Western Europe During the High Middle Ages

1000 CE to 1450 CE
Statebuilding
Europe, 1000-1250 C.E.
England

- Viking invasions force consolidation of Angles, Saxons and other Germanic peoples
- King Alfred (r. 871-899)
- Built navy to challenge Vikings
- Fortified cities against attack
Germany

- King Otto of Saxony (r. 936-973) defeats Magyars, 955
- Proclaimed emperor by Pope in 962
- Establishment of Holy Roman Empire
France

- Post Carolingian France
  - Local authorities ruled
- France endures heavy Viking settlement
- Situation encouraged decentralized rule
- Formation of first dynasty in 987 C.E.; Hugh Capet
Statebuilding
Regional Monarchies

Holy Roman Empire
- Otto I of Saxony establish kingdom in north Germany
- Pope John XII names him Holy Roman Empire, 962 CE

Regional monarchies develop in England and France
- Hugh Capet founds dynasty in France in 987
- William, Duke of Normandy invades England in 1066
Regional states

- Italian peninsula is fragmented
  - Papacy land
  - city-states

- Iberian peninsula is fragmented
  - Muslim controlled land – 8th to 11th century
  - Christian controlled land by 13th century
Statebuilding vs. Religion: Investiture Contest

- Investiture Contest
- Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085) vs. Emperor Henry IV
  - Pope attempts to end practice of lay investiture
  - Excommunicates Henry (1056-1106 CE) because he disobeyed
Atlantic & Baltic Sea Colonization

- Scandinavians explore North Atlantic Ocean
  - Iceland, Greenland, Canada
- Kings of Denmark nominally convert to Christianity, Sweden and Finland follow
Statebuilding and Culture
The Crusades

Causes

- Military-religious orders
  - Ex. Templars
- Vows of opposition to Islam, paganism
- Reconquest of Iberia and Sicily from Muslims
- Pope Urban II calls for liberation of Jerusalem from Muslim control, 1095
The Crusades

- Salvation promised for casualties
- Rapid, enthusiastic response

**Effects**

- 1st Crusade: captures Jerusalem
- Five crusades by mid-13th century, none successful
- 4th Crusade destroys Constantinople, 1202-1204
- Provide direct contact with Muslim ideologies, trade
  - Aristotle, “Arabic” numerals, paper production
The Crusades
Economy
Growth of the Agriculture

- Increasing development of farming lands
  - Minimized threat of invading nomads

- Improved agricultural techniques
  - Crop rotation
  - New crops, esp. beans
  - Horseshoes, horse collars (horses faster than oxen)
Economics: Revival of Towns and Trade

- Urbanization follows increase in food supply
- Specialization of labor
  - Textile production impacted the most
- Mediterranean Trade
  - Italy well-positioned for sea trade
Western European Society
Society
The Three Estates

The Three Estates
- Those who pray: clergy
- Those who fight: knights
- Those who work: peasants
  - Merchants, artisans, lawyers, doctors
  - Guilds
    - Creates social support network
- Oversimplification of complex social reality
Society
Urban Women

- New economic opportunities for women
- Dominated needle trade, textiles
- Admitted to most guilds
  - Some guilds for women only
Western European Culture
Culture

Popular Religion

- The Seven Sacraments gain ritual popularity
  - Eucharist
- Devotion to Saints
  - Heavenly intercession, pilgrimages, veneration of relics
- The Virgin Mary
- Rebellion against perceived materialism of Roman Catholic Church
- Religious zealots form
Culture
Origin of Higher Learning

- Increasing wealth makes education possible
- Curriculum the ‘classics’
- Academic guilds formed in 12th century
- Aristotle provides big influence
- St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), major proponent of Scholasticism
  - Synthesis of Christianity and Aristotle
Nomadic Empires: Asia
HE Interaction – Central Asia

- Rainfall too little to support large-scale agriculture
- Pastoralism emerges
- Migratory patterns to follow pastureland
- Small-scale farming, rudimentary artisanry
Nomadic People: Turks and Mongols

Origination
- Turks - Western/Northern Steppes
- Mongols - Eastern Steppes

Society and Culture
- Nobles and commoners
- Charismatic individuals = nobility
- Meritocracy
- Shaman/Pagan worship
- Appeal to Silk Road religions

Statebuilding
- Large confederations under a khan
- Authority extended through tribal elders
- Constant contact with settled communities
- Strong cavalries
Nomads vs. Settled Communities

