

WHAP Economic Developments

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| Time Period | Big Ideas | Specifics |
|---------------------|---|---|
| To 600 CE | Neolithic revolution; Food surpluses allowed for specialization of labor; Classes emerged based upon economics; Concept of private property; Trade emerges along water ways; Systems of currency devised | Agriculture and trading |
| 600-1450 | Most fundamentally agricultural; Artisans and craftsmanship increase; Trade, commerce, and banking become common; Urbanization of cities; Growth of merchant classes; Major trade cities: Venice, Cairo, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Samarkand, Canton, Malacca, and Timbuktu | Europe: feudalism; rise of cities; Italian states trading centers; Africa: trade Asia: Song China was the most industrialized economy in the world; lead to largest cities; |
| 1450-1750 | Industrial revolutions; Agricultural revolution; Worldwide economic system; Banking, commerce, trade, shopkeeping; Middle class emerges; Trade and commerce become the foundation of wealth; Capitalism; Metals from New World affects European economy; Inflation in all civilizations; Slave trade becomes major economic activity | Japan: industries for pottery, steel, and weapons; merchant class grows Americas: exploitation by Europeans; slavery part of economic system; Industrialization: Europe and U.S. |
| 1750-1900 | Industrialization displaced agriculture as the largest sector of the economy; West became capitalist; Class structures; more urbanization; Slavery major economic activity | European and U.S. Industrialization: Mass culture appears; new forms of energy; social problems and issues; rise in population; capitalism, socialism, and communism; trade unions emerge; more powerful weapons Colonialism and Imperialism: easier to conquer; colonies used for natural resources and minerals; increased industrialization leads to new reliance on slavery; Meiji, Japan: sent men to study industry in Europe; could be shot if not following orders in factories Africa: 1800s slave trade becomes illegal; Latin America: failed to industrialize |
| 1900-Present | Rise of communism and socialism; Huge growth between wealthy and poor; The west became fully industrialized as did Canada, U.S., and Japan; World economy very interdependent; Developed and developing world; Post industrial economies based upon services, information, and technology; Multinational corporations; End of communism led to painful adjustments to new system | Wars led to major political control of economies as countries had to mobilize for war; loss of colonies; Russian communism; globalization of the economy; Asia, Africa, and Latin America: reliance on cash crops |