

# Making the Modern World 1300-1750

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## Section 1: Mongol World Unity

### 1.1 Maps across History

#### Key Concepts

- What makes modernity?
- What is the role of trade?
- Role of the Black Death
- Exploration of the New World
- Persecuted peoples – slaves, jews, witches
- World religions

#### Ancient and Medieval World

- Reduction in geographical world knowledge after the fall of Rome
- Macrobian world maps – cold areas in north and south, world surrounded by giant ocean, ocean separating Eurasia from rest of world
- 'TO' maps – Asia and the east oriented to the north, Europe bottom left, Africa bottom right, Jerusalem at centre of the world; adopted around the crusades

#### Ebstorf world map

- East at the top, associated with the sun rising and hence divinity
- Jerusalem at the centre
- Christ encircles the world
- Map designed to teach religious rather than geographic concepts
- Decorated by religious motifs

#### Hereford Map

- Same orientation as Ebstorf
- Holy land greatly enlarged geographically
- Map shows site of many biblical events, eg. Exodus, Ararat, etc

#### Ptolemy's Geographica

- Translated from Greek around 1400
- Shows Indian Ocean as enclosed
- Old World stretched from 105 degrees to 180 degrees; affected navigation

#### Other World Areas

- 'Asia' taken from Assyrian word
- China as the Middle kingdom from around AD 1000 – believed they were at the centre of the earth and surrounded by barbarians
- Islamic maps show Mecca at the centre of the world
- Concepts of the world depend upon culture, religion and ideology

## 1.2 The Mongols Conquer the World

### Pax Mongolica

- Odd that it was imposed by a non-civilised outside people
- Did not last long; circa. 1250-1350

### The Great Dichotomy

- Nomads vs sedentary peoples
- Agriculturalists vs pastoralists
- Inner vs outer Eurasia

### Inner Eurasia

- Cold and dry
- Not suitable for agriculture
- Cannot support dense populations
- Relatively flat and unbounded by mountains or other barriers
- Fluidity of movement and cultural identity
- Both peripheral and central
- States could form, but of a different sort to those of outer Eurasia
- Steppe peoples not so interested in conquest or administering outer areas; just wanted to extort wealth from them

### Nomadic Pastoralism

- Animals used for meat, fibres, fuel, transport, traction, etc; nothing wasted
- Fairly unhierarchical societies
- Life suitable for training soldiers
- Difficult to amass wealth; herds cannot get too big

### The Mongols

- China around 1200 divided between Xi Xia from Tibet, the Jin from Manchuria (semi-nomads), and the native Song dynasty in the south
- Mongols were a small tribe in competition with many others
- During the 1180s and 1190s Temujin built his power by either conquering or allying with neighbouring tribes, who were soon assimilated as Mongols
- Genghis Kahn adopted this name in 1206; 'universal ruler'; build confederation based on personal rather than clan loyalty
- Divides up conquered clans and peoples into decimal units – tries to obliterate clan loyalties

## 1.3 The Mongol World Empire

### Stages of Mongol Conquest

- Chinggis Khan didn't understand agricultural or settled peoples
- He mainly focused on conquest
- Famous sacking of Baghdad in 1258
- Mongols had difficulty in mountainous and forested topography of southern China and South East Asia; also had trouble with naval operations against Japan

- Chinggis divided his Empire into four main sections; Persia, China, Russia, Central Asia

### Reasons for Mongol Successes

- Planned out their campaigns carefully; reconnaissance, etc
- Were highly disciplined and coordinated
- Used skill workers from conquered peoples
- Had no strong culture of their own, so adapted flexibly and pragmatically to local customs

### How did the Mongol Empire work?

- Empire was divided into khanates, each of which was subject to the superior Kaghan
- Imperial capital at Karakorum
- Communications operated via system of horse riders
- Mongols carried out censuses and used their populations
- Took ideas about government and bureaucracy from Chinese and Arabs
- Wealth was seized and redistributed to followers to maintain loyalty
- Encouraged merchant trade by allowing them to use postal transport systems and providing protection for them
- Religious toleration

### A New World Awareness

- Increase in trade and connections between Muslim and Mongol worlds
- Papal envoys sent to the Mongols
- Rashideddin wrote the first world history volume; *Compendium of Histories*
- Marco Polo
- Creation of modern states; unification of Russia and China
- Increases flows and awareness of technologies and ideas across Eurasia

