

Unit 10: Age of Exploration: A Meeting of Different Worlds: 1100-1700

In the late 1400s, Europeans in search of trade sailed across the Atlantic and made contact with Native Americans. Soon, Spain and other nations established settlements in the Americas. The Europeans also began to bring enslaved Africans there. Gradually, Native American, European, and African peoples and cultures interacted to form a new way of life. By the early 1600s, the nations of Europe were competing eagerly for wealth in the Americas. The Spanish built a large empire that spread over both North and South America. The French, Dutch, and English sought territory in North America. The English who settled at Jamestown and Plymouth brought with them traditions of political rights and freedoms.

Section 1: Europeans Reach the Americas

Explore these Questions as You Read

- How did the Crusades and the Renaissance change Europe?
- Why did Europeans look for a new sea route to Asia?
- What were the effects of Columbus's voyages?

Define

monarch	feudalism	manor	serf
magnetic compass	astrolabe	caravel	colony
Johannes Gutenberg	Prince Henry	Dias	Vasco da Gama

During the Middle Ages, the period in European history from about 500 to 1350 AD, many Europeans thought of the world as a disk floating on a great ocean. The disk was made up of only three continents: Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Most Europeans knew little about the lands beyond their small villages. Even map-makers called the waters bordering Europe the Sea of Darkness. Sailors who strayed into these waters often returned with tales of fearsome creatures. "One of these sea monsters," swore one sailor, "have horns, flames, and huge eyes 16 or 20 feet across."

Were such tales true? The few who wondered had no way of finding out. Most Europeans were not interested in the outside world because daily life was hard and their main concern was survival. During the Middle Ages, weak European **monarchs** or kings and queens, divided their lands among nobles. These nobles, or lords, had their own armies and courts but owed loyalty to a monarch. This system of rule by lords who owe loyalty to a monarch is called **feudalism**. Feudal life revolved around the manors of these powerful lords. The **manor** included the lord's castle, peasants' huts, and surrounding villages or fields. Most people on the manor were **serfs** or peasants who worked for the lord and could not leave the manor without the lord's permission. On the manor, people had to produce for themselves nearly everything they needed. There were few merchants and traders. Few roads or towns existed.

A CHANGING EUROPE

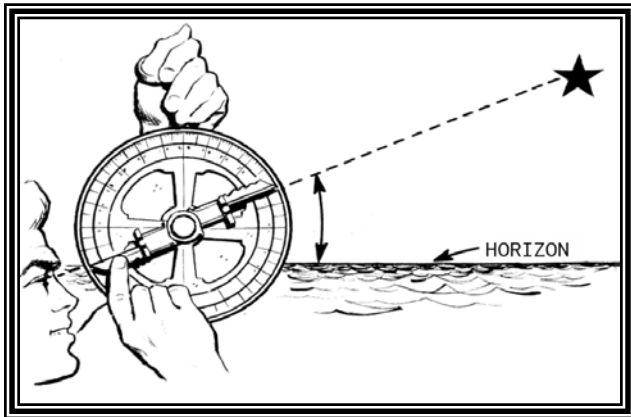
Toward the end of the Middle Ages, conditions began to change. Religious wars led to increased trade with people in Asia and Africa. There was also a revival of learning in Europe.

The Crusades

To Christians, the city of Jerusalem in the Middle East was sacred because Jesus had lived and taught there. They referred to the city and other places in Palestine as the Holy Land. Jerusalem was also a holy place to Jews and Muslims.

From about 1100 to 1300, Christians and Muslims fought a series of religious wars for control of the Holy Land. Thousands of Christians from all over Europe joined in these wars, known as the Crusades. In the end, however, the Europeans failed to win control of the Holy Land. Still, the Crusades had lasting effects for the Europeans. For the first time, large numbers of Europeans had traveled beyond the small towns of their birth. In the Middle East, they ate exotic foods, such as rice, oranges, and dates. They tasted ginger, pepper, and other spices that both improved the taste of food and helped preserve it. They bought shimmering silks and colorful rugs from Arab traders.

Italian merchants quickly realized that Europeans would pay handsome prices for these foreign goods. They therefore began a lively trade with Arab merchants in the Middle East. The increase in trade led to an increase in knowledge. From the Arabs, Italian merchants learned about new instruments that



made it easier to sail across large bodies of water. The **magnetic compass**, with a needle that always pointed north, helped ship captains sail a straight course.

Another useful instrument was the **astrolabe**. This tool made it possible for sailors to determine the positions of stars and figure out latitude at sea. Both the magnetic compass and the astrolabe helped make sailing less frightening.

A revival of learning

Increased trade and travel made Europeans curious about the wider world. Scholars translated ancient Greek, Roman, and Arab works. They then made discoveries of their own in fields such as art, medicine, astronomy, and chemistry. This burst of learning was called the **Renaissance**, a French word meaning rebirth. It lasted from the late 1300s to about 1600.

The invention of the printing press helped, to spread the Renaissance spirit. It was invented during the mid- 1400s by German printer **Johannes Gutenberg**. Before Gutenberg's invention, there were few books because people had to copy them by hand. With the printing press, however, large numbers of books could be printed at low cost. As books became more available, more people learned to read. As reading increased, people learned more about the world around them.

