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**Robert W. Strayer**

***Ways of the World: A Brief Global History***

***Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources***

Part Three: **An Age of Accelerating Connections, 500 – 1500** (Original: p. 208-215; With Sources: pp. 324-331)

Chapter 8, **Commerce and Culture, 500-1500**, Study Guide, (Original: p. 209-239; With Sources: pp. 324-355)

1. While culturally unique, features among each of the new “third-wave civilizations” point to what distinct patterns of development?

2. Why is Islam seen as the most influential of the new third-wave civilizations?

3. Why were political systems important for trade?

4. What did large-scale empires and long-distance trade facilitate?

5. What specifically did the following regions or peoples diffuse through trade?

* China:
* India:
* Arabs:
* The Americas/Mesoamerica:
* Eurasia and North Africa:

**The Silk Roads: Exchange across Eurasia**

6. The Silk Roads were land-based trade routes linking pastoral and agricultural peoples as well as large civilizations. How were goods transported along the Silk Roads to sustain the networks of exchange among its diverse people?

7. Why did Han China extend its authority westward?

8. What made silk such a highly desired commodity across Eurasia?

9. How did the impact of the long-distance trade of silk economically and socially affect the Chinese peasants?

10. Why did Buddhism appeal to the merchants along the Silk Roads?

11. In what way did Buddhism pick up elements of other cultures along the Silk Roads?

12. After the spread of the Black Death to Europe, what were two economic consequences of the disease?

13. Why did the exchange of diseases give Europeans a certain advantage?

**Sea Roads: Exchange across the Indian Ocean**

14. How did the transportation operation of the Indian Ocean trading network differ from that of the Silk Roads?

15. Why did the tempo of Indian Ocean commerce pick up in the era of classical civilizations?

16. What region became the center (fulcrum) of the Indian Ocean commercial network?

17. In what ways did China contribute to the growth of trade in the Indian Ocean between 500 and 1500 C.E.?

18. What other changes occurred during the flourishing of Indian Ocean commerce after the rise of Islam in the 7th century?

* Arab Empire—
* Middle East—
* Muslim merchants—
* Mesopotamia/East Africa —

19. What was the importance of Srivijaya?

20. In the case of Southeast Asia, why didn’t imperial control accompany Indian cultural influence?

21. What were the economic and cultural roles of the Swahili civilization in the world of Indian Ocean trade?

**Sand Roads: Exchange across the Sahara**

22. Trans-African trade was rooted in environmental variation. For instance,

1. the great Sahara held---
2. the savanna grasslands immediately south of the Sahara produced—
3. and the forest areas farther south had---

23. What changes did trans-Saharan trade bring to West Africa?

1. Long-distance trade across the Sahara provided…
2. Muslims traded **(what?)** along the Sahara…
3. Sudanic states developed…

**An American Network: Commerce and Connection in the Western Hemisphere**

24. Describe some factors that inhibited the development of long-distance exchange networks in the Americas.

25. With whom did the Maya cities in the Yucatan area of Mexico and Guatemala maintain a commercial relationship during 200-900 c.e.?

26. What were Inca roads used for?

27. Why did the Andean Inca Empire largely control trade, not allowing a professional merchant class to

emerge?