Key Concept 2.3

With the organization of large-scale empires, transregional trade intensified, leading to the creation of extensive networks of commercial and cultural exchange.

I. Land and water routes became the basis for interregional trade, communication, and exchange networks in the Eastern Hemisphere.

A. Many factors, including the climate and location of the routes, the typical trade goods, and the ethnicity of people involved, shaped the distinctive features of a variety of trade routes, including...

You need to know the location and major trade goods of the classical trade routes.

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### Required Examples of Major Classical Trade Routes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>What traded?</th>
<th>Who participated?</th>
<th>Cultural diffusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silk Road</td>
<td>Overland from western China to the Mediterranean; Trade made possible by development of a camel hybrid capable of long dry trips</td>
<td>From west to east - horses, alfalfa, grapes, melons, walnuts</td>
<td>Chinese, Indians, Parthians, central Asians, Romans</td>
<td>Chariot warfare, the stirrup, music, diversity of populations, Buddhism and Christianity, wealth and prosperity (particularly important for central Asian nomads)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>From east to west - silk, peaches, apricots, spices, pottery, paper</td>
<td>Primary agents of trade - central Asian nomads</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Ocean</td>
<td>By water from Canton in China to Southeast Asia to India to eastern Africa and the Middle East; monsoon-controlled</td>
<td>Pigments, pearls, spices, bananas and other tropical fruits</td>
<td>Chinese, Indians, Malays, Persians, Arabs, people on Africa's east coast</td>
<td>Lateen sail (flattened triangular shape) permitted sailing far from coast</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Created a trading class with mixture of cultures, ties to homeland broken</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saharan Trade</td>
<td>Points in western Africa south of the Sahara to the Mediterranean; Cairo most important destination</td>
<td>Salt from Sahara to points south and west</td>
<td>Western Africans, people of the Mediterranean</td>
<td>Technology of the camel saddle - important because it allowed domestication and use of the camel for trade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Camel caravans</td>
<td>Gold from western Africa</td>
<td>Bebers most important agents of trade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wheat and olives from Italy</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Roman manufactured goods to western Africa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Trade</td>
<td>Connected Africans south and east of the Sahara to one another; connected in the east to other trade routes</td>
<td>Agricultural products, iron weapons</td>
<td>Diverse peoples in sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>Bantu language, &quot;Africanity&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II. **New technologies facilitated long-distance communication and exchange.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. New technologies permitted the use of domesticated pack animals to transport goods across longer routes.</th>
<th>How did each of the following lead to increased use of domesticated animals?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yoke</td>
<td>Saddle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### B. Innovations in maritime technologies, as well as advanced knowledge of the monsoon winds, stimulated exchanges along maritime routes from East Africa to East Asia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did each of the following improve maritime trade?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lateen Sails</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Alongside the trade in goods, the exchange of people, technology, religious and cultural beliefs, food crops, domesticated animals, and disease pathogens developed across extensive networks of communication and exchange.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How did each of the following improve agriculture?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The <em>qanāt</em> system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. The spread of disease pathogens diminished urban populations and contributed to the decline of some empires, including the Roman and Han

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Spread of Epidemic Disease

➢ During the 2nd and 3rd centuries C.E. the Han and Roman empires suffered large-scale outbreaks of epidemic disease
  ➢ Hit China slightly later—similar impact
  ➢ Smallpox, measles and possibly bubonic plague
    ➢ Roman population went from about 60 million, during the reign of Augustus, to 45 million by the 2nd century
    ➢ 165-180 an outbreak of smallpox further reduced population to 40 million and killed Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius (180)

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C. Religious and cultural traditions—including Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism—were transformed as they spread partly as a result of syncretism.

Read and highlight the attached summaries - VERY IMPORTANT!!

Define SYNCRETISM

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REGIONAL & CULTURAL TRADITIONS TRANSFORMED AS THEY SPREAD.

**Christianity (Founder)**

**Buddhism (Founder)**
In the wake of the decline of the Classical Empires, both Buddhism & Christianity expanded rapidly. So, when you think of the end of the Classical era, match that with the rise of Buddhism & Christianity as major world religions. One reason for their growth was the onset of plague that devastated Classical populations. Political instability turned people inward in a search for spiritual solace. Hinduism also changed as it spread through the subcontinent of South Asia. **Syncretism** (the blending of the old beliefs with the new beliefs) was common as Christianity and Buddhism simply added local traditions to their dogma. Some common characteristics of Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism include:

- Emphasis on inner devotion/piety
- Stress on Spiritual concerns over Secular
- Better life in the Afterlife
- Response to political instability/poverty

**BUDDHISM**

Although it was founded in India (see the map →), Buddhism remained but a small minority in its homeland. The main way that Buddhism spread was through the work of **Monks** (known as Bhikkhu, literally “beggar”; a person devoted to living a simple life and attaining Nirvana). Buddhism was divided among a **small** number of devoted monks and a large number of those who continued about their daily lives while trying to meet their spiritual obligations.

