**Key Concept 2.3: The Emergence of Transregional Networks of Communication & Exchange**

**All of These New Huge Empires Were Interconnected…**

**Eastern Hemisphere Trade Routes:**
- Eurasian
- Silk Road
- Trans Saharan
- Indian Ocean
- Mediterranean

**New Technologies that Facilitated Long Distance Trade**
- **Yokes:** Wooden beam that allows work animals to pull together.
- **Saddles:** Supportive apparatus to support riders on horses, camels, etc.
- **Stirrups:** After the Chariot & Saddle, it's the most important advancement in warfare prior to gunpowder.
- **Lateen Sails:** Triangular sail dating back to the Roman Mediterranean and used heavily in the Indian Ocean trade.
- **Dhow Ships:** Ships with one or more Lateen sails primarily used in the Indian Ocean trade.

**Things Traded Alongside Goods:**
- **Rice:** The most important crop for human consumption today.
- **Cotton:** Accounts for 2.5% of earth’s arable land today.
- **Qanat System:** Provides water in arid climates. Spread from Iran to North Africa and the rest of Asia where many people depend on the Qanat for water.
- **Plague of Galen:** Smallpox killed 5 million people (1/3 of the population) in Rome in 165 CE.
- **Plague of Justinian:** Bubonic Plague in 541 CE killed 40% of Constantinople & spread killing 25 million worldwide.
- **Plague of Cyprian:** Smallpox outbreak in 250 CE lasted 20 years, killed the Emperor, and was blamed on the Christians.
- **Christianity:** Took on a structure like the Roman Empire and adding the “Trinity”
- **Buddhism:** Buddhism took on different characteristics wherever it spread (China, SE Asia, Japan)
- **Hinduism:** SE Asian societies made Hinduism fit their history/society.

**Religion Transformed**