Early Modern World History, weeks 1-2

1. What is the early modern world?
   a. 1500-1800
      i. 1453, Mohamed II/Constantinople
      ii. 1455, Gutenberg
      iii. 1487, Bartolomeu Dias/Cape of Good Hope
      iv. 1492, Columbus; Castille & Aragon reconquer Granada
      v. 1499-1501, da Gama/India

2. Why periodize history?
   a. Ancient/Classical/Medieval/Early Modern/Modern
   b. Periodization as
      i. help/shorthand to comprehend the broad narrative
      ii. as basis for argument in history

3. Weltanschauung and Anachronism
   a. Early modern creation of ancient past
      i. John White’s Indians and Picts
      ii. Renaissance view of Antiquity and Dark Ages

4. pre-modern civilizations and the relation between societies and civilizations
   a. Pre-history?
      i. 4 million years of human-like creatures
         (1) humans from 500,000 years ago
         (a) Homo-sapiens from 100,000 years ago
      ii. From gatherers to Agricultural/Neolithic Revolution (10,000-6,000 B.C.E.)
   b. relation of civilization and cultures (hierarchy and records)
   c. Agriculture, Cities, and River Basins
   d. Civilization and barbarians

5. Civilization (single)?; or Civilizations (multiple)?
   a. not first world and third world, but East and West
   b. Mongols in East and West Asia, 1100-1400: the irony of a barbarian civilization?
      i. Rulers
         (1) Genghis Khan (1167-1227)
         (2) Ögödei son (rules, 1229-1241)
         (3) Möngke (rules 1251-1259)
         (4) Khubilai Khan (b. 1214, rules c. 1260-1294)
      ii. nomadic invaders, ruthless; but also unifiers & traders
         (1) *Pax Mongolica* along Silk Route
         (2) Problems: lack of dominant culture, lack of numbers (1.5 mill. Mongols, 60 mill. Chinese)
            (a) Confucius: "One can conquer the world on horseback, but one cannot govern it on horseback"
      iii. beginning of Eurasian/global history
         (1) Asian land mass as a bridge not a barrier

6. Indian Civilization (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, to 13th century, pre-Mongol, pre-Mughal)
   a. Rulers, armies, bureaucracy
      i. light control
      ii. heavy taxes in specie
   b. Economy
      i. long-distance trade
      ii. Muslims and Middle East trade
      iii. art and artisans
   c. Religion
      i. Hindu
         (1) *Bhagavad-Gita* and salvation
         (2) caste and inequality
         (3) Brahmans and control of religious books
      ii. Buddhism
         (1) reaction against hierarchy
         (2) from philosophy to religion
         (3) wiped out in India in 13th century (1202), to East Asia
      iii. Muslim
         (1) series of invasions and rule from the North
         (2) Punjab and Muslim people
         (3) small minority of Muslims; large majority of Hindus
      iv. Sikh
7. Pre-Mongol China
   a. Rulers [Northern Wei/Sui/Tang, 589-907; Southern Song/Jin (North)/Song, 960-1279]
      i. scholar-bureaucrats
         (1) Confucian, Neo-Confucian
         (2) examination system
      ii. invasions from the North
         (1) Great Wall from 3rd century on
         (2) barbarian raiders
      iii. building projects
         (1) Grand Canal (from 609)
   b. Economy
      i. family structure
      ii. artisans
      iii. primacy of the farmer (Scholars/Farmers/Artisans/Merchants)
         (1) Green Revolution, 1000-1200
      iv. link to West with Silk Route
         (1) power of merchants in South China Guangzhou (Canton)
   c. Religion
      i. Confucian
      ii. Buddhism
         (1) bodhisattvas, grand teachers
         (2) used by new rulers, like Sui, to combat Confucian certainties of the scholar-bureaucrats
      iii. Daoism
         (1) Neo-Confucianism a syncretic link with the spirituality of the Daoists (Qi)