## 1.4 Marco Polo's Journey

### The Polo Family's Story

- Niccolo Polo, Marco's father; Maffeo Polo, Marco's uncle
- Marco Polo born 1254 into a Venetian trading family
- Traded in Constantinople for six years before moving to Soldaia
- From there followed newly safe silk road to Uzbekistan
- Met with ambassador of Kublai Khan and travelled to Kublai's court
- Were given letter from Kublai Khan to be given to Pope
- Returned to Venice 16 years after leaving; waited in Venice for new Pope to be elected
- No sources other than Marco's word for the letter
- The three Polo's left for Mongol Empire in 1271 and came back to Venice after 25 years
- Marco Polo captured by Genoese fleet in 1296, and one of his fellow prisoners wrote down his story 'for the enjoyment of readers' – not a historical record
- Questions about reliability of the story

### Objections to his story

- Significant omissions in the text – no great wall, no tea drinking or foot binding
- No mention of the Polo's in Chinese documents

- Certain obvious lies in the text
- Descriptions of China quite vague
- Earliest manuscripts differ
- None of the original manuscripts were written by Polo
- No consensus as to why book was written
- Chinese have records of other Europeans visiting

### **Ibn Battuta**

- Ibn Battuta's account also written at the end of his life by another author as a literary account
- Born in Morocco in 1304 – studied law
- Left on a pilgrimage to Mecca in 1325
- The sultan of Morocco commissioned Battuta's account
- Battuta able to find a job across his travels because most of his destinations operated under Muslim law
- Questions about exaggeration
- Doubts that he actually went to China or Constantinople

### **Polo and Battuta Comparisons**

- Polos went as traders; Battuta as a religious man and scholar
- Battuta went to many more places
- Extensive travel networks existed, but most people did not travel extensively on them

## **1.5 The Black Death**

### **Plague Timeline**

- Devastating plague in China in 1320 – might not be the same plague
- Plague reached Crimea in 1347, and brought to Europe by either Venetian or Genoese traders
- Both Europeans and non-Christians felt that the last days had come – 4 horses of the apocalypse

### **Why a Black Death?**

- Name first given by Danish chroniclers in 16<sup>th</sup> century – does not refer to buboes
- So terrible because it killed some 25 million Europeans – no cure, killed indiscriminately

### **Bubonic Plague**

- Traditionally thought to be the bubonic plague – transmitted by fleas on black rats
- Characterised by buboes, or huge black swellings all over the body
- Incubations period of a few days, following by a great fever and seizures
- Then the swellings appear
- Cannot be transmitted from human to human
- 10-40% chance of survival

### **Pneumonic Plague**

- Transmitted by sneezes – highly infectious
- Only 5% chance of survival

### **The Traditional Account**

- Rats are the preferred host of the plague

- Plague apparently endemic to China for a long time
- Plague moved from China to Golden Horde via silk routes in 1340s
- Golden Horde Khan was besieging Kaffa in 1346 and catapulted bodies into city
- Plague then carried by Italian traders to Europe

### Problems with the Account

- Gestation period of black death too short for journey from Kaffa to Italy
- Buboes not always present in descriptions of plague
- Seasonal appearance of plague at odds with flea breeding patterns
- Iceland had the plague, even though it is too cold for rats there
- Plague spreads too quickly
- No mentions about large numbers of rat deaths
- These facts suggest that it was not the bubonic plague

### Effects of the Black Death

- Rise of extreme religiosity – flagellate movements arose
- Rise in popularity of cult saints like St. Sebastian and St. Roch
- Rise in gruesome artistic depictions of death
- Persecutions of Jews, who were accused of poisoning the wells
- Increased movements and mixing of populations as people sought to avoid the plague
- Rise in wealth of certain people, like tradesmen and members of wealthy families
- Money becomes gradually more important in relation to inherited titles

## Section 2: Asia and the Muslim World

### 2.1 The House of Islam

#### Arabia before Islam

- Too dry for agriculture or large populations and complex states
- Economic and social security provided by kinship and tribes
- Religion was polytheistic, worshipped sun, moon, etc, each tribe had its patron god
- Small pockets of Judaism and Christianity existed in the peninsula – gave birth to the idea of ‘Allat’ or ‘one god’, which existed before Muhammad
- The Ka’aba (black stone rock building) contained effigies of various gods, and was one attraction of Mecca to pilgrims – said to have been erected by Abraham

#### The Origins of Islam

- Had a revelation from angel Gabriel in 610
- His ideas unpopular to rulers of Mecca: undermined their religious authority, their economic power from religious pilgrims, as well as the clan-based tribal system
- Mohammed fled to Medina, where he began to build up a state to protect Islam
- Fought war against rulers of Mecca and conquered it in 629

