INDIA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN
WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT LAST WEEK

• West Africa: State and society

• Western Europe: State and society

• Today:
  1) Continue on Europe
  2) India and the Indian Ocean Basin
  3) The Song Modernity in East Asia
(WESTERN) EUROPE

• Marginal and yet dynamic (thanks to contingent factors and southernization)
Increasing urbanization led to demand for trained clergy
Church promoted it as a way to expand clerical authority, ecclesiastical hierarch and Consolidate the “canon law”.
Scholastic guild (or guilds)
CATHEDRAL AND MONASTIC SCHOOLS
SCIENTIFIC METHOD

• A New Method of knowledge: Aristotle
  1) Logic: Use of philosophy for the understanding of reality.
  2) Philological Analysis: To study the words analytically.

• Medicine: Ibn-Sina or Avicenna
• Islamic philosophers.

• Translation of Greek texts (from Arabic): Aristotle’s texts.
AVERROES (1126-1198)
NO CONFLICT BETWEEN FAITH AND REASON
PREMISE \( (\text{PROTASIS}) \) AND CONCLUSION
RISE OF SCHOLASTICISM

- Proto-Empirical Studies
- William of Ockham (1288 - c. 1348)
- Franciscan Friar

Parismony: motion is not a distinct thing but is only the moving object.

Nominalism: Abstracts do not exist, only product of human mind.

Also Conceptualism.
PLATO’S CAVE
• Who said this?
“Nature gives speech to human beings, and speech is directed to human beings communicating with one another regarding the useful and harmful, the just and the unjust, the like. Therefore, since nature does nothing in vain, human beings by nature communicate with one another about these things. But communication about these things produces the household and the political community. Therefore, human beings are by nature domestic and political animals.”
THOMAS AQUINAS
(1225-1274)
PRE-ENLIGHTENMENT RATIONALISM?

- Saw theology as a science.

- Faith and Reason: Humans have the rational ability to know the divine without its help.

- Nature and action: a way of understanding God
--Through reason, a distinct human function, we can achieve virtue.

--State exists to protect the human good.
--Natural law: doing good and avoiding evil; all, including rulers, should follow this.
FAMILY

- Rule over wife is political
- Kingly rule over children

“For the household manager strives about human beings more than the acquisition of inanimate things... And he should strive for the virtue by which human beings live well more than the virtue by which one acquires and increases property well, which is the meaning of the word wealth.” p 71.
RISE OF FAMILY
CITY AND LOVE
LOVE
“COURTLY LOVE”

• Love as a cultural construct.
• In late Medieval period love is gradually becoming “civilized”.
• Aristocracy cultivates its emotions and sensitivity and considers self-control as a privileged way to repress sexuality and make love a pure act of “romance”.
• Erotic love as spiritual transcendence
CURSING AND THE BODY
SOCIAL DIMENSIONS

- Class: A way to distinguish Class:
  Chivalrous expression.

- Society-Church: against ecclesiastical sexual attitudes, which saw sex as procreation (heretical).

- Literary expressions vernacularism: English, French, German, Italian
GEOFFREY CHAUCER
1343 – 1400

• Vernacular English

• Translated French chivalric poems into Middle English

• The Canterbury Tales
DANTE ALIGHIERI (1265-1321) & BEATRICE PORTINARI (1266-1290)

- *La Vita Nuova* (1294)

  *La Commedia* (1321)
ROMEO & JULIET
VERONA
LOVE AND FAMILY IN ASIA

• Shakuntala, c. 400. romantic love
• Shirin and Khusru
  Nizam Ghanjavi (1141–1209)
• Zho Daguan in Angkor (1297)
AXIAL AGE AND SOUTHERNIZATION

• A major transformation in human thinking (600-250 B.C.E.), laid the grounds for core cultural and religious discourses and practices of classical societies: Greece, Israel, Persia, India, and China.
• Buddha, Confucius and Socrates (near-contemporaries).
• Jainism and Buddhism: emerged out of the religious ferment of the Axial Age.
• So did Islam!
2) Spread of Hinduism (within India) and Buddhism (east Asia)

3) Helped introduce Islam to southeast Asia.

4) Vast Zones of Communication: commerce and interexchange between people around sea routes and ports.
A COLLAGE

• Collage of microcultures, cultures that had their own autonomy and yet intermingled with others.
OUR FOCUS

1) Politics

2) Economy

3) Culture and Religion
POST-GUPTA (320-550 C.E.)
I. INDIA’ S POLITICAL STRUCTURE

- Unlike China, no centralized imperial power.
- North-South divide
  - **North:** unstable
    - Rajputs (“kings sons”)
    - A Hindu warrior caste
    - Chivalry, courage culture
  - **South:** stable, though highly fragmented.
    - dependent
    - on the sea
GUPTA ERA (C.A. 320-550 C.E.)

