

Unit 3: Land-Based Empires

Learning Objectives and Historical Developments

c. 1450 to c. 1750

12-15% AP Exam Weighting

Topic 3.1 Empires Expand

Explain how and why various land-based empires developed and expanded from 1450-1750.

GOV: Imperial expansion relied on the increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade to establish large empires in both hemispheres.

GOV: Land empires included the Manchu in Central and East Asia; the Mughal in South and Central Asia; the Ottoman in Southern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa; and the Safavids in the Middle East.

GOV: Political and religious disputes led to rivalries and conflict between states.

Topic 3.2 Empires: Administration

Explain how rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power in land-based empires from 1450 to 1750.

GOV: Recruitment and use of bureaucratic elites, as well as the development of military professionals, became more common among rulers who wanted to maintain centralized control over their populations and resources.

GOV: Rulers continued to use religious ideas, art, and monumental architecture to legitimize their rule.

GOV: Rulers used tribute collection, tax farming, and innovative tax-collection systems to generate revenue in order to forward state power and expansion.

Topic 3.3 Empires: Belief Systems

Explain continuity and change within the various belief systems during the period from 1450 to 1750.

CDI: The Protestant Reformation marked a break with existing Christian traditions and both the Protestant and Catholic reformations contributed to the growth of Christianity.

CDI: Political rivalries between the Ottoman and Safavid empires intensified the split within Islam between Sunni and Shi'a.

CDI: Sikhism developed in South Asia in a context of interactions between Hinduism and Islam.

Topic 3.4 Comparison in Land-Based Empires - REVIEW

Compare the methods by which various empires increased their influence.

The interconnection of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres made possible by transoceanic voyaging, transformed trade and had a significant social impact on the world. In some cases, the increase and intensification of interactions between newly connected hemispheres expanded the reach and furthered development of existing religions, and contributed to religious conflicts and the development of syncretic belief systems and practices.

Empires achieved increased scope and influence around the world, shaping and being shaped by the diverse populations they incorporated.

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