process during this period.

## **Global Trade Networks and Economic Systems**

1.7 ap world history highlights the development of complex global trade networks linking Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The integration of these regions facilitated the exchange of goods, people, and ideas on an unprecedented scale. Economic systems such as mercantilism emerged, emphasizing state control over trade and accumulation of wealth through a favorable balance of exports over imports. Joint-stock companies played a vital role in financing ventures and managing colonial enterprises, laying the groundwork for modern capitalism.

## **The Triangular Trade and Atlantic Economy**

The Triangular Trade connected Europe, Africa, and the Americas in a system that exchanged manufactured goods, enslaved Africans, and raw materials. European goods were shipped to Africa, enslaved people were transported to the Americas, and colonial products like sugar and tobacco were sent back to Europe. This trade network underpinned the Atlantic economy and contributed to profound demographic and social changes across continents.

## **Mercantilism and Joint-Stock Companies**

Mercantilist policies aimed to maximize national wealth by controlling colonies and restricting foreign competition. Governments granted charters to joint-stock companies such as the British East India Company and the Dutch East India Company. These enterprises pooled resources from investors to fund large-scale trade and colonization projects, facilitating economic expansion and increasing European influence worldwide.

## **Cultural Exchanges and the Columbian Exchange**

The era defined by 1.7 ap world history also witnessed extensive cultural interactions resulting from increased global contact. The Columbian Exchange refers to the widespread transfer of plants, animals, diseases, and technologies between the Old and New Worlds following Columbus's voyages. This bi-directional flow reshaped societies and environments on multiple continents and had lasting consequences.

## **Biological and Agricultural Exchanges**

The introduction of crops such as potatoes, maize, and tomatoes from the Americas revolutionized diets in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Conversely, Old World animals like horses, cattle, and pigs transformed indigenous ways of life in the Americas. However, the exchange also brought devastating epidemics, including smallpox, that decimated native populations unfamiliar with these diseases.

## **Religious and Cultural Diffusions**

European colonizers spread Christianity through missionary efforts, often forcibly converting indigenous peoples. Meanwhile, African cultural influences permeated the Americas through enslaved populations, contributing to new cultural syncretism in music, religion, and language. These cultural exchanges were complex and multifaceted, shaping the identities of emerging colonial societies.

## **Impact on Indigenous Populations and the Atlantic Slave Trade**

The expansion of empires and global trade networks profoundly affected indigenous populations and fueled the growth of the Atlantic slave trade. The demographic collapse of Native Americans due to disease and conquest facilitated European colonization but also caused immense human suffering. The demand for labor in colonial plantations led to the forced migration of millions of Africans, reshaping demographic patterns and social structures.

## **Demographic and Social Consequences**

Native populations in the Americas declined dramatically due to disease, warfare, and exploitation. Survivors faced displacement, cultural disruption, and the imposition of European political systems. The introduction of African slaves became central to plantation economies in the Caribbean and the Americas, creating a racialized system of labor and social hierarchy that persisted for centuries.

## **The Transatlantic Slave Trade**

The transatlantic slave trade was a brutal enterprise that forcibly transported approximately 12 million Africans to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries. Enslaved individuals endured horrific conditions during the Middle Passage and were subjected to lifelong bondage. This trade had profound economic, social, and cultural impacts on Africa, the Americas, and Europe, influencing demographic trends and intercultural interactions.

- Expansion of maritime empires facilitated by technological advances

- Creation and dominance of global trade networks under mercantilism
- Biological and cultural exchanges transforming societies worldwide
- Devastating effects on indigenous populations and growth of the Atlantic slave trade

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What time period does AP World History Unit 1.7 cover?**

Unit 1.7 typically covers the period from 1200 to 1450 CE, focusing on the development and interaction of civilizations during the late postclassical era.

### **What are the major empires studied in AP World History Unit 1.7?**

Major empires in Unit 1.7 include the Mongol Empire, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mali Empire, the Byzantine Empire, and the Tang and Song Dynasties.

