Discussion and Focus Questions:
1. Why can 600 to 1450 be considered a period? How is it different than the period before and that one after?
2. Which new empires emerged during this period? What new political systems emerged? Give examples.
3. What impact did the Mongols have? Give examples and be specific. Did they affect trade?
4. What was Dar al-Islam and how was it a unifying cultural and economic force? Where was it centered? Where did it affect?
5. What were the Islamic political structures? What was the caliphate? How was it alike or different to other leaders? Give examples. Know two caliphates.
6. Give examples of Islamic art, science, and technology. Be specific.
7. How did interregional trade change during this time period?
8. Describe the Trans-Sahara trade route.
10. Describe the Silk Roads.
11. Compare and contrast the three major trade routes? Who was involved? What was traded?
12. Which religions had missionaries? How did they spread their religious message? Any particular areas or routes?
13. Describe how people of different religions that came into contact reacted with each other. How about Islam and Buddhism? Christianity and Islam? Find examples of contact.
14. Why were the Tang and Song’s economic revolutions important? What happened?
15. What was significant about the economic initiatives of the Ming dynasty?
16. How did China influence its surrounding areas?
17. What political, economic, and social institutions were developing in Europe during this time?
18. What caused Christianity to divide into eastern and western? What major differences emerged in the religions? In the cultures?
19. What were the major social, cultural, economic, and political patterns of the Maya, Inca, and Aztecs?
20. How did nomadic migrations affect groups? Be specific with examples from Aztecs, Mongols, Turks, Vikings, Bantus, and Arabs.
21. What were the consequences of the plague (not just Europe)? Give long-term and short-term effects.
22. How did cities grow and change? Give examples from both western and nonwestern.
23. What is the difference between cultural areas and states? What would be the advantages of studying cultural history during this time instead of states?
24. What caused the most change, nomadic migrations or urban growth? Be able to defend both.
25. Was there a world economic network during this time? Give examples for both.
26. What were the new opportunities available for women in different parts of the world? What were the constraints? Give examples from different cultures for both.
27. Compare and contrast Japanese and European feudalism.
28. Compare Islam and Christianity. Be able to discuss religion, culture, and politics.
29. Compare and contrast the Aztec and Inca Empires.
30. How was European contact with the Islamic world different that sub-Saharan Africas? How was it similar?
1450 – 1750 Big Ideas and Discussion Questions

1. How was this era different than the era that preceded it? What changed? What stayed the same?
2. What were the major changes in trade? Who was involved?
3. What technological and scientific advances were made during this time period?
4. How did the world become “smaller”?
5. What were the basic political structures found in the world’s empires? Who ruled? How did he/she gain power? Were certain areas different than others?
6. What were the common characteristics found in African Empires?
7. What role did women have during this time period?
8. What slave systems emerged? How were they different from previous systems?
9. What other labor systems were practiced?
10. Which diseases and foods were spread through interactions? How did this affect the population patterns of the world?
11. What were the major discoveries of the Scientific Revolution? How were they controversial? Compared to other areas of the world, were the Europeans slower in discovering some major scientific ideas?
12. What were the major cultural centers during this time period? Find examples and comparisons from all areas of the globe.
13. Why was the Enlightenment so significant to western politics?
14. Explain absolutism? List monarchs from different areas of the world who believed in Divine Right of Kings and absolutism.
15. Compare two European monarchies to China and Japan’s empires. What are the similarities and differences?
16. How did the following interact with the West: Russia, Ottoman Empire, China, Japan, and India. Be very specific.
17. What was the Reformation? What were the basic ideas?
1750 – 1914 Big Ideas and Discussion Questions

1. What caused this period to be different than previous periods?
2. How did global trade change? What new inventions led to this change?
3. What changes in communication took place?
4. What technological advances occurred? What effects did they have on different cultures?
5. Where did the Industrial Revolution start? What role did it have on the growth of a 2nd wave of Imperialism? Why didn’t non-western countries benefit as much as western ones?
6. What migrations occurred during this time period? What were the common reasons for this migration?
7. Why did the Atlantic Slave Trade end?
8. Why did serfdom end in Europe?
9. How did the role of women change during this time period? How did it stay the same?
10. How did events in Europe affect the Latin American independence movements?
11. What were the major revolutions of this period? How were they alike? How were they different?
12. What is nationalism? How did it affect different parts of the world during this time period?
13. How did democracy increase during this time period? Where did it? Where did it not? Who did not benefit from democratic movements?
14. Why did Europe, the United States, and Japan seek colonies during this time?
15. What was the White Man’s Burden? How did racism affect imperialism?
16. How was Japan and Europe’s industrial revolution similar? How different?
17. Compare the American, French, and Chinese Revolutions.
18. How did the Ottoman Empire deal with foreign domination? How about China, India, and Japan?
19. How did the west intervene in Latin America? Africa?
20. What was the Meiji Restoration?
21. Who were the Jacobins?
22. What was the Boxer Rebellion?
23. What was social Darwinism?
1914 to Present
Big Idea and Discussion Questions

1. How did “globalization” change the world during the 20th century?
2. Describe how the world could be called, McWorld?
3. What were the basic events that made up World War I?
4. What impact did WWI have on non-Western regions?
5. What were the basic events that made up World War II?
6. What impact did WWII have on non-Western regions?
7. Describe the Holocaust? What other 20th century genocides were there?
8. What were the basic events that made up the Cold War?
9. How did the Cold War affect non-Western countries?
10. What was the goal of the League of Nations?
11. What are the goals of the United Nations? How is the United Nations organized and what are some of its subgroups (such as UNESCO)?
12. What is the Non-Aligned Nations? What are their goals?
13. What role has nationalism played in the 20th Century? Find examples from WWI, WWII, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and the former Soviet Union.
14. Explain the process of decolonization in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Refer to specific events.
15. What was the global impact of the Great Depression?
16. How has technology changed the world’s economy?
17. What is meant by the Pacific Rim? What economic impact did it have on the world during the 20th century?
18. What are multinational corporations? What power do they have?
19. How did the roles of women transform during the 20th century? Use examples from countries of different regions.
20. What changes took place in art during the 20th century? How did art become more for the masses than before?
21. What major migrations took place during the 20th century? Name specific examples (think of people who moved because of war, famine, religious reasons, economic reasons, and communism).
22. What effect has environmental issues had on the world? Name specific environmental concerns from different areas of the world.
23. What accounts for the huge increase in world population? What problems did/does this present?
24. What role did women have in political revolutions and how did those revolutions affect the role of women? (Russian, Chinese, Cuban, and Iranian)
25. What were the patterns of economic development in Africa, Asia, and Latin America?
26. Explain the concept of “West” and “East” as it relates to the Cold War era.
27. Compare high tech warfare with guerrilla warfare.
28. What social and political consequences have resulted from 3rd world economic developments?
29. What were the cultural and political effects of the world wars?
30. Why has the number of international organizations increased? Give examples and trace the history of several.
1914 to Present
Big Idea and Discussion Questions

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31. What is meant by 20th century artistic modernism?