INDIAN OCEAN TRADE NETWORK

I. Trade and economic development of southern India
A. Internal trade
  1. Self-sufficient in staple food
  2. Metals, spices, special crops found only in certain regions
  3. Through trade, south India and Ceylon experienced rapid economic growth
B. Temples and society in south India
  1. Hindu temples served as economic and social centers
  2. Possessed large tracts of land, hundreds of employees
  3. Temple administrators were to maintain order, deliver taxes
  4. Served as banks; engaged in business ventures

II. Cross-cultural trade in Indian Ocean basin
A. Dhows and junks--large ships involved in maritime trade in Indian Ocean
B. Emporia, Indian port cities, were clearinghouses of trade and cosmopolitan centers
C. Trade goods
  1. Silk and porcelain from China
  2. Spices from southeast Asia
  3. Pepper, gems, pearls, and cotton from India
  4. Incense and horses from Arabia and southwest Asia
  5. Gold, ivory, and slaves from east Africa
D. Specialized production
  1. Production of high-quality cotton textiles thrived
  2. Other specialized industries: sugar, leather, stone, carpets, iron and steel

III. The influence of Indian society in Southeast Asia
A. Indian influence in southeast Asia
  1. Indian merchants brought their faiths to southeast Asia
  2. Ruling elite of southeast Asia adapted some Indian political traditions
  3. The states sponsored Hinduism and Buddhism
  4. Showed no interest in Indian caste system
B. Funan (first to sixth century C.E.) in the lower reaches of Mekong River (Cambodia/Vietnam)
  1. Drew enormous wealth by controlling trade
  2. Adopted Sanskrit as official language
  3. Decline of Funan in sixth century
C. Srivijaya (670-1025 C.E.) was established on Sumatra after the fall of Funan
  1. Maintained sea trade between China and India by navy
  2. Chola kingdom of south India eclipsed Srivijaya in the eleventh century
Indian Ocean Maritime System

• It linked the lands bordering the Indian Ocean basin and the South China Sea.

• Was made possible by and followed the patterns of the seasonal changes in the monsoon winds.

• Because the distances traveled were longer than the Mediterranean, traders in the Indian Ocean system seldom retained the political ties to their homelands and war was rare.

• The culture of the Indian Ocean ports was often isolated from that of their hinterlands. They did not have access to large inland populations of potential consumers.

• Traders and sailors in the Indian Ocean system often married local women in the ports. These women became mediators between cultures.