

## Chapter 1: The Collision of Cultures

Discovery of the Americas didn't begin with Columbus. Humans first came thousands of years ago by crossing the land bridge between Alaska and Asia. By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, America, now home to millions of men and women, had first contact with the Europeans.

### **AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS**

#### **The Peoples of the Pre-contact Americas**

- 11,000 years ago, crossed Bering Strait into what is now Alaska.
- Migrations were a result of development of new stone tools
  - Spears, hunting tools
  - Can now hunt larger animals
- “Clovis” People
  - Thought to come from modern-day Siberia
  - Discovery of their tools and weapons in 1930s in Mexico
- Archaeological evidence shows activity in South America before people came on the Bering Strait
  - People traveled by water as well
    - Explains how people came to populate Japan
- Possible that there were migrations from Africa or Europe before Mongolians came
  - Maybe Mongolians dominated whoever was there
- “Archaic” Period
  - Began about 8000 BC – lasted 5000 years
  - Hunting and gathering with same stone tools
  - Large animals became extinct
  - Bows and arrows unknown in America until 400-500 AD
  - New tools: nets and hooks for fishing, traps for smaller animals
  - Farming began -> corn, beans, and squash

#### **The Growth of Civilizations: The South**

- Incas in Peru
  - Began as small tribe in Cuzcu, then spurred by a leader, Pachacuti (“world shaker”)
  - P. created his empire spanning 2000 miles of western South American land
  - Lots of local groups joined him and the empire
- Meso-Americans in modern day Mexico
  - Organized civs. Came about 10,000 BC
  - First true complex society of the Americas
  - 800 AD: a more advanced culture came about: the Mayas

- Developed written language, numerical system, calendar, advanced agricultural system, trade routes
- Later, the groups collectively became the Aztecs
- 1300 AD: established a city: Tenochtitlan (island in lake in Mexico)
  - Population: 100,000 but 1500
  - Lots of services (medical, education, etc.)
  - Lots of dominance in the area
- Hub of trade and commerce and culture

### The Civilizations of the North

- Societies not as advanced as central and south American ones
- Eskimos
  - Arctic Circle
  - Fished and hunted seals
  - 1000's miles of frozen land
- Northern forests
  - Nomadic people
  - Big game hunters – hunting moose and caribou
- Pacific Northwest
  - Salmon fishing
  - Civilizations along the coast
  - Competition for resources
- Far West
  - Fishing, gathering, hunting small game
- South West
  - Irrigation systems for farming
  - Centers of trade, craft, religious and civic ritual
  - Chaco Canyon
    - Stone and adobe terraced structures = pueblos
- Great Plains
  - Farming (corn and other grains)
  - Permanent settlements
- Woodland Indians
  - Best food resources of the continent
  - Farming, hunting, fishing, and gathering – all in one
  - Trade networks along Mississippi River valley
  - Cities formed: like Cahokia
    - At peak: 10,000 ppl. In 1200 AD
- Northeast
  - Nomadic
  - Land less fertile

- Farming was to exploit land of resources then move on
- Crops: pumpkin, corn, squash, beans
- East of Mississippi River
  - Groups linked together with linguistic roots
    - Largest: Algonquin – dominated from Canada to Virginia seaboard
    - Iroquoian = “nations” of Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk
    - Muskogean = Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, and Seminoles
- Alliances b/w groups were fragile in general
- Tribes saw Europeans as another tribe that’s invading

### Tribal Cultures

- In last centuries before European arrival, Native Americans were going through their Agricultural Revolution
- New sources of food, clothing, and shelter
- Population growth
- Religion focused on natural world
- Brightly colored totem poles = ritual
- Women – cared for children, made meals, gathered certain foods
- Men – hunting, clearing land, warfare
- While men were gone, women ended up controlling and social and economic organization of the settlements

## EUROPE LOOKS WESTWARD

### Commerce and Nationalism

- 2 changes resulted in the Europeans looking for new lands
  - 1) Population growth at end of 15<sup>th</sup> century
    - Black Death, the bubonic plague, killed more than a third of the people
    - Population grew again a century and a half later
    - Land values rose as well, reawakening commerce and prosperity.
    - Landlords and others were dying to start trading with foreign nations, so new trade routes opened
  - 2) Rise of new governments
    - Weak leadership was scrapped to allow strong monarchs to rise as well as centralized nation-states and national courts and armies, and **national tax systems**
- Early 1300s: Marco Polo arrives from Asia with goods (spices, fabrics, dyes) which stimulates Europeans’ hope for commercial glory
- Europeans want to trade with Asia, but Muslim societies took control of those trade routes.