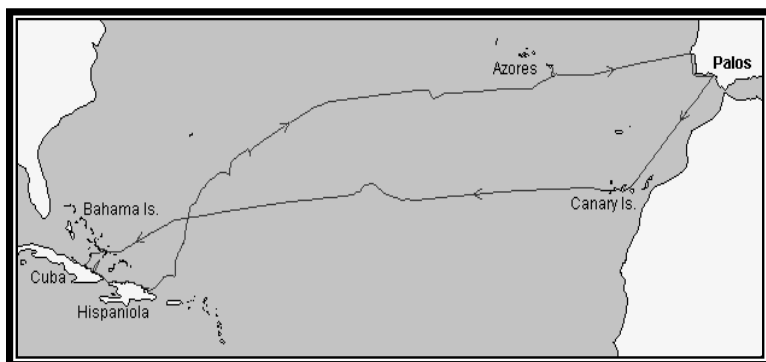
A Search for New Trade Routes

As trade brought new prosperity to Europe, kings and queens fought to increase their power. In England and France, rulers established greater authority over feudal lords. In Portugal and Spain, Christian monarchs drove out Arab Muslims who had conquered much of the area.

The rulers of England, France, Portugal, and Spain also looked for ways to increase their wealth. Huge profits could be made by trading with China and other Asian lands. However, Arab and Italian merchants controlled the trade routes across the Mediterranean Sea. Western European rulers would have to find another route to Asia.

Portugal led the way. In the early 1400s, **Prince Henry**, known as the Navigator, encouraged sea captains to sail south along the coast of West Africa. He founded an informal school to help sailors in their explorations. Under Henry's guidance, the Portuguese designed a new type of ship, the **caravel**. With triangular sails and a steering rudder, the caravel enabled captains to sail against the wind.

Portuguese sailors gradually established a new route from Western Europe to Asia. In 1488, Bartholomeu Dias reached the southern tip of Africa. Then, in 1498, Vasco da Gama sailed around southern Africa and continued to India. Gradually, Portuguese ships pressed on to the East Indies, an island chain off the southeastern coast of Asia. This was the source of the trade in spices.



Columbus Reaches the Americas

The Spanish watched the Portuguese with envy because they, too, wanted a share of the rich Asian spice trade. In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to finance a voyage of exploration by an Italian sea captain named Christopher Columbus. Columbus planned to reach the East Indies by sailing west across the Atlantic.

Across the Atlantic

In August 1492, Columbus set sail with three ships and a crew of about 90 sailors. As captain, he commanded the largest vessel, the *Santa Maria*. The other ships were the *Nina* and the *Pinta*. After stopping briefly at the Canary Islands, the little fleet continued west into unknown territory. Fair winds sped them along, but a month passed without the sight of land. Some sailors began to grumble. They had never been beyond the sight of land for so long. Still, Columbus sailed on.

On October 7, sailors saw flocks of birds flying southwest. Columbus changed course to follow the birds. A few days later, crew members spotted tree branches and flowers floating in the water. At 2 a.m. on October 12, the lookout on the *Pinta* spotted white cliffs shining in the moonlight, "'*Tierra! Tierra!*" he shouted, "Land! Land!" At dawn, Columbus rowed ashore and planted the banner of Spain. Columbus called the local people Indians because he was convinced that he had reached the East Indies, in Asia. In fact, he had reached the island home of the Tainos, in what are now called the West Indies. The West Indies lie off the coasts of North and South America. At the time, these continents were unknown to Europeans.

Riches for Spain

For three months, Columbus explored the West Indies. To his delight, he found signs of gold on the islands. Eager to report his success, he returned home to Spain. Columbus gave King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella gifts of pink pearls and brilliantly colored parrots. The two Spanish monarchs listened intently to his descriptions of tobacco, pineapples, and hammocks used for sleeping, Columbus also described the natives of the islands he had visited:

“[They were) of a very acute intelligence ... [but had] no iron or steel weapons— Should your majesties command it, all the inhabitants could be made slaves.”

The Spanish monarchs were impressed. They gave Columbus the title of Admiral of the Ocean Sea. They also agreed to finance his future voyages. Columbus made three more voyages to the West Indies. In 1493, on an island he called Hispaniola (present-day Haiti and the Dominican Republic), he founded the first Spanish colony in the Americas. A colony is a group of people who settle in a distant land and are ruled by the government of their native land. Columbus also explored Cuba and Jamaica and sailed along the coasts of Central America and northern South America. Wherever he went, he claimed the lands for Spain.

Columbia's lasting impact

For years, Columbus has been remembered as the bold sea captain who "discovered America." In at least one sense, he deserves that honor. Europeans knew nothing of the Americas before Columbus brought them news about this "new world." Today, however, we also recognize that other people "discovered" America long before Columbus. Still, his daring voyages initiated lasting contact among the peoples of Europe, Africa, and the Americas.

For Native Americans, though, the contact begun by Columbus resulted in tragedy. Columbus and other Europeans who came after him seized Indian lands. They forced native people to work in mines or on farms. Over the next 50 years, hundreds of thousands of Caribbean Indians died from harsh working conditions and European diseases.

For better or for worse, the voyages of Columbus signaled a new era for the Americas. Curious Europeans wanted to explore the lands across the Atlantic. They saw the Americas as a place where they could settle, trade, and grow *rich*.

Section 1 Review

1. **Identify** (a) Middle Ages, (b) Crusades, (c) Renaissance, (d) Johannes Gutenberg, (e) Prince Henry, (f) Bartholomeu Dias, (g) Vasco da Gama, (h) Christopher Columbus.
2. **Define** (a) monarch, (b) feudalism, (c) manor, (d) serf, (e) magnetic compass, (f) astrolabe, (g) caravel, (h) colony.
3. Describe how each of the following changed life in Europe: (a) the Crusades, (b) the Renaissance.
4. Why did Western European rulers want to find new routes to Asia?
5. How did Columbus's voyages affect (a) Europeans, (b) Native Americans?
6. In what way were the Crusades both a success and a failure?

