

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 15 Reading Guide**  
**The West and the Changing Balance of World Power**

1. Your text implies that one particular group dominated international relations but something caused that group to lose power. Identify both the group and the cause of their lost of power.
2. What new power came onto the scene during the early 15<sup>th</sup> century and what three countries represented that power most early on?

**THE DECLINE OF THE OLD ORDER P. 340**

3. Who destroyed the Byzantine Empire and in what year?

**SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

4. Your text states that Ibn Rushd and his work on Greek rationalism was ignored in the Middle East. It does not state why but you have learned in a previous chapter at least one reason. What is it? (HINT: ulamas, p. 155)
5. Why are *The Destruction of Philosophy* and the works of Thomas Aquinas at odds?
6. What was the long term effect of both the stance of the ulamas and the efforts of the Sufi scholars on Islamic science?
7. What effect did the decline of the caliphate have on the economy of the Middle East and who suffered as a result?
8. What new power seized control of most of the former Arab & Byzantine empires?

**A POWER VACUUM IN INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

9. How did the Mongol system benefit Western Europe?
10. The decline of Mongol authority pushed people to use what alternative method to trade and travel?

**CHINESE THRUST AND WITHDRAWAL**

11. What new Chinese dynasty pushed the Mongols out of China and began a new policy of expansionism?
12. What admiral was in charge of Chinese exploration and trade expeditions to India, the Middle East, and East Africa? Why was he a good choice?
13. In what year did Chinese exploration come to an end?
14. Cite three reasons why this occurred? Include how the Mongols factored into this decision.
15. How did Confucian philosophy factor in China's decision to cut back on international trade? (put this in your own words, don't just copy the text – think about who is at the bottom of the social ladder in China and why)
16. Given Arab decline and China's turn towards isolationism, what power was left to grab a dominate role in international trade?

### **THE RISE OF THE WEST P. 342**

17. What occurred in Europe that made people there more vulnerable to disease?
18. The Bubonic plague, or Black Death, had a similar mortality rate in both China and Europe. Express that rate in terms of a ratio. (ex. 1 out of 5 people).
19. Your text states that the plague disrupted the European economy and led to strikes and peasant uprisings. How? (Hint: fewer workers/farmers would lead employers/lords to demand what? How could poor people/commoners benefit from the plague in the long run?)

### **SOURCES OF DYANAMISM: MEDIEVAL VITALITY**

20. List the factors that led to the West's new international role.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.

### **IMITATION AND INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS**

21. What key inventions did Western Europe gain from Asia thanks to Mongol links?
22. Rich Western Europeans wanted expensive Asian luxuries. However, they only had cheap goods to trade. What was used to make up the value difference?
23. What resource did Western Europe have a limited supply of?
24. What two areas of the world, which we already studied in the Postclassical period, had a plentiful supply of this material and that the West will soon dominate?
25. How did the failure of the Crusades lead Western Europe to look for other routes to Asia?

### **SECULAR DIRECTIONS IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE**

26. What does "Renaissance" mean?
27. Where did the Renaissance begin and during what time period?
28. How did Renaissance art differ from medieval art?
29. Why did the Renaissance begin in southern Europe?

### **HUMAN VALUES AND RENAISSANCE CULTURE**

30. How did art and architecture change during the Renaissance?

### **DOCUMENT: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE CULTURE P. 346**

31. Read Boccaccio's letter and then identify the tension that he is writing about. (NOTE: to identify a tension you need to first discover the two sides involved – his is obv

### **THE IBERIAN SPIRIT OF CHRISTIAN MISSION**

32. Who united the Spanish provinces of Castile and Aragon how did these two do it?
33. What was the role of governments on the Iberian Peninsula?
34. Who suffered as a result?
35. What was the purpose of the Inquisition?

### **WESTERN EXPANSION: THE EXPERIMENTAL PHASE P. 347**

#### **EARLY EXPLORATIONS**

36. Who sailed from Italy in 1291 never to be heard from again and for what purpose?
37. Identify the technological issues that prevented Europeans from conducting transoceanic exploration before 1430.
38. Examine the 15<sup>th</sup> century world map in figure 15.2. Identify at least two major discrepancies with modern world maps.
39. What European reached India first, in what year, and from what country?

#### **COLONIAL PATTERNS**

40. Why was Prince Henry important to European exploration and what were his motives for sponsoring it?
41. How did European utilization of the Azores and the Canary Islands foreshadow what was to come later in the Americas?
42. What was the effect of the profitability of the ventures in the Azores and the Canary Islands on European exploration?

### **IN DEPTH: THE PROBLEM OF ETHNOCENTRISM**

43. Define "ethnocentrism" –
44. List one example given in the article of ethnocentrism on the part of non-Western cultures PLUS one NOT given in the article. (HINT: we talked about one in class when we discussed the Mongols)

### **OUTSIDE THE WORLD NETWORK P. 350**

45. What occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the Americas that made those civilizations more vulnerable to European conquests?

### **POLITICAL ISSUES IN THE AMERICAS**

46. How were the Aztecs exploiting other Indian groups?

47. What was the key weakness that existed in the Inca Empire? (HINT: It was shared by the old Roman Empire and a map would give it away.)

#### **EXPANSION, MIGRATION, AND CONQUEST IN POLYNESIA**

48. Where did Polynesian culture get its start?
49. What animal was introduced to the Hawaiian Islands by the Polynesians that was detrimental to plant life there?
50. Describe the Hawaiian social system.

#### **ISOLATED ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE MAORI**

51. Where did the Maori people settle?
52. In what area did they excel compared to other Polynesian peoples?
53. What was the last culture to be encountered and pulled into the world trade network by Europeans?

#### **ADDING UP THE CHANGES**

54. Your text states that the West's rise to power was the result of a series of complex coincidences. Many of those coincidences were covered in this chapter. Write a single sentence for each of the following stating at least one factor that helped the West rise to power.
- a. Mongols –
  - b. China –
  - c. Arabs –
  - d. Aztecs –
  - e. Incas –
  - f. Polynesians –
  - g. Technology –
  - h. Renaissance –
  - i. Western Europe's geography -
55. Why did the decline of Arab power adversely affect Africa, resulting in it lagging behind the West? (HINT: it's the reverse of the Mongols affect on W. Europe)