

ASTR 308 "Into the Final Frontier"

The Discovers: BOOK V

1. In "Pilgrims and Crusaders"

- (a) Who was Pope Urban II and what movement did he start in 1095?
- (b) Compare and contrast Christian pilgrimages and Islamic pilgrimages? What is the historical significance of the differences?
- (c) Who is the Muslim "Marco Polo"? Why were his travels not as history changing as Marco's travels?
- (d) Compare and contrast Christian and Islamic "institutions" of spreading their religion. What were the long term implications of these two approaches?

2. In "How the Mongols Opened the Way"

- (a) Before the Mongols conquered Eastern Europe (Byzantine), what was the Silk Road and why did it exist in the way that it did?
- (b) About when did the Mongolians crush the Turks and move into eastern Europe? How did the Mongolian Empire change the history between East and West? What was the long-term significance of this change?
- (c) What grand opportunity did the Christian leaders of Europe pass by after the Mongols crushed the Turks? Why was this an historical opportunity lost?

3. In "The Discovery of Asia"

- (a) Briefly describe the travels of the Polos during the time of the Great Kublai Kahn. What years did these travels take place?
- (b) How and why did Marco become so entrusted by the Great Kahn?
- (c) What event befell Marco upon his return to Venice? How is it we came to have Marco Polo's travels so well recorded for posterity?

4. In "The Land Curtain comes Down"

- (a) What natural events led to the fall of the Mongolian Empire? In the mid-1300s, Was the leadership of the Empire in the hands of a strong leader or a hedonist?
- (b) Who was Hung Wu? How did he bring down the eastern part of the Empire and how did he do it? What year was this?
- (c) For about how many years were the land paths to the east open under the Mongols?
- (c) What happened after the fall of the Mongols? What were the implications for Europe? In what political/economic direction did China head?