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Period: \_\_\_\_\_  
Score: \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT I – PART I**  
**ASIAN HISTORY**  
2/310/09

**Songhay Empire**

- An Islamic empire established in the 1400s (following the decline of the Mali Empire) and lasting until the 1600s
- The capital city, Gao, was commercially successful and, following a campaign of expansion led by Sunni Ali, the empire reached its height and included the city of Timbuktu
- Much like the West African kingdoms that preceded it, the kingdom of Songhay had control of the trans-Saharan trade routes, which allowed for the exchange of salt and metals for gold and salt
- Timbuktu was not only an important trading city but also a leading cultural center
- The emperors of Songhay, all Muslims, encouraged the building of mosques and schools to teach Islam to the citizens of the empire
- In the late 1500s, the Moroccan army, armed with guns, attacked and seized the unarmed Songhay Empire

**Ming Dynasty**

- Emperor Hongwu established the Ming dynasty, following the Yuan dynasty, in 1368; his immediate goal was to remove all signs of Mongol rule
- Hongwu centralized power and established direct rule by the emperor. He reestablished a civil service system based on Confucian values to ensure promotion of scholar bureaucrats on the basis of ability, not favors
- Society was based on strict adherence to rules established by the Ming government
- Power of the central government was increased through the use of eunuchs and mandarins (emissaries sent out to enforce government policies)
- Economic recovery: rebuilt irrigation systems led to agricultural surplus, promoted production of manufactured goods: porcelain, silk, and cotton; demanded tribute from surrounding states

**Ming Dynasty: Social and Cultural Changes**

- The revival of the civil service exams encouraged the creation of an extensive scholar-bureaucrat class, which was responsible for much of the governance of the empire
- The restoration of Confucian traditions encouraged the subordination of women, and in many ways women's lives were even more tightly controlled than previously
- Widows were strongly discouraged from remarrying and foot binding became increasingly more popular and filtered to the lower classes
- The *Yongle Encyclopedia* collection of Chinese philosophy, literature, and history was recorded
- The Chinese novel's gain in popularity led to an increase in literacy

**Ming Dynasty: Economic Growth**

- An increase in commercial activity, as well as an increase in population, led to an overall expansion of the economy
- New food crops, particularly foods from the Americas such as maize and peanuts, were suitable to the Chinese landscape and over time led to a population increase
- Overseas trade became more extensive, particularly as demand for Chinese goods such as silk and porcelain increased
- European merchants, as well as Muslim and Asian traders, traded in China's two main port cities
- The Chinese merchant class grew in wealth and power

- The prosperity of the Ming period was reflected in the arts and literature; calligraphy and landscape art are still highly valued

### **The Great Wall**

- A stone and brick fortification in the north of China built to protect China from outside invasion
- Although construction of a defensive wall began in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C.E. under Shi Huangdi, it was completed under the Ming (in large response to the Mongol invasion of the previous period)
- The wall generally prevented attacks; only when the empire was suffering internally were outsiders able to go beyond the wall and invade

### **Forbidden City**

- Located in modern-day Beijing, it was the capital of the Ming and Qing empires
- An imperial city containing hundreds of buildings, courtyards, and halls
- Members of the imperial family, the emperor's concubines, and court eunuchs were the only people allowed in the Inner Court
- The lavishness and size of the city reflected the power and authority of the empire

### **Qing Dynasty**

### **Tokugawa Shogunate**

#### **Tokugawa Shogunate – Period of Isolation**

- The Portuguese arrived in Japan in 1543 and established a commercial relationship between the two nations
- New products, including tobacco and firearms, were introduced to Japan
- Christian missionaries arrived in the mid 1500s in the hopes of converting the Japanese
- Fearful that conversion to Christianity would undermine the authority of the shogunate and aware that firearms were no match for swords, the shoguns began to restrict contact with foreigners
- A series of seclusion acts were passed to ban missionary activities and ultimately the religion
- By the 1640s, foreign trade was forbidden except for very limited Dutch and Chinese trade; Japanese were forbidden to travel abroad, and very few foreigners were allowed into the country
- This period of self-imposed isolation was relatively peaceful and thus has come to be known as the Pax Tokugawa

#### **Tokugawa Shogunate - Period of Political Change**

- The unification of Japan in the late 1500s led to the establishment of a military government led by a shogun, which brought nearly 300 years of peace and stability to the nation (the Pax Tokugawa)
- Shoguns (supreme military rulers) sought to centralize their authority and maintain stability