SECTION 2: Spain Builds an Empire

Explore These Questions

- How did Spain interact with Native Americans empires?
- How did Spain govern its lands in the Americas?
- Why was life difficult for the Native Americans who lived under Spanish rule?

Define

Conquistador	pueblo	presidio	mission
Peninsulares	creole	mestizo	encomienda
Plantation	Balboa	Magellan	Cortes
Pizarro	Montezuma	Onate	Laws of the Indies
De Las Casas	Kino	borderlands	

Many Spanish **conquistadors**, or conquerors, marched into the Americas in the 1500s. When asked why they traveled to the Americas, Diaz responded, "We came here to serve God and the king and also to get rich." In their search for glory and gold, the conquistadors made Spain one of the richest nations in Europe. Soon, Spanish colonists followed the conquistadors and created a vast new empire in the Americas. However, the building of Spain's empire meant suffering and even death for Aztecs, Incas, and other Native Americans.

Early Explorations

After Columbus reached the West Indies, the Spanish explored and settled other islands in the Caribbean Sea. By 1511, they had conquered Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Cuba. They also explored the eastern coasts of North America and South America. Like Columbus, these explorers were searching for a western route to Asia.

Then, in 1513, an adventurer named Vasco Nunez de **Balboa** plunged into the jungles of the Isthmus of Panama. Native Americans had told him that a large body of water lay to the west. With a party of Spanish and Indians, Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean after about 25 days. He stood in the crashing surf and claimed the ocean for Spain.

The Spanish had no idea how wide the Pacific was until a sea captain named Ferdinand Magellan sailed across it. The expedition left Spain in 1519. After much hardship, it rounded the very stormy southern tip of South America and entered the Pacific Ocean. Crossing the Pacific, the sailors were forced to eat rats and sawdust when they ran out of food. Magellan himself was killed in a battle with the local people of the Philippine Islands off the coast of Asia. Of five ships and about 250 crew members, only one ship and 18 sailors returned to Spain in 1522. That was three years after they set out. These survivors were the first men to circumnavigate, or sail around, the world. In doing so, they had found an all-water western route to Asia. Their voyage made Europeans aware of the true size of the Earth.

Spanish Conquistadors

Meanwhile, Spanish colonists in the Caribbean heard rumors of gold and other riches in nearby Mexico. Spanish conquistadors began to dream of new conquests. The rulers of Spain gave conquistadors permission to establish settlements in the Americas. In return, conquistadors agreed to give Spain one fifth of any gold or treasure they captured.

Cortes conquers the Aztecs

In 1519, messengers brought disturbing news to Montezuma, the Aztec emperor who ruled over much of Mexico. They said that they had seen a large house floating on the sea. It was filled with white men with long, thick beards.

Montezuma thought that these strangers might be messengers of gods. Aztec sacred writings predicted that a powerful white-skinned god would come from the east to rule the Aztecs. The white strangers did come from the east, and they were certainly powerful. They wore metal armor and had weapons that *spit* fire. As the strangers neared Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec empire, Montezuma decided to welcome them as his guests.

The Spanish leader, **Hernando Cortes**, took advantage of Montezuma's invitation. Like other conquistadors, Cortes wanted power and riches. An Indian woman the Spanish called Dona Marina had told him about Aztec gold. With only about 600 soldiers and 16 horses, Cortes set out to seize the Aztecs' gold. On November 8, 1519, Cortes marched into Tenochtitlan, for the next six months, he held Montezuma prisoner.

Finally, the Aztecs attacked and drove out the Spanish, but the victory was brief. Aided by people whom the Aztecs had conquered, Cortes recaptured Tenochtitlan. In the end, the Spanish killed Montezuma and destroyed Tenochtitlan. The mighty Aztec empire had fallen.

Pizarro conquers the Incas

Another bold conquistador, **Francisco Pizarro**, heard about the fabulous Incan empire while marching with Balboa across Panama. Pizarro decided to sail down the Pacific coast of South America with fewer than 200 Spanish soldiers. In 1532, he captured the Incan emperor Atahualpa and much of his army. An Incan historian described the surprise attack:

“The Spaniards killed them all— with horses, with swords, with guns.
From more than 10,000 men, there did not escape 200.”

Later, the Spanish executed Atahualpa. The following year, Pizarro's army attacked Cuzco, the Incan capital in present-day Peru. Without the leadership of Atahualpa, Incan resistance collapsed. By 1535, Pizarro controlled much of the Incan empire.

Reasons for Spanish victories

With only a handful of soldiers, the Spanish had conquered two great empires. There were several major reasons for the remarkable success that the Spanish enjoyed. First, the Spanish had superior military equipment. They were protected by steel armor and had guns. Meanwhile, the Aztecs and Incas relied on clubs, bows and arrows, and spears. Also, the Native Americans had never seen horses. As a result, they were frightened by mounted Spanish soldiers.

Another factor was that the Native Americans offered weak resistance. The Aztecs were slow to fight because they thought the Spanish might be gods. The Incas were weak from fighting among themselves over control of their government. Finally, the Indians were victims to European diseases. Large numbers of Indians died from chicken pox, measles, and influenza. Some historians believe that disease alone would have ensured Spanish victory over the Indians.

Seeking Riches in the North

The Spanish search for treasure extended beyond the lands of the Aztecs and Incas. Moving north, conquistadors explored the area known as the Spanish borderlands. The **borderlands** spanned the present-day United States from Florida to California.

Juan Ponce de Leon traveled through parts of Florida in 1513, looking for a legendary fountain of youth. Indians claimed that anyone who bathed in its magical water would remain young forever. Ponce de Leon found no such fountain.

