

# White Lotus Society Ap World History



## **White Lotus Society: A Deep Dive for AP World History Students**

The White Lotus Society. The name conjures images of serene monks and peaceful contemplation, right? Wrong. This seemingly innocuous title masks a history of bloody rebellions and complex social movements that significantly impacted late imperial China. For AP World History students, understanding the White Lotus Society is crucial for mastering key concepts surrounding peasant unrest, religious syncretism, and the decline of the Ming Dynasty. This comprehensive guide will unravel the complexities of the White Lotus Society, providing the context and analysis you need to ace your exams and truly grasp its historical significance.

## **Understanding the Roots: Origins and Beliefs of the White Lotus Society**

The White Lotus Society wasn't a single, monolithic entity. Instead, it evolved over centuries, morphing and adapting to changing circumstances. Its origins are shrouded in some mystery, with some tracing its roots back to a syncretic Buddhist sect in the Yuan Dynasty. However, what consistently defined the society was its millenarian ideology. This meant its followers believed in an imminent arrival of a messianic figure who would usher in an era of peace and prosperity, often explicitly linked to a cyclical view of history and the overthrow of corrupt rulers.

#### Key tenets of the White Lotus belief system:

**Messianic Expectations:** A core belief centered around the imminent arrival of a savior figure,

typically linked to Maitreya Buddha or a similar redemptive deity.

Religious Syncretism: The society blended Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian elements, creating a uniquely adaptable belief system that resonated with diverse populations.

Secret Society Structure: Operating largely underground, the society utilized a hierarchical structure with secret rituals and codes, making it difficult for authorities to infiltrate and suppress.

## **The White Lotus Rebellions: Waves of Uprising and Imperial Response**

The White Lotus Society's history is punctuated by numerous uprisings, each reacting to specific socio-economic and political conditions. These rebellions weren't always coordinated nationwide efforts; instead, they frequently manifested as localized outbursts fueled by widespread discontent.

#### Significant White Lotus Rebellions to consider for AP World History:

The Late Yuan Rebellion (14th Century): This early rebellion showcased the society's potential for large-scale mobilization, even against a powerful empire.

The Ming Dynasty Rebellions (15th-18th Centuries): These rebellions, often sparked by heavy taxation, corruption, and famine, significantly weakened the Ming Dynasty, ultimately contributing to its fall.

The Significance of Peasant Participation: The society's appeal to the peasantry, particularly those suffering from economic hardship, was a critical factor in its success in mobilizing support.

Understanding the socio-economic grievances is vital for analyzing these rebellions.

## **The Impact of the White Lotus Society on Chinese History**

The White Lotus Society's influence extended far beyond its immediate military actions. It left a lasting mark on Chinese history through:

Highlighting Systemic Issues: The rebellions exposed deep-seated problems within the ruling dynasties, including corruption, ineffective governance, and social inequality. This contributed to the cyclical nature of Chinese dynastic change.

Shaping Peasant Consciousness: The society played a vital role in fostering a sense of collective identity and agency amongst the peasantry. This collective action became a recurring theme in later Chinese revolutionary movements.

Impact on Imperial Strategies: The Ming and Qing dynasties implemented various strategies to counter White Lotus uprisings, shaping their administrative and military policies.

## **Analyzing the White Lotus Society for AP World History Exams**

To successfully analyze the White Lotus Society for your AP World History exam, focus on these key themes:

The role of religion and ideology in social and political movements: How did the society's millenarian beliefs contribute to its appeal and mobilization efforts?

The relationship between peasant unrest and imperial authority: How did the society's actions challenge and ultimately impact the stability of the ruling dynasties?

The importance of understanding social and economic contexts: Analyzing the socio-economic factors that fueled the rebellions is crucial for a thorough understanding of the society's impact.

By understanding these themes and applying them to specific examples of White Lotus activity, you will be well-prepared to tackle any AP World History essay question or multiple-choice question related to this significant historical movement.

