

Course Companion

AP World History: Modern

Every topic handout in one volume

exercises.lol

Contents

1. The Global Tapestry	2
2. Networks of Exchange	8
3. Land-Based Empires	14
4. Transoceanic Interconnections	19
5. Revolutions	25
6. Consequences of Industrialization	31
7. Global Conflict	36
8. Cold War and Decolonization	42
9. Globalization	48

The Global Tapestry

AP World History: Modern

Reading the World in 1200

Unit 1 surveys the major regions of the world around **1200 to 1450**, just before the great connecting networks of Unit 2. Its purpose is comparison: by the end you should be able to say how any two of these societies were governed, what held them together, and how they made their living.

Three questions apply everywhere, and answering them for each region is the whole unit:

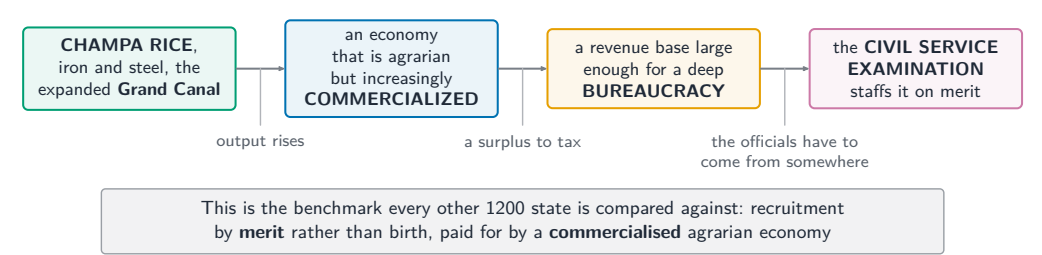
- **How is the state organised?** Who rules, through what officials, and paid for how?
- **What belief system shapes society?** Religion supplies law, education, and legitimacy in every region here.
- **What is the economic base?** Agriculture almost everywhere, but with very different labour systems and levels of trade.

East Asia

Song China is the unit’s benchmark state. Its economy became increasingly **commercialized** while remaining largely **agrarian**, supported by rising productive capacity - **Champa rice**, iron and steel production, and transport improvements such as the expanded **Grand Canal**.

Government ran through a **bureaucracy** staffed by the **civil service examination**, which recruited officials on merit and gave the state unusual administrative depth.

Chinese cultural traditions continued and influenced neighbouring regions - Korea, Japan, and Vietnam adopted writing, bureaucratic models, and belief systems. **Neo-Confucianism** shaped society, including **filial piety** and the expectation of women’s deference. **Buddhism** continued to shape Asian societies and spread further, in forms including **Theravada**, **Mahayana**, and **Tibetan** Buddhism.

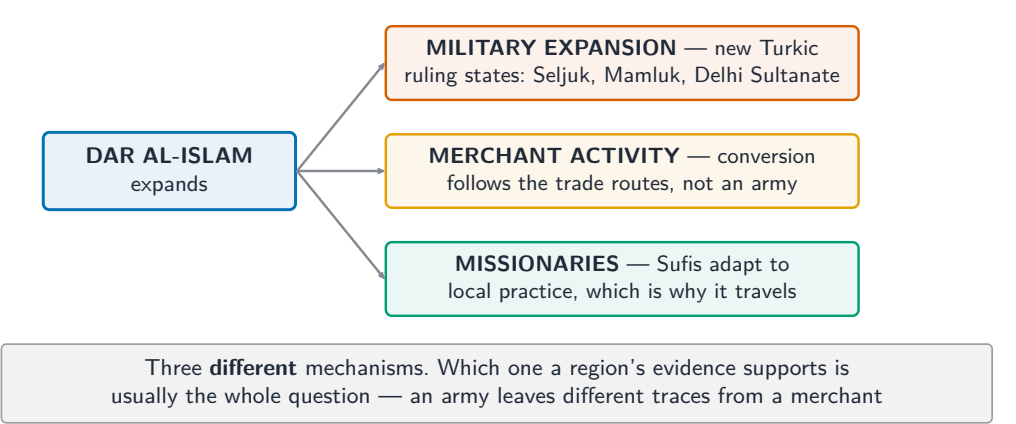


Dar al-Islam

As the **Abbasid Caliphate** fragmented, new Islamic political entities emerged, most of them **Turkic** in origin - among them the **Seljuk Empire**, the **Mamluk sultanate of Egypt**, and the **Delhi Sultanate**.

Muslim rule continued to expand across Afro-Eurasia through **military expansion**, **merchant activity**, and the work of **missionaries**, especially **Sufis**, whose adaptable practice helped Islam spread.

Muslim states encouraged significant **intellectual innovations and transfers**: advances in mathematics, medicine, and astronomy, and the preservation and extension of Greek learning that later moved into Europe.



South and Southeast Asia

Hinduism, **Islam**, and **Buddhism** continued to shape the region, and their meeting produced new devotional forms - the **bhakti movement** in Hinduism and **Sufism** in Islam, both emphasising direct personal devotion.

State formation showed the unit’s theme of continuity and diversity: the **Delhi Sultanate** ruled much of the north, **Vijayanagara** arose in the south, and in Southeast Asia the sea-based **Majapahit** and the land-based **Khmer Empire** organised power in different ways.

The Americas and Africa

	East Asia	Dar al-Islam	South and SE Asia	The Americas	Africa	Europe
How is the state organised?	examination-based bureaucracy	new Turkic states after the Abbasids	sultanates and regional kingdoms	city-states, tribute and labour empires	trading states and old kingdoms	fragmented, decentralised
What belief system shapes society?	Neo-Confucianism, Buddhism	Islam; Sufi missionaries	Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism	state religion tied to rulers	Islam and Christianity	Christianity; the Church
What is the economic base?	commercialised agriculture	trade and intellectual exchange	sea and land trade routes	intensive farming, tribute	gold, salt and cattle trade	agriculture with serfdom

a comparison answer takes ONE row and TWO columns

One framework, six regions: state, belief system, and economic base are what comparison questions actually ask about

In the **Americas**, state systems showed continuity, innovation, and diversity: the **Maya** city-states, the **Mexica** (Aztec) with tribute-based expansion, and the **Inca** with a centralised administration, labour obligation, and road system.

In **Africa**, state systems likewise varied: **Great Zimbabwe** grew on gold and cattle, **Ethiopia** was a long-established Christian kingdom, and the **Hausa Kingdoms** sat on trans-Saharan trade routes.



Europe

Europe was **politically fragmented**, characterised by decentralised monarchies and by **feudalism** - a system of land held in exchange for service. Monarchs slowly consolidated power, but nothing here approached the administrative reach of Song China.

Christianity, **Judaism**, and **Islam** all shaped European society, with the Church supplying law, learning, and legitimacy.

Europe was **largely agricultural**, dependent on **free and coerced labour**, including **serfdom**.

Comparison in the Period

The unit’s reasoning skill is **comparison**. The productive comparisons are structural rather than evaluative:

- **Centralised** administration (Song China, Inca) against **fragmented** or decentralised rule (Europe, post-Abbasid Islamic states).
- Recruitment by **examination** against recruitment by **birth**.
- States funded by **tribute** (Mexico) against states funded by **taxation** (Song China).

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions regularly ask students to “Identify one similarity” or “Explain one difference” between two regions in a period. A full-mark answer for this unit names the feature and applies

it to both: “Both Song China and the Inca Empire used a centralised bureaucracy to govern a large territory, but Song China recruited officials through a competitive examination system while the Inca staffed administration through hereditary elites and a labour obligation.” Notice the shape: a comparison must be **one feature, two societies**. Describing each society in turn and leaving the reader to infer the comparison does not earn the point.

REGION	BELIEF SYSTEM	WHAT IT DID FOR AUTHORITY
Song China	Neo-Confucianism	ordered society by obligation — filial piety, and deference expected of women
Dar al-Islam	Islam	gave rulers of very different origins one shared source of legitimacy
Europe	Christianity, alongside Jewish and Muslim communities	sanctioned a fragmented order in which lords, not a state, held power
South and Southeast Asia	Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam together	bhakti and Sufi devotion crossed the boundaries rulers drew

Name the **function**, not the faith. “They were Confucian” is a label; “recruitment by examination rested on it” is an answer

Exam tips

- Learn each region through the same three questions - **state, belief system, economy** - so any comparison question already has a structure.
- **Song China** is the benchmark: examination-based bureaucracy, commercialised agriculture, and cultural influence on neighbours.
- For Dar al-Islam, remember the pattern is **fragmentation into new states** plus continued **expansion** by trade and Sufi missionaries.
- Give a named state for the Americas and Africa. **Mexica tribute, Inca labour obligation, Mali and Great Zimbabwe gold** are the reliable examples.
- Europe’s distinguishing features are **fragmentation, feudalism, and coerced agricultural labour**.
- Write comparisons as **one feature across two societies**, never as two separate descriptions.

Networks of Exchange
AP World History: Modern

What Made the Networks Grow

Unit 2 covers the three great exchange networks of **1200 to 1450** - the Silk Roads, the Indian Ocean, and the trans-Saharan routes - and asks the same question of each: what made trade grow, and what did that growth change?

Growth had three common causes, and naming them is worth more than listing goods:

- **Improved commercial practices** - **money economies**, **credit**, and forms of partnership that spread risk.
- **Improved transportation technologies** - better ships, saddles, and navigation.
- **State support** - empires that secured routes and taxed the trade benefited from protecting it.

Demand mattered too: **luxury goods** from Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans found expanding markets across Afro-Eurasia, and producers increased output to meet that demand.

WHAT IMPROVED	THE OBSTACLE REMOVED	EXAMPLES
COMMERCIAL PRACTICES	you had to carry the value you traded	money economies, credit, bills of exchange
TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY	distance, and the risk of not arriving	caravanserais, the camel saddle, the dhow and lateen sail, compass and astrolabe
STATE SUPPORT	no one would protect a route that crossed borders	rulers who profited from the traffic policed it

Growth is not a mood. Each enabler removes a **named** obstacle, and that pairing is what turns description into explanation

The Silk Roads

The **Silk Roads** carried high-value, low-bulk goods overland across Eurasia: silk, porcelain, spices, and precious metals.

Its enabling innovations were commercial as much as technical - **caravanserais** along the routes, the use of **paper money** and **bills of exchange** in China, and forms of credit that let merchants trade without carrying bullion.

