

Pre-modern Global Trade Links

Chapter 3: The Making of a Global World · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Silk Route linked China with Europe and Central Asia, allowing the exchange of silk, spices, and precious goods, while also spreading religions and ideas.

Trade also connected India with Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa through both overland routes and maritime trade across the Indian Ocean.

Along with goods, these trade networks spread crops, technologies, and diseases, showing how interconnected the pre-modern world already was, long before modern globalisation.

These early trade links established patterns of cultural exchange and economic interdependence that would later influence the colonial era and modern global trade.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Silk Route linked China, Central Asia and Europe.
- It allowed exchange of silk, spices and precious goods.
- Trade also spread religions and ideas.
- India traded with Southeast Asia, Middle East and Africa.
- Trade used both overland and maritime routes.
- Trade spread crops, technologies and diseases too.
- The pre-modern world was already interconnected.
- These links influenced later colonial and modern trade.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the Silk Route and what was traded along it.
- 2 Discuss how trade spread ideas as well as goods.
- 3 Research India's historical trade with Southeast Asia.
- 4 Explain the difference between overland and maritime trade.
- 5 Discuss how diseases could spread through trade routes.
- 6 Create a map showing pre-modern trade routes.