The Ultimate AP® World History Unit 1 Cheat Sheet

1.1 East Asia: Song China (960–1279)

Govt: Confucian Bureaucracy

Imperial bureaucracy: emperor rules via scholar-officials; **Mandate of Heaven** = divine right to rule, lost if dynasty fails. **Civil service exam**: tests Confucian classics → hires by merit (mostly elite men b/c study is costly). Song expands it (more exams, printed texts) → stable, centralized state. **Confucianism**: order via proper relationships (Five Relationships: ruler–subject, father–son, husband–wife). **Filial piety** = duty to parents/ancestors (rites). **Neo-Confucianism**: Confucian ethics + Buddhist & Daoist ideas (metaphysics) → reinforces hierarchy & social order. **Weak military**: Song favors scholars over generals → pays tribute to northern nomads; Jurchen seize north (1127) → **Southern Song** rules from Hangzhou.

Belief Systems Spread & Blend

Belief	Where	Key Point
Mahayana Bud.	China, Korea	Bodhisattvas
Chan / Zen	China → Japan	Meditation
Theravada	SE Asia, Sri L.	Older, monastic
Daoism	China	Harmony w/ Dao

Buddhism came from India via Silk Roads; adapted to Chinese culture (syncretism); critics call it foreign.

Society & Gender

Patriarchy reinforced: **foot binding** spreads among elite women → limits mobility, signals status. **Social order**: scholar-gentry at top; merchants rich but ranked low in Confucian thought (Four Occupations). **Women's role**: "three obediences" (father → husband → son); elite women may run household finances.

⚠ Neo-Confucianism ≠ Buddhism replacing Confucianism. It ABSORBS Buddhist ideas to strengthen Confucian order.

✓ Continuity: Song keeps Tang-era bureaucracy & exams. Change: scale, commerce, cities, population.

1.1 Song Economy & China's Neighbors

Commercial Revolution

Champa rice (from Vietnam): fast-ripening, drought-resistant → 2 harvests/yr → food surplus → population ↑ (~100M+). **Grand Canal** (Sui, 600s) expanded: links Yellow & Yangzi rivers → moves rice north, ties regions into 1 market. **Proto-industrialization**: huge coal-fired iron & steel output, porcelain, silk & textiles made for export. **Paper money** (govt-issued, world's 1st) + credit → commercialization; big cities (Kaifeng, Hangzhou ~1M). **Commercial agriculture**: cash crops (tea, cotton, sugar) for regional markets; merchants rich despite low status.

Innovation	Effect
Champa rice	Pop. boom, surplus
Movable type	Cheaper books, literacy
Magnetic compass	Sea trade ↑
Gunpowder weapons	Spread west via Mongols
Paper money	Easier trade, inflation

Chinese Influence on Neighbors

Tributary system: neighbors send gifts & accept Chinese superiority → get trade access & recognition. **Korea** (Goryeo, 918–1392): tributary state; adopts Confucian exams, Buddhism, Chinese script. **Vietnam**: adopts Chinese models but resists rule (independent since 939). **Japan**: borrows script, Buddhism, Confucianism, keeps own identity; Kamakura **shogunate** (1185) → samurai rule. **Japan's structure**: emperor = figurehead; shogun → daimyo (lords) → samurai (warrior code, bushido) → decentralized, like European feudalism (good LEQ comparison).

✓ MCQ: "population growth in Song China" → think Champa rice + commercial agriculture.

⚠ Song falls to the Mongols (1279) → Yuan dynasty (Kublai Khan, 1271). Mongols = Unit 2, not Unit 1.

1.2 Developments in Dar al-Islam

Political Shifts

Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258) fragments; caliph becomes symbolic. Mongols sack **Baghdad** 1258 → Abbasids end. **Turkic Muslim states** rise & take real power:

State	Region	Note
Seljuk Empire	Persia, Anatolia	Sultan > caliph
Mamluk Sultan.	Egypt, Syria	Slave soldiers
Delhi Sultan.	N. India	Muslim elite

Mamluks (Egypt) beat Mongols at Ain Jalut (1260) → halt Mongol push west, keep Egypt Muslim-ruled. **Caliph vs. sultan**: caliph = Muhammad's religious successor (now symbolic); sultan = real political & military power.

How Islam Spread

Military expansion (Delhi Sultanate), **merchants** (Indian Ocean, trans-Saharan), **Sufi** missionaries (mystics; blend Islam w/ local customs → easier conversion).

Knowledge & Culture

House of Wisdom (Baghdad, 800s): translates & preserves Greek, Persian, Indian texts for scholars of all faiths. **Innovations**: algebra (al-Khwarizmi), Indian numerals → "Arabic" numerals, **Nasir al-Din al-Tusi** (trig, astronomy), Ibn Sina (medicine); papermaking from China spreads. **Transfer to Europe**: via al-Andalus (Muslim Spain) & Crusades → feeds later Renaissance. **Society**: sharia law; ulama (scholars) guide rulers; non-Muslims (dhimmi) pay **jizya** tax but may keep faith. **Women**: Quran grants property & inheritance rights; veiling spreads among urban elites (varies by region).

