**Post-Classical Era (Unit III) Concept Guide**

* 1. **Improved transportation technology and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly active trade networks.**
	2. Existing trade routes- including the silk roads, the Mediterranean Sea, the trans-Saharan, and the Indian Ocean basin- flourished and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities.
* List the 10 city/city-states, and explain how the 6 we talked about in class became powerful.
	1. How did communication and exchange networks develop in the Americas?
	2. The growth of interregional trade in luxury goods was encouraged by significant Innovations in previously existing transportation and commercial technologies.
* List and explain the navigational and domesticated animals that enhanced exploration and trade.
	1. Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices.
* How was the state involved in the Incan economic system, and infrastructure in China? Also, how did trade organizations develop?
	1. The expansion of empires facilitated afro- Eurasian trade and communication as new people were drawn into their conquerors’ economies and trade networks.
* List all the empires that expanded and facilitated trade, as well as their trade networks.
1. The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects.
	1. The expansion and intensification of long distance trade routes often depended on environmental knowledge and technological adaptations to it.
* How did Scandinavian Vikings, Arabs/Berbers, and Central Asian pastoralists adapt to navigation and trade in their respective environments?
	1. List all of the Post-Classical migrations, and their impact on culture and religion:
	2. Some migrations and commercial contacts led to the diffusion of languages throughout a new region or the emergence of new languages.
* List all of the Post-Classical migrations that spread or developed new languages:
1. Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing, or the creation of new, networks of trade and communication.
	1. How was Islam influenced by other religions? What were the various ways Islam spread throughout the Middle East, Africa, Persia, Central Asia, and the Indian Ocean?
	2. List the three major Diasporas of the Post-Classical Era, as well as their locations.
	3. As exchange networks intensified, an increased number of travelers within Afro-Eurasia wrote about their travels. Their writings illustrate both the extent and the limitations of intercultural knowledge and understanding.
* Provide the three major travelers, their religions, their writings, and their general attitude towards other cultures.
	1. Increased Cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions, as well as scientific and technological innovations.
* How did Greeks and Indians influence Islamic medicine and math, and what innovations did Islamic scholars make in those fields?
1. There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens, including epidemic diseases like the bubonic plague, throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes.
* How and where did plague spread, and what sort of agriculture was spread by migrations and trade routes in the Post-Classical Era?
	1. **1. Empires collapsed and we’re reconstituted; in some region new state forms emerged.**
	2. Following the collapses of empires, most reconstituted governments, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties (Sui, Tang, and Song), combined traditional sources of powerful and legitimacy with innovations better suited to their specific local context.
* What changes did the Tang and Song bring to government, and what were some common problems from past dynasties?
* How did the Byzantines run their civil law, and how did their unique form of Christianity develop?
	1. In some places, need forms of governance emerged.
* What new forms of government formed in the Islamic world, the Mongolian world, Europe, and Japan? Briefly explain each.
	1. Some states synthesized local with foreign traditions.
* How did Arabs synthesize with Persia government and tradition, and how did Japan synthesize with Chinese beliefs?
	1. In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems expanded in scope and reach; networks of city-state flourished in the Maya region and, at the end of this period, Imperial systems were created.
* What were the two imperial systems and centers of the Americas? How did each operate?
1. Interregional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers, including transfers between Tang China and the Abbasids, transfers across the Mongol empires, Transfer during the crusades, and transfers during Chinese maritime activity led by Admiral Zhang He.
* What were the major technologies and techniques spread West by the Chinese, Mongols, and caliphates?

**3.3 1. Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.**

* 1. Agricultural production increased significantly due to technological innovations.
* List and describe the agricultural innovations of the Post-Classical Era:
	1. Demand for foreign luxury goods increased in Afro-Eurasia as trade networks and empires flourished.
* What old civilizations controlled production of luxury goods (textiles and porcelain) in the Post-Classical Era, and who expanded mass production of iron and steel?
1. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline and periods of increased urbanization on buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.
	1. Multiple factors contributed to the decline of urban areas in this period,
* What cities declined, and what factors contributed to their decline?
	1. Multiple factors contributed to urban revival.
* What cities rose/flourished, and what factors contributed to their rise?
1. Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management and in the effect of religious conversion on gender relations and family life
	1. The diversification of labor organization that began with settled agriculture continued in this period.
* What were guilds?
* What was peasant agriculture?
* What examples of corvee labor and military obligations existed in the Post-Classical Era?
	1. As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted; however, in some areas, women exercised more power and influence.
* What areas and how did women gain some social freedom during the Post-Classical Era?
	1. New forms of coerced labor appeared.
* What examples of coerced labor existed in the Post-Classical Era?
* What were the consequences of rising labor taxes, plague, and famine in China and Europe? Provide at least one specific example.
	1. The diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Neoconfucianism often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structures.
* How did each religion contribute to gender relations and/or hierarchy?