

# Chapter 14 – Europe and the World: New Encounters

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## Section 1

### On the Brink of a New World

#### The Motives

Any earlier exploration (The Crusades) failed

#### Fantastic Lands

Books about mysterious, magical kingdoms

#### Economic motives

Mongol conquest; Maffeo and Niccolò Polo (and his son Marco) had opened up trade to the east

But 13<sup>th</sup> C. breakup of the Mongol Empire reduced travel

Curiosity about sea route to the east

Merchants, adventurers, and govt. officials hoped for riches

Arab intermediaries charged outrageously

#### Religious Zeal

Crusading mentality in Portugal and Spain, which had expelled Muslims

#### The Means

Expansion of centralized monarchies increased their resources

#### Maps

*Portolani*, medieval maps of Mediterranean and European waters were useful

Did not account for the curvature of the earth

By 15<sup>th</sup> C. maps had become more reliable

Ptolemy's 2<sup>nd</sup> C. maps, known to Arab geographers, were translated into Latin

Showed the earth to be spherical

#### Ships and sailing

Could sail against the wind (thanks to rudders and lateen sails)

Could sail below the equator (thanks to astrolabe and compass)

Understood wind patterns

### New Horizons: The Portuguese and Spanish Empires

#### Development of a Portuguese Maritime Empire

1419: Prince Henry's navigation school in Portugal

1441: African slaves brought back from Senegal

#### The Portuguese in India

1488: Bartholomeu Dias reached the Cape of Good Hope

1498: Vasco da Gama crossed the Arabian Sea and reached India (Calicut)

found ginger and cinnamon

1509: established a base in Goa (western coast of India)

#### In Search of Spices

1511: reached Malay peninsula

moved on to China and The "Spice Islands"

Portuguese seized the spice trade from the Muslims

Success based on guns and seamanship

#### Voyages to the New World

Spanish sailed westward for the same reasons

#### The Voyages of Columbus

underestimated earth's circumference

1492: sailed three ships, reached shores of Hispaniola

saw "Indians", whom he thought could be converted

further voyages landed on all the major islands in the Caribbean

#### New Voyages

John Cabot (Venetian sailing for England) reached New England coastline

1500: Pedro Cabral (Portuguese) reached Brazil

Vespucci (Florentine sailing for Portugal) described the geography – and had the continent named for him  
1513: Balboa (Spain) reached the Pacific  
Magellan (Spain) set out around the world (1519), was killed in the Philippines (1521)  
1494: Treaty of Tordesillas divided the known world into Spanish and Portuguese halves

## The Spanish Empire in the New World

*Conquistadores* were authorized by the crown, but privately financed

### Early Civilizations in Mesoamerica

300 AD: Maya in the Yucatán (Chichén Itza)  
12<sup>th</sup> C.: Aztecs in the Valley of Mexico (Capital: Tenochtitlán)  
ruled over most of modern Mexico

### Spanish Conquest of the Aztec Empire

1519: Hernán Cortés captured Moctezuma, Tenochtitlán  
1520: Aztecs revolted but were decimated by smallpox

### The Inca

1440s: Incas conquered most of Peru  
great builders: roadways, bridges

### Spanish Conquest of the Inca Empire

1530: Pizarro arrived and captured Atahualpa  
horses, superior weapons made it easier

### Administration of the Spanish Empire

Mixture of confusion, paternalism, and exploitation

#### *Encomienda*

Granted by the crown, it permitted slavery in return for protection, wages, and spiritual guidance  
Killed natives through exhaustion, starvation, and disease (smallpox, typhus, and measles)  
30-40% died over a half century  
on Hispaniola, 100,000 turned into 300

1542: Government abolished *encomienda* largely due to Bartolomé Las Casas  
system of *viceroy*s

Catholic monarchs could appoint all bishops and clergy in the New World  
Missionaries spread out across the continents

## New Rivals on the World Stage

In the 1600s, the Dutch, and then the British and French, tried to create their own empires

### Africa: The Slave Trade

Portuguese had discovered profits in slavery  
Dutch seized some of the Portuguese forts along the African coast  
Set up a settlement (of Boers) in South Africa

### Origins of the Slave Trade

In the 1400s, African slaves went to the Middle East to be domestic servants  
Sugar cane in Brazil needed skill and large quantities of slaves (natives had been decimated)

### Growth of the Slave Trade

*Triangular trade* connected Europe, Africa, and the New World

Europe → Africa: guns, gin, and cloth

Africa → New World: slaves

New World → Europe: tobacco, molasses, sugar, rum, coffee, and tobacco

1500s to 1800s: 10 million slaves transported to the New World (1/2 in British ships)  
high numbers because of high death rate on the *Middle Passage*  
100 days, 300-450 slaves per ship  
at least 10% mortality rate

### Effects of the Slave Trade

Tragic on the lives of slaves and their families

Depopulated areas of Africa; deprived communities of their youngest and strongest

Importation of cheap manufactured goods forced many workers into poverty

Political consequences in Africa: warfare among chiefs and tribes

Remained acceptable to Europeans until the Quakers (1770s) began to criticize

## **The West in Southeast Asia**

Portugal couldn't maintain a vast empire (it was too small)

1500s: had limited trade with Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, and Cambodia

Spanish took over the Philippines

But the major threat was by the Dutch and then the British (they were better financed)

Early 1600s: the Dutch controlled the Spice Islands for 50 years

Dutch and Portuguese took advantage of civil warfare (took opposing sides)

