TRADITIONS ENCOUNTERS

A Global Perspective on the Past

JERRY H. BENTLEY | HERB F. ZIEGLER

THIRD EDITION



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PREFACE



Since the early 1990s, journalists, politicians, scholars, and others have frequently resorted to the term *globalization* when commenting on the increasingly tight connections linking the world's lands and peoples. By the late twentieth century, global transportation and communication networks had become more intricate than ever before, and they promoted both economic integration and systematic interaction among peoples throughout the world. Trade goods and electronic currency flowed around the world, while manufacturers restlessly sought new sites to produce consumer goods. Globalization brought tremendous wealth to some, and it facilitated both commercial and cultural exchanges that enriched the lives of many peoples. Alongside opportunities, the era of globalization also brought numerous problems: widespread pollution, global warming, cultural challenges, ethnic tensions, political conflicts, and weapons of mass destruction loomed as potential threats to peoples of all world regions.

Yet even though they are more prominent today than ever before, global interactions and global problems are by no means new features of world history. To the contrary, there is a long historical context for contemporary globalization, and only in light of past experience is it possible to understand the contemporary world.

A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE PAST

Our purpose in *Traditions & Encounters* is to offer a global perspective on the past—a vision of history that is meaningful and appropriate for the interdependent world of contemporary times. During an era when peoples from all parts of the earth meet, mingle, interact, and do business with one another, a global perspective has become an essential tool for informed and responsible citizenship. Because global interactions profoundly influence the fortunes of peoples in all lands, it is impossible to understand the contemporary world by approaching it exclusively from the viewpoint of western Europe, the United States, Japan, or any other individual society. It is equally impossible to understand the world's history by viewing it exclusively through the lenses of any particular society's historical experience.

A global perspective on the past calls for analysis that respects the historical experiences of all the world's peoples—not just one or a few—and that examines the roles of all in the making of a world inhabited by all. A global perspective calls also for analysis that goes beyond the study of individual societies to examine their larger regional, continental, hemispheric, and global contexts. A global perspective calls further for exploration of the networks and structures that have promoted interactions between peoples of different societies. A global perspective calls finally for attention to the effects of interactions on the lands, peoples, and societies that have participated in large-scale historical processes. By bringing a global perspective to the study of world history, we seek to offer an understanding of the past that places the contemporary world in meaningful historical context.

On the basis of a superficial inspection, Traditions & Encounters might look similar to several other textbooks that survey the world's past. Like other books, for example, Traditions & Encounters examines the historical development of societies in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. Yet Traditions & Encounters differs from other works in two particularly important ways. First, it relies on a pair of prominent themes to bring a global perspective to the study of world history: it traces the historical development of individual societies in all world regions, and it also focuses attention systematically on interactions between peoples of different societies. Second, it organizes the human past into seven eras that represent distinct and coherent periods of global historical development.

THEMES: TRADITION AND ENCOUNTER

How is it possible to make sense of the entire human past? The study of world history is an exhilarating project that offers unparalleled opportunities to understand oneself and one's own society in relation to the larger world. Given the range of human diversity, however, world history also presents a daunting challenge. Human communities have adopted widely varying forms of political, social, and economic organization, and they have elaborated even more diverse cultural, religious, and philosophical legacies. Given the manifold diversity of human societies, it might seem that masses of unrelated detail threaten to swamp any effort to deal with all the world's history.

In this book we concentrate on two main themes—tradition and encounter—that help to bring order to world history. These two themes bring focus to some of the most important features of human experience on the earth. In combination, they account for much of the historical development of human societies.

The theme of tradition draws attention to the formation, maintenance, and sometimes collapse of individual societies. From their earliest days on earth, human groups have generated distinctive political, social, economic, and cultural traditions that have guided affairs in their own societies. Some of these traditions arose and disappeared relatively quickly, while others influenced human affairs over the centuries and millennia, sometimes down to the present day. Thus one of our principal concerns in this book is to examine the development of the diverse political, social, economic, and cultural traditions that have shaped the lives and experiences of the world's various peoples. Individual chapters explore the traditions that different peoples have relied on to organize and sustain societies in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania. Emphasis falls especially on the large, densely populated, complex, city-based societies that have most deeply influenced world affairs for the past six thousand years, but smaller and less powerful societies also receive their share of attention. This third edition of *Traditions & Encounters* draws on recent scholarship to offer updated and enhanced understanding of the world's individual societies.

