

Production and trade in the Indian Ocean basin

- A. Agriculture in the monsoon world
 - 1. The monsoons (rains in spring and summer)
 - 2. Irrigation systems were needed for dry months
 - a. No big river in south India; waterworks included dams, reservoirs, canals, wells
 - b. Stored rainwater in large reservoirs connected to canals
 - c. Population growth: 53 million in 600 C.E. to 105 million in 1500 C.E.
 - d. Urbanization took place in Delhi and other large port cities
- B. Trade and economic development of southern India
 - 1. Internal trade
 - a. Self-sufficient in staple food
 - b. Metals, spices, special crops found only in certain regions
 - c. Through trade, south India and Ceylon experienced rapid economic growth
 - 2. Temples and society in south India
 - a. Hindu temples served as economic and social centers
 - b. Possessed large tracts of land, hundreds of employees
 - c. Temple administrators were to maintain order, deliver taxes
 - d. Served as banks; engaged in business ventures
- C. Cross-cultural trade in Indian Ocean basin
 - 1. Dhows and junks--large ships involved in maritime trade in Indian Ocean
 - 2. Emporia, Indian port cities, were clearinghouses of trade and cosmopolitan centers
 - 3. Trade goods
 - a. Silk and porcelain from China
 - b. Spices from southeast Asia
 - c. Pepper, gems, pearls, and cotton from India
 - d. Incense and horses from Arabia and southwest Asia
 - e. Gold, ivory, and slaves from east Africa
 - 4. Specialized production
 - a. Production of high-quality cotton textiles thrived
 - b. Other specialized industries: sugar, leather, stone, carpets, iron and steel
 - 5. The kingdom of Axum was a Christian empire centered in Ethiopia
 - a. Resisted pressures of Islam; stayed prosperous through trade
 - b. Controlled Adulis, most prominent port on Red Sea

The Indian Ocean trade and Islamic states in east Africa

- 1. A series of trading ports, part of the Indian Ocean network, developed along the coast and islands between the Horn of Africa and Mozambique.
- 2. Town residents were influenced by Islam, but most of the general population remained tied to traditional ways.
- 3. The Swahili dominated east African coast
 - a. Spoke Swahili, a Bantu language, supplemented with some Arabic words
 - b. Trade with Muslim merchants became important by the tenth century
- 4. Islam in east Africa
 - a. Ruling elite and wealthy merchants converted to Islamic faith
 - b. Conversion promoted close cooperation with Muslim merchants
 - c. Conversion also opened door to political alliances with Muslim rulers

The Spread of Islam to Southeast Asia.

- A. When Muslims, from the 8th century, gained control of Indian commerce, Islamic culture reached Southeast Asia.
- B. The 13th century collapse of the trading empire of Shrivijaya, ruled by devout Buddhists and located on the Straits of Malacca and northern Sumatra, made possible large-scale, peaceful, Muslim entry.

Trading Contacts and Conversion.

- A. Peaceful contacts and voluntary conversion were more important to the spread of Islam than conquest and force.
- B. Trading contacts prepared the way for conversion, with the process carried forward by Sufis.
 - 1. Coastal cities were the most receptive to Islam. Their conversion linked them to a Muslim system connected to the principal Indian Ocean ports.
 - 2. Buddhist dynasties were present in many regions, but since Buddhist conversions were limited to the elite, the mass of the population was open to the message of Sufis.

Sufi Mystics and the Nature of Southeast Asian Islam.

- 1. The mystical quality of Islam in Southeast Asia was due to Sufi strivings.
- 2. They often were tolerant of the indigenous peoples' Buddhist and Hindu beliefs.
 - a. Converts retained pre-Islamic practices, especially for regulating social interaction.
 - b. Islamic law ruled legal transactions.
 - c. Women held a stronger familial and societal position than they had in the Middle East or India.
 - d. Many pre-Muslim beliefs were incorporated into Islamic ceremonies.

The influence of Indian society in southeast Asia

- A. The states of southeast Asia
 - 1. Indian influence in southeast Asia
 - a. Indian merchants brought their faiths to southeast Asia
 - b. Ruling elite of southeast Asia adapted some Indian political traditions
 - c. The states sponsored Hinduism and Buddhism
 - d. Showed no interest in Indian caste system
 - 2. Funan (1st-6th century C.E.) in the lower reaches of Mekong River (Cambodia/Vietnam)
 - a. Drew enormous wealth by controlling trade
 - 3. Srivijaya (670-1025 C.E.) was established on Sumatra after the fall of Funan
 - a. Maintained sea trade between China and India by navy
 - 4. Angkor (889-1431 C.E.)
 - a. Kingdom built by Khmers at Angkor Thom, later Angkor Wat
 - b. The city was a microcosmic reflection of Hindu world order
 - c. Turned to Buddhism during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries
 - d. Thais invaded the capital in 1431, and Khmers abandoned it
- B. The arrival of Islam in southeast Asia
 - 1. Conversion to Islam was slow and quiet
 - a. Ruling elite converted in cities while rural residents retained their traditions
 - b. Islam was not an exclusive faith in southeast Asia
 - c. Sufis appealed to a large public in these countries
 - 2. Malacca was powerful Islamic state during fifteenth century