⚠ Abbasid fall ≠ end of Islam's growth. Islam KEEPS spreading under Turkic states, traders & Sufis.

✓ Theme link: Islamic scholars preserve & build on older knowledge = cultural diffusion (CDI).

1.3 South & Southeast Asia

South Asia: Religion

Hinduism dominant; caste system shapes society. **Bhakti movement**: personal devotion to 1 god (Shiva, Vishnu), open to all castes & women; uses local languages. **Islam** arrives w/ Delhi Sultanate & traders; **Sufis** & Bhakti share devotional style → some blending (e.g., later Sikhism). **Buddhism** fades in India; thrives in Sri Lanka & SE Asia.

South Asian States

Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526): Muslim rulers, Hindu majority; jizya tax; repels Mongols; never converts most Hindus. **Vijayanagara** (1336): Hindu empire in south; resists Delhi. **Rajputs**: Hindu warrior clans (NW) resist Muslim rule. **Delhi in practice**: Muslim elite relies on Hindu local officials; Hindu temples & caste persist (pragmatic rule).

Southeast Asian States

State	Base	Power From
Srivijaya	Sea (Sumatra)	Taxing Malacca
Majapahit	Sea (Java)	Trade, navy
Khmer	Land (Angkor)	Rice, irrigation
Sinhala	Land (Sri L.)	Irrigation, Bud.

Angkor Wat: Hindu temple → later Buddhist = religious syncretism. **Srivijaya** & Majapahit: Hindu-Buddhist. **Devaraja** (god-king) ideas from India legitimize SE Asian rulers; Indian culture (Sanskrit, Hindu & Buddhist ideas) spreads by trade & missionaries, not conquest. **Islam** reaches Sumatra via Indian Ocean merchants by ~1290s; spreads widely after 1400 (Malacca). **Khmer decline**: water-system strain + Thai attacks → Angkor abandoned (1431); capital shifts south (Phnom Penh).

⚠ Sea-based (Srivijaya, Majapahit) = wealth from trade routes. Land-based (Khmer) = wealth from farming.

✓ SAQ: India = religion shaped by competition & blending, not 1 faith replacing another (Bhakti + Sufis).

1.4 State Building in the Americas

Mesoamerica & the Andes

	Mexica (Aztec)	Inca
Capital	Tenochtitlan	Cusco
Rule	Tribute empire	Centralized
Labor/tax	Tribute goods	Mit'a labor
Farming	Chinampas	Terraces
Religion	Sun god, sacrifice	Sun (Inti)

Mexica: Tenochtitlan (1325) on lake; Triple Alliance (1428); conquered city-states keep rulers but pay **tribute**. **Human sacrifice** → feeds sun god, shows power. **Aztec society**: rigid classes (nobles, priests, commoners, slaves); warriors rise by capturing prisoners for sacrifice. **Inca**: expands under Pachacuti (1438); **mit'a** = labor tax (roads, mines, farms); **quipu** (knotted cords) for records; ~25,000 mi of roads; Quechua imposed. **Inca control**: **mitmaq** resettles loyal groups into conquered lands; **ayllu** (kin clans) share land & labor; Sapa Inca = divine son of the sun; mummies of past rulers kept & honored. **Maya**: rival city-states; Classic peak before ~900 (then drought, war); later centers (Chichén Itzá, Mayapán).

North America

Cahokia (Mississippian): largest city N. of Mexico; earthen mounds (Monks Mound); maize; declines by ~1350. **Chaco Canyon & Mesa Verde** (Ancestral Puebloans): multistory great houses, cliff dwellings, desert irrigation; Chaco fades ~1150, Mesa Verde left ~1280 (drought).

Big Picture

No large draft animals or iron → human labor & engineering drive state power (llamas only carry light loads).

⚠ Mit'a = Inca LABOR tax. Don't confuse w/ Spanish mita (Unit 4, forced labor, Potosí silver mines) that adapted it.

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

1.5 State Building in Africa

Key States

State	Where	Known For
Swahili cities	E. coast	Indian Ocean trade
Great Zimbabwe	S. interior	Stone walls, gold
Ethiopia	E. highlands	Christian kingdom
Hausa kingdoms	W. (Nigeria)	Walled trade cities

Swahili city-states (Kilwa, Mombasa, Zanzibar): independent, ruled by merchant elites; Bantu + Arabic → **Swahili** language; Islam spreads via traders. **Great Zimbabwe** (Shona, peak 1200s–1400s): stone walls w/o mortar; gold & ivory sent to Swahili ports. **Ethiopia**: Christian; Zagwe-era **Lalibela** rock-cut churches; **Solomonic dynasty** (1270) claims Solomon's line. **Hausa kingdoms** (Kano, Katsina): walled city-states; trans-Saharan trade; rulers adopt Islam (Kano by 1300s). **Kilwa**: richest Swahili city; coral mosques; own coins. **Trade goods**: gold, ivory, slaves out → cloth, Chinese porcelain, beads in via Indian Ocean ships.

