

Connections and Contacts in Era 3: Exchanging ideas, technologies, and goods in the age of empire

? What's the BIG deal?

- Life during the Age of Empires in Afroeurasia (Era 3) was also characterized by increasing contact and connection that spread ideas, belief systems, commercial goods, and technologies between peoples across the vast region.
- These exchange networks also connected people across different ecological zones; for example, nomadic peoples of the Asian steppes were in contact with agricultural peoples in river valley areas.
- Stable empires needed ever-increasing access to new resources and ideas, so they created the conditions that allowed for trade to expand.
- As exchanges increased, so did collective learning across the region. Technologies developed and spread, including iron, which lead to marked changes in human societies.