- Last half of the fifth century C.E., Huns conquered parts of northwestern India.
- Invasion of other Central Asian groups.
- Post-Gupta: Hindu states are fragmented.
RAJPUTS
IN RAJASTHAN & SURASHTRA
FAMILY HOUSEHOLD AND CASTE

Mughal Family in Picnic
Sati
KERALA: SOUTHWESTERN INDIA

• Practiced Polyandry, a marriage of one woman to several husbands.
CASTE AND POLITICAL SOCIETY

• Caste System: social stratification system as social classes based on hereditary groups (bloodline or kinship ties) (Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas; Shudras…)

• Played a major economic role: division of labor, especially for foreigners and migrants (e.g. Turks and Muslims).

• established codes of conduct for behavior which helped people order their work and their relationships with others in the same or other classes.

• Subcasts \((jati)\): worker’s guilds.

• Merchants and manufactures organized powerful guilds.
NORTHERN INDIA: MUSLIM RULE

• Unstable because of the Turkish incursions.

Introduction of Islam to Northern India:

1) 711, Muslims conquered the Indus River Valley in northwestern India.
2) Migration of the Turkish-speaking people.

1196 Muslim conquest of Nalanda
SULTANATE OF DELHI

● Muhammad Ghazni
  1001-1027

● By early 13th century
  conquered most of the Hindu kingdoms
  in the north.

● Sultanate of Delhi (1300 C.E.) 1206-1526.
● Not a centralized state.
SOUTHERN KINGDOMS:
HINDU STATES

- Chola Kingdom (850-1267) expanded because of sea trade, dominated South China Sea and Arabian Sea.
- Gave considerable autonomy to local rulers.
  - Traded with the Chinese.
  - Spread the cultic aspects of the Hindu religion
TEMPLE
GANGAIKONDA CHOLISVARAM
VIJAYANAGAR
(1336-1664)

- Deccan Plateau
- Harihara and Bukka: later converted to Hinduism and promoted the religion as a unifying factor.
- Vijayanag “City of Victory”
- Centralized: Rajya (Provinces)

- Hampi:
  Village; temple
II. ECONOMY

1) Agricultural production: with the increase in agricultural yields, people began to trade more and manufacture goods (rather than produce food).

2) Network of sea-lanes and port-cities:
   a) Innovation in maritime technology
   b) Trade brought water management systems for irrigation (in the south)
MANUFACTURING:

- cloths, textiles, pottery, leather goods, and jewelry
AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION

• Southern India: arid land without rivers like the Indus or the Ganges.
• Dams, reservoirs, canals, wells and tunnels.
• Reservoir: Artificial lakes (250 square miles).

• Therefore: Rise of agricultural goods and population!!!
URBANIZATION

• By 1500 the subcontinent had a population of 105 million.

• Delhi

1) Internal Trade:
   a) Rise of cities led to an increase in
   b) trade: caravan and sea routes (coastal towns like Calicut and Quilon flourished).

2) Maritime trade:
OCEANIC TRADE

• Dhow and Junks

• Emporia:
HINDU TEMPLES

- Economic centers.
- Organized agricultural activities.
  - Provided schooling
  - delivered tax receipts to the Hindu rulers and did other community activities.
III. CULTURE AND RELIGION: CROSS-FERTILIZATION

• Era of Indianization (100-1200 C.E.):
  - A process by which Indian ideas spread into and influenced many Southeast Asian societies; hybrid cultures (indigenous ideas with Indian ideas).
  - Occurred around the time when Greco-Roman cultures and Islam was spreading around the Mediterranean and Mesopotamian regions.
● Decline of Buddhism and Jainism.

1196 Muslim forces conquered the city of Nalanda and destroyed Buddhist libraries.

● Rise of Islam (throughout India and east Asia) and Hinduism and/or devotional cults (within India)
• Appeal: egalitarianism & pragmatic (to improve their economic situation).

• Sufism (& Hinduism)
  a) Mysticism: Divine as self.
  b) Spiritual Authority: Pir and Guru

• Cross-fertilized sects
  The Bhakti Movement: Southern India.
  a) Cult of love and devotion.
  b) Fused with Islamic values (as moved to the north)
  c) Shiva, Vishnu and Allah were all manifestations of a single deity.
SHI’I ISLAM
DEVOTIONAL CULTS

• Hindu Kingdoms

Polytheism

• Vishnu: god who entered the world in human form to resist evil.

• Shiva: god of fertility and destruction.

• Other cults