

AP buzz words: global processes and trends

THEMATIC REVIEW SHEET #2: Ideas & Power - Religion

- From earliest times, ideas have been used to explain and justify the unequal distribution of power among individuals and groups or to sanction and legitimize the power of rulers and states. ***Politics and religion are both ways of systematically constructing power, and the expression of symbolic systems through religious ritual has been as effective and important a means of imposing order on the world as administrative systems or military force.***
- In early dynastic states political authority was associated with religious beliefs and practices (Shang China, Egyptian pharaohs, Mayan rulers).
- In contrast to the use of ideas to further power, as in early theocracies, religious ideas could also be used to contest the established order of things and to challenge the power of rulers and states.
- As Buddha, Abraham, and Zoroaster challenged the dominant religious traditions of their times, thinkers in Greece and China envisioned new social and political orders -- thinkers compelled by circumstances to consider how best to achieve social and political order.
 - competitive Greek city states / democracy in Athens / Socrates and Plato
 - warring states in China / the ideal of hierarchy rooted in past institutions / Confucius
- Legalists ridiculed the Confucian emphasis on ethical values and ritual as the means of achieving a harmonious society, arguing that only "strict laws and harsh punishments" could ensure social order and the stability of the state.
 - provided the ideological underpinnings for the first unified empire in China, the Qin, and for its successor, the Han, which rejected the harshest ideas of Legalism in favor of the ideals of Confucianism but adopted the form of the Legalist state with central authority vested in the emperor
- Unlike Roman emperors, Han rulers were not deified; rather they were seen as standing at the pinnacle of human society.
- Hellenistic influence - After the demise of Alexander and his empire in West Asia, the imperial tradition was extended by his successors in various forms throughout West, Central, and South Asia, as well as in North Africa.
 - rulers of Mauryan and Gupta Empires were god-kings, associated with either Buddhism or Hinduism
 - earlier examples, the Egyptian pharaohs (role was to maintain cosmic order) and Chinese emperors (Mandate of Heaven)

THE UNIVERSAL RELIGIONS of BUDDHISM, CHRISTIANITY, and ISLAM:

- were proselytized by their followers
- were adapted to different cultural settings
- were used to provide religious sanctions for rulers
- Unlike Buddhism, both Christianity and Islam used military power to conquer and convert peoples and created their own governments. Buddhism did not become the engine of empire that Christianity, and especially Islam, did
- As all 3 of these religions were introduced into different cultures and societies, they underwent significant adaptations to indigenous belief systems at the same time that they dramatically altered the religious ideals and values of peoples around the globe.
 - As Buddhism expanded into Southeast Asia, it interacted with both Hinduism and indigenous belief systems in varying political contexts, from empires to city states.
 - Islam spread into Africa, where it flourished alongside African belief systems in the West African Mali Empire and in East African coastal port cities.

⇒ Religions have many dimensions and operate on many different levels. They can be

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addressed to the spiritual concerns of the individual and to the maintenance of the family or community, as well as to legitimizing a ruler's authority or the state's power.

- Christianity: personal relationship of an individual with God and the communal character of religious practice -- political force of the Papacy
 - Islam: the "community of true believers" forms the basis of Muslim identity, reinforced by such practices as individual daily prayer and the once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to Mecca -- in theory, this community transcends the secular state
- ⇒ Religion can be a powerful political force, just as politics can shape religious experience, belief, and practice.
- ⇒ Religion can just as effectively challenge structures of power as validate and reinforce them. As Confucianism was used to sanction the power of the emperor and the state, Daoism could be used to challenge that power.

ORDER: IDEAS --> POLITICAL STRUCTURE + ECONOMIC SYSTEM + SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

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THEMATIC REVIEW SHEET #3: The Economics of Power (Trade & Transport)

- In considering conditions such as economic systems, physical environments or technology, we make use of the concept of *political economy* - the relationship between material wealth or resources and power that shapes economic and political systems.
- In Southeast Asia, political leaders gradually adopted key features of Hinduism and Buddhism to sanction their rule and provide a unifying ideology for their states.
- Later - especially in the 14th and 15th centuries - Islam was adopted by regional political leaders with much the same unifying results.
- In each case, foreign belief systems were grafted onto indigenous ones. *Foreign religions initially penetrated along trade lines into parts of Southeast Asian society, and thus the demands of commerce and economic motives brought ideas that were then used to support the concentration of power.*
- Technology was important in the concentration of power in Southeast Asia and west African states: maritime technology in Southeast Asia and the horse and the associated technologies of metalworking and leatherworking in West Africa and Central Asia.
- Technology is closely related to trade, and empires as well as port city-states in both Southeast Asia and Africa were dependent on trade not only for the resources but also for providing ties that connected distant peoples and places to political centers.
- In the Americas, the Aztecs and Incas constructed empires on trade and tribute networks -- the empires relied on the supply of tribute goods from territories they conquered to support their ruling elites.
- Religious ideologies that supported military expansion and economic exploitation in these empires were based on shared traditions, rather than from the integration of indigenous beliefs and practices with new ones imported from other cultures, such as Hinduism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia and Islam in West Africa.
- The Mongol Empire was constructed on the basis of military conquest that enabled the expropriation of resources from a vast range of ecological and cultural zones. Military strength was a vital skill, was necessary for conquest; but military strength alone was insufficient to enable the Mongols to consolidate their hold over conquered territories.
- Sophisticated administrative ability was needed to govern and manage the human and material resources of peoples and lands in Central, East, and West Asia, Russia, and eastern Europe, which included among their populations nomadic tribesmen, urban dwellers, and farmers.
- Territories conquered by the Mongols were the home of followers of virtually every major religion of the time, including Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism.

ORDER: IDEAS --> POLITICAL STRUCTURE + ECONOMIC SYSTEM + SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Political Revolutions and Independence Movements Chart

<i>Political revolutions and independence movements</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Results (who benefited?)</i>	<i>Effects on Other Revolutions</i>
U.S.A.	Washington Jefferson Hamilton	British mercantilist policies (use colonies for the financial benefit of the mother country) Enlightenment ideas of representation in govt.	Elite: plantation owners and merchants	France sees that its own ideas from the Enlightenment (freedom of speech, freedom of religion, right to rebel against an unfair monarch) as possible – leads to the French Revolution
France	Danton Robespierre	Debt of French govt. for helping Am. Rev., Wars of Louis XIV, and the palace of Versailles; Inequality of 3 Estate system; Enlightenment ideas of representation in govt.	middle class minorities, e.g. Jews and Protestants (freedom of religion)	Revolutionary ideas spread across Europe inspiring other revolutions and demanding changes
Haiti	Touissant Christophe Leclerc	French mercantilist policies Enlightenment ideas of representation in govt. harshness of forced labor system (slavery)	At First – creole elite: plantation owners and merchants Then – slaves, maroons, people of color with property	model for Latin American revolutions
Latin American independence movements	Bolívar Hidalgo	Napoleon's invasion of Spain and Portugal Spanish mercantilist policies Enlightenment ideas of representation in govt.	creole elite: plantation owners and merchants	set up for later revolutions in Latin America because the rights and needs of the lower class and people of Native American and African descent were ignored
Mexican Revolution of 1910	Madero Villa Zapata	inequality injustice imperialism: dependency	lower class peasants	some effect on Cuban and other Latin American revolutions after WW2
Chinese Revolution of 1911	Sun Yatsen Yuan Shikai	British imperialism inequality injustice Enlightenment ideas of representation in govt.	Chinese people (not Manchus) warlords Chinese merchants	set up for 1949 Communist Revolution led by Mao Zedong