The Simple AP® World History Unit 1 Cheat Sheet

1.1 East Asia: Song China (960–1279)

Govt: Confucian Bureaucracy

Mandate of Heaven = belief that heaven gives an emperor the right to rule; lost if dynasty fails.
Civil service exam: tests Confucian texts → officials hired by merit (mostly elite men). Song expands it → stable, centralized state.
Confucianism: order through proper relationships.
Filial piety = duty to parents & ancestors.
Neo-Confucianism: Confucian ethics + Buddhist & Daoist ideas → supports hierarchy & order.
Weak military: Song favors scholars over soldiers → loses north to nomads (1127).

Belief Systems

Belief	Where
Mahayana Buddhism	China, Korea, Japan
Chan / Zen	China → Japan
Theravada	SE Asia, Sri Lanka

Buddhism came from India on Silk Roads; adapted to Chinese culture (blending = **syncretism**).

Society & Gender

Foot binding spreads among elite women → limits movement; shows **patriarchy** (male-led society).
Social order: scholar-officials on top; merchants rich but low status (Confucian ranking).

⚠ Neo-Confucianism did NOT replace Confucianism w/ Buddhism. It borrowed Buddhist ideas to strengthen Confucian order.

✓ Song keeps older Tang exams & bureaucracy (continuity) but grows far richer (change).

1.1 Song Economy & China's Neighbors

Commercial Revolution

Champa rice (from Vietnam): fast-growing, drought-resistant → 2 harvests/yr → population ↑.
Grand Canal expanded: links north & south → moves rice & goods, builds 1 market.
Proto-industrialization (early large-scale making of goods): iron, steel, porcelain, silk.
Paper money (govt-issued, 1st ever) + credit → trade grows; huge cities (Hangzhou ~1M people).
Cash crops (tea, cotton) grown to sell, not just to eat → more commercial economy, rich merchants.

Innovation	Effect
Champa rice	Population boom
Movable type	Cheaper books
Compass	Sea trade ↑
Gunpowder	New weapons

China's Neighbors

Tributary system: neighbors send gifts & accept China as superior → get trade access.
Korea & **Vietnam**: adopt Confucian exams, Buddhism, Chinese writing; Vietnam resists Chinese rule (independent since 939).
Japan: borrows Chinese culture but keeps own; **shogun** (military ruler) & samurai hold power.
Chinese influence = cultural diffusion: neighbors adapt ideas, not copy them (e.g., Japan).

✓ MCQ: "Why did Song China's population grow?" → Champa rice + more trade.

⚠ Song falls to the Mongols (1279) → Yuan dynasty (Kublai). Mongols = Unit 2, not Unit 1.

1.2 Developments in Dar al-Islam

Political Shifts

Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258) breaks apart; Mongols destroy **Baghdad** 1258.
Turkic Muslim states take real power:

State	Region
Seljuk Empire	Persia, Anatolia
Mamluk Sultanate	Egypt, Syria
Delhi Sultanate	North India

Caliph = religious leader (now symbolic); **sultan** = holds real political and military power.
Mamluks (slave-soldier rulers of Egypt) stop Mongols at Ain Jalut (1260) → Mongols halted.

How Islam Spread

Military conquest, **merchants** on trade routes, & **Sufis** (mystics who blend Islam w/ local customs).

Knowledge & Culture

House of Wisdom (Baghdad): translates & saves Greek, Persian & Indian texts (founded ~800s).
Advances: algebra, "Arabic" numerals (from India), **al-Tusi** (math, astronomy), medicine.
Transfer: ideas reach Europe via Muslim Spain & Crusades → feeds the later Renaissance.
Society: sharia (Islamic law); non-Muslims (dhimmi) pay **jizya** tax but keep their faith.
Women: Quran gives property & inheritance rights.

⚠ Abbasid fall ≠ end of Islam. It KEEPS spreading via Turkic states, traders & Sufis.

✓ Theme: Muslim scholars save & build on older knowledge = cultural diffusion.

1.3 South & Southeast Asia

South Asia: Religion

Hinduism + caste system shape society. **Bhakti**: devotion to 1 god, open to all castes & women.
Islam arrives w/ Delhi Sultanate & traders; **Sufis** & Bhakti share a devotional style.
Buddhism fades in India; thrives in SE Asia.

South Asian States

Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526): Muslim rulers over Hindu majority; most Hindus never convert.
Vijayanagara (south) & **Rajputs** (northwest): Hindu states that resist Delhi's rule for centuries.

Southeast Asian States

State	Power From
Srivijaya (sea)	Taxing Malacca trade
Majapahit (sea)	Java trade, navy
Khmer (land)	Rice, irrigation
Sinhala (land)	Sri Lanka, Buddhist

Angkor Wat (Khmer Empire, 1100s): Hindu temple → later Buddhist shrine = **syncretism**.
Indian culture spreads by trade, not conquest.
Islam reaches Sumatra via merchants by ~1290s.
Khmer decline: water-system strain + Thai attacks → Angkor left (1431), capital moves south.

⚠ Sea-based states get rich from trade routes. Land-based states get rich from farming.

✓ SAQ: India's religions compete & blend; no single faith replaces another (Bhakti, Sufis).