#### Sunnies and Shiites

- The Umayyads were related to the old political leaders of Mecca
- They retook power from the relatives of Mohammed in 680, and became Sunnies

- Those who opposed them (Ali and other relatives) were defeated in 680, and they became the Shi'ites

## 2.2 The Ottoman Empire

### The Rise of the Ottoman Empire

- Initially just bands of roaming Islamic Tribesmen looking for grazing land
- Took over Anatolia in the 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Expansion set back by Tamerlane
- Expansion recommenced under Mehmet II from 1451

### Suleiman the Magnificent

- Conquered Syria and Egypt
- Threatened Vienna
- Codified laws for both ruled and rulers – the 'circle of equity'
- Slow advance across Africa in 16<sup>th</sup> century motivated by desire for Mediterranean bases
- North African states nominally part of the Ottoman Empire, but in practise operated as independent members of the Mediterranean state system
- They practised corsair piracy on behalf of the Ottomans and captured European slaves

## 2.3 Ming China

### Chinese Imperial History

- No independent church or other organisations outside the state
- No aristocratic class
- Emperor was viewed as the 'son of heaven' – has special connection with the gods
- Foreigners could and often did implant themselves on top of this hierarchy and adopt 'son of heavenship' for themselves – did not need to be native Chinese
- Doesn't matter what someone's background is – they can become Emperor so long as they have the power

### Government

- The Hongwu Emperor (first Ming Emperor) abolished Imperial ministers
- This made the Ming highly centralised and autocratic
- This became a problem as time went on and the Ming Emperors became less capable
- Conflict developed between growing autocracy of Emperors and growing power of the bureaucracy
- Bureaucrats preferred weaker Emperors so they could rule themselves
- But they needed to keep the Emperor to serve as symbolic figure

### Society

- The only legal difference was between scholar-officials and commoners
- Taking the civil service examinations was the path to success
- Some would study their whole lives and never quite qualify
- A reasonable degree of social mobility
- Officials functioned both as administrative officials and as judicial officers (judges)

## Economy

- Significant population growth over Ming period
- Introduction of new crops from Americas
- Growth of trade, rural markets and regional specialisation of crops
- Growth in cities and towns – both Beijing and Nanjing more than one million
- Chinese cities were not the same cultural hubs or centres of political independence as they were in Europe

## Merchants

- Growth in the number of merchants
- Merchants began to intermarry with and adopt the values of the scholar-officials
- Merchants not highly esteemed in traditional Confucian values
- Merchants were not involved in production – no integration of the production process

## Culture

- Rising literacy rates – maybe 20% of adult males literate to some degree by 1600
- Growth in woodblock printing

## 2.4 The Voyages of Zheng He

### Zheng He's Voyages

- Captured as a boy and attached to the Ming Emperor
- Placed in charge of overseeing construction and deployment of massive fleet
- Fleet had over 300 ships with some 20,000 people. Biggest ships were 2500 tons
- Fleet sailed with soldiers, traders, sailors, doctors, etc
- Sailed to India, East Africa and Arabia
- Boats had mechanical rudders and watertight bulkheads – advanced technology
- Zheng He brought back metals, precious gems and exotic animals
- No voyages after Zheng He's death in 1433; his patron Emperor died 10 years earlier
- Ships regarded as wasteful, and all larger ships were ordered to be broken up in 1474
- State policy shifted towards defence against the Mongols and building the Great Wall

### Reasons for Voyages

- Major motivation to proclaim superiority of China and enrol tributary states
- Emperor who supported Zheng was a usurper, and so may have authorised voyages to gather tribute in order to legitimise his rule
- Also for entertainment and curiosity of Imperial household by bringing back exotic goods

### Ming and the Outside World

- Ming consider themselves to be restorers of proper Confucian values after Mongol chaos
- China is synonymous with civilisation, and the whole world is centred on China
- The Emperor forms the pivotal link between heaven and Earth, is the moral centre of the world
- Only proper relationship between outsiders and China is payment of tribute
- From 1433 onwards there was a loss of dynamism and concern with outside world – government sought to minimise foreign contact
- Ming did not value trade; considered to be a waste of time

- Local government officials allow Portuguese to establish their trading base at Macao in early 16<sup>th</sup> century

