Exploration and Expansion

1400–1700

Exploration and Expansion

The Big Picture

Between 1400 and 1700, a new world opened up for Europe. Sailors set out on great voyages of discovery to lands that the people of Europe had not previously known existed. As news of the discoveries spread, countries scrambled to claim new lands, setting up colonies in hopes of gaining wealth and power. Once colonies were established, ships crossed the Atlantic in both directions laden with goods of all kinds.

Theme: Migration and Diffusion

The arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492 was a turning point in world history. In the years that followed Columbus's voyage, European migration to the Americas took off, and the diffusion of goods and ideas changed societies worldwide.
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Causes of Age of Exploration

1. Renaissance spirit of discovery and innovation in Europe
2. Spirit led Europeans to set sail on voyages of discovery
3. Period is sometimes called the Age of Exploration

**Search for Wealth**
1. Search for wealth
   - Europeans desired expensive luxury goods
   - Flow of goods controlled by Italian merchants
   - Charged high prices for these rare goods

**New Routes**
2. New, faster routes to Asia
   - Wealth not only goal
   - Some set out to find fame, glory
   - Hoped making great discoveries would bring honor to their names

**Faith, Curiosity**
3. Spread their faith into new lands
   - Another motive—simple curiosity
   - Writings like Marco Polo’s very popular in Europe, intrigued many with tales of exotic lands, peoples
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Advances in Technology

- Compass and Astrolabe from China and Muslims
- Deep-draft ships and the Caravel made trade, war and travel easier

Results of Voyages

- 1492 - Columbus → Caribbean
- 1488 - Dias → Around Africa
- 1497 - da Gama → India
- 1502 - Amerigo Vespucci sailed coast of South America
  - Mapmakers later named land America in his honor
- 1513 - Balboa → Isthmus of Panama
- 1519 - Magellan → Circumnavigate the world
- 1580 - Drake → California
- Hudson, Cartier → North American, Canada
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Spain Builds an Empire

- Spain first to successfully settle in the Americas
- Eventually conquered native empires, the Aztecs and Incas

Spain in Caribbean
- Spanish take Caribbean islands, Hispaniola, Cuba
- Columbus hoped to find gold, did not

Encomienda
- Colonist given land and Native Americans to work the land
- Required to teach native workers about Christianity

Millions Died
- Disastrous system for Native Americans
- Mistreatment, overwork took toll on population
- Europeans spread new diseases

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The Conquest of Mexico

**Conquistador**
- Hernán Cortés led expedition to Mexico, ended with conquest of Aztecs
- Cortés a *conquistador*, military leader who fought against Native Americans

**Cortes Marches on Capital**
- Moctezuma II, Aztec emperor at time of Spanish arrival in Mexico
- Aztecs powerful, ruled much of Mexico; unpopular with those they conquered
- Cortés joined by thousands of those who wanted to defeat Aztecs

**Other Advantages**
- In addition to Native American allies,
- Cortés had metal weapons, heavy armor, guns, horses
- Disease helped kill thousands in Aztec Empire
Life in the Spanish Empire

- With Mexico, Peru, Spain gained control of huge empire in Americas
- Spanish drafted Native Americans for labor in mines, on farms

Beginnings of Slavery

- Disease, mistreatment took toll on native population
- Some appalled at treatment
- Replacing Native Americans as laborers with imported African slaves
- Slave labor soon became common practice in Americas
The Portuguese in Brazil

Portuguese built an empire in the Americas
Because of treaty, their empire was not as large as the Spanish one

**1494 Treaty**

- **Treaty of Tordesillas** drew imaginary line through Atlantic Ocean
  - Everything west belong to Spain
    - including most of then-undiscovered Americas
  - Everything to east would be Portuguese
  - Only Brazil remained as Portuguese colony
Native American hunters were the French traders’ main source of furs. Many traders married Native American women, intermingling the two cultures.
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The English Colonies

- 1607, first English colony established at Jamestown
- Settlers hoped to find gold, silver, river route to Pacific
- Instead found marshy ground, impure water
- 80 percent of settlers died during first winter in America
- Colony still endured