Society & Power

Kinship networks & age sets organize many societies; rulers often claim sacred status (divine kingship). **Bantu migrations** (earlier) spread farming, iron & languages → base for Swahili coast & Great Zimbabwe. **Slavery** in Africa: often domestic or military; slaves could be absorbed into families (≠ later Atlantic chattel slavery). **Legitimacy**: religion (Ethiopia, Islam in Hausa & Swahili) + control of trade wealth (gold, ivory, salt, copper). **Women**: some matrilineal societies; elite women active in trade & politics (e.g., powerful queen mothers).

⚠ African states were NOT isolated. Trade linked them to Arabia, India & China (Ibn Battuta visits Kilwa, 1331).

✓ Example of syncretism: Swahili culture = African (Bantu) + Islamic/Arab blend (language, mosques, coral houses).

1.6 Developments in Europe

Religion & Power

Roman Catholic Church (West, led by pope) & **Eastern Orthodox** (Byzantine) split in 1054 (Great Schism). Church = biggest unifying force in W. Europe (Latin, sacraments). **Popes vs. kings**: church claims authority over rulers; kings use church to legitimize rule. **Crusades** (1095–1291) reconnect Europe w/ Islamic trade & ideas. **Byzantine Empire** shrinks; Constantinople sacked by Crusaders (1204), falls to Ottomans 1453. **Byzantine govt**: emperor heads church & state (caesaropapism); Orthodoxy spreads to Rus' & Balkans.

Decentralized Politics

System	Who	Exchange
Feudalism	Lord ↔ vassal	Land ↔ loyalty
Manorialism	Lord ↔ serf	Protect ↔ labor

Serfs = bound to land (coerced labor), not slaves. Europe mostly agricultural & rural (~90% rural peasants). **Monarchies** slowly centralize (England, France); **Magna Carta** (1215) limits English king → Parliament grows. Holy Roman Empire stays fragmented (princes, free cities). **Reconquista**: Christian kingdoms push Muslims out of Iberia (done 1492). **Hundred Years' War** (1337–1453) → stronger English & French monarchies (Joan of Arc).

Society & Economy

Farming tech: heavy plow, 3-field rotation → surplus, population ↑ → towns & guilds grow (Champagne fairs). **Church & learning**: tithes, monasteries, 1st universities (Bologna, Paris, Oxford); **scholasticism** (Aquinas) blends faith w/ Greek logic via Arabic translations (Toledo, Sicily). **Black Death** (1347–51) kills ~1/3 → labor shortage → serfs gain leverage. **Jews** face persecution & expulsions.

⚠ Europe c. 1200 = politically weak & fragmented vs. Song China & Dar al-Islam. Don't project later power back.

✓ Compare: feudal Europe (decentralized) vs. Song (bureaucratic, centralized) for SAQ or LEQ comparison.

1.7 Comparison & Exam Moves

How States Gained & Kept Power

Method	Examples
Bureaucracy, exams	Song China
Religion = legitimacy	Ethiopia, Delhi, Aztec
Tribute	Aztec, China
Labor tax	Inca (mit'a)
Control trade routes	Srivijaya, Swahili
Military elites	Mamluks, Delhi

Centralized: Song, Inca. **Decentralized**: feudal Europe, Swahili & Hausa city-states, Maya, Japan (shogunate).

Big Themes c. 1200–1450

Religion shapes govt & society everywhere: Confucian, Islamic, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian rulers. **Syncretism**: Neo-Confucianism, Sufi Islam, Angkor Wat, Swahili culture (ideas mix via trade, missionaries). **Continuity**: farming economies, patriarchy & coerced labor (serfs, mit'a, slavery) everywhere (CCOT anchor). **Trade-built states** rise where routes meet: Srivijaya, Swahili, Hausa, Great Zimbabwe (wealth from tolls & trade).

Skills to Use

Comparison: give a similarity AND a difference, each w/ a specific example (e.g., Aztec vs Inca rule). **HIPP sourcing**: Historical situation, Intended audience, Purpose, Point of view (explain for 2+ DBQ docs). **SAQ = ACE**: Answer the prompt, Cite specific evidence, Explain the link (aim for 2–3 sentences per part). **CCOT**: name the change, what stayed the same, AND why.

✓ Unit 1 = your c. 1200 baseline for DBQ/LEQ context & change-over-time claims (e.g., Song → Ming).

⚠ Vague = 0 pts. "Religion mattered" loses points; "Bhakti opened worship to all castes & women" earns them.