A new idea that arose within Buddhism in this era was the doctrine of **Bodhisattvas**. These are people who reached nirvana but chose to stay in this world as a kind of Saint. These Bodhisattvas would then serve as an example to others and aid them in prayers.

Buddhism changed from its focus on ethics to a devotional, emotional cult stressing popular salvation. **Bodhisattvas** were crucial in guiding people towards this salvation.

The East Asian form of Buddhism that emerged was Mahayana Buddhism. Known as the “Greater Vehicle” because more people could reach salvation. Mahayana Buddhism would often see the Buddha as divine. This runs contrary to early Buddhist teachings. Theravada Buddhism required the follower to devote their life to Buddhist teachings (something fewer people were able/willing to do). Buddhism never dominated a society; rather, it co-existed alongside other dominant religions leaving its largest impact in Korea, Vietnam, and Japan. **Syncretism**: Buddhism should have changed Chinese Patriarchy (Buddhism teaches that women have souls!) They changed Buddhist phrases from “Husband supports wife” to “Husband controls wife”.

**PROLIFERATION OF BUDDHISM**
**Hinduism**
The Classical/Post-Classical era saw changes come to the ancient religion of Hinduism. The new devotional focus was led by Hymnodists. The Hymnodists composed music and taught in the local vernacular (the language spoken by the people).

Another change to Hinduism was the addition of personal, devotional gods or Bhakti. These had existed since the Upanishads (commentaries on the Vedas), but now took on a larger role. They were now highly charged with emotion with special focus on the relationship between the worshipper and the divinity.

The new Tamil “Saints” stressed this intense love for the Bhakti in poetry or hymns. These poems were often accompanied with song and dance. They often encouraged the virtues of love, humility, and brotherhood. This new intense focus on spiritualism further weakened Buddhism, already in decline in India. Occasionally, resulting in aggressive persecution of the Buddhist Minority.

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**Christianity**

While Buddhism spread east from its birthplace, Christianity spread west. Christianity (although much slower to spread/convert) would end up having the largest impact of any of the Classical religions. Christianity was the driving force in the development of both Post-classical Eastern Europe and Western Europe. Christianity and Buddhism did share some similarities (emphasis on Salvation and spiritual guidance of the Saints). However, there are far more differences.

Christianity put more of a focus on the hierarchy and organization of the church itself (basing this on the Roman Empire’s structure... Popes=Emperor, etc.) Missionary work played an even larger role in Christianity than it did in Buddhism. One key feature of Christianity, more than any other religion, was the exclusive nature of its beliefs and the intolerance of others beliefs (initially the Romans, later the Jews).

200 years before Jesus, several reactionary groups to the rigidities of Jewish priesthood arose. Many of these taught of the coming of a Messiah (Savior) who would bring about the Final Judgment. This movement culminated in Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus taught around Israel and gathered a small, loyal group of followers or Disciples. Once Jesus crucified, his followers expected his return, and with his return, the End of the World. When this did not happen, the disciples spread out across the Roman Empire.

Greek/Roman religion had grown stale, especially to the poor. Christianity’s emphasis a simple life and the spiritual equality of everyone (not to mention the rituals the early Christians developed, Communion, etc.) gained it attention all over the Empire. The Roman Empire’s reach allowed for easy travel across its great size for the missionaries. They even went beyond to Axum, Persia, and Ethiopia. As the Empire fell, people turned to this new religion for comfort/spiritual solace.

Paul of Tarsus (an early convert, but not an original Disciple), led this effort to spread the teachings of Jesus and helped solidify it into a true religion (rather than a Jewish reform movement). This included the establishment of a formal church organization, with a Bishop appointed for each region. The writings of early converts and other stories were collected into what would become the New Testament (in the early 4th century).

Early on, the Christians had to compete with other “Mystery religions”. After years of persecution (from a normally tolerant Imperial government), the Roman Emperor Constantine converted. This was the first huge convert (later followed by Clovis (France), Vladimir (Russia)).

Early Christian ideas to develop include the Trinity (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit), and the tying of Classical philosophy to Christian beliefs. Also, Monasticism developed under Benedict in Italy with peasants he converted from the worship of Apollo. Syncretism, Christmas–Roman Winter Solstice Holiday. Churches built using Roman architectural styles.
All of these new huge empires were interconnected...

**Eastern Hemisphere Trade Routes:**
- Eurasian
- Silk Road
- Trans-Saharan
- Indian Ocean
- Mediterranean

**New Technologies That Facilitated Long Distance Trade**
- **Yokes:** Wooden beam that allows work animals to pull together.
- **Saddles:** Supportive apparatus to support riders on horses, camels, etc.
- **Stirrups:** After the Yoke & Saddle, one of the most important advancements in warfare prior to gunpowder.
- **Lateen Sails:** Triangular sail dating back to the Roman Mediterranean and used heavily in the Indian Ocean trade.
- **Dhow Ships:** Ships with one or more Lateen sails primarily used in the Indian Ocean trade.