## 2.5 From Ming to Qing

### Jesuits in China

- First European entrepot maritime trade ports in Goa 1510, Melacca 1522, Macao 1517
- Jesuits move into China outside Macao in 1583
- Aim was to convert the Chinese to Christianity through engagement in high Chinese culture
- Jesuits were skilled in European sciences and learning – able to obtain positions in Chinese Imperial courts
- Often involved in astronomy and designing calendars
- Volatile to political machinations in Imperial court and in the Catholic church
- Managed to convert a few upper-class scholars, but mostly functioned as cultural intermediaries
- Translate European texts into Chinese – helps transfer knowledge
- Jesuits also helped to bring Chinese knowledge and ideas to Europe – first European translation of Confucian ideas published in 1687

### The Ming and the Mongols

- In 1368 the Yuan dynasty was overthrown and the Mongols retreated northwards
- Mongols remain the chief security threat of the Ming dynasty
- Mongols remained nominally under a Khan emperor, but in practice engaged in much internal feuding
- Initial Chinese strategy was to launch aggressive raids against the Mongols – sometimes worked, sometimes didn't
- After c. 1500, the Ming adopted a defensive strategy of building up the Great Wall
- Wall was very expensive, and not particularly effective
- Much of the silver gained through exports to Europe was used to pay for the Great Wall
- Much debate between officials about the best way to protect against the Mongols

### The Manchus

- Jurchens – hunters and farmers from Manchuria ethnically distinct from the Mongols
- Nevertheless, they had knowledge of inner Asian traditions like the Mongols
- Great leader Nurgaci united the Jurchens and other Manchurian peoples from 1559 to 1626
- Initially encouraged by China as a counter-threat to the Mongols
- During the 1630s the Jurchens managed to continue to build their confederation, and included many Mongol allies
- In 1635, the Jurchen took advantage of a peasant uprising and invaded China
- Gradually took over and established the Qing dynasty

### Qing Expansion

- Manchus concerned that the Mongols might reunite under another group called the Zunghars
- This drew the Qing into western inner Eurasia, and by 1750 they had conquered the region and eliminated the Zunghars
- Also invaded and annexed Tibet in order to forestall Zunghar expansion



- Managed to end the fluidic migration of nomadic peoples wherever they pleased – boundaries drawn around their territories, middle ground eliminated between expanding Russian and Chinese Empires

### Multicultural Empire

- Qing Empire was a multi-ethnic empire – China was but a part of it
- Different regions and ethnic groups were administered differently and separately
- Emperor has 'multiple personalities' – for the Chinese he was the 'Sun of Heaven', to the Mongols he was the 'Khan of Khans', to the Tibetans he was a 'Bodhisattva'
- Chinese, Manchu, Mongolian, Tibetan and Turkic were the five languages of the Empire
- Where the Ming dynasty was mono-ethnic and disinterested in expansion outside the Chinese cultural area, the Qing Empire was multi-ethnic and expansionist

## 2.6 Tokugawa Japan

### Tokugawa Ieyasu

- In the 150 years before 1600, Japan suffered a constant series of wars between rival warlords
- Around 1600 a Shinto called Tokugawa Ieyasu built up a coalition which managed to take over Japan and obtain the coveted title of Shogun from the Emperor
- Tokugawa isolated the Emperor, who became little more than a figurehead
- He divided up the land between his supporters, and established a decentralised government
- He gave peripheral lands to his enemies, on the condition that they kept order
- Tokugawa sent out spies in order to ensure that his vassals didn't revolt

### Tokugawa Japan

- Tokugawa also implemented a system whereby each of the 267 daimyo had to live at his Imperial palace for one year in two; for the rest of the time their wife and first born son had to remain as hostages – this helped to prevent revolt
- With no wars to fight, the elite turned their attentions to conspicuous consumption
- This helped to spur economic development
- Samurai also began to attend schools and become educated, in order to better manage their domains; 40% of men by 1868 had six years of formal education
- Japan's climate is highly suited to rice cultivation
- Japan was also alongside an area where cold northern current and warm southern currents met; the result was very rich fishing grounds
- Because of these rich sources of food, Japan's population grew rapidly following the cessation of incessant warfare after 1600

### The end of Tokugawa Japan

- In the 1830s, two volcanoes erupted in Iceland and Indonesia
- This drastically altered the climate in Japan, and rice production plummeted by about 85%
- Daimyo began to complain that they cannot afford to travel to the capital; the Tokugawa government does not care
- The daimyo began to see the central government as less of a stabiliser and more of an anacharism incapable of solving the nation's crisis

