

Chapter 1—New World Beginnings

Reading Questions	Terms
<p>I. Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When did recorded history of the Western world begin? <p>Recorded history of the Western world began around six thousand years ago.</p> <p>II. The Shaping of North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What major factors shaped the North American landscape? <p>First, 250 million years ago, Pangea split up and created all of the continents. By ten million years ago, the general shape of North America was formed, including the Canadian shield that anchored the whole continent. Then, two million years ago, the Great Ice Age happened, and when the ice moved down south from the arctic circle (two miles thick ice), it grinded the Canadian shield topsoil and created a bumpy surface. When the glaciers melted a bit, they filled those shallow parts with water, which led to the Great Lakes also. In the western US, it filled the Bonneville Lake, which got salty and evaporated, turning the south-western US into desert (somewhat) and leaving the Great Salt Lake in Utah.</p> <p>III. Peopling the Americas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How did the first people get to North America? <p>They crossed through a land bridge along the Bering Strait from Eurasia. This has since closed (the Great Ice Age raised the water level, covering the land bridge).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were some basic characteristics of the Aztecs, Mayans, and Incas? <p>Aztecs: Controlled Mexico until 1521, when they were conquered by Spanish Hernan Cortes. Had a sophisticated system of trade and tribute. Had advances in math and writing and human sacrifices for religion.</p> <p>Incas: Highly advanced civilization in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Conquered by Pizarro in 1532. Sophisticated agriculture techniques (terrace farming) to survive in harsh conditions.</p> <p>Mayans: Very advanced writing system, but also math, astronomy, other philosophical things. Also very good architects. Had human sacrifice. Collapsed over long period of time long time ago. Yucatan Peninsula.</p>	<p>Great Ice Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Two million years ago- Two mile thick ice sheets moved away from polar regions- PA to OH to Dakotas- Caused Great Lakes- Caused SW USA to be desert- Caused Great Salt Lake <p>Aztecs</p> <p>Controlled central Mexico for around 200 years, were overthrown by Spain (Hernan Cortes). Very sophisticated for their time.</p> <p>Pueblo peoples</p> <p>Lived in Rio Grande Valley in American Southwest, lived in terraced pueblos and had complex irrigation systems to grow corn.</p> <p>Mound Builders</p>

IV. The Earliest Americans

- How did corn impact societies in North America?

Corn was a huge factor in the level of advancement in an area/civilization. It allowed nomadic hunting bands to settle into agricultural villages. However, this process didn't happen all at the same time in North America. It was also the foundation of the Aztec and Incan civilizations. However, since it reached present day US later, the cultural development was slower of the people in SW USA, and it took longer for corn to spread through the northern part of the continent, which made it so that it wasn't that hard for the Europeans to take over once they came because we didn't have strong communities.

- How were most North American Indian societies organized?

There were a few large examples of Native American dominance in an area. When this occurred, it was mainly helped by three-sister farming (maize, beans, squash), which produced a rich diet in the peoples. This resulted in some of the highest population densities in the creek, Choctaw, and Cherokee tribes.

Also worth noting were the Iroquois in the northeast US, and they were probably the most powerful and well operated out of all the tribes. They were strong politically and economically, and had strong military alliances with the other tribes and the Europeans.

However, other than those examples, most Native Americans were living in small, tight-knit, temporary settlements that were scattered from each other before the Europeans came.

In more advanced agricultural tribes, women helped with the crops and men hunted, fished, gathered fuel, and cleared fields. Often times, the women had a very considerable amount of power. Lots of Native Americans, including the Iroquois, had matrilineal systems, when power/family name/possessions passed on on the female side of the line!

- How did Indians relate to nature?

Generally, the Indians had a very peaceful relationship to nature, even sometimes having a spiritual relationship to some aspects of it. They generally did not have the means nor the will to impact nature very negatively. However, they did sometimes burn huge swaths of forest for hunting purposes. This surprised the Europeans when there were huge swaths of open land.

Lived in Ohio River Valley in lower Midwest, named because they buried their dead in large mounds.

