

Chapter 21: Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interaction Reading Questions

Long-Distance Trade and Travel – p. 436

1. What goods moved along the roads? Which goods were transported on the oceans?
2. What three things were necessary for a trading or port city to become a major emporium, attracting people from all over the world?
3. After the Mongol empire settled down, many people began to travel the entire distance of the Silk Roads. The most famous was Marco Polo. How did the book based on Polo's life affect European readers?

Political and Diplomatic Travel – p. 439

4. Why did educated Muslims from the Middle East travel to recently converted lands?
5. Who was the most famous and important of the Muslim travelers? After naming him, list the places he went.

Missionary Campaigns – p. 441

6. Why were the Sufis successful missionaries?
7. In what regions were Catholic missionaries most successful?

Long-Distance Travel and Cross-Cultural Exchanges – p. 442

8. New technologies spread via travelers, but also facilitated those same travelers. Give one example.
9. How did the production of sugar change societies and economies?
10. Bentley & Ziegler wrote, "Although not especially accurate, the weapons were powerful enough to blow holes in the defensive walls of cities under siege." How would this new power have changed warfare?

Crisis and Recovery – p. 445

11. What was the Little Ice Age? When was it?
12. Where did the plague begin?
13. How did it spread from place to place?
14. How many Chinese people died of the plague? What percent of Europe's population died.
15. What social and economic effects did the plague have? (Name at least two)

Recovery in China: the Ming Dynasty – p. 447

16. What happened to the Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty?
17. Ming dynasty: Centralized or decentralized?
18. Besides centralization, what was significant about Ming society (what does your book talk about)?

Recovery in Europe: State Building – p. 448

19. As Europe rebuilt after the plague, they did not build a centralized government like the Ming. What did they build instead?
20. All European nations raised money the same way. What did they do to raise money?
21. What Russian monarch stopped paying tribute to the khan, established himself as tsar, and established Muscovy as a large principality?

Recovery in Europe: The Renaissance – p. 451

22. What does the word “renaissance” mean and to what does it refer?
23. What artistic innovation did Renaissance painters use? How were Renaissance sculptures different from their medieval predecessors?
24. What inspired Brunelleschi’s architectural designs?
25. Humanists were scholars interested in the _____, which means they studied...
26. Humanists disliked scholasticism, looking instead to what sources?
27. How did Humanist philosophy differ from scholastic philosophy?

Exploration and Colonization – p. 453

28. The purpose of Zheng He’s expeditions was to establish Chinese dominance in the Indian Ocean basin. How did he do so? (Name at least 3 ways).
29. Why did Zheng He’s voyages end?

European Exploration in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans – p. 455

30. What were the goals of the Portuguese explorers?
31. How did Portuguese traders change the African slave trade?
32. What Portuguese trader first reached India (Calcutta, specifically) by sea? In what year did he arrive?