- In 1853 the Americas send some warships into Tokyo bay in attempt to force Japan open to trade, and also to get them to stop killing all American whalers who accidentally landed in Japan
- The Tokugawa government didn't know what to do; for the first time ever they asked the other daimios what they thought
- After agreeing to the American's demands in 1854, Tokyo was hit by a major earthquake in 1855
- The authority and mandate of the central government was progressively undermined
- During the 1850s and 1860s, the outer daimios began to plot against the Shogun, as their demands for greater political influence were denied
- Eventually some of the largest lords formed a coalition, and in 1868 with the permission of the emperor, they overthrew the Tokugawa government

## **Section 3: The Emergence of Europe**

### **3.1 The Domain of Christendom**

#### **The Division of the Christian Church**

- Christianity was administered through divisions into patriarchates
- All patriarchates were in the east, except for Rome
- All the patriarchates were initially considered to be equal
- Roman church was founded by Peter and Paul, and so was regarded as pre-eminent
- Pope Nicholas I declared in 860s that the Pope had authority over all churches on Earth; this annoyed those in the east
- Addition of the word 'filioque', Latin for 'from the son' (in relation to the Holy Spirit), in the Nicene Creed – originally came from Spain, then adopted by Charlemagne
- This became an issue in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, as the Franks accused the Greeks of heresy for not having it, and the easterners accused the west of adding it without authority

#### **Development of Different Practises**

- Rome required priesthood celibacy
- Rome used unleavened bread; the east used leavened bread
- The east had different rules for fasting
- Tensions between missionaries in Slavic lands

#### **Key Christian Beliefs**

- Transubstantiation – Bread and wine of the sacrament are physically changed into the body and blood of Christ
- Purgatory – Place where souls are purified before entrance to heaven, good acts allowed one to get time off purgatory; a plenary was a full remission from purgatory

### **3.2 Renaissance and Reformation**

#### **Key Beliefs of Protestants**

- Emphasis on faith in Christ and his mercy, rather than good works
- Focus on scripture as the source of truth and doctrine
- Use of pastors rather than priests; were not separate to rest of society
- Church subordinate to state

- God seen as more distant, transcendental
- Religion and belief becomes more individual and internally focused
- Beliefs become important to one's identity; not just ritual

### Summary of the Renaissance

- European society recovered after the Black Death; lower population meant more wealth in fewer hands, ability to reshape cities and think about new ways of organising society
- Not the beginning of secular society
- Not a philosophy or way of thinking
- Rather a rebirth in classical architecture, paintings and writings

### Why did it start in Italy?

- Highly urbanised, with seven of ten largest European cities by 1500
- High level of literacy
- Wide variety of different political organisations
- Considered to be the duty of urban elites to be involved in politics

### The State

- Machiavelli was the first to use the term 'the state' to describe all aspects of the government and state, etc
- Machiavelli was the first to codify and study political principles
- Has been accused of being insincere, as he wrote a much longer work on the virtues of Republic

### Disciplines of the Liberal Arts

- Rhetoric – persuade others of ones ideas
- Poetry – convey ones ideas eloquently
- Grammar – convey one's ideas effectively
- History – storehouse of examples to see what works
- Moral Philosophy – work out how men should live

### Humanism

- First arose in writings of various Italians after the Black Death in late 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Humanist ideals not popular with monarchs, but they needed humanist-trained civil servants in order to operate their governments
- Not active in politics in the same way as 15<sup>th</sup>-century Florentine Humanists

## 3.3 Utopia and Moore

### Machiavelli

- Fall from power of Medichi in 1494 and a populist Friar in 1498 allowed talented individuals (like Machiavelli) to attain powerful office in Florence who normally would not have been able to because of lack of social connections
- Served on diplomatic missions to Germany, Pope and France
- Machiavelli dismissed in 1512 when Medici returned to power
- Confined to his house in Florence in 1513 after being falsely accused of plotting to overthrow the Medicis

- Writes The Prince in order to regain favour with Medici's, and expound his own political knowledge and experience
- Argues at the end of The Prince that Republics are the best form of government, but not when defence and decisive action are required
- Machiavelli argues that traditional Christian virtue often does not work in practice to get things done – proper virtue is doing what is practical and appropriate to the circumstances

