

## CONTACT: Europeans & Amerindians

### I. Overview—big ideas

- By 1600 Europeans had created the world's first truly global economy.
- Meanwhile, the "age of discovery" resulted in the greatest human catastrophe the world has ever known: 90% of Amerindians died by 1600; slavery of tens of millions of Africans.
- Cultural differences between European and Amerindians were so immense that major conflict occurred in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16th and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- Summary of relations between the three major colonial powers in America and the Amerindians
  - Spain sought to Christianize and control the Indians (through the *encomienda* and mission systems)
  - The French sought to establish strong trade relations with the Amerindians; Jesuits sought to convert them.
  - English settlers often sought to either move Indians westward or annihilate them

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### II. Native Americans (Amerindians)

- A. Population: approximately 100 million c. 1500 (high estimate); probably more like 50-70 million
- B. Arrived more than 40,000 years ago via Bering Strait (called Beringia when it was above land) and eventually spread to tip of South America (by 8,000 BCE)
  1. First immigrants hunted animals for meat and furs; probably built small fishing vessels.
  2. Beringia became isolated when Bering Strait under water c. 10,000 years ago
- C. New research in origins of Amerindians.
  1. Old Crow site in Yukon may be 50,000 years old.
  2. French team in northeastern Brazil working on site that might be 48,000 years old.
  3. 1992, new archeological research suggests oldest inhabitants may have come from south Asia or even Europe before northern Asians as previously thought.
  4. No evidence exists that humans lived in eastern Siberia (Russia) 30,000 years ago (only 12,000 years ago).

- D. By 8,000 BCE, Amerindians reached tip of South America.
1. Hundreds of tribes with different languages, religious & cultures inhabited America.
  2. Between 4,000 & 1,500 BCE permanent farm villages came to dominate parts of Peru, south-central Mexico, northeastern Mexico, and the southwestern U.S.
    - Grew maize, amaranth (a cereal), manioc (tapioca), chili peppers, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, & beans
- E. Developed civilizations ("sedentary societies"—non migratory)—late-Stone Age
1. Incas in Peru
  2. Mesoamerica: Aztecs in Mexico, and Mayans in Yucatan (earlier) developed advanced agricultural techniques based primarily on corn.
    - Built stone-carved cities rivaling many in Europe.
    - Studied mathematics and astronomy
    - Men and women worked fields and families saved surpluses for trade.
- F. North American Indians were generally less developed : most were "semi-sedentary" by Columbus' time
1. Most people lived in small scattered nomadic settlements.
  2. Some agriculture, probably developed by women
    - a. Men were the hunters; women the gatherers
    - b. Among Eastern Woodlands Indians, women did the farming (except tobacco); much "slash and burn" agriculture
    - c. Europeans sought to turn men into farmers; Indian men saw it as "women's work"
      - i. Spoke of "*reducing* the Indian men to civility"
      - ii. Indian males enjoyed much leisure time (like the European aristocracy)
  3. Most societies were matrilineal and matrilocal: women owned the property (Iroquois are a good example)
    - a. Men taught their children by persuasion and example.
    - b. Few cared to acquire more property than could be carried from one site to another.
    - c. Antithesis to European capitalism; Europeans saw them as poor consumers
  4. No individual land ownership (even in sedentary societies)
    - Clans or families guarded their "use rights" to land allocated by chiefs.
  5. Extensive trade in the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys
    - a. Most important man in the tribe was the man who gave the most away
    - b. Trade was not like a contract in the European sense
    - c. When trade stopped it was tantamount to declaring war.

