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- ✓ BIOGRAPHY **Mansa Mūsā**
- ✓ CHART/GRAPH **Life in Medieval Europe**
- ✓ IMAGE **Aztec Art**
- ✓ IMAGE **Japanese Samurai**
- ✓ INTERACTIVE SELF-CHECK QUIZ
- ✓ MAP **Spread of Islam, 632–1000**
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LESSON 2

New Patterns of Civilization

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How did patterns of civilization differ between the ancient and medieval worlds?

IT MATTERS BECAUSE

By the beginning of the first millennium A.D., the great states of the ancient world were mostly in decline or at the point of collapse. On the ruins of these ancient empires, new patterns of civilization began to take shape between 400 and 1500. At the same time, new civilizations were also beginning to appear in Japan, in Southeast Asia, in Africa, and in the Americas. All these states were increasingly linked by trade into the first “global civilization.”

The World of Islam

GUIDING QUESTION *What factors contributed to the development of the Arab Empire?*

In the seventh century, a new force arose in the Arabian Peninsula and spread rapidly throughout the region of the Middle East. This new force was a new religion called Islam, meaning “peace through submission to the will of Allah,”—and it was founded by a man named Muhammad. Islam, like Judaism and Christianity, is a monotheistic religion. After Muhammad’s death, his successors—known as caliphs—organized the Arabs and set in motion a great expansion. Arab armies moved westward across North Africa and into Spain and eastward into the Persian Empire, conquering Syria and Mesopotamia.

In 661 this Arab Empire came under the control of the Umayyad dynasty. Under the Umayyads, the capital of the empire was moved from Madinah to Damascus, in Syria. In 750 Abū al-’Abbās, a descendant of Muhammad’s uncle, overthrew the Umayyad dynasty and set up the Abbasid dynasty. Twelve years later, the Abbasids built a new capital city at Baghdad on the Tigris River, taking advantage of trading routes. The Abbasids were weakened by the Seljuk Turks and in 1258 fell to the Mongols.

Islamic civilization was built upon the teachings of the Quran, the holy book of Islam. Eventually, caliphs came to rule more like kings than spiritual leaders. Much of the prosperity of the Islamic civilization was based on trade within the Islamic world and with

Reading HELPDESK



Academic Vocabulary

- prospered • traditional
- revival

Content Vocabulary

- lineage group
- landed aristocrats
- sultanate
- Crusades
- feudalism

TAKING NOTES:

Key Ideas and Detail

Categorizing As you read, use a graphic organizer like the one below to help identify characteristics of societies in the Islamic world, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

	Characteristics
Islamic World	
Africa	
Asia	
Europe	
Americas	

PHOTO: (l to r) Mary Evans Picture Library/The Image Works; ©Bureau Collection/CORBIS; The British Library/Topham/The Image Works; The Granger Collection, NYC. All rights reserved; Musée de Quai Branly/Scala/Art Resource, NYC.



▲ The Islamic calendar is lunar, or based on the phases of the moon. Astronomy was used to identify Islamic holy days and the beginning and ending of holy months.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Making Inferences Why might astronomers have played an important role in Islamic and other societies?

China, the Byzantine Empire, India, and Southeast Asia. Trade was carried both by ship and by camel caravan.

Muslim Arabs absorbed many scientific and technological achievements of the people they conquered. At the same time, they made advances of their own, especially in mathematics and the natural sciences, such as astronomy and medicine. In literature and art, the Muslim world combined Islamic ideals with pre-Islamic traditions to create original works. Mosques from this period that remain standing today are visible symbols of the greatness of Islamic art and architecture.

Like other empires in the Middle East, the Arab Empire did not last. Nevertheless, it made an impact. Islam brought a code of law and a written language to societies that were previously without these features. By creating a renewed trade network stretching from West Africa to East Asia, it brought untold

wealth to thousands of people and a better life to millions.

By the end of the thirteenth century, the Arab Empire was no more than a memory. But it left a powerful legacy in Islam, which remains one of the major religions of the world. The spread of Islam to Africa and other parts of Asia ensured that it would affect more than just the Middle East.

