

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources for the AP® Course

AP® Skills Workshop Activity Handout: Claims

Chapter 7: Commerce and Culture

Name _____

Date _____ Class _____

1. Activity: Identifying a Claim. Let's begin working with claims by reading Historians' Voices 7.1 (page 315). Do you agree or disagree that the following is the main claim made by the historian? Explain.

From the eighteenth century, as a result above all of Marco's silence about many things in the China of his own time, the suspicion has been aroused in some readers that we are faced here with a fiction, the nagging doubt that the whole of Marco's story of having been to China is untrue.

2. Activity: Identifying a Claim. Now, read Historians' Voices 7.2 (page 315) and see if you can determine the claim.

3. Activity: Creating a Claim. Now that you have had some practice identifying professional historians' claims, let's see if you can create your own. To make it easier, you will have an AP® World History-style prompt to answer:

Using the information in Map 7.4 (page 298) and the information on the gold, salt, and slave trade from pages 296 to 300, evaluate the extent to which the Sahara Desert proved a barrier to trade.

Remember to create a claim that answers the prompt, takes a stance on the issue that could be debatable, and goes beyond a simple listing of factors or causes so that it ties the evidence together.