Pilgrims

- 1620, Pilgrims sailed from England
- Pilgrims had been persecuted in England for religious beliefs
- Established colony at Plymouth, Massachusetts
- Persevered despite difficulties
- Colony self-sufficient within 5 years

Native Americans

- English settlers did not share same relationship with Native Americans as French, Dutch
- Jamestown, Plymouth colonies received aid from local peoples
- Still, colonists viewed Native Americans with distrust, anger
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British-French Conflict

Problems
- Mid-1700s, English colonists attempted to settle in French territory
- Tensions in region grew over fur trade and land war broke out

French and Indian War
- Both had Native American allies
- War began badly for British; French had more soldiers than English
- British turned tide, took city of Quebec

Costly War
- France surrendered giving Canada, all French territory east of Miss. River
- War costly for British; king tried to place costs of war on colonists
- Led to resentment, which eventually brought about American Revolution
CAUSES AND EFFECTS
OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

CAUSES

• The English tried to settle on land in the Americas that had been claimed by the French.
• Native American groups allied with each side to fight their opponents.

EFFECTS

• The French lost nearly all of their territory in North America, including Canada.
• Great Britain amassed huge debts, which the British tried to recoup from the colonies.
**The Columbian Exchange**

**From the Americas**
- Animals: guinea pigs, llamas, turkeys
- Plants: avocados, beans, cashews, chili peppers, chocolate, corn, papayas, peanuts, pecans, pineapples

**From Europe, Africa, and Asia**
- Animals: cattle, chickens, donkeys, goats, horses, housecats, mice and rats, pigs, rabbits, sheep
- Plants: bananas, black pepper, citrus fruits, coffee, garlic and onions, lettuce, peaches and pears, sugar, wheat, rye, and oats
- Diseases: cholera, influenza, malaria, measles, smallpox
Effects of the Columbian Exchange

**Different Foods**

- Exchange of foods, animals had dramatic impact on later societies
- Over time crops native to Americas became staples in diets of Europeans
- Foods provided substantial nutrition, helped people live longer

**Economics and Gastronomics**

- Cattle ranching, Brazilian coffee growing
- Traditional cuisines changed because of Columbian Exchange
- Until contact with Americas, Europeans had never tried tomatoes
The Introduction of New Diseases

- Native Americans had no natural resistance to European diseases
- Smallpox, measles, influenza, malaria killed millions
- Mexico population decreased by more than 30 percent in the 10 yrs

Devastating Impact

- Native American population continued to decline for centuries
- Inca Empire decreased from 13 million in 1492 to 2 million in 1600
- North American population fell from 2 million in 1492 to 500,000 in 1900—but disease not only factor in decrease of population
- Intermittent warfare, other violence also contributed
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**Mercantilism**

**New Economic Policy**
- **Mercantilism** - Nation’s strength depended on its wealth
- Wealthy nation had power for military and expanded influence
- Wealth measured by amount of gold, silver possessed by nation
- Mercantilism led to intense competition between nations
- Increased power = weakened foreign competitors

**Imports**
- Reduce imports by placing tariffs on goods
- Discourage people from buying

**Exports**
- Encouraged manufacturing and export of manufactured goods
- Governments provided $$% to help start new industries
Controlling Sources

Third approach for favorable balance of trade, controlling sources

- Nation that controlled own sources would not need to import from competing nations

- Why important
  - Country did not need to spend own money to obtain raw materials
  - Foreign countries considered rivals, might become active enemy, cut off supply of raw materials

- European nations worked to become more self-sufficient

- Nations began to establish colonies
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Colonies

Building colonial empires essential to mercantilist system

Colonies

• European powers wanted to establish colonies
  – To control sources of raw materials
  – To provide new markets for manufactured goods
• To mercantilist, colonies existed only to benefit home country

Strict Laws

• Monarchs restricted economic activities in colonies
• Colonists could not sell raw materials to other countries
• Could not buy manufactured goods from other nations
• Strict laws forbade colonies from manufacturing goods
• Forced to buy only from home country

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The Rise of Capitalism

Increasing trade between Europe and colonies created new business and trade practices.

