

UNIT 1: The World Re-Invented

Chapter Three- Contact & Conflict, 1450-1700

Legacy: West & the World

-The driving force behind European expansion was a hunger for new markets and sources of raw materials to feed the emerging capitalist economy.

- After the fall of the Roman Empire, few people traveled more than 50 km... Medieval Europe was self-sufficient for the most part.
- With the launch of the First Crusade in 1096, Europeans began a venture that would lead them to the four corners of the earth... The Crusades may have failed to recapture the Holy Land but they led to an insatiable demand for goods from the Middle & Far East. Thus, exploration multiplied.

HISTORY RECONSIDERED

- The age old question: Did Columbus discover American or did the people living in the Americas find him?

THE WORLD IN 1450

A Medieval View

- little was known about the world at this time. There were the ideas of Ptolemy (100-178 CE)... but most of the first explorers expected to find the classical beasts of ancient mythology.

The Wider World in 1450

- There were many civilizations that were strong throughout the world: China, Ottomans, Muscovy, the Aztecs in the Americas, many in Africa including the Songhay, Mali & Mwene Mutapa empires.

- Yet it was the Europeans that set out to explore the world.

EXPLORING THE AMERICAS

The Conquest of the Aztecs

- Europeans were surprised by the advanced societies they met. Started as a quest for New world to surpass Old, but soon racism and greed took over, and Spanish in Mexico looked to exploit Natives.

- huge depopulation in New World. Some estimates put the population of Mexico as high as 25 million. It was reduced by 95% by end of 1500s. Aztecs were defeated by starvation and plague. Spanish conquistadors prevailed.

The Conquest of the Incas

- Incas had developed a truly magnificent society in many ways. Incas were also decimated by European disease.

FATE, FORTUNE, AND FAITH

The Rise of Capitalism

- originally lending money was considered breaking church law... land considered only true form of wealth. That changed with the wealthy banking families- The Medicis of Florence, and the Fuggers of Augsburg.

- the idea of using money to make money emerged.

Capitalism: labour, capital & raw materials came to dominate trade. Capitalists searched for raw materials rather than simply trading goods.

Searching for Wealth

- European came to desire spices, herbs and other material from the East, places such as India. This became difficult with the Turkish conquest of Constantinople in 1453... Ottomans looked to control & regulate trade... caused West to search elsewhere for goods.

Geography

- Exploration spread... especially when wind systems if the Atlantic were discovered. Favourable sailing conditions in the Atlantic made it easier for Euro exploration than the countries that faced the rougher Pacific like Japan.

Technological Developments

- inventions such as the astrolabe and the quadrant allowed sailors to venture into the sea. Mapmaking improved. Also, Portuguese developed Caravel a new type of sailing ship powered exclusively by wind... made huge strides in ability to travel.

The Search for Souls

- religion also motivated exploration. With split of Christendom after Luther's 1517 95 Theses, and the threat of Islam to the East... explorers looked to expand their religious beliefs. Many colonies also became places for people such as Mennonites and Puritans to practice their religion free from persecution.

Discoveries

- Portuguese and Spanish led the way discovering the Americas, the route to the Pacific and circumnavigating the globe.

The Trial of Columbus

- Columbus settled in what is now Haiti and Dominican Republic... despite sailing genius failed as a governor. Tried to spread Euro ideals and religion. He was sent back to Spain in chains to be put on trial... he was eventually exonerated. See James Michener's novel *Caribbean* for more of the investigation into Columbus

The Clash of Empires

- As Europeans explored they faced many existing cultures. Euro life would be changed forever with these interactions, yet their thirst for power & wealth led to clashes in all parts of the world.

The Ottoman Empire

- pinnacle of power under Suleiman I in 1520s & 1530s. Euro were able to surpass Ottomans...

WEST MEETS EAST

China

- China in the 16th Century was a highly developed, centralized, bureaucratic state. Europeans attempted to establish trade relations with the East. China was less interested in the West.

Japan

- Japan was unstable in early 1500s making European expansion easier than in China. They tried to convert Japanese to Christianity. In 1600 the shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu united Japan, made Tokyo the capital... brought peace and order. Also expelled all Europeans in Japan... crucified thousands of Native converts. This was the beginning of Japan's seclusion policy. Japan would remain isolated for the next 250 years.

TRADING COMPANIES

- East India Company(1600) for trade with India
- United East India Company- trade with Malaya & Indonesia.
- French East India Co., Dutch United West India Co.
- they were government initiatives that exploited overseas markets.
- Even small countries such as the Netherlands were able to develop large empires. The Dutch were to play a prominent role in various areas of the world.

HUMAN SERVITUDE

Origins of Slavery in Africa

- Slavery did exist in Africa prior to Europeans. Europeans came in with idea such a religion justifying slavery as they baptized boatloads of puzzled Africans claiming they were being brought closer to Jesus.

- The legacy of slavery is seen in many of the problems there today. Many areas were depopulated, little was given in return, civil wars were started, and exploitation was the norm.

The Evolving European World System

- a capitalist world economy developed out of European trade. There were other large economies such as Russia and Asia... with Europe choosing the path of capitalism.
 - Slaves, tenants, serfs... worked the land for the upper classes.
- ### Early Contact
- Spain and Portugal were big rivals. Wanted raw materials & all important access through to Pacific.
 - very quickly conquered, exploited and overtook the native populations.

CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Europe Abroad

- influence was spread throughout the world during this time period. Also a two way street... info and cultures came back to Europe as well.

Euro-American Societies

New Foods

- p.121

The Rise of Colonial Empires

- see Map on Pg. 122