## Conclusion

The White Lotus Society serves as a powerful case study in the complexities of religious movements, peasant revolts, and the cyclical nature of dynastic change in Chinese history. Its lasting impact on Chinese politics, social structure, and popular consciousness underscores its importance within the broader context of AP World History. Thoroughly understanding its history will not only enhance your exam performance but also broaden your understanding of a pivotal period in East Asian history.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Was the White Lotus Society always violent? No, while the society is primarily known for its violent uprisings, its activities also involved peaceful religious practices and community building. The level of violence varied greatly depending on specific circumstances.
2. How did the government respond to the White Lotus Society's activities? Governments responded with a combination of military suppression, economic reforms (sometimes ineffective), and attempts to co-opt or infiltrate the society.
3. What were the long-term consequences of the White Lotus rebellions? The rebellions weakened the Ming Dynasty significantly, contributing to its eventual collapse and the rise of the Qing. They also highlighted the vulnerability of imperial power to widespread peasant unrest.
4. How did the White Lotus Society utilize religious syncretism to its advantage? The blending of Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucian beliefs broadened its appeal across different social groups and allowed for flexibility in adapting its message to local contexts.
5. What primary sources can I use to learn more about the White Lotus Society? Primary sources are limited and often fragmented. However, you can find valuable information through examining official government records, accounts from participants (where available), and analysis of the rebellions'

geographical impact and consequences. Scholarly secondary sources are crucial for piecing together a comprehensive picture.

**white lotus society ap world history: Cracking the AP World History Exam** Monty Armstrong, David Daniel, Princeton Review (Firm), Abby Kanarek, Alexandra Freer, 2004-02-03 The Princeton Review realizes that acing the AP World History Exam is very different from getting straight A's in school. We don't try to teach you everything there is to know about world history-only what you'll need to score higher on the exam. There's a big difference. In *Cracking the AP World History Exam*, we'll teach you how to think like the test makers and -Focus on the key ideas and information by using the History Review, structured to help you wade through thousands of facts -Nail the essay questions by learning how to compare and contrast across civilizations and through the centuries -Learn time-tested Princeton Review techniques for answering multiple-choice questions and acing essays This book includes 2 full-length practice AP World History tests. All of our practice test questions are like the ones you'll see on the actual exam, and we fully explain every answer.

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**white lotus society ap world history: A Little History of the World** E. H. Gombrich, 2014-10-01 E. H. Gombrich's *Little History of the World*, though written in 1935, has become one of the treasures of historical writing since its first publication in English in 2005. The Yale edition alone has now sold over half a million copies, and the book is available worldwide in almost thirty languages. Gombrich was of course the best-known art historian of his time, and his text suggests illustrations on every page. This illustrated edition of the *Little History* brings together the pellucid humanity of his narrative with the images that may well have been in his mind's eye as he wrote the book. The two hundred illustrations—most of them in full color—are not simple embellishments, though they are beautiful. They emerge from the text, enrich the author's intention, and deepen the pleasure of reading this remarkable work. For this edition the text is reset in a spacious format, flowing around illustrations that range from paintings to line drawings, emblems, motifs, and symbols. The book incorporates freshly drawn maps, a revised preface, and a new index. Blending high-grade design, fine paper, and classic binding, this is both a sumptuous gift book and an enhanced edition of a timeless account of human history.

**white lotus society ap world history: The White Lotus War** Yingcong Dai, 2019-06-28 A Choice Outstanding Academic Title *The White Lotus War* (1796–1804) in central China marked the end of the Qing dynasty's golden age and the fatal weakening of the imperial system itself. What started as a local rebellion grew into a serious political crisis, as the central government was no longer able to operate its military machine. Yingcong Dai's comprehensive investigation reveals that the White Lotus rebels would have remained a relatively minor threat, if not for the Qing's ill-managed response. Dai shows that the officials in charge of the suppression campaign were half-hearted about the fight and took advantage of the campaign to pursue personal gains. She challenges assumptions that the Qing relied upon local militias to exterminate the rebels, showing instead that the hiring of civilians became a pretext for misappropriation of war funds, resulting in the devastatingly high cost of the war. The mishandled demilitarization of the militiamen prolonged the hostilities when many of the dismissed troops turned into rebels themselves. The war's long-term impact presaged the beginning of the disintegration of the Qing in the mid-nineteenth century and eruptions of the Taiping Rebellion and other uprisings. *The White Lotus War* will interest students and scholars of late imperial and modern Chinese history, as well as history buffs interested in the warfare of the early modern world.

