

Eight Components of the Western Ascendancy 1450–2006

- I. “Western” —area “whose culture and society are most influenced by traditions rooted in Greek and Roman culture and in Christianity” (*Encarta World English Dictionary*, s.v. “West”)

- II. The Eight Components and the Historical Periods with Which Their Origins Are Associated
 - A. Competitive Spirit—Renaissance
 1. artistic
 2. commercial—profit motive and beginnings of capitalism
 3. political

 - B. Widespread Literacy — Reformation
 1. literacy — printing press; Bible translated into local languages
 2. “Everyman his own priest” — people can decide for themselves

 - C. Constitutionalism— English Revolution
 1. democratic institutions constitutionally guaranteed
 2. checks and balances built into system
 3. bringing of lower social classes into the governing process

 - D. Implementation of Scientific Thinking — Scientific Revolution
 1. “spirit of number and reason” — trivium and quadrivium
 2. experimentation and measurement
 3. government support of scientific research

 - E. Secularization of Society — Enlightenment
 1. secularization of social practices and ways of thinking
 2. separation of Church and State
 3. application of scientific method to social problems

 - F. Nationalism— French Revolution
 1. equality before the law
 2. metric system
 3. medical advances
 4. merit promotion//professionalism

 - G. Industrialization— Industrial Revolution
 1. capitalism replaces mercantilism
 2. incentives to spur technological innovation
 3. market economy//free trade
 4. urbanization

 - H. Equal Opportunity for Women — 20th Century
 1. right to vote
 2. right to work outside home
 3. legal, social, economic, and political equality

The Shape of the World during the Early Modern Period

I. Geographical Overview

A. Land Masses

B. Oceans, Seas, and Bays

C. River Systems

II. Types of State Formations (Dynasty → Nation-State)

A. Empires (mostly agrarian based)

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|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ottoman | 5. Vijayanara (S. India) |
| 2. Sharifian | 6. Ming |
| 3. Safavid | 7. Mataram (Java) |
| 4. Mughal | 8. Inca |

B. Small-scale City-States (often coastal; usually trade based)

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|------------|-------------|
| 1. Kilwa | 5. Genoa |
| 2. Hormuz | 6. Melaka |
| 3. Calicut | 7. Novgorod |
| 4. Venice | 8. Sofala |

C. City-States That Become Empires

1. Tenochtitlan → Mexica (Aztec) Empire
2. Muscovy → Russian Empire

D. Overseas Empires

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|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Portuguese | 4. Dutch |
| 2. Spanish | 5. French |
| 3. British | |

III. Demographics

	<i>World</i>	<i>Asia</i>	<i>China</i>
1500	335 mil.–375 mil.	200 mil.–225 mil.	80 mil.
1650	500 mil.	300 mil.	110 mil.
1750	700 mil.	420 mil.	180 mil.

Select Cities (Population in Early 16th-cent.)

Beijing	672,000	Guar (India)	200,000
Vijayanagar	500,000	Paris	180,000
Cairo	400,000	Kyoto	150,000
Hangzhou	250,000	Melaka	100,000–200,000
Tabriz	250,000	Tenochtitlan	100,000–200,000
Istanbul	200,000	London	100,000–150,000