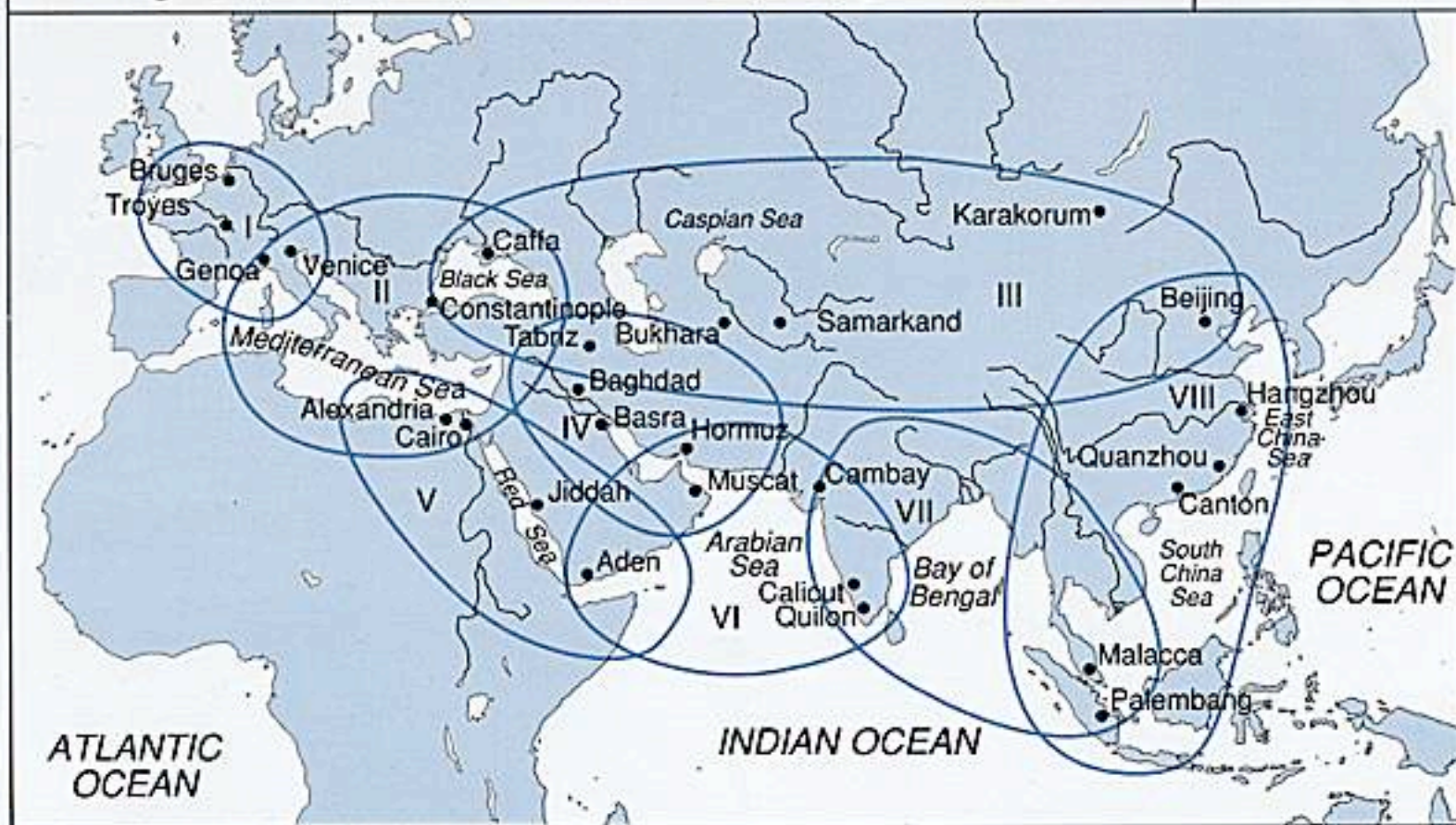


The Asia-centered  
World Economy to the  
16th Century

## The Eight Circuits of the Thirteenth-Century World Systems



1. The (Sinocentric) World Order:  
The Tribute System

# The Emperor (Son of Heaven)

- ◆ As ruler of All Under Heaven
- ◆ As apex of civilization
- ◆ As custodian of cosmic order



*The Ming Emperor Yongle*

# Maintenance of Hierarchies = Civilization

- ◆ Within & beyond the realm's core territory
- ◆ Marks the civilized from the barbaric
- ◆ The kowtow (k'o-t'ou)

