

622
Islam begins to spread.

800-1400
Khmer kingdoms flourish in Southeast Asia.

B.C. < > A.D.

500

395
Byzantine Empire separates from Western Roman Empire.

751
Chinese expansion into Islamic lands is halted.

Cultures and Trade In and Around Asia

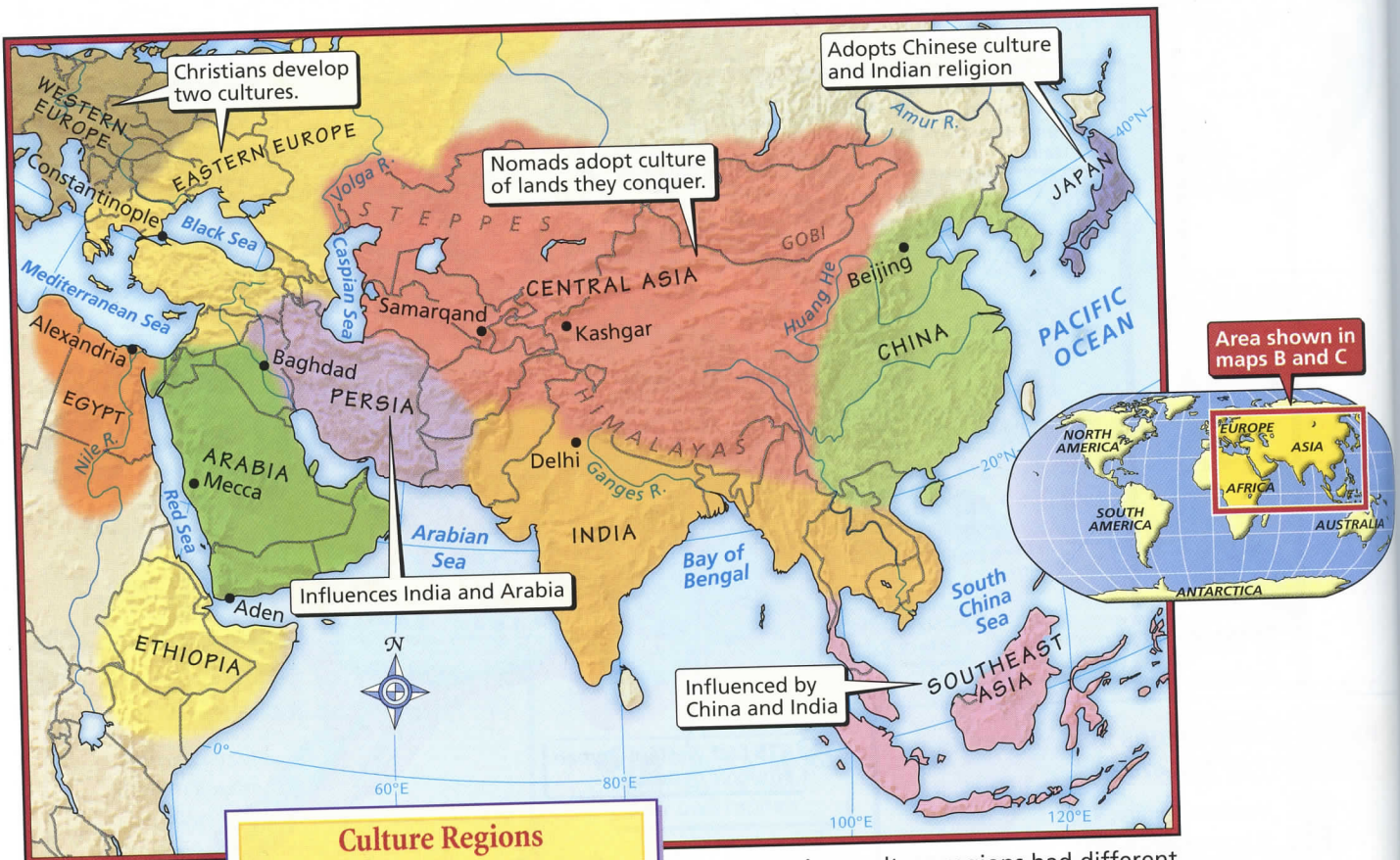
Between 400 A.D. and 1500, cultures of Asia, Africa, and Europe came into closer contact with one another.

- Land and sea trade routes helped link distant areas. Trade and travel increased.
- Conquering armies spread cultures from one region to another.
- The spread of religions such as Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism united large regions.

Religious Change

| Region | 500 A.D. | 1500 A.D. |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CENTRAL ASIA | local religions | Islam |
| ARABIA | local religions | Islam |
| PERSIA | Zoroastrianism | Islam |
| INDIA | Hinduism and Buddhism | Hinduism and Islam |
| CHINA | Confucianism and Taoism | Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism |
| JAPAN | Shinto | Shinto and Buddhism |

A Outside influences often changed the main religion of a region. Which regions had become Islamic by 1500?



Culture Regions 400-1500

Map shows present-day boundaries in gray.

0 1000 2000 miles
0 1000 2000 kilometers

B Over time, culture regions had different names, rulers, and boundaries. But each region continued to keep some of its original customs and traditions during periods of change.

1054
Eastern and Western Christianity split into two separate churches.

1398
Mongol ruler Timur invades Delhi.

1453
Ottoman Turks conquer Byzantine Empire.

1803
Mughal Empire comes under British control.

1000

1180-1603
Japan is engulfed by civil wars.

1500

1279-1368
Mongols conquer and rule China.

1640
Japan expels European traders.

2000



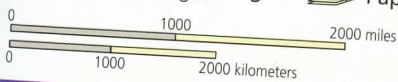
Silk Road and Other Trade Routes

400-1500

— Silk Road — Other trade route

Sources of Trade and Cultural Exchange

- Frankincense
- Gems
- Spices
- 1,2,3** Arabic numerals
- Cotton
- Silk
- Horses
- Plague
- Compass
- Glassware
- Gunpowder
- Paper



C Ideas, goods, and even disease were carried along the trade routes of Asia. Many empires and kingdoms competed for control of the main route, called the Silk Road.



D Today silk is made in several countries, but for hundreds of years it could be gotten only from China. Silk was one of China's main exports.