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- G. Civilized societies in North America (exceptions to the predominance of less-developed tribes on the continent)
1. **Pueblo Indians:** Rio Grande Valley in New Mexico, Arizona, southwest Colorado
    - a. Corn planting, elaborate irrigation systems, multi-storied and terraced dwellings
    - b. Some Pueblo villages are still among the oldest in North America
  2. **Mound Builder** civilizations in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys
    - a. Mississippian culture (e.g. Cahokia near E. St. Louis) perhaps rivaled Egyptian architecture; home to as many as 40,000 people (c. 1000-1700 CE)
      - Central mound, 100 ft. high, world's largest earthen work.
      - Largest city north of Mexico
    - b. Iron tools, wore woven fabrics, buried dead in collective graves
    - c. Trade spanned from Appalachians to Rockies; Great Lakes to Gulf of Mexico.
  3. Atlantic seaboard tribes began growing maize, beans, & squash (c.1000 CE)
    - a. **Creeks** practiced democratic style government
    - b. **Choctaw** and **Cherokee** were also prominent
  4. **Iroquois** in eastern woodlands built a strong military confederacy (led by Hiawatha, late 16th c.)
    - a. Mohawk Valley of what is today New York State
    - b. Consisted of Five Nations: Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and the Senecas.
    - c. The "longhouse" was the foundation of Iroquois culture: 8 to 200 ft in length.

H. Religious differences between Amerindians and Europeans

1. Christian view:
  - a. Bible: God gave Adam dominion over animals and plants.
  - b. Bible did not mention Amerindians. What were they? From where did they come?
  - c. Sacrificial temples, skull racks, cannibalism and snake motifs of Mesoamerica meant Aztecs worshipped Satan in the eyes of Europeans.
    - Yet, 100,000 "witches" were killed in Europe between 1500-1700 in Europe
    - Spanish Inquisition burned thousands of "heretics"
    - Amerindians saw these too as human sacrifices

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2. Amerindian view:
  - a. Amerindians had nothing in comparison for commodification of plants and animals.
  - b. Christians ate their own god (Eucharist) but less outraged at lesser human sacrifice to please Indian god. (Very confusing.)
  - c. Amerindians had no concept of heaven (in the Christian sense); disliked Christian heaven because few souls there were Indian; preferred to be buried with the own ancestors.

#### I. Differences in War

1. Amerindians were curious why Europeans sought decisive battles on an open battlefield.
  - a. Saw it as tremendous waste of humans who could be used for replenishment or sacrifice
  - b. Used guerrilla-type warfare.
  - c. Europeans made poor torture victims (except Jesuits)
2. Europeans could not easily catch Amerindian warriors.
  - a. Resorted often to killing women and children.  
-- Pequot War in 1630s was the most gruesome example
  - b. By King Philip's War (1670s), Amerindians had learned this lesson well and destroyed Puritan villages, killing non-combatants.
3. Amerindians often captured children of other tribes and assimilated them.
4. Adult warriors were often sacrificed in Mesoamerica; Iroquois had an all-night torture ritual from "Mourning Wars" where Iroquois women sought retribution for death of a loved one (even if the tortured warrior was not from same tribe).
5. European weapons deeply intensified warfare among Amerindians.
  - a. Ohio region depopulated in late-17<sup>th</sup> century in a matter of decades when Iroquois defeated Hurons and Algonquins.
  - b. 1690s, French and Algonquins turn the tide and forced the Iroquois to neutrality.

