The Age of Exploration: 

Interactions & Conflict
Essential Questions:

1) What role did technology play in helping Europeans explore the seas & build trading empires in Asia?

2) How did the first global age affect the pre-existing civilizations in Asia, Africa & the Americas?

3) What was the connection between mercantilism & the rush for ‘new markets’?
Europe came out of isolation…

• The **Crusades** (1000s – 1200s)
  – Armies of European Christians trooped to the Middle East to try to take back the Holy Lands from the Muslims
  – When the Crusaders came home, they had developed a strong taste for eastern foods and luxury goods, which inspired trade
  – The Crusaders had also been overcome with a spirit of adventure, a zeal to spread Christianity to “heathen” people, and a desire for conquest
  – Such urges found a natural outlet in the voyages of exploration that were soon to come…

• The **Renaissance** (1300s – 1600s)
  – A major cultural and intellectual movement that changed the way European people thought about and looked at the world
  – People questioned old assumptions and myths, including old fables about religion and geography
  – **Spread of Ideas**
    • Johannes Gutenberg developed a way of **printing books** using moveable type
    • Before this, books were copied by hand, so they were scarce and expensive
    • Now, books could be printed in multiple copies, which made them more affordable and allowed **information** and **ideas** to **spread quickly**
  – People’s imaginations were ablaze and they wanted to learn more about themselves, nature, religion, science, and the world
A few bits of background info from earlier interactions...

• **Silk Road**
  – A *(land)* trade route that linked **China** to the **west**
  – Merchants traveled part of the Silk Road and then sold or bartered their goods to other merchants who continued onward

• **Vikings**
  – Scandinavians from Norway, Denmark, and Sweden who were skilled sailors, fierce fighters, and greedy looters
  – Sought new sources of land, fame, and wealth
The European Age of Exploration
Warm-Up: Respond to each of the following:

• What possible rewards might come from exploring the seas for new lands?

• What are the risks involved in embarking on a voyage into the unknown?
• It is a gray and windy morning in 1430. You are standing on a dock in the European country of Portugal staring out at the dark and mysterious Atlantic Ocean. You, like most people at the time, have no idea what lies beyond the horizon. Now you may find out. You have been asked to go on a voyage of exploration…

• You’ve heard all the terrifying stories of sea monsters and shipwrecks. You’ve heard the warnings that the currents along parts of western Africa are “so terrible that no ship having once passed… will ever be able to return.” You also have heard that riches await those who help explore and claim new lands. Now, as the captain calls for you to come aboard, you must decide.

  Would you go? …

  …The large hold of your ship could carry back gold, jewels, and other valuable items found in distant lands…

  …Raging waves could destroy your ship and leave you at the mercy of the sea…
Note: Robinson Projection
Motivations for Exploration

GOLD, GOD, and GLORY!
GOLD! (WEALTH!)

- New **spices** in Europe (introduced during the **Crusades**) = ↑ demand for the spices
- Europeans wanted to **cut out the middle man**! (Italy and the powerful Ottoman Empire controlled trade between Europe and the east)
- Europeans try to find new **trade routes** because they want new sources of wealth

Muslims sold spices to Italians for lots of $ 
Europe buys it for a higher price 
Italians sell it to Europe for MORE $$$
Spices

The main source of spices were the Moluccas, an island chain in present-day Indonesia, which Europeans called the Spice Islands

Why were spices so desired?
- Preserve food
- Add flavor to food
- Make medicines
- Make perfumes
But profit was **NOT** the only reason for exploration…

Many sought to convert other populations to Christianity

**GOD** (Spread of Christianity)

- The Crusades pushed Christians to feel it was their duty to spread their religion and convert people to Christianity (and not to be Muslim)

- Bartholomeu Dias – “*To serve God and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness, and to grow rich as all men desire to do.*”
GLORY!

• BEING “The FIRST!”
• First to: Find a spice?
  Find an area?
  Create a trading port?
  Control a COUNTRY!?
TECHNOLOGY HELPS!

**Caravel:** stronger, sturdier ship with triangular sails (adopted from Arabs) made travel easier

- 65 feet long = more space for food/people
- Able to explore close to shore
- Larger sails for easier movement and power (made it possible to sail against the wind)
- Contained newer and more armaments, including sturdier canons
New Maritime Technologies

Hartman Astrolabe (1532) – Developed by the Greeks and perfected by the Arabs; used to determine latitude (sail by stars)

Better/More Accurate Maps [Portulan]

Mariner’s Compass – Chinese invention; magnetically tracked direction
New Weapons Technology

CARAVEL
Portuguese navigators of the 1400s sailed in caravels.

