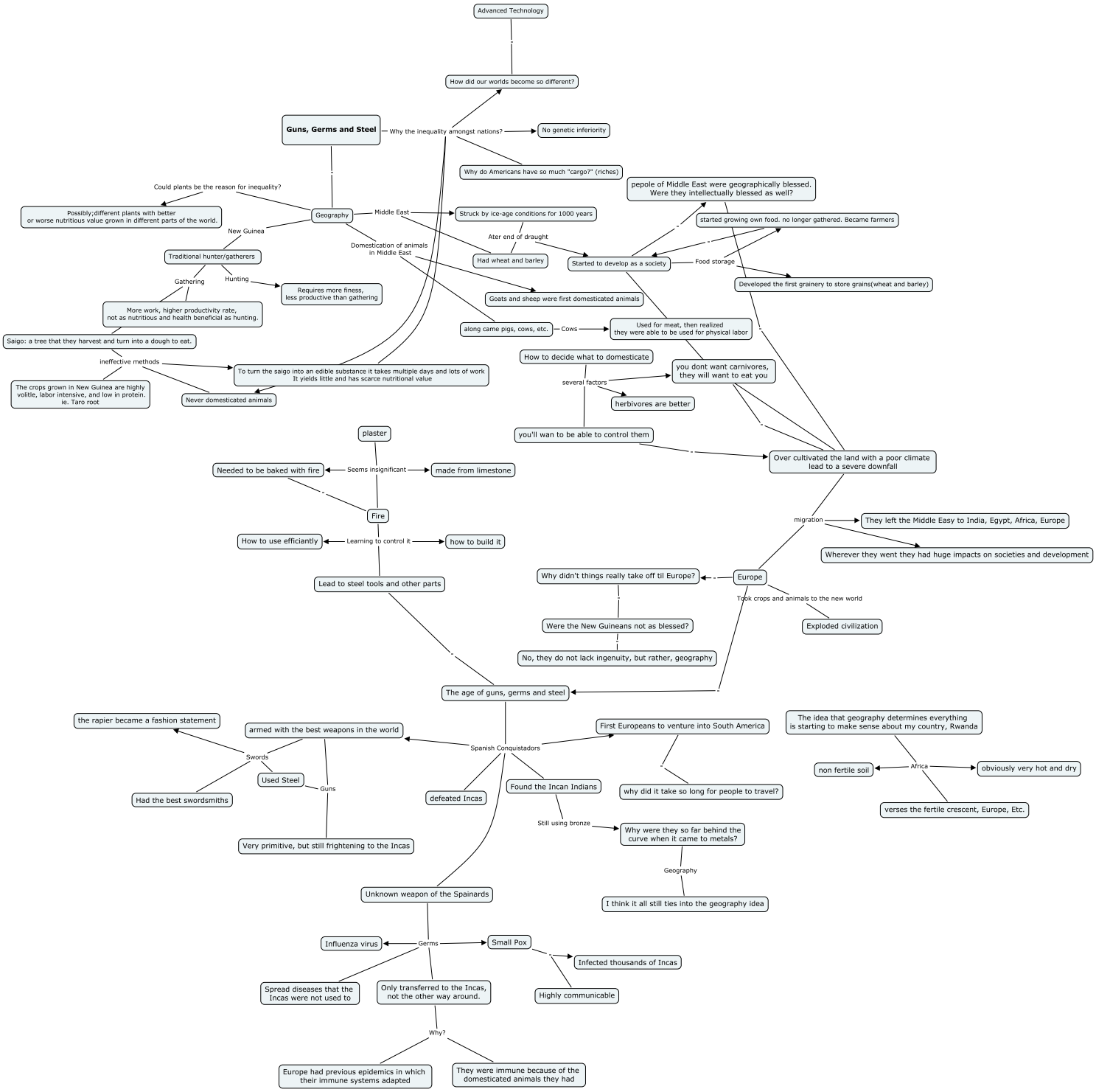
Advanced Technology
How did our worlds become so different?
Guns, Germs and Steel
Why the inequality amongst nations?
No genetic inferiority
Why do Americans have so much "cargo?" (riches)
Could plants be the reason for inequality?
Possibly;different plants with better
or worse nutritious value grown in different parts of the world.
Geography
Middle East
Struck by ice-age conditions for 1000 years
New Guinea
Ater end of draught
Had wheat and barley
Started to develop as a society
Food storage
pepole of Middle East were geographically blessed.
Were they intellectually blessed as well?
started growing own food. no longer gathered. Became farmers
Developed the first grainery to store grains(wheat and barley)
Traditional hunter/gatherers
Domestication of animals
in Middle East
Gathering
Hunting
Requires more finess,
less productive than gathering
Goats and sheep were first domesticated animals
More work, higher productivity rate,
not as nutritious and health beneficial as hunting.
along came pigs, cows, etc.
Cows
Used for meat, then realized
they were able to be used for physical labor
Saigo: a tree that they harvest and turn into a dough to eat.
How to decide what to domesticate
you dont want carnivores,
they will want to eat you
ineffective methods
To turn the saigo into an edible substance it takes multiple days and lots of work
It yields little and has scarce nutritional value
several factors
herbivores are better
The crops grown in New Guinea are highly
volitle, labor intensive, and low in protein.
ie. Taro root
Never domesticated animals
you'll wan to be able to control them
Over cultivated the land with a poor climate
lead to a severe downfall
plaster
Needed to be baked with fire
Seems insignificant
made from limestone
Fire
migration
They left the Middle Easy to India, Egypt, Africa, Europe
How to use efficiantly
Learning to control it
how to build it
Wherever they went they had huge impacts on societies and development
Why didn't things really take off til Europe?
Europe
Lead to steel tools and other parts
Took crops and animals to the new world
Were the New Guineans not as blessed?
Exploded civilization
No, they do not lack ingenuity, but rather, geography
The age of guns, germs and steel
the rapier became a fashion statement
armed with the best weapons in the world
Spanish Conquistadors
First Europeans to venture into South America
The idea that geography determines everything
is starting to make sense about my country, Rwanda
Swords
non fertile soil
Africa
obviously very hot and dry
Used Steel
Guns
Had the best swordsmiths
defeated Incas
Found the Incan Indians
why did it take so long for people to travel?
verses the fertile crescent, Europe, Etc.
Still using bronze
Why were they so far behind the
curve when it came to metals?
Very primitive, but still frightening to the Incas
Geography
Unknown weapon of the Spainards
I think it all still ties into the geography idea
Influenza virus
Germs
Small Pox
Infected thousands of Incas
Spread diseases that the
Incas were not used to
Only transferred to the Incas,
not the other way around.
Highly communicable
Why?
Europe had previous epidemics in which
their immune systems adapted
They were immune because of the
domesticated animals they had