The consequence for producers: Chinese artisans expanded output, and cities along the routes grew wealthy on the traffic passing through.

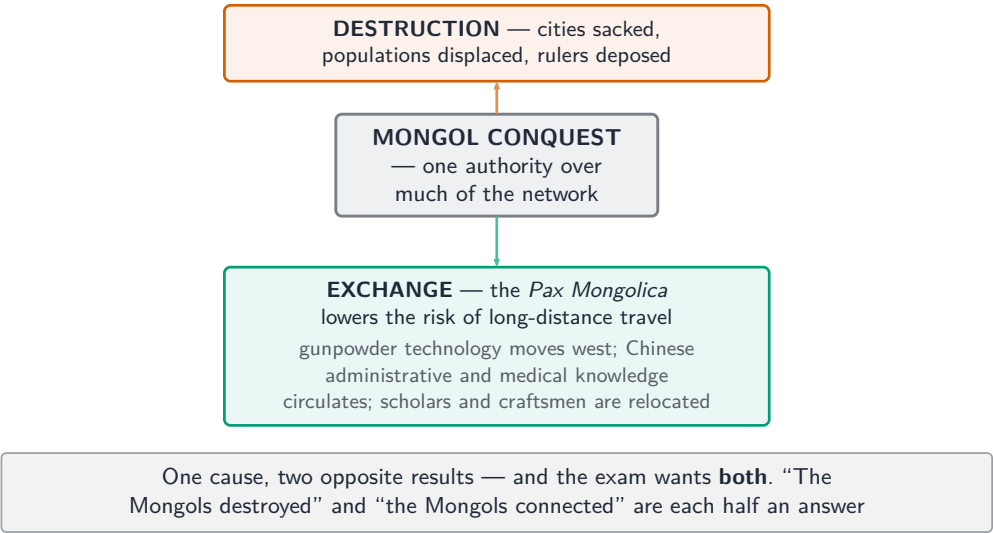
The Mongol Empire

Empires collapsed and were reconstituted in this period, and the largest transformation came from the **Mongol Empire**.

Mongol expansion **facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade and communication** by bringing much of the network under a single authority, which lowered the risk of long-distance travel - a period often called the **Pax Mongolica**.

Interregional contacts and conflicts also **encouraged technological and cultural transfers**: gunpowder technology moved west, Chinese administrative and medical knowledge circulated, and scholars and craftsmen were relocated across the empire.

The Mongols illustrate the unit’s central irony: conquest and destruction produced the conditions for exchange.



The Indian Ocean

	Silk Roads	Indian Ocean	Trans-Saharan
What it carried	silk, porcelain, spices high value, low bulk	textiles, timber, grain heavier, lower value	gold north, salt south
What enabled it	caravanserais, paper money, bills of exchange	monsoon winds, lateen sail, dhow, compass, astrolabe	camel saddle, organised caravans
What it changed	wealthy route cities; artisans expand output	states grow (Swahili coast, Majapahit); diasporic communities	empires such as Mali secure and tax the routes

all three grew for the SAME three reasons: commercial practices, transport technology, state support

Three networks, one framework: goods, enabling technology, and consequences are what comparison questions ask for

The **Indian Ocean** network moved bulkier goods than the Silk Roads - textiles, timber, grain, and spices - because ships carry more than camels.

Its enabling technologies were maritime: knowledge of the **monsoon winds** , the **lateen sail** , the **dhow** , and navigational tools including the **compass** and **astrolabe** .

Its consequences are the most examinable in the unit:

- The network **fostered the growth of states** , such as the Swahili city-states on the East African coast and Srivijaya and Majapahit in Southeast Asia.
- Merchants established **diasporic communities** in key ports, introducing their own culture while adopting local ways.
- Long-distance trade depended on and expanded **coerced labour** and on the movement of people as well as goods.



Trans-Saharan Trade

The **trans-Saharan** routes crossed the desert on innovations in existing technology - above all the **camel saddle** and organised **caravans** .

Gold from West Africa moved north and **salt** moved south. The expansion of empires, including **Mali** , facilitated Afro-Eurasian trade by securing the routes and taxing them - and Mali's wealth and its ruler's famous pilgrimage advertised the region across the Islamic world.

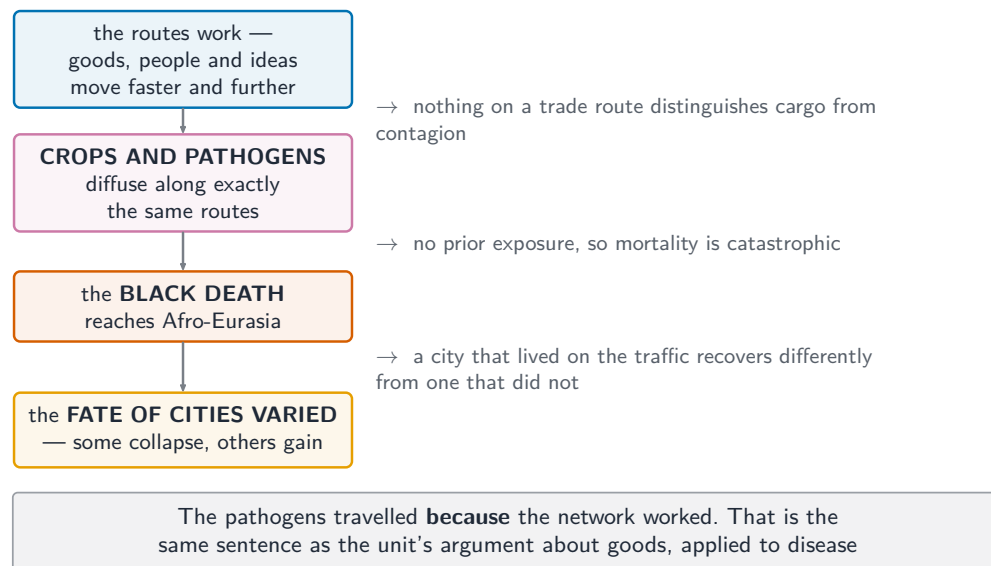
Cultural and Environmental Consequences

Increased cross-cultural interaction produced **diffusion** of literary, artistic, scientific, and religious traditions - the spread of Islam along trade routes, Buddhist and Neo-Confucian influence in East Asia, and the movement of scientific and mathematical knowledge.

An increasing number of **travellers** moved within and between regions, and their accounts are the period's key evidence.

The **fate of cities varied**: some declined as routes shifted or invasions came, while others grew into major commercial centres.

The environmental consequences were as large as the cultural ones. There was continued **diffusion of crops and pathogens** , and epidemic disease travelled with trade - most catastrophically the **Black Death** , which moved along the same routes that carried goods and killed a large share of the population of Afro-Eurasia.



Comparison of Economic Exchange

The unit’s reasoning skill is **comparison**. Compare the networks on what they carried, what made them possible, and what they changed - not on which was “most important”.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions frequently ask students to “*Explain one similarity*” or “*Explain one difference*” between two trade networks in this period. A full-mark answer names the feature and applies it to both, then explains: “*Both the Silk Roads and the Indian Ocean network expanded because of improved commercial practices, but the Indian Ocean carried heavier, lower-value goods such as timber and grain because ships could transport far greater bulk than overland caravans.*” Notice the shape: the **because** clause is what turns a difference into an explanation, and without it the answer only describes.

Exam tips

- Explain growth with the three causes - **commercial practices, transport technology, state support** - rather than listing trade goods.
- Match cargo to carrier: **overland routes** move high-value, low-bulk goods; **maritime routes** move bulk.
- Learn the enabling technologies by network: caravanserai and credit; monsoons, lateen sail and dhow; the camel saddle.
- The Mongols’ examinable role is **facilitating exchange**, not conquest for its own sake.
- The **Black Death** is the environmental consequence to name, and it travelled on the trade network itself.
- On difference questions, always add the **because**. A stated difference without a cause is only half an answer.

Land-Based Empires

AP World History: Modern

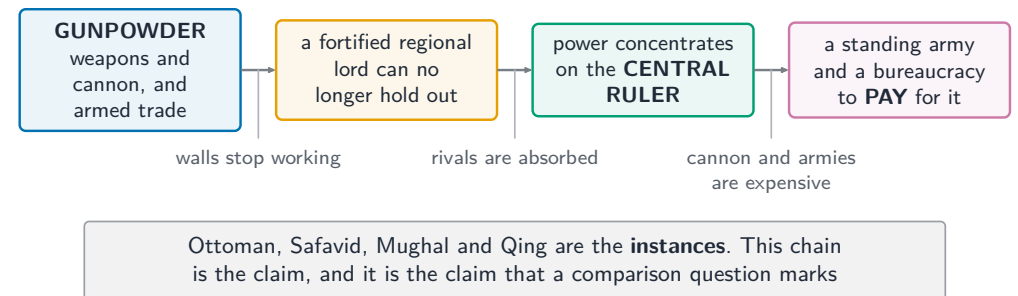
How the Land Empires Expanded

Unit 3 covers the great **land-based empires** of roughly **1450 to 1750**. Four questions organise it: how they expanded, how they governed, how they paid for themselves, and how they used religion.

Expansion relied on the **increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade** - which is why these are often called the **gunpowder empires**. Access to gunpowder weapons let a central ruler overpower regional rivals and fortified nobles, so military technology and political centralisation grew together.

The empires to know:

- The **Manchu (Qing)** in Central and East Asia.
- The **Mughal** in South Asia.
- The **Ottoman** in the eastern Mediterranean and beyond.
- The **Safavid** in Persia.



Administration

	Ottoman	Safavid	Mughal	Manchu (Qing)
Who staffs the state?	devshirme recruits officials and janissaries	ghulams - an enslaved-elite corps	mansabdars ranked in imperial service	the examination system continues
Where does the revenue come from?	tax farming - the right to collect is sold	land revenue and silk trade	zamindars - hereditary local landholders	direct taxation, hard currency
What makes rule legitimate?	caliphal claim; mosque complexes	Shi'ism as the state religion	monumental building; tolerance under Akbar	Mandate of Heaven; imperial portraits

all four expanded with gunpowder - they DIFFER in how they then governed

The same three problems - staff, revenue, legitimacy - solved differently by each empire

Rulers faced the same problem: how to control territory far from the capital. The CED names the tools they used.