WHEEL LOCK
This wheel-lock pistol was made in northern Europe.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock</th>
<th>Iron pyrites</th>
<th>Wooden ramrod</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trigger</td>
<td>Wheel</td>
<td>Powder and bullet front-loaded</td>
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Summary: European Motives in the Age of Exploration

• Attracted to East for silks and spices
• Difficult to trade with Islamic empires (Italy & the Ottoman empire controlled international trade)
• Desire for wealth & adventure
• Religious zeal – save souls (spread Christianity)
• Summary: God, Gold & Glory!!
European Explorers
Portugal
Led the Way in Exploration
The Portuguese Prince Henry “The Navigator”

- Not an explorer – a patron & sponsor
- Created a navigation school in Portugal to encourage exploration
- Gathered scientists, mapmakers, and other experts to prepare for exploration
- Goal: Find a sea route to Asia, which would allow Portugal to trade directly with the east
Bartolomeu Dias

• Sailed for Portugal

• First European to round the Cape of Good Hope in 1488 – he didn’t make it to Asia, but his discovery opened a sea route to Asia
Vasco da Gama

- Sailed for Portugal
- 1497-98: Sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and up the eastern coast of Africa – he took on an Indian pilot who guided him across the Indian Ocean
- First to reach India and open a new water route for trade between Europe and Asia
- Returned to Spain with a cargo of spices
Trading Empires in the Indian Ocean

• Portugal established multiple trading posts along the Indian Ocean by capturing many Muslim owned lands (w/ help from cannons mounted on their ships), including the Straits of Hormuz, Goa, the Strait of Malacca & the Spice Islands.

• The Portuguese broke the Italian-Muslim domination of trade & sold goods at 1/5 the cost.

Spain
Enters the Race
The Spanish

• Queen Isabella & King Ferdinand wanted Spain to be a united, Catholic kingdom

• Inquisition - Ordered all Jews & Muslims to convert or leave Spain; even Christians could be punished if they were suspected of defying the church

• They were eager to spread Catholicism & profit from new trade routes
Christopher Columbus

- From Italy but sailed for Spain
- Convinced Queen Isabella to back his voyage
- Believed that he could reach Asia, in the east, by **sailing west**
- Did not know about American continents
Columbus Continued…

• In 1492, Columbus sailed west with three small ships

• His fleet dropped anchor in the Caribbean Sea, near what is now the Bahamas

• Columbus spent several months cruising the islands along the Caribbean, searching for China & Japan

• Since he thought he had reached the Indies, he called the indigenous people --- Indians
Voyages of Christopher Columbus

*The routes shown here are only estimates of the paths followed by Columbus on his four voyages to the New World. Sources differ somewhat due to the lack of information and inaccurate maps of that time.*

**First Voyage 1492-93**
- Cuba
- The Bahamas
- Hispaniola
- Puerto Rico

**Second Voyage 1493-96**
- Cuba
- The Bahamas
- Hispaniola
- Puerto Rico

**Third Voyage 1498-1500**
- Central America
- Caribbean Sea
- South America

**Fourth Voyage 1502-04**
- South America
- Central America
- Caribbean Sea
- Gulf of Mexico

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Ferdinand Magellan

• From Portugal but sailed for Spain

• His crew was the first to circumnavigate the globe (sail around the world)

• This voyage, which lasted from 1519-1522, proved that the world was round
Magellan named the Pacific Ocean after the Latin word meaning peaceful.
Amerigo Vespucci

• From Italy but sailed for Spain
• Sailed around the coast of South America & concluded it was not Asia but a new land
• America was later named after him for this vital discovery
The Effects of the European Age of Exploration on the Americas
Effects of Exploration on America

• A flood of Spanish **explorers, settlers & missionaries** followed Columbus to the Americas

• They claimed the land & its people for their king & the Church

• If the natives resisted, the invaders used **force**

• As loyal Christians, they believed that it was their **duty** to bring their civilization to the natives

• The Spanish were the first Europeans to arrive in the Americas
Hernan Cortes
Spanish Conquests in Mexico

Conquistadors
• In 1519, Hernan Cortés—Spanish adventurer—lands in Mexico
• He and others become known as conquistadors—Spanish conquerors

