Chapter 16

The World Economy: The First Global Age (1450 – 1750)
Section 1
Bell Work

Two Worlds Collide
Visual Source Documents 1 & 2

Document 1
Document 2

The Granger Collection, New York
Why Did Europeans Cross the Seas?

- As Europe’s population recovered from the Black Death, the demand for trade goods grew.
- Europeans wanted spices.
- European merchants wanted to gain direct access to the riches of Asia.
- Some voyagers still wanted to crusade against the Muslims.
- Others were inspired by the Renaissance spirit to learn about distant lands.
Early Voyages of European Exploration, 1487–1609
The Search for Spices

- Improvements in technology helped European explorers navigate the vast oceans of the world.
- **Cartographers**, or mapmakers, created more accurate maps.
- The *astrolabe* aided sailors in determining their latitude at sea. This device was used to measure the angles of the sun and stars above the horizon. It was difficult to use accurately in rough seas.
- The *caravel* combined the square sails of European vessels with the lateen (triangular) sails of their Arab counterparts. The new rigging made it easier to sail across and into the wind.
Portugal’s Voyages to the East

- By the 1400s, Portugal had expanded into Muslim North Africa.
- Henry the Navigator sent ships to explore the western coast of Africa.
- In 1497, Vasco da Gama reached the spice port of Calicut in India.
- In 1488, Bartholomeu Dias rounded the southern tip of Africa, later called the Cape of Good Hope.
- In 1502, da Gama forced a treaty on Calicut.
Columbus's Four Voyages to the West, 1492-1504

- Backed by Spain, Christopher Columbus tried to reach the Indies, in Southeast Asia, by sailing west across the Atlantic.
- Columbus believed that the land that he reached was the Indies. In fact, he had found a route to continents previously unknown to Europeans. These lands later became known as the West Indies.
- When Columbus returned, Spain and Portugal both rushed to claim the lands Columbus had explored.
- Pope Alexander VI set a Line of Demarcation in the Treaty of Tordesillas signed June 7, 1494, giving to Spain rights to any land west of the line and to Portugal, rights to any land east of the line.
The New World

- In 1507, a German cartographer, read reports by Italian Amerigo Vespucci and labeled the region America.

- The islands Columbus explored were called the West Indies.
Exploring the Americas

- Europeans continued to seek new routes around or through the Americas.

- **Vasco Nuñez de Balboa** discovered a passage through Panama to an ocean which he called the South Sea.

- **Ferdinand Magellan** charted a passage around the southern tip of South America and gave the Pacific Ocean its name. His crew became the first people to **circumnavigate**, or sail around, the world.

- **John Cabot** discovered Newfoundland in his unsuccessful quest to find a northwest passage to Asia.

- **Jacques Cartier** explored the St. Lawrence River.

- **Henry Hudson** explored what would become known as the Hudson River.
Two Worlds Collide
Visual Source Documents 3 & 4
In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in the islands of the Caribbean now called the West Indies. He encountered the Taíno people, who were friendly and generous toward the Spanish.

The Taíno people lived in villages and grew corn, yams, and cotton.

Spanish conquistadors, or conquerors, followed in the wake of Columbus. They settled on Caribbean islands, seized gold from the Taínos, and forced them to convert to Christianity. Conquistadors soon followed, looking for gold and carrying diseases, such as smallpox, measles, influenza, unknown to the natives.

Smallpox, measles and influenza carried by the Europeans severely reduced the Native American population in the Caribbean islands because they had no immunity, or resistance, to such diseases.

