



AP US HISTORY

Unit 1: 1491 - 1607

UNIT 1

REVIEW



the note ninja

BEFORE EUROPEAN CONTACT

Maize (corn) from Mexico led to:

- Larger, densely settled Native American populations -> socially-diversified societies
- Also brought economic growth allowing for more complex societies (Hohokam, Anasazi, Pueblos)

Mayas (300-800):

- Dominated Yucatan Peninsula
- Used maize for food supply

Aztecs (After Mayas):

- Dominated Mexico & Central America, also used maize

Incas (existed during Aztec domination):

- Western South America
- Used potatoes as food supply

Northeast:

- Some societies, like Adena Hopewell, made permanent economies combining agriculture & hunting -> lived in longhouses

Northwest:

- Tribes had close proximity with ocean -> hunting, fishing, gathering

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EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

Technology:

- Advances in tech, such as things like gunpowder, the compass, etc. allowed for travel across the Atlantic

Protestant Reformation (14th & 15th centuries):

- Resulted in a division between traditional Roman-Catholic teachings and new Protestant practices

Motivations for Exploration:

Three G's -> gold, glory, God

- Gold -> economic incentive for trade + competition
w/ Africa, Asia, and other European powers
 - Glory -> political influence + dominance
- God -> desire to spread specific denominations of Christianity (following the Protestant Reformation)

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COLOMBIAN EXCHANGE

What is it?

- Transmission of plants, animals, diseases, ideas, etc. between the New World and countries across the Atlantic

Economics:

- Started European shift from feudalism to capitalism
- Joint-stock companies (companies owned by shareholders) reduced economic risk of voyages
 - > minimizes loss for investors

Disease:

- Europeans brought diseases to the Americas, like smallpox & measles that decimated Native populations

SPANISH COLONIAL SYSTEM

Encomienda system:

- Natives who lived on a tract of land were assigned to Spaniards -> forced to work on plantations + extract resources, results of labor go to Spanish who in turn "care" for the natives

Asiento system:

- Colonists pay tax to Spanish King -> import slaves from Africa across Middle Passage -> slave trade

Casta system:

- Assigned races into a pyramid with pure-blood Europeans at the top. Used to justify colonization + keep non-Europeans in check

CULTURE & EUROPEAN POLICY

Culture:

- Most Europeans held to monotheism, whereas Natives held to polytheism.
- Native religions held more reverence towards nature (ex: Animism)
- To protect their culture, Natives sometimes allied w/ Europeans to help them in battle (ex: Many tribes in Mexico allied w/ Spain to gain freedom from Aztecs).

Justifications:

- Religious, pseudoscientific, and ethnocentric reasoning was used to justify slavery + other atrocities committed by European powers.

EUROPEAN POLICY

Spanish policy:

- Used Natives for labor
- Although severely oppressed, statuses of the Natives were debated (Bartolomé de Las Casas argued against Native serfdom)

English policy:

- Initially coexisted and traded Native fur for European iron tools, but Natives were eventually forcefully expelled from their land

French policy:

- At first, they looked to engage in the fur trade w/ Natives and convert them to Catholicism
- Built trading posts & posed an overall smaller threat than other Europeans