Cortés Conquers the Aztecs
• Cortés & 600 men reached the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán in Mexico & were welcomed (the Aztecs thought the Spanish were gods as they arrived on horses & w/weapons – things the Aztecs had never seen before)
• By 1521, they defeated Montezuma (Aztec ruler) and conquered the Aztec empire
• Conquest was aided by superior weapons & Native American allies
• European diseases wiped out large numbers of Aztecs
Estimated Native American Population of Mexico, 1518–1593

Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)
Francisco Pizarro
Spanish Conquests in Peru

Another Conquistador

• Spanish conqueror **Francisco Pizarro** led forces to Peru in 1532
• With 200 men, the Spanish defeated **Atahualpa**, the Incan emperor, at **Cajamarca**
INCAN EMPIRE IN PERU
Reasons for the Spanish victories over the Aztecs & Incas:

1. Superior **military** technology

2. **Division & discontent** among the Indians

3. **Disease** brought by the Europeans

4. Many Indians thought that the disasters they suffered marked the end of the world
The Collision at Cajamarca
From Jared Diamond’s Book: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
Spain’s Pattern of Conquest

• Spanish men & Native American women have children
• Result: large mestizo—mixed Spanish & native—population
• *Encomienda* system—Spanish force Native Americans to work for them
Spanish Colonies

• With the Aztecs & Incas defeated, the Spanish began to set up **colonies** in the Americas

• They created a new social pyramid:

  The Spanish (Peninsulares)
  
  **Creoles**: Europeans born in the Americas
  
  **Mestizos** and **Mulattos**: Those of mixed heritage (Mestizos = Spanish & Native; Mulattos = Spanish & African)
  
  **Natives** and **Africans**

• Any remaining natives were controlled by the **encomienda** system
The Development of Spanish Colonies in the New World

Mixing of cultures:
Although Spanish culture dominated the cities & the Spanish introduced Natives to, for example, the horse, settlers also acquired aspects of the native culture (e.g., native foods – potato, maize, etc.), Indian style houses, and canoes

In Cuba & Haiti, Africans brought their influences too (e.g., cooking styles, dances, and drama)
ENCOMIENDA

TRIBUTE LABOR SYSTEM – NATIVE PEOPLES WERE REQUIRED TO GIVE LABOR TO THE EUROPEAN SETTLERS
The Importance of **Sugar**

Sugarcane was a valuable cash crop that grew well in the Americas.

The labor was very difficult, so the Europeans forced Native Americans to work on the sugarcane plantations.

Native Americans died from disease, warfare, and being overworked.

The Europeans now needed someone else to work on the plantations— but who?

Europeans begin importing **Africans** to work on their sugarcane plantations: this is the beginning of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
The Atlantic Slave Trade
1500s – 1800s

To meet their growing labor needs, Europeans enslave millions of Africans in the Americas

Why Africans?
Africans:

1. Were **immune** to most European diseases
2. Had no friends or family in the Americas to help them **resist** or **escape** enslavement
3. Provided a permanent source of **cheap labor** – even their children could be held in bondage
4. Many had worked on **farms** in their native lands
The Middle Passage

The journey from Africa to the Americas was called the Middle Passage b/c it was the 2nd leg of a trade route known as the Triangular Trade.
The Middle Passage

Once purchased, Africans were packed below the decks of slave ships & forced to experience unimaginable hardships as they were transported across the Atlantic Ocean

- 20% of Africans died
- Length of trip
- No movement
- No bathroom
- Very little food
- Disease
- Poor medical care
- Suicide
- Trauma
- Cruelty
- Dangers – i.e., storms, pirate raids, mutinies
Historians think that about 2,000 African slaves were sent to the Americas in the 1500s. By the 1800s, when the slaves trade ended, the level had increased to about **12 million**.
TO BE SOLD,
On Thursday the third Day of August next,
A CARGO of
Ninety-Four
Prime, Healthy
NEGROES,
Consisting of
Thirty-nine Men, Fifteen Boys,
Twenty-four Women, and
Sixteen Girls.
JUST ARRIVED,
In the Brigantine DEMBIA, Francis Bare, Master, from Sierra-Leon, by
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.
Those that survived the horrific journey led a life of forced labor in the American colonies.
In West Africa, European items were traded for slaves --- most of whom were war captives.