✓ **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

Understanding Relationships How did Islam influence the rule of the Arab Empire?

Early African Civilizations

GUIDING QUESTION *What defined the economies and societies of trading states in Africa?*

The mastery of agriculture gave rise to three early civilizations in Africa—Egypt, Kush, and Axum. Later, new states emerged in different parts of Africa, some of them strongly influenced by the spread of Islam. Zimbabwe, which emerged around 1300, was important in southern Africa.

Ghana, Mali, and Songhai were three flourishing trading states in West Africa. Mali and Songhai were especially important. One of the most powerful kings of Mali was Mansa Mūsā, who ruled from 1312 to 1337. Mansa Mūsā doubled the size of Mali. As a devout Muslim, he made a pilgrimage to Makkah. He also made his capital city at Timbuktu a center of Islamic learning and culture. By the fifteenth century, a new kingdom—Songhai—was beginning to surpass Mali. The Songhai Empire reached the height of its power during the reign of Muhammad Ture. The chief cities of the empire **prospered** as never before from the salt and gold trade until the end of the sixteenth century.

The African continent was also an active participant in emerging regional and global trade with the Mediterranean world and across the Indian Ocean. Although the state-building process in Africa south of the Sahara was still in its early stages compared with the ancient civilizations of India, China, and Mesopotamia, in many respects these new states were as impressive and sophisticated as their counterparts elsewhere in the world.

Due to a lack of written records, we know little about early African society and culture. The relationship between king and subjects was often less rigid in African society than in other civilizations. Family, especially **lineage groups**, were basic units in African society. Religious beliefs in many African societies focused on many gods, nature spirits, the role of diviners, and the importance of ancestors. Africans produced a distinctive

prosper to succeed in an activity; to have economic success

lineage group an extended family unit within a larger community

culture in wood carving, sculpture, music, and architecture.

In the fifteenth century, a new factor came to affect Africa. Fleets from Portugal began to probe southward along the coast of West Africa. At first, the Portuguese were in search of gold and slaves, but when their ships rounded the southern coast of Africa by 1500, they began to seek domination of the Indian Ocean trade as well. The new situation posed a threat to the peoples of Africa, whose new states would be severely tested by the demands of the Europeans.

The peoples of Africa were not the only ones to confront a new threat from Europe at the beginning of the sixteenth century. When the Portuguese sailed across the Indian Ocean, they sought to reach India, where the Mogul Empire was in the throes of creation.

✓ **READING PROGRESS CHECK**

Explaining How did trade play a role in the development of early African states?

The Medieval Asian World

GUIDING QUESTION *What were the successes and challenges of medieval Asia?*

China fell into chaos after the Han dynasty ended. In 581 a new Chinese dynasty known as the Sui was established. During the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties, which together ruled for almost 700 years, Chinese civilization flourished once again. A mature political system based on principles first put into practice during the Qin and Han dynasties gradually emerged in China. As in the Han era, China was a monarchy with a large bureaucracy. Confucian ideals were still the cement that held the system together. The Mongols overthrew the Song dynasty and established a new dynasty in 1279. Although Mongol rulers adapted to the Chinese political system, this dynasty also failed to last, and in 1369 a new Ming dynasty came into power.

During the thousand years of these five dynasties, China advanced in many ways. Industry and trade grew in size and technological capacity, while in the countryside a flourishing agriculture bolstered China's economic prosperity. In Chinese cities, technological developments added new products and stimulated trade. During the Tang dynasty, for example, the Chinese began to make steel for swords and sickles and invented gunpowder, which was used for explosives.

Chinese society also achieved a level of development and stability that was the envy of observers from other lands, near and far. The civil service provided for a stable government bureaucracy and an avenue of upward mobility that was virtually unknown elsewhere in the world. China's achievements were unsurpassed throughout the world, making it a civilization that was the envy of its neighbors and of the world. It also influenced other states in the region, including Japan.

