Afro-Eurasian Trade Patterns Between 600 – 1450 CE
Afro-Eurasian Trade Patterns between 600 – 1450

What four ancient trade routes dominated Afro-Eurasian Trade?

- Mediterranean Sea Maritime Trade (c. 1550 BCE – Present)
- Trans-Saharan Trade Routes (c. 800 BCE – Present)
- Indian Ocean Maritime Trade Route (c. 300 BCE – Present)
- Eurasian Silk Road (c. 200 BCE – Present)

What facilitated their dominance over Afro-Eurasian Trade?

- Improved Technologies (Saddles, Caravans, Compass, Astrolabe)
- Growth of New Trade Cities (Timbuktu, Swahili City-States, Hongzhou)
- Trade in Luxury Goods (Silk, Cotton, Porcelain, Coffee, Tea, Spices)
- Expansion of Empires (Ghana, Mali, Dar al-Islam, Tang and Mongol)
Afro-Eurasian Trade Patterns between 600 – 1450

What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

- Development of the Arab-Berber Trans-Sahara Camel Caravans
- Development and Spread of Dar al-Islam by Arab-Berber Traders
- Development and Expansion of Sudanic Kingdoms in Western Africa
- Development of Important Trade Centers (D’Jenne & Timbuktu)
- Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Africans and Arabs
What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

Development of the Arab-Berber Trans-Saharan Camel Caravans

- Berber originally dominated Northern Africa
- Adopted Islam during the 7th Century CE
- Two Arab-Berber Dynasties dominated the area from Northern Africa to the Western Sahara between 1040 – 1269 CE
- Key Trade partners with the Nomadic Tuareg

TUAREG TRIBE

- Originally Nomadic Herders
- Dominated the regions of the central Sahara & Sahel
- Adopted Camel Nomadicism from camel-herding Arabs
- Adopted Islam during the 7th Century CE
- Known as the “Blue People”
What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

Development and Expansion of Sudanic Kingdoms in Western Africa

Kingdom of Ghana (500 – 1078 CE)
- Major Sudanic Trading State by 700 CE
- First to link Trans-Saharan Caravan Trade
- Dominated by Soninke & Mande People
- Soninke Rulers never fully adopted Islam
- Declined due to internal fighting

Empire of Mali (1230 – 1530 CE)
- Founded by Sundiata Keita
- Wealth originally due to growing beans, rice and eventually cotton
- Expanded to control Trans-Saharan Trade
- Mansa Musa adopted Islam as religion of the Empire
- Established Mosques, Libraries & Schools
What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

Development of Important Trade Centers: D’Jenne & Timbuktu

- D’Jenne was a walled urban trade center along the Niger River by 850 CE
- Tuareg nomads established Timbuktu closer to caravan trade routes (c. 10th Century)
- Islam was introduced to the region during the 10th Century
- Sankore Mosque was built in Timbuktu by 988 CE
- By the 11th Century Merchants had abandoned D’Jenne and established markets in Timbuktu
- Sankore University was founded in Timbuktu by 1327 CE
- Thousands of scholars lived and studied in Timbuktu by 15th Century
What Promoted Expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade?

Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Africans and Arabs

Primary Trade Goods from the Sudanic Region
- Salt
- Ivory
- Gold
- Slaves

Primary Trade Goods from Ethiopia
- Ebony
- Gold
- Coffee Beans
- Iron

Primary Trade Goods From North Africa
- Colored Dye
- Leather
- Camels
- Wheat & Barley
Afro-Eurasian Trade Patterns Between 600 - 1450

What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

- Improved knowledge of Ocean Currents & Seasonal Monsoons
- Development of the Compass, Astrolabe & Better Ship Building
- Development and Spread of Dar al-Islam by Arab Traders
- Development of Important Trade Centers (Calicut and the Swahili City-States)
- Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Arabs, Africans and Indians
What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

Improved knowledge of Ocean Currents & Seasonal Monsoons

**Indian Ocean Currents**
- Early traders used coastal currents for trade to avoid being blown off course
- Later knowledge of Equatorial currents allowed traders to expand sea travel

**Indian Ocean Monsoons**
- Early traders were at the mercy of the dominant monsoon winds for travel
- Knowledge of Seasonal Monsoon patterns allowed traders to establish new routes across the Indian Ocean
What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

Development of the Compass, Astrolabe & Better Ship Building

**ASTROLABE**
- Records of early developments date back to ancient Greece
- Medieval Islamic Astronomers improved the design
- The Spherical Astrolabe was invented by 10th Century CE

