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| **Theme** | **Basic feature at beginning of the period** | **Key continuities** | **Key changes** | **Basic features end of the period** | **Reasons for change** |
| **Global trade** | Localized regional trading, e.g Hanseatic league. | Japan, Russia and China remain isolated | Global trading  Atlantic, Indian ocean | Mercantilistic  Systems.  Colonial powers competing. | Improvements in technology (Ship building and navigation) |
| **Human effects on environment** | Increased urbanization | Farming systems | Migration of crops and animals (Columbian exchange) | Enclosure of land in the UK and better farming techniques lead to greater output and larger farms. | Increase in population.  Innovation from the beginning of industrialization. |
| **Labor systems** | Feudal (English and Spanish) | Majority still peasants  Forced labor of conquered peoples  Russia stays the same.  Japan stays the same. | Development of Atlantic slave trade | Slavery. | Death of natives due to disease. |
| **Demography** | No major population explosion |  |  | Mixed marriages | Colonists interacting with Natives |