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| **Introduction to the Middle Ages (400-1400 AD)**  | **GROWTH OF INTOLERANCE:** Hatred between Christians and Muslims grew due to the wars Europeans learned about the many achievements that Muslims had made during their **Golden Age** (i.e.- achievements in math, science, medicine, philosophy, and art). **I. The Black Death (1347-1351)** A) The Black Death refers to the major disease (called bubonic plague) that killed 25 million people in Europe (almost 1/3 of the population) during the late Middle Ages. B) The disease started in East Asia (maybe China) and spread to Europe over trade routes such as the Silk Road. The interaction of different groups of people helped spread the disease. C) Major effects (results) of the Black Death: 1**) Depopulation**- The population of Europe decreased from 85 million to 60 million. 2) Feudalism continued to decline as serfs fled from manors for better opportunities. 3) Trade temporarily decreased. |
| A) The Middle Ages is the period of time in Europe after the collapse of the Roman Empire and before the Renaissance. B) **Feudalism** 1) Political system of the **Middle Ages** in which kings **throughout Europe gave land away to nobles in return for their loyalty and military service.** 2) **Nobles** that received land from the king had to serve as knights (warriors on horseback) and fight when necessary. **Knights** had to follow **chivalry** (a code of behavior that stressed loyalty and bravery). 3**) Feudalism** is considered to be a decentralized political system because kings gave away much of their power to nobles, who each controlled their own local areas. 4) In the **feudal system,** land was the basis of wealth and power. Those with more land were considered to be more wealthy and powerful. 5) **Feudalism** brought social stability, order, and structure to the Middle Ages. C) **Manorialism** 1) During the Middle Ages, most people lived on manors (areas of land owned by a noble). 2) Each manor had homes, farmland, artisans, water, and **serfs** (peasants that could not leave the land and who performed farm labor for the noble). 3) Since each manor was mostly self-sufficient (provided for its own needs), trade decreased during the Middle Ages. **D) Religion**- During the Middle Ages, the Roman Catholic Church (especially the Pope) was very wealthy and influential in Western Europe. **II. Crusades (1100-1300)** A) The **Crusades** were the religious wars of the Middle Ages in which Christians from Europe fought to regain control of the Holy Land from Muslims. The Holy Land is a sacred area of the Middle East that includes the city of Jerusalem. B) **Causes of (reasons for) the Crusades:** 1) European Christians believed they would be forgiven for their sins if they fought for God. 2) European Christians believed the Holy Land should not be controlled by Muslims. 3) Many poor Europeans wanted to escape from feudalism. 4) Many Europeans hoped to gain wealth from the Middle East. C) Effects (results) of the **Crusades:** **INCREASED TRADE:** As Europeans began to travel the demand for new goods grew**CULTURAL DIFFUSION:** Europeans got exposure to new ideas  |
| **Golden Age of China: The Tang and Song Dynasties (600s-1200s)**  |
| A) The Golden Age of China took place during **the Tang and Song Dynasties**. Like all Golden Ages, this was a period of tremendous achievements in the arts, science, math, and literature. B**) Key achievements of the Tang and Song Dynasties:** 1) The Chinese invented **gunpowder** (which was later adopted by civilizations in Europe and the Middle East). 2) The Chinese invented the **compass** (which improved sailing/navigation by sea). 3) The Chinese invented block **printing** (a method of printing in which ink is placed on carved wooden blocks that are pressed onto paper). 4) The Chinese created works of art using **porcelain** (beautiful clay). C) Other key facts about the Tang and Song Dynasties: 1) The Chinese conducted long distance trade with other civilizations on land (using the Silk Road) and by sea (from their coastal port city of Canton). 2) **Cultural Diffusion**- Buddhism became popular in China during this period as the ideas of this religion entered China due to trade using the Silk Road. 3) The Chinese continued to use civil service exams to select highly qualified people to work in their government.  |
| **EARLY JAPANESE HISTORY** | The Mongols (1100s-1400s) |
| **III. Influence of China on Japan** A**) Cultural Diffusion**- **Early Japan was GREATLY influenced by contact with the neighboring Asian civilization of China. Through contact with China, Japan received many important things:** 1) Writing- Japan’s first form of writing was influenced by Chinese writing. 2) Buddhism- The Japanese learned about the Buddhist religion from the Chinese. 3) Tea- The Japanese first learned how to cultivate (grow) tea from the Chinese. **IV. Japanese Feudalism** **Feudalism** is a **social and political system** based on a strict social class system and obligation. Feudalism exists in places where the central government is weak (also know as a decentralized government)A) **Similar to Europe during the Middle Ages, Japan developed a system of feudalism early in its history. The feudal system worked like this:** 1) Emperor and Shogun (military general)- They were the rulers of Japan. 2) **Daimyo**- They were the wealthy nobles who were given land by the emperor and Shogun in return for loyalty and military service. 3) **Samurai-** They were the warriors of Japanese society. They pledged loyalty to the Daimyo and had to fight when necessary. The samurai had a code of behavior **called Bushido** (which required the samurai to be loyal to the Daimyo and to fight bravely in battle). B) **NOTE:** Japanese feudalism was very similar to European feudalism: 1) Japanese samurai and European knights both followed a code of behavior. Bushido was the code of the Samurai and Chivalry was the code of the knights. Both codes emphasized loyalty and bravery. 2) Japanese and European feudalism were both decentralized, which means that power was given to many different local leaders instead of being concentrated in the hands of a single ruler. 3) Because people in each society had a clear role to follow, feudalism brought structure, order, and stability (calmness) to society.  | A) Introduction1) The Mongol people originated on the **steppes** (grassy plains) of Central Asia.2) The Mongols lived in a harsh physical environment and survived as nomadic **pastoralists**- They raised animals and migrated frequently in search of grazing lands for their animals.B) Empire 1) Under the skilled military leadership of **Genghis Khan**, the Mongols conquered so much land that they established the LARGEST EMPIRE in all of history. 2) At its height, the Mongol empire included China, Central Asia, Russia, and much of the Middle East C) **Marco Polo** 1) **Marco Polo was an Italian merchant who visited the Mongols in China and remained there for almost 20 years.** 2) After returning to Italy, Marco wrote down extensive information about his experiences in China with the Mongols. 3) **NOTE:** The writings of **Marco Polo** are important for several reasons: a) They are valuable primary sources that teach us about China during this period. b) They increased the desire of Europeans to trade with China to obtain valuable goods. D) The Mongols are important for several reasons: 1) Trade and travel between Europe and Asia increased TREMENDOUSLY during Mongol rule since the Mongols kept peace and prevented violence along trade routes (like the Silk Road). 2) **Influence on Russia** a) **After they conquered Russia, the Mongols kept Russia isolated (removed) from developments that were taking place in Western Europe.** **b) The Mongols taught the Russians how to have a centralized government- A strong government with one ruler in firm control.** 3) The Mongols were the first foreign group to completely conquer China. 4) The Mongols developed a tribute system- Areas taken over by the Mongols were required to give the Mongols money each year.  |