Topic 6: Caravans and Conquest: Song to Mongols.

Marco Polo, Rabban Sauma, and Kublai Khan
READING: Article #9 (Fletcher) in Reader; Marco Polo; Rossabi

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1. Discussion of Whitfield

Regional Shifts and Trends, 900 – 1200 CE

1. The Rise of Islam, 600-1000

- ca. 570 CE Birth of Muhammad in Mecca
- 610 Muhammad's first revelations
- 613 Muhammad begins public preaching
- 622 Hijrah: 1st year of Islamic calendar
- 630 Occupation of Mecca by Muslims
- 632 Death of Muhammad
- 661 Establishment of Umayyad Caliphate in Damascus [Origin of Sunni – Shi’ite split]
- 749 Abbasids seize Caliphate, transfer capital to Baghdad
- 945 End of Abbasid Caliphate

2. The Maritime Silk Road

3. The Formation of Russia

- 980 Prince Vladimir grand Prince of Kiev
- 988 Conversion of Kievan Rus to Christianity
- 1055-88 Attacks by Polovtsy and Volga Bulgars.
- 1147 1st mention of Moscow
- 1240 Mongols conquer Kiev
4. China Divided

No. Song [960-1127]
So. Song.[1127-1279]
Liao [907-1124] [ruled by Khitans]
Jin [1115-1234] [ruled by Jurchens]
Xixia [1038- ] [ruled by Tanguts]
938 CE: Beijing first becomes a dynastic capital

5. Who’s in the Middle?

Uighurs
Seljuq Turks
Khazars
Byzantine Empire:
1071 Battle of Manzikert; loss of Asian Minor to Turks.