Few societies in Asia have historically been as isolated as Japan. Cut off from the mainland by 120 miles of ocean, the Japanese had little contact with the outside world during most of their early development. However, after the Japanese became acquainted with Chinese culture, they were quick to take advantage of the opportunity. In the space of a few decades, the young state adopted many features of Chinese society and culture and thereby introduced major changes into the Japanese way of life. Nevertheless, although early Japanese rulers such as Shōtoku Taishi (a prince of the Yamato clan) tried to create a centralized political system like that of China,



▲ This ceremonial ivory armlet was worn by kings of Benin.



▲ This piece of art portrays the samurai hero, Kumagai Naozane, at the Battle of Ichinotani in Japan in 1184.

landed aristocrats an upper class whose wealth is based on land and whose power is passed on from one generation to another

sultanate a state whose military and political power is held by the sultan

traditional established; customary

the power of **landed aristocrats** ensured a weak central authority. The result was a society that was able to make use of ideas imported from beyond its borders without endangering customs, beliefs, and institutions inherited from the past.

Between 500 and 1500, civilization in India faced a number of severe challenges. One was an ongoing threat from beyond the mountains in the northwest. A group of rebellious Turkish slaves founded a new Islamic state called Ghazna, located in present-day Afghanistan. In 997 a new leader, Mahmūd of Ghazna, began to attack neighboring Hindu kingdoms to the southeast. By 1200, Muslim power encompassed the entire plain of northern India, creating a new Muslim state known as the **sultanate** of Delhi. The impact of Islam on Indian civilization is still evident today in the division of the Indian subcontinent into mostly Hindu India and two Islamic states, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

A second challenge to India came from the tradition of internal rivalry that had marked Indian civilization for hundreds of years. After the fall of the Guptas, that tradition continued almost without interruption down to the sixteenth century. The third challenge appeared in the religious divisions (originally between Hindus and Buddhists and later between Hindus and Muslims) that took place throughout much of this period. In India, Hinduism was able to absorb Buddhism and reassert its dominant position in Indian society. But that victory was short-lived. One result of the Turkish conquest of northern India was the introduction of Islam into the region. The new religion became a serious rival to **traditional** beliefs among the Indian people.

Situated at the crossroads between two oceans and two great civilizations, Southeast Asia has long served as a bridge linking peoples and cultures. Despite the central position that Southeast Asia occupied in the ancient world, complex societies were slow to take form in the region. When they began to appear, they were strongly influenced by the older civilizations of neighboring China and India. In Vietnam, the Chinese imposed their culture by conquest. Elsewhere, merchants and missionaries brought Indian influence. Whatever the means, all the young states throughout the region—Vietnam, Angkor, Thailand, the Burmese kingdom of Pagan, and several states on the Malay peninsula and Indonesian archipelago—were heavily affected by foreign ideas and adopted them as a part of their own cultures. And yet, the Southeast Asian peoples, like the Japanese, put their unique stamp on the ideas that they adopted. The result was a region marked by cultural richness and diversity that was rooted in the local culture.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Summarizing How did the various societies in medieval Asia interact with each other?

Europe in the Middle Ages

GUIDING QUESTION *How did a new European civilization develop after the fall of the Roman Empire?*

After the collapse of the Roman Empire and the establishment of the Germanic states, a new European civilization slowly began to emerge in the Early Middle Ages. The coronation of Charlemagne—a descendant of a Germanic tribe converted to Christianity—as Roman emperor in 800 symbolized the fusion of the three chief components of the new European civilization: the German tribes, the Roman legacy, and the Christian church.

In the long run, the creation of Charlemagne's empire, the Carolingian Empire, fostered the idea of a distinct European identity. The lands north of the Alps now became the political center of Europe. Increasingly, Europe emerged as the focus and center of Western civilization.

With the disintegration of the Carolingian Empire, new forms of political institutions began to develop in Europe. **Feudalism** put power into the hands of many different lords, who came to constitute a powerful group of nobles that dominated the political, economic, and social life of Europe.