The Iroquois Confederacy

Formed in late 1500s, the Iroquois Confederacy, in upper New York State area/surrounding Canada area was very robust and solid. They made military alliances with other Natives and even the Europeans, and many people feared them. They also had an advanced system of government for their time, something not dissimilar to what we see today.

Marco Polo

An Italian adventurer, returned to Europe in 1295 and began to tell stories of how marvelous China was (even though he may have never been to China) and stimulated interest in exploration and finding a cheaper route to Asia.

Portuguese Explorers

Portugal made the special caravel boat which made it possible to sail downwind down the coast of Africa. Then they took control of the areas surrounding the coast, all the way down to the southern tip of Africa. They bought/sold slaves, and while they did not start it, they greatly expanded the African slave trade and introduced them as the labor behind plantations (on islands off of the coast of Africa). Then Vasco da Gama made it all the way to India and brought back spices and other fancy things, which further peaked interest in exploration.

The fact that the native americans didn't pose much negative impact to the land was helped by the fact that there weren't many in number. In 1492, when columbus landed in the western hemisphere, there were only around 4 million of them, not enough to pose a hugely negative impact on the land.

V. Indirect Discoverers of the New World

- How did the Christian Crusaders lead to increased trade?

What the Christian Crusaders were doing was fighting for the Holy land in the middle east. They were doing this for hundreds of years, but while in the middle east they started to get used to some of their relative luxuries (at that time), including drugs, silk, perfume, colored draperies, and spices (mainly SUGAR). Sugar (along with drugs) was important because once you get the Europeans hooked, they will just keep buying it. This increased trade from middle east to europe, convincing europeans to find alternative routes other than by ship/camel that would be cheaper.

VI. Europeans Enter Africa

- Why was the caravel important?

Further european expansion was impacted by the extreme difficulty of sailing down the coast of west africa due to its high winds, which was basically impossible for any sailor. However, the caravel, invented by the portuguese, was important because it could sail very close into the wind.

- Briefly describe Spanish and Portuguese actions in West Africa.

Portuguese: Set up trading posts for gold and slaves. It is worth noting that slavery was not started by the europeans, only expanded greatly. It was started by the Arabs and upper class Africans. The portuguese expanded those practices and exported slaves to work on sugar plantations on African islands that portugal (and soon spain) controlled, founding the slave plantation economy.

Then, since the portuguese could sail down the windy west african coast with their nice caravels, they did so, steadily taking control of the coastline on their way. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias reached the southern tip of Africa and ten years later in 1498, Vasco de Gama reached India and brought back spices/other goods.

Since portugal all but controlled this route (tip of south africa -> india), Spain had to go searching a different way - westward.

Renaissance

Started around 14th century, people had a spirit of optimism and discovery and were eager about exploration.

Christopher Columbus

First of his time to set foot on the Americas, but believed that he had landed in India, so called it as such

"Columbian Exchange"

Europe had the markets, the money, and the technological advances

Africa had slave labor

The Americas had raw materials - soil good for sugar and precious metals

The specifics of what went from old world to new world and vice versa I wrote in VIII (when worlds collide)

Small pox

The Europeans brought Smallpox and other diseases (smallpox was the most devastating one) unknowingly. Because the Europeans had been living with those diseases for hundreds of years, they already had immunity and weren't vulnerable to severe illness. However, the Indians did not have any immunity and, once it started to spread, became one of the deadliest things to ever happen to the Indians. In some areas,

VII. Columbus Comes upon a New World

- What factors set the stage for the discovery of the New World?
 - Europeans wanted middle eastern/indian/asian products and cheaper
 - Africa became known for a source of cheap slave plantation labor
 - Portugal showed that long distance ocean travel could work
 - Spain was modernizing, getting rich, powerful, and united and becoming a global power that could begin to colonize.
 - The renaissance - optimism and spirit of discovery
 - Printing presses spread knowledge
 - Mariners compass was developed
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- What global economic system emerged from Columbus's discovery?