Ships next sailed across the Atlantic to various Caribbean islands or to North & South America where the slave ‘cargo’ was sold. Money derived from the sale of slaves was used to buy sugar, molasses, cotton, and tobacco to be re-sold in Europe.
Despite the impact of the slave trade, the Triangular Trade went on because it brought huge profits for European merchants and African slave traders.
Consequences of the African Slave Trade

- African families torn apart
- African culture lost generations of members
- Through the skills and labor of African slaves, the economy of the Americas prospered
The Columbian Exchange & Global Trade

Definition
Columbian Exchange — widespread exchange of crops, animals, diseases, culture, and ideas between the Eastern (Old World) and Western (New World) hemispheres

Columbus’ Role
- When Columbus returned to Spain in 1493, he brought with him plants and animals that he had found in the Americas
- Later that year, Columbus returned to the Americas with a collection of European plants and animals
- With these acts, Columbus began a vast global exchange that would profoundly affect the world
- Because this exchange began with Columbus, we call it the ‘Columbian Exchange’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>These items came from North or South America</th>
<th>These items came from Europe, Africa, or Asia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avocado</td>
<td>Bananas</td>
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<td>Cashews</td>
<td>Cabbage</td>
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<td>Corn</td>
<td>Chicken</td>
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<td>Coffee</td>
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<td>Rubber</td>
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<td>Grapes</td>
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<td>Horses</td>
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<td>Pumpkin (squash)</td>
<td>Onion</td>
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<td>Black pepper</td>
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<td>Slaves</td>
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</table>
**THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE**

**From the Americas**
- Animals: guinea pigs, llamas, turkeys
- Plants: avocados, beans, cashews, chili peppers, chocolate, corn, papayas, peanuts, pecans, pineapples

**From Europe, Africa, and Asia**
- Animals: cattle, chickens, donkeys, goats, horses, housecats, mice and rats, pigs, rabbits, sheep
- Plants: bananas, black pepper, citrus fruits, coffee, garlic and onions, lettuce, peaches and pears, sugar, wheat, rye, and oats
- Diseases: cholera, influenza, malaria, measles, smallpox
In your chart, note the origins of the different items. Which 5 do you think had the most significant impact?
Mr. Fryar’s Top 5

1. **Horses**: Allowed for faster transportation (made conquest easier for Europeans and provided the indigenous people of the Americas with a more effective way to hunt buffalo)

2. **Potatoes**: Became a staple (basic element) of diets worldwide and helped feed rapidly growing populations

3. **Corn**: Same as potatoes

4. **Disease**: Scholars estimate that almost 95% of Native American populations were wiped out from European diseases

5. **Sugar**: Perhaps the most significant item of them all…
The Columbian Exchange greatly affected almost every society on earth:

- Sparked the migration of millions of people
- Diseases depopulated many cultures; however, contact between the two hemispheres circulated a wide variety of new crops and livestock that, in the long term, increased the world population
- The exchange transformed ways of life (e.g., new foods became staples of human diets)
- Europeans needed labor to farm land, which led to the encomienda system and slavery
Columbus’ Long-Term Impact on the World

- *Discovered two new continents* – Europeans didn’t know that North & South America existed
- *Cartography* – Columbus forced mapmakers to re-do all maps of the world (the world was NOT flat)
- *The Columbian Exchange* – Established a permanent relationship between Europe & the Americas
- *The Spanish Empire* – Claimed the Americas for the Spanish empire
- *Controlled the Atlantic Ocean* – As a result of his exploration, Spain dominated the Atlantic Ocean
The Columbian Exchange Statistics

- Estimated population of Europe in 1492: about 60 million
  Estimated population of the Americas in 1492: 40-100 million

- Estimated population of Europe in 1800: 150 million
  Estimated population of the Americas in 1800: 25 million (the vast majority of whom were of European or African descent)

- Major domesticated animals in the New World in 1492: dog, llama
  Major domesticated animals in the Old World in 1492: horse, cow, pig, sheep, goat, chicken, camel, oxen, cat, dog

- Major edible plants unique to the New World in 1492: maize (corn), potato, squash, cassava (manioc), tomato, bell pepper, chili pepper, avocado, squash, pumpkin, peanut, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, blueberry, pineapple, tobacco
  Major edible plants unique to the Old World in 1492: wheat, oats, barley, lettuce, onion, garlic, banana, orange, lemon, peach, sugarcane, coffee, tea