The new European civilization that had emerged in the ninth and tenth centuries began to come into its own in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and Europeans established new patterns that reached their high point in the thirteenth century. The High Middle Ages, from around 1000 to around 1300, was a period of growth for Western civilization, characterized by a burst of energy and enthusiasm. An increase in agricultural production helped sustain a dramatic rise in population that was physically apparent in the expansion of towns and cities.

The development of trade, the expansion of towns and cities, and the development of a money economy added a dynamic new element to European civilization. Although these developments did not mean the end of a mostly rural European society, they opened the door to new opportunities for people to expand and enrich their lives. Eventually, they created the foundations for the development of a mostly urban industrial society.

During the High Middle Ages, European society was dominated by a landed aristocracy whose primary function was to fight. These nobles built innumerable castles that gave a distinctive look to the countryside. Over time, however, medieval kings began to exert a centralizing authority and to develop new kinds of monarchical states. Although they could not know it then, their actions laid the foundations for the European kingdoms that have dominated the European political scene ever since.

During the High Middle Ages, the power of nobles and kings was often overshadowed by the authority of the Catholic Church. It was perhaps the dominant institution of the era. The High Middle Ages witnessed a spiritual **revival** that transformed European society. Spiritual renewal during the period led to many and sometimes divergent paths: strong papal leadership, a dramatic increase in the number and size of churches, new religious orders, and the “Holy Warrior” in the **Crusades**—a military effort to recover the Holy Land of the Near East from the Muslims. All these paths seemed to reflect a greater concern for salvation.

A burst of intellectual and artistic activity also characterized the High Middle Ages. An intellectual revival led to new centers of learning in universities and to the use of reason to develop new ways of thought in theology. At the same time, a boom in the construction of religious buildings—especially evident in the great Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals—left Europe covered with churches. They were the visible symbols of Christian Europe's vitality.

European society in the fourteenth century, however, was challenged by an overwhelming number of disastrous forces. A devastating plague known as the Black Death that wiped out one-third of the European population, a decline in trade and industry, constant warfare, political instability, a decline of church power, and the spectacle of two popes

feudalism political and social order that developed during the Middle Ages when royal governments were no longer able to defend their subjects; nobles offered protection and land in return for service.

revival renewed attention to, or interest in, something

Crusades military expeditions carried out by European Christians in the Middle Ages to regain the Holy Land from the Muslims

▼ In this fourteenth-century English text, a priest blesses monks who have the bubonic plague.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**
Speculating How might it have been interpreted that religious figures died from the plague?



condemning each other seemed to overpower Europeans. No doubt, to some people it appeared that the last days of the world were at hand. But out of the collapse of medieval civilization came a rebirth of culture known as the Renaissance.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Making Connections What was the role of the Catholic Church in medieval Europe?

The Byzantine Empire

GUIDING QUESTION *What factors contributed to the emergence and success of the Byzantine Empire?*

After the collapse of Roman power in Western Europe, the Late Roman Empire in the East, or the Eastern Roman Empire, continued in the eastern Mediterranean. It eventually emerged as the Byzantine Empire, which prospered for hundreds of years. While a new Christian civilization arose in Europe, the Byzantine Empire created a unique Christian civilization. And while Europe struggled in the Early Middle Ages, the Byzantine world continued to prosper and flourish. Especially during the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries under the Macedonian emperors, the Byzantine Empire expanded and achieved an economic prosperity that was evident to foreign visitors who frequently praised the size, wealth, and physical surroundings of the central city of Constantinople.

During its heyday, Byzantium was a multicultural and multi-ethnic world empire that ruled a remarkable number of peoples who spoke different languages. Byzantine cultural and religious forms spread to the Balkans, parts of central Europe, and Russia. Byzantine scholars spread the study of the Greek language to Italy, expanding Renaissance humanism with an interest in classical Greek civilization. The Byzantine Empire interacted with the world of Islam to its east and the new European civilization of the west. Both interactions proved costly and ultimately fatal. Although European civilization and Byzantine civilization shared a common bond in Christianity, the bond proved incapable of keeping them in harmony politically. Indeed, the west's Crusades to the Palestine region, for claimed religious motives, led to western control of the Byzantine Empire from 1204 to 1261. Although the empire technically was restored, it limped along. Ultimately its other interaction—with the Muslim world—led to its demise when the Ottoman Turks conquered the city of Constantinople and made it the center of their empire.



