I. Western European Revival: (1000-1200)

Role of Technology:
Population Increased
Agriculture Increased
Resurgence of trade
Kings strengthened control

Reason: New technology:
Iron horseshoes
Heavy moldboard plow – cut and turned soil
Horse collar
Breast-strap harness

Self-governing cities

Historians not sure of origins of horse collar and breast-strap harness. Central Asia? Or Tunisia and Libya?
Why start using teams of horses rather than slower and weaker oxen to plow?

Rebirth of trade:
Independent self-governing cities – 1st emerged in Italy and Flanders
Manufacturing and trade
Legal independence (favored manufacturing and trade)

Italy
Venice – dominant sea power
-traded in Moslem ports – spices and other goods

Flanders:
Ghent – imported wool from England and manufactured it – exported

Increase in high-value gold and silver coins
Mid-12th Century – Europeans minted first silver and then gold coins

The Crusades: 1095-1204
-Series of Christian military campaigns against Moslems in eastern Mediterranean

Factors:
Religious zeal
Church-sanctioned warfare
Desire for land by younger sons of European nobility
Interest in trade
Reason for focus on region:
Tradition of pilgrimages
Moslem control of Christian religious sites
Byzantine Empire’s requests for help

Pope Urban II in 1095 – 1st Crusade
-Called on Europeans to stop fighting one another and fight the Moslems

Impact:
Limited impact on Moslem world
Crusades ended intellectual isolation
Example: Gave access to Arabic and Greek manuscripts on the works of ancient Greek Philosophers
Significant impact on lifestyles of European elite

Comparative:

Church differences between Western Europe and Byzantine Empire
-Different theological viewpoints and customs

Western Europe – Latin
Eastern Europe – Greek

Tensions kept on growing between the Pope and Patriarch of Constantinople

Eastern Church – influenced by Arab conquests of 7th Century, while Western Church was not

Arab conquests interrupted communication between east and west: led to more distinctions

Initially, Byzantine Empire – followed Roman political and legal heritage that faded in the west

East – enjoyed more economic prosperity and sophistication in arts and cultures than the west

Western Europe – broke into dozens of provincial states
Byzantines – remained unified

Christianity was more embedded in eastern society than west
Western Europe = better military technologies, new agriculture, technology, population growth, and trading networks

Result: Byzantine’s decrease in prosperity and cultural innovation compared to the west