While elaborating distinctive political, social, economic, and cultural traditions to organize their affairs, the world's peoples have also interacted regularly with one another since the earliest days of human history. The theme of encounter directs attention to communications, interactions, networks, and exchanges that have linked individual societies to their neighbors and others in the larger world. By systematically examining encounters among peoples of different societies, we draw attention to processes of cross-cultural interaction that have been some of the most effective agents of change in all of world history. In the form of mass migrations, campaigns of imperial expansion, long-distance trade, diffusions of food crops, the spread of infectious and contagious diseases, transfers of technological skills, and the spread of religious and

cultural traditions, these interactions have profoundly influenced the experiences of individual societies and the development of the world as a whole. Thus, while presenting a wide-ranging discussion of individual societies and their traditions, this book also devotes considerable attention to the many and varied forms of interaction that have linked the fortunes of peoples from different societies. Many of the book's chapters also examine the large-scale structures of transportation, communication, and exchange that supported interactions among the world's peoples. Just as it updates treatments of individual societies, this third edition of *Traditions & Encounters* also draws on recent scholarship to enhance discussions of encounters and focus attention more clearly than before on processes of cross-cultural interaction.

ORGANIZATION: SEVEN ERAS OF GLOBAL HISTORY

While relying on the themes of tradition and encounter to bring the diversity of world history into focus, we also seek to bring about improved understanding of the world's development through time by organizing it into seven eras of global history. These eras, treated successively in the seven parts of this book, represent coherent epochs that form the larger architecture of world history as we see it. The seven eras do not reflect the particular experience of any single society so much as the common experiences of all societies participating in processes of cross-cultural interaction. Thus our seven eras of global history owe their coherence particularly to patterns in the networks of transportation, communication, and exchange that have linked peoples of different societies at different times in the past. Even in ancient times these networks supported interactions that shaped the experiences of peoples from different lands, and with the development of increasingly effective technologies of transportation and communication, interactions have grown more frequent, systematic, and intense over time. By studying the world's peoples in the framework of the seven eras of global history, we seek to offer meaningful comparisons between different societies and also to highlight the role of cross-cultural interactions in shaping the experiences of individual societies and influencing the development of the world as a whole.

Thus from the beginning to the end of this book we focus on the twin themes of tradition and encounter, which in combination go a long way toward accounting for the historical development of the human species on planet earth, and we situate the experiences of individual societies in their larger regional, continental, hemispheric, and global contexts. By bringing a global perspective to the study of humanity's common historical experience, we seek to offer a vision of the past that is both meaningful and appropriate for the interdependent world of contemporary times. We hope that *Traditions & Encounters* will enable readers to understand the development of human societies through time and also to place the contemporary world in its proper historical context.

CHANGES FOR THE THIRD EDITION

In preparing this third edition of *Traditions & Encounters*, we have paid close attention to recent scholarship that has transformed historians' understanding of the global past—sometimes dramatically so. This effort has resulted in revised, updated, and expanded treatments of societies in all world regions. In addition to reflecting the best recent scholarship, we have also sought to enhance the book's global perspective by

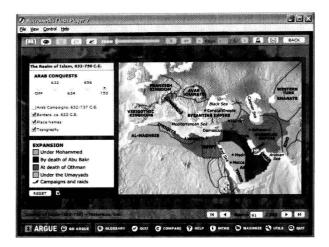
emphasizing historical comparisons and by bringing clearer focus to historical processes that have linked the world's peoples and societies. Thus we have reorganized the treatment of the early modern era (Part V) so as to integrate Russian experience more clearly into both European history and world history. Similarly, we have reorganized the treatment of the twentieth century (Part VII) so as to explain more clearly the roles of developing societies in the modern world. This effort has led us to include a new chapter discussing nationalism and political identities in Asian, African, and Latin American lands (Chapter 36).

Two additional features that are new to this third edition of *Traditions & Encounters* also merit mention. First, we have added questions for reflection at the end of all the excerpts from primary sources in the "Sources from the Past" boxes. Second, we have included a new series of brief essays in "Contexts & Connections" boxes. These essays take a specific issue from an individual chapter as a point of departure, then venture widely through time and space in seeking to understand the larger contexts of particular historical experiences. We hope that both "Sources from the Past" boxes and "Contexts & Connections" essays will promote improved understanding of the world and its development through time.

