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Review Questions

•Of the groups—Polynesians, Malays, Indians, Chinese, Arabs, and Europeans—discussed in this chapter and in Chapter 12, why do you think that the Europeans were the first to circumnavigate the globe?

•How did the Portuguese dis place the Arabs as the predominant maritime power in the Indian Ocean?

•Why do you think that Columbus could not, or did not, recognize that he had not reached East Asia? (There is no single correct answer to this question.)

•What were the demographic, economic, and social effects of the plague in the fourteenth century?

•What was the European Renaissance? To what did degree did it develop fromcont

acts with non-European peoples?.