

2018 AP World History Scoring Commentary

Evaluate the extent to which railroads affected the process of empire-building in Afro-Eurasia between 1860 and 1918.

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In Afro-Eurasia, between 1860 and 1918 railroads greatly benefited the process of Empire Building. The use and construction of railroads did so by allowing different regions of the world interact, provide reliable transportation, allowed the poor to work, and drew ideas and ambitions together. Railroads expanded all the way from Cairo to Capetown South Africa as an example of how “unbar baric” railroads made the world.

Both [document 7](#) and [document 6](#) support that people of the world were brought together by railroads. In [doc 7](#), it is stated that nationalities that were practically unknown to each other were finally beginning to drawn together between common ideals and ambitions. With all of this, countries such as India were molded into a unified state, as a beneficial cause of railroads. [Doc #6](#) suggests that the railroads kept the different regions in which they were built from remaining barbaric with beneficial and effective steps.

Transportation wise, railroads were the best. [Doc #3](#) suggests that the railroads that were built from Damascus Mecca (proposed) would allow for Muslims to have another source of transportation for Pilgrimage besides using foreign ships or riding on camel, which were ineffective and made Muslims subjected to humiliation. [Doc #4](#), which represents a map of the Railway “Cape to Cairo” which was a proposed railway from Cairo on the way to Cape town. Although never fully built, the railroad would have provided long distance, and easy transportation, making it beneficial even despite the railway bisecting lands between British territory.

Railways require large and long amounts of construction. [Document 2](#) suggests that the building of these railways would have provided a sustainable position of work for the poor. Shen Baozhen, who was a Qing dynasty official proposed this, as well as compared railways to the great wall, saying later generations would benefit from them. [Document #1](#) also supports this, stating that modes of transit would be ill able for passage, and that the railways would herd with masses out.

Railways allowed civilization to interact as a where they allowed the poor to obtain income, allowed Muslims to have a way of pilgrimaging without humiliating themselves, and for transit, communication between people who were not over aware of each other existed. All of this led to great advances aside from trade, once again making it beneficial

The response earned 1 point for **thesis/claim** because it claims in the introduction that railroads benefited empire- building by promoting interregional interaction, creating jobs, and providing transportation.

The response did not earn the point for **contextualization** because it is not attempted.

The response earned 1 point for using **evidence** from the documents because, although the contents of documents 2, 3, 6, and 7 are used to address the topic, only documents 4 and 7 are used to support an argument in response to the prompt.

The response did not earn the point for using **evidence beyond the documents** because it is not attempted.

The response did not earn the point for document **sourcing** because it is not attempted.

The response did not earn the point for demonstrating a **complex understanding** because it is not attempted.