Recruitment of bureaucratic elites and the development of military professionals gave rulers officials who owed their position to the state rather than to birth. The clearest case is the Ottoman devshirme system, which recruited and trained administrators and soldiers, including the janissaries; the Manchu continued China’s examination system; the Safavids used ghulams.

Revenue came through tribute collection, tax farming, and innovative tax-collection systems. The Mughal zamindar system and Ottoman tax farming are the standard examples, and the Ming practice of collecting taxes in hard currency is another.

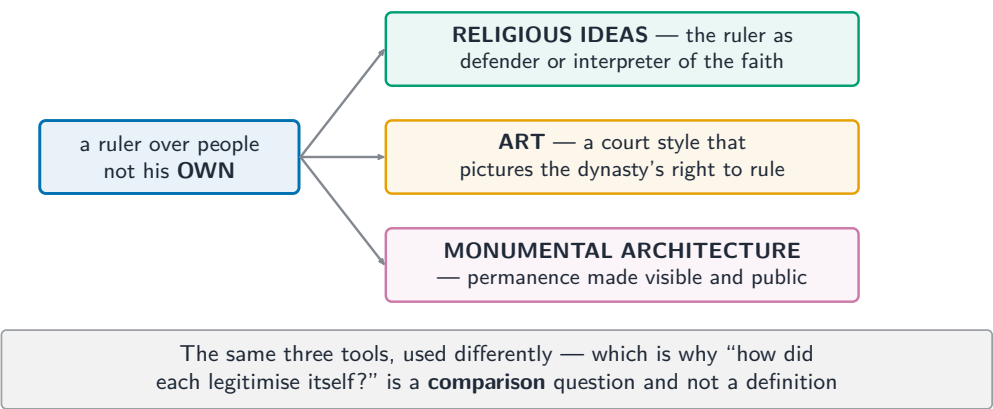
Legitimacy and Belief

Rulers continued to use religious ideas, art, and monumental architecture to legitimise their rule - Mughal mosques and mausolea, Ottoman mosque complexes, Qing imperial portraits, and European palaces such as Versailles all do the same work.

Religious change also produced conflict:

- The Protestant Reformation marked a break with existing Christian traditions and led to sustained religious and political conflict in Europe.
- Political rivalry between the Ottoman and Safavid empires intensified the Sunni-Shia split, showing how state rivalry can deepen a religious division.
- Sikhism developed in South Asia in a context of interaction between Hinduism and Islam.

Political and religious disputes together produced rivalries and conflict between states across Eurasia.



THE DIVISION	WHERE	WHAT IT DID POLITICALLY
The Protestant Reformation	Latin Christendom	broke the single religious authority a ruler could appeal to
The Sunni-Shia split	Ottoman and Safavid	turned a doctrinal difference into the border between two empires
Sikhism	Mughal South Asia	a new tradition inside an empire that ruled a religiously plural population

In this unit a religious division is a **political** fact. Say what it did to a state’s authority, not what the two sides believed



Comparison in Land-Based Empires

The unit's reasoning skill is **comparison**, and the productive comparisons are about **method**, not size:

- Recruiting officials by **examination** (Qing) against by **enslaved-elite systems** (Ottoman devshirme, Safavid ghulams).
- **Tax farming** (Ottoman) against **land-revenue intermediaries** (Mughal zamindars) against **direct taxation** (Ming hard currency).
- Legitimacy through **religious identity** (Safavid Shi'ism as state religion) against through **tolerance of diversity** (Mughal policy under Akbar).

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions in this unit typically ask students to “*Explain one similarity*” or “*Explain one difference in how land-based empires maintained power.*” A full-mark answer names the method for both and explains the effect: “*Both the Ottoman and Mughal empires used intermediaries to collect revenue rather than salaried tax officials, but the Ottomans used tax farming, which sold the right to collect for a fixed payment, while the Mughals relied on zamindars, hereditary landholders whose local standing gave them a permanent interest in the countryside.*” Notice the shape: the comparison is one **function** (raising revenue), performed two ways, with the consequence stated.

Exam tips

- Say **why** gunpowder mattered: it let central rulers overpower regional rivals, so military change and centralisation go together.
- Learn the four empires by their **administrative method**, not their territory - devshirme, examinations, zamindars, ghulams.
- **Tax farming** sells the right to collect; a **zamindar** is a hereditary landholder. Questions turn on that difference.
- Monumental architecture is **evidence of legitimation**, not decoration. Say what it was doing.
- The **Ottoman-Safavid** rivalry is the example of political conflict deepening a religious divide.
- Comparisons should be one **function** performed two ways, with the consequence stated.

Transoceanic Interconnections

AP World History: Modern

Why Europeans Sailed

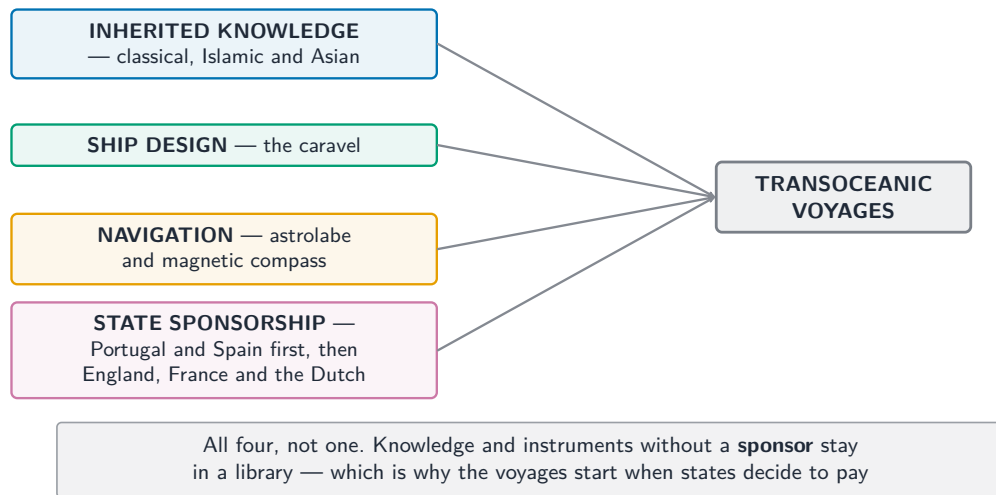
Unit 4 covers **1450 to 1750** - the period in which the Eastern and Western Hemispheres are permanently joined, and the consequences of that joining.

The voyages rested on borrowed knowledge. Learning and technology from the **Classical, Islamic, and Asian** worlds was gathered and applied in Europe: new tools, innovations in **ship design**, and better understanding of **navigation** - the **caravel**, the **astrolabe**, the **magnetic compass**, and knowledge of wind patterns.

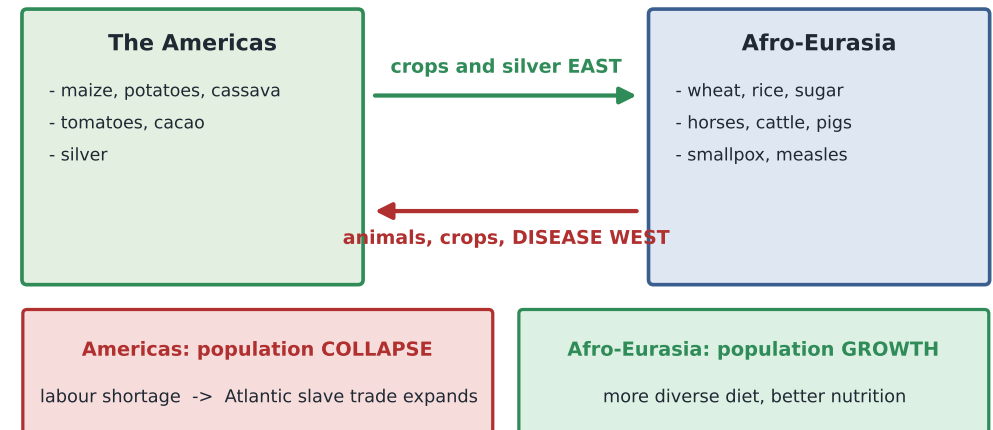
State-supported maritime exploration then followed:

- **Portuguese** development of maritime technology and navigational skill led to the sea route around Africa to the Indian Ocean.
- **Spanish** sponsorship of Columbus and subsequent voyages opened the Atlantic to the Americas.
- **English, French, and Dutch** crossings of the northern Atlantic followed.

Motives combined the search for wealth, competition between states, and religious mission.



The Columbian Exchange



one exchange, opposite demographic outcomes - that asymmetry is the answer

The exchange ran both ways, but the consequences were not symmetrical

New connections between the hemispheres produced the **Columbian Exchange**, and the CED spells out four consequences.

- European colonisation led to the **unintentional transfer of disease** to the Americas, causing catastrophic population loss.

- **American foods** - maize, potatoes, cassava - became staple crops in parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- **Afro-Eurasian** fruit trees, grains, sugar, and **domesticated animals** were brought to the Americas, reshaping its landscapes and economies.
- Populations in Afro-Eurasia **benefited nutritionally** from a more diverse diet, contributing to population growth.

The asymmetry is the examinable point: the same exchange raised population in Afro-Eurasia and destroyed it in the Americas.

Maritime Empires Established

Europeans established **trading posts** in Africa and Asia, which proved profitable, and pursued colonisation in the Americas driven by political, religious, and economic **rivalries**.

Where existing states were strong, Europeans traded rather than conquered: despite disruption caused by Portuguese arrival, **existing trade networks in the Indian Ocean continued**, and Asian states largely dictated the terms.

In the Americas the pattern was different. Colonial economies depended on **agriculture** and on **coerced labour**:

- **Enslavement in Africa continued in its traditional forms**, including incorporation into households.
- The growth of the **plantation economy** increased demand for enslaved labour, and the **Atlantic slave trade** expanded enormously to supply it.
- Systems such as the **encomienda** and **mita** compelled Indigenous labour.

SYSTEM	WHO, AND WHERE	WHAT IT SUPPLIED
ENCOMIENDA	Indigenous people, Spanish America	a labour grant attached to a colonist
MITA	Indigenous communities, the Andes	rotating compulsory labour, above all for the mines
PLANTATION SLAVERY	enslaved Africans, the Atlantic world	the workforce for sugar, tobacco and later cotton
SLAVERY WITHIN AFRICA	continues in its traditional forms	incorporation into households — a different institution, and the CED says so

“Coerced labour” is a category, not an answer. Name the **system**, its people and its purpose, and the comparison writes itself



Maritime Empires Maintained

Mercantilist policies were used by European rulers to expand and control their economies: colonies existed to supply raw materials and buy finished goods, and trade was directed through the mother country.

