

World History: Connection to Today

Chapter 16

The First Global Age: Europe, The Americas, and Africa (1492–1750)

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Chapter 16: The First Global Age: Europe, the Americas, and Africa (1492–1750)

Section 1: Conquest in the Americas

Section 2: Spanish and Portuguese Colonies in the Americas

Section 3: Struggle for North Africa

Section 4: Turbulent Centuries in Africa

Section 5: Changes in Europe

Conquest in the Americas



- What were the results of the first encounters between the Spanish and Native Americans?
- How did Spanish conquistadors conquer the Aztec and Incan empires?
- Why were the Spanish victorious?



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First Encounters



In 1492, Christopher Columbus landed in the West Indies, in the Caribbean. He encountered the Taíno people, who were friendly and generous toward the Spanish.

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.

Meanwhile, smallpox, measles and influenza carried by the Europeans wiped out village after native village. Native Americans had no **immunity**, or resistance, to such diseases.



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The Conquistadors



CORTÉS IN MEXICO

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.

PIZARRO IN PERU

Francisco Pizarro arrived in Peru in 1532, just after the conclusion of a bloody **civil war**.

Helped by Indian allies, Pizarro captured the new king, Atahualpa, and killed thousands of his followers.

The Spanish then overran the Incan heartland.



Land Claims in the Americas



By 1675, Spain, France, Britain, and Portugal possessed sizable overseas empires. Trade ships carried goods between Europe and the Americas and Africa.



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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.



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Spanish and Portuguese Colonies in the Americas



- How did Spain rule its empire in the Americas?
- What were the chief features of colonial society and culture?
- How did Portugal and other European nations challenge Spanish power?



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Ruling the Spanish Empire



In the 1500s, Spain claimed a vast empire stretching from California to South America.

GOVERNMENT	THE CATHOLIC CHURCH	THE ECONOMY
<p>Spain was determined to maintain strict control over its empire.</p> <p>The empire was divided into five provinces, each of which was ruled by a viceroy.</p> <p>The Council of the Indies helped pass laws for the colonies.</p>	<p>The Church worked with the government to convert Native Americans to Christianity.</p> <p>Church leaders often served as royal officials.</p> <p>Spanish missionaries forcibly imposed European culture over Native American culture.</p>	<p>Spain closely controlled economic activity, especially trade.</p> <p>The Spanish grew sugar cane, which was grown on plantations and required large numbers of workers.</p> <p>At first, the Spanish forced the Native Americans to work under brutal conditions.</p> <p>Later, the colonists began shipping slaves from Africa to do their work.</p>



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Colonial Society



In Spanish America, the mix of diverse people gave rise to a new social structure.

Peninsulares, people born in Spain, were at the top of society.

Creoles, American-born descendants of Spanish settlers, were next.

Mestizos were people of Native American and European descent.

Mulattoes were people of African and European descent. Native Americans and people of African descent formed the lowest social classes.



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Colonial Culture



The blending of Native American, African, and European peoples and traditions resulted in a new American culture.

Colonial cities were centers of government, commerce, and European culture.

To meet the Church's need for educated priests, the colonies built universities.

Although Spanish culture was dominant in the cities, the blending of diverse traditions changed people's lives throughout the Americas.



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Challenging Spanish Power



To get around Spain's strict control over colonial trade, smugglers traded illegally with Spanish colonists.

Dutch, English, and French pirates preyed on Spanish treasure ships. Some of these pirates, called **privateers**, even operated with the approval of European governments.

The Dutch, English, and French hunted for other gold empires and for a northwest passage to Asia.



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Struggle for North America



- What problems did settlers in New France face?
- What traditions of government evolved in the 13 English colonies?
- How did competition for power affect Europeans and Native Americans?



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Land Claims in the Americas About 1750



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New France



Throughout the 1500s, French fishing ships harvested fish off Newfoundland. However, the French did not build permanent settlements until 1608.

Helped by Native American allies, French explorers and fur traders traveled inland, claiming vast territory.

