First, I would like you to read the following chapters from Traditions and Encounters by Jerry Bentley—the course textbook that I have provided you and your parents with instructions for purchase.

Read chapters 13-16 in Bentley, Traditions and Encounters. You must use this book as your source. If you purchase Princeton Review over the summer, you could use that as well.

Second, let’s talk about the concept of change and continuity. We can observe changes that occur over the course of any historical time period in any region of the world: empires rise and fall; governments change; new technologies emerge and old ones become obsolete; new trade routes open. However, and at exactly the same time, some things do not change over the course of a time period: a trade route that existed at the beginning of a time period still operated at the end; before the industrial revolution, most technologies did not change at all; individual rulers came and went, but the form of governments did not change—until the 19th-20th centuries, nearly all states were monarchies. The last set of examples consists of continuities—things that do not change (or at least very much) over the course of a time period. Remember, changes and continuities coexist during a time period.

With these points in mind, here is what I would like you to do:

Write an approximately five-paragraph essay that identifies and analyzes three major changes and continuities in the history of the major Eurasian societies between c. 500 CE and c. 1300 CE.

- Your thesis must be in an introductory paragraph.
- The thesis should advance three claims: either two changes and one continuity or one change and two continuities.
- Body paragraphs should present evidence and examples supporting each claim made in the thesis.
- You do not have to provide any citations or a works cited page.
- Please follow MLA format: typed, double-spaced, page numbers, conventional font and margins etc.

You need to have completed this work by the first day of class in August.