The **Atlantic trading system** moved goods, wealth, and people between Europe, Africa, and the Americas - the pattern usually taught as triangular

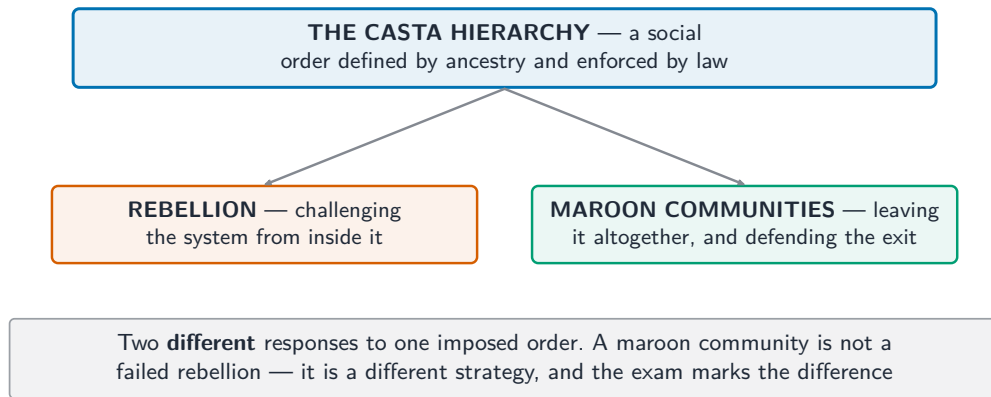
trade, though real routes were more complex.

Economic disputes led to rivalries and conflict between states, and commercial competition became a standing cause of European war.

Colonial societies developed new **social hierarchies**, defined by ancestry and by place of birth - the Spanish **casta** system being the most formally codified.

Internal and External Challenges

Rulers everywhere faced resistance. Enslaved people resisted through **rebellion** and **maroon communities**; Indigenous peoples resisted colonial demands; peasants and religious groups challenged state power across Eurasia.



Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**. The strongest answers hold both: connection between hemispheres was genuinely new, while the dominance of agriculture, coerced labour, and land empires continued.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions in this unit ask, for example, to “*Explain one effect of the Columbian Exchange on the Americas*” and “*...on Afro-Eurasia.*” A full-mark pair states the effect and the mechanism for each: “*In the Americas, transferred diseases such as smallpox caused a demographic collapse, which created the labour shortage that European colonisers met by expanding the Atlantic slave trade. In Afro-Eurasia, American crops such as the potato and maize improved nutrition and contributed to population growth.*” Notice the shape: **effect** questions want the consequence traced, and the two halves must not be the same answer twice.

Exam tips

- Explain the voyages with **borrowed technology plus state support**, not with individual explorers.
- Keep the Columbian Exchange **two-directional** and **asymmetrical**: population fell in the Americas and rose in Afro-Eurasia.
- Where Asian states were strong, Europeans **traded**; where disease had shattered societies, they **conquered**. That contrast answers many questions.
- **Mercantilism** is the policy, the **Atlantic system** is the flow, and **coerced labour** is what made the plantation economy work.
- Always include **resistance** - rebellion, maroon communities, Indigenous refusal - since it is examinable and often omitted.
- On effect questions, trace the consequence. A named change with no mechanism is only half the mark.

Revolutions

AP World History: Modern

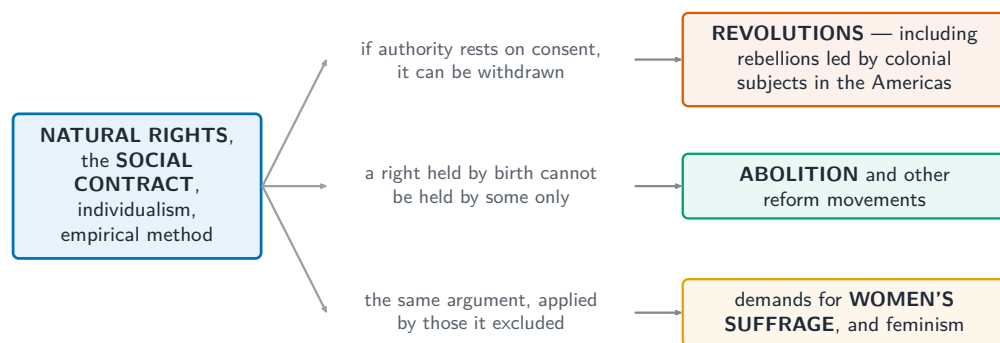
The Enlightenment

Unit 5 covers **1750 to 1900**, and it has two engines running at once: an intellectual revolution that changed how people justified political authority, and an industrial revolution that changed how societies produced and lived. Most questions ask you to connect them.

Enlightenment philosophies applied new ways of understanding and **empirical approaches** to both the natural world and human relationships. From that came ideas that questioned established traditions:

- **Individualism**, **natural rights**, and the **social contract**
- Calls for **religious tolerance** and limits on established authority.

Those ideas influenced **reform movements**: the expansion of suffrage, the abolition of slavery, and **demands for women's suffrage** alongside an emergent **feminism** that challenged political and gender hierarchies.



The middle column is the marks. "Enlightenment ideas led to revolution" is the claim; the reason beside the arrow is the **explanation**

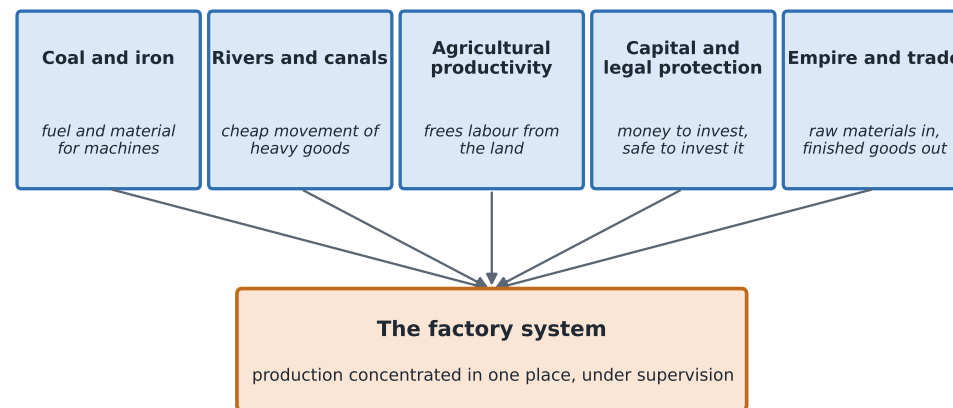
Nationalism and Revolution

Nationalism became a major force shaping historical developments. People developed a new sense of **commonality** based on language, religion, social customs, and territory, and these newly imagined national communities were often linked to state-building.

Discontent with monarchist and imperial rule encouraged **revolution**. Enlightenment ideas, as reflected in revolutionary documents, justified those movements, and **colonial subjects in the Americas led a series of rebellions** inspired by them - the examinable set being the American, French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions.

The pattern to hold: an **idea** (rights, consent, nation) plus a **grievance** (taxation, exclusion, slavery, colonial rule) produces a movement. Answers that give only the idea, or only the grievance, explain nothing.

The Industrial Revolution Begins



no single factor is sufficient - the answer to 'why here, why then' is the COMBINATION

Industrialisation needed several conditions at once - which is why the question is always "why here, and why then"

A **variety of factors** contributed to the growth of industrial production: access to **coal** and **iron**, navigable rivers and canals, **agricultural productivity** that freed labour, **capital** and legal protection for it, urbanisation, and access to raw materials and markets through overseas empire.

The **factory system** concentrated production in a single location under supervision, replacing dispersed household production. That change - as much organisational as technical - is what made the scale of output possible.



Industrialisation Spreads

The rapid development of **steam-powered** industrial production in Europe spread to other regions, and as new methods became common, states that industrialised gained enormous advantages in wealth and military power over those that did not.

Technology compounded the change: the **steam engine** and later the **internal combustion engine**; the **second industrial revolution** in steel, chemicals, and electricity; and **railroads**, **steamships**, and the **telegraph**, which made exploration, colonisation, and administration at a distance possible.

	THE FIRST	THE SECOND
WHAT DRIVES IT	coal and the steam engine	electricity, oil, the internal combustion engine
WHAT IT BUILDS	the factory system; textiles and iron	steel, chemicals, and the goods made from them
WHAT IT MOVES	railroads and steamships	the telegraph — information, faster than any vehicle

Date your evidence. A telegraph and a spinning machine are not the same revolution, and a **change** question is asking which one you mean

Government, Economy, and Reaction

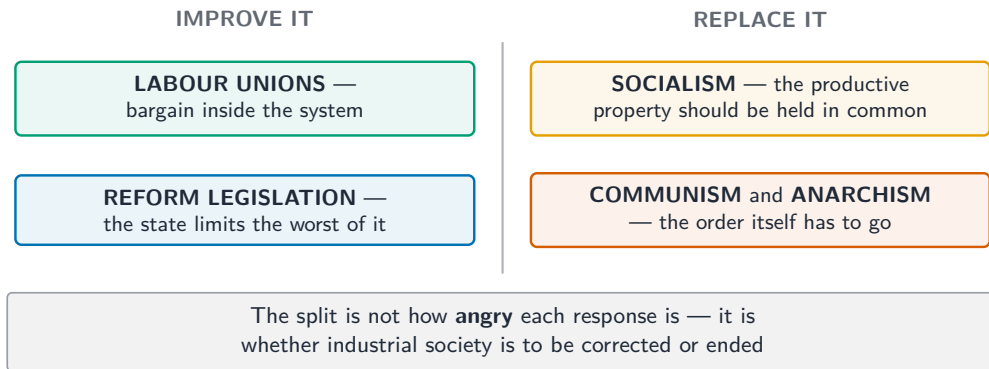
As industrial influence grew, a small number of **states sponsored industrialisation** directly - the standard examples being Meiji Japan, Russia under state-led programmes, and Egypt under Muhammad Ali.

Western European countries began abandoning **mercantilism** and adopting **free trade** policies, and the global nature of trade and production contributed to the proliferation of **transnational businesses** and new financial instruments.

Reaction came from several directions:

- Workers organised, often in **labour unions**, and pressed for shorter hours, safety, and wages.

