AMSCO Chapter 11

South Asia and Southeast Asia, 600-1450 C.E.

1. Political Structures in South Asia
2. After the fall of the Gupta dynasty in 550 CE, India had 1000 years of disunity, with local rulers fighting each other
3. Political Structures in Southern India
4. Southern India had two more stable governments than Northern India, the Chola kingdom (850-1267), which included Sri Lanka; naval power with ships traveling to South China Seas for trade
5. Vijayanagar kingdom, from the Delhi sultanate; Hindu brothers that converted to Islam, then reconverted back to Hindu and established kingdom from mid 1300s to mid 1500s
6. Political Stuctures in Northen India
7. Himalayas protected northern Indian from invaders, but Muslim armies still attacked and Islamic presence grew
8. Umayyad Empire attacked NW India, but did little to change daily life
9. Mahmud of Ghazni attacked Punjab region of Afghanistan and Pakistan, stealing from Buddhist and Hindu temples and building Islamic mosques on Hindu and Buddhist holy sites
10. Delhi Sultanate established New Delhi, but Mongols posed a threat
11. Muslims in northern India caused conflict, with some people converting and others paying the jizya, or tax, to stay Hindu or Buddhist
12. Economic Structures in South Asia
13. Even before Islam developed, Arab merchants traveled the around Afro-Eurasia trading, and India becomes pivotal in the Indian Ocean Basin trade network
14. Trade in the Indian Ocean Basin
15. Muslim Persians and Arabs were main seafarers, travelling across Indian Ocean between East Africa and Southwest Asia/Middle East
16. Calicut became major port city from both ends of the network
17. Specialized Products
18. India traded fabrics, especially cotton, carpets, steel, leather, pepper
19. Malaysia and Indonesia traded spices like nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and cardamom
20. East Africa traded slaves, ivory, and gold
21. China traded silk and porcelain
22. Middle East traded horses, figs, dates
23. Monsoon System and Sailing Technology
24. By timing travel with monsoon season, ships could travel quickly and then wait it out in certain cities contributing to cultural diffusion, brining Islam to southern Asia through intermarriage with local women
25. Triangular sails and the stern rudder enabled sailors to travel more quickly and navigate more accurately in their dhous (small wooden ships)
26. Religion in South Asia
27. Before Islam, most South Indians were Hindu, and a minority were Buddhist.
28. Many conflicts i.e. Hindu polytheistic, many paintings of gods, caste system, several holy texts; Islam monotheistic, no depictions of Allah, all believers are equal, only one Quran
29. Arrival of Islam
30. Early on, most Hindus converted willingly, such as Hindu wives converting for their Muslim husbands
31. Low caste Hindus were attracted by Islam’s equality
32. Buddhists converted in response to corruption of monks
33. Interaction of Islam and Hinduism
34. Sufis – mystics who did not focus on strict doctrines, but rather personal connections to Allah
35. Hindus began to focus on personal devotion to their gods as per Muslim example
36. Bhakti movement did not discriminate against low castes or women, Mira Bai most famous female poet of the time
37. Guru Kabir, another poet, stressed spirituality in any religion
38. Kabir said any single god would do, i.e. Allah, Shiva, Vishnu
39. Social Structures in South Asia
40. Caste system provided stability, and incorporated Muslim merchants into the hierarchy in subcastes called jatis
41. Low caste converters to Islam did NOT improve their economic status
42. Hindu and Islamic women were separate from men and their role did not improve
43. Cultural Achievements in South Asia
44. Advances in algebra, geometry, mathematics, astronomy, number system were all from South Asia
45. Islamic and Indian architecture blended in cities like New Delhi
46. New language, Urdu, developed based on Hindu, Arabic, Farsi and Persian languages, official language of Pakistan today
47. Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam)
48. Influenced by Indian merchants, trading spices for Indian gold, silver, textiles
49. Both Hinduism and Buddhism spread as well as local polytheistic belief systems
50. Angkor Kingdom most famous to control Southeast Asia, aka Khmer (889-1431)
51. Sophisticated irrigation and drainage systems
52. Angkor Thom royal monuments show Indian influence in architecture
53. Angkor Wat, another majestic Buddhist temple complex\
54. Islam
55. Came to Southeast Asia with merchants and spread to Sumatra, Java and Malaysia
56. Sufis also very popular, like South Asia; allowed natives to honor local gods
57. Melaka (Malacca) city state charged ships passing through the Strait of Malacca and became very wealthy