Mainland states more able to ward off Europeans than less cohesive island nations

## **The French and British in India**

### **The Mughal Empire**

Babur created a great Indian empire

### **The Impact of Western Powers**

First Portugal reached India, then Dutch and British

By 1650: British influence increased, made substantial profits

Caused Dutch and French rivalry

Dutch abandoned India, concentrated on spice trade

French established their own coastal forts, even captured British fort at Madras

French government was unwilling to finance far-off efforts

British forced French withdrawal in Seven Years' War (1756-1763)

## **China**

1514: Portuguese made contact with China

### **The Ming and Qing Dynasties**

Ming Dynasty (1369-1644) expanded into Mongolia and central Asia (briefly even Vietnam)

Overthrown in 1644 by peasant army

Gave Manchus the opening

### **Western Inroads**

The decline of the Manchu dynasty coincided with the rise of European pressure to trade

Tea and silk to England

Qing Dynasty limited European trade to one city and six months a year

British requested more but were refused

## **Japan**

### **Opening to the West**

1543: Portuguese traders reached Japan

1549: first Jesuits arrived

welcomed at first, but Jesuit success was not appreciated and they were expelled

merchants were next expelled from the two cities in which they could trade

## **The Americas**

1500s: large Spanish and Portuguese empires in the Americas

late 1500s: Spanish power dwindled as silver mines decreased, inflation ruined the Spanish economy

### **West Indies**

British and French colonial empires were based on tobacco, cotton, coffee, and sugar

### **British North America**

1607: Jamestown colony

1609: Dutch first settled (Henry Hudson – Englishman sailing for the Dutch)

1620: Pilgrims and 1628: Puritans

1664: English seized New Netherlands, renamed it New York

colonies' job was to supply raw materials to Britain and buy finished goods

### **French North America**

1534: Jacques Cartier discovered the St. Lawrence River

1608: Samuel de Champlain established a settlement at Quebec

few settlers; mostly hunters, trappers, missionaries, and explorers

1713: ceded territory to the English with the Treaty of Utrecht

1763: surrendered the rest of it as a result of Seven Years' War

## Toward a World Economy

### Economic Conditions in the 16th Century

Inflation (called a *price revolution*) was a problem – especially with wheat

Noticeable after a long period of stable prices

Hit wage workers, not the landed rich who could raise rents

Merchants prospered because of low wages and expanding markets

Governments were strapped, so they raised taxes and borrowed from banks

Growing population increased demand for land, food

### The Growth of Commercial Capitalism

Atlantic seaboard countries benefitted from exploration

17th C.: first the Dutch, then the English and French

New forms of commercial organization

#### *Joint-stock companies*

Individuals bought shares in a company, received dividends if there were profits

directors made business decisions

made it easier to raise large sums of money

new technologies in shipbuilding and mining

backed by banks – commercial banks superseded family banks

Amsterdam was the first new banking/stock exchange center

Peasants – still working on farms – saw little of this “improvement”

### Mercantilism

First principle: *volume of trade is static* – one country's gain is another's loss

Leads to conflict (warfare) – eventually around the world

Wealth is measured in precious metals

Favorable balance of trade is necessary

Increase exports by granting monopolies, subsidizing new industries, and importing artisans

Improve transportation infrastructure (roads, bridges, canals)

Regulate quality of manufacture, construct large-scale infrastructure

Limit imports by imposing tariffs

Use colonies as source of raw materials, market for finished goods

Believed in state control of trade – for the good of the state

### Overseas Trade and Colonies: Movement Toward Globalization

Value of transoceanic trade was *quality, not quantity*

most merchandise still sold to the wealthy

Trade within Europe was static; it was overseas trade that boomed

In some sense, trade was now “global”

## The Impact of European Expansion

### The Conquered

Native American cultures were decimated

Replaced by European institutions (social and political)

A “Latin American” culture arose

Intermarriage with Spanish and Portuguese produced *mestizos*

No comparable intermarriage with the British and Dutch

Intermarriage with African slaves produced *mulattoes*

Coastal African cultures were devastated – but the interior was largely unexplored

China and Japan largely unaffected

### Catholic Missionaries

Spanish and Portuguese determined to convert natives

Brought natives into villages (missions) to more easily control them

Built hospitals, orphanages, and schools

In China, well-educated, sophisticated Jesuits brought technology to impress the emperors

Emphasized similarities between Christianity and Confucianism

In Japan, conversion and interference in local religions resulted in expulsion by the shogun

## The Conquerors

Source of wealth, status for the adventurous

The few women willing to go were rewarded because of their scarcity

Establishment of the *Columbian Exchange*

From New World back to the Old World	From the Old World to The New World
tobacco, cotton, cane sugar, cacao (chocolate), maize (corn), tomatoes, peanuts, peppers, beans, squash, potatoes, sweet potatoes, manioc	wheat, grapevines, olive trees, citrus fruits, horses, cattle, pigs, goats, sheep

Potatoes changed the European diet (high in nutrients, could be stored)

Coffee and tea houses by 1650, chocolate a common drink by 1700

1700s: craze for all things Chinese (silk, furniture, porcelain)

Bitter trade rivalries

Anglo-Dutch Wars, British-French conflicts (particularly in India) including Seven Years' War

Map making improved (Mercator and other projections aided sea captains)

Relatively easy conquest of natives tended to reinforce European ideas of superiority