

WHAP Timeline Four

Date(s) Event/Society Significance

1441	Atlantic Slave Trade begins.	Peoples were removed from their homes in Africa and transported to the Americas, adding an African presence to the mix of European and Native American peoples. This injected issues of race into America and introduced elements of African culture. It slowed Africa's growth demographically and economically and served as a political disruption.
1450	The Inca Empire is established in the Americas.	The Inca incorporated the lands and cultures of earlier Andean civilizations. They had a bureaucratic empire and attempted cultural integration. The Inca state represented a network of economic relationships. Women and men operated on separate but equivalent spheres.
1450	The Songhay Empire in West Africa emerges.	The Songhay Empire operated as a crucial intersection of the trans-Saharan trade routes. Islam grew and the Songhay Empire became a major center of Islamic learning and commerce but was limited to urban elites.
1453	Ottomans seize Constantinople (Mediterranean Basin/Middle East)	Ended the Byzantine Empire and allowed Ottoman rulers to see themselves as successors to the Roman Empire. The Ottomans were established as a major threat to Europe
1469-1539	Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak's life	Sikhism blended Islam and Hinduism, set aside caste distinctions, untouchability, and ended seclusion of women.
1492	Columbus's discovery of America	Columbus "discovered" what is now Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Never made it to the Americas, but his voyage sparked Spanish interest in these new lands as a possible source of resources that could be exploited.
1492	The Columbian Exchange	Enormous network of trade, communication, migration, the spread of diseases, and the transfer of plants and animals all facilitated by European colonies in the Americas. Gave rise to something wholly new in world history. Connected the Atlantic world of four continents. "Two olds worlds were joined to create a new world."
1498	Vasco da Gama arrives in India.	European countries were made aware of India's wealth.

End of the 15th century	Emergence of complex societies Chinookan, Tulalip, and Skagit along the coast of North America	These societies were “complex” or “affluent” hunting and gathering societies. They were permanent village settlements with large and sturdy houses, considerable economic specialization, chiefdoms dominated by powerful clan leaders, and extensive storage of food.
1500	The Great Dying in the Americas	The demographic collapse of Native Americans due to long isolation from the Afro-Eurasian, lack of most domesticated animals, and the absence of acquired immunities to Old World (European) diseases. Killed off about 90% of the population.
16th century	Bhakti movement	Provided an avenue for social criticism because it appealed to women and set aside caste distinctions. Brought Hindus and Muslims together in a new form of expression.
1505	Portuguese attacks on Swahili cities in East Africa	The Portuguese established bases along the coast of Africa, including Mombasa, Zanzibar, and Mozambique. They seized these areas using naval and military technology and terrorized cities in order to gain access to trade routes.
1516	Benin begins to restrict slave trade. (Africa)	Benin was unique among African states in that it successfully avoided a deep involvement in slave trade. The king (<i>Oba</i> in their language) restricted slave trade and later forbade the export of male slaves, although this ban was abolished in the eighteenth century.
1521	Spanish conquest of the Aztecs and Incas in the Americas	Gave Spain access to the most wealthy, urbanized, and densely populated region of the western hemisphere. New social order and the emergence of mestizos (mixed race population)
1526	Mughal Empire established in India (South Asia)	The dynasty and about 20% of the population were Muslim, while the rest of India was Hindu. Under Akbar, this difference was acknowledged and Hinduism was accommodated. Other rulers sought to impose Islamic supremacy.
1534-1639	Periodic warfare between the Ottoman and Safavid Empires	Reflected the territorial and religious rivalry between the two states. Sunni/Shia divide persisted into the twenty-first century.
1535-1700	Spanish Catholic missionaries convert the Natives of Latin America to Christianity. (Americas)	Different than early conquests because the Europeans claimed an exclusive religious truth and sought the utter and complete destruction of local gods and deities. Christianity was eventually assimilated into society, and mass conversion took place.

1550	Russian expansion across Siberia begins.	Forcibly spread Christianity. Large influx of Russian settlers into foreign areas reduced native populations and encouraged pastoralists to abandon nomadic ways. Established current borders.
1550-1800	Chinese encounter with Jesuit Christianity	No mass conversion occurred, but scholars and officials did convert because of the attractive lives of the missionaries and their interest in Western science. Jesuit scholars introduced many Western scientific concepts to China. However, Jesuits were eventually discredited and Christianity failed to take hold in China.
1570s	China makes silver its new currency.	Sudden demand for silver caused its value to greatly increase and ultimately allowed Europeans and others to engage in trade with China and gain access to its wealthy market.
~1600~1700	Kaozheng movement in China	Kaozheng = research based on evidence. Emphasized the importance of verification, precision, accuracy, and analysis. This generated agricultural, medicinal, botanical, and many other advances, although it was mostly applied to an examination of historical events than to the study of the natural world.
17th century	Three major trading settlements are created by the British East India Company	The establishment of these trading settlements was the beginning of Britain's control in India
1612, 1674	Establishment of trading outposts by the English (1612) and French (1674)	India began its involuntary interactions with Western countries.
1620s	Establishment of Dutch settlement in South Africa	Large numbers of the Dutch colonized South Africa, becoming "Boers" or "Afrikaners". They saw themselves as "white Africans" and became deeply ingrained in the society. This settlement gave rise to later conflicts related to race and decolonization.
1644-1912	Qing (Manchu) dynasty in China	Qing dynasty was foreign in origin and created a sharp cultural distinction due to the ruler's desire to stay separate. China expanded to about the size that it is today, establishing a new Court of Colonial Affairs to deal with these new territories, while not assimilating these new people into Chinese culture. Addition of a non-Chinese minority and transformation of Central Asia, ultimately resulting in the impoverished regions there today. Land commerce was replaced with oceanic commerce, and this dynasty marked the end of nomadic powers.

1685-1853	Massive population growth in China	Occurred because of access to American food crops and a robust economy. Lack of increase in magistrate staff members meant that China became increasingly unable to successfully manage its peoples and collect taxes, losing power to local gentry and provincial officials.
1689-1912	Treaty of Nerchinsk between Russia and China	China expanded, viewing it as a defensive necessity, but the threat of the also expanding Russian empire created then need for a treaty to secure the boundary between the two empires.
1700s-1820s	Wars of Islamic renewal in West Africa	Due to the vast spread of Islam and blending of local beliefs, versions of Islam were practiced that deviated from the original Islamic teachings. A number of Muslims fought the “corrupt” forms of Islam that had arisen and the rulers that permitted these Islamic practices.