Wealthy landowners sought settlers to farm the land, but the harsh Canadian climate attracted few French peasants. Thus, the population of New France grew slowly.

In the late 1600s, the French king began to exert greater control over political and economic activities in New France.



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The 13 English Colonies



In the 1600s and 1700s, the English established 13 colonies in North America. Some, like Virginia and New York, were commercial ventures. Others, like Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, were set up as havens for persecuted religious groups.

Like the rulers of Spain and France, English monarchs asserted control over their American colonies. Yet, English colonists enjoyed a large degree of self-government.



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The Evolution of Traditions of Government



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.

Each colony had its own representative assembly elected by propertied men.

The tradition of consulting representative assemblies grew out of the English experience.



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Competition for Power



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

During the 1700s, Britain and France clashed in a worldwide struggle, known as the Seven Years' War. In North America, they battled each other in the French and Indian War. 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.



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Turbulent Centuries in Africa



- How did the arrival of Europeans in Africa lead to the Atlantic slave trade?
- How did the slave trade contribute to the rise of new African states?
- What groups battled for power in southern Africa?



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The Atlantic Slave Trade



The Atlantic slave trade was started in the 1500s to fill the need for labor in Spain's American empire.

Each year, traders shipped tens of thousands of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to work on tobacco and sugar plantations in the Americas.

Europeans relied on African rulers and traders to seize captives in the interior and bring them to coastal trade posts and fortresses.

The slave trade intensified as the demand for slaves increased in the Americas and the demand for luxury goods increased in Africa.



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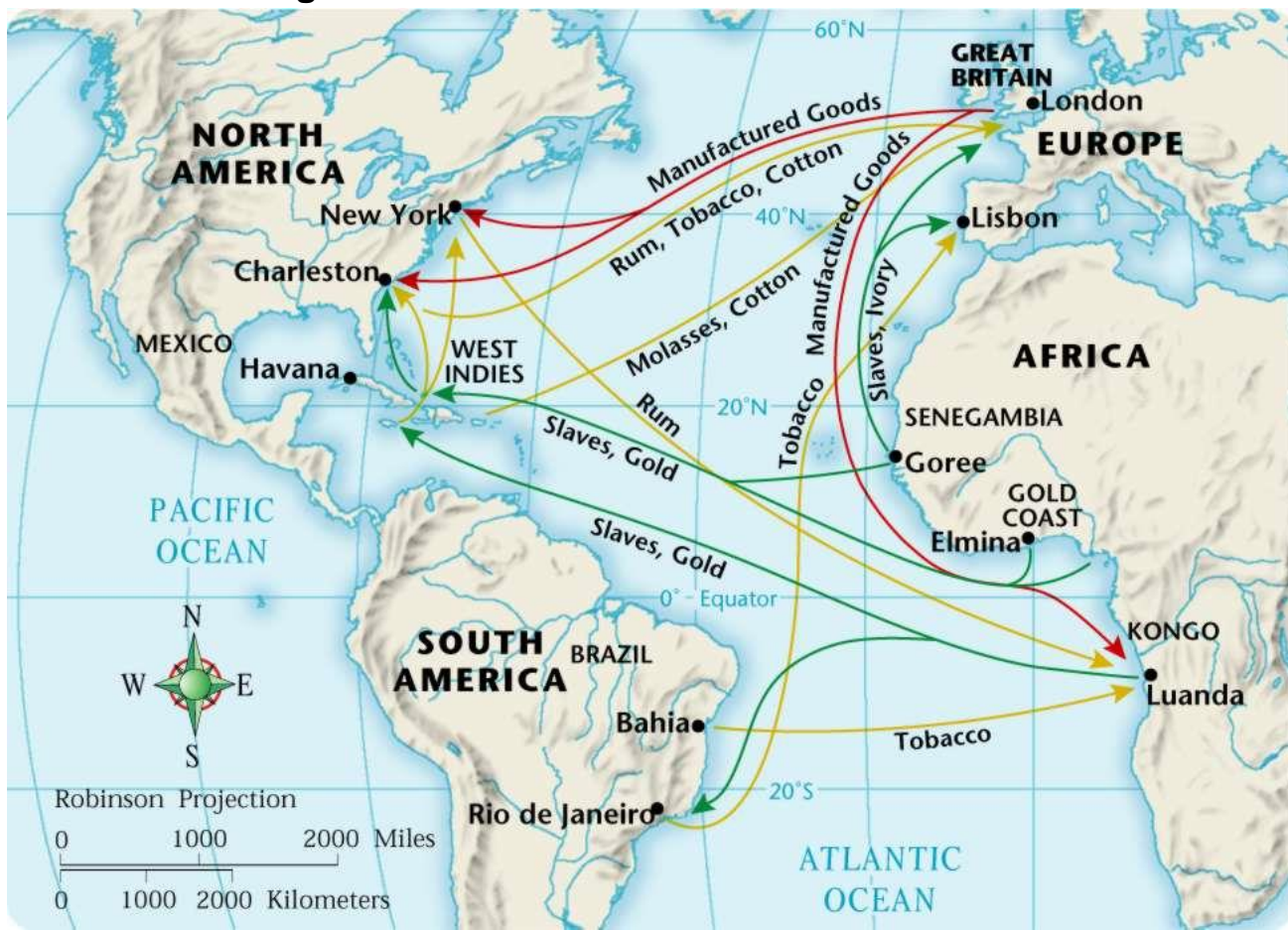
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Triangular Trade