**white lotus society ap world history: ELIZABETH CADY STANTON** NARAYAN CHANGDER, 2024-01-25 THE ELIZABETH CADY STANTON MCQ (MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS) SERVES AS A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR INDIVIDUALS AIMING TO DEEPEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS, CLASS TESTS, QUIZ COMPETITIONS, AND SIMILAR ASSESSMENTS. WITH ITS EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF MCQS, THIS BOOK EMPOWERS YOU TO

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**white lotus society ap world history: White Lotus Rebels and South China Pirates**

Wensheng Wang, 2014-01-06 The reign of Emperor Jiaqing (1796-1820 CE) has occupied an awkward position in studies of China's last dynasty, the Qing. Conveniently marking a watershed between the prosperous eighteenth century and the tragic post-Opium War era, this quarter century has nevertheless been glossed over as an unremarkable interlude separating two well-studied epochs of transformation. *White Lotus Rebels and South China Pirates* presents a major reassessment of this period by examining how the emperors, bureaucrats, and foreigners responded to the two crises that shaped the transition from the Qianlong to the Jiaqing reign. Wensheng Wang argues that the dramatic combination of internal uprising and transnational piracy, rather than being a hallmark of inexorable dynastic decline, propelled the Manchu court to reorganize itself through modifications in policymaking and bureaucratic structure. The resulting Jiaqing reforms initiated a process of state retreat that pulled the Qing Empire out of a cycle of aggressive overextension and resistance, and back onto a more sustainable track of development. Although this pragmatic striving for political sustainability was unable to save the dynasty from ultimate collapse, it represented a durable and constructive approach to the compounding problems facing the late Qing regime and helped sustain it for another century.

**white lotus society ap world history: The Confucian Persuasion** Arthur F. Wright, 1983

**white lotus society ap world history: *The Mongol Empire*** John Man, 2014-06-19

Genghis Khan is one of history's immortals: a leader of genius, driven by an inspiring vision for peaceful world rule. Believing he was divinely protected, Genghis united warring clans to create a nation and then an empire that ran across much of Asia. Under his grandson, Kublai Khan, the vision evolved into a more complex religious ideology, justifying further expansion. Kublai doubled the empire's size until, in the late 13th century, he and the rest of Genghis's 'Golden Family' controlled one fifth of the inhabited world. Along the way, he conquered all China, gave the nation the borders it has today, and then, finally, discovered the limits to growth. Genghis's dream of world rule turned out to be a fantasy. And yet, in terms of the sheer scale of the conquests, never has a vision and the character of one man had such an effect on the world. Charting the evolution of this vision, John Man provides a unique account of the Mongol Empire, from young Genghis to old Kublai, from a rejected teenager to the world's most powerful emperor.

**white lotus society ap world history: *The Conservation of Cave 85 at the Mogao Grottoes,***

*Dunhuang* Neville Agnew, Lori Wong, 2014-02-01 The Mogao Grottoes, a World Heritage Site in northwestern China, are located along the ancient caravan routes—collectively known as the Silk Road—that once linked China with the West. Founded by a Buddhist monk in the late fourth century, Mogao flourished over the following millennium, as monks, local rulers, and travelers commissioned hundreds of cave temples cut into a mile-long rock cliff and adorned them with vibrant murals. More than 490 decorated grottoes remain, containing thousands of sculptures and some 45,000 square meters of wall paintings, making Mogao one of the world's most significant sites of Buddhist art. In

1997 the Getty Conservation Institute, which had been working with the Dunhuang Academy since 1989, began a case study using the Late-Tang dynasty Cave 85 to develop a methodology that would stabilize the deteriorating wall paintings. This abundantly illustrated volume is the definitive report on the project, which was completed in 2010.

**white lotus society ap world history: Prominent Families of New York** Lyman Horace Weeks, 1898

**white lotus society ap world history: Historical Painting Techniques, Materials, and Studio Practice** Arie Wallert, Erma Hermens, Marja Peek, 1995-08-24 Bridging the fields of conservation, art history, and museum curating, this volume contains the principal papers from an international symposium titled Historical Painting Techniques, Materials, and Studio Practice at the University of Leiden in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from June 26 to 29, 1995. The symposium—designed for art historians, conservators, conservation scientists, and museum curators worldwide—was organized by the Department of Art History at the University of Leiden and the Art History Department of the Central Research Laboratory for Objects of Art and Science in Amsterdam. Twenty-five contributors representing museums and conservation institutions throughout the world provide recent research on historical painting techniques, including wall painting and polychrome sculpture. Topics cover the latest art historical research and scientific analyses of original techniques and materials, as well as historical sources, such as medieval treatises and descriptions of painting techniques in historical literature. Chapters include the painting methods of Rembrandt and Vermeer, Dutch 17th-century landscape painting, wall paintings in English churches, Chinese paintings on paper and canvas, and Tibetan thangkas. Color plates and black-and-white photographs illustrate works from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