- **Alternative visions** of society emerged - **socialism**, **communism**, and **anarchism** - as critiques of industrial capitalism.
- Some governments passed **reform legislation** on working conditions, child labour, and public health.
- The expansion of industrialising states led to **internal reform movements** elsewhere in Asia, as states tried to respond to new pressure.



Society in the Industrial Age

New **social classes** formed, including a **middle class** and an **industrial working class**, each with its own culture and politics.

Other changes are examinable: rapid **urbanisation** with overcrowding and disease; changes in **family structure** and in women’s work as production left the home; and rising **standards of living** over the long run, unevenly distributed and reached only after decades of hardship.

Continuity and Change in the Industrial Age

The unit’s reasoning skill is **continuity and change**. Production and class structure changed fundamentally, while imperial competition, coerced labour in colonised regions, and inequality persisted in new forms.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions here ask, for example, to “*Explain one way in which industrialisation changed social structures*” between 1750 and 1900. A full-mark answer names the change and traces it: “*Industrialisation created a large industrial working class, because the factory system concentrated production in single locations and drew rural labourers into cities to work for wages, replacing household production and the rural social order that depended*

on it.” Notice the shape: **explain** requires the mechanism - factory system, urban migration, wage labour - not just the statement that new classes appeared.

Exam tips

- Answer “why Britain first” with **several factors at once** - coal, capital, agriculture, empire - not one cause.
- The **factory system** is an organisational change; say what it replaced.
- For revolutions, pair an **idea** with a **grievance**. Either alone explains nothing.
- **State-sponsored industrialisation** (Meiji Japan, Russia, Egypt) is the contrast to the British pattern.
- Give the reactions as a set: **unions, socialism and communism, and reform legislation**.
- Living standards rose **eventually and unevenly**. Saying so is what makes an answer an evaluation.

Consequences of Industrialization

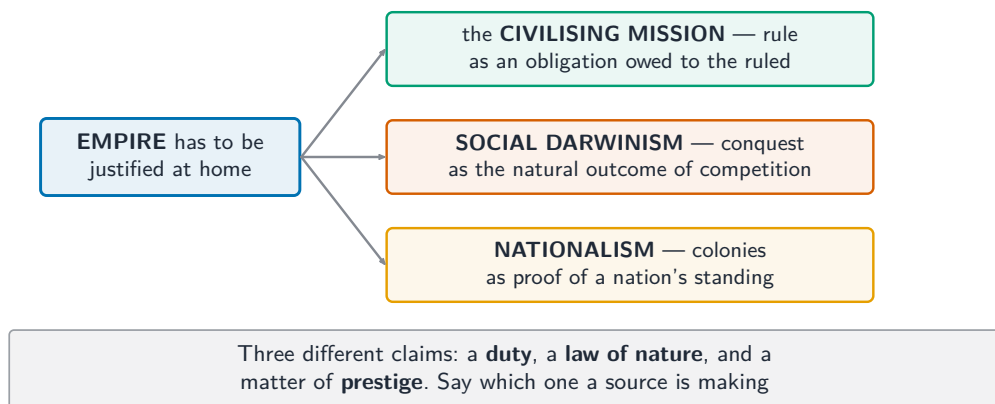
AP World History: Modern

Justifying Empire

Unit 6 covers the **consequences of industrialisation, 1750 to 1900**: why industrial states expanded, how people resisted, how the world economy reorganised, and who moved.

A range of **cultural, religious, and racial ideologies** were used to justify imperialism. The examinable ones are the **civilising mission**, missionary activity, **Social Darwinism** applied to nations and peoples, and **nationalism** - the claim that colonies proved a state's greatness.

These are **justifications**, not causes. Naming them as ideology, and separating them from the economic and strategic motives in the next sections, is what a strong answer does.



State Expansion

Expansion took several forms, and the CED distinguishes them:

- Some states **strengthened control** over existing colonies, converting trading relationships into direct rule.
- European states, the United States, and Japan** acquired new territory, showing that imperialism was not only European.

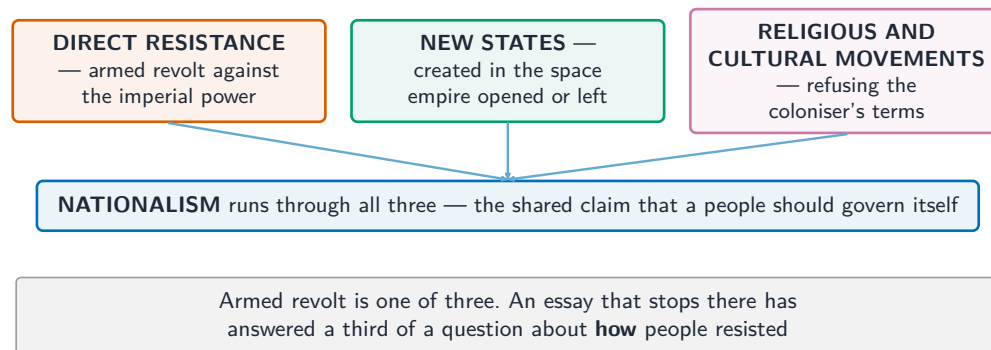
- Many European states used both **warfare and diplomacy** to expand - conquest, but also treaties, protectorates, and partition agreements made in Europe.
- Europeans established **settler colonies** in some places, which displaced Indigenous populations far more thoroughly than administrative rule.
- The **United States, Russia, and Japan** expanded by taking contiguous land rather than overseas territory.

Resistance

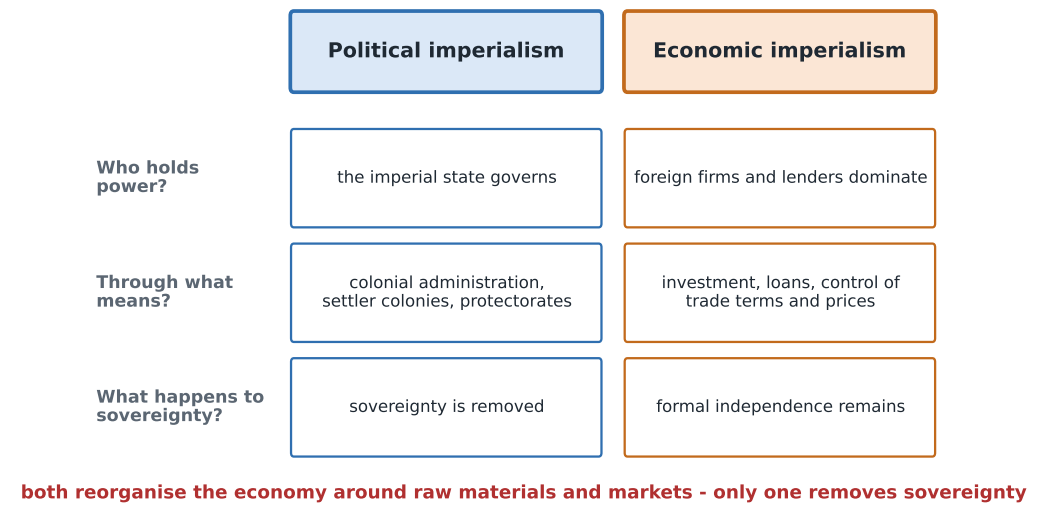
Anti-imperial **resistance** took various forms, and listing only armed revolt loses marks:

- Direct resistance** - armed rebellion against colonial authority.
- Creation of new states** by leaders organising against imperial power.
- Religious and cultural movements** that reasserted local identity against colonial rule.

Increasing questions about political authority and growing **nationalism** in colonised regions led to rebellions, some of which were sustained enough to change imperial policy. The important point: resistance is continuous throughout the period, not a late reaction.



The Global Economy



Economic imperialism did not always require political control - which is why the two must be distinguished

The need for raw materials for factories and increased food supplies for growing urban populations reorganised production across the world. Colonies and dependent regions were pushed toward cash crops and extractive industries, often at the cost of food production for local use.

Economic imperialism is the examinable distinction. Industrialised states and their businesses exercised control through investment, loans, and trade dominance without necessarily taking political control - so a region could be economically dominated while remaining formally independent.

Trade in some commodities was organised so that merchants and firms in industrialised states held disproportionate power over producers, setting prices and terms.

Migration

Migration in this period was shaped by demographic change in both sending and receiving societies, and by new modes of transportation - steamships and railways - which made long-distance and often temporary or seasonal movement possible for the first time.

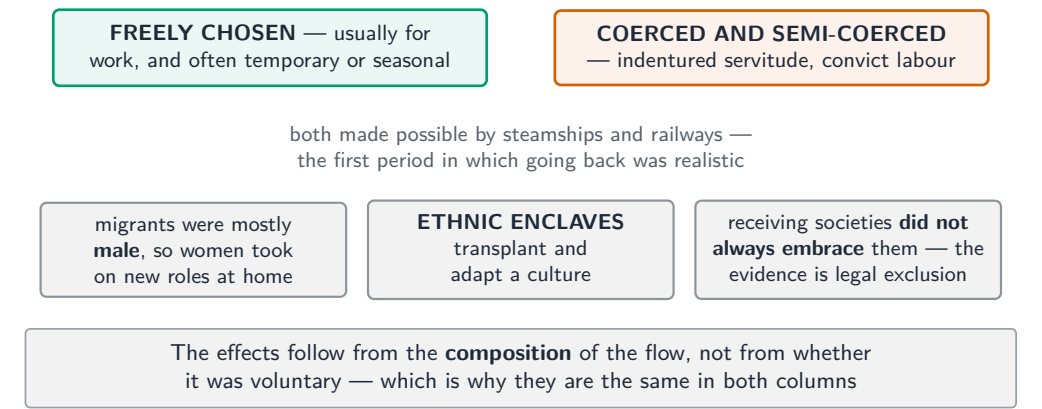
Two kinds must be distinguished:

- Many people chose freely to relocate, usually in search of work.
- The global capitalist economy continued to rely on coerced and semi-coerced labour, including indentured servitude and convict labour, after the legal end of the slave trade.

Effects of Migration

Three effects are named directly in the CED:

- Migrants tended to be male, leaving women to take on new roles in the home societies they left.
- Migrants created ethnic enclaves in destination societies, transplanting and adapting their cultures.
- Receiving societies did not always embrace immigrants, and the examinable evidence is legal exclusion - most clearly the restriction of Chinese and other Asian migration in several countries.



