

Chapter 20 Summary/Notes

Unit 4 Connecting Hemispheres

The Atlantic World

Chapter 20 Section 1. Spain Builds an American Empire

We learned about Age of Explorations and Isolation. Now we learn about Spanish Empire.

The Voyages of Columbus

In 1492, Christopher Columbus an Italian sailor led a voyage for Spain. He sailed west hoping to reach Asia. Instead he landed in the Americas. Columbus thought that he had reached the East Indies in Asia. He misnamed the natives he met there calling them Indians. He claimed the land for Spain. From then on Spain began to create colonies. Colonies are land controlled by another nation. In 1500, a Portuguese explorer claimed Brazil. In 1501, Amerigo Vespucci explored the eastern coast of South America. He said that these lands were a new world. Soon after a mapmaker showed the lands as a separate continent. He named them America after Vespucci. Other voyages gave Europeans more knowledge about the world. Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. Magellan sailed completely around the world.

Spanish Conquests in Mexico

Cortes was one of the Spanish conquistadors or conquerors. In the 16th century they began to explore the lands of the Americas. They were seeking great riches. In 1519, Cortes came to Mexico and defeated the powerful Aztec Empire led by Montezuma II.

Spanish Conquests in Peru

About 15 years later Pizarro led another Spanish force. It conquered the mighty Incan Empire of South America led by Atahualpa, the last of the Incan emperors. Once again the Spanish found gold and silver. By the mid 1500s, Spain had formed an American Empire that stretched from modern day Mexico to Peru. After 1540 the Spanish looked north of Mexico and explored the future United States. The Spanish lived among the people they conquered. The Spanish men married native women. Their children and descendents were called Mestizo, people with mixed Spanish and Native American blood. The Spanish also formed large farms and mines that used natives as slave labor. This system was known as Encomienda. One large area of the Americas, Brazil, was the possession of Portugal. In 1830s colonists began to settle there. Colonists built huge farms called plantations to grow sugar, which as in demand in Europe.

Spanish Influence Expands

Soon Spain began to want even more land in the Americas. It started to look at land that is now the United States. Explorers like Coronado led expeditions to the area. Catholic priests went along.

Opposition to Spanish Rule

Spanish priests began to make some protests however. One thing they critiqued was the Encomienda System. A monk named de Las Casas and others successfully called for an end to the system. Native Americans also resisted new or continued Spanish rule. One of the most serious rebellions occurred in New Mexico. A Pueblo leader named Pope led a well-organized effort. It involved about 17,000 warriors and drove the Spanish back into New Spain for 12 years.

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Chapter 20 Section 2. European Nations Settle North America

We learned about Spanish Empire. Now we learn about settlement in North America.

Competing Claims in North America

In the early 1500s the French began to explore North America. Cartier discovered and named the St. Lawrence River. He then followed it to the site of what is now Montreal. In 168, Champlain sailed as far as modern day Quebec. In the next 100 years the French explored and claimed the area around the great lakes and the Mississippi River all the way to its mouth at the Gulf of Mexico. The area became known as New France. The main activity in this colony was trade in beaver fur.

The English Army Arrive in North America

The English also began to colonize North America. The first settlement was at Jamestown in 1607. The colony struggled at first. Many settlers died from disease, hunger or war with the natives. Soon farmers began to grow tobacco to meet the high demand for it in Europe. In 1620, a group known as Pilgrims founded a second English colony at Plymouth, MA. These and others who followed were deeply religious people who did not agree with the practices of the Church of England. They were called Puritans. Meanwhile the Dutch also started a new colony. They settled in the location of modern day New York City and called it New Netherland. Like the French they traded fur. The colony became a home to people of many different cultures. Europeans also took possession of many islands of the Caribbean. There they built tobacco and sugar plantations that used enslaved Africans as workers.

The Struggle for North America

The European powers began to fight for control of North America. First the English forced the Dutch to give up their colony. New Amsterdam was renamed New York. The English also started other colonies along the Atlantic Coast from New Hampshire to Georgia. These English colonists interfered with the French settlers in Canada. The British and the French clashed over the Ohio Valley in 1754. The fight was called the French and Indian War. /when it ended in 1763 France was forced to give up all its land in North America to England.