**white lotus society ap world history: The Troubled Empire** Timothy Brook, 2013-03-11 The Mongol takeover in the 1270s changed the course of Chinese history. The Confucian empireÑa millennium and a half in the makingÑwas suddenly thrust under foreign occupation. What China had been before its reunification as the Yuan dynasty in 1279 was no longer what it would be in the future. Four centuries later, another wave of steppe invaders would replace the Ming dynasty with yet another foreign occupation. The Troubled Empire explores what happened to China between these two dramatic invasions. If anything defined the complex dynamics of this period, it was changes in the weather. Asia, like Europe, experienced a Little Ice Age, and as temperatures fell in the thirteenth century, Kublai Khan moved south into China. His Yuan dynasty collapsed in less than a century, but Mongol values lived on in Ming institutions. A second blast of cold in the 1630s, combined with drought, was more than the dynasty could stand, and the Ming fell to Manchu invaders. Against this backgroundÑthe first coherent ecological history of China in this periodÑTimothy Brook explores the growth of autocracy, social complexity, and commercialization, paying special attention to ChinaÕs incorporation into the larger South China Sea economy. These changes not only shaped what China would become but contributed to the formation of the early modern world.

**white lotus society ap world history: Hendrik Petrus Berlage** Hendrik Petrus Berlage, 1996-01-01 Hendrik Petrus Berlage, the Dutch architect and architectural philosopher, created a series of buildings and a body of writings from 1886 to 1909 that were among the first efforts to probe the problems and possibilities of modernism. Although his Amsterdam Stock Exchange, with its rational mastery of materials and space, has long been celebrated for its seminal influence on the architecture of the 20th century, Berlage's writings are highlighted here. Bringing together Berlage's most important texts, among them *Thoughts on Style in Architecture*, *Architecture's Place in Modern Aesthetics*, and *Art and Society*, this volume presents a chapter in the history of European modernism. In his introduction, Iain Boyd Whyte demonstrates that the substantial contribution of Berlage's designs to modern architecture cannot be fully appreciated without an understanding of the aesthetic principles first laid out in his writings.

**white lotus society ap world history: Transnationalism in Ancient and Medieval Societies** Michael C. Howard, 2014-01-10 While scholars have long documented the migration of

people in ancient and medieval times, they have paid less attention to those who traveled across borders with some regularity. This study of early transnational relations explores the routine interaction of people across the boundaries of empires, tribal confederacies, kingdoms, and city-states, paying particular attention to the role of long-distance trade along the Silk Road and maritime trade routes. It examines the obstacles voyagers faced, including limited travel and communication capabilities, relatively poor geographical knowledge, and the dangers of a fragmented and shifting political landscape, and offers profiles of better-known transnational elites such as the Hellenic scholar Herodotus and the Venetian merchant Marco Polo, as well lesser known servants, merchants, and sailors. By revealing the important political, economic, and cultural role cross-border trade and travel played in ancient society, this work demonstrates that transnationalism is not unique to modern times. Instructors considering this book for use in a course may request an examination copy here.

**white lotus society ap world history:** Global History with Chinese Characteristics Manuel Perez-Garcia, 2020-11-02 This open access book considers a pivotal era in Chinese history from a global perspective. This book's insight into Chinese and international history offers timely and challenging perspectives on initiatives like "Chinese characteristics", "The New Silk Road" and "One Belt, One Road" in broad historical context. Global History with Chinese Characteristics analyses the feeble state capacity of Qing China questioning the so-called "High Qing" (shèng qīng 盛清) era's economic prosperity as the political system was set into a "power paradox" or "supremacy dilemma". This is a new thesis introduced by the author demonstrating that interventionist states entail weak governance. Macao and Marseille as a new case study aims to compare Mediterranean and South China markets to provide new insights into both modern eras' rising trade networks, non-official institutions and interventionist impulses of autocratic states such as China's Qing and Spain's Bourbon empires.