磕頭



### 3 Zones of Tributary Relations

- ◆ Síníc zone: Korea, Vietnam, Ryukyus, (Japan)
- ◆ Inner Asía zone: Mongolia, Tíbet, and Central Asía realms
- ◆ Outer zone: Russia, Portugal, Holland, England, and other less civilized realms



# Types of Bilateral Trade within the Tribute System

- ◆ Gift trade (and “re-gifting”)
- ◆ Market trade at frontier “ports of trade”
- ◆ Administered trade at Beijing and ports

# The Nature of Tribute-Trade

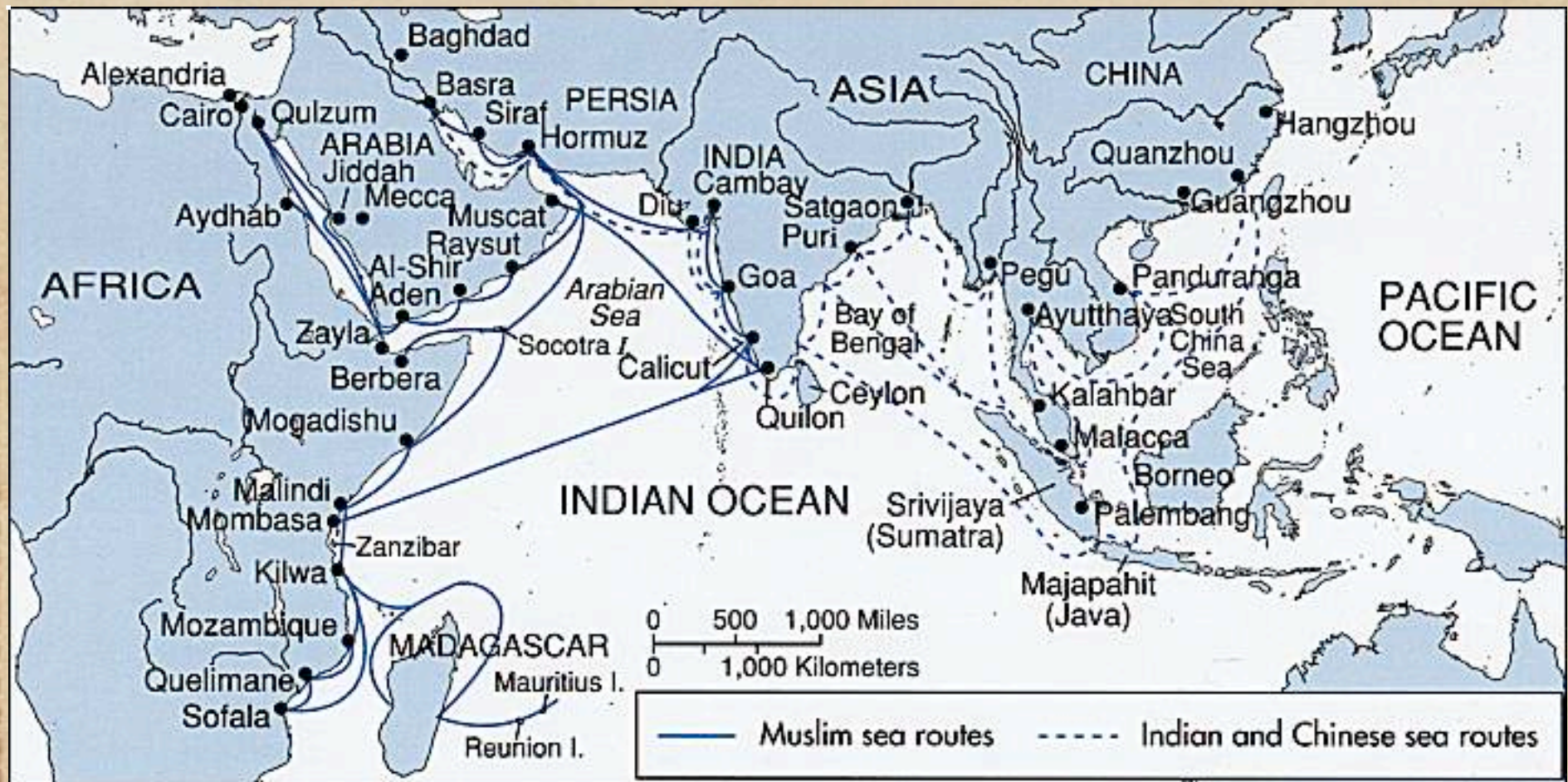
- ◆ Ceremony & commerce intertwined
- ◆ Confirmation of Emperor's position and affirmation of civilization
- ◆ Trade & political recognition for tributary states
- ◆ Provided framework for relatively peaceful economic exchange