- Nomads engage in long-distance travel
  - Caravan routes
- Both peaceful and hostile relations evolved
  - Germanic vs. Romans
  - Vikings vs. Franks
  - Turks vs. Abbasid
  - Xiongnu vs. Chinese
The Turks
Seljuk Empire - 1092
Seljuk Turks

- Persian and Turkish descent
- Lived on border of Abbasid Empire
- Convert to Islam
- Leader is called ‘sultan’
- Will eventually migrate to Turkey
- Constant conflict with Byzantines
Turks vs. Islam

- Turks in Abbasid armies
- Eventually came to dominate Abbasid caliphs
- 1055 Seljuk leader named Sultan assumes power, caliphs remain figureheads
Turks vs. Byzantine Empire

- Battle of Manzikert -
  - Seljuks defeat Byzantine army, take emperor captive
- Large-scale invasion of Turkey
- Welcomed converts to Islam
- Ottoman Turks conquer Constantinople 1453
Ghaznavid Turks vs. India

- Mahmud
- Clan from Ghazni, Afghanistan, invades northern India
- dominated by 13th century
- Welcomes conversions to Islam
- Persecution of Buddhists, Hindus
Turkish Empires 1210 C.E.
Statebuilding: Tamerlane’s Empire

- Tamerlane
- United Turkish nomads in Khanate of Chaghatai
- Major military campaigns
  - Built capital in Samarkand
- Decline: power struggle among heirs
Tamerlane’s empire 1405 C.E.
Tamerlane’s Heirs

- Poor organization of governing structure
- Power struggles divide empire into four
- Yet heavily influenced several empires:
  - Mughal
  - Safavid
  - Ottoman
The Mongol Empire
The Mongols extended their hegemony over a major part of the Eurasian landmass, from the Danube to the Pacific for the better part of two centuries.
Statebuilding: Ghengis Khan

- Brought all Mongol tribes into one confederation
- Broke up tribal organization
- Formed military units from men of different tribes/clans
- Promoted officials on basis of merit and loyalty
- Established non-nomadic capital at Karakorum
Statebuilding: Mongol Military

- Mongol population only 1 million
  - Army 100-125,000
- Strong cavalry, psychological warfare
  - Rewarded enemies who surrender, cruel to enemies who fight
Mongol vs. China/Middle East

- Conquest of China by 1220
- Conquest of Afghanistan, Persia
  - Emissaries and rulers are killed
- Ravaged lands to prevent future rebellions
  - Large-scale, long-term devastation
The Mongol Empires after Ghengis Khan
Statebuilding: Khubilai Khan (r. 1264-1294)

- Ruler of China
- Ruthless warrior, but religiously tolerant
  - Hosted Marco Polo
- Established Yuan dynasty in China
- Two attempted invasions of Japan (1274, 1281) turned back by typhoons (kamikaze: “divine winds”)
Statebuilding: the Mongol Empire

The Golden Horde

- Conquest of Russia
  - Established tributary relationship

Ilkhanate

- Abbasid empire toppled
- Baghdad sacked, 1258
  - 200,000 massacred
Culture: Mongol Rule in China

- maintained strict separation from Chinese
  - Intermarriage forbidden
  - Chinese forbidden to study Mongol language
- Imported administrators (esp. Arabs, Persians)
- tolerated religious freedoms
Culture: Mongols & Buddhism

- Shamanism remains popular
- Tibetan school of Buddhism becomes popular
  - khans as incarnations of Buddha
The Mongols
Western Integration

- Experience with long-distance trade
  - Protection of traveling merchants
  - Volume of trade across central Asia increases
- Diplomatic missions protected
- Missionary activity increases
Statebuilding: The End

Decline of Empire

- Ilkhanate
- Overspending
- Factional fighting
- Yuan Dynasty
- inflation
- Factional fighting
- plague
- peasant rebellion

Maintenance of Empire

- Khanate of Chaghatai in central Asia
  - Continued threat to China
- Golden Horde – 16th century
  - Continued threat to Russia
The Ottoman Empire

- Osman, charismatic leader who dominates part of Anatolia
- Declares independence from Saljuq sultan, 1299
- Attacks Byzantine empire
  - Followers known as Osmanlis (Ottomans)
Ottoman Conquests