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### III. European Explorers

- A. Non-Europeans came prior to Columbus but did not stay.
  - 1. Afro-Phoenicians c. 1000 BCE-300 AD may have reached Central America
  - 2. West Africa (Mali) c. 1311-1460 sailed to Haiti, Panama, possibly Brazil
- B. Vikings & Leif Erickson had temporary settlement at Newfoundland c. 1000 CE
- C. European Motives for Exploration in the Age of Discovery
  - 1. Emerging nation-states sought power; competed against rivals
    - Competition between Catholics and Protestants became conflict of national purposes
  - 2. New technology enabled Europeans to dominate from about 1500 on
    - a. Gunpowder and mounted canon on ships
    - b. Portuguese and Spanish mapped prevailing winds and currents in oceans over most of the globe.
    - c. Studied, copied and improved designs of Arab vessels.
  - 3. Economics
    - a. Need for new markets esp. from the East (e.g., spices)
    - b. Mercantilism required new sources of precious metals and furs.
  - 4. Desire to Christianize new peoples
  - 5. Renaissance (starting late 14th c. lasting well into 16th c.)
    - a. Atmosphere of rebirth, optimism, exploration
    - b. Secular Europe began to break away from religious domination
- D. Portuguese exploration led others
  - 1. Encouraged by Prince Henry the Navigator
    - a. Initially, sought coastal points below Sahara Desert where Portugal could undercut Arab traders and bring in profits.
    - b. Sought all-water route to Asia (late 14th c.)
  - 2. Bartholomeu Dias rounded southern tip of Africa in 1488 in search of route to Asia.
  - 3. 1498, Vasco da Gama reached India; brought back treasures creating European demand for eastern goods. Opened door for Portugal's empire in the East.
  - 4. Pietro Cabral
    - a. Discovered east coast of Brazil during failed voyage to India.
    - b. Brazil eventually became a Portuguese colony
  - 5. Amerigo Vespucci
    - a. In 1501-02, he detailed his exploration in Brazil
    - b. German geographer honored Vespucci's false claim as first to travel to Brazil, and named the new area "America."
  - 6. Portugal eventually established trade stations in India, Africa, China & East Indies.

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E. Spanish exploration

1. **Christopher Columbus** (Italian explorer)
  - a. Spain eager to compete with Portugal. Queen Isabella & King Ferdinand support Columbus.
  - b. Columbus' motives:
    - i. Religious: believed in spreading the Gospel before the Millennium (perhaps would make him a saint).
    - ii. Wealth
  - c. Columbus landed in the Bahamas on Oct. 12, 1492.  
-- Believed he had reached East Indies (Indonesia).
  - d. Moved on to Hispanola where Arawoks were friendly; had tobacco & gold.  
-- Arawok Indians virtually exterminated by Columbus and his followers
  - e. Until his death in 1506, Columbus maintained he had reached the "Indies."
2. **Treaty of Tordesillas** (1494)
  - a. Spain secured its claim to Columbus's discoveries
  - b. New World divided: Portugal got Brazil + territory in Africa & Asia; Spain dominated North & South America.
  - c. Spain did not gain access to West African slave trade.
3. Spanish motives for discovery: Lure of gold and conversion of pagan natives to Christianity.
4. Spanish discoverers:
  - a. Vasco Nunez Balboa discovered Pacific Ocean off of Panama in 1513.
  - b. Ferdinand Magellan: His ship was first to circumnavigate the globe in 1522.
  - c. Ponce de Leon discovered Florida (thought it was an island) in 1513 seeking the fountain of youth.
  - d. Francisco Coronado in search of golden cities traveled through the American Southwest
  - e. Juan Cabrillo sailed as far north as Oregon, discovered San Diego Bay.  
-- Laid basis for Spain's claims to northern Pacific Coast of North America.
  - f. By 1519, Spain had gained little economically from Exploration (gold & silver mines not developed until 1540s)
5. Conquerors -- *conquistadores*
  - a. Hernando de Soto in a gold seeking expedition in 1539-42 explored much of the American southeast (crossed the Mississippi River); treated Indians badly.
  - b. **Hernando Cortés** conquered the Aztecs in 1519-1521  
-- Moctezuma's envoys thought Cortes was Aztec god Quetzalcoatl

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- c. **Francisco Pizarro** defeated Incas in 1532; vast amounts of gold & silver
- d. Spanish invaders enslaved Indians; forced labor digging for precious metals.
- e. Empire stretched from California and Florida to the tip of South America.
  - i. Transplanted laws, religion and language and laid foundations for a score of Spanish-speaking countries.
  - ii. "**Black Legend**": false view advanced by Protestant countries that only Spain "killed for Christ," enslaved Indians, stole their gold, infected them with diseases, and left nothing but misery behind.
- 6. **St. Augustine** fortress erected (1565): oldest European settlement in the modern-day U.S.
  - Purpose: keep French out of Spanish southeast territory and protect sea lanes in the Caribbean.