### Thomas Moore

- Born in London to a lawyer
- Obtained humanist education at Oxford
- Trained as a lawyer, and at one point wanted to become a monk
- Although he changed his mind, he remained attracted to ascetic lifestyle
- Joined Parliament for second time after Henry VII's death in 1509
- Joined Privy council in 1521
- Clashed with Henry VIII in 1527 over his desire to divorce Catherine of Aragon
- Refused to acknowledge Henry's supremacy over Church of England – resigned in 1532
- Imprisoned in the Tower of London, and beheaded in 1535 for treason

### Utopia

- Means both 'no place' and 'good place'
- Is the original Utopian ruler 'Utopus' Machiavelli's strong prince who establishes defences and stability and then establishes republic?
- Utopia is not an oligarchy like Italian republics of the day
- Related both to Plato's Republic and Marx's Communist Manifesto
- Unlike Machiavelli and Marx, Moore's society placed high importance on religion
- Believed luxury was a corrupting influence
- Government takes time to deliberate and only concerned with the public good
- Realistic in fear of human nature and provision for foreign defence

## 3.4 The Discovery of America

### Conquest of the Aztec Empire

- Only founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century
- Based on extracting tribute from dependent groups
- Fostered resentment from subject peoples, which the Spanish drew upon
- Cortez used advanced military strategy and tactics
- Allied with local tribes and played local political relationships to his advantage
- Used interpreters
- Justified using the 'requirimiento' document; based on the idea of a rebellious Feudal subject
- Debate about whether the Indians were rational/human; decided in the affirmative

### Spanish Administration

- Drafted Indians to work in huge silver mines using the Mita draft
- Encomiendas system – land granted to Spanish settlers in Feudal style, with native populations having work obligations to their Lord

## Spain and Portugal

- Papal bull in 1483 gave Portugal all lands south of the Canary Islands
- In 1493 the Spanish Pope gave a new bull dividing the world between Portugal and Spain
- An agreement between Portugal and Spain in 1494 shifted the demarcation line westward to give Brazil to Portugal, though Portugal did not know for sure that Brazil existed at this time
- Note the clear idea that the world was the Pope's to give away
- Eventually other European powers (France, Holland, Britain) began to challenge the legitimacy of this division (particularly after the Reformation); initially did not colonise but conducted piracy raids on Spanish Galleons

## The Dutch in North America

- Dutch founded a few settlements, but did not colonise much
- Mostly focused on trading and transporting goods from New World to Old
- France focused on fur traders and fisherman along Hudson River and Newfoundland
- Never sent many settlers
- Had good relations with local Indians

## British Settlement in North America

- British founded extensive agrarian settlements along the east coast
- Because they wanted to transplant their home cultures on new lands, they were more confrontational towards the Indians
- Britain freed up to expand after defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588
- Before this mostly focused on anti-Spanish piracy
- The mystery of Roanoke
- Jamestown founded in 1607 and because of poor location floundered for 17 years until saved by introduction of tobacco production

## 3.5 The Atlantic System and Slavery

### Slavery in Africa

- Important to the domestic (household) mode of production which was dominant in Africa
- The more slaves who had, the more your household could produce
- Slaves were part of the household, but always inferior 'outsiders'
- Slavers were protected by law (permitted education and marriage), however, and the status was not hereditary
- Most slaves captured through war and violence, particularly after European trade increases demand for slaves and hence potential profits

### Plantation Slavery

- Sugar highly valuable, but very labour intensive
- Initially American Indians were used, but they were too susceptible to disease, not suited to the work, and could easily escape and blend in to local peoples to avoid detection
- Similar problems with white servants
- Blacks were not susceptible to tropical diseases, lived longer and were very easy to spot if they escaped

- Portuguese began to export slaves from west Africa to Europe and North Atlantic islands around 1450 (also traded ivory and gold)

### Triangular Atlantic system

- Cotton, alcohol, firearms and metalwork exported to Africa
- Exchanged for slaves, which are transported to the West Indies
- Ships returned to Europe with sugar and tobacco

### Mechanics of transport

- Slaves tied together in twos by the legs and fours by the neck
- Often had to trek inland to European forts on the coast for up to 2 months
- Slaves held in tiny dungeons while waiting for transport
- Each ship carried several hundred slaves
- Only about 1 crewman to every 10 slaves
- Many of the crew were from poor and criminal backgrounds – poorly paid
- Ships were at sea for about 40-50 days, though could be longer
- About half of all slaves died between initial capture and arrival in the Americas