- But some countries were ready to finance exploration trips to find ways to trade with Asia
- Portuguese = first to explore
  - Prince Henry the Navigator made the country the preeminent maritime power in the 15<sup>th</sup> century
    - Wanted to establish Christian empire on west coast of Africa and find gold
  - 1486: Bartholomeu Dias rounded southern tip of Africa (Cape of Good Hope)
  - 1497-1498: Vasco de Gama went around cape to India
  - 1500: next fleet tried to get there but failed and went off course b/c of a storm

### Christopher Columbus

- When younger, he got most of his sea experience from the Portuguese.
- Interested in reaching Asia by going West, not East
- He believed that the world was smaller than it actually was – didn't expect America to be there
- Got support from Spain - Spain was eager to explore, Portugal wasn't
- 1492: Queen Isabella agreed with Columbus
  - Organized 90 men and 3 ships: Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria
- Landed on island in Bahamas then Cuba – thought it was China though
- 1 year later: tried again and found Caribbean islands
- 3<sup>rd</sup> try: 1498: found Northern coast of South America
  - Finally realized that this wasn't Asia
  - Assumed that this was just really close to Asia, just land on the Far East
- Known as the “Admiral of the Ocean Sea”
- He was very religious and he believed that he was a man destined to advance the coming of the millennium.
  - Believed that God was using him in a prophecy
- Columbus's initiative caused Spain to do further exploring
  - Replaced Portugal as leading maritime nation
  - Vasco de Balboa: fought way across Panama: became first European to see the Pacific ocean that divided America from Asia – 1513
  - Ferdinand Magellan: found strait at Southern end of South America and went to Philippines
    - Died in fight with natives, but he completed first known circumnavigation of the globe
  - By 1550: Spain had explored coasts of North America as far as Oregon in the west and Labrador in the east

### The Conquistadores

- Spanish started thinking of America as source of possible wealth, not an obstacle
- By mid-1550s: Spanish were on their way to establishing a full American Empire

- First Spanish colonists settled on islands in the Caribbean and tried to find gold and enslave the natives – failed
- 1518: Hernando Cortes lead 600 men into Mexico
  - Found strong resistance from the Aztecs and the Emperor, Montezuma
  - Exposed natives to smallpox and killed enough people to allow Spain to conquer them on their 2<sup>nd</sup> try
  - Saw that God meant for them to allow smallpox to kill them
- Silver in Mexico? – sparked lots of interest
  - Conquistadores landed on mainland to search
  - Francisco Pizzaro found the wealth of the Incas
  - Hernando del Soto, searching for gold, silver, and jewels, went through Florida and crossed the Mississippi River – first white man to do so
  - Francisco Coronado traveled up to New Mexico and didn't find riches – he just opened up the Southwest of U.S. to Spanish settlement
- Spanish warriors told a story of brutality and greed – a pattern that will commence through history

### Spanish America

- History of Spanish Empire in Americas were 3 periods:
  - 1: Discovery and Exploration – began with Columbus and continued thru first 2 decades of 1500s
  - 2: Conquest - with use of diseases, Spanish could establish their reign over the new land
  - 3: Ordinances of Discovery, new Spanish laws, banned most brutal military conquests
    - So, Spanish expanded thru colonization
    - Spanish were only interested in getting rich
    - Spanish American mines produced TONS of gold and silver making them the most powerful nation for some time
    - Other motivators for settling included:
      - Creating an profitable agricultural economy
    - Catholic Church = important force for colonization
      - Catholicism = only religion allowed in new territories
      - By early 1600s, common form of settlement = Catholic mission
        - Primary purpose: convert natives to Catholicism
        - Protection = military garrisons
        - Presidios (military bases) added additional protection nearby
    - Missionary work became one of the most important motivators for Europeans to emigrate to America.
    - In all, the Catholic Church spread throughout South and Central America, Mexico, South, and Southwest of the United States.

