**Age of Exploration**

1. Exploration of the New World
   1. The 15th century was an age of exploration and discovery, not only of the New World but of the Far East as well
      1. 1400: Europeans know little of the world’s surface
      2. 1325: There was still no regular sea traffic between northern and southern Europe by way of the Atlantic
   2. Why did Europeans begin exploring at this time?
      1. Population not a factor
         1. European population had not yet recovered from the Black Death
      2. The role of national governments
         1. The explorations were encourage by national governments
         2. Countries that lacked such national governments, like Italy and Germany, were cut out
      3. Scarce items
         1. Looking for the things they could not produce themselves
         2. Included spices, silk, cotton cloth, and precious stones
            1. The Venetian monopoly in spices set very high prices
         3. John Cabot of England was looking for cod- Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland
      4. The Renaissance
         1. Middle Ages: Europeans had no burning desire to look beyond their world
         2. Renaissance = ideas of human improvement = curiosity
         3. They also looked back at the knowledge of the ancients
            1. Ptolemy’s Geography recovered in 1409- world as a sphere
         4. New inventions
            1. The magnetic compass first developed around 1300 and the astrolabe permitted the plotting of latitude
            2. Better maps
   3. The Beginnings of Exploration
      1. The Portuguese: took the lead in exploration along Africa
         1. Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460)
         2. Found the Gold Coast of Africa
            1. By 1500, controlled the flow of gold into Europe
         3. Worked around Africa searching for a passage, and also founded the slave trade which they also soon controlled
         4. 1487: Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope in Africa
            1. Pero de Cavilha was sent overland to India to find ports in India and Africa that would welcome the Portugeuse
         5. Concerned themselves with their other main rival, Spain
            1. The Treaty of Torsedillas in 1494, divided the world between Spain and Portugal
         6. Vasco De Garna in 1497 set sail and eventually reached India
            1. 2300 mile trip across the Indian Ocean in only 27 days, with the wind at his back and a skilled Indian pilot who maneuvered around the islands and reefs
            2. The trip back to Africa took 3 months
            3. By the time he returned to Portugal, he had lost two ships and only 59 of the 170 men
            4. The cargo he carried, however, was worth 60 times the cost of the expedition
         7. In time, the Portuguese set up trading posts in India to the discomfort of the Arabs there
            1. Christianity spread as well (with them)
            2. Jesuits reached Japan in 1549
      2. The Spanish enter the race
         1. The Spanish had not found anything that paid such dividends
         2. Columbus: dispatched with the support of Ferdinand and Isabella in August, 1492, landing in October at San Salvador which he believed to be India
            1. Columbus ultimately located all the major islands in the Caribbean
            2. Found new souls to win over to Catholicism and new land to settle the hidalgos
            3. Columbus also found gold
            4. The work was tedious and the Indians had no immunity to most European diseases
            5. The population of Hispanola fell from one million in 1493 to 100,000 by 1510
            6. Black slaves would be imported from Guinea to mine
            7. But the amounts of gold found were tiny and still the voyages had not paid off
         3. 1513: Balboa sighted the Pacific Ocean (isthmus of Panama)
         4. Ferdinand Magellan: sea route to the new ocean
            1. Found the straits at the bottom of South America
            2. Ocean he found on the other side: named it the Pacific
            3. Magellan crossed the Pacific, missing Tahiti, the Marquesas, and every other major island group, arriving finally in the Philippines
            4. Was killed and the rest of his expedition finally returned to Spain in 1518
         5. The Conquistadors: sent inland looking for treasure
            1. Cortes (1519): captured the Aztec empire and Pizarro captured Peru between 1531-36
            2. The Spanish began exploiting this new found wealth
            3. Wealth passed through Spain to create raging inflation in the rest of Europe
2. Social Results of Exploration and Expansion
   1. Technology
      1. Major impact on European social life, primarily through new developments in ship building
         1. Before the Renaissance, the ships that plied the Mediterranean were narrow open boats called galleys
         2. Frequently rowed or used a small mast which did not catch the wind efficiently
         3. Would have sunk quickly in the rough seas of the Atlantic
