Chapter 21: Reaching Out: Expanding Horizons of Cross-Cultural Interaction

Chapter Outline

I. Long-distance trade and travel
   A. Patterns of long-distance trade
      1. Trading patterns between 1000 and 1500 in Eurasia
      2. Trading cities and ports grew rapidly
      3. Marco Polo (1253-1324), Venetian traveler to Asia
   B. Political and diplomatic travel
      1. Mongol-Christian diplomacy across Eurasia in thirteenth century
      2. Rabban Sauma's mission to Europe, 1287
      3. Ibn Battuta (1304-1369)
   C. Missionary campaigns
      1. Sufi missionaries (Muslim) visited recently conquered or converted lands
      2. Christian missionaries in eastern Europe after 1000
      3. John of Montecorvino: mission to convert the Mongols and Chinese, 1291-1328
   D. Long-distance travel and cross-cultural exchanges
      1. Cultural exchanges included science, ideas, art, and music
      2. New technology spread by travelers and facilitated their travel—for example, magnetic compass
      3. New crops introduced to sub-Saharan Africa by Muslims: citrus fruits, rice, cotton
      4. Sugarcane originated in southwest Asia and north Africa
      5. Gunpowder technologies spread west from China by Mongol armies in thirteenth century

II. Crisis and recovery
   A. Bubonic plague
      1. Plague in China
      2. Spread of plague west along trade routes
      3. Population decline
      4. Social and economic effects
   B. Recovery in China: the Ming dynasty
      1. Hongwu overthrew Mongol rule and established the Ming dynasty in 1368
      2. Ming centralization of government and reviving of Chinese traditions
      3. Mandarins and eunuchs maintained absolute authority of emperors
      4. Ming dynasty promoted economic recovery
      5. Cultural revival
   C. Recovery in western Europe: state building
      1. Taxes and armies as instruments of national monarchies by late fifteenth century
      2. Italian city-states flourished with industries and trade
      3. France and England
      4. Spain united by the marriage of Fernando of Aragon and Isabel of Castile
      5. Competition among European states
   D. Recovery in western Europe: the Renaissance
      1. Italian renaissance art
      2. Renaissance architecture
      3. Humanists drew inspiration from classical models
III. Exploration and colonization
   A. The Chinese reconnaissance of the Indian Ocean basin
      1. Zheng He's expeditions
      2. Chinese naval power
      3. End of the voyages, 1433
   B. European exploration in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans
      1. Portuguese exploration
      2. Colonization of the Atlantic Islands
      3. Slave trade expanded fifteenth century
      4. Indian Ocean trade
      5. Cristoforo Colombo (Christopher Columbus) hoped to reach Asia by sailing west