History of the World Documentary Notes

Begins @ 45:33 located in Ch. 20 PPT.

Concepts to consider:

1. Importance of geography
   1. Major River Valleys
      1. Nile (Egypt)
      2. Tigris and Euphrates (Modern-day Iraq)
      3. Indus (Modern-day Pakistan)
      4. Yellow and Yangtze (China)
   2. Rivers and mountain ranges especially
   3. Geography arguably deciding factor of societal and economic prosperity
2. Imp. of agriculture
   1. Grass seeds (wheat, barley, sugar cane)
3. Imp. of domestication of animals
   * 1. Cattle, pigs, goats, horses
4. Imp. of population growth
   1. Urbanization
   2. Armies
5. Imp. of The Age of the Arabs
   1. Language
   2. Counting systems (Arabic numerals)
   3. Use of gunpowder during crusades against Christians
   4. Control of trade
6. Imp. of “ancient” technology and energy
   1. Gun powder
   2. Iron and steel
   3. Wheel
   4. Coal
   5. Steam engine
7. Imp. of donkey and camel caravans
8. Imp. of Empires
   1. Spread of culture and religion globally
9. Imp. of sugar
   1. Connections from Crusades and China to Central Eurasia to Europe to Caribbean to the Atlantic Slave trade
10. Beginning of monotheism (belief in one god)
    1. Spread with Agriculture and dom. Animals
    2. Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism (oldest)
11. Silk Roads
    1. Trade network connecting China > Central Asia > Roman Empire
    2. Effects
       1. Cultural exchange
       2. Spread of diseases
       3. Spread of religious beliefs
       4. Arabs in center > control of trade
12. Columbus: Power Shift after explorations
    1. Effects:
       1. Pivotal even in all human history. Why? Connects both 1/2s of world
       2. Trade network between Americas, Europe, and Asia creates a global network of trade and wealth = Globalization
       3. Foods migrate with people = more calories = larger world populations
       4. Creates the rise of power in the West and Europe
       5. Inequality b/t those close to F.C. and those isolated
       6. Death of native populations
13. Sugar
    1. Begins in China
    2. Discovered by Euros during crusades
    3. Effects:
       1. Euros open sugar plantations in Americas (can’t be grown in Europe)
       2. Creates need for workers = Atlantic Slave Trade
       3. Conquest of Meso-America
14. Coal and Steam power elevates Europe and West (England particularly) into a dominant power
    1. Trains
    2. Autos
    3. Oil exploration
    4. Electricity
    5. Communication tech
15. Industrial Revolution Effects:
    1. Creates larger gap b/t haves and have nots of the world
    2. Military dominance of European countries and USA
    3. Population explosion globally