The Atlantic slave trade formed one part of a three-legged trade network know as the **triangular trade**.



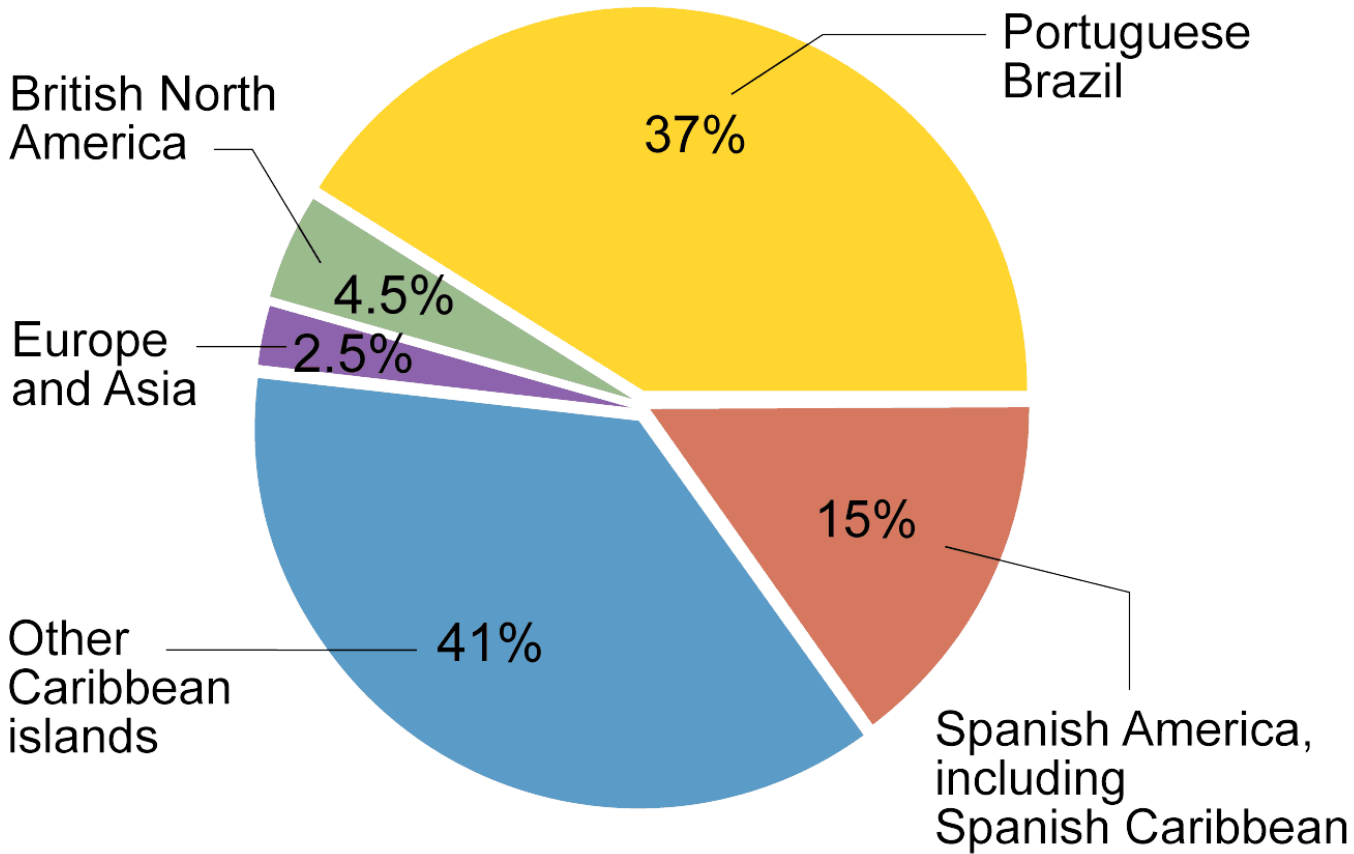
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Destinations of Enslaved Africans, 1500–1870