TOOLS FOR THE STUDENT

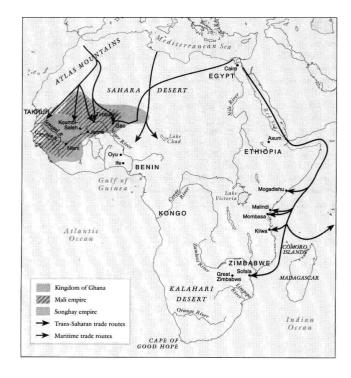
McGraw-Hill's *Primary Source Investigator* (PSI) CD-ROM is bound into each copy of *Traditions & Encounters* text and provides students with instant access to hundreds of world history documents, images, artifacts, audio recordings, and videos. PSI helps students practice the art of "doing history" on a real archive of historical sources. Students follow the three basic steps of *Ask, Research*, and *Argue* to examine sources, take notes on them, and then save or print copies of the sources as evidence for their papers or presentations. After researching a particular theme, individual, or time period, students can use PSI's writing guide to walk them through the steps of developing a thesis, organizing their evidence, and supporting their conclusion.





More than just a history or writing tool, the PSI is also a student study tool that contains 43 interactive maps, quiz questions, and an interactive glossary with audio pronunciation guide. The maps and glossary may also be found on the student website www.mhhe.com/bentley3 with additional supporting materials such as part timelines, chapter summaries, and multiple choice quizzes.

As we strengthened the substantive content of *Traditions & Encounters*, we also worked to produce a book more accessible and useful for readers. The entire map program has been revised for clarity, greater detail, and more topographical information. Any map with a global Online Learning Center (OLC) icon also has an interactive counterpart on the book's website and on the PSI CD.



The interactive maps offer a variety of learning functions. Students can use the maps to view topography, territories, borders, developing trends, and other topics. Visit the site at www.mhhe.com/bentley3.

New to this edition are *Contexts & Connections* essays which appear in about half of the chapters. Each essay highlights historical subjects with interesting links across different geographic regions and eras. Many of these essays utilize objects of material culture as clues to discerning the past or to examining historical issues in detail with a view toward present-day relevance. They were written to capture the imagination, to bring the past closer to the present, and to provide a basis for classroom discussion.

Contexts & Connections

The World's First Coins

When relating the story of Cyrus's victory over King Croesus of Lydia, the Greek historian Herodotus offered a description of Croesus's kingdom. He characterized the Lydians as an exceptionally prosperous people. "So far as we have any knowledge," he reported, "they were the first nation to introduce the use of gold and silver coin, and the first who sold goods by retail." The king himself had a reputation as the wealthiest person in the world—a view reflected in the popular expression that particularly wealthy individuals are "as rich as Croesus." The wealth of the Lydian kingdom arose partly from use of the coins that Herodotus mentioned.

Mesopotamian and Egyptian peoples had long used silver and gold fashioned into rings, rods, and ingots as currency to facilitate exchanges of goods. It was much simpler to purchase goods for a certain quantity of silver than to barter goods directly for one another. Yet silver than to barter goods directly for one another. Yet silver than to barter goods directly for one another. Yet silver than to be used to be used to make sure they came to the right amount. Even then it was possible for unscrupulous individuals to dilute the silver or gold content of a token by alloying it with some cheaper metal.

Beginning about 640 B.C.E. the kings of Lydia issued the first coins of precisely measured metal bearing guarantees of their value. They minted their early coins from electrum, a rare but naturally occurring alloy of gold and silver found in local rivers. Croesus later minted coins of pure gold and silver. These coins immediately caught the attention of Lydia's trading partners, and officially spon-

sored coins were soon in use throughout the eastern Mediterranean region. (Chinese rulers independently issued bronze coins about the same time.)