- In prior periods, a decentralized feudal structure had allowed for the daimyo (landowning families) to gain power and rule independent of the emperor; shoguns centralized authority and thus took power away from the daimyo
- Daimyo estates were broken up, and attendance at the imperial court in Edo (modern-day Tokyo) was required; daimyo needed the permission of the shogun to marry and even to repair their castles

### **Tokugawa Shogunate – Period of Social and Economic Changes**

- The peace and stability in this period brought about great changes
- Socially, the samurai and daimyo classes, who had previously been involved in fighting civil wars, now found they could concentrate their time and wealth on new endeavors, including the arts
- New crops led to a population increase
- As Japanese cities grew and trade increased, the merchant class benefited greatly
- Cities were centers of new cultural traditions, including the development of kabuki theater

### **Ottoman Empire: Rise and Expansion**

- In 1453 the Ottoman Turks, nomads from central Asia, captured the Byzantine capital of Constantinople and renamed it Istanbul; Ottoman control continued until the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Ottoman military success came from their command of gunpowder technology (diffused from China)
- The Islamic empire quickly expanded as the Ottomans took control of much of the Middle East and then extended their control to the Balkans and the Crimean Peninsula, creating a multinational empire
- By the mid 1500s, the Ottoman Empire was the largest and most powerful empire in Europe and the Middle East

### **Suleiman the Magnificent**

- As sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1520 to 1566, he expanded the empire into southern Europe and created an efficient centralized bureaucracy
- Modernized the Ottoman army
- Known as the Lawgiver for improving the legal system-laws were based on sharia, Islamic law
- He was a great patron of the arts and known for his religious tolerance

### **Safavid Empire**

- Following the Battle of Chaldiran, fought against the Ottoman Turks in 1514, the Safavid family consolidated their control over modern-day Iran and ruled until 1736
- They established the Shiite sect of Islam as the official religion of the empire
- Under Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588-1629) the capital was moved to Isfahan, the army was modernized, and long-distance trade flourished
- Constant conflict with the Ottomans, coupled with the threat of an increasingly stronger Russian Empire to the north and the Mogul Empire to the south, led to decline

### **Mogul Empire**

- An Islamic empire, established in India following the defeat of the Delhi Sultanate by the Moguls in 1526
- The Moguls unified much of the subcontinent and under the leadership of Akbar established a strong centralized empire in the region
- During the Mogul golden age Islamic art and architecture flourished as evidenced by the building of the Taj Mahal
- The empire began to decline in the late 1600s: emperors abandoned policies of religious toleration, and the arrival of Europeans posed a serious challenge to Mogul rule

### **Akbar the Great**

- A ruler of the Mogul Empire (r. 1556-1605), he clearly established the absolute authority of the emperor and a policy of tolerance toward the many religions in his empire
- Eliminated the *jizya*, a tax imposed on Hindus, and allowed Hindus to rise to positions of power in his government
- Modernized the army and encouraged long-distance trade
- Generous patron of the arts

### **Taj Mahal**

- A tomb built by the Mogul emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, who died giving birth
- An excellent example of Islamic and Hindu architecture
- Design elements include a large dome, minarets, a reflecting pool, expansive courtyards, and the use of symmetry

### **Expansion of Islam**

- Rapid expansion in the century after Muhammad's death was the work of early caliphs who spread the word through pilgrimages
- Between 633 and 637, Muslims took control of Byzantine Syria and Palestine and seized most of Mesopotamia from the Sassanids
- During the 640s Muslims conquered Byzantine Egypt and North Africa
- By 651, Muslims controlled the Sassanid dynasty and Persia
- By 718 Muslims controlled Hindu India, northwestern Africa, and the Iberian Peninsula
- Muslims allowed conquered people (especially Christians and Jews) to maintain their own religious practices but required those who did not convert to Islam to pay a tax (*jizya*)
- Positions of power and authority were reserved for Muslims

### **Trade in the Indian Ocean**

- Larger ships and improved commercial organization led to an increase in the quantity and quality of trade in the Indian Ocean basin
- Advances in planning: rhythms of monsoons taken into account; larger ships able to go farther away from the coastline; warehouses built to store goods
- Trade conducted in stages because monsoons forced mariners to stay in ports for months waiting for favorable winds
- Important Indian ports: Cambay, Calicut, Quilon – way stations for traders from China and Africa
- East African city-states traded gold, iron, and ivory
- From China, silk and porcelain
- Portugal controlled trade in the Indian Ocean beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century