## Northern Outposts

- 1565: St. Augustine, Florida = Spanish fort and first permanent European settlement in the United States area.
  - Acted as 1) military outpost, 2) administrative center for Franciscan missionaries, and 3) headquarters for unsuccessful campaigns against North American natives
- 1598: Don Juan de Onate went with 500 men and traveled north from Mexico and claimed for Spain some of the land of the Pueblo Indians and established a colony that is now New Mexico.
  - Santa Fe was established in 1609
  - Onate's harsh treatment led to his removing of governor in 1606.
  - But relations b/w the 2 groups improved
    - Numerous Pueblos converted to Christianity
    - Some entered into trading relations with the Spanish
    - Despite the Apache and Navajo raiders, the settlement continued to grow
      - By 1680: 2000+ Spanish and 30,000 Pueblos lived together
      - Economy revolved around cattle and sheep, not gold and riches
  - 1680: Pueblo Revolt
    - Colony was nearly destroyed
    - One cause: Europeans tried to suppress Pueblo religious rituals that "weren't compatible" with Christianity
    - Another cause: Apache tribe raids and droughts
    - The instability of these events caused the Revolt
    - Revolt led by Pop killed hundreds of European colonists and drove them from the region
    - But 12 years later, the Spanish came back and took control of the lands again and crushed the last revolts by 1696.
  - Spanish realized that they'll constantly be in conflict with the Pueblos for a while if they don't do something so they tried to solve the problem:
    - 1) baptize Indian children at birth so they'll be committed to Catholic practices
    - 2) Allowed the Pueblos to own land and they allowed them to practice tribal religious rituals
  - Pueblos eventually began to see the Spanish as their allies especially when considering the battles against the Apache and Navajo raiders
  - By 1750: Spanish population = 4,000 and Pueblo = 13,000.
  - Still a weak and isolated outpost of the Spanish Empire

## The Empire at High Tide

- At end of 1500s: Spanish Empire became one of the largest in the history of the world.
  - Comprised of Caribbean islands, South American coastal areas, Mexico, and southern North America, and into South America (Peru, Chile, and Argentina areas)
- At end of 1500s: monarchs began to extend their authority over to the new world

- Spanish were better than the British by getting gold and silver and other surface riches
- Spanish spent less energy on making agriculture and commerce profitable for their settlements
- Spanish government was more strict than British
  - Set regulations that required all trade with the colonies to go thru a single Spanish port and a few colonial ports
  - Needed to protect against pirates
- English, Dutch, and French worked on making permanent settlements and family life. But Spanish ruled their empire but did not “people” it
- Spanish settlers came from Spain, and outposts of Spanish civilization such as the Azores, the Cape Verde Islands, and elsewhere
  - Native population was still much larger in comparison
- The Spanish Empire mainly consisted of natives as population.

### Biological and Cultural Exchanges

- Without Europeans’ early contacts with the natives, they wouldn’t have found out about the gold and silver.
  - Later on, numerous exchanges between the natives and Europeans took place
- RESULT 1: diseases from Europe reached the New World conquistadores’ brutality
  - Natives were faced with the flu, measles, chicken pox, mumps, typhus, and smallpox – millions of natives died
  - Native groups in the Caribbean and Mexico were basically extinct within 50 years of first contact with the Europeans
  - North of Mexico tribes fared better b/c their contact came later on.
  - Conquistadores’ brutality to the natives were just as effective as using diseases to kill off the natives
- RESULT 2: Europeans brought new crops and livestock
  - Bananas, sugar, cattle, pigs, sheep, **horses**
  - The natives learned to use these new crops and domestic livestock for their own uses
  - Horses transformed their lives
- RESULT 3: Europeans learned new agricultural techniques from the natives
  - Discovered new crops (corn, squash, pumpkin, beans, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes because of Columbus
  - Ultimately, new agricultural techniques became more valuable than precious metals like gold and silver
- RESULT 4: Natives take aspects of European languages and religion
  - Natives took aspects of Spanish or Portuguese and merged it with their own language, creating their own dialects
  - Natives combined the basis of their Christian faith with aspects of their old faith
- Europeans and natives married each other and it became frequent
- Colonies became dominated by mestizos, or people of mixed race

- Spanish Empire got an elaborate racial hierarchy: Spanish at top, mixed race in b/w, and natives on bottom
- A person could become “Spanish” eventually despite their race
- Natives = main labor source for the Europeans
- More often, colonist used a wage system, but some natives were sold into slavery
- Sometimes, Europeans were more worried about taking control of villages than land so that they could have a reliable source of labor
- However, native population declined a lot because of diseases and war.
- 1502: European settlers began getting slaves from Africa