## 2. The Indian Ocean Trade Circuits

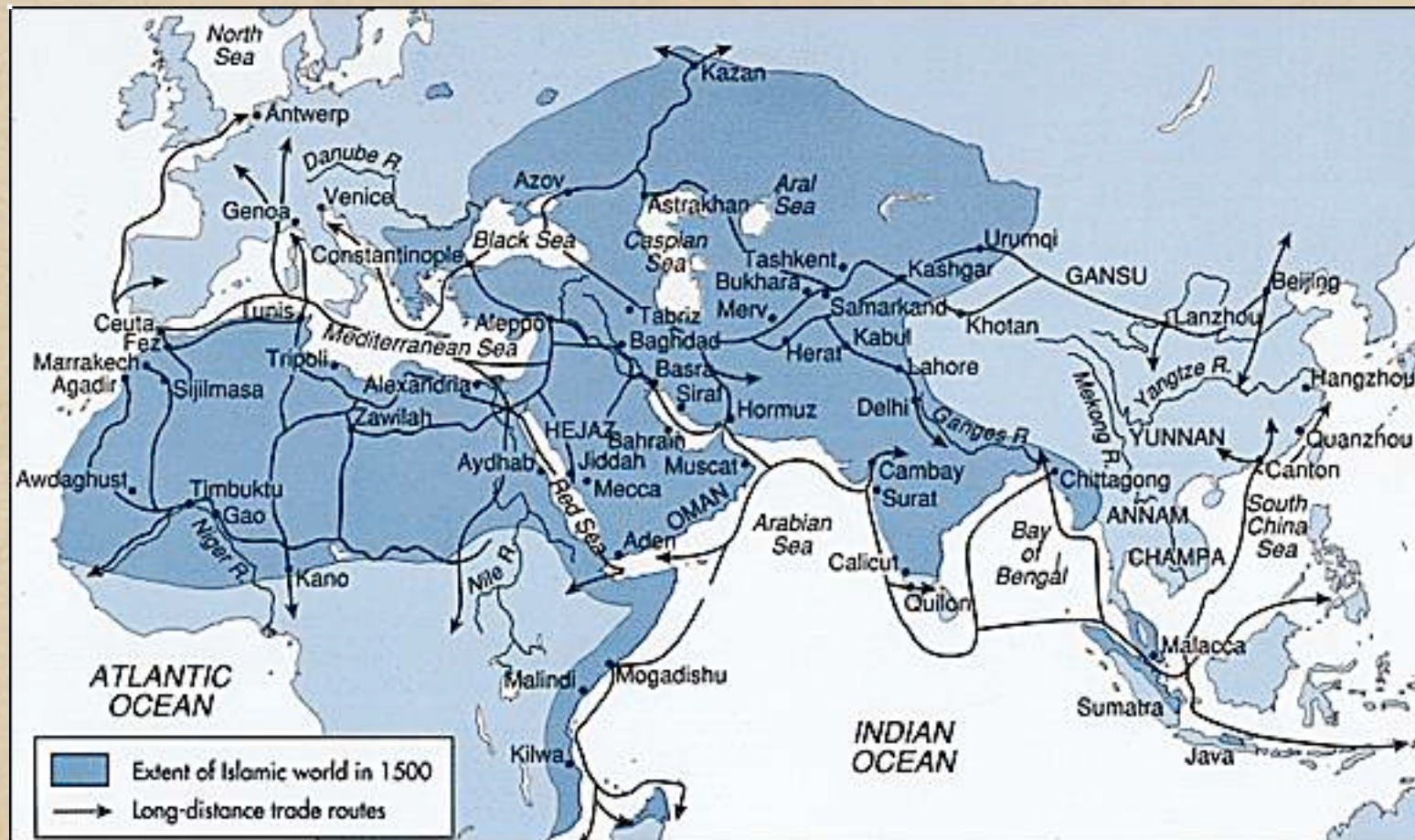
### 3 Interlocking Circuits Centered on Indian Ocean

- ◆ Arabian Sea
- ◆ Indian Ocean (Bay of Bengal)
- ◆ South China Sea

# Afro-Asian Maritime Connections, circa 1400



# Afro-Eurasian Trade Routes & Centers



# East African Swahili City-States

- ◆ Afro-Asian trade led to powerful city-states on East African coast
- ◆ Traded with inland African kingdoms (gold, ivory, iron)
- ◆ Cotton, silk, porcelain from Asia
- ◆ Swahili language, culture, & ethnic group born of mix



# Links to S.E. & East Asia: The Entrepôt of Malacca

