



A.P. U.S. History: 1491-1607

American Pageant, 15th Edition



Pre-Columbian Native American Societies

Essential Question #1:

As Native American peoples spread across the North American continent, how did the environment/climate of the area they settled affect the societies they developed?

(Key Concept 1.1)

Maize Cultivation

Focus/Discussion Question #1

What were the effects of maize cultivation on Native American civilizations in the American southwest?

Maize Cultivation

- Incan and Mayan civilizations agricultural systems based primarily on maize cultivation (large populations)
- Transformed nomadic hunting groups into ag-based villagers
 - Took a long time to spread because of few concentrations of population in much of present day North America
 - Few “nation-states” outside of Mexico (also why disease spread slower)
 - Some large settlements did develop after maize planting (Cahokia)
- Led to use of “three-sister farming” along the east coast
 - Beans, corn, squash all help each other
- Examples: Pueblo, Mound Builders, Creek

Native American Societies in the Northwest & the Great Plains

Focus/Discussion Question #2

How did the climate / environment of other parts of North America help shape Native American culture and society in those areas?

Native American Societies in the Northwest & the Great Plains

- Great Basin & Great Plains
 - Few natural resources led to largely mobile/nomadic societies
 - needed to be mobile to hunt Bison in the Great Plains (resource?)
 - Pueblo eventually developed irrigation system to allow them to plant crops
- Northeast/Atlantic Seaboard
 - Climate more conducive to farming
 - Iroquois Confederacy helped organize large “empire”
 - Animals they hunted were more stationary, led to traditional hunting grounds for many tribes (fishing as well led to more permanent settlements)

European Exploration & the Columbian Exchange

Essential Question #2:

In what ways did European exploration and colonization affect societies across the Atlantic through what is known as the “Columbian Exchange”?

(Key Concept 1.2)

Effects of Spanish & Portuguese contact with native peoples

Focus/Discussion Question #3

How did disease and social interaction between Spanish and Portuguese explorers and the Africans/Native Americans they encountered affect society and culture in Africa and the Americas?

Effects of Spanish & Portuguese contact with native peoples

- Disease
 - Europeans brought diseases that Native Americans no longer had immunity to after centuries of isolation in North America
 - Within 50 years the Taino population of Hispanola dropped from 1 million to about 200
 - As many as 90% of the native population died due to disease
 - Examples: smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, typhoid

Effects of Spanish & Portuguese contact with native peoples

- Social Interaction
 - American Indians gave syphilis to the European explorers
 - Europeans brought not only disease, but their language, laws, customs and the Catholic religion
 - Also intermarried with the native population creating a new, distinctive culture
 - Mestizo
 - Much of this interaction came via Spanish explorers who were more open to interaction due to past experience with integrating the Muslim Moor population of southern Spain into Spanish culture

West Africa & Slave Labor

Focus/Discussion Question #4

Explain the origins of the slave trade that developed among the Spanish, Portuguese, and kingdoms of West Africa.

West Africa & Slave Labor

- Portuguese began to look for alternate routes to China and this led them to explore the West African coast
 - Set up trading posts along the African shore to trade for gold
 - Africans had been trading slaves for centuries and Portuguese began buying them to work in colonial sugar plantations
 - This led the slave trade to explode in size and scope
 - Became the foundation for the modern plantation system
- ODD.... The introduction of new crops may have led to an African population boom that offset the numbers lost to slavery

Columbian Exchange/ Encomienda System

Focus/Discussion Question #5

How did the Columbian Exchange affect European and Native American economies and societies and how did the plantation-based economies of Spanish colonies develop and change over time?

Columbian Exchange/ Encomienda System

- Effect on European Economy and Society
 - 3/5 of the crops cultivated around the world originated in North America
 - “sugar revolution” in the European diet
 - Population exploded leading to overcrowding and a need for more space
 - Massive amounts of gold and silver added to the European economy and made Spain the most dominant power in Europe
- Effect on Native American Economy and Society
 - New crops and animals brought from Europe
 - Cattle, swine, and horses
 - The horse spread throughout North America and was adopted by tribes who became highly mobile hunting societies

Columbian Exchange/ Encomienda System

- Encomienda System
 - An “encomienda” allowed the local Spanish government to “give” Indians to certain colonists in exchange for the promise to Christianize them
 - Was slavery in everything but name
 - One of its biggest critics was Bartolome Las Casas
 - He tried to convince the Spanish Crown that its mission to spread the Christian faith in the Americas did not have to deprive indigenous people of their freedom, sovereignty, and property rights
 - *“The cause by which the Christians have been driven to kill and destroy so many - such an infinite number of souls - has been simply to get the Indians' gold.” Bartolomé de Las Casas*

Why Explore and Expand?

Focus/Discussion Question #6

What were the various motivations that fueled European exploration and conquest?

Why Explore and Expand?

- One of the main motivations was to find an alternate trade routes to China
- Spanish Conquistadors - “God, Gold, and Glory”
- After the Protestant Reformation the rivalry between Catholic Spain and Protestant England grew
 - What began as English “sea dogs” raiding Spanish ships turned into a battle to spread their versions of the Christian faith
 - Spain dominated early until the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588

Changes, Changes, Changes

Focus/Discussion Question #7

How did crops and mineral wealth from the Americas, along with improvements in technology and methods of trading, bring massive changes in both the Americas and Europe?

Changes, Changes, Changes

- New technology like the caravel and sextant helped make travel more efficient and led to an increase in trade (ex. West Africa)
- Gold and silver made the Spanish the most powerful country in Europe and drastically changed the European economy
 - Money and new crops also helped cause a shift from feudalism to capitalism
 - The new crops led to increase in population that helped fuel this change by providing a surplus of labor
- New methods of financing trade also increased exploration and settlement (joint-stock companies)

“I don’t know what to think anymore...”

Essential Question #3

How did contact among Native Americans, Africans, and Europeans challenge how each viewed the world?

(Key Concept 1.3)

“How do we treat them?”

Focus/Discussion Question #8

What were the various views of how Spanish and Portuguese explorers believed that they should treat Native Americans and how did some use a belief in white superiority to justify their subjugation of Africans and Native Americans?

“How do we treat them?”

**“Change my worldview...
I don’t think so!”**

Focus/Discussion Question #9

In what ways did European explorers/colonists attempt to change American Indian beliefs and worldviews and what was the reaction on the part of the various American Indian groups?

**“Change my worldview...
I don’t think so!”**

How were slaves able to cope with their condition?

Focus/Discussion Question #10

Even in the face of a life of forced labor, how were African slaves able to preserve some of their culture and maintain a level of autonomy in the Americas?

How were slaves able to cope with their condition?