### Africa and America

- Most black men and women were taken from Guinea.
- 1500-1800: over half of new arrivals to New World were Africans.
- Europeans thought Africans were uncivilized, but they actually were civilized greatly.
- Before the slave business:
  - By 1400s: Africans had developed complex political systems and extensive civilizations.
  - People of upper Guinea were trading ivory, gold, and slaves for finished goods
    - Became connected to Islam early on
  - Mali empire emerged after Ghana fell in 1100
    - Timbuktu, its great city, = trading center and seat of education.
  - Farther south, the Africans = politically fragmented and disconnected from Mediterranean.
    - Village = social unit = extended family group
    - Some villages united into kingdoms (Benin, Congo, Songhay)
    - Still traded though: fabrics, ceramics, wood and iron goods
    - Crops, livestock
  - Guinea: fishing and rice cultivation & trade with Mediterranean = their economy
  - South: wheat and other crops, livestock, fishing = their economy
  - Interior: hunting and gathering
  - Societies = matrilineal (traced heredity through mothers, not fathers, also like native Americans in America)
  - Women: major role in trade, child care, and food preparation, chose leaders for female affairs
  - Men: hunted, fished, raised livestock, chose leaders for male affairs
  - Tribal chiefs = male usually, but position was passed down to oldest daughter
  - Religion = natural world – spirits in rocks, trees, rivers
  - Revered priests were oldest people
  - Social ranks: 1) (top) Priests and nobles; 2) farmers, traders, craftsmen, etc; 3) (bottom) slaves – captured men and women from war
  - Slavery = not permanent. Bondage for a fixed period of time
  - As early as 700, Africans were selling slaves to traders in the Mediterranean.



- Portuguese sailors bought slaves (like criminals and captured ppl during the war) and brought them back
- Then, Europeans' demand for sugarcane GREW. They needed slaves for the work in Caribbean Islands and Brazil.
- By 1600s: Dutch got control of the slave market.
- In 1700s: English controlled it
- By 1700s: slavery spread to Caribbean, South America, and English colonies of the north.

## THE ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH

- 1497: John Cabot went to northeastern coast of North America on an expedition sponsored by King Henry VII.

### The Commercial Incentive

- Sir Thomas More published *Utopia*: described perfect society in New World (representing English's hope)
- English economy not good: transformed from crops to sheep raising to get **wool**, causing evicted tenants to go around in gangs begging
- Enclosure laws were taken place to halt enclosures and help people, but they failed. The population rose from 3 to 4 million in 1485 and now there's a problem with not having enough food.
- Merchants were doing well despite the distress around them
  - Helped create domestic cloth industry – market finished goods and home and abroad
  - Formed chartered companies together
    - Operated on basis of charter from the monarch which gave company monopoly in certain region
      - Muscovy Company – 1555
      - Levant Company – 1581
      - Barbary Company – 1585
      - Guinea Company – 1588
      - East India Company – 1600
- Mercantilism
  - Nation as a whole, not individuals, was the main actor in the economy
  - Increase nation's total wealth
  - One person or nation could grow rich only at the expense of the other
  - Import more wealth from afar and export less wealth from home
  - Enhanced merchants' new positions
  - Increased competition among nations
  - England, with mercantilism, tried to get into cloth market in Antwerp, but it collapsed.
- Richard Hakluyt

- Argued that English colonies would create new markets for English goods and help with poverty and unemployment rates
- New colonies = opportunity to get goods that England were dependent on from other nations: lumber, naval stores, silver, gold

