

Polo and Pinto Primary Source Analysis

Instructions: Read Marco Polo's description of the city of Hangchow (modern Hangzhou, China) called "Description of the Great City of Kinsay (Hangchow) Which Is the Capital of the Whole Country of Manzi (South China)" through the link below. Write a short reflection, around one page double-spaced, comparing and contrasting Polo's description of Hangchow with Lourenco Pinto's description of Ubini in Igodomigodo (modern Benin City, Nigeria) that we discussed previously. What can we learn about these European's reflections on major non-European cities?

Text for Marco Polo's entry near bottom of the page -

https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/mongols/pop/menu/class_marco.htm#hangchow

Quote from Lourenco Pinto: "Great Benin, where the King resides, is larger than Lisbon, all the streets run straight and as far as the eyes can see. The houses are large, especially that of the king which is richly decorated and has Fine columns. The city is wealthy and industrious. It is so well governed that theft is unknown and the people live in such Security that they have no door to their houses."