Causation in the Imperial Age

The unit’s reasoning skill is causation. The strongest chain: industrial production created demand for raw materials and markets, which drove expansion; expansion required justification, which ideology supplied; and both produced resistance and mass migration.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions here ask, for example, to “Explain one way in which industrialisation contributed to imperialism” between 1750 and 1900. A full-mark answer traces the mechanism: “Industrial factories required raw materials such as cotton and rubber that could not

be produced in Europe, so industrial states took political or economic control of regions that could supply them, reorganising those economies around export crops.” Notice the shape: the mark is for the **link**, not for asserting that industrialisation and imperialism are connected.

Exam tips

- Separate **justifications** (civilising mission, Social Darwinism) from **causes** (raw materials, markets, strategy). Questions often ask for one and reward not confusing it with the other.
- **Economic imperialism** works without political control; that distinction answers many questions on its own.
- Give **three kinds of resistance** - direct, new states, religious and cultural movements.
- Migration questions want the split between **free** and **coerced or semi-coerced** movement.
- For effects, use the CED’s own three: **male migration** changing home societies, **ethnic enclaves**, and **exclusion laws**.
- Causation answers must trace a mechanism. Asserting a connection is not explaining one.

Global Conflict

AP World History: Modern

Shifting Power After 1900

Unit 7 covers **global conflict from 1900**, and its organising question is not “what happened in the wars” but *why the political order that existed in 1900 collapsed, and what replaced it*.

At the start of the century the West dominated the global political order. Over the following decades **both land-based and maritime empires gave way to new states**, and the CED names the mechanism as a combination of **internal and external factors**.

- The older land-based **Ottoman, Russian, and Qing empires** collapsed under that combination - internal strain and pressure from outside at the same time.
- States around the world **challenged the existing political and social order**, and the CED’s named case is the **Mexican Revolution**, which arose from political and economic inequality.

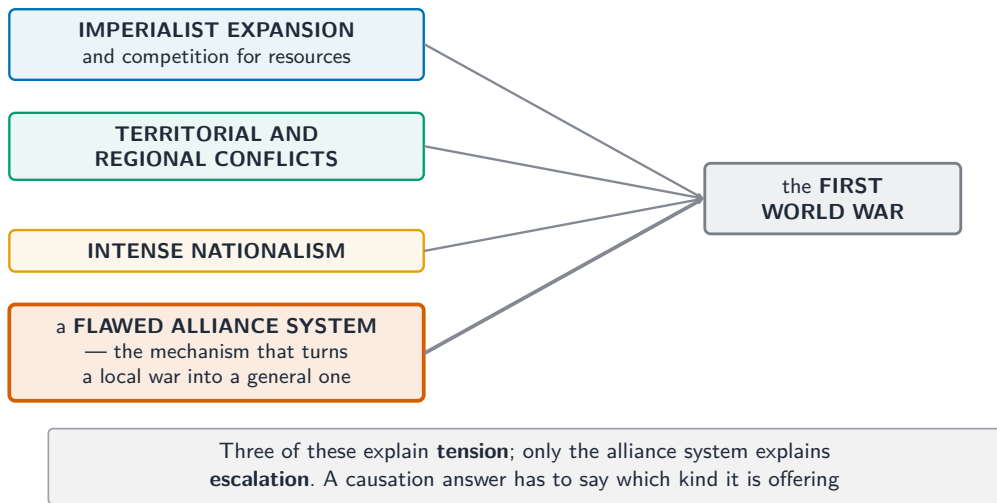
The examinable habit here is pairing. An answer that gives only internal weakness, or only external pressure, has given half the explanation.

Causes of World War I

The CED compresses the causes into one statement, and every element of it is worth marks:

- **Imperialist expansion** and **competition for resources**.
- **Territorial and regional conflicts**.
- A **flawed alliance system** that turned a local conflict into a general one.
- **Intense nationalism**.

Notice the shape of the claim: the first three supply the tension, and the alliance system supplies the **escalation**. That distinction - between what made conflict likely and what made it global - is the single most useful thing to hold from this topic.



Conducting World War I

Total war: the state directs the whole society



What differs in 1939-45: new technology and tactics - the atomic bomb, fire-bombing - raise casualties, and a far higher share of them are civilian.

The same four instruments appear in both wars, which is why the comparison question is answerable

World War I was the **first total war**. The CED lists the methods governments used, and they are not only military:

- **Political propaganda**, art, and media to sustain public support.

- **Intensified forms of nationalism**
- Mobilisation of **economies and populations** - conscription, war production, and the direction of labour.
- Recruitment and use of **colonial subjects** as soldiers and labourers.

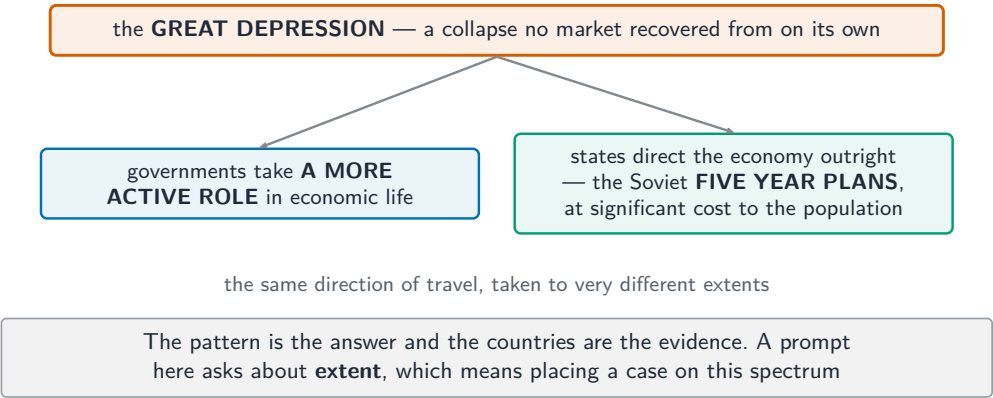
Alongside this, **new military technology led to increased levels of wartime casualties**. The technological point and the mobilisation point are separate marks, so give both.

Economy in the Interwar Period

Following World War I and the onset of the **Great Depression**, governments began to take a **more active role in economic life**. That is the general claim; the CED then supplies contrasting cases of how far that role went.

In the **Soviet Union**, the government controlled the national economy through the **Five Year Plans**, implementing repressive policies at significant **cost to the population** while achieving rapid industrialisation.

The general pattern that makes this comparable across cases: economic crisis increased the state's claim on the economy everywhere, but the **extent** differed enormously - from regulation and public works at one end to full state control at the other. Questions about the interwar economy almost always reward that spectrum.



Unresolved Tensions After World War I

Between the two world wars, **Western and Japanese imperial states predominantly maintained control** over colonial holdings, and in some cases gained new territory. The hopes for **self-determination** raised by the peace settlement were largely not met for colonised peoples.

This is the bridge topic: the tensions the settlement left unresolved feed directly into both the causes of the next war and the anti-imperial movements of Unit 8. Naming that link is what makes a continuity answer strong.

Causes of World War II

The CED again gives a compound cause, and each element is examinable:

- The **unsustainable peace settlement** after World War I.
- The **global economic crisis** produced by the Great Depression.
- **Continued imperialist practices**.
- The **rise of fascism and extreme nationalism**.

Compare this with the World War I list and a real pattern appears: economic pressure and nationalism are common to both, while the *specific* additions in 1939 are the failed settlement and the new ideological regimes. A comparison question wants exactly that structure - shared causes named, then the differences.

Conducting World War II

World War II was **also a total war**, and governments used the same broad categories of method: propaganda, art and media, intensified nationalism, and the mobilisation of economies and populations including colonial subjects.

What changed was the technology and its scale. **New military technology and new tactics** - including the **atomic bomb**, fire-bombing, and the waging of total war - **led to increased levels of casualties**, including a far higher proportion of **civilian** deaths than in the previous conflict.

The examinable comparison is therefore: **methods largely similar, scale and technology different**. An answer that says only “both were total wars” has not compared them; an answer that says only “the second was more destructive” has not explained why.

	THE FIRST WORLD WAR	THE SECOND
MOBILISING A SOCIETY	total war: economies and populations directed to the war	the same, and further
WHO IS DRAWN IN	colonial subjects fight for empires they do not govern	again, and on a wider front
TECHNOLOGY	new weapons raise casualties sharply	new weapons and new tactics — and the atomic bomb
WHO DIES	overwhelmingly soldiers	civilians on a scale without precedent

Above the rule, **continuity**; below it, **change**. “Methods largely similar, scale and technology different” is the sentence this table proves

Mass Atrocities After 1900

This topic asks for **causes and consequences of mass atrocities** in the period from 1900 to the present. The CED’s framing is that the rise of **extremist groups in power** led to the attempted destruction of specific populations, and it names the **Holocaust** - the Nazi killing of Jewish people - as the principal case, alongside other twentieth-century genocides and mass killings.

Handled as history, the examinable content is the pattern: an extremist regime takes state power, defines a population as outside the political community, and uses the machinery of the modern state - bureaucracy, transport, communication - to carry out destruction on a scale earlier regimes could not achieve. That last point connects this topic to the technology theme running through the whole unit.

Causation in Global Conflict

The unit’s reasoning skill is **causation**, and specifically the **relative significance** of causes. That word “relative” is the whole task: you are not listing causes, you are ranking them and defending the ranking.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions in this unit ask, for example, to “*Explain one similarity between the ways governments conducted World War I and World War II.*” A full-mark answer names the similarity

and supports it with specifics from both: *“Both wars were total wars in which governments mobilised entire economies and populations. In both, states used propaganda and media to sustain public support, directed industrial production toward war material, and recruited soldiers and labourers from their colonies.”* Notice the requirement: a similarity claim must be **evidenced on both sides**. Evidence from one war only cannot demonstrate a similarity.

Exam tips

- For the collapse of the **Ottoman, Russian, and Qing** empires, always pair **internal** strain with **external** pressure. One alone is half an answer.
- Separate what made World War I **likely** (imperial competition, nationalism, regional conflict) from what made it **global** (the alliance system).
- **Total war** has a checklist: propaganda, nationalism, economic mobilisation, colonial recruitment. Use it for both wars and the comparison writes itself.
- The interwar economy is a **spectrum** of state involvement, not a single policy. Say how far a state went, not just that it intervened.
- Comparison questions need evidence on **both sides**. A detail about only one case cannot support a similarity or a difference.
- “Relative significance” means **rank and justify**. A list of causes with no argument about which mattered most does not answer the question asked.