**white lotus society ap world history:** The Origins of Ancient Vietnam Nam C. Kim, 2015-11-02 The Origins of Ancient Vietnam explores the origins of civilization in the Red River Delta of Vietnam and how related studies can inform our understanding of ancient societies, generally, and the foundations of Vietnamese culture, specifically. Long believed to be the cradle of Vietnamese civilization, this area has been referenced by Vietnamese and Chinese writers for centuries, many recording colorful tales and legends about the region's prehistory. One of the most enduring accounts relates the story of the Au Lac Kingdom and its capital of Co Loa. Founded during the third century BC, according to legend, the fortified city's ramparts still stand today. However, there are ongoing debates about the origins of the site, the validity of the literary accounts, and the link between the prehistoric past and later Vietnamese societies. The Han Empire's later annexation of the region, combined with the problematic accounts found in the Chinese chronicles, further complicates these questions. Recent decades of archaeology in the region have provided new perspectives for examining these issues. The material record reveals indigenous trajectories of cultural change throughout the prehistoric period, culminating in the emergence of a politically sophisticated society. Specifically, new data indicate the founding of Co Loa by an ancient state, centuries before the Han arrival. In The Origins of Ancient Vietnam, Nam Kim synthesizes the archaeological evidence for this momentous development, placing Co Loa within a wider, global setting of emergent cities, states, and civilizations.

**white lotus society ap world history:** Ways of the World, Volume 1 Robert W. Strayer, Eric W. Nelson, 2015-09-25 Ways of the World is one of the most successful and innovative textbooks for world history. The brief-by-design narrative is truly global and focuses on significant historical trends, themes, and developments in world history. Authors Robert W. Strayer, a pioneer in the world history movement with years of classroom experience, along with new co-author Eric W. Nelson, a popular and skilled teacher, provide a thoughtful and insightful synthesis that helps students see the big picture while teaching students to consider the evidence the way historians do.

**white lotus society ap world history:** The Nien Army and their guerrilla warfare 1851-1868 S. Y. Teng, 2020-10-26 No detailed description available for The Nien Army and their guerrilla warfare



1851-1868.

**white lotus society ap world history: History of Windham County, Connecticut: 1600-1760** Ellen Douglas Larned, 1874

**white lotus society ap world history: *A People's History of the World*** Chris Harman, 2017-05-02 Building on *A People's History of the United States*, this radical world history captures the broad sweep of human history from the perspective of struggling classes. An "indispensable volume" on class and capitalism throughout the ages—for readers reckoning with the history they were taught and history as it truly was (Howard Zinn) From the earliest human societies to the Holy Roman Empire, from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment, from the Industrial Revolution to the end of the twentieth century, Chris Harman provides a brilliant and comprehensive history of the human race. Eschewing the standard accounts of "Great Men," of dates and kings, Harman offers a groundbreaking counter-history, a breathtaking sweep across the centuries in the tradition of "history from below." In a fiery narrative, he shows how ordinary men and women were involved in creating and changing society and how conflict between classes was often at the core of these developments. While many scholars see the victory of capitalism as now safely secured, Harman explains the rise and fall of societies and civilizations throughout the ages and demonstrates that history moves ever onward in every age. A vital corrective to traditional history, *A People's History of the World* is essential reading for anyone interested in how society has changed and developed and the possibilities for further radical progress.

**white lotus society ap world history: *Borderland*** , 1893

**white lotus society ap world history: *Ways of the World with Sources for AP\*, Second Edition*** Robert W. Strayer, 2013-06-10 Comparisons, Connections, & Change—contexts for the particulars *Ways of the World* is the textbook preferred by AP World History teachers and students across North America. Like the AP course it supports, *Ways of the World* focuses on significant historical trends, themes, and developments in world history. Author Robert W. Strayer provides a thoughtful and insightful synthesis that helps students see the big picture. Each chapter then culminates with collections of primary sources (written and visual) organized around a particular theme, issue, or question, thus allowing students to consider the evidence the way historians do. The second edition includes a wealth of supporting resources and supplements for the AP course, including an AP Skills Primer and AP Chapter Wrap-Ups, and rolls out Bedford/St. Martin's new digital history tools, including LearningCurve, an adaptive quizzing engine that garners over a 90% student satisfaction rate, and LaunchPad, the all new interactive e-book and course space that puts high quality easy-to-use assessment at your fingertips. Featuring video, additional primary sources, a wealth of adaptive and summative quizzing, and more, LaunchPad cements student understanding of the text while helping them make progress toward learning outcomes. It's the best content joined up with the best technology.