The availability of officially minted coins with guaranteed values provided a tremendous boost to trade. The earliest beneficiary was the kingdom of Lydia itself, which drew crowds of foreign merchants to vast markets in the capital at Sardis. There Lydians traded merchandise that they obtained from Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the eastern Mediterranean region, as well as the highly prized perfumes that were the most famous products of Lydian manufacturers. This bustling trade in large, officially sponsored marketplaces is what Herodotus had in mind when he said the Lydians were "the first who sold goods by retail." In later centuries, Greeks, Romans, and others made use of their own minted coins as they built commercial empires throughout the Mediterranean basin.

Coins did not entirely displace other currencies: in various world regions, cattle, cowry shells, cacao beans, and other items functioned as mediums of exchange long after the invention of coins. Even in regions where they were in common use, coins have not always dominated economic exchange: after the invention of printed paper money, and especially after the more recent development of electronic currency, coins increasingly became impractical except for small-scale transactions. Meanwhile, however, for two millennia and more, officially minted coins lubricated trade and facilitated economic transactions throughout much of the world.

GLOSSARY AND PRONUNCIATION KEY 600

assic example. Bakr (ah BOO BAHK uhr) First after the death of Muhammad, sid empire (ah-KEE-muh-nid) reat Pensan empire (558-330), which began under Cyrus and d its peak under Darius, (ES kuh luhs) Greek tragedian,

pdom. Mazda (ub-HOORE ub MAHZ

Albai, (Al-1 ba) God of the memorhetist, etgops of Olam. AlF and Howaian (also of high cheirs. Amono-Re (Alf mulm & AlF) Egyrian god, combantous of the san god Re and the air god Alomboan Asian Angkor (AlF) kind (Somboan Asian Care (AlF) kind (Somboan Asian And Somboan (Care (Somboan Asian And Somboan (Care (Somboan Asian April Somboan (Somboan Asian April Somboan (Somboan Asian And Somboan (Somboan Asian Kan) apained the Consense achieve kind activities (Alomboan (Somboan Asian) (Somboan (So

nomic subordination.

peatement British and French policy i
the 1930s that tried to maintain peace
in Europe in the face of German aggression by making concessions.

tanism Early Christian heresy that

trosperity. hashastra (AR thah sha strah) Ancient

We have taken the book's glossary and pronunciation guide one step further by rendering it interactive. A multimedia version of this glossary is available on the book's website www.mhhe.com/bentley3 and on the Primary Source Investigator CD-ROM packaged with the book. Students and teachers can now listen to hard-to-pronounce words, and students can switch to the flashcard feature to quiz themselves on important terms. For reminders of these study tools, new PSI and OLC icons appear at the end of each chapter.

THE EARLY COMPLEX SOCIETIES, 3500 TO 500 B.C.E.

For thousands of years after the emergence of the human species, human beings lived in tiny con nities with no permanent home. They formed compact, mobile societies, each consisting of a few dozen people, and they traveled regularly in pursuit of game and edible plants. From the vantage point of the fast moving present, that long first stage of human experience on the earth might seem slow paced and almost changed by Kei intelligences thuman beings apart from the other members of the animal king-dom and enabled human groups to invent tools and techniques that enhanced their ability to exploit the natural environment. Human beings gradually emerged as the most dynamic species of the animal

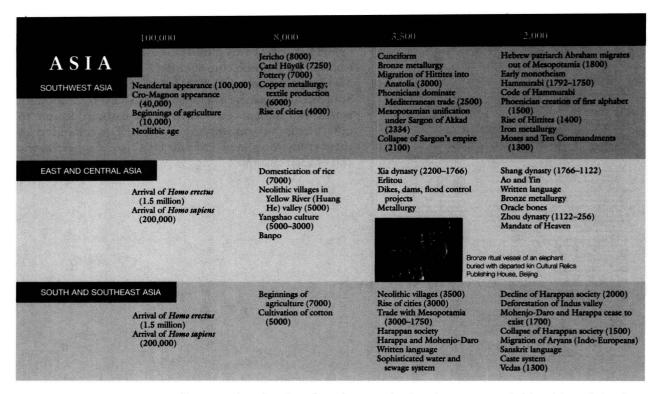
the natural environment. Human beings gradually emerged as the most dynamic species of the animal kingdom, and even in rounts prehistoric times they altered the face of the earth to suit their needs.