Columbus forged the path from the eastern hemisphere to the western hemisphere, which led the way to an Atlantic economic system between North/South America, Europe, and Africa.

Europe had the markets, the money, and the technological advances
Africa had free slave labor
The Americas had raw materials - soil good for sugar and precious metals

VIII. When Worlds Collide

- What was transferred from the New World to the Old World due to the Columbian Exchange?
 - Tobacco, Maize, Beans, Potato, Tomato (potato was very important to NW)
 - Gold and Silver
 - Syphilis disease

- What was transferred from the Old World to the New World due to the Columbian Exchange?

Wheat, Sugar, Rice, Coffee, Sugar Cane seeds

Cattle, Swine, Horses

Accidentally brought seeds of invasive species such as Kentucky Bluegrass (lawn grass), dandelions, daisies

up to 90% of them died, a number bigger than any war or battle could inflict.

Treaty of Tordesillas

Spain secured its claim to everything that Columbus discovered in the New World, while conceding to Portugal the lands that they controlled in West Africa and the area that would become Brazil (which explains why Brazil alone in South America speaks Portuguese).

Encomienda System

A system that allowed the government to commend/give Indians to colonists so that they could try and convert them to Christianity. However, it was basically another form of slavery in the end.

Bartolome de Las Casas

A Spanish missionary, when he saw the Encomienda system in Hispaniola, said that it was "a moral pestilence invented by Satan."

Hernando Cortes

Led the conquistadors that defeated the Aztec kingdom and burned Technochilitan to the ground. He was very brave and confident, and when trying to instill bravery into his men, he burned down his ships so that there would be nobody wanting to leave the adventure behind.

Moctezuma

Smallpox, measles, bubonic plague, influenza, typhus, diphtheria, scarlet fever

- How did the horse impact different Indian tribes?

They took it in and changed their culture to become highly mobile and wide ranging hunting societies. They would chase the shaggy buffalo.

- How did disease impact the Indians?

They died in droves. They had absolutely no antibodies to fight off any of the multiple diseases that Columbus and his crew brought over, and that one reason alone killed more Indians than slavery and fighting combined.

One example, the Taíno people in Hispaniola went from around 1 million people to just 200 in only 50 years. Those are just crazy and catastrophic numbers, and most of it was from disease.

In the centuries after Columbus arrived, as many as 90% of the Native population was wiped out.

IX. The Conquest of Mexico and Peru

- How did Spain and Portugal subdue the Indians?

The Spanish and Portuguese were able to subdue the Indians because they had advanced weaponry and equipment like guns and swords, and they also had horses. Also in their favor was the diseases that they carried, and their immunity to those diseases, which the natives did not possess. The natives died in droves from the diseases, while the Europeans already possessed immunity from living with those illnesses for hundreds of years.

- Briefly summarize Cortes's conquest of the Aztecs.

The Aztecs were partially to blame for letting their guard down as they believed that Cortes was a god returning from the eastern sea and treated him with great hospitality, giving them gifts when they arrived at his kingdom. They realized that the Aztecs were relatively well off for their time, and started advancing into the kingdom. The Aztec leader, Moctezuma, messed up on his part and allowed them to freely advance through the kingdom towards the capital, Tenochtitlan. When Cortes and the rest of the Spanish arrived in the capital, they decided to quench their thirst for gold by telling the Aztecs that they had a heart condition that

Sent ambassadors to Cortes to give him gifts and allow free passage towards capital Tenochtitlan, also gave Cortes and the Spaniards a lot of gold, Moctezuma believed Aztec legend that gods would come back from eastern sea and thought that Cortes was the god. However, when he got suspicious, he attacked the Spaniards and tried to get them out, but it backfired on him and they sieged the capital. Also, many of his people died of the European diseases. Not the best leader under the circumstances.

Francisco Pizarro

Crushed the Incas in 1532 and took control of Peru, where there was much silver ready to be mined, shipped a lot of silver backed to Europe.