- Estimated number of Incas killed by smallpox between 1525 and 1532, when Francisco Pizarro conquered the empire: More than 200,000¹
  Estimated proportion of the Aztec population of Tenochtitlan infected by smallpox in 1520, one year before Hernán Cortés conquered the empire: 50%²
The Age of Exploration in Asia
• Beginning around 1100, European crusaders battled Muslims for control of the Holy Lands in Southwest Asia (the Crusades)

• In 1275, the Italian trader, Marco Polo, reached the court of Kublai Khan in China

• For the most part, however, Europeans had neither the interest nor the ability to explore foreign lands

• By the 1400s (China) & 1500s (Japan), European traders had reached Asian ports & were welcomed

• However, the doors to China & Japan quickly closed when these Asian countries realized that European ideas & practices were negatively influencing their traditional values
China’s Voyages of Exploration

The Rise of the Ming Dynasty

• Hongwu—peasant’s son who led an army that forced the **Mongols** from China
• As the first Ming **emperor**, he began agricultural and government reforms
• His son, **Yonglo**, became the next emperor
• Curious about the world beyond China’s borders, he launched the first of seven voyages of **exploration** in **1405**
China Under the Powerful Ming Dynasty

The Voyages of Zheng He
• Chinese admiral Zheng He led seven long voyages from 1405-1433 (remember: Prince Henry didn’t found his navigation school until 1419)
• Distributed gifts of silver & silk along the way to show China’s superiority
• Government officials complained that the voyages were a waste – i.e., China wasn’tbenefitting – so they ended in 1433

Ming Relations with Foreign Countries
• Christian missionaries brought European ideas to China, which angered China’s rulers
• By the 1500s, China’s trade policies reflected isolation
• Chinese government controlled all contact with outsiders (only government officials were allowed to conduct trade through 3 coastal ports); however, smuggling went on all over the coast
• Government policies favored farming over manufacturing & merchants
Zheng He’s crowning success is his gift of exotic African animals to the Chinese court. A giraffe is taken for the mythical qilin, a symbol of a just government.
Chinese Isolation Continues...

- China = center of universe
- If foreigners wanted to trade, they had to follow the Chinese rules
- The Dutch followed the rules & thus returned from voyages of exploration with many valuable trade items, including tea
- The British wanted to trade but refused to follow the rules… oh well!
Chinese Goods

Gunpowder

Compass

Silk

Spices

Tea

Porcelain
Contact Between Europe and Japan

History
• 1300s: Japan united under the Shoguns (military rulers)
• 1467-1600: “Warring States” period – civil war b/w shoguns & daimyo
• 1600: Tokugawa Ieyasu defeated rivals & completed unification of Japan

Portugal Sends Ships, Merchants & Technology to Japan
• In 1540s, European traders began arriving & were welcomed by Japanese
• European firearms changed the Japanese way of fighting (muskets were used in battle in place of the traditional Samurai sword)

Christian Missionaries in Japan
• In 1549, the first Christian missionaries arrived (missionaries were welcomed because Japanese associated them w/ European goods)
• By 1600, about 300,000 Japanese were Christians
• Japan’s rulers, upset by this, banned Christianity
• After 1637 rebellion, Christianity was forbidden in Japan (most rebels were Christians so the government blamed Christianity)
• Result: Japan returned to a status of isolation – exclusion policy!
Japan’s Closed Country Policy

• At first, Japan welcomed new trade
• Over time, they realized they could safely exclude both missionaries & merchants, who were imposing European ideas & values on Japanese culture
• 1639: Japan **sealed its borders** & instituted its “Closed Country Policy” – only ONE port in Nagasaki remained open to the Chinese & Dutch
• For 200 years, Japan remained “**closed**” to Europeans, which allowed Japan to develop self-sufficiently, free from European influence & attempts to colonize
Japanese Goods

Gold & Silver Jewelry

Poetry

Samurai Sword

Quilts

Pottery
Effects of the Age of Exploration

- **Diseases** killed native populations in the Americas
- **Slavery** (Africans) & **Encomienda** system (native populations)
- God: Europeans spread **Christianity**
- Gold: Europeans got **money** from their colonies
- Glory: Europeans got **land & power**
- New **trade** routes
- **Migration**
- Rapid **population** growth in Europe
- **Columbian Exchange**

*Over time, Europeans came to associate slavery with black Africans. To many Europeans, dark skin color became a sign of **inferiority**. Slavery, which developed to provide a labor force, led to **racism**, or the belief that some people are inferior because of their race.*