



CBSE • CLASS 10 • SOCIAL SCIENCE

HISTORY

CHAPTER 03

The Making of a Global World



CHAPTER NOTES

THE PRE-MODERN WORLD

Connections before modern globalisation

- Today's global world has a long history of trade, migration and movement of capital.
- Travellers, traders, priests and pilgrims crossed long distances for knowledge, work, spiritual fulfilment or to escape persecution.
- They carried goods, money, values, skills, ideas and inventions. Diseases also travelled with people.
- Human societies became increasingly connected long before modern globalisation.

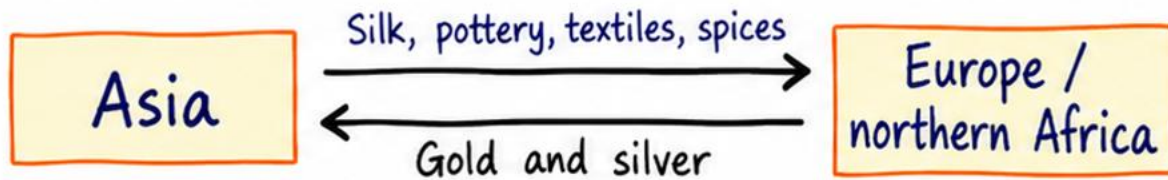
Early examples

- By 3000 BCE, coastal trade linked the Indus valley civilisations with present-day West Asia.
- Cowries from the Maldives reached China and East Africa for more than a millennium.
- Cowries are seashells that were used as currency.
- Long-distance disease connections can be traced to the seventh century and were clear by the thirteenth century.
- Images of ships on western Indian memorial stones from the ninth century show the importance of ocean trade.

SILK ROUTES: TRADE AND CULTURE

Goods on the move

- The silk routes were several land and sea routes, not just one road.
- They connected different parts of Asia with Europe and northern Africa.
- They existed before the Christian Era and flourished almost until the fifteenth century.
- Their name reflects the importance of Chinese silk moving westwards.
- Chinese pottery, Indian and Southeast Asian textiles and spices also travelled along them.



- Gold and silver moved from Europe to Asia in return.

Ideas and beliefs

- Trade and cultural exchange went together.
- **Buddhism** spread from eastern India through points where silk routes met.
- Early **Christian missionaries** travelled to Asia along these routes; **Muslim preachers** followed later.
- Thus the routes linked markets as well as religions and cultures.

FOOD TRAVELS AND THE POTATO FAMINE

Food as cultural exchange

- Traders and travellers carried new crops and foods to distant lands.
- The chapter suggests possible links between Chinese noodles and spaghetti, or Arab traders and pasta in Sicily.
- Similar foods existed in India and Japan. Their exact common origin is uncertain, not a proven fact.
- Potatoes, maize, tomatoes, chillies, groundnuts and sweet potatoes spread from the Americas to Europe and Asia.
- These exchanges expanded after Columbus's voyage connected Europeans with the Americas.
- America's Indigenous peoples had long grown these foods.

The potato's impact

- Potatoes helped poor Europeans eat better and live longer.
- Many poor Irish peasants became heavily dependent on potatoes.
- Crop disease in the mid-1840s caused famine.
- Great Irish Potato Famine: 1845-1849
About 1,000,000 people died of starvation.
About 2,000,000 emigrated to find work.
- A new crop could improve life, but relying heavily on one crop could also bring disaster.

CONQUEST, DISEASE AND AMERICAN TRADE

New sea connections

- In the sixteenth century, European sailors found a sea route to Asia and crossed the Atlantic to the Americas.
- The Indian Ocean already had busy exchanges of goods, people, knowledge and customs. India was central to this network.
- European entry expanded or redirected some trade towards Europe.
- The Americas' lands, crops and minerals transformed world trade.
- Silver from present-day Peru and Mexico increased European wealth and helped finance trade with Asia.
- Stories of El Dorado, a mythical city of gold, encouraged expeditions.

Conquest and its effects

- Portuguese and Spanish conquest was well under way by the mid-sixteenth century.
- Conquest was not due to weapons alone. European diseases, especially smallpox, devastated Indigenous communities with little immunity after long isolation.
- Many Europeans had immunity to these diseases. This unequal impact helped colonial conquest.
- The chapter uses "America" for North America, South America and the Caribbean.



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