- 1350s conquests in the Balkans
- Local support for Ottoman invasion
  - Peasants unhappy with fragmented, ineffective Byzantine rule
- Tamerlane defeats Ottoman forces in 1402, but Ottomans recover by 1440s
The Capture of Constantinople, 1453

- Sultan Mehmed II ("Mehmed the Conqueror")
- Renamed city Istanbul, capital of Ottoman empire
- Ended Byzantine Empire, legitimized Ottoman Empire in Europe
States and Societies in Sub-Saharan Africa
Cultivation of Bananas

- Domesticated in SE Asia
- Malay sailors colonize Madagascar, 300-500 CE
  - Introduce bananas, yams, chickens
- Fits African climate
- Food supply increases with this key crop
Society
Kin-Based Societies

- Stateless, segmentary societies
- No elaborate hierarchies, bureaucracies
- Average population of village: 100
- Ruled by elders
- Network of villages resolve disputes in ad hoc manner
- Higher government authorities rare
Kingdoms /Empires of sub-Saharan Africa, 800-1500 C.E.
Statebuilding: Kingdom of Kongo

- Basin of the Congo (Zaire) river
- Conglomeration of several village alliances
- Participated actively in trade networks
- Most centralized rule of the early Bantu kingdoms
- Royal currency: cowries
- Ruled 14th-17th century until undermined by Portugese slave traders
Statebuilding: Dar-al-Islam in Africa

- Islam spreads to west Africa
  - Trans-Saharan caravans
  - Coastal east Africa through maritime trade
- Profound influence after 8th century
Economic Systems: Trans-saharan Trade

- Desiccation of Sahara begins c. 5000 BCE
- Introduction of Arabian camels revolutionizes trade
  - 70-90 days to cross Sahara
- Arabs establish trading communities
  - Gao
Statebuilding: The Kingdom of Ghana

- Not related to modern State of Ghana
- Developed 4th-5th c. CE
- Protection against camel-driving raiders
- Center of African gold trade
  - Imported from south to Ghana
- Also sold ivory, slaves
Culture: Islam in West Africa

- Kings of Ghana convert 10th c.
- Positive impact on trade, relations with north Africa
- Synthesized Islam with local traditions
  - Nearby Takrur aggressive missionaries
Sundiata (r. 1230-1255)

- Empire of Mali extends over Kingdom of Ghana
  - Neighboring kingdoms as well
- Took greater advantage of trans-Saharan trade
- Nominally Muslim, but did not force conversions
Mansa Musa (r. 1312-1337)

- Grandson of Sundiata
- Fervent Muslim
- Performed Hajj in 1324-25
  - Constructed numerous mosques
  - Supported Muslim scholars
- Empire declines after his rule
Economic Systems: The Indian Ocean Trade

- East coast maritime trade weak until 2nd century
- Bantu peoples populate coast
- Swahili (“coasters”) engage in trade with Arabs
  - Language a form of Bantu, influenced by Arabic
- 10th century trade increases
Kilwa

- City-state on east African coast
- Fishing, limited trade, 800-1000 CE
- Turn to agriculture, increased trade in pottery and stoneware
- Major trading center by 14th century
  - Exporting over a ton of gold per year by 15th century CE
  - Imported Chinese silk/porcelain
Culture
Islam in East Africa

- Ruling elites in east Africa accept Islam without forcing general population to convert
- Often retained pagan religious traditions and practices
- Islam serves as social glue with other merchants, states
Society

- Some kingdoms, empires, city-states with well-defined classes
  - Ruling elites
  - Merchant class
  - Peasant class

- Other areas in sub-Saharan Africa continue to use traditional kin-based groups
  - Extended families, clans
  - Land held communally
Both sexes work in agriculture, men: specialized skills

- some expanded roles for women
  - Merchants, some military activity

- Islamic norms slow to penetrate
  African society
Social and Economics

Slavery

African Slavery

- Practiced since BCE
- Most slaves captives of war
  - Debtors
  - Suspected witches
  - Criminals
- Used principally in agricultural labor
- Slave possession a status symbol

Slave Trade

- Increased trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean trade stimulates slave trade,
- Creates internal African slave trade
  - More powerful states attack smaller kinship-based groups
Society

The Zanj Revolt

- Slaves from Swahili coast exported to work in Mesopotamia
  - Sugarcane plantations & Salt deposits
- 869 CE, slave Ali bin Muhamad mounts revolt of 15,000 slaves
- Crushed by Abbasids
Culture: Religion