Mestizos

The offspring of the children of Indians and Spanish (there was a shortage of Spanish women with the explorers)

Conquistadores

Spanish conquerors, serving God and looking for glory and riches (gold)

Robert de La Salle

Explorer sent by the French government down the Mississippi river

Father Junipero Serra

Set up 21 missions in modern-day California, trying to show the word of Jesus Christ to the three hundred thousand natives living there. The natives also learned things like horticulture and basic crafts, but many of them died of diseases as well.

could only be fixed by gold (made me laugh when I read it). However, when the Aztecs got tired of continuously supplying the Spanish with endless gold, they decided to attack. However, the Spanish, even with less men, had better weaponry, leading to the fall of Tenochtitlan. However, among the weapons of the Europeans was a secret weapon that would demolish the Aztecs: disease. The Aztecs started to get smallpox and other diseases, which then spread like wildfire among the natives who did not have any immunity (unlike the Europeans). After that, the war was effectively over and the Spanish took over/ended the Aztec empire.

- How did New World precious metals impact the European economy?

The Spanish found a huge amount of silver in the mines in Potosi in present day Bolivia. The flood of supply set off a price revolution that increased prices up to 500%, and fed the growth of capitalism in Europe, while ballooning their economy.

- How did the Europeans impact Indian culture?

In a way, Europeans attempted to make the Indians more like themselves. However, the downside of this was that, in many ways, the Indians lost their native culture and ways of life. The other way that this happened was that many, many Indians died of disease that the Europeans brought over. Among these were the Indian elders, who had all the knowledge that couldn't get passed on, and in some circumstances up to 90% of the Indians in a tribe died from disease, losing much culture.

X. Exploration and Imperial Rivalry

- Explain where each of the following "conquistadores" conquered.
-Juan Ponce de Leon

Landed in Florida seeking gold, thought it was an island

-Francisco Coronado

Arizona and New Mexico, going as far east as Kansas - saw Grand Canyon, Colorado River, and Bison

-Hernando de Soto

Went west from Florida and crossed the Mississippi

- What happened in Pope's Rebellion and what was its impact?

When the Spanish came to New Mexico, they did not find a wealth of natural resources but instead found a wealth of Indian cultures who could be converted to Christianity. However, in that process, the Spanish suppressed a lot of the Indian cultures. The Pueblo people rebelled, burned down a lot of Catholic churches, and put up their own religious idol

in the center of the ruins of the Spanish plaza in Santa Fe. It took almost 50 years for the Spanish to regain control of New Mexico.

Its impact was that it took the Spanish another half century from the rebellion to regain control, and even after that their presence was severely weakened.

- Give examples of Spanish missionary efforts.

Nearly everywhere the Spanish conquistadors went, they tried to spread the word of Christ. This was especially true in areas where there wasn't much other appeal to the land in form of natural resources/gold.

One example was the *encomienda*, first tested in the West Indies, was a practice similar to slavery in which the Spanish would get permission from the government to "commend" someone and try to convert them, but it was a practice likened to slavery.

The Spanish settlers in New Mexico were also very eager about being missionaries, especially since that area didn't have much other than the natives living there. However, they took a tendency to discarding the customs of the natives, which led to the Pope's rebellion.

Then father Junipero Serra set up 21 missions in modern-day California, trying to show the word of Jesus Christ to the three hundred thousand native Californians living there. However, the natives also learned things like horticulture and basic crafts. This seemed to work for father Serra, and many Indians converted. However, they also had contact with their native culture, and many of them died from the Europeans' diseases.

- Explain the "Black Legend" and why the textbook considers it a false concept.

The Black Legend was a concept that the Spanish conquerors only tortured the Indians, stole their gold, and infected them with smallpox and other diseases, and left behind misery. While conceding that many of the downsides of Spanish occupation are true and disheartening, the textbook counters that the Spanish weren't all bad and that they also built up an empire from Florida and California and Terra del Fuego. The textbook also argues that the Spanish gave their laws, language, religion, and customs to the native societies, laying the foundation for many Spanish-speaking countries and areas in South America and the southern areas of North America.