**Capitalism Emerges**

- **Capitalism** - most economic activity carried on by private individuals, organizations in order to seek profit

**Overseas Trade**

- Individuals amassed great trade fortunes
- Merchants supplied colonists with European goods
- Returned products, raw materials
- Wealth enabled them to invest in more business ventures
- Business activity in Europe increased greatly
Slavery has existed in many parts of the world
People forced into slavery came from different walks of life
Farmers, merchants, priests, soldiers, or musicians; fathers and mothers, sons and daughters.

**Beginnings**
- Shortage of labor in Americas led to beginning of Atlantic slave trade
- European planters needed workers on sugar, tobacco plantations

**Native Americans**
- Planters first used Native Americans
- European diseases killed millions
- 1600s, used indentured servants
- Expensive to support workers
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Middle Passage

Ordeal

• Middle Passage, terrifying ordeal

• Captive Africans chained together, forced into dark, cramped quarters below ship’s decks

• Could neither sit nor stand

• Journey lasted three to six weeks, ten to twenty percent did not survive

Horrific Conditions

• Olaudah Equiano wrote about conditions on slave ship:

  • “The stench of the hold…was so intolerably loathsome, that it was dangerous to remain there for any time…"

  • “The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole scene of horror almost inconceivable.”
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**Slavery in the Colonies**

- Slave traders carried captive Africans throughout the Americas
- Spanish—Caribbean sugar plantations; Portuguese—Brazil; English—West Indies but also to colonies in North America.
- England dominated the slave trade by end of 1600s

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<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Living Conditions</th>
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| - Plantations, mines, women given domestic duties  
- Skilled craft workers—carpenters, metalworkers, coopers—continued crafts in Americas | - Physical, degrading punishment inflicted for minor offenses  
- Many slaveholders lived in constant fear of rebellion by angry slaves |
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Property

- Laws in Americas considered enslaved Africans to be property
- Slaves had no rights, freedoms
- Slaveholders controlled most conditions under which they lived
- Often enslaved people endured brutal treatment, abuse

Resistance

- Slaves coped with inhumane conditions many different ways
- Some resisted by trying to keep cultural traditions alive
- Others turned to religion for strength, hope
- Some fought back by slowing work, destroying equipment, revolting
- Some able to flee, establish communities of runaways
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Effects of the Slave Trade

- 400 years of Atlantic slave trade
- Devastated West African societies

**Cost of Slave Trade**

- Estimates of 15 to 20 million Africans shipped to Americas against will
- Millions more sent to Europe, Asia, Middle East
- Human cost enormous
  - Countless died in transit
  - Millions deprived of freedom
  - Descendants doomed to lives of forced servitude

**Effect on Africa**

- Effects profound in Africa
- Slave raiders captured strongest young—future leaders of societies
- Divided Africans one from another—some rulers waged wars to gain captives
- Forced labor of millions of Africans did not enrich Africa
Economies

- Forced labor of Africans did enrich other parts of the world.
- Their knowledge of agriculture contributed to the growth of the rice industry in southern English colonies.

Spread of Culture

- As a result of the slave trade, people of African descent spread throughout the Americas, Western Europe.
- Spread is called **African Diaspora**.
- Eventually led to the spread of African culture—music, art, religion, food—throughout the Western World.
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**Exploration**
- Explorers from countries throughout Europe set out in search of new routes to Asia.
- Instead of Asia, many explorers ended up in the Americas.

**Colonization**
- Europeans established colonies in the lands they had discovered.
- The Spanish conquered Native American tribes to build an empire.
- The Portuguese settled Brazil.
- The French, Dutch, and English established colonies in North America and the Caribbean.

**Columbian Exchange**
- New plants and animals were introduced to both Europe and the Americas.
- Diseases from Europe killed millions of Native Americans.
- The exchange of goods had effects worldwide.

**New Economic Systems**
- Mercantilism was based on the idea that a nation's power was determined by its wealth.
- Capitalism was based on businesses owned by individuals or groups of investors rather than the government.

**Atlantic Slave Trade**
- Millions of Africans were captured and shipped to the Americas as slaves.
- Slaves worked on plantations in various European colonies.
- Slaves endured horrific conditions once they arrived.