Cold War and Decolonization

AP World History: Modern

Setting the Stage for the Cold War

Unit 8 covers the period after 1945, and two processes run through it at once: a **global ideological rivalry** and the **end of empire**. Most of the unit’s questions turn on how those two interacted.

Hopes for greater self-government were **largely unfulfilled after World War I**. In the years following World War II, **increasing anti-imperialist sentiment** built momentum in colonised regions, and this time it produced independence rather than promises.

At the same time, the **technological and economic gains** made during World War II by the victorious nations **shifted the global balance of power**. This is the historical context the CED asks for: the war did not just destroy, it redistributed capability.

The Cold War

The shifted balance **rapidly evolved into the Cold War** - a rivalry between the democracies led by the United States and the communist states led by the Soviet Union, conducted as an **ideological struggle** rather than direct war between the two principals.

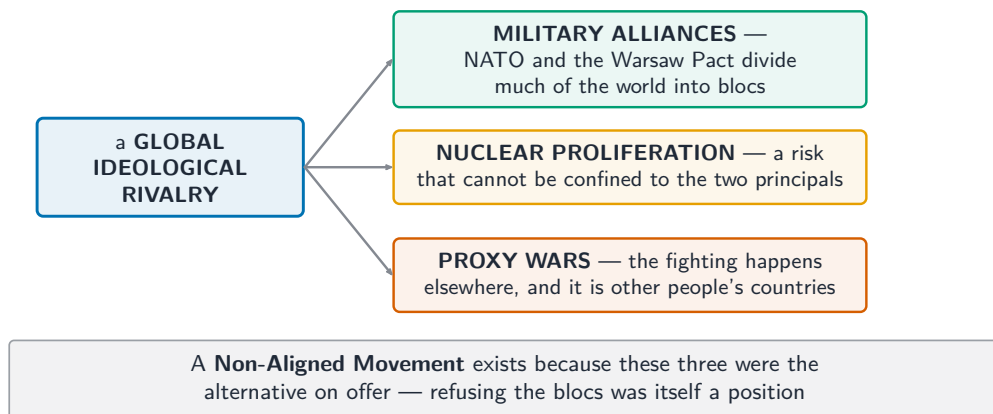
The CED insists that this was not a world of only two options. Groups and individuals - including the **Non-Aligned Movement** - **opposed and promoted alternatives** to the existing economic, political, and social order. Leaving the non-aligned states out of an answer describes a two-sided world that did not exist.

Effects of the Cold War

The rivalry produced concrete institutions and conflicts:

- **New military alliances** - **NATO** and the **Warsaw Pact**.
- **Nuclear proliferation** - the spread of nuclear weapons to more states.
- **Proxy wars** between and within states, in which the two blocs supported opposing sides in conflicts elsewhere rather than fighting each other directly.

The comparison this topic sets up is *how* each superpower maintained influence over other states - through alliances, aid, military support, and intervention. Both used all four, which is why the comparison question is answerable in both directions.



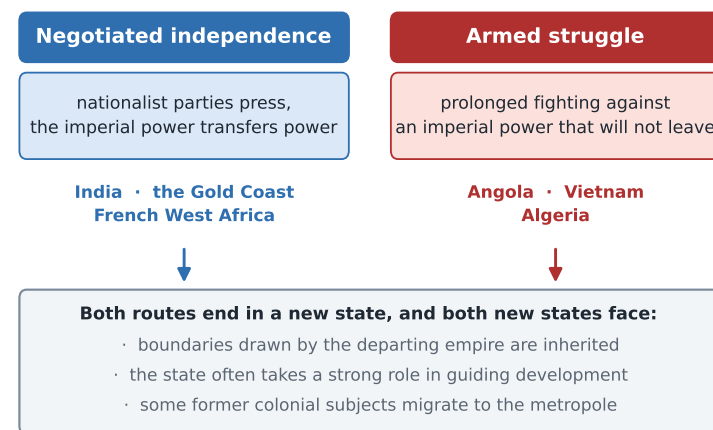
Spread of Communism After 1900

Two examinable threads run here. First, **China**: as a result of **internal tension** and **Japanese aggression**, Chinese communists seized power, and the CED notes this eventually contributed to communist revolutions elsewhere.

Second, **state control of the economy**. As in the Soviet Five Year Plans of Unit 7, the Chinese government controlled the national economy through the **Great Leap Forward**, implementing repressive policies with significant **costs to the population**. The CED presents these as a matched pair, which is exactly how a comparison question will ask for them.

Beyond these, **movements to redistribute land and resources** developed within states in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, some advocating communism or socialism and some not. That distinction matters: land reform is not the same claim as revolution, and the CED separates them.

Decolonization After 1900



The difference that earns marks: what the new state inherits - a working administration, or a war-damaged one.

Both routes end in a new state - but they do not end in the same new state

Nationalist leaders and parties in Asia and Africa sought varying degrees of autonomy within, or independence from, imperial rule. The examinable set of examples includes the Indian National Congress, Ho Chi Minh in French Indochina, Kwame Nkrumah in the Gold Coast, and Gamal Abdel Nasser in Egypt.

After World War II, **some colonies negotiated their independence** while **others achieved it through armed struggle**. India and the Gold Coast are the standard negotiated cases; Angola, Vietnam, and Algeria the standard armed ones.

A third strand is easily missed: **regional, religious, and ethnic movements** challenged both colonial rule and the **inherited imperial boundaries** those empires left behind. Those boundaries are the reason so many post-independence conflicts were about borders rather than about the departing power.

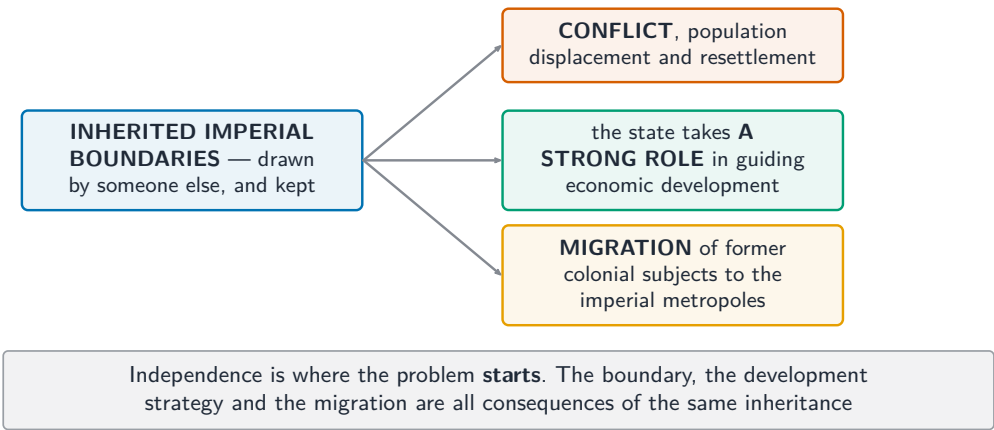
Newly Independent States

The **redrawing of political boundaries** after colonial withdrawal led to the creation of new states, and in some cases to **conflict, population displacement, and resettlement**. The partition of British India is the standard case of all three at once.

Economically, governments in newly independent states **often took a strong role in guiding economic life to promote development** - a

continuity with the interwar pattern of Unit 7, arrived at from a completely different direction.

There was also a reverse flow of people: the **migration of former colonial subjects to imperial metropolises** - usually to major cities - which maintained cultural and economic ties between the former colony and the former colonial power long after independence.

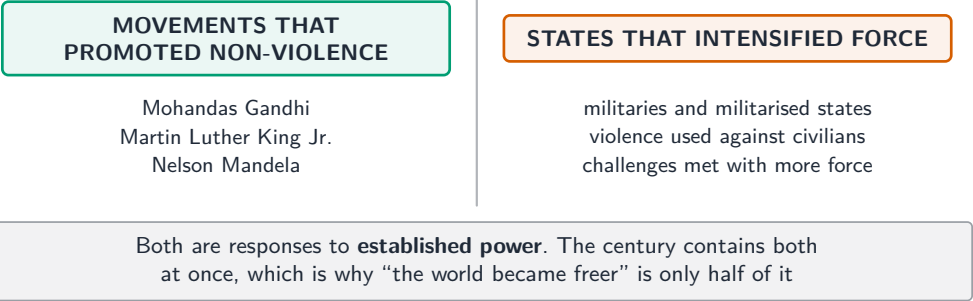


Global Resistance to Established Power Structures

Although conflict dominated much of the twentieth century, many individuals and groups - **including states** - opposed that trend. The CED names three distinct patterns, and they should not be blurred:

- Groups and individuals **challenged the wars** of the century, and some - **Mohandas Gandhi** , **Martin Luther King Jr.** , and **Nelson Mandela** - **promoted non-violence** as a method of change.
- **Militaries and militarised states** often responded to the proliferation of conflicts in ways that **further intensified** them.
- Some movements **used violence against civilians** in an effort to achieve political aims.

Both the third and second points are examinable content, not asides. A question on “reactions to existing power structures” expects the full range, not only the non-violent one.



End of the Cold War

The CED gives a compound cause here too: advances in **United States military and technological development**, the Soviet Union’s **costly and ultimately failed invasion of Afghanistan** , **public discontent** , and **economic problems** within the Soviet system.

Notice that three of the four are internal to the Soviet Union. An answer that explains the end of the Cold War purely as external pressure has missed the CED’s own weighting.

Causation in the Age of the Cold War

The unit’s reasoning task is to explain the **extent** to which the effects of the Cold War were **similar in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres**. “Extent” is a comparison word: it asks for similarity *and* difference, with a judgement about which dominates.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions here ask, for example, to “*Explain one difference between the processes of decolonisation in two different regions after 1945.*” A full-mark answer names both cases and the difference between them: “*In the Gold Coast, independence was achieved largely through negotiation, as nationalist parties won elections and Britain transferred power without a war. In Algeria, independence came through a prolonged armed struggle against France, which left the new state with a military-led government and a devastated economy.*” Notice what earns the mark: the difference is stated in terms that apply to **both** cases, and each side carries its own evidence.

