



Networks of Exchange

Unit 2

c. 1200 C.E. - c. 1450 C.E.



The Silk Roads

- Trading cities like Kashgar and Samarkand
- Bills of exchange, banking houses, use of paper money
- Luxury goods like textiles and porcelain



The Mongol Empire and the Making of the Modern World

- Mongol khanates replace empires
- Pax Mongolica facilitates trade in the region
- Encouraged technological and cultural transfers



Exchange in the Indian Ocean

- City states of the Swahili coast, Gujarat, Malacca
- Compass, astrolabe, new ship designs
- Diasporic communities
- Technological and cultural transfers



Trans-Saharan Trade Routes

- Camel saddle and caravans aid trade
- Expansion of empires in West Africa, like Mali
- Salt and gold



Cultural Consequences of Connectivity

- Diffusion of culture - Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam
- Technology - gunpowder and paper from China
- Travelers - Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Margery Kempe



Environmental Consequences of Connectivity

- Diffusion of crops - bananas, rice, citrus
- Diffusion of pathogens - bubonic plague