         4. The Portugeuse developed the caravel in the 15th century, a three-masted ship which could actually hold more cargo, and could be sailed by as few as 12 men
      2. Unimaginable amounts of gold and silver came in from Spanish possessions
      3. Influx of bullion led to major price increases
         1. Between 1503 and 1650, 16 million kilograms (40 million pounds) of silver and 185 thousand of gold reached Europe
         2. Artisans could not rapidly increase the production of their goods (handmade) = large amounts of money chasing very few consumer goods = major price hikes
         3. Merchants profited and prospered because and could rapidly raise the prices they charged for their wares
         4. The nobility were hurt because they were paid a fixed sum by their tenants over a long term lease
         5. Wages of workers lagged behind the inflation rate
      4. The price of food rose sharply
         1. By 1600, wheat cost 5 times what it had in the late 1400s
         2. Agriculture became a lucrative field for investment
         3. Merchants bought land to diversify operations and increase profits
         4. Began managing farms, resulting in the Second Agricultural Revolution
      5. Many articles, such as sugar, coffee, and rice, stopped being luxuries because they were available in larger quantities
      6. Industry thrived as well, especially glassmaking (became cheaper)
         1. Glass windows allowed far more light into a room
            1. With more light, houses could be split into smaller rooms for more privacy = separate rooms from their children
         2. Also allowed finer glass to be produced
            1. Allowed it to be ground more efficiently
            2. Allowed microscopes and telescopes to be developed
            3. Helped bring forth the Scientific Revolution
3. Slavery
   1. The slave trade underwent a Renaissance as well
   2. Portugal dominated the slave trade because of conquest of African ports
   3. The chief market for these slaves was Spanish South America
      1. In Brazil in 1798, for example, there were 2 million blacks out of a total population of 3.25 million
   4. Slavery was widespread in Africa and Europe, and Europeans almost always contracted with other African tribes to provide them with slaves for sale in the Americas
   5. Africans were already familiar with slavery, having practiced the system against one another for centuries- very different though from slavery as it emerged in the Americas
      1. Who was involved (kings of larger African countries- also an outflow trade to the Muslims)
      2. Why slavery existed: punishing criminals, prisoners of war, debts
      3. Conditions of slavery: for a limited period, slaves had legal protections, slaves usually treated as part of the household
   6. The pace at which slaves were taken increased, leading to the disintegration of the African social system
   7. Controversy surrounded slavery almost at once
      1. Some considered it inhumane- others saw the system as an economic necessity
4. The Columbian Exchange
   1. Developed by historian Alfred W. Crosby
      1. Describes the transfer (both intentional and unintentional) of biological materials between Europe and the Americas
      2. Simultaneously devastating and beneficial
   2. Most important import from the New World after its wealth was food
      1. Potato: could grow where nothing else could, and its culture eventually spread to England and Germany
      2. Fish from the Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland entered the European diet
      3. The tomato first appeared in Europe in a yellow form
         1. Valuable source of vitamin C as was the potato
      4. ‘Miracle crop’ at first was surely corn
         1. Instead of getting back 5 grains for every one sown as one did in wheat cultivation, one got back 70 or more
         2. Corn filled the granaries of Europe
   3. The Sugar Trade
      1. Prized for its high profits: center of production was Brazil
      2. Became available just as the supply of the traditional European sweetener, honey, dwindled
   4. New beverages from colonies in Asia and the New World, like: coffee, chocolate, and tea
      1. All these drinks are high in caffeine (non-intoxicating)
      2. Became the approved drinks of middle class Protestants
   5. New cooking techniques reached Europe
      1. The barbecue was adapted from the northern coast of Hispanola
      2. African slaves brought to British islands in the Caribbean brought their ways of cooking with them
      3. New foods and ways to cook them = fewer people in Europe died
   6. The population of the continent soared, freeing up labor and emigration of excess Europeans back to the New World
   7. Easier for later generations of Europeans to settle in the Americas
      1. Disease from the Europeans struck native populations very hard
      2. Diseases: measles, smallpox, the mumps, pneumonia
      3. In some areas, 90% or high mortality rate within first decade
      4. Estimate: total Indian population of the Americas dropped from around 25-30 million people to less than 5 million people in the 150 years following Columbus