Yet humans' early exploitation of the earth's reconstruction was only a prologue to the cutraordinary and the state of the earth's reconstruction was only a prologue to the cutraordinary experts, and the state of the earth's the devoted their time and energy to specialized the premand years ago human groups began to experiment with agriculture, and it stoom become dear that cultivation provided a larger and more reliable food supply than the earth of the earth's experiment of the supply that turned to agriculture experienced rapid population growth, and they expert the earth of the earth of

around cities.

The term complex society refers to a form of large-scale social organization that emerged in several parts of the ancient world. Early complex societies all depended on robust agricultural economies in which cultivators produced more food than they needed for their own subsistence. This agricultural surplus enabled many individu-

Effective pedagogical features from the first edition have been retained. Each of the book's seven parts opens with an introduction that outlines the themes running through all the chapters in that part. This information creates a strong framework for understanding the details of individual chapters.



Part opening timelines have been revised and are now available with each book as a mini-poster.



CHAPTER 2

By far the best-known individual of ancient Mesopotamian society was a man named Gilgamesh. According to historical sources, Gilgamesh was the fifth hing of the city of Unuk. Her utted about 2750 B.C.E.—for a period of 126 years, according to one semilegendary source—and he led his community in its conflicts with Kish, a nearby city that was the principal rival of Uruk. Historical sources record very little additional detail about Gilgamesh's life and detail.

ied his community in its conflicts with Kish, a nearby city that was the principal rival of Urnak. Historical sources record very little additional detail about Gilgamesh's life and deeds.

But Gilgamesh was a figure of Mesopotamisn mythology and folklore as well as history. He was the subject of numerous poems and tegends, and Mesopotamisa bards made him the central figure in a cycle of stories known collectively as the Epic of Gilgamesh became the greatest hero figure of ancient Mesopotamisa. According to the stories, the gods granted Gilgamesh a perfect body and endowed him with superhuman strength and courage. He was "the man to whom all things were known," a supremely wise individual who "saw mysteries and knew several thread of the city's nagarificent templement of the massive city will so ("Uruk as extel as eye and of the city's nagarificent templement of the massive city wills of Uruk as extel as eye." In the stories that the was the principal country of the city's nagarificent templement of the city's nagarificent templement, was not the city's nagarificent templement of the nagarificent templement, was not the city's nagarificent templement of the nagarificent templement of the nagarificent templement of the nagarifice

CIETY AND

Each chapter opens with a story of individual experiences that draw students into the chapter and illustrate its main themes.

Sources from the Past

The Wealth and Commerce of Constantinople

The Spanish rabit Benjamin of Tudela traveled throughout Europe, north Africa, and muthmet Asia between 1165 and 1173 C.E. He may bare ventured as far as India, and he mentioned both India and China in his travel account. His main purpose was to record the conditions of Jewisk communities, but he also described the many lands and about three hundred cities that he visited. His travels took place during an era of political decline for the Bepaninic empire, yeth exill found Constantingle a flourishing and properous city.

any other land.

the world come before the emperor and empress with jugglery and without jugglery, and they introduce lions,

leopards, bears, and wild asses, and they engage them in

combat with one another; and the same thing is done

with birds. No entertainment like this is to be found in

From every part of the Byzantine empire tribute is

brought here every year, and they fill strongholds with

garments of silk, purple, and gold. Like unto these

storehouses and this wealth there is nothing in the whole world to be found. It is said that the tribute of the city amounts every year to 20,000 gold pieces, de-

rived both from the rents of shops and markets and from the tribute of merchants who enter by sea or land.

The Greek inhabitants are very rich in gold and precious stones, and they go clothed in garments of silk and

Wealth like that of Constantinople is not to be found

in the whole world. Here also are men learned in all the books of the Greeks, and they eat and drink, every man

gold embroidery, and they ride horses and look like princes. Indeed, the land is very rich in all cloth stuffs

The circumference of the city of Constantinople is eighteen miles; half of it is surrounded by the sea, and half by land, and it is situated upon two arms of the sea, one coming from the sea of Russia [the Black Sea], and one from the sea of Sepharad [the Mediterranean].

All sorts of merchants come here from the land of Babylon, from the land of Shinar [Mesopotamia], from Persia, Media [western Iran], and all the sovereignty of the land of Egypt, from the land of Canaan [Palestine], and the empire of Russia, from Hungary, Patzinakia (Ukraine), Khazaria [southern Russia], and the land of Lombardy [northern Italy] and Sepharad [Spain].