**white lotus society ap world history: *Borderland*** William Thomas Stead, 1895

**white lotus society ap world history: *World Theosophy*** , 1931

**white lotus society ap world history: *History of the Persian Empire*** A. T. Olmstead, 2022-08-29 Out of a lifetime of study of the ancient Near East, Professor Olmstead has gathered previously unknown material into the story of the life, times, and thought of the Persians, told for the first time from the Persian rather than the traditional Greek point of view. The fullest and most reliable presentation of the history of the Persian Empire in existence.—M. Rostovtzeff

**white lotus society ap world history: *The Dynasties and Treasures of China*** Bamber Gascoigne, 1973

**white lotus society ap world history: *Native Peoples of the World*** Steven L. Danver, 2015-03-10 This work examines the world's indigenous peoples, their cultures, the countries in which they reside, and the issues that impact these groups.

**white lotus society ap world history: *Twentieth Century*** , 1891

**white lotus society ap world history: *In What Style Should We Build?*** Heinrich Hubsch, 1996-07-11 Hubsch's argument that the technical progress and changed living habits of the

nineteenth century rendered neoclassical principles antiquated is presented here along with responses to his essay by architects, historians, and critics over two decades.

**white lotus society ap world history: Islamic Gunpowder Empires** Douglas E. Streusand, 2018-05-04 Islamic Gunpowder Empires provides readers with a history of Islamic civilization in the early modern world through a comparative examination of Islam's three greatest empires: the Ottomans (centered in what is now Turkey), the Safavids (in modern Iran), and the Mughals (ruling the Indian subcontinent). Author Douglas Streusand explains the origins of the three empires; compares the ideological, institutional, military, and economic contributors to their success; and analyzes the causes of their rise, expansion, and ultimate transformation and decline. Streusand depicts the three empires as a part of an integrated international system extending from the Atlantic to the Straits of Malacca, emphasizing both the connections and the conflicts within that system. He presents the empires as complex polities in which Islam is one political and cultural component among many. The treatment of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal empires incorporates contemporary scholarship, dispels common misconceptions, and provides an excellent platform for further study.

**white lotus society ap world history: The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind** Julian Jaynes, 2000-08-15 National Book Award Finalist: "This man's ideas may be the most influential, not to say controversial, of the second half of the twentieth century."—Columbus Dispatch At the heart of this classic, seminal book is Julian Jaynes's still-controversial thesis that human consciousness did not begin far back in animal evolution but instead is a learned process that came about only three thousand years ago and is still developing. The implications of this revolutionary scientific paradigm extend into virtually every aspect of our psychology, our history and culture, our religion—and indeed our future. "Don't be put off by the academic title of Julian Jaynes's *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*. Its prose is always lucid and often lyrical...he unfolds his case with the utmost intellectual rigor."—The New York Times "When Julian Jaynes . . . speculates that until late in the twentieth millennium BC men had no consciousness but were automatically obeying the voices of the gods, we are astounded but compelled to follow this remarkable thesis."—John Updike, *The New Yorker* "He is as startling as Freud was in *The Interpretation of Dreams*, and Jaynes is equally as adept at forcing a new view of known human behavior."—American Journal of Psychiatry

**white lotus society ap world history: The Cambridge Illustrated History of China** Patricia Buckley Ebrey, 1999-05-13 A look at the over eight thousand year history and civilization of China.

**white lotus society ap world history: The Great Divergence** Kenneth Pomeranz, 2021-04-13 A landmark comparative history of Europe and China that examines why the Industrial Revolution emerged in the West *The Great Divergence* sheds light on one of the great questions of history: Why did sustained industrial growth begin in Northwest Europe? Historian Kenneth Pomeranz shows that as recently as 1750, life expectancy, consumption, and product and factor markets were comparable in Europe and East Asia. Moreover, key regions in China and Japan were no worse off ecologically than those in Western Europe, with each region facing corresponding shortages of land-intensive products. Pomeranz's comparative lens reveals the two critical factors resulting in Europe's nineteenth-century divergence—the fortunate location of coal and access to trade with the New World. As East Asia's economy stagnated, Europe narrowly escaped the same fate largely due to favorable resource stocks from underground and overseas. This Princeton Classics edition includes a preface from the author and makes a powerful historical work available to new readers.

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