**Commercial Revolution**

1. European economic life changed dramatically in the 16th and 17th centuries
   1. Europe was now engaged in a dynamic worldwide capitalism
   2. More people lived off commerce and industry
   3. Major changes in agriculture freed up labor
2. Mercantilism became the norm for many nation states
   1. Government regulates the economy to increase the wealth and power of the state
      1. Profit for the individual: secondary concern
   2. Countries without a strong national government, like Italy and Germany which were not even united, or eastern European states with fragile unity, could no longer compete successfully
   3. Mercantilists believed the amount of wealth was fixed
      1. The idea was to get as much as you could
      2. Importance of collecting precious metals
3. Spain and Portugal
   1. Spain and Portugal got off to an early lead in exploration and exploiting New World wealth, but neither continued into the 17th century
   2. The population of Portugal was simply too small
   3. Spain’s decay was harder to explain (had both the population and money)
      1. Hurt own agricultural base
      2. Religious persecution
      3. Money from overseas simply created inflation
4. The Netherlands
   1. The Dutch made a stab at becoming the best in exploration and exploitation of non-European resources
      1. The Dutch East India company and West India company were private companies authorized by the state to administer overseas territories, and they were successful in the short run
      2. Possessed better ships and lower freight rates than anyone else
      3. The religious toleration of the Netherlands encouraged those persecuted elsewhere to settle there
   2. Too small in numbers to compete
5. England
   1. England, after a slow start, prevailed in the long run
      1. Inferior to France in population, fertility of the soil and size, England nonetheless had some major advantages that became clearer over time
      2. Geographical isolation discouraged military conquest
   2. Among the first to achieve national unity
   3. The aristocracy and middle class controlled Parliament, so the government enacted laws benefitting trade and banking
      1. Navigation Acts restricted trading with England to English ships
      2. Ships could not sail directly to Europe from English colonies without first putting into English ports
   4. Benefitted from relative religious toleration
   5. The English were also aided by the fact that the distance from the mother country to her colonies in the New World was considerably shorter than the distance between Spain and her colonies
6. Other economic developments
   1. Banking and accounting
      1. Public banks superseded private
         1. Bank of Sweden was first, but the most famous was the Bank of England, chartered in 1694
      2. Joint stock companies were created to raise the large amounts of money needed to succeed in this worldwide trade
   2. Two major developments: the domestic system and changes in agriculture
      1. The Domestic System
         1. Sometimes called the ‘cottage industry system’: peasants took raw materials (wool) home where the wool would be cleaned, carded, spun and woven into cloth
            1. Many advantages

Increased employment in rural areas

Not regulated by guilds

People began to specialize

* + - * 1. Suitable for common items like cloth, buttons and knives
        2. Appeared first in England
    1. Second Agricultural Revolution
       1. Major development in agriculture
          1. People who had made fortunes in trade began buying land
       2. New capitalist managers created solved the problem of setting the land lie fallow to avoid soil exhaustion
          1. Middle Ages: one third of the land was left fallow each year
          2. Now farmers would alternate grain that robbed the soil of nitrogen with nitrogen storing crops like beets and turnips
          3. Elaborate systems of rotation were developed
       3. Led to bigger & healthier herds and more manure to enrich the soil
       4. Required large amounts of land
       5. Led to the enclosing of common land and pastures (‘enclosement’) which in turn created a new class of tenant farmers
          1. The independent English farmer began to disappear
       6. First: Low Countries- land was scarce and the population large
          1. Process spread to England