### **Long-distance Trade in Eastern Hemisphere**

- Southeast Asia, Africa, and India were all connected by trade
- Goods traveled through two primary routes: silk roads, established in Han dynasty, were best for transporting light luxury items (silk and precious stones); the sea was used for bulkier items (coral, stone, and building material)
- Major trading cities included Hangzhou, Alexandria, Khanbaliq, Kilwa, Constantinople, Quanzhou, Cairo, Melaka, Venice, Cambay, Timbuktu, and Caffa
- Trade cities enjoyed tremendous wealth as a result of their status as major trading ports; inhabitants usually did not have to pay taxes
- With the exception of Mongol military campaigns and the Black Death, there were no significant interruptions to trade

### **Trading Post Empires**

- Trading posts, built to establish commercial relations, resulted from the control of trade routes
- The Portuguese built the first trading posts; Vasco da Gama built one in Calicut
- With increased exploration, more trading posts were established
- The Portuguese had trading posts along both coasts of Africa and throughout Asia
- The English and the Dutch, following the lead of the Portuguese, also built trading posts
- The English established posts throughout India; the Dutch from South Africa to Southeast Asia

### **Joint-Stock Company**

- A commercial venture that brought together many investors in order to minimize the risks and costs of the investment and thus spurred exploration
- Privately held, with government support
- Shares/stock were bought by individuals, and the shared investment was used to buy ships and finance trade

- Two of the most profitable companies were the Dutch East India Company, which established a monopoly over the spice trade (by securing trade routes to Indonesia), and the English East India Company

### **Christopher Columbus**

- Christopher Columbus, an explorer from Genoa, proposed heading west to reach Asia through an all-water trade route (lack of knowledge about the Americas made this idea seem feasible)
- Sponsored by Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, Columbus was given three ships to traverse the Atlantic
- He finally landed in the Bahamas in 1492
- Columbus returned without gold, silk, and spices from Asia, but he insisted that he had reached islands off the Asian mainland
- In three subsequent voyages, Columbus never admitted he had not reached Asia; his “discoveries” led to other expeditions in the Caribbean and the Americas, and the lands were claimed for Spain

### **Motives for European Exploration**

- To find new, more efficient water trade routes to Asian markets, avoiding established land routes through Muslim-controlled areas (and thus the taxes imposed by Muslim middlemen)
- To find new lands to extend the cultivation of cash crops
- To spread the Christian religion
- To gain political status

### **Technology of European Exploration**

- Lanteen sails, which allowed ships to sail in any direction
- The astrolabe, used by sailors to determine latitude
- Inventions borrowed from the Chinese included the sternpost rudder, which improved navigation, and the magnetic compass
- As more voyages were made, mariners learned more about the ocean winds and currents; as a result new, more accurate maps were drawn up
- Caravels, which were faster than older ships

### **European Explorers**

- Bartholomeu Dias, a Portuguese explorer, rounded the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip of Africa in 1488, stopping at the Indian Ocean
- Vasco de Gama, from Portugal, rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1497 and continued his voyage up the eastern coast of Africa, eventually making his way to India; this sea route gave Europeans access to the Asian spice market without having to cross the traditional land routes controlled by Muslims
- Christopher Columbus, searching for a western water route to the Asian markets, landed in the Caribbean and thus “discovered” the New World
- In 1521 Ferdinand Magellan became the first European to cross the Pacific Ocean

### **European Exploration of Pacific**

- Between the 1500s and the 1700s, Europeans explored the Pacific motivated by trade
- In 1521 Ferdinand Magellan became the first European to cross the Pacific Ocean
- Few colonies were established in the Pacific; trade in the Eastern Hemisphere was conducted mainly through the Spanish-controlled city of Manila, established in 1571, which connected the Spanish colonies with Asian markets
- Contact with Europe brought some change to the Pacific: new diseases and missionaries, who followed explorers in the hopes of converting natives to Christianity

### **Protestant Reformation**

- Martin Luther found support following the publication of his Ninety-five Theses, and a movement to reform the Roman Catholic Church followed

- The movement was widespread across Germany; many churches reformed their religious services to reflect Protestant doctrine
- The Reformation spread beyond Germany into England and Switzerland
- In England, King Henry VIII established the Anglican Church, naming himself as the highest religious authority in the land. In Switzerland, John Calvin founded a Protestant community
- The Reformation continued to spread across northern Europe, and in response Catholic authorities began their own reform, the Counter-Reformation