

Chapter Three Contact and Conflict

History Reconsidered

- The view that lands were discovered by Europeans and not people living in these areas were the ones who encountered Euro is common

The World in 1450

A Medieval View

- 15th century held a revolution in geographic knowledge
- *Geography*, book written by Ptolemy, contained famous map of the world
 - Portrayed the world as a globe, divided into 360 degrees longitude, three continents, two oceans; underestimated land to water ratio as well as size of the earth
- Large amounts of mythology with far off places

The Wider World in 1450

- The dominant civilization in the first half of the last millennium was not Euro, it was China
 - Most populous, most technology, powerful military
- 15th century other societies thriving; Ottoman and Muscovite states, Mesoamerica, Inca, Africa
- Why were the Euro the ones to explore?...

Fate, Fortune, and Faith

The Rise of Capitalism

- 15th century saw emergence of powerful banking families: Medicis of Florence, Fuggers of Augsburgs → changed view of wealth
- Primary importance was to use money to make money
- Capitalism: relies on organization of capital, labour, raw materials to produce surplus wealth
 - Provided motive for powerful merchants to sponsor exploration
- Changed nature of long distance trade; merchants did not look as much for luxury goods but for raw, unprocessed materials to be refined by Euro manufacturers

Searching for Wealth

- India and Orient supplying Euro with spices, silks, herbs
 - These exotic goods lead many to believe there was a terrestrial paradise; reflected importance of trade between Euro and Orient
- Turkish conquest of Constantinople 1453 – created problem for Euro merchants
- Ottomans regulated goods by imposing duties – goods either not available or too expensive
 - Western merchants were forced to look elsewhere

Geography

- Secure riches provided motivation for Euro to explore – geographic fate provided opportunity
- All Euro powers that engaged in overseas exploration had one thing: Atlantic Ocean

- Greatest maritime discovery – cracking codes of Atlantic wind systems

Technological Developments

- Quadrant and Astrolabe allowed sailors to sail past the vision of land
- Mapmaking allowed for geographic documentation of long-distance travels
- 15th century, Portuguese developed new sailing ship, without slaves paddling
 - 25 meters long, triangle sail allowed for faster and even upwind travel

The Search for Souls

- Religion was also a major reason for exploration in 15th and 16th centuries
- Expansion of Islamic empire of Ottoman Turks lead to Euro uneasiness
 - Some voyages taken in hopes of finding Christian allies
- Reformation began with posting of Luther's 95 theses – split Christendom into Catholic, Protestant, and Anabaptist faiths
 - Euro kingdoms either adopted Protestant or defended Catholic Church
- Rivalries developed battles for souls – more incentive for exploration and colonization – developed into face to win converts
- Overseas colonies became places for people to practice their religions free from persecution

Discoveries

- Age of Euro exploration/expansion began 1414 when Portuguese captured Muslim port; opened door to Euro exploration in the south Atlantic
- Need for raw materials to feed Euro capitalism and blockades of Ottoman Turks lead Euros to search for a path to the riches of Asia
- Portuguese opened route to India 1487
- Columbus came upon islands of Caribbean 1492; Spanish continued by exploring mainland of South and Central America
- Spanish discovered Americas as well as a route to Asia – first circumnavigation of the globe

Trial of Columbus

- Following discovery of Americas Columbus made Viceroy of Espanola
- Efforts to establish Spanish colonies and spread Christianity came under criticism by King Ferdinand of Spain – sent Bobadilla to investigate in 1500
- Bobadilla sent Columbus back to Spain in chains; Bobadilla governed island colonies and investigated charges
- Book *Caribbean* states that Columbus was imaginative, a genius, but could not govern because he was always looking for the future and finish what he started
 - Thousands of Tainos people were slaughtered; became extinct
- Bobadillo never returned to Spain with findings; drowned on return journey
- Columbus exonerated and sailed final voyage in 1502 – died 1506 without reaching Asia

The Clash of Empires

- Euro explorers encountered complex and developed societies on each continent visited
- Trade began as mutually beneficial – Euro thirst for conquest and control lead to clashes of empires all over the world

The Ottoman Empire

- Motivation for Euro exploration was expansion of Ottoman Empire
- Ottoman Empire moved west, converted to Islam, became driving force behind renewed Muslim expansion
- Ottoman Empire reached its peak under leadership of Suleiman the first
- He extended Empire throughout Middle East, North Africa, Balkans, almost Vienna
- Euro monarchs would now have to consider Empire when planning diplomatic and military affairs
- Euros wanted to protect trade and boundaries – relationship developed
 - Individual alliances between Muslim sultans and Euro kings
 - France and Ottomans allied against Hapsburgs in Spain
- Pre-18th century Ottoman Empire and Western adversaries were equal powers
- Ottomans fell behind in military might and technical skills; Ottomans unable to expand or improve military
- Euro was able to make the necessary changes – better medical practices, new foods
 - Got wealth by exploiting mines and fields in overseas colonies