In 1528, Panfilo Narvaez led an expedition that ended in disaster. A storm struck his fleet in the Gulf of Mexico. Narvaez and many others were lost at sea. The rest landed on an island near present-day Texas. Native Americans captured the few survivors and held them prisoner. Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca assumed leadership of the group, which included an enslaved African named Estevanico.

In 1533, Cabeza de Vaca, Estevanico, and two others finally escaped their captors. The four went searching for a Spanish settlement. Their astonishing journey did not end until 1536, when they reached a town in Mexico. They had traveled by foot more than 1,000 miles through the Southwest. They learned much about Native American ways. They also heard amazing tales about seven cities whose streets were paved with gold.

From 1539 to 1542, Hernando De Soto explored Florida and other parts of the Southeast. He was looking for the cities of gold and other treasures. In 1541, he reached the Mississippi River. De Soto died along the river-bank, without finding the riches he sought.

The conquistador Francisco Coronado also heard about the seven cities of gold. In 1540, he led an expedition into the southwestern borderlands. He traveled through Mexico to present-day Arizona and New Mexico. Some of his party went as far as the Grand Canyon. Still, the Zuni villages he visited had no golden streets.

Governing New Spain

The Spanish king decided to set up a strong system of government to rule his growing empire in the Americas. In 1535, the king divided his lands into New Spain and Peru. The borderlands were part of New Spain. He put a viceroy in charge of each region to rule in his name.

The viceroys enforced the **Laws of the Indies**, a code of laws that stated how the colonies should be organized and ruled. The Laws of the Indies provided for three kinds of settlements in New Spain: pueblos, presidios, and missions. Sometimes, a large community included all three types of settlements.

Pueblos or towns were centers of farming and trade. In the middle of the town was a plaza, or public square. Here, townspeople and farmers gathered on important occasions. They also came to worship at the church. Shops and homes lined the four sides of the plaza.

Spanish rulers took control of Indian pueblos and built new towns as well. In 1598, Juan de Onate founded the colony of New Mexico among the adobe villages of the Pueblo Indians. He used brutal force to conquer the Native Americans of the region. In 1609, Don Pedro de Paralta founded Santa Fe as the Spanish capital of New Mexico.

Presidios were forts where soldiers lived. Inside the high, thick walls of a presidio were shops, stables for horses, and storehouses for food. Most soldiers lived in large barracks. Soldiers protected the farmers who settled around the presidios. The first presidio in the borderlands was built in 1565 at St. Augustine, Florida.

Missionaries were religious settlements run by Catholic priests and friars. Like other Europeans in the Americas, the Spanish believed they had a duty to convert Indians to Christianity. They often forced Indians to live and work on the missions. **Missionaries** gradually moved into various parts of the Spanish borderlands. The first mission in Texas was founded at El Paso in 1659. In 1691, Father **Eusebio Francisco Kino** crossed into present-day Arizona. He eventually set up 24 missions in the area. Missionaries also moved into California. By the late 1700s, a string of missions dotted the California coast from San Diego to San Francisco.

Society in New Spain

The Laws of the Indies divided the people in Spanish colonies into four social classes: peninsulares, Creoles, mestizos, and Indians.

Four social classes

At the top of the social scale were the peninsulares. Born in Spain, the peninsulares held the highest jobs in the colonial government and the Catholic Church. They also owned large tracts of land as well as rich gold and silver mines. Below the peninsulares were the Creoles where people born in the Americas to Spanish parents. Many Creoles were wealthy and well educated. They owned farms and ranches, taught at universities, and practiced law. However, they could not hold the jobs that were reserved for peninsulares. Below the Creoles were the mestizos, people of mixed Spanish and Indian

background. Mestizos worked on farms and ranches owned by peninsulares and Creoles. In the cities, they worked as carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, and bakers. The lowest class in the colonies was the Indians. The Spanish treated them as a conquered people. Under New Spain's strict social system, Indians were kept in poverty for hundreds of years.

A blending of cultures

By the mid-1500s, a new way of life had begun to take shape in New Spain. It blended Spanish and Indian ways. Spanish settlers brought their own culture to the colonies. They introduced their language, laws, religion, and learning. In 1539, a printer in Mexico City produced the first European book in the Americas. In 1551, the Spanish founded the University of Mexico.

Native Americans also influenced the culture of New Spain. Colonists adopted items of Indian clothing, such as the poncho and moccasins. Indians also introduced Spanish colonists to new foods, including potatoes, corn, tomatoes, and chocolate.

With the help of Indian workers, Spanish settlers built many fine libraries, theaters, and churches. The Indians used materials they knew well, such as adobe bricks. Sometimes, Spanish priests allowed Indian artists to decorate the church walls with paintings of harvests and local traditions.

Harsh Life for Indians

The colonists who came to the Americas needed workers for their ranches, farms, and mines. To help them, the Spanish government gave settlers **encomiendas**, or the right to demand labor or taxes from Native Americans living on the land.

Working in mines and plantations

During the 1500s, mines in Mexico, Peru, and other areas of the Americas made Spain rich. Spanish treasure ships laden with thousands of tons of gold and silver sailed regularly across the Atlantic.

The Spanish forced Native Americans to work in the gold and silver mines. In flickering darkness, Indians labored in narrow tunnels where they hacked out rich ores. Many died when tunnels caved in.

Meanwhile, on the islands of the West Indies, large numbers of Indians worked on plantations, or large estates farmed by many workers. They grew sugar cane and tobacco, which plantation owners sold in Spain at a huge profit. Thousands of Native Americans died from overwork in mines and on plantations. As you have read, European diseases killed millions more.

Las Casas seeks reform

These harsh conditions led one priest, Bartolome de Las Casas, to seek reform. Traveling through New Spain, Las Casas witnessed firsthand the deaths of Indians due to hunger, disease, and mistreatment.

