Chapter 15 (current T and E textbook)

Group 1:

What factors led to the collapse of unified rule in India before and after the reign of Harsha?

* Local authority too powerful (regional influences); desire for land among local leaders
* Lack of system of succession
* Pressure from Central Asian groups contributes to disunity

When and how did Islam enter NORTHERN India?

* Merchants into Indus River region (modern day Afghanistan, Pakistan, NW India)
* Married into local culture; urban focus
* Early 8th century
* Turkish involvement into NW India

Group 2:

How did geography and climate affect Indian Ocean trade?

* Connected along very extended coastline
* Land trade difficult due to Mtns. (focus on sea trade)
* Monsoon winds dictated trade periods

How was it that Buddhism declined after Muslim invasions but Hinduism did not?

* Turks invaded and destroyed Buddhist temples…. Benefit to Hinduism
* Salvation focus…. Competition from Hinduism limited numbers
* Longer tradition of Hinduism
* Hindu resistance to Islam

Group 3:

Caste system (flexible or rigid in postclassical era)

* Flexible: Turkish migrants altered the system (evolution of jati)
* Trade guilds led to more occupations within castes
* Expansion led to changes in rigidity

Inflexible:

Brahmins, Kshatriyans dominate and this remains unchanged

Reality of daily life was that caste was dictated by birth and unalterable

How did Indian agriculture improve during the post-classical era and how did it impact other areas around India?

* Irrigation (man-made lakes) = surplus
* Southern region plus Sri Lanka, Ceylon
* Population explosion/urban density

Group 4:

To what extent did Indian culture penetrate Southeast Asia before the arrival of Muslim merchants (8th century)?

* Political: kingship (Raji)
* Literature: Intellectual with promotion of Hindu values…. Sanskrit language
* Religious: expansion of Hindu port cities in SE Asia

When did Islam reach southeast Asia and where did it take root?

8th century -10th century. Indian Ocean port cities. Malaka important for its expansion into SE Asia