### **How did the Mongol Empire impact world history during the 1200-1450 period?**

The Mongol Empire facilitated trade and cultural exchange across Eurasia through the Pax Mongolica, connecting East and West and promoting the spread of technologies, ideas, and goods.

### **What role did trade networks play in this period (1200-1450)?**

Trade networks like the Silk Roads, Indian Ocean trade routes, and Trans-Saharan caravans expanded significantly, promoting economic growth, cultural diffusion, and the spread of religions.

### **How did the Delhi Sultanate influence Indian society and culture?**

The Delhi Sultanate introduced Islamic rule in northern India, leading to cultural syncretism, architectural developments, and the spread of Islam, while also impacting local political structures.

### **What technological or cultural developments occurred**

## **during 1200-1450 that are significant in AP World History?**

Important developments include advancements in maritime technology like the compass and lateen sail, the spread of gunpowder, and cultural achievements in literature, art, and architecture across various regions.

## **How did the spread of Islam influence societies during the 1200-1450 period?**

Islamic expansion during this period influenced trade, education, and governance, as well as facilitated cultural and scientific exchanges across North Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and parts of Southeast Asia.

## **What was the significance of the Trans-Saharan trade routes in Unit 1.7?**

The Trans-Saharan trade routes connected West Africa with North Africa and the Mediterranean, enabling the exchange of gold, salt, and slaves, and contributing to the rise of powerful West African empires like Mali.

## **How did the Byzantine Empire change during the 1200-1450 period?**

During this period, the Byzantine Empire experienced decline due to invasions like the Fourth Crusade but maintained cultural and religious influence, particularly through Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

## **What role did the Indian Ocean trade network play in connecting different regions between 1200 and 1450?**

The Indian Ocean trade network connected East Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, and religions, and promoting the rise of coastal trading cities and states.

## **Additional Resources**

### *1. Traditions and Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*

This comprehensive textbook offers an in-depth look at world history from ancient times through the modern era. It emphasizes cross-cultural interactions and the interconnectedness of civilizations, making it ideal for AP World History students. The book covers political, social, and economic developments with engaging narratives and primary sources.

### *2. Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources*

Written with AP World History in mind, this book provides a thematic approach to global

history. It integrates primary source documents alongside analytical essays to help students develop critical thinking skills. The text highlights patterns of change and continuity over time across different regions.

### 3. *World Civilizations: The Global Experience*

This text explores the major civilizations of the world, focusing on cultural, political, and technological developments. It balances narrative history with visual aids such as maps and timelines to enhance understanding. The book is well-suited for AP World History students who want comprehensive coverage of global themes.

### 4. *The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History*

This book offers a broad overview of world history with an emphasis on environmental and human interactions. It discusses how geography and environment influenced historical developments and societies. The narrative is accessible and enriched with images, making complex topics easier to grasp.

### 5. *AP World History: Modern Crash Course*

Designed specifically for AP exam preparation, this concise guide summarizes key concepts and events from 1200 CE to the present. It includes review questions, practice tests, and strategies tailored to the AP World History exam format. This book is a practical tool for students aiming to boost their exam performance.

### 6. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*

Jared Diamond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book explores the environmental and geographical factors that shaped the development of civilizations. It provides a deep analysis of why some societies advanced faster than others, linking to themes in AP World History about technology and conquest. The book is both thought-provoking and accessible.

### 7. *A People's History of the World*

This book offers a bottom-up perspective on world history, focusing on the experiences of ordinary people rather than elites. It covers a wide range of cultures and time periods, highlighting social and economic themes relevant to AP World History. The narrative challenges traditional historical viewpoints and encourages critical thinking.

### 8. *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*

This book provides a detailed history of the Silk Road and the empires that controlled Central Eurasia. It sheds light on cultural exchanges, trade networks, and the spread of ideas and technologies—key topics in AP World History. The text connects local histories to global patterns, enriching students' understanding of Afro-Eurasian interactions.

### 9. *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*

Alfred W. Crosby's classic work examines the profound impacts of the Columbian Exchange following European contact with the Americas. It explores the transfer of plants, animals, diseases, and cultures between the Old and New Worlds. This book provides essential context for AP World History topics on global interactions and consequences of exploration.

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