Source: Albert M. Craig, *World Civilizations*



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Impact of the Atlantic Slave Trade



By the 1800s, an estimated 11 million enslaved Africans had reached the Americas. Another 2 million probably died during the Middle Passage.

The slave trade caused the decline of some African states. In West Africa, the loss of countless numbers of young women and men resulted in some small states disappearing forever.

At the same time, new African states arose whose way of life depended on the slave trade. The rulers of these new states waged war against other Africans in order to gain control of the slave trade in their region.



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Battles for Power in Southern Africa



The Zulus had migrated into southern Africa in the 1500s.

In the 1800s, they emerged as a major force under a ruthless and brilliant leader, Shaka.

Between 1818 and 1828, the Zulus under Shaka waged relentless war. Shaka's wars disrupted life across southern Africa. Displaced groups migrated north, conquering other peoples and creating their own powerful states.

Dutch settlers in southern Africa were called Boers. In the late 1830s, the Boers came into contact with the Zulus and fighting broke out.

At first, the Zulu regiments held their own. But in the end, they were defeated by the Boers' superior military technology.



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Changes in Europe



- How did European explorations lead to a global exchange?
- What impact did the commercial revolution and mercantilism have on European economies?
- How did these changes affect ordinary people?



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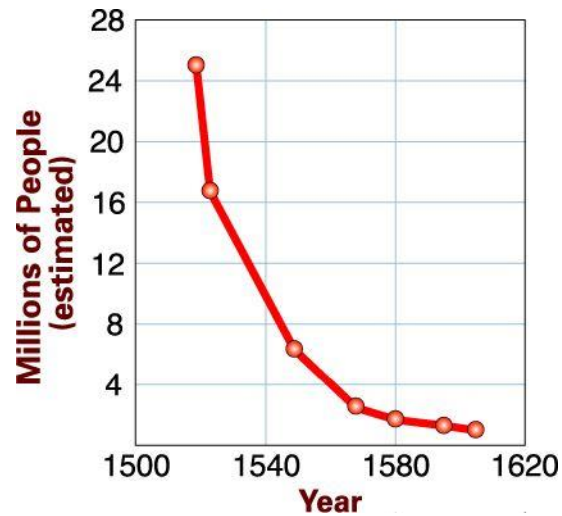


The Columbian Exchange



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.



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A Commercial Revolution



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.



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Mercantilism



European monarchs adopted a new economic policy, known as **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 **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.



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