Native Americans Respond

The native peoples responded to the colonists in many different ways. Many worked closely with the French and Dutch, joining in the fur trade and benefiting from it. Those who lived near the English though had stormy relations with colonists. More than just trade the English were interested in settling the land and farming it. This was land that Native Americans would not be able to use for hunting or growing their own food. Conflicts over land erupted into war many times. One of the bloodiest times was known as King Philips' War. The Native American ruler, Metacom, also known as King Philip, led an attack on villages throughout Massachusetts. However, Metacom's forces were no match for the settlers' guns and cannons. As in Spanish lands the native peoples suffered more from disease than from warfare. Thousands upon thousands of Native Americans died from European illnesses. This made it impossible for them to resist the growth of the colonies.

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Chapter 20 Section 3. The Atlantic Slave Trade

We learned about settlement in North America. Now we learn about Atlantic Slave Trade.

The Causes of African Slavery

Slavery has had a long history in Africa and in the world. For most of that history in Africa though large numbers of people had not been enslaved. That changed in the 600s when Muslim traders started to take many slaves to SW Asia, most worked as servants and they did have certain rights. Also the sons and daughters of slaves were considered to be free. The European slave trade that began in the 1500s was larger. The enslaved Africans also were treated far more harshly. In the Americas, Europeans first used Native Americans to work farms and mines. When the native peoples began dying from disease the Europeans brought in Africans. They buying and selling of Africans for work in the Americas became known as the Atlantic Slave Trade. From 1500 to 1870 when the slave trade in the Americas finally ended about 9.5 million Africans had been imported as slaves. The Spanish first began the practice of bringing Africans for work in the Americas. However, the Portuguese increased the demand for slaves. They were looking for workers for their sugar plantations in Brazil.

Slavery Spreads Throughout the Americas

Other European countries also brought slaves to work on tobacco, sugar and coffee plantations. About 400,000 slaves were brought to the English colonies in North America. Their population had increased to about 2 million in 1830. Many African leaders joined in the slave trade. They captured people inland and brought them to the coast to sell to European traders.

A Forced Journey

Africans taken to the Americas were part of a triangular trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas. European ships brought manufactured goods to Africa trading them for people. They carried Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas where they were sold into slavery. The traders then brought sugar, coffee and tobacco to bring back to Europe. Another triangle involved the ships sailing from the Northern English colonies in North America. They carried Rum to Africa, people to the West Indies and sugar and molasses back to the colonies to make more Rum. The part of the voyage that brought people to the Americas was called the Middle Passage. It was harsh and cruel. People were crammed into to ships, beaten and given little food. About 20% of the people on these ships died.

Slavery in the Americas /Consequences of the Slave Trade

Life on the plantations was harsh as well. People were sold to the highest bidder. They worked from dawn to dusk in the fields. They lived in small huts and had little food and clothing. Africans kept alive their traditional music and beliefs to try to maintain their spirits. Sometimes they rebelled. From North America to Brazil from 1522 to 1800s there were small-scale slave revolts. The Atlantic Slave Trade had a huge impact on both Africa and the Americas. In Africa, many cultures lost generations of members. Africans began fighting Africans over the control of the slave trade. The Africans labor helped build the Americas. They brought skills and culture too. Many of the nations of the Americas had mixed race populations.

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Chapter 20 Section 4. The Columbian Exchange and Global Trade

We learned about Atlantic Slave Trade. Now we learn about Columbian Exchange and Global Trade.

The Columbian Exchange

There was constant movement of people and products from Europe and Africa to the Americas. The large-scale transfer of food, plants and animals was called the Columbian Exchange. Important foods such as corn and potatoes were taken from the Americas to Europe, Africa and Asia. Some foods moved from the old world to the new. Bananas, black-eyed peas and yams were taken from Africa to the Americas. Cattle, pigs and horses had never been seen in the Americas until the Europeans brought them. Deadly illnesses also moved to the Americas. They killed a large part of the Native American population.

Global Trade

The settling of the Americas and the growth of trade led to an economic revolution. This revolution led to a series of practices still followed today. One was the rise of an economic system called capitalism. It is based on private ownership of property and the right of a business to earn profit on money it has invested. Another business idea was the joint stock company. In this time of company many investors pooled their money to start a business and share in the profits.

Growth of Mercantilism

During the commercial revolution European colonists began to follow an idea called mercantilism. According to this theory a countries power depended on its wealth. Getting more gold and silver increased a countries wealth. So did selling more goods than it bought. Selling more than it bought would result in a favorable balance of trade. Colonies played an important role because they provided goods that could be sold in trade. The American colonies changed European society. Merchants grew wealthy and powerful. Towns and cities grew larger. Still most people lived in the countryside, farmed for a living and were poor.