Later in the mid 1700s, King Charles III of Spain, learned that cowpox helped prevent smallpox, so he imported cows to Mexico to try and stop the spread of disease.
Conquest in the Americas: Cortés in Mexico

- Spanish conquistadors vanquished the Aztec and Incan civilizations and set up a vast empire in the Americas.
- Hernan Cortés landed on the Mexican coast in 1519.
- Cortés arranged **alliances** with discontented peoples who hated their Aztec overlords.
- The Aztec emperor, Moctezuma, thought Cortés might be a god. He offered tribute to Cortés and welcomed him to Tenochtitlán.
- When relations grew strained, the Aztecs drove the Spanish out of Tenochtitlán.
- In 1521, Cortés returned and captured and demolished Tenochtitlán.
Conquest in the Americas: Pizarro in Peru

- Francisco Pizarro arrived in Peru in 1532 shortly after Atahualpa won the throne in a bloody **civil war** with his brother.
- Helped by Indian allies, Pizarro captured the new king, Atahualpa, and killed thousands of his followers.
- The Spanish were paid a ransom, but killed the king anyway.
- The Spanish then overran the Incan heartland.
By 1675, Spain, France, Britain, and Portugal possessed sizable overseas empires.

Trade ships carried goods between Europe and the Americas and Africa.
Why were the Spanish Victorious?

- The Spanish had superior military technology, such as muskets, cannons, and armor. They used horses, which frightened some Indians, who had never seen such animals.

- The Spanish were able to take advantage of division and discontent among the Indians. In fact, Indians provided the Spanish with much of their fighting power.

- Disease brought by the Europeans weakened the Aztecs and Incas.

- Many Indians believed that the disasters they suffered marked the end of the world.
The Aztec Messengers on the Cannon

“The messengers told him: ‘A thing like a ball of stone comes out of its entrails: it comes out shooting sparks and raining fire. The smoke that comes out with it has a pestilent odor, like that of rotten mud. This odor penetrates even to the brain, and causes the greatest discomfort. If the cannon is aimed against a mountain, the mountain splits and cracks open. If it is aimed against a tree, it shatters the tree into splinters. This is a most unnatural sight, as if the tree had exploded from within...’ When Moctezuma heard this report, he was filled with terror. It was as if his heart had fainted, as if it had shriveled. It was as if he were conquered by despair.”

- Do these messengers seem to understand how a cannon works or do they not understand it at all?

- Given the information you have on how this Aztec report was recorded for history, do you think Moctezuma was as fearful as the account suggests? Why or why not?
By the 1600s, Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands were competing for trade and colonies. Though devastated by disease, the Native American way of life helped shape the emerging new culture of North America.
The 13 English Colonies

- In 1607, the English build their first North American colony at Jamestown.
- In 1620, the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.
- During the 1600s and 1700s, the English established 13 colonies in North America.
- The pilgrims at Plymouth signed the Mayflower Compact, in which they set out guidelines for governing their colony.
- A compact is an agreement among people. Today we see the Mayflower Compact as an important early step toward self-government.
The 13 English Colonies (cont.)

- Some colonies, like Virginia and New York, were commercial ventures.
- Others like, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, were havens for persecuted religious groups.
- In New England, many colonists were farmers, shipbuilders, and traders.
- Middle colonies farmed wheat, corn, vegetables.
- Southern colonies emerged as plantation economies, producing tobacco, rice, indigo.

In 1775, the British claimed authority over the red and pink areas on this map and Spain ruled the orange. The red area is the area of the thirteen colonies open to settlement after the Proclamation of 1763.
Government in the British Colonies

- Each colony had its own representative assembly elected by propertied men.
- The tradition of consulting representative assemblies grew out of the English experience.
- English monarchs appointed royal governors to oversee colonies.
- Parliament passed laws to regulate colonial trade.
- But compared to Spanish and French colonies, English had a large degree of self-government, with its own representative assembly.
- Later, the colonists would defend their rights as “Free-born English citizens defending their traditional rights.

Independence Hall in Philadelphia
Building New France

Throughout the 1500s, French fishing ships harvested fish off Newfoundland. However, the French did not build permanent settlements until 1608, under the direction of Samuel de Champlain.

Helped by Native American allies, French explorers and fur traders traveled inland, claiming vast territory from Quebec to the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi to Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico.
Slow Growth in New France

- Wealthy landlords owned large tracts of land along the Saint Lawrence River, but the cold climate attracted few peasants from France.

- The few farmers who did come, often abandoned farming in favor of fur trapping and trading.

- Those living along the coast turned to fishing.