### Slavery in North America

- Initially in the 17<sup>th</sup> century slaves were imported in small number to South Carolina to work on small farms – had considerable freedoms and fairly good conditions
- Growth of rice plantations in early 18<sup>th</sup> century led to black population significantly outnumbering whites
- To keep order and prevent resurrection, conditions and punishments became more severe
- Most plantation owners found it cheaper to work slaves to death rather than allow them to reproduce
- Slaves in urban areas and port cities had more freedom and did a wider variety of jobs
- Slaves existed in northern colonies, but only 4-5% of the population
- Mostly worked on small farms in small numbers; slaves were part of the household
- Slave code less vigorously enforced; slaves had more rights

## 3.6 The Great South Land

### European Knowledge of Australia

- Greek philosopher Ptolemy hypothesised the existence of a 'Terra Australis', south antipode, which he thought would be necessary for the world to be balanced
- Portuguese explored around the north of Australia and Indonesia, but never made landfall in Australia or mapped the coast
- Between 1606 and 1787, 46 ships are known to have sighted Australia, of which 20 made landfall
- The Dutch made 13 landings in New Holland, but they were not official explorers and had no interest in land colonisation – their accounts were not published until around 1900

### Early Exploration of Australia

- Able Tasman circumnavigated Tasmania in the 1640s, but made no landfall
- Only about 8 or 9 early voyages made contact with aboriginals

- Only about 5 of these accounts were made public – of course most of these voyages made records, but they were locked away in naval archives and not made public knowledge
- In 1688 the English buccaneer William Dampier landed in the north-west. When he returned to England, he published a book, *Voyages*, and persuaded the naval authorities to back a return trip, to search for the continent's supposed wealth.
- His second expedition along the western coast in 1699-1700 resulted in the most detailed report on the continent yet, but couched in such dismal terms, criticizing both the land and its people, that British interest in further exploration of Australia was suspended for almost 70 years.

### James Cook's Voyages

- Europeans found powerful chiefs with whom they could negotiate and make deals
- Natives highly interested in European metals
- Europeans noted that the Maoris had no agriculture
- Cook described the aboriginals as 'happy' because they did not have the anxieties of civilised peoples
- Cook experienced some violent opposition in New Zealand, but not in Australia

### European Concepts of Aboriginals

- Aboriginals were considered to be degenerate descendents of Ham, like the Africans
- Aboriginals were placed at the bottom of the human section of the 'Great Chain of Being', originated by Aristotle
- Aboriginals were not considered to own property, as per John Locke's theories that labour came from mixing labour with something

## Section 4: The Birth of Modernity?

### 4.1 Heretics, Jews, Witches and Lepers

#### Heretical Groups

- Refusal to submit to accepted authorities
- There were many different inquisitions organised at different times in different countries by both religious and secular authorities
- Cathars: heretical movement in southern France from c. 1140-1250
- Templars: attacked by French monarch early 14<sup>th</sup> century, accused of sodomy, devil-worship, Islamic practices
- Hussites: led by Czech reformer Jan Hus, executed 1415, led to the split of Bohemian church with Roman Catholic church
- Jews often executed for 'desecrating the host'

#### Pre-requisites for a Persecuting Society

- Particular groups designated on cultural, racial, religious or other grounds as different, and hence worthy of persecution because of this difference
- Institutions and technologies for persecution, e.g. judges and courts
- Dualist cosmology – idea of division between 'us' and 'them', need to defend orthodox beliefs to keep society stable and secure
- Persecution did not become systematised and widespread until the 13<sup>th</sup> century

## The Jews

- Considered to be immoral and devil worshipers
- Christkillers – believed to kidnap Christian children and kill them in rituals
- Accused of desecrating the host
- Accused of spreading disease and illness; poisoning the wells
- At the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), Jews were required to wear special yellow markings and were forbidden from having any dealings with Christians other than business transactions
- Persecution was worst during the Crusades and the Black Death

## Lepers

- At the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), had to wear special clothing
- In 1321 in France, Lepers were killed en masse by the king on accusation of poisoning the wells
- Jews and Lepers were believed to conspire together with the Muslims in Spain

## Witches

- Idea of witches as having special relationship with the devil arose around 1430
- Accused of engaging in orgies and cannibalism
- Also accused of infanticide and perverting Christian values
- Also associated with Jews

## 4.2 Science and Modernity – Galileo

### Who was Galileo?

- Born in Pisa, Italy, in 1564
- Studied music, medicine and mathematics
- Father wanted him to become a doctor
- Discovered the isochronism of the pendulum
- Proved that all objects of the same size fall at the same time
- Invented a thermometer
- Invented a powerful telescope

