

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
6. Indian Civilization (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, to 13th century, pre-Mongol, pre-Mughal)
 - a. Indus and the Ganges
 - i. cities and flooding
 - ii. Indus
 - (1) overrun by Aryans iron-age pastoralist warriors
 - iii. Ganges
 - (1) Kingdoms over several peoples
 - b. Rulers, armies, bureaucracy
 - i. light control
 - ii. heavy taxes in specie
 - c. Economy
 - i. long-distance trade
 - ii. Muslims and Middle East trade
 - iii. art and artisans
 - d. Religion
 - i. Hindu
 - (1) *Bhagavad-Gita* and salvation
 - (2) caste and inequality
 - (3) Brahmins 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
 - (1) syncretic
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-bureacrats
 - iii. Daoism
 - (1) Neo-Confucianism a syncretic link with the spirituality of the Daoists (Qi)
- 8. 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