

AP European History: Chapter 14 – Europe & the World: New Encounters

Overview & Schedule

From the 15th through the 17th centuries, Europeans used their mastery of the seas to extend their power in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. In the 15th century, the Portuguese sought direct access by sea to the sources of African gold, ivory, and slaves. At the same time, the rise of Ottoman power in the eastern Mediterranean led to Ottoman control of the Mediterranean trade routes and increased the motivation of Iberians and then northern Europeans to explore possible sea routes to the East. The success and consequences of these explorations, and the maritime expansion that followed them, rested on European adaptation of Muslim and Chinese navigational technology as well as advances in military technology and cartography. Political, economic, and religious rivalries among Europeans also stimulated maritime expansion. By the 17th century, Europeans had forged a global trade network that gradually edged out earlier Muslim and Chinese dominion in the Indian Ocean and the western Pacific.

In Europe, these successes shifted economic power within Europe from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic states. In Asia, the Portuguese, Spanish, and Dutch competed for control of trade routes and trading stations. In the Americas, the Spanish and Portuguese led in the establishment of colonies, followed by the Dutch, French, and English. The pursuit of colonies was sustained by mercantilist economic theory, which promoted government management of economic imperatives and policies. The creation of maritime empires was also animated by the religious fervor sweeping Europe during the period of the Reformations (Catholic and Protestant). Global European expansion led to the conversion indigenous populations in South and Central America, to an exchange of commodities and crops that enriched European and other civilizations that became part of the global trading network, and, eventually, to migrations that had profound effects on Europe. The expansion also challenged parochial worldviews in Christian Europe. Yet the Columbian Exchange also unleashed several ecological disasters – notably the death of vast numbers of the Americas’ population in epidemics of European diseases, such as smallpox and measles, against which the native populations had no defenses. The establishment of the plantation system in the American colonies also led to the vast expansion of the African slave trade, one feature of the new Atlantic trading system.

CONTENT TOPICS and Focus Questions:

On the Brink of a New World

- Why did Europeans begin to embark on voyages of discovery and expansion at the end of the fifteenth century?

New Horizons: The Portuguese and Spanish Empires

- How did Portugal and Spain acquire their overseas empires, and how did their empires differ?

New Rivals on the World Stage

- How did the arrival of the Dutch, British, and French on the world scene in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries affect Africa, Southeast Asia, India, China, and Japan?
- What were the main features of the African slave trade, and what effects did it have on Africa?

The Impact of European Expansion

- How did European expansion affect both the conquered and the conquerors?

Toward a World Economy

- What was mercantilism, and what was its relationship to colonial empires?

Social Crises, War, and Rebellions (30 Years’ War - beginning of chapter 15)

- What economic, social, and political crises did Europe experience in the first half of the seventeenth century?

CONTEXTUALIZATION: How did the views of the conquerors and the conquered vary according to context? How did the search for resources and land related to the rise of monarchical power and the use of mercantilism? What role did religion play in the Age of Discovery?

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 6

- Reformation review activity
- Means and Motives for Exploration & role of Portuguese & Spanish
- Map Analysis: pg 408 in text
- **HOMEWORK: Text 409-415**

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Friday, October 7

- *Guns, Germs and Steel: Part II*
- Short Answer Questions on the DVD's content
- **HOMEWORK: Study for Chapter 13 Exam**

Monday, October 10

- Chapter 13 Exam
- **HOMEWORK: Text 415-422**

Tuesday, October 11

- Role of Spanish in the New World – Conquistadors
- CONTEXTUALIZATION: Conquistador Cortés Mind-Map
- Impact of the Slave Trade Activity
- **HOMEWORK: Text 422-426**

Wednesday, October 12

- The Conquerors: Role of British & French and the domination
- **HOMEWORK: Text 427-435**

Thursday, October 13

- The Conquered
- Economic impact of exploration: Columbian Exchange & Mercantilism
- **HOMEWORK: Text 439-444**

Friday, October 14

- **No School – Professional Development**

Monday, October 17

- CONTEXTUALIZATION: Columbian Exchange Graphic with Themes
- Assign How to Be an Explorer Poem
- **HOMEWORK: Text 436-439; How to be an explorer poem**

Tuesday, October 18

- Lecture: 30 Years' War
- Exploration Review
- **HOMEWORK: Text 444-451**

Wednesday, October 19

- 30 Years' War DBQ or LEQ in class **OR** In-Class activity with LEQ graphic

***** Chapter 14 Exam Monday October 24; study guide & terms due**