**Things Traded Alongside Goods:**
- **Rice:** The most important crop for human consumption today.
- **Cotton:** Accounts for 2.5% of Earth’s arable land today.
- **Qanat System:** Provides water in arid climates. Spread from Iran to North Africa and the rest of Asia where many people depend on the Qanat for water.

**Diseases:**
- **Plague of Galen:** Smallpox killed 5 million people (1/3 of the population) in Rome in 165 CE.
- **Plague of Justinian:** Bubonic Plague in 540 CE killed 80% of Constantinople & spread killing 23 million worldwide.
- **Plague of Cyprians:** Smallpox outbreak in 120 CE that lasted 30 years, killed the Emperor, and was blamed on the Christians.

**Religion Transformed**
- **Christianity:** Took on a structure like the Roman Empire and adding the "Trinity" of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **Buddhism:** Buddhism took on different characteristics wherever it spread (China, SE Asia, Japan).
- **Hinduism:** SE Asian societies made Hinduism fit their history/society.
## Change Analysis Chart (600 BCE – 600 CE)

### Period 2: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Characteristics at the Beginning of the Period</th>
<th>Key Continuities</th>
<th>Characteristics at the End of the Period</th>
<th>Analysis of Changes / Continuities (WHY did they happen?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Human-Environment Interaction</strong> (Demography, disease, migration, technology)</td>
<td>• world pop ~ 100 mill&lt;br&gt;• reliable food supply&lt;br&gt;• agricultural diversity&lt;br&gt;• writing systems&lt;br&gt;• early medicine</td>
<td>• dependence on geography for raw materials&lt;br&gt;• demand for raw materials &amp; luxury goods&lt;br&gt;• better medicine, architecture, metallurgy&lt;br&gt;• roads/transportation systems &amp; routes&lt;br&gt;• new technologies (weaving, metal, pottery)&lt;br&gt;• domesticated pack animals (camels, horses, oxen)&lt;br&gt;• longer migration &amp; trade routes</td>
<td>• world pop ~ 200 mill&lt;br&gt;• environmental damage, deforestation, desertification, erosion&lt;br&gt;• cities/capitals served as centers of religion, trade, &amp; political activity</td>
<td>• imperial gov'ts → environmental damage (Han, Rome, Maurya, Gupta)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture</strong> (Religions, philosophies, science, technology, art, architecture)</td>
<td>• Writing, record keeping, literature&lt;br&gt;• Religions: Vedic/Hinduism, Judaism, Zoroastrianism</td>
<td>• shamanism / animism&lt;br&gt;• ancestor veneration&lt;br&gt;• Hebrew scriptures, Diaspora&lt;br&gt;• Vedic relg / Hinduisms &amp; other scriptures&lt;br&gt;• New religions/faiths&lt;br&gt;• Literature &amp; architecture developed cultural styles</td>
<td>• Cities served as cultural centers as well as religious and political&lt;br&gt;• Each empire had its own religion(s) (e.g., Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Judaism)</td>
<td>• Cities provide the services of large populations&lt;br&gt;• Religion: Axial Age theory (major shift in thinking)&lt;br&gt;• Religion &amp; geography influenced arts &amp; literature&lt;br&gt;• political &amp; religious rulers often merged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politics</strong> (State-building, conflict, political structures, empires, revolutions)</td>
<td>• Empires &amp; Civs: Olmec, Egyptian, Zhou, Greece, Bantu, Maurya</td>
<td>• rulers often claimed divinity / support&lt;br&gt;• military threats from &quot;outsiders&quot;</td>
<td>• Empires: Large, regional in size (Byzantium, Gupta, Han, Maya, Persia, Rome, Toltec)&lt;br&gt;• established administrative bureaucracies</td>
<td>• empires grew beyond their ability to administer&lt;br&gt;• tech of the day limited imperial administration, communication, control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics</strong> (Agriculture, trade, commerce, labor systems, industrialization, capitalism, socialism)</td>
<td>• trade = regional/interregional&lt;br&gt;• specialized labor in urban areas&lt;br&gt;• slaves do least desirable work</td>
<td>• demand for raw materials &amp; luxury goods&lt;br&gt;• slavery (debt, political/religious opponents, war prisoners)&lt;br&gt;• trans-regional trade networks (Silk Roads, Trans-Sahara, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, American)</td>
<td>• wide range of work, corvée, slavery, rents, tributes, family-based&lt;br&gt;• trade networks made diffusion quicker, easier, cheaper</td>
<td>• Agriculture still the predominant occupation&lt;br&gt;• Most people had little access to distant/luxury goods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong> (Gender roles/relations, family, racial &amp; ethnic constructions, social and economic classes)</td>
<td>• social hierarchies, political &amp; religious elites&lt;br&gt;• patriarchy in politics &amp; religion</td>
<td>• patriarchy shaped gender &amp; family relations in all empires&lt;br&gt;• social tensions created by inequality of wealth, military defeats, economic decline</td>
<td>• social structures included farmers, unskilled laborers, slaves, artisans, merchants, elites &amp; caste groups, soldiers</td>
<td>• difficulties of administering large empires → social tensions&lt;br&gt;• inequality among social groups → envy, hostility</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>