SECTION 2 REVIEW

1. **Identify** (a) Vasco Nunez de Balboa, (b) Ferdinand Magellan, (c) Montezuma, (d) Hernando Cortes, (e) Francisco Pizarro. (f) Spanish borderlands, (g) Laws of the Indies, (h) Juan de Onate, (i) Eusebio Francisco Kino, (j) Bartolome de Las Casas.
2. **Define(a)** conquistador, (b) pueblo, (c) presidio, (d) mission, (e) peninsulare, (f) Creole, (g) mestizo, (h) encomienda, (i) plantation.
3. Why were a handful of Spanish soldiers able to conquer the empires of the Aztecs and Incas?
4. How did the Laws of the Indies regulate life in New Spain? (a) In what ways was life harsh for Native Americans under Spanish rule? (b) How did Bartolome de Las Casas try to help Indians?
5. Based on what you have read in this section, make a generalization about the way Spain governed its colonies in the Americas.
6. Why do you think the Spanish felt they had the right to force the Indians to work for them?

SECTION 3: Colonizing North America

Explore These Questions

- How did competition grow among European Nations?
- How did trappers and missionaries help New France grow?
- How did the arrival of Europeans affect Native Americans in North America?

Identify

Northwest passage	Cartier	Hudson	Champlain
Reformation	missionary	Marquette	coureur de bois
La Salle	Minuit	New Netherland	Algonquin

In August 1497, the court of King Henry VII of England buzzed with excitement. Italian sea captain Giovanni Caboto and a crew of sailors from England had just returned from a 79-day Atlantic voyage. Caboto, called John Cabot by the English, reported that he had reached a "new-found island" in Asia where fish were plentiful.

Cabot was one of many Europeans who explored North America in the late 1400s and early 1500s. England, France, and the Netherlands all envied Spain's new empire. They wanted American colonies of their own.

Search for a Northwest Passage

Throughout the 1500s, European nations continued looking for new ways to reach the riches of Asia; they felt that Magellan's route around South America was too long. They wanted to discover a shorter Northwest Passage, or waterway through or around North America. As you read above, John Cabot was confident he had found such a passage in 1497. He was mistaken. His "new-found island" off the Asian coast in fact lay off the shore of North America. Today, it is called Newfoundland and is the easternmost province of Canada.

In 1524, the French sent Giovanni da Verrazano, another Italian captain, in search of a northwest passage. Verrazano journeyed along the North American coast from the Carolinas to Canada. During the 1530s, Jacques Cartier also sailing for the French, sailed a good distance up the river that is now known as the St. Lawrence.

In 1609, the English sailor Henry Hudson sailed for the Dutch. His ship, the Half Moon, entered what is today New York harbor. Hudson continued some 150 miles (240 km) up the river that now bears his name. The following year, Hudson made a voyage into the far north—this time for the English. After spending a harsh winter in what is now called Hudson Bay, Hudson's crew rebelled. They put Hudson, his son, and seven loyal sailors into a small boat and set it adrift. The boat and its crew were never seen again.

All these explorers failed to find a northwest passage to Asia. However, they succeeded in mapping and exploring many parts of North America. The rulers of Western Europe began thinking about how to profit from the region's rich resources.

European Rivalries

As European nations began to compete for riches around the world, religious differences also heightened their rivalry. Until the 1500s, the Roman Catholic Church was the only church in Western Europe. After that, however, a major religious reform movement split the Catholic Church and sharply divided Christians.

Catholics and Protestants

In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther challenged many practices of the Catholic Church. Luther believed that the Church had become too worldly and greedy. He opposed the power of popes. He also objected to the Catholic teaching that believers needed to perform good works to gain eternal life. Luther argued that people could be saved only by their faith in God.

Luther's supporters became known as Protestants because of their protests against the Church. The Protestant Reformation, as the new movement was known, divided Europe. Soon, the Protestants themselves split, forming many different Protestant churches.

As a result, religion divided the states of Western Europe. In the late 1500s, Roman Catholic monarchs ruled Spain and France, Elizabeth I, a Protestant queen, ruled England. In the Netherlands, the Dutch people were mostly Protestant.

Rivalries in the Americas

As Europeans spread to the Americas, they brought their religious conflicts with them. Queen Elizabeth encouraged English adventurers to raid Spanish colonies and capture the treasure fleets of Catholic Spain.

Protestant England also competed with Catholic France for lands in North America. Not all rivalries were religious, however, '[he Netherlands and England struggled against each other even though both were Protestant. They competed for control of land in North America and for economic markets all over the world.

New France

The first permanent French settlements, in what became known as New France, were founded by Samuel de Champlain. The first colony took root at Port Royal, Nova Scotia, in 1605. Three years later, Champlain led another group of settlers along the route Cartier had pioneered. On a rocky cliff high above the St. Lawrence River, Champlain built a trading post known as Quebec.

Economy of New France

Unlike Spain's empire in the Americas, the French empire had little gold or silver. Instead, the French profited from fishing, trapping, and trading.

Most French colonists were traders and trappers. Those who lived and worked in the woods became known as *coureurs de bois*, or runners of the woods. The French brought knives, kettles, cloth, and other items for trade with Native Americans. In return, the Native Americans gave beaver skins and other furs that sold for high prices in Europe.

Coureurs de bois established friendly relations with the Native Americans. Many married Indian women. They learned trapping and survival skills from Native Americans. For example, Indians taught them how to make valuable tools such as snowshoes and canoes,

Missionary work

Catholic often came from Europe and traveled with the fur traders. The missionaries were determined to convert Native Americans to Christianity. They set up missions, drew maps, and wrote about the lands they explored. Life was difficult, especially in winter. One priest recalled traveling through deep snow using Indian snowshoes:

“If a thaw came, dear Lord, what pain!... I was marching on an icy path that broke with every step I took; as the snow softened... we often sunk in it up to our waist.”