### The Religious Incentive

- 1517: Protestant Reformation by Martin Luther in Germany
  - Challenged basic practices and beliefs of Roman Catholic Church
  - Bible, not church, was authentic voice of God
  - Purpose: to reform the church, not revolt
  - 1520: Pope excommunicated him, but Luther defied him and left with his followers
- John Calvin
  - Most influential reformer after Luther
  - Introduced “predestination”
    - God knew each person’s fate before birth – cannot change it
  - Led people to live productive and virtuous lives
- English Reformation
  - 1529: King Henry VIII = angry b/c pope refused to grant him a divorce
  - Made himself the head of the Christian faith in his country shortly after
  - Henry’s Catholic daughter, Mary, returned ties to Rome and persecuted those who didn’t go back to Catholicism (got nickname “Bloody Mary”)
  - Elizabeth (Mary’s half-sister) broke ties again like Henry
- Protestants became “Puritans” because they wanted to “purify” the church (not enough changes in theology)
  - Aka: Separatists (b/c they worshipped in their own congregations)
  - Ignored English law that outlawed religious meetings, etc.
  - Sects, like the Quakers, allowed women to serve as preachers
  - Wanted many things, like simplify Anglican church and reduce power of bishops
  - After death of Elizabeth, their discontent grew when James I went to the throne
  - James antagonized the Puritans – he resorted to taxation and favored English Catholics

### The English in Ireland

- First try with colonization: Ireland
  - 1560s – 1570s: would-be colonists moved thru Ireland capturing territory, and attempting to subdue the natives
  - Irish seen as crude and wasteful
  - Irish fought back with such viciousness that the English thought of them as barbaric
  - They couldn’t be assimilated, so they had to be destroyed
  - Sir Humphrey Gilbert
    - Was governor of one Irish district for a time
    - Saw natives as less than human

- Very vicious
- Beheaded Irish soldiers after they were killed in battle
- Established “plantations”
  - Transplantations of English society in a foreign land
  - Unlike Spanish, they tried to create a separate society and people it with English people

### The French and the Dutch in America

- French = England’s rivals in North America
- 1608: French founded its first colony in Quebec
- French made direct ties with natives deep inside the continent, not outside like the English
- Coureurs de Bois
  - Adventurous fur traders and trappers
  - Little more than agents for the Algonquins and Hurons (principle fur traders among the Indians)
  - French presence in North America grew: agricultural estates, trade and military centers at Quebec and Montreal, alliance with Algonquins
  - French could now compete with English
  - Iroquois fought with French too who assumed central role in English fur trade
- Dutch: Holland won independence from Spain in 1600s and had a merchant fleet larger than England’s
- Henry Hudson
  - 1609: Found river named after him (in New York state) – thought it was trade route to Pacific
- 1624: Dutch West India Company made permanent trading posts on Hudson, Delaware, and Connecticut Rivers.
  - Encouraged settlement from Holland, Germany, Sweden, and Finland and granted estates to landlords (“patroons”) as long as they brought new immigrants
  - Created colony of New Netherland and town, New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island

### The First English Settlements

- #1: Jamestown, Virginia in 1607
- Before: England not sure if they wanted to start colonizing (looking at how powerful Spanish was)
- 1570s – 1580s: English “sea dogs” like Sir Francis Drake challenged Spanish merchant ships – helped English gain confidence
- 1588: Phillip II tried to invade England with “Spanish Armada”, one of largest military fleets in history
  - Ended bad for Spain and Portugal (allies in this) when England dispersed the large fleet and destroyed them – England = now free to make moves in New World

- Leaders of England for colonizing: Sir Humphrey Gilbert and his half-bro Sir Walter Raleigh
  - Gilbert got patent from Queen Elizabeth for 6 years to colonize
  - 1583: Gilbert led expedition to Newfoundland and named it after the queen's name
    - But he got lost at sea b/c of a storm

## Roanoke

- Raleigh got grant from Elizabeth for 6 years like Gilbert
- He explored North American coast and found island natives called "Roanoke"
  - Elizabeth let him call the mainland really close to it "Virginia" b/c Elizabeth was "the Virgin Queen"
  - Raleigh got no financial help though
- 1585: Raleigh and his cousin, Sir Richard Grenville went to Roanoke to establish a colony
  - Left colonists there and Sir Francis Drake arrived later with supplies long overdue and colonists came back
- 1587: Raleigh tried again
  - 91 men, 17 women, 9 children
  - John White gave birth to Virginia Dare, first American born child of English parents
  - White left (to get supplies) and returned 3 years later (held up b/c of hostilities with Spain) in 1590
    - Found island totally deserted – just saw "Croatoan" carved on a post
    - Known now as the "Lost Colony"
- The Roanoke disaster ended Raleigh's career
- James I executed Raleigh in 1618
- 1606: James issued new charter: divided America into 2 groups
  - London Group = colonize in south
  - Plymouth Group = colonize in north

