

Background Conditions, Good or Bad, of All Eurasian Civilizations before 1500, Which Merely Intensified Later

Literary, artistic, and scientific flowering	Slavery and its trade [especially in Middle East]
Respect for learning; universities	Wide and deep internal trade and markets
Education of elite	Good internal transportation, especially unimproved rivers, canals, and coastal ships
Printing and paper	Temperate climate
Compass	(-) Onset of Little Ice Age (1300-1850) after climatic maximum before 1300
Clocks [but especially in Europe]	(-) Malaria
Monotheism [especially in Europe including Orthodoxy, and in Muslim world]	(-? or +?) The Plague
Peace and bourgeois prosperity [less in Europe]	Desire for profit
Urbanization [less so in northern Europe]	Rule of law
(-? or +?) High death rates in cities	Property rights
Competent bureaucracy [especially in China]	Money [in China even paper money]
High seed/yield ratios [not in Europe, which did not have much rice, or any maize]	Reasonably sophisticated financial institutions
Investment capability [less so in Europe: see yield/seed ratio]	High incomes in a few favored places
Wide long-distance trade [less so in Europe]	Coal widely used [China, India, Europe]

Incidental Events 1500 to the Present, Not Contributing Much to the Great Fact

Protestant ethic

Thrift

Rise of rationality

Rise of greed

Spanish and Portuguese imperialism

The Price Revolution

Dutch, British, French trade (except as contributing
to bourgeois dignity)

Dutch, British, French imperialism

Slave trade

Rises in the rate of saving

Original accumulation of capital

Surplus value, reinvestment

Routine investment

Exploitation of the working class

Science (until around 1900)

(-) Sustained high prestige of aristocracy and gentry

Routine transportation improvement (canals,
harbors)

English genetics

English social inheritance

Stuart missteps and taxation

The Glorious Revolution

Institutional change