Constantinople is a busy city, and merchants come to it from every country by sea or land, and there is none like it in the world except Baghdad, the great city of Islam. In Constantinople is the church of Hagia Sophia, and the seat of the pope of the Greeks, since Greeks do not obey the pope of Rome. There are also as many churches as there are days of the year. . . . And in this church [Hagia Sophia] there are pillars of gold and silver, and lamps of silver and gold more than a man can count.

Close to the walls of the palace is also a place of amusement belonging to the emperor, which is called the Hippodrome, and every year on the anniversary of the birth of Jesus the emperor gives a great entertain-

SOURCE: Benjamin of Tudela. The Isinerary of Benjamin of Tudela. Trans. by M. N. Adler. London: H. Frowde, 1907. (Translation slightly modified.)

How is it possible to account for the prosperity that Benjamin of Tudela found in Constantinople?

The Sources from the Past boxes bring the past to life, spotlighting significant primary source documents relevant to the chapter, such as poems, journal accounts, religious writings, and letters. Introductions place the documents in context and explain their significance; new thought provoking questions prompt readers to contextualize and think critically about key issues raised in the document.

Marginal notes highlight key terms, events, and concepts as they appear within the narrative.

348 PART III | THE POSTCLASSICAL ERA, 500 TO 1000 C.E

Muhammad's time. Although he was not deeply knowledgeable about Judaism or Christianity, Muhammad had a basic understanding of both faiths. He may even have traveled by caravan to Syria, where he would certainly have dealt with Jewish and Christian merchants.

and in bread, meat, and wine.

under his vine and his fig-tree.

Muhammad's Spiritual Transformation About 610 C.E., as he approached age forty, Muhammad underwent a profound spiritual experience that transformed his life and left a deep mark on world history. His experience left him with the convictions that in all the world there was only one true deity, Allah ("God"), that he ruled the universe, that idolatry and the recognition of other gods amounted to wickedness, and that Allah would soon bring his judgment on the world, rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked. Muhammad experienced visions, which he understood as messages or revelations from Allah, delivered through the archangel Gabriel (also recognized by Jews and Christians as a special messenger of God), instructing him to explain his faith to others. He did not set out to construct a new religion by combining elements of Arab, Jewish, and Christian beliefs. In light of his cultural context, however, it is not surprising that he shared numerous specific beliefs with Jews and Christians—and indeed also with Zoroastrians, whose views had profoundly influenced the development of both Judaism and Christianity. In any case, in accordance with instructions transmitted to him by Gabriel, Muhammad began to expound his faith to his family and close friends. Gradually, others showed interest in his message, and by about 620 C.E. a zealous and expanding minority of Mecca's citizenry had joined his circle.

The Quran

Muhammad originally presented oral recitations of the revelations he received during his visions. As the Islamic community grew, his followers prepared written texts of his teachings. During the early 650s devour Muslims compiled these written versions of Muhammad's revelations and issued them as the Quran ("recitation"), the holy book of Islam. A work of magnificent poetry, the Quran communicates in powerful and moving terms Muhammad's understanding of Allah and his relation to the world, and it serves as the definitive authority for Islamic religious doctrine and social oreanization.

Apart from the Quran, several other sources have provided moral and religious guidance for the Islamic community. Most important after the Quran itself are traditions known as habith, which include sayings attributed to Muhammad and accounts of the prophet's deeds. Several collections of habith appeared between the ninth and eleventh century C.E., and Muslim scholars have often taken them as guides for interpretation of the Quran. Regarded as less authoritative than the Quran and the habith, but still important as inspirations for Islamic thought, were early works describing social and legal customs, biographies of Muhammad, and pious commentaries on the Quran.

Muhammad's Migration to Medina

Conflict at Mecca

The growing popularity of Muhammad's preaching brought him into conflict with the ruling clites at Mecca. Conflict centered on religious issues. Muhammad's insistence that Allah was the only divine power in the universe struck many polytheistic Arabs as offensive and dangerous as well, since it disparaged long-recognized detites and spirits thought to wield influence over human affairs. The tensions also had a personal dimension. Mecca's ruling clites, who were also the city's wealthiest merchants, took it as a personal affront and a threat to their position when Muhammad denounced greed as moral wickedness that Allah would punish.