**MAGNETIC COMPASS**
- Earliest Chinese reference (1119 CE)
- Earliest Islamic reference (1232 CE)
- Earliest European use (1187 CE)

**MOGADISHAN SHIP**
- Developed during Medieval Period
- Had an enlarged and modified Dhow like design
- Utilized multiple Lateen Sails for control & maneuverability
- Described in Chinese records (circa 10th – 13th Centuries)
What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

Development of Important Trade Centers:

**Swahili City-States**

- Traders from the Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf settled along the coast as early as the 1st Century CE.
- Stone type urban settlements arose by the 10th Century CE.
- Two Arab Sultanates were developed at Mogadishu and Kilwa (960-1000 CE).
- The island port of Zanzibar became major trade center by the 11th Century.
- Inter-marriage and the necessity of trade helped develop the Swahili Language.
- Both Marco Polo (circa 1295) and Ibn Battuta (circa 1330) described the trade along the Swahili Coast.
What Promoted the Expansion of the Indian Ocean Trade?

Inter-Regional Trade of Luxury Goods between Arabs, Africans and Indians

Primary Trade Goods from India
- Dye (Indigo)
- Cotton
- Tea
- Spices & Herbs

Primary Trade Goods from the Swahili City-States
- Gold
- Ivory
- Sandlewood
- Copper
- Slaves

Primary Trade Goods from Arabia & Persia
- Wool
- Muslin fabric
- Wheat & Barley
- Frankensence & Myrrh
What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road?

- Development of Trade Caravans and Maritime Shipping linked East & West
- Development and Expansion of Important Trade Centers (Land & Sea)
- Spread of Buddhist, Nestorian and Islamic Faiths by Pilgrims and Traders
- Expansion of Existing Empires (Dar al-Islam, Tang Dynasty and the Mongols)
- Trans-Regional Trade in Luxury Goods between Arabs, Indians & Chinese
What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road?

Development of Trade Caravans & Maritime Shipping linked East & West

**SOGDIANS**

- Played a major role in facilitating trade between the Han and Mongol Dynasties (2nd Century BCE – 13th Century CE)
- Sogdiana became primary trade language along Silk Road
- Used both Persian horses and Bactrian camels for transport
- Described as very literate by Buddhist pilgrim Xuanzang during the 7th century CE
- Responsible for establishing communities from Samarkand to Turfan along the Silk Road

**SWAHILI**

- Played a major role in maritime trade between East Africa, India and China between 2nd Century BCE – 13th Century CE)
- Clay figures found in China represent Swahili traders and date back to the Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 CE)
- Chinese Commissioner reported Swahili traders delivering goods in 1226 CE
- Chinese tradition indicates that Swahili ships were large and strong enough to transport Giraffe and Rhino to China
What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road?

Expansion of Existing Empires (Islamic, Chinese & Mongol)

**Islamic Empire (7th – 13th Century)**
- Linking previously isolated regions
- Promoted Muslim Exploration and Trade
- Known as the Golden age of Islam

**Tang Dynasty (618 – 907)**
- Pax Sinica (Period of Peace and Prosperity in East Asia)
- Persian & Sogdian Merchants dominated commerce
- Golden age of the Silk Road (Strong land & maritime trade)

**Mongol Empire (1226 – 1368)**
- Pax Mongolica (Period of Peace & Stability)
- Encouraged foreign Merchants and Trade
- Re-established and Expanded Silk Routes
What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road?

Development and Expansion of Important Trade Centers (Land & Sea)

**SAMARKAND (Sogdiana)**
- Official terminus and major Trade Center of the Caravan Trade Route between China and Persia
- Visited by Hsuan-Tsang during the 7th Century CE
- Arab Control by the 8th Century CE
- Visited by both Marco Polo (c. 1273) and Ibn Battuta (c. 1330’s)

**HANGZhou (China)**
- Official terminus and major Trade Center of the Maritime Trade Route between China and India
- Believed to be the largest city in the world between 1180 – 1358 CE
- Visited by both Marco Polo (c. 1280’s) and Ibn Battuta (c. 1346)
What Promoted the Expansion of Trade along the Silk Road?

Trans-Regional Trade in Luxury Goods between Arabs, Indians & Chinese

Primary Trade Goods from China
- Silk
- Jade
- Rice
- Pearls
- Porcelain
- Tea

Primary Trade Goods from India
- Herbs and Spices
- Cotton
- Dye

Primary Trade Goods from Persia
- Carpets
- Muslin
- Horses