I. Silk Road
   a. Origins/operations
      i. Overland route: China to Mediterranean, via Mesopotamia/Iran/C. Asia
      ii. Origins in central Asian nomads’ trade. Grew w/Chinese demand for goods (esp. horses) & by Parthians’ control of Meso/markets. (General Zhang)
      iii. Hybrid camels
      iv. C. imports alfalfa, grapes, crops, medicine, metals, gems. Exports peaches, apricots, spices, silk, pottery, paper.
   b. Impact
      i. Turkic nomads benefited; became dominant pastoralists. Elites built houses, settled, & studied Christianity, Manicheanism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, & Islam.
      ii. C. Asian military tech (inc. stirrup) exported E & W. Changed war.
      iii. Wealth to caravan cities. Tribes begin organizing states (ex.: 8th cen. Uigurs)

II. Indian Ocean
   a. I.O. Maritime System
      i. Linked lands bordering Indian Ocean basin & S. China Sea. 3 regions: 1) Chinese/Malays in S. China Sea; 2) Malays/Indians in SE Asia/E. India; 3) Persians/Arabs in W. India/Persian Gulf/E. Africa. (Some crossover. Formed economic/social ties.)
      ii. Followed monsoon patterns.
      iii. Unique ship technology: lateen sail; pierced/tied/caulked plank construction.
      iv. Longer distances than Med., so traders broke political ties w/homelands and war between trade participants was rare.
   b. Origins of contact & trade
i. Evidence of early trade between Mesopotamia & Indus Valley. Appears to have broken off as Meso turned more to E Africa.

ii. ~2000 years ago, Malays from SE Asia migrated to Madagascar. Did not retain communications or trade w/ homeland.

c. Impact
   ii. Port culture isolated. In W part, ports did not have access to inland population. Even in E, civs did not focus on sea.
   iii. Traders & sailors married local women; women became cultural mediators.

III. Routes across Sahara
   a. Early Saharan culture
      i. Undateable rock paintings in highlands between N & S Sahara indicate early hunting culture later joined by cattle breeders (looked like contemporary W. Africans).
      ii. Art shows cattle breeders succeeded by horse herders w/chariots. No evidence of origins or fate.
   b. The coming of the camel
      i. Art indicates camel riders followed charioteers. Camel from Arabia; intro & domestication linked to trans-Saharan trade. Written evidence, design of saddles, & patterns of camel use indicate S to N diffusion.
      ii. Camels allowed people from S to roam desert & contact N people.
   c. Trade across Sahara
      i. Trade developed slowly w/ link of 2 local (S & N) systems. Traders in S. Sahara exported salt to sub-Saharan for Kola nuts & palm oil. Traders in N exported ag products & wild animals to Italy.
      ii. When Rome declined (3rd cen) & Arabs invaded N Africa (7th cen), trade w/ Algeria & Morocco cut off. Berbers
revolted in 700s & established independent C/S (Sijilmasa & Tahert).

iii. After 740, Berbers noticed S traders getting gold from Niger & W Africa for salt. New pattern: Berbers traded copper & manufactured goods to S nomads for gold. Nomads traded salt to Niger/ W. African river areas for gold. (Basically, salt N → S; gold S → N.)

d. Kingdom of Ghana (“land of gold”)
   i. Sub-Saharan beneficiary of trans-Saharan trade. Origins obscure: 11th cen. al-Bakri describes 2 town (1 Muslim merchant, 1 animist capital).
   ii. 1076, weakened by Moroccan Almorovid invasion. Never recovered.

IV. Sub-Saharan Africa
   a. Challenging geography
      i. Many environmental zones & geographical obstacles.
      ii. Sahel, tropical savanna, tropical rain forest, savannas S of forest, steppe & desert, temperate highlands of S Africa.

   b. Dev. of cultural unity
      i. “Great traditions” of ruling elite vs. “small traditions” of common people.
      iii. Diverse cultures. ~2000 languages & different food production systems reflect diversity of ecology & difficulty of communication & trade. No foreign power could conquer & impose “great.”

   c. African cultural characteristics
      i. Certain common features show underlying cultural unity (“Africanity”).
      ii. Concept of kingship: king ritually isolated; oversees society of age groups & kinship divisions.
      iii. Cultivation w/ hoe & digging stick; rhythm in music; dancing & masks in rituals.
      iv. Hypothesis: people settles S Sahara during wet period, then migrated to Sahel.
d. Advent of iron/Bantu migrations
   i. Agriculture started N of equator & spread S. So did ironworking.
   ii. Linguistic evidence (also ag & metal) suggests this was a result of Bantu migrations.
   iii. Bantu homeland was Nigeria/Cameroon. Spread E & S in a series of migrations in 1st millennium C.E. By 8th cen, reached E Africa.

V. Spread of Ideas
a. Ideas & things
   i. Difficult to trace dissemination. Ex.: hypothesis that pig & religious diet restrictions spread W from SE Asia to Iran & Egypt.
   ii. Coins spread to Eur., N Africa, & India from Anatolia. Did Chinese “borrow” idea?

b. Spread of Buddhism
   i. 1st millennium C.E., ideas spread deliberately/organized, . . . traceable. Ex.: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam.
   iii. Buddhist missionaries from India went to Syria, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Sri Lanka, SE Asia, & Tibet.
   iv. Buddhism changed/developed in new lands. Theravada in Sri Lanka; Mahayana in Tibet; Chan (Zen) in E Asia.

c. Spread of Christianity (religion, trade, politics)
   i. Armenia entrepot on Silk Road; Med. states spread Christianity there to deprive Iran of control.
   ii. Transmission to Ethiopia also linked to depriving Iran of trade.

VI. Conclusion
   a. Bantu were unique in transforming, taking over societies & creating “Africanity”
   b. Only widespread cultural change was dissemination of Buddhism, Christianity, & Islam