1.4 State Building in the Americas

Mesoamerica & the Andes

	Aztec	Inca
Capital	Tenochtitlan	Cusco
Rule	Tribute	Centralized
Labor	Tribute	Mit'a
Farming	Chinampas	Terraces

Mexica (Aztec, Triple Alliance 1428): conquered cities keep rulers but pay **tribute** (goods); **human sacrifice** to feed the sun god, show power.
Tenochtitlan (1325): island city of ~200K; **chinampas** = farm plots built on Lake Texcoco.
Inca: **mit'a** = labor tax (roads, mines); **quipu** = knotted cords for records; huge road system.
Inca control: moves loyal groups into conquered lands to stop revolts; ruler = son of the sun.
Maya: rival city-states; Classic peak before ~900; later Chichén Itzá, Mayapán (Yucatán).

North America

Cahokia (Mississippian): big city w/ earthen mounds; maize farming; fades by ~1350.
Chaco Canyon & Mesa Verde (Puebloans): cliff dwellings, desert irrigation; left after drought.
No big draft animals or iron → human labor & engineering power these states.

⚠ Mit'a = Inca LABOR tax. Spanish later adapt it (Unit 4) (Spanish mita for silver mines).

✓ Aztec = loose tribute empire; Inca = tight central control (roads, resettlement).

1.5 State Building in Africa

Key States

State	Known For
Swahili cities	Indian Ocean trade
Great Zimbabwe	Stone walls, gold
Ethiopia	Christian kingdom
Hausa kingdoms	Walled trade cities

Swahili city-states (Kilwa, Mombasa, Zanzibar): Bantu + Arabic → **Swahili** language; Islam spreads via Arab and Persian traders along the coast.
Great Zimbabwe (Shona, 1300s): stone walls w/o mortar; gold & ivory sent to the Swahili coast.
Ethiopia: Christian; **Lalibela** rock-cut churches; kings claim descent from Solomon.
Hausa kingdoms: walled city-states on trans-Saharan routes; rulers adopt Islam.
Kilwa: richest Swahili city; coral-stone mosques; mints own coins; Ibn Battuta visits (1331).
Trade goods: gold & ivory out → cloth & Chinese porcelain in via Indian Ocean ships.

Society & Power

Kinship (family/clan ties) organizes many societies, often with sacred rulers.
Legitimacy (right to rule) from religion (Christian Ethiopia, Muslim Hausa) + control of trade wealth.
Slavery in Africa: often household or military; slaves could join families over generations.

⚠ African states were NOT isolated. Trade linked them to Arabia, India & China (Indian Ocean).

✓ Swahili culture = African (Bantu) + Arab/Islamic blend = syncretism.

1.6 Developments in Europe

Religion & Power

Roman Catholic Church (pope, West) & **Eastern Orthodox** (Byzantine) split in 1054.
Church unifies W. Europe; kings use it to justify rule. **Crusades** (1095–1291) reconnect Europe w/ Islamic trade & ideas (spices, texts).
Byzantine Empire shrinks; sacked by Crusaders (1204); Constantinople falls to Ottomans in 1453.

Decentralized Politics

System	Exchange
Feudalism	Land ↔ loyalty
Manorialism	Protection ↔ labor

Serfs = peasants bound to the land (coerced labor), not slaves (owe labor, can't leave).
Monarchies slowly gain power (England, France); **Magna Carta** (1215) limits the king.
Reconquista: Christian kingdoms push Muslims out of Spain (done 1492); Jews also expelled.

Society & Economy

Farming tech (heavy plow, 3-field rotation) → more food → towns and guilds grow.
Black Death (1347–51) kills ~1/3 → labor shortage → serfs gain leverage → feudalism weakens.
Universities (Paris, Oxford) use Greek & Arab texts; Aquinas blends faith + Greek logic.

⚠ Europe c. 1200 = weak & divided compared to Song China & Dar al-Islam (rise comes later).

✓ Compare: feudal Europe (decentralized) vs. Song China (centralized) in SAQs/LEQs.

1.7 Comparison & Exam Moves

How States Gained Power

Method	Examples
Bureaucracy	Song China
Religion	Ethiopia, Delhi, Aztec
Tribute	Aztec, China
Labor tax	Inca (mit'a)
Trade routes	Srivijaya, Swahili

Centralized: Song, Inca. **Decentralized**: feudal Europe, Swahili & Hausa city-states.

Big Themes

Religion shapes govt & society everywhere.
Syncretism (blending): Neo-Confucianism, Sufi Islam, Angkor Wat, Swahili culture.
Continuity: farming economies, patriarchy & forced labor (serfs, mit'a, slavery).

Skills to Use

Compare: 1 similarity AND 1 difference, each w/ a specific example (e.g., Song vs Europe).
SAQ = ACE: Answer the prompt, Cite specific evidence, Explain the link in 2–3 sentences.
HIPP sourcing: Historical situation, Intended audience, Purpose, Point of view.
CCOT: what changed, what stayed the same, & why (cite specific evidence for each).

✓ Unit 1 = your c. 1200 starting point for change-over-time essays (DBQ/LEQ context).

⚠ Vague = no points. Name specific states, people & dates ("Bhakti," not "religion").