

**HIS4B05 HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL WORLD**  
**MODULE-4 TRANSFORMATION OF MEDIEVAL**  
**WORLD**

**TOPIC : TRADE AND URBANIZATION**



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- By 9<sup>th</sup> C –trade of medieval Europe became stable-when South Mediterranean region was conquered by Arabs
- Same time Emperor Charlemagne expanded his kingdom in to France, Germany, Northern Italy & Balkan region
- Both these territorial expansions brought changes in the existing economic systems
- Arab conquests led to revival of trade



- Revival of trade- emergence of towns & revival of old towns
- Led to the emergence of town centered economic system
- By the end of medieval period new trade routes emerged connecting distant regions
- Formation of guilds led to the transfer of power from village to towns
- By the end of 10<sup>th</sup> C - rich people from Venice in Italy entered in trading activities- had trade contacts with Byzantine Empire & Arab world



- Exported- Grains, wine, glass, salt
- Imported- silk, spices & other luxury items
- England- exported woolen
- France & Spain- exported wine to England
- Trade fairs conducted for the promotion of trade
- People from different regions visited trade fairs for buying & selling commodities
- New products from orient countries were introduced in Europe by Arabs



- Products from India & China were brought to Mediterranean region by Arabs & from there they were taken in to different parts of Europe
- Up to 15<sup>th</sup> C- Spain dominated trade with orient countries
- Mediterranean region flourished through Silk & spice trade
- Venice, Genoa, Pisa- Italian towns become important trading centres



- By 12<sup>th</sup> C – Germany also interfered in trade-controlled trade of Baltic & North Sea region
- Hanseatic league- to protect interest of traders & to improve trading conditions- maintained by German traders- members were also from Germany- controlled trade of North Sea – Baltic Sea regions- expand trade to Russia, England, Sweden & Norway
- By 14<sup>th</sup> C expansion of trade led to the emergence of 2 trade routes
  1. connecting Mediterranean region & North Europe through Gibraltar



2. connecting North Italy with North Europe through Alpine pass

- Both trade routes led to the expansion of European trade with other parts of world
- By 10<sup>th</sup> C old Roman towns were fully abandoned or used for other purposes- Most of them become forts, monasteries, churches
- But in the end of medieval period all these towns began to revive due to the development of trade



- Traders, artisans, craftsman- moved to towns
- Towns – became a shelter for people conducting long distance trade
- Also became an exchange centre for products
- By 12<sup>th</sup> C all old Roman towns revived
- Craftsman, artisans, traders settled in nearby regions of towns where they built workshops & godowns
- In the meanwhile teachers, medical practioners scribes, cobbler, barber, tailor, butchers etc were moved to towns





- Towns were existed in river valleys- because rivers were more suitable for transportation of goods
- Guilds also helped in the development of towns
- Towns emerged in different parts in different forms
- In Spain, Italy, Southern France- continuation of old Roman towns
- in Northern France, Belgium, Netherland – new towns emerged along with the revival of old towns
- In Britain- new towns emerged