Expansion to the Mississippi

French trappers followed the St. Lawrence deep into the heart of North America. Led by Indian guides, they reached the Great Lakes. Here, Indians spoke of a mighty river, which they called Mississippi, of "Father of the Waters."

In 1673, a French missionary, Father Jacques Marquette, and a fur trader, Louis, set out with Indian guides to reach the Mississippi. They followed the river for more than 700 miles before turning back. In 1682, another explorer, Robert de La Salle, completed the journey to the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle named the region Louisiana in honor of the French king, Louis XIV.

To keep Spain and England out of Louisiana, the French built forts along the Mississippi. One fort, at the mouth of the river, was named New Orleans. New Orleans soon grew into a busy trading center. The French also built forts in the north along the Great Lakes. Among them was Fort Detroit, built by Antoine Cadillac near Lake Erie.

Government of New France

New France was governed much like New Spain. The French king controlled the government directly, and people had little freedom. A council appointed by the king made all decisions. King Louis XIV was concerned that too few French were moving to the territories of New France. In the 1660s, therefore, he sent about a thousand farmers to the colony. The newcomers included many young women.

Despite Louis's efforts to increase the population of New France, the colony grew slowly. By 1680, only about 10,000 settlers lived in the colony. Of those, one third lived on farms along the St. Lawrence. Many more chose the life of the *coureurs de bois*, who lived largely free of government control.

New Netherland

Like the French, the Dutch hoped to profit from their discoveries in the Americas. In 1626, Peter Minuit led a group of Dutch settlers to the mouth of the Hudson River. There, he bought Manhattan Island from local Indians. Minuit called his settlement New Amsterdam. Other Dutch colonists settled farther up the Hudson River. The entire colony was known as New Netherland.

By the mid 1600s, New Amsterdam grew into a busy port. The Dutch welcomed people of many nations and religions to their colony. One Dutch governor boasted that more than 15 languages could be heard in the streets of New Amsterdam. In 1655, the Dutch enlarged New Netherland by taking over the colony of New Sweden. The Swedes had established New Sweden along the Delaware River some 15 years earlier.

Rivalry over furs

Dutch traders sent furs to the Netherlands. The packing list for the first shipment included "the skins of 7,246 beaver, 853 otter, 81 mink, 36 cat lynx, and 34 small rats." The Dutch and French became rivals in the fur trade. In this rivalry, the French were helped by the Algonquin Indians. The Dutch made friends with the Iroquois. For many years, fighting raged among the Europeans and their Indian allies.

Dutch-ways in-North America

The Dutch brought many of their customs to New Netherland. Some Dutch words entered the English language. A Dutch master was a "boss." The people of New Amsterdam sailed in "yachts." Dutch children munched on "cookies" and went for rides through the snow on "sleighs."

Impact on Native Americans

The coming of Europeans to North America brought major changes for Native Americans. Once again, as in New Spain, European diseases killed millions of Indians. Rivalry over the fur trade increased Indian warfare because European settlers encouraged their Indian allies to attack one another. The scramble for furs also led to over-trapping. By 1640, trappers had almost wiped out the beavers on Iroquois lands in upstate New York.

The arrival of European settlers affected Native Americans in other ways. Missionaries tried to convert Indians to Christianity. Indians eagerly adopted European trade goods, such as copper kettles and knives, as well as muskets and gunpowder for hunting. Alcohol sold by European traders had a harsh effect on Native American life.

The French, Dutch, and English all waged warfare to seize Indian lands. As Indians were forced off their lands, they moved westward into lands of other Indians. The conflict between Native Americans and Europeans would continue for many years.

SECTION 4 Review

1. **Identify** (a) Jacques Cartier, (b) Henry Hudson, (c) Samuel de Champlain, (d) coureur de bois, (e) Jacques Marquette, (f) Robert de La Salle, (g) Peter Minuit, (h) New Netherland, (i) Algonquin.
2. **Define** (a) Northwest Passage, (b) Protestant Reformation, (c) missionary.
3. Why did European nations compete for control of lands in North America?
 - a) How did French trappers get along with Native Americans? {b) Why did missionaries often travel with the coureurs de bois?
4. How did competition between the French and Dutch affect the Algonquin and Iroquois?
 - (a) Describe one way in which New France was similar to New Spain, (b) Describe one way in which they were different.
5. How did missionaries help New France expand?

SECTION 4: THE FIRST ENGLISH COLONIES

Explore These Questions

- How did representative government take root in Virginia?
- Why did the Pilgrims start a colony in North America?
- How did Native Americans help the Plymouth Colony to survive?

Define

Representative	Government	charter
House of Burgesses	Squanto	John Smith
Sir Walter Raleigh	Pilgrims	Pochahontas
Mayflower Compact	Parliament	Magna Carta

“If England possesses these places in America, Her Majesty will have good harbors, plenty of excellent trees for masts, good timber to build ships ... all things needed for a royal navy, and all for no price.”

Richard Hakluyt wrote these words to persuade Queen Elizabeth I of England to set up colonies in North America. Hakluyt explained a total of more than 30 arguments in favor of settlement. "We shall," Hakluyt concluded, "stop the Spanish king from flowing over all the face ... of America." Hakluyt's pamphlet, written in 1584, appealed to English pride. England's rival, Spain, had built a great empire in the Americas. England was determined to win a place there, too.

