APWH: Chapter 15 Reading Guide Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The World in 1450:

Changing Balance of World Power

1. How did the invention of the compass impact sea travel?

*Key Changes in the Middle East*

1. By the end of the postclassical era, who had defeated the Byzantine Empire, and who defeated the Islamic caliphate?
2. Which region particularly benefited from cultural diffusion created by the Mongol Empire? How? What type of trade routes gained prominence as the Mongol Empire declined?
3. What new venture did the Ming government support? Which individual led these? What did the abrupt halt of these expeditions reveal about bureaucratic preferences?

*The Rise of the West*

1. What economic and demographic challenges was Europe facing in the 14th and 15th centuries?
2. What key technologies did Europe borrow from Asia during the Mongol period?
3. What drove Europe to seek out sources of gold?
4. What new Muslim Empire did Europe consider a threat? How did this influence exploration?
5. What political and cultural movement will Europe experience in the next era? Where was its center?
6. Leaders of what religion gained control of Spain? How did they treat other religions? How did leaders’ religious views influence exploration?

*Western Expansion: The Experimental Phase*

1. What innovations and technological advances positioned Europe to embark on more ambitious sea ventures as the postclassical era was coming to a close?
2. What cash crops did Spain and Portugal introduce to the islands nearby that they colonized? Who worked in these fields?

*Outside the World Network*

1. What challenges did the Aztec Empire face as the postclassical era was coming to an end? Why was the Inca Empire weakened?
2. What “theme” defined Polynesia during the postclassical era? What islands did Polynesians settle in this era that your book mentions? What type of political system did they typically adopt?
3. What did the settlers on New Zealand call themselves? Did Polynesian island groupings have more contact with each other before *or* after the postclassical era?
4. According to the “Thinking Historically” box on page 348, what is ethnocentrism? What is an example of ethnocentrism from a Western perspective?