### Approaches to Science

- First turn to ancient authorities (often Aristotle), then Medieval scholastics, and finally if all those fail one turns to personal experience
- The circle was the perfect shape, and so God must have created the universe as being comprised of a series of perfect circles
- Man was the centre of God's creation, so Earth was the centre of the universe

### Other Important Scientists

- Copernicus – first to really propose and explain heliocentric model
- His book was actually published at the urging of two churchmen and dedicated (with permission) to the Pope
- It was scientists who disagreed with Copernicus' theory
- Initial opposition to Copernicus' theory came from Protestants (including Luther), not the popes
- Tycho Brahe – proposed compromise 'geostatic heliocentrism' system
- Johannes Kepler – discovered three laws of planetary motion



### Persecution of Galileo

- Galileo began to propound heliocentrism as irrefutably true
- Other scientists rebuked him as foolish and unscientific, as he could not back up his claims with a detailed model/explanation
- Heliocentrism was also inconsistent with certain literal interpretations of the bible
- In 1615 Galileo was prosecuted by the Inquisition for his 'unscientific' and anti-scriptural advocacy of heliocentrism
- A 1616 index of banned books outlawed all works advocating heliocentrism, though one could teach it as a theory, or abstract hypothesis for simplicity
- Church was worried that the public would read these works and take them to be literally true
- In 1632 Galileo wrote a work advocating heliocentrism which was highly insulting of Pope Urban VIII (by calling a Ptolemaic defender 'simpleton', and giving him quotes made by the pope)
- He was convicted by the inquisition and sentenced to house arrest – not tortured or ill-treated

## 4.3 Modernity and Communication

### Before Printing

- Texts copied by hand by scribes (usually monks)
- Wrote on parchment (split sheepskin) or vellum (split calfskin) – durable but expensive
- One copy of the bible required hundreds of sheepskins and huge amounts of time
- Memory was central to transmission of knowledge, as there was no reference books or lecture notes to consult

### The Origins of Printing

- Not known exactly when it began in Europe
- Chinese xylography (writing characters down and then carving them into wood) began in the 8<sup>th</sup> century
- Moveable clay type was invented in the 11<sup>th</sup> century
- Mongols brought the idea of printing to Europe; used to print playing cards, simple books, images, etc

### Paper and Ink

- Arabs picked up paper manufacture from Chinese in 12<sup>th</sup> century; transmitted it to Europe during invasion of Spain in 12<sup>th</sup> century; gradually spread throughout Europe over 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Paper was plentiful in Europe by the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century, but paper was too flimsy for hand copying
- Conversely, parchment and vellum were too expensive for printing
- Oil-based ink was developed in 15<sup>th</sup> century Holland, and this was used in printing

### Early Printing

- Gutenberg was the first to develop printing as an efficient and effective process
- Early books were decorated with hand-drawn art; tried to imitate manuscripts
- His major demand for books came from ecclesiastical authorities, so most early Gutenberg books were religious in nature
- Church, nobles and kings did not want cheap printed books – they still wanted the expensive manuscripts

- William Caxton was the first English printer; printed mostly knightly tales for court audiences
- Aldus Munotius developed a Greek typeface and established a printing press in Venice in 1499 – wanted to save Greek texts – first to get copyright for his typefaces
- Produced small ready-reference books that scholars could carry around with him – renowned for his accuracy

### Consequences of Printing

- Stopped the transmission of scribal errors
- Enabled scholars to refer to commonly accepted texts
- Easier to transmit knowledge
- Easier for different scholars to discuss ideas and work together
- Enabled scholars and scientists to build upon the past work of others
- Censorship and copyright first developed as important issues

### Printing and Religion

- Religious authority concerned that bibles would become easily accessible to those unqualified to properly interpret them
- Henry VIII, the Catholic church and many universities published indexes of prohibited books in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century
- Some monks and scholars bemoaned the ‘bastardisation’ and loss of control over knowledge brought about by printing

## 4.4 Modernity and Consumption

### Concepts of Modernity

- The word ‘modern’ was first coined in 1585 to mean ‘the beginning of a new era’
- Post-modernity was coined in the 1950s and 1960s, when people began to criticise modernity, colonialism and progress
- Science replacing religion?
- Dominance of western values

### Aspects of Modernity

- Movement away from the subsistence economy – towards capitalism
- The rise of a consumer society – focus on new and exciting material goods
- Need a large enough section of the population to have access to wealth – not just ruling elite
- Increasing focus on individual and movement away from traditional social order
- Application of rational thought to overcome superstition