

## Early Modern World History, weeks 1-2

1. What is the early modern world?
  - a. 1500-1800
    - i. 1453, Mohamed II/Constantinople
    - ii. 1455, Gutenberg
    - iii. 1487, Bartolomeu Dias/Cape of Good Hope
    - iv. 1492, Columbus; Castille & Aragon reconquer Granada
    - v. 1499-1501, da Gama/India
2. Why periodize history?
  - a. Ancient/Classical/Medieval/Early Modern/Modern
  - b. Periodization as
    - i. help/shorthand to comprehend the broad narrative
    - ii. as basis for argument in history
3. *Weltanschauung* and Anachronism
  - a. Early modern creation of ancient past
    - i. John White's Indians and Picts
    - ii. Renaissance view of Antiquity and Dark Ages
4. pre-modern civilizations and the relation between societies and civilizations
  - a. Pre-history?
    - i. 4 million years of human-like creatures
      - (1) humans from 500,000 years ago
        - (a) Homo-sapiens from 100,000 years ago
    - ii. From gatherers to Agricultural/Neolithic Revolution (10,000-6,000 B.C.E.)
  - b. relation of civilization and cultures (hierarchy and records)
  - c. Agriculture, Cities, and River Basins
  - d. Civilization and barbarians
5. Civilization (single)?; or Civilizations (multiple)?
  - a. not first world and third world, but East and West
  - b. Mongols in East and West Asia, 1100-1400: the irony of a barbarian civilization?
    - i. Rulers
      - (1) Genghis Khan (1167-1227)
      - (2) Ögödei son (rules, 1229-1241)
      - (3) Möngke (rules 1251-1259)
      - (4) Khubilai Khan (b. 1214, rules c. 1260-1294)
    - ii. nomadic invaders, ruthless; but also unifiers & traders
      - (1) *Pax Mongolica* along Silk Route
      - (2) Problems: lack of dominant culture, lack of numbers (1.5 mill. Mongols, 60 mill. Chinese)
        - (a) Confucius: "One can conquer the world on horseback, but one cannot govern it on horseback"
    - iii. beginning of Eurasian/global history
      - (1) Asian land mass as a bridge not a barrier
6. Indian Civilization (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, to 13<sup>th</sup> century, pre-Mongol, pre-Mughal)
  - a. Rulers, armies, bureaucracy
    - i. light control
    - ii. heavy taxes in specie
  - b. Economy
    - i. long-distance trade
    - ii. Muslims and Middle East trade
    - iii. art and artisans
  - c. Religion
    - i. Hindu
      - (1) *Bhagavad-Gita* and salvation
      - (2) caste and inequality
      - (3) Brahmins and control of religious books
    - ii. Buddhism
      - (1) reaction against hierarchy
      - (2) from philosophy to religion
      - (3) wiped out in India in 13<sup>th</sup> century (1202), to East Asia
    - iii. Muslim
      - (1) series of invasions and rule from the North
      - (2) Punjab and Muslim people
      - (3) small minority of Muslims; large majority of Hindus
    - iv. Sikh

- (1) syncretic
- 7. Pre-Mongol China
  - a. Rulers [Northern Wei/Sui/Tang, 589-907; Southern Song/Jin (North)/Song, 960-1279]
    - i. scholar-bureaucrats
      - (1) Confucian, Neo-Confucian
      - (2) examination system
    - ii. invasions from the North
      - (1) Great Wall from 3<sup>rd</sup> century on
      - (2) barbarian raiders
    - iii. building projects
      - (1) Grand Canal (from 609)
  - b. Economy
    - i. family structure
    - ii. artisans
    - iii. primacy of the farmer (Scholars/Farmers/Artisans/Merchants)
      - (1) Green Revolution, 1000-1200
    - iv. link to West with Silk Route
      - (1) power of merchants in South China Guangzhou (Canton)
  - c. Religion
    - i. Confucian
    - ii. Buddhism
      - (1) *bodhisattvas*, grand teachers
      - (2) used by new rulers, like Sui, to combat Confucian certainties of the scholar-bureaucrats
    - iii. Daoism
      - (1) Neo-Confucianism a syncretic link with the spirituality of the Daoists (Qi)