Exam tips

- The Cold War was **not two-sided**. The **Non-Aligned Movement** is examinable content, and including it lifts an answer immediately.
- Give the effects as the CED does: **alliances, nuclear proliferation, proxy wars**. Three named effects beat one described at length.
- **Negotiated versus armed** independence is the highest-value comparison in the unit, because it explains what the new state inherited.
- **Inherited imperial boundaries** explain post-independence conflict better than any other single factor. Use the phrase.
- For resistance, give all three CED patterns - **non-violence, militarised response, and violence against civilians**.
- The end of the Cold War was **mostly internal** to the Soviet system. Weight the causes that way and say why.

Globalization

AP World History: Modern

Advances in Technology and Exchange

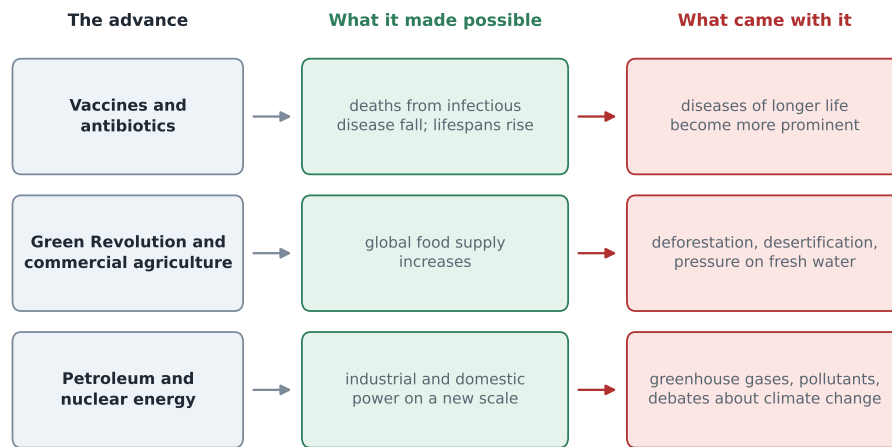
Unit 9 covers **1900 to the present**, and its central move is evaluative rather than narrative: almost every development it names produced both a benefit and a cost, and questions reward answers that hold both.

The CED names the advances directly:

- **New modes of communication** - radio, cellular technology, and the internet.
- **Energy technologies**, including the use of **petroleum** and **nuclear power**.
- **Medical innovations**, including **vaccines** and **antibiotics**, which **increased lifespans**.
- The **Green Revolution** and commercial agriculture, which **increased the global food supply**.
- More effective forms of **birth control**, which gave women greater control over **fertility**, transformed reproductive practices, and contributed to declining fertility rates in industrialised states.

Note the last one carefully. It is a technological change with a demographic *and* a social consequence, which makes it unusually useful evidence in questions about the changing role of women.

Technological Advances and Limitations: Disease



An exam answer that names only the left-hand column has described the century. Naming both is what evaluates it.

This is why Unit 9 questions ask you to evaluate rather than to describe

Diseases, as well as medical and scientific developments, had significant effects on populations across the century. The CED splits the effect in two:

- Diseases associated with poverty persisted , while other diseases emerged as epidemics and pandemics .
- Diseases associated with longer lifespans - conditions such as heart disease and neurological illnesses of old age - became more prominent precisely *because* medical advances extended life.

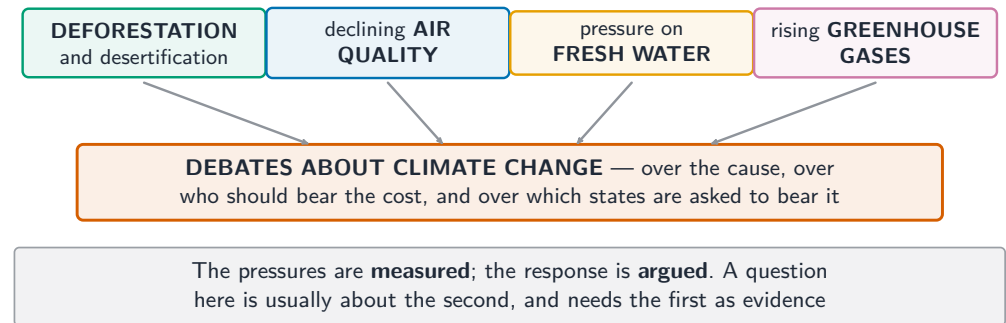
That second point is the unit's logic in miniature: the success of one intervention produced the conditions for a different problem. It is not a contradiction, and saying so is what makes an answer analytical.

Debates About the Environment

Human activity contributed to **deforestation** , **desertification** , a **decline in air quality** , and increased consumption of the world's supply of **fresh water** .

The release of **greenhouse gases** and pollutants into the atmosphere provoked **debates about climate change** . The CED's word is *debates* - the

examinable content is that the science and its policy implications became a subject of international argument, not a settled instruction.



Economics in the Global Age

Three developments define the period's economic history, and all three accelerated after 1990:

- Many governments encouraged **free-market economic policies** , a trend accelerated by the **end of the Cold War**.
- Revolutions in **information and communications technology** led to the growth of **knowledge economies** in some regions, while other regions remained centred on agriculture or manufacturing.
- **Changing economic institutions, multinational corporations, and regional trade agreements** reshaped how production and trade were organised across borders.

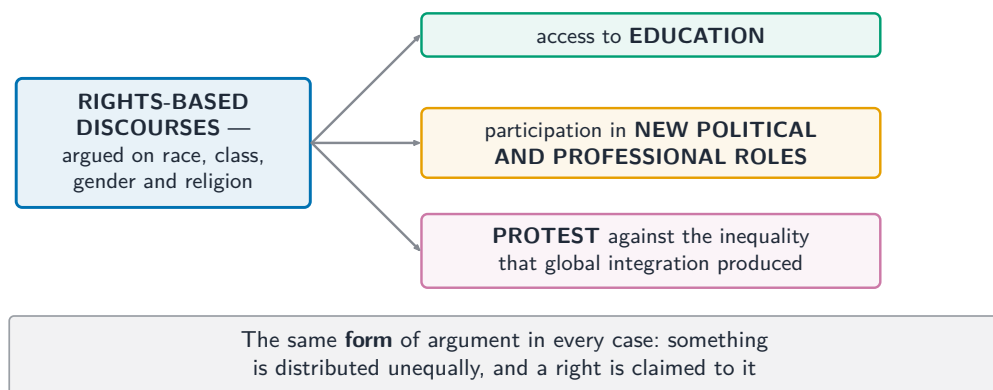
The continuity worth naming: this is the same story as Unit 6's economic imperialism, in new institutional form. Firms in wealthy states again hold disproportionate influence over the terms on which producers elsewhere participate.

Calls for Reform and Responses

Rights-based discourses challenged old assumptions about **race, class, gender, and religion**. In much of the world, **access to education** and **participation in new political and professional roles** became more inclusive - an uneven process, but a real one.

At the same time, **movements throughout the world protested the inequality** of the environmental and economic consequences of **global integration** .

Both halves are examinable: greater inclusion, and organised objection to how the benefits were distributed.



Globalized Culture

The CED makes three separate claims about culture, and they are not the same claim:

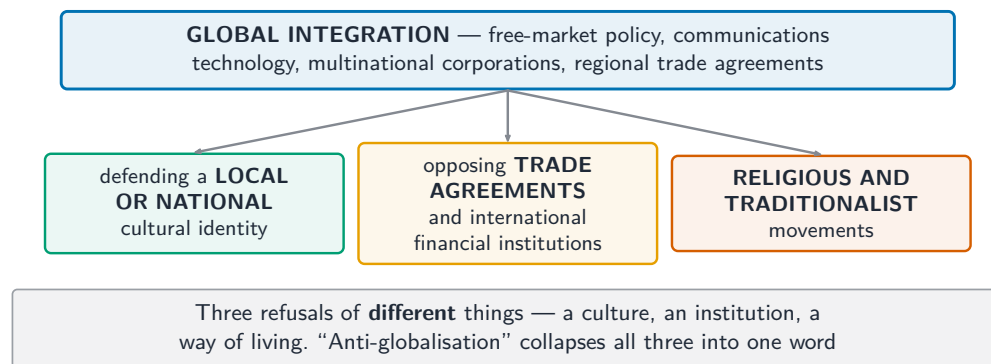
- Political and social changes of the twentieth century **led to changes in the arts** and other forms of cultural expression.
- Arts, entertainment, and popular culture **increasingly reflected global influence** - forms borrowed, adapted, and recombined across regions.
- **Consumer culture** became globalised and **transcended national borders**.

The third is the strongest for essays because it is the most measurable: the same products, brands, and consumption patterns appearing across very different societies.

Resistance to Globalization

Responses to rising cultural and economic globalisation took a variety of forms. The CED deliberately leaves the category broad, and a good answer fills it with distinct kinds rather than repeating one:

- Movements defending **local or national cultural identity** against homogenising influence.
- Organised opposition to **trade agreements and international financial institutions** on economic grounds.
- **Religious and traditionalist movements** rejecting the social changes that accompanied integration.



Institutions in a Globalized World

New international organisations, including the **United Nations**, emerged to manage problems no single state could handle alone - security, health, refugees, trade, and the environment.

This closes the arc of the course: Unit 7 opened with the collapse of an order and unprecedented conflict; Unit 9 ends with the institutions built in response, and with the argument - still unresolved - about how much authority they should hold.

Continuity and Change in a Globalized World

The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**, applied across the whole modern period.

Worked example (a real AP exam question). AP World short-answer questions here ask, for example, to “*Explain one way in which technological developments after 1900 affected the world’s population.*” A full-mark answer names the development and traces its effect: “*Medical innovations such as vaccines and antibiotics reduced deaths from infectious disease, which increased average lifespans and contributed to rapid population growth, particularly in regions where these treatments were introduced faster than birth rates fell.*” Notice the mechanism: a *reason* the population changed, not the statement that it did.

Exam tips

- Unit 9 questions are **evaluative**. For almost every advance, name the benefit **and** the cost. That single habit lifts most answers here.
- **Birth control** is technological, demographic, and social evidence at once - unusually flexible in questions about women's changing roles.
- The rise of **diseases of longer life** is caused by medical success. Say that explicitly; it demonstrates causal reasoning.
- On climate, the CED's word is **debates**. Write about the argument, not a verdict.
- Connect the **global economy** back to Unit 6: the same asymmetry, new institutions. Cross-period links score well on essays.
- For resistance to globalisation, give **distinct kinds** - cultural, economic, religious - not one kind three times.