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#### IV. France in North America

##### A. French exploration (largely stimulated by the beaver trade)

1. Giovanni da Verrazano, 1524: sailed American coast from Carolina to Maine.
  - Probably the first European to see New York harbor.
2. Jacques Cartier explored up the St. Lawrence River in 1530s.
3. In response, Spain erected fort St. Augustine, Florida, (1565) to keep French out of North American interior & Caribbean.
4. **Samuel de Champlain** "father of New France" established Quebec in 1608 (a year after the English founded Jamestown in Virginia)

##### B. Other explorers

1. Antoine Cadillac -- founded Detroit in 1701
  - Aimed to keep English settlers out of the Ohio Valley
2. Robert de La Salle -- Sailed from Quebec, down through the Great Lakes, and down the Mississippi River in 1682 with the help of Amerindian guides.
  - a. Goal: prevent Spanish expansion into Gulf of Mexico region
  - b. Coined the name "Louisiana" in honor of Louis XIV
3. French established posts in the Mississippi region (New Orleans was the most important—1718)
  - a. Attempted to block Spanish expansion into the Gulf of Mexico
  - b. Forts and trading posts in Illinois country: Kaskaskia, Cahokia, & Vincennes
    - Large amounts of grain was sent down the Mississippi River for shipment to the West Indies and Europe.

V. England's search for Empire

A. Major causes leading to British colonial impulse

1. Eventual peace with Spain provided opportunities overseas without harassment
2. Population growth provided workers/ potential colonists
3. Unemployment (economic opportunity), farm land, adventure, markets, political freedom, religious freedom, social change.
4. Joint-stock companies provided financial means: investors pooled resources for sea expeditions.

B. Competition with Spain and later France

1. Protestant England vs. Catholic Spain during late 16<sup>th</sup> century.
2. John Cabot (Giovanni Caboto) in 1497-98 explored coast of Newfoundland to Virginia on behalf of England.  
-- Found no passage to India; no settlement; much fishing
3. Frobisher, 1576: Explored coast of Labrador
4. Sir Francis Drake: "sea dogs" pirated Spanish ships on the high seas; netted heavy profits to his financial backers including Queen Elizabeth.
5. **Spanish Armada** (1588)
  - a. British Navy defeated the Spanish Armada when it tried to invade England (Queen Elizabeth vs. King Phillip II)
  - b. Helped ensure England's naval dominance in the North Atlantic and later the Atlantic sea routes to North America.
  - c. 1604, peace treaty signed between England and Spain
6. English attempts to colonize in the late-16<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. 1583, Sir Humphrey Gilbert attempted to colonize Newfoundland but died while at sea.
  - b. **Roanoke:** 1585, Sir Walter Raleigh (Gilbert's half-brother) led 115 men, women & children to Roanoke Island off coast of Virginia; mysteriously vanished.

VI. Results of contact between Native-Americans and Europeans

A. For Native Americans

1. Mass death and genocide: By 1600, nearly 90% of Native American population perished.
  - a. European diseases, e.g., smallpox, yellow fever, malaria, most destructive.
  - b. Central American & Caribbean population in 1519 = perhaps 25 million; only 1 million remaining in 1605.
2. European impact on culture: cattle, swine and horses, firearms.
  - Great Plains tribes--Apache, Blackfoot, and Sioux—transformed via horses

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B. For Europeans

1. Global empires for 1st time in human history.
2. Explosion of capitalism (Commercial Revolution)
3. Revolution in diet
  - a. Corn, beans, tomatoes & esp. potato lead to improved diet = higher mortality = higher population = bigger push for emigration. Revolutionized the international economy.
  - b. Stimulants: coffee, cocoa, and tobacco

C. Contributions of Europeans to North America

1. England: Democratic forms of local gov't; tradition of hard-working, zealous individuals, English language
2. France: Language, culture, and religion introduced to Canada and Louisiana and to many Amerindians west of Appalachians; large-scale trade with Amerindians
3. Spain: Schools, hospitals, and printing presses established by missionaries; Spanish language in the Southwest; teaching of Christianity and handicrafts to Amerindians.