▲ This early eleventh-century Byzantine mosaic depicts the Christian figures of Mary and her child, Jesus.

✓ READING PROGRESS CHECK

Identifying In what way was the Byzantine Empire multicultural?

The World of the Americas

GUIDING QUESTION *Which civilizations flourished in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans?*

Around 5000 B.C., farming settlements began to appear in river valleys and upland areas in Central and South America. Not long afterward, organized communities developed along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the western slopes of the central Andes Mountains.

The Olmec, the first-known civilization in Mesoamerica, appeared around 1200 B.C. Aspects of their tradition influenced later Mesoamerican

societies. For example, the Olmec played a ceremonial game on a stone ball court that was later played by the Zapotec and Maya. The Maya and the Aztec were especially successful in developing advanced and prosperous civilizations. Both cultures built elaborate cities that had pyramids, temples, and palaces. Both were polytheistic, worshiping many gods and goddesses. Mayan civilization collapsed in the ninth century, and the Aztecs fell to Spanish invaders in the sixteenth century.

In the fifteenth century the Inca Empire thrived in South America along the Andes. It was carefully planned and regulated, which is especially evident in the extensive network of roads that connected all parts of the empire. Despite this, the Inca eventually fell to Spanish invaders, due to a lack of advanced weaponry. Years before the Inca, around 900 B.C., the Chavin emerged in the Andean region of modern-day Peru. Their stone temples provide evidence of this early South American people.

While the Maya, Aztec, and Inca were developing their civilizations, the peoples of North America were creating a remarkable number of different cultures. The Inuit, Mound Builders, Anasazi, Plains Amerindians, and Iroquois developed societies that responded in unique ways to the environmental conditions that they faced.

All these societies in the Americas developed in apparently total isolation from their counterparts elsewhere in the world. This deprived them of access to developments taking place in Africa, Asia, and Europe, such as the wheel. Also their written languages were not as sophisticated as those in other parts of the world. But in other respects, their cultural achievements were equal to those realized elsewhere. When the first European explorers arrived in the Americas at the beginning of the sixteenth century, they described much that they observed in glowing terms. One need only point to the awed comments of early Spanish visitors who said that the cities of the Aztecs were the equal of any found in Spain.

Unfortunately for their own needs, one development that the peoples of America lacked was the knowledge of firearms. In a few short years, tiny bands of Spanish explorers were able to conquer the magnificent civilizations of the Americas and turn them into ruins.

READING PROGRESS CHECK

Making Inferences What factors indicate that the peoples of Central and South America had organized societies?



▲ A figurine of Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec god of the sun and of war.

► **CRITICAL THINKING**

Determining Importance Why might Huitzilopochtli have been particularly important to the Aztecs?

PHOTO: Musée de Quai Branly/Scala/Art Resource, NY

LESSON 2 REVIEW

Reviewing Vocabulary

1. Contrasting What is the difference in authority between an aristocracy and a sultanate?

Using Your Notes

2. Summarizing Use your notes to summarize the characteristics of two major civilizations that emerged in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas after the collapse of ancient empires.

Answering the Guiding Questions

3. Analyzing What factors contributed to the development of the Arab Empire?

4. Identifying What defined the economies and societies of trading states in Africa?

5. Evaluating What were the successes and challenges of medieval Asia?

6. Making Connections How did a new European civilization develop after the fall of the Roman Empire?

7. Describing What factors contributed to the emergence and success of the Byzantine Empire?

8. Identifying Which civilizations flourished in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans?

Writing Activity

9. ARGUMENT In what ways did the civilizations described in this lesson interact with and influence each other? Which civilization do you think had the greatest impact on society? Write an essay arguing your choice. Provide evidence to support your claims.