- King Louis XIV set out to strengthen his power in the colonies and increase his revenues through taxes. He appointed officials to oversee justice and economic activities.

- He sent more settlers and soldiers to Americas, but prohibited Protestants from settling there.
Competing for Power

- By the 1600s, Spain, France, England, and Netherlands were competing for colonies and trade around the world. All four had colonies in North America, where they often fought over territory.

- In 1664, English seized the colony of New Netherlands and renamed it New York.

- By the 1700s, France and England took control of the West Indies.

- Britain and France became bitter rivals for power around the globe. A worldwide war between them, known as the Seven Year’s War, began in 1756 in Europe and spread to India and Africa.

- In North America, they battled each other in the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1763. The Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the world-wide war, ensured British dominance in North America.

- As settlers claimed more and more North American land, Native Americans resisted their advance. Bitter fighting resulted. Little by little, the Indians were pushed westward.
This painting, *The Taking of Mary Jemison*, by Robert Griffing depicts the kidnapping of a 15 year-old colonist, Mary Jemison, by Shawnee Indians and French raiders.
Anton Montecino preaching in Santo Domingo

“You are in mortal sin and you are heading for damnation... For you are destroying an innocent people. They are God’s people, these innocents, whom you destroyed. By what right do you make them die? Mining gold for you in your mines or working for you in your fields, by what right do you unleash enslaving wars upon them? They lived in peace in this land before you came, in peace in their own homes. They did nothing to harm you to cause you to slaughter them wholesale.”

- What do you think Dominican friar Montecino hoped to accomplish by giving this sermon where he did and to whom he did?

- Some historians describe one European view of native peoples in the America’s as the “myth of the noble savage.” What do you think these historians mean? Do you think Anton Montecino holds to this myth? Why or why not?
The Columbian Exchange

- The Columbian Exchange was a vast global interchange of people, animals, culture, ideas, and technology.

- When Columbus returned to Spain in 1493, he brought with him “new” plants and animals. Later that year, he returned to the Americas with some 1,200 settlers and a collection of European animals and plants.

- In this way, Columbus began a vast global exchange that would have a profound effect on the world.

Montage of New World Domesticated plants.

The opening of direct links with Asia, Africa, and the Americas had far-reaching economic consequences for Europeans.

Prices began to rise in Europe, as part of the cycle of inflation. European inflation had several causes:

- As the population grew, the demand for goods and services rose.
- Because goods were scarce, sellers could raise their prices.
- The increased flow of gold and silver from the Americas led to more money in circulation.

Expanded trade and the push for overseas empires spurred the growth of European capitalism, the investment of money to make a profit.

Entrepreneurs and capitalists made up a new business class. Together they helped change the local European economy into an international trading system.
Mercantilism

European monarchs adopted a new economic policy, known as \textbf{mercantilism}, aimed at strengthening their national economies.

According to mercantilism, a nation’s real wealth is measured in its gold and silver treasure. To build its supply of gold and silver, a nation must export more goods than it imports.

Overseas empires and colonies existed for the benefit of the parent nation. Rulers needed to adopt policies to increase national wealth and government revenues.

To achieve these goals, European governments:

- passed strict laws regulating trade with their colonies.
- exploited natural resources, built roads, and backed new industries.
- sold monopolies to large producers in certain areas.
- imposed \textbf{tariffs}, or taxes on imported goods.
How Did Economic Changes Affect Europeans?

The impact of economic change depended on a person’s social class.

- Merchants who invested in overseas ventures acquired wealth.
- Nobles, whose wealth was in land, were hurt by the price revolution.
- Hired workers in towns and cities faced poverty and discontent when their wages did not keep up with inflation.
- Peasants, the majority of Europeans, were not affected until centuries later.

Within Europe’s growing cities, there were great differences in wealth and power.
Europeans and American Indians
For Further Discussion Questions

1. Why were small numbers of Europeans able to conquer the numerous, often well-organized American peoples?

2. Were European incursions into the Americas one of the great tragedies of world history?

3. Why might hunting-gathering Indians be harder for Europeans to deal with than those in the civilizations of the Aztecs and the Incas?