Muhammad's attack on idolatry also represented an economic threat to those who owned and profited from the many shrines to deities that attracted merchants

A concise chronological table summarizes the critical events covered in the chapter.

	снкомогосу
589-618	Sui dynasty (China)
602-664	Life of Xuanzang
604-618	Reign of Sui Yangdi
618-907	Tang dynasty (China)
627-649	Reign of Tang Taizong
669-935	Silla dynasty (Korea)
710-794	Nara period (Japan)
755-757	An Lushan's rebellion
794-1185	Heian period (Japan)
875-884	Huang Chao's rebellion
960-1279	Song dynasty (China)
960-976	Reign of Song Taizu
1024	First issuance of government-sponsored paper money
1130-1200	Life of Zhu Xi
1185-1333	Kamakura period (Japan)
1336-1573	Muromachi period (Japan)

A paragraph summary at the end of each chapter reinforces the chapter's key points, making student review easier.

The revival of centralized imperial rule in China had profound implications for all of east Asia and indeed for most of the eastern hemisphere. When the Sui and Tang dynasties imposed their authority throughout China, they established a powerful state that guided political affairs throughout east Asia. Tang armies extended Chinese influence to Korea, Vietnam, and central Asia. They did not invade Japan, but the impressive political organization of China prompted the islands' rulers to imitate Tang examples. Moreover, the Sui and Tang dynasties laid a strong political foundation for rapid economic development. Chinese society prospered throughout the postclassical era, partly because of technological and industrial innovation. Tang and Song prosperity touched all of China's neighbors, since it encouraged surging commerce in east Asia. Chinese silk, porcelain, and lacquerware were prized commodities among trading peoples from southeast Asia to east Africa. Chinese inventions such as paper, printing, gunpowder, and the magnetic compass found a place in societies throughout the eastern hemisphere as they diffused across the silk roads and sea lanes. The postclassical era was an age of religious as well as commercial and technological exchanges: Nestorian Christians, Zoroastrians, Manichaeans, and Muslims all maintained communities in Tang China, and Buddhism became the most popular religious faith in all of east Asia. During the postclassical era, Chinese social organization and economic dynamism helped to sustain interactions between the peoples of the eastern hemisphere on an unprecedented scale.

Each chapter concludes with a For Further Reading section that contains a list and brief description of the most important books available about topics discussed in the chapter. This list can help students get started with research projects or follow up on subjects that they find especially interesting.

FOR FURTHER READING

Patricia Buckley Ebrey and Peter N. Gregory, eds. Religion and So-ciety in Tang and Sung China. Honolulu, 1993. Important collection of scholarly essays dealing with the early entry of Buddhigh in China.

Concertion in Scholary essays againing with the early entry of Buddhism in China.
Mark Elvin. The Pattern of the Chinese Past. Stanford, 1973. A brilliant analysis of Chinese history, concentrating particularly on economic, social, and technological themes.

Kenneth Ch'en. Buddhism in China: A Historical Survey, Princeton, 1964. A clear and detailed account by an eminent scholar.

Hugh R. Clark. Community, Trade, and Networks: Sandrers Fajain Pornice from the Third to the Thirteethed Century. Cambridge, 1991. Excellent scholarly study exploring the transformation of a region by trade and market forces.

Peter Duns. Feudalism in Japan. 2nd-cd. New York, 1976. A brief
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A Brief Note on Usage



This book qualifies dates as B.C.E. ("Before the Common Era") or C.E. ("Common Era"). In practice, B.C.E. refers to the same epoch as B.C. ("Before Christ"), and C.E. refers to the same epoch as A.D. (*Anno Domini*, a Latin term meaning "in the year of the Lord"). As historical study becomes a global, multicultural enterprise, however, scholars increasingly prefer terminology that does not apply the standards of one society to all the others. Thus reference in this book to B.C.E. and C.E. reflects emerging scholarly convention concerning the qualification of historical dates.

Measurements of length and distance appear here according to the metric system, followed by their English-system equivalents in parentheses.

The book transliterates Chinese names and terms into English according to the *pinyin* system, which has largely displaced the more cumbersome Wade-Giles system. Transliteration of names and terms from other languages follows contemporary scholarly conventions.

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