

AP World History
Chapter 15: West & Changing
Balance
Chapter Notes

The Rise of the West

- Decline of the Arabic/Islamic Areas- the Caliphate system goes into decline, is replaced eventually by Ottoman Empire
- Issues over trade routes: Mongols will reopen trade b/t east & west
- China will attempt (under Ming) to dominate Indian Ocean trade network- voyages of Zhenghe but will eventually back away from international involvement

Rise of the West (Cont.)

- 1348 The Bubonic Plague (AKA Black Death)- Hits Europe very hard
- Medieval period leads to creation of strong monarchies in competition with each other (Hundred Years War for example)
- Access to eastern markets opened up to Europeans (by Mongols) leading to increased demand (especially for European elites)

Rise of the West (Cont.)

- Rise of a new power: Italian city-states led by such places as Florence and Venice
- Renaissance: starts in Italy, leads to new cultural/artistic values and emphasis on a secular world-view- see BB for a set of notes on Renaissance (Under Assignments, Qtr 2 Link)
- Rise of a new monarchy in Iberian peninsula: Spain (formed through unification of Castile & Aragon in 1469)

Map of Italian City States



Florence in Renaissance Period



Early Western Explorations

- 1291 Vivaldis brothers attempt to sail west into Atlantic looking for Western route to “Indies”- never seen again
- Issues with navigation technology partially solved with introduction of Compass and astrolabe
- Portuguese begin exploration of west coast Africa, moving southward under leadership of Prince Henry, culminates with Bartolomeu Dias reaching Cape of Good Hope 1488 & De Gama reaching India in 1498

Outside World Network: Oceania

- Expanding population in Polynesia (Sandwich Islands) leads to several migrations in period from 700 to 1400:
 - Northward to Hawaiian islands
 - Eastward to Galapagos Islands (Easter Island)
 - Southwest to New Zealand, group there known as “Maori”

Polynesian Migrations