Settlement at Roanoke

The man who encouraged Hakluyt to write his pamphlet was Sir Walter Raleigh, a favorite of Queen Elizabeth. With the queen's permission, Raleigh raised money to outfit a colony in North America. In 1585, seven ships and about 100 men set sail across the Atlantic.

The colonists landed on Roanoke, an island off the coast of present-day North Carolina. Within a year, the colonists ran short of food and quarreled with neighboring Native Americans. When an English ship stopped in the harbor, the weary settlers climbed aboard and sailed home.

In 1587, Raleigh asked John White, one of the original colonists, to return to Roanoke with a new group of settlers. This time, women and children went along, too. In Roanoke, one of the women gave birth to a baby girl named Virginia Dare. She was the first English child born in North America.

When supplies ran low, White returned to England, leaving behind 117 colonists. White planned to return in a few months. In England, however, he found the whole nation preparing for war with Spain. It was three years before he returned to Roanoke.

When White did reach Roanoke, he found the settlement strangely quiet. Houses stood empty. Vines twined through the windows and pumpkins sprouted from the earthen floors. White found the word CROATOAN, the name of a nearby island, carved on a tree. White was eager to investigate, but a storm was blowing up and his crew refused to make the trip. The next day, White stood sadly on board as the captain set sail for England. To this day, the fate of Roanoke's settlers remains a mystery.

Jamestown Colony

Nearly 20 years passed before England tried again to plant a colony. Then, in 1606, the Virginia Company of London received a charter from King James I. A charter is a legal document giving certain rights to a person or company. The charter gave the Virginia Company the right to settle lands to the north of Roanoke, between North Carolina and the Potomac River. The land was called Virginia. The charter guaranteed colonists of Virginia the same rights as English citizens.

A difficult start

In the spring of 1607, 105 colonists arrived in Virginia. They sailed into Chesapeake Bay and began building homes along the James River. They named their tiny outpost Jamestown, after their king, James I. The colonists soon discovered that Jamestown was located in a swampy area. The water was unhealthy, and mosquitoes spread malaria. Many settlers suffered or died from disease.

Governing the colony also proved difficult. The Virginia Company had chosen a council of 13 men to rule the settlement. Members of the council quarreled with one another and did little to plan for the colony's future. By the summer of 1608, the Jamestown colony was near failure.

Starvation and recovery

Another major problem was starvation. Captain John Smith, a 27-year-old soldier and explorer, observed that the colonists were not planting enough crops. He complained that people wanted only to "dig gold, wash gold, refine gold, load gold." As they searched in vain for gold, the colony ran out of food. Smith helped to save the colony. He set up stern rules that forced colonists to work if they wished to eat. He also visited nearby Indian villages to trade for food. Powhatan, the most powerful chief in the area, agreed to sell corn to the English.

Peaceful relations between the English and Native Americans of the region were short-lived, however, Whenever the Indians did not agree to supply food voluntarily, and colonists used force to seize what they needed. On one occasion John Smith aimed a gun at Powhatan's brother until the Indians provided corn to buy his freedom. Incidents such as these led to frequent and bloody warfare. Peace was restored, for a brief time only, when the colonist John Rolfe married Pocahontas, daughter of Powhatan.

While the English were enjoying the peace, their- economic difficulties resumed. Problems arose soon after John Smith returned to England in 1609. For the next few years, the colony suffered terribly. Desperate settlers cooked "dogs, cats, snakes, [and] toadstools" to survive. To keep warm, they broke up houses to burn as firewood.

Tobacco and economic success

The Jamestown economy finally got on a firm footing after 1612, when colonists began growing tobacco. Europeans had learned about tobacco and pipe smoking from Native Americans, Although King James considered smoking "a vile custom," the new fad caught on quickly. By 1620, England was importing more than 30,000 pounds of tobacco a year. At last, Virginians had found a way to make their colony succeed.

Representative Government

With Jamestown's economy improving, the Virginia Company took steps to establish a stable government in Virginia. In 1619, it sent a governor with orders to consult settlers on all important matters. Male settlers were allowed to elect burgesses, or representatives. The burgesses met in an assembly called the House of Burgesses. Together with the governor, they made laws for the colony.

The House of Burgesses marked the beginning of representative government in the English colonies. A representative government is one in which voters elect representatives to make laws for them. The idea that people had political rights was deeply rooted in English history. In 1215, English nobles had forced King John to sign the Magna Carta, or Great Charter. This document said that the king could not raise taxes without first consulting the Great Council of nobles and church leaders.

The Magna Carta established the principle, or basic idea, that English monarchs had to obey the laws of the land. Over time, the rights won by nobles were extended to other English people. The Great Council grew into a representative assembly, called Parliament. By the 1600s, Parliament was divided into the House of Lords, made up of nobles, and an elected House of Commons. Only a few rich men had the right to vote. Still, the English had established that their king or queen must consult Parliament on money matters and must respect the law.

At first, free Virginians had even greater rights than citizens in England. They did not have to own property in order to vote. In 1670, however, the colony restricted the vote to free, male property owners.

Despite these limits, representative government remained important in Virginia. The idea took root that settlers should have a say in the affairs of the colony.

New Arrivals in Virginia

Virginia needed more people in order for the colony to grow and thrive. During the early years of the Jamestown Colony, only a few women chose to make the journey from England. There was also a need for more workers to help raise tobacco and other crops.

Women in Virginia

In 1619, the Virginia Company sent about 100 women to Virginia to help "make the men more settled." This first shipload of women quickly found husbands in Jamestown. The Virginia Company profited from the marriages because it charged each man who found a wife 150 pounds of tobacco.