VII. Relations between Europeans and Amerindians

A. France in **New France (Canada)**

1. Of the European powers, the French were the most successful in creating an effective trading relationship with the Indians.
  - a. English settlers sought to remove or exterminate Amerindians
  - b. Spanish sought to Christianize Indians and use them for forced labor.
2. The French became great gift givers (the key to getting on with Amerindians who based inter-tribal relationships on gift giving) during late-17<sup>th</sup> century.
  - a. Trade not seen as a transaction or contract (as in Europe)
  - b. Trade seen by Amerindians as a continuing process
  - c. When a group stopped trading with another, it was tantamount to declaring war.
3. The beaver trade led to exploration of much of North America; (heavy demand for fur in European fashion)
  - a. Amerindians gained firearms, alcohol, pots, glass beads
  - b. *Coueurs de bois* ("runners of the woods") – Rough frontiersmen who sought to tap the lucrative fur trade.
  - c. French seamen—*voyageurs* –befriended and recruited Indians into the fur trade
  - d. French expansion into Mississippi Valley resulted in trade relations with southeast Indians

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4. **Jesuits: Catholic missionaries who sought to convert Indians and save them from the fur trappers.**
  - a. Sought conversion through example; rather than by force
  - b. Some were brutally killed by Amerindians (although in the eyes of Amerindians, Jesuits held up best to torture and were thus more respected than other European groups).
  - c. Played a vital role as explorers and geographers
5. Diplomacy with Amerindians
  - a. The French made friends with Algonquins and Hurons ensuring the survival of Quebec.
  - b. Iroquois League in upstate New York prevented the French from spreading south into NY and parts of the Ohio Valley
6. **Impact of French (and British) on eastern woodlands Indians: decimation by diseases, gun warfare & alcoholism**
  - a. Many Amerindians came to view any contact with Europeans as dangerous
  - b. European weapons deeply intensified Amerindian warfare in the eastern woodlands during last three decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
    - Resulted in the depopulation of the Ohio Valley in a matter of decades.
  - c. Iroquois waged war on the Huron and Algonquin tribes.
  - d. Later, during King William's War in 1697, the French armed the Hurons & Algonquins; the Iroquois were forced into neutrality.
  - e. Iroquois turned to diplomacy with Europeans after 1700
  - f. By 1760s, Indians in the region agreed not to kill each other.
    - Revitalization: hoped that banding together and eliminating alcohol could revitalize Amerindian life and protect them against European invaders.

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B. **Spain and the Pueblo Indians in the American Southwest: conversion and exploitation**

1. Juan de Oñate established **New Mexico**, 1598
  - a. Retaliated against Pueblo Indians at Acoma by killing 800 and enslaving 600 others
  - b. Pueblos submitted to Spanish demands for labor and food, especially during drought conditions
  - c. **Santa Fe** became the capital in 1610.
2. **Encomienda system**
  - a. Amerindians forced to do unpaid labor to build roads, buildings, and other infrastructure in towns.
  - b. Pueblo villages also required to pay tribute to Spanish leaders

3. The Spanish sought to forcibly Christianize Indians
  - a. Franciscans founded mission system in New Mexico in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (later in CA & Texas in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries)
  - b. Forbade practice of Indian religion; practices driven underground
    - Droughts and high mortality rate among Indians undermined their faith in Christianity
  - c. Tuscon in modern-day Arizona established as a Spanish outpost in 1701
  - d. Texas: 1716, mission system established in Texas (including San Antonio-- later the Alamo)
  - e. California
    - i. Spain concerned about Britain & Russia in N. America after 1763.
    - ii. Father Junipero Serra founded first mission in San Diego in 1769.
      - 20 missions followed (Franciscan friars); 4 presidios
4. Intermarriage created distinctive Latin American culture of *mestizos*: Amerindian & Spanish
5. **Pope's Rebellion** (1680): Santa Fe, New Mexico
  - a. Amerindians rebelled against Spanish rule in New Mexico and expelled them for over ten years.
  - b. Killed half the Spanish clergy and over 350 settlers.
  - c. Causes:
    - i. Famine in 1666 caused massive suffering among Indians
    - ii. Pueblo Indians attacked by Apache and Navajo tribes who were retaliating against Spanish aggression against their peoples.
    - iii. Spanish authorities punished Pueblos for backsliding from Christianity to native religions after major epidemics wiped out Pueblo villages.
  - d. Spanish authorities eventually regained control in the early 1690s but another full-scale revolt erupted in 1696
  - e. Albuquerque founded in 1706 by Spanish soldiers but did not employ the *encomienda* system; Indian religion tolerated as long as they attended Catholic mass.
6. Spain introduced horses and sheep which transformed the region economically
7. Nearly 90% of Pueblo population died between 1550 and 1680