Exploring The Americas

The Conquest of the Aztecs

- Euros found cities as complex as their own in Aztec and Inca capitals
- Prejudice and greed soon took over; Spaniards came into Mexico wanting fortunes by exploiting Indian labour, and taking Indian land
- Radical depopulation took place; disease, forced labour, slavery, demoralization
- Cattle, sheep, goats introduced – needs had to be met
- Population of central Mexico declined about 95% by end of 16th century
- Invading Euros brought diseases
- Aztecs starved and plagued to defeat; Spanish conquistadors prevailed

The Conquest of the Incas

- Inca, in 90 years, developed an empire that exceeded all in the New World; military, administration, sophisticated, powerful → brought down by single event
- Encounter between Inca emperor Atawallpa and Francisco Pizarro
- Spanish attacked Atawallpa's retinue and army; no Inca offered armed resistance
 - End of day – 7000 Indians dead; extracted huge ransom; executed Atawallpa
- Inca succumbed to Spanish invaders and destroyed by disease
- Overall, biological disaster that allowed Euros to conquer Inca Empire

West Meets East

China

- In attempts to establish trade relations with China and Japan Euros had to adapt to existing economy
- 16th century China was highly centralized and bureaucratized
- Dutch tried to establish base in China but remained transporter of goods within established trade circle; couldn't make themselves essential to trade
- Chinese decided to limit foreign contact to commercial relations and only on selected coastal sites

- No Euro power ever established monopoly in trade with Chinese
- English and Portuguese became competitive with Dutch showing them they were never an essential role in Asian world economy

Japan

- 16th century Japan was unstable making it easier for Euros to penetrate; lead by Portuguese Jesuit and Spanish Franciscan missionaries
- Tried to Christianize the Japanese
- Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, then shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu united Japan and moved seat of government to Edo (Tokyo)
- Ieyasu brought Japan peace and order
- Expelled all foreigners, crucified Native Christian converts that rebelled in 1638
- No foreigner allowed to live on Japanese soil; beginning of seclusion policy
- Japan remained isolated from the world for the next 250 years

Human Servitude

Origins of Slavery in Africa

- Slavery existed in Africa before Euros arrived
- Euro slavers used religion as a reason for: baptizing shiploads of Africans saying they should be grateful for slavery because it lead them to Jesus
- Spanish and Portuguese dominated slave trade across Atlantic during 16th century; 17th century it was the Dutch
- Trade in captives abolished in 19th century, as did slavery → last emancipation was in Brazil in 1888
- 1663 Royal Adventurers of England founded; slaves branded with “dy”
- Result of exploitation of Africans as slaves was: depopulation (mostly young males) and the consequent underdevelopment of Africa
- All of the above contributed to continuing status of African countries as developing nations today

The Evolving European World System

- *The Modern World-System* by Immanuel Wallerstein – a capitalist world economy developed out of Euro trade
- Two other world economies coexisted with Euro: Asia and Russia
- Euro economy was capitalist throwing it into markets and resources of the world
- Various workers to fuel new world economy: slaves, serfs, “tenant” and “yeomen” farmer → worked the land for the upper classes

Early Contact

- Spanish discovered largest concentrations of precious metals in the Americas – Aztec Empire and Inca Empire
- Both civilizations doomed to military defeat and population collapse from disease and intermarriage with conquerors
- Rivalry between Spain and Portugal over discovered lands – tensions, papacy tried to help with Treaty of Tordesillas → divided respective areas of exploration along line of longitude
- Spanish concentrated more on settlement than trade; enslaved Native peoples
- Abuses of slavery; Taino people became extinct;

Trading Companies

- East India Company (1600) to trade for spices with the Indian Malabar Coast
- United East India Company (1602) to trade with Indonesia and Malaya
- French East India Company (1604) in northern France
- Dutch United West India Company (1621) in Netherlands to deal with furs and slaves
- Set up by government initiatives and exploited overseas markets
 - Awarded monopoly rights, exemption from taxes, right to own land...
- The Netherlands was able to develop a large empire; and the Dutch played a dominant role in various area of the world

Cross-Cultural Exchange

Europe Abroad

- Passing of knowledge between Euro and wider-world was a two-way process
- Information as well as cultures came back to Euro and Euro did the same in other places

Euro-American Societies

- Euro-American was a blend of European and American cultures
- South America – Spanish adapted Inca tribute system: *encomienda*
 - Designed to ensure the well-being of all members, good and bad, of a society
 - Spanish found tribute system good for their exploitation of Peru
- The way Spanish adapted the tribute system to their needs so insensitivity to Inca tradition and their greed
 - Seized lands set aside for the Inca state and Cult of the Sun
 - Tribute crops supplied by Indians no longer in reserve for famine
 - Did not redistribute wealth for benefit of all

New Foods

- Greatest impact from Columbus, on return visit in 1493
 - He brought horses, pigs, wheat, chickpeas, veggie seeds, fruit trees
- Euros later brought: chickens, barley, oats, rye, coffee, sugar from Africa
- Corn made a big impact, so did the potato
- Other New World foods that entered Euro diets were: chocolate, peanuts, vanilla, pineapple, lima beans, peppers
- Dutch attacked Portuguese colony in 17th century to try and take over sugar plantations

The Rise of Colonial Empires

- Read page 122 and look at map on page 122