Regional Outline for East Asia (China, Japan, Koreas, Vietnam)

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|   | 8000 – 600 CE | 600 – 1450 CE | 1450-1750 CE | 1750 – 1914 CE | 1914 - Present |
| Politics     | Dynasties with emperors- mandate of heavenStart of bureaucracy/meritocracy,Start of Civil Service Exam  | Japan borrowed from ChinaIncreased bureaucracyTributary systemConstant threat from NorthPrince Shotoku then daimyos | Fall of Ming from internal/external - ManchuJapan: Warring States Period to Tokogawa ShogunateCentralized rule | Abdication of Qing, unification of ChinaFight for control with MaoJapan: abolishes feudalism, Civil code, regional govsNationalism = huge force | Decolonization from Europe Nominally democraticTensions- China and WestUSSR/China splitBirth of Chinese RepublicJapan: parliamentary capitalism |
| Economy     | Lots of money flowing in from Silk RoadsOtherwise agriculturalCivilization initially in river valleys | Paper moneyCredit or “flying money”High taxes cause peasant revoltsSerfs bound to land | China:  trade with Europeans in Qing Japan: manufacturing, merchant class get wealth and power , urbanization, population growth | Provide labor for plantations/minesMeiji Restoration- quickly industrialized in Japan | Modernization of Japan, Taiwan, South KoreaPost- industrial/high-techLess affected by global depressionNeed natural resources |
| Social Class/Gender    | PatriarchalConfucian principlesWomen only power in courtScholars/officials → military → artisansFew live in cities | Code of Bushido- chivalryWomen lost freedom in Japan, Foot-binding | Foreigners allowed in ChinaManchus higher than Chinese Japan: hierarchy becomes unbreakable, samurai at toplower class women more free – upper obey or die | Rigid Tokogawa hierarchy endedMiddle class grows powerLower classes- horrible  conditions, taxed a lot | Slow to embrace/tolerate diversity and individualismHigh degree/variety social servicesRise of feminism- suffrageWomen went worked WWIIFoot binding outlawed |
| Science/Inventions     | Iron AgeModernized armyPaper, accurate sundials/calendars, agriculture improvements (plow) | Gunpowder for militaryBoasts = junksNavigation/block printingIron productionAgriculture technique → population → cities  | Gunpowder more prevalentGlobalization of trade | British introduced opium to ChinaWesternization of Japan- steamships/railroadsCommunication revolution | Atomic bombsNuclear weaponry Militarism in JapanComputer, internet, biotechnology and genetic science |
| Art/Architecture     | Brush paintingPalaces, Pottery | Infrastructure (roads, inns, postal stations)Japan: haiku, pencil sketches, ink sketches, Noh drama, tea ceremony  | Japan: kabuki theatre replaces restrained drama,Woodblock prints = art form, borrowed Korean ceramics and western oil painting | Artistic styles change more rapidly and radically than ever before | Theme for lit- resisting USNew style= cubismMovie industryUse of concrete and glassNew skepticism |
| Empire     | Collapse of empires in China from internal problems – economic depression, natural catastrophe, social unrest | Mongol empires – conquer China, but fail in Japan → replaced by Ottoman  Turks and Ju Yuanzahng of Ming dynasty  | Japan empire centralizedFall of the Manchu empireInteraction with west = China – relatively isolated, Japan- periods of isolation and acceptance | The fall of China – opium wars, internal rebellions, external lasses, Boxer RebellionJapanese imperialism- Taiwan, Korea, Russia | Japan- WWII- invades Manchuria, China, Siberia – taking over Southeast Asia,Bomb Pearl Harbor – brings US into war → atomic bomb → US occupies Japan |
| Religion     | Polytheism, animism ancestor worshipConfucianism, LegalismDaoism, also spread of Buddhism from India | Buddhist missionariesShinto religionInfluenced by monotheistic religionsNeo- Confucian thought | New sects of Buddhism from China to JapanNeo- Confucianism increase(ethnocentric, historicism, rationalism) | Scientific/secular world becomes dominant | Religious fundamentalismWestern appreciation for science spread |