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C. **English Colonies: removal or extermination**

1. **Pilgrims** in Plymouth Bay established good relations with Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoags
  - a. Squanto served as an effective intermediary
  - b. Purchased land from Indians for creation of Plymouth Plantation
  - c. First Thanksgiving held in 1621 between Indians and Pilgrims
2. **Puritans in New England** tried conversion of Indians but it failed: “praying towns”
  - a. **Pequot War** (1630s): English settlers resorted often to killing Indian women and children when they could not catch or subdue the warriors.
  - b. By **King Philip’s War** (1670s), Amerindians had learned this lesson well and destroyed Puritan villages, killing non-combatants.
    - i. Per capita, bloodiest war in American history.
    - ii. Defeat of Chief Metacom’s forces represented the end of significant Amerindian influence in New England.
  - c. **New England Confederation** (1643): created by New England colonies for collective security against Amerindians.
    - i. Puritan response to the Pequot War
    - ii. Effective in defeating Metacom in King Philip’s War
3. Pennsylvania: Quakers (as pacifists) had good relations with Indians
4. Chesapeake:
  - a. John Smith established tenuous relations with Powhatans.
  - b. English settlers helped by Powhatans with food
  - c. Marriage between John Rolfe and Pocahontas sought to create peace (didn’t last long)
  - d. Virginia colony took more Indian land for growing tobacco
  - e. Anglo-Powhatan Wars with Powhatans led to their eventual removal from eastern VA
  - f. Bacon’s Rebellion in 1670s resulted in violence against Indians on the frontier
5. Carolinas:
  - a. Tuscarora resistance in 1711 failed and they moved north to become the 6<sup>th</sup> nation in the Iroquois Confederacy
  - b. Yamasee led a rebellion in 1715 against advancing settlers and corrupt traders from Charleston
  - c. Captured and sold Indians into slavery in Barbados
6. France’s defeat in the French and Indian War meant English settlers would aggressively move into Indian lands in the North American interior.

- D. Dutch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century: New York (New Netherlands)
  - 1. Dutch East Indian Co. established New Netherlands along the Hudson River Valley in NY
  - 2. Established fur trade with the Iroquois
  - 3. Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan from local Indians to serve as a defensive fortress.
  - 4. Eventually, unregulated trade resulted in violent wars between the Dutch and coastal Indians.

**Major Concepts for Review:**

- 1. Native American civilization
  - a. Societies more highly developed in Meso-America & South America; North American Indians were mostly semi-sedentary.
  - b. Important North American tribes: Pueblo, Moundbuilders, Creek & Cherokee, Iroquois
- 2. Impact of Contact on both Native Americans & Europeans
  - a. Destruction of Amerindian population
  - b. Introduction of cattle & horses revolutionized some Amerindian cultures.
  - c. Europeans saw global empires for the first time, the rise of capitalism, and a revolution in diet.
- 3. Summary of relations between European colonial powers & Indians
  - a. Spanish: sought to Catholicize, control and use Indians for forced labor (mission system, encomienda, hacienda)
  - b. French: sought trade relations with Indians; Jesuits sought to convert them to Catholicism
  - c. English: sought to remove Indians or exterminate them.

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