African Religion
- diversity of religious beliefs
  - Ex. Ancestor worship

Christianity
- 1st century: popular in Egypt, north Africa
  - Initially weak in sub-Saharan Africa
- The Christian Kingdom of Axum, 4th c. CE
  - Ethiopia
  - Merchants, then kings convert
  - Bible translated into Ethiopian
The Americas and Oceania
Snapshot: Mesoamerica

- Societies had limited or no contact with Africa, Asia, Europe
  - Brief presence of Scandinavians in Newfoundland, Canada
  - Some Asian contact with Australia

- Mesoamerica in period of war and conquest, 8th century CE
Statebuilding:
The Mexica and Aztec Empire

- Tradition of kidnapping women, seizing cultivated lands
- Migrated and settled c. 1375 CE in Tenochtitlan (later becomes Mexico City)
- Agriculture
  - Chinampas, up to 7 crops per year
- Mexica develop tributary empire by 15th century
- Mexica joined with Texcoco and Tlacopan to create Aztec Empire
Aztec empires, 950-1520 C.E.
Society: Mexica

- Hierarchical social structure
- Patriarchal structure
- High stature for soldiers (similar to Sparta)
  - Mainly drawn from aristocratic class
  - Land grants, food privileges
- Emphasis on child-bearing
  - Mothers of warriors especially lauded
Society: Cultivators & Slaves

- Priests
  - Masters of complex agricultural/ritual calendars
  - Occasionally became rulers as well
- Communal groups: calpulli
  - Originally kin-based
  - Management of communal lands
  - Work obligation on aristocratic lands
- Slave class
  - Debtors
  - Children sold into slavery
Culture: Mexica Religion

- Polytheistic
- Influenced by indigenous traditions from the Olmec period
- Ritual ball game
- Solar calendar (365 days) and ritual calendar (260 days)
  - Not as elaborate as Maya calendar
Culture: Ritual Bloodletting

- More emphasis on human sacrifice than predecessor cultures
- Sacrificial victims had tips of fingers torn off before death, ritual wounds
  - Victims: Mexica criminals, captured enemy soldiers
- Personal rituals: piercing earlobes
Statebuilding: Pre Incan Empire

- Development of autonomous regional states in Andean South America
- Kingdom of Chucuito
  - Potato cultivation, herding of llamas, alpacas
Statebuilding: The Inca Empire

- Refers to people who spoke Quecha language
  - Modern Peru, parts of Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina
  - Population 11.5 million
- Incas ruled by holding hostages, colonization
- No writing, used system of cords and knots called quipu
Statebuilding: Inca roads

- Massive road building system
- Two north-south roads, approximately 10,000 miles
  - Mountain route
  - Coastal route
- Paved, shaded, wide roads
- Courier and messenger services
- Limited long-distance trade, held by government monopoly
Society

- Social elites dominated by infallible king
  - Claimed descent from the sun
- Aristocrats receive special privileges
  - Earlobe spools as adornment
- Priestly class ascetic, celibate
- Peasants organized into community groups called ayllu
  - Land, tools held communally
  - Responsible for public works
Culture: Inca Religion

- Inti sun god
- Viracocha creator god
- Temples as pilgrimage sites
- Peasant sacrifices usually produce, animals (not humans)
- Sin understood as disruption of divine order
Oceania
Oceania
Snapshot: Oceania

- Societies established in almost all islands in early centuries BCE
- Trade between island groups
- Long-distance voyaging on intermittent basis
  - Brought sweet potatoes from South America c. 300 CE
  - Voyages preserved in oral traditions
Economics

- Nomadic foragers of Australia
  - Virtually static culture
  - No agriculture

- New Guinea
  - Swine herding, root cultivation c. 5000 BCE

- Small-scale trade of surplus food, some goods
  - Pearly oyster shells, spears, boomerangs
Aborigine with Boomerang

An Aborigine of the Naomi tribe ca. 1900
Culture: Religion

- Loosely tied to environment
- Myths, stories about geological features
- Rituals to ensure continuing food supply
Society

- Complexity of population leads to articulation of distinct classes
  - High chiefs, lesser chiefs, commoners, artisans, peasants

- Small multi-island empires form
  - Limited before 19th century
  - Yet controlled land allocation, labor and military conscription