Women did make the colony more settled. Still, life in Virginia remained a daily struggle. Women in Virginia were not allowed the right to vote throughout the colonial period. Women had to make everything from scratch—food, clothing, even medicines. Hard work and childbirth killed many at a young age.

The first Africans arrive

In 1619, a Dutch ship arrived at Jamestown with about 20 Africans. The Dutch sold the Africans to Virginians who needed laborers for growing tobacco. The colonists valued the agricultural skills that the Africans brought with them.

Two of the Africans, Antoney and Isabella, married after they arrived in Virginia. In 1624, they had a son, William. He was the first child of African descent to be born in the English colonies.

By 1644, about 300 Africans lived in Virginia. Some of them were slaves for life. Others worked as servants and expected one day to own their own farms. Some Africans did become free planters. For a time, free Africans in Virginia could own property, testify in court, and vote in elections. In 1651, Anthony Johnson owned 250 acres of land and employed five servants to help him work it.

Later in the 1600s, Virginia set up a system of laws allowing white colonists to enslave Africans. As slavery expanded, free Africans also lost rights. By the early 1700s, free African property owners could not vote.

Pilgrims Seek Religious Freedom

In 1620, another band of English settlers, the Pilgrims, sailed for the Americas. Unlike the Virginians or the Spanish, these colonists sought neither gold nor silver. All they wanted was to practice their religion freely.

In England, the Pilgrims belonged to a religious group known as Separatists. They were called that because they wanted to separate from the official church, the Church of England. The English government bitterly opposed this and took action against the Separatists. Separatists were fined, jailed, and sometimes even executed.

The Pilgrims' journey

In the early 1600s, a group of Separatists left England for Leyden, a city in the Netherlands. The Dutch allowed the newcomers to worship freely. Still, the Pilgrims missed their English way of life. They also worried that their children were growing up more Dutch than English.

A group of Pilgrims returned to England. Along with some other English people, they won a charter to set up a colony in Virginia. In September 1620, more than 100 men, women, and children set sail aboard a small ship called the Mayflower.

After a stormy two-month voyage, the Pilgrims landed on the cold, bleak shore of Cape Cod, in present-day Massachusetts. It was November 1620. Exhausted by the difficult sea voyage, the Pilgrims decided to travel no farther.

The Mayflower Compact

Before going ashore, the Pilgrims decided to establish rules for their new settlement. They gathered together and drew up the Mayflower Compact. The 41 men who signed it agreed to consult one another about laws for the colony and promised to work together to make the colony succeed:

“We, whose names are underwritten ... Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith... a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia... do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws... as shall be thought most [fitting] and convenient for the general Good of the Colony.”

Early hardships

The Pilgrims named the colony Plymouth. They built their settlement on the site of a Native American village that had been abandoned because of disease. The colonists even found baskets filled with corn that they were able to eat.

However, the corn was not enough to get the Pilgrims through their first winter. The harshly cold season was also difficult to survive—because the Pilgrims had not had enough time to build proper shelters. Nearly half the settlers perished of disease or starvation. The Pilgrims' religious faith was strong, however. They believed that it was God's will for them to remain in Plymouth.

Help from Native Americans

In the spring, the Pilgrims received help from neighboring Indians. An Indian, Samoset, had learned English from earlier explorers sailing along the coast. He introduced the Pilgrims to Massasoit, chief of the local Wampanoag Indians.

The Wampanoag who helped the Pilgrims most was named Squanto. Squanto brought the Pilgrims seeds of native plants—corn, beans, and pumpkins—and showed them how to plant them. He also taught the settlers to stir up eels from river bottoms and then snatch them with their hands. The grateful Pilgrims called Squanto "a special instrument sent of God." In the fall, the Pilgrims had a very good harvest. Because they believed that God had given them this harvest, they set aside a day for giving thanks. In later years, the Pilgrims celebrated after each harvest season with a day of thanksgiving. Americans today celebrate Thanksgiving as a national holiday.

SECTION 5 REVIEW

1. Define (a) Sir Walter Raleigh, (b) John Smith, (c) Powhatan, (d) Pocahontas, (e) House of Burgesses, (f) Pilgrims, (g) Squanto, (h) charter, (i) representative government, (j) Magna Carta, (k) Parliament, (l) Mayflower Compact.
2. What were the origins of representative government in the English Colonies? Which Virginia colonists were denied equal rights?
3. Why did the Pilgrims come to the Americas?
4. Describe two ways in which Squanto helped the Plymouth colonists?
5. In the 1600's there was representative government in Jamestown. How do we have representative government in the United States today?
6. How were the reasons for founding Jamestown different from the reasons for founding Plymouth?

Reviewing the Chapter

Define These Terms

1. Parliament
2. presidio
3. city-state
4. northwest
5. charter

Explore the Main Ideas

1. How did the Renaissance and Crusades cause Europeans to look beyond Europe?
2. Why did Spanish conquistadors go to the Americas?
3. How did the transatlantic African slave trade begin?
4. What role did Native Americans play in the building of (a) New France, (b) Plymouth Colony?
5. How did English political traditions affect government in (a) Virginia, (b) Plymouth?

Critical Thinking and Writing

1. Linking Past and Present: How are Native American, African, and European influences evident today in the society and culture of the United States?
2. Understanding Chronology: Place the following events in chronological order: (a) Columbus crosses the Atlantic, (b) the Renaissance begins, (c) Spain builds missions in borderlands, (d)-Cortes conquers Aztecs.
3. Recognizing Points of View: Describe how you think each of the following people might have felt about Bartolome de Las Casas: (a) an enslaved Native American in New Spain, (b) a Spanish plantation owner
4. Exploring Unit Themes Origins: Choose one event or development discussed in this chapter. Explain why you think that event or development had an impact on the present-day United States.