

CHAPTER ONE: A NEW WORLD

I. Columbian Exchange

II. The First Americans

A. The Settling of America

1. "Indians" settled the New World between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago, before the glaciers melted and submerged the land bridge between Asia and North America.

B. Indian Societies of the Americas

1. North and South American societies built roads, trade networks, and irrigation systems.
2. The South American societies were grander in scale and organization than the North American societies.
 - a. North American Indians lacked literacy, wheeled vehicles, metal tools, and scientific knowledge necessary for long distance navigation.

C. Mound Builders of the Mississippi Valley

1. The community, centered on a series of giant semicircular mounds on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River and known today as Poverty Point, was built approximately 3,500 years ago.
2. It is believed to have been a center for trade along the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys.

D. Western Indians

1. Hopi and Zuni ancestors settled around present day Arizona and New Mexico and built large planned towns with multiple-family dwellings, trading with peoples as far away as Mississippi and central Mexico.
2. Indians in the Pacific Northwest lived primarily by fishing and gathering, while on the Great Plains, the Indians hunted the buffalo or lived in agricultural communities.

E. Indians of Eastern North America

1. Indian tribes living in the eastern part of North America sustained themselves with a diet of corn, squash, and beans and supplemented it by fishing and hunting.
2. Tribes frequently warred with one another; however, there were also many loose alliances.
3. Indians saw themselves as one group among many; their sheer diversity when the Europeans arrived was remarkable.

F. Native American Religion

1. Religious ceremonies were often directly related to farming and hunting.
2. Those who were believed to hold special spiritual powers held positions of respect and authority.
3. Indian religion did not pose a sharp distinction between the natural and the supernatural.

G. Land and Property

1. The idea of owning private property was foreign to Indians.
2. Indians believed land was a common resource, not an economic commodity.
3. Wealth mattered little in Indian societies and generosity was far more important.

H. Indian Gender Relations

1. Women could engage in premarital sex and choose to divorce their husbands, and most Indian societies were matrilineal.

2. Since men were often away on a hunt, women also saw to the agricultural duties, as well as the household duties.

I. European Views of the Indians

1. Europeans felt that Indians lacked genuine religion.
2. Europeans claimed that Indians did not “use” the land and thus had no claim to it.
3. Europeans viewed Indian men as weak and Indian women as mistreated.

III. Indian Freedom, European Freedom

A. Indian Freedom

1. Europeans concluded that the notion of freedom was alien to Indian societies.
2. Indians were barbaric to the Europeans because they were *too* free.
3. European understanding of freedom was based on ideas of personal independence and the ownership of private property, foreign ideas to Indians.

B. Christian Liberty

1. To embrace Christ was believed to provide freedom from sin.
2. “Christian liberty” had no connection to later ideas of religious tolerance.

C. Freedom and Authority

1. Obedience to law was another definition of freedom; law was liberty’s salvation.
2. Under English law, women held very few rights and were submissive to their husband.

D. Liberty and Liberties

1. Freedom was a function of social class, and so a well-ordered society depended on obedience.
 - a. Liberty was often understood as formal privileges enjoyed by only a few—“masterless men.”

IV. The Expansion of Europe

A. Portuguese Navigation

1. Caravel, compass, and quadrant made travel along the African coast possible for the Portuguese in the early fifteenth century.

B. Portugal and West Africa

1. Africa was a wealthy continent and the search for African gold drove the early explorers.
2. The Portuguese established trading posts, “factories,” along the western coast of Africa.
3. Portugal began colonizing Atlantic islands and established sugar plantations worked by slaves.

C. Freedom and Slavery in Africa

1. Slavery was already one form of labor in Africa before the Europeans came.
2. Europeans traded textiles and guns for African slaves; this greatly disrupted African society.
3. By the time Vasco da Gama sailed to India in 1498, Portugal had established a vast trading empire.

D. The Voyages of Columbus

1. Christopher Columbus, an Italian, got financial support from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain.
2. In the same year, 1492, the king and queen completed the *reconquista*, ordering all Muslims and Jews to convert to Catholicism or leave the country.

E. Columbus in the New World

1. Columbus landed on Hispaniola in 1492 and colonization began the next year.
2. Nicolas de Ovando established a permanent base in Hispaniola in 1502.
3. Amerigo Vespucci sailed along the coast of South America between 1498 and 1502, and the New World came to be called America.

F. Exploration and Conquest

1. News was able to travel fast, especially with the invention of Gutenberg's movable type printing press in the early 1400s.
2. John Cabot had traveled to Newfoundland in 1497 and soon many Europeans were exploring the New World.
3. Balboa trekked across Panama and was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean, and Magellan led an expedition to sail around the world.
4. Two Spanish conquistadores, Cortés and Pizarro, led devastating expeditions against the Aztec and Inca civilizations, respectively, in the early 1500s.

G. The Demographic Disaster

1. The Columbian exchange transferred plants and animals, but also diseases, such as small pox and influenza.
2. The native populations were significantly depleted through wars, enslavement, and diseases.

V. The Spanish Empire

A. Governing Spanish America

1. Spain established a stable government modeled after Spanish home rule and absolutism.
 - a. Power flowed from the king to the Council of the Indies to viceroys to local officials.
2. The Catholic Church played a significant role in the administration of Spanish colonies.

B. Colonists in Spanish America

1. Gold and silver mining was the primary economy in Spanish America.
 - a. Mines were worked by Indians.
 - b. Many Spaniards came to the New World for easier social mobility.

C. Colonists and Indians

1. Indian inhabitants always outnumbered European colonists and their descendants in Spanish America.
2. Spanish America evolved into a hybrid culture.
 - a. *Mestizos*—persons of mixed origin

D. Justifications for Conquest

1. To justify their claims to land that belonged to someone else, the Spanish relied on cultural superiority, missionary zeal, and violence.

E. Spreading the Faith

1. A missionary element existed from the church's long holy war against Islam, and was renewed with the Protestant Reformation in the sixteenth century.
2. National glory and religious mission went hand in hand, with the primary aim of the Spaniards to transform the Indians into obedient, Catholic subjects of the crown.

F. Piety and Profit

1. The souls to be saved could also be a labor force in the gold and silver mines.

G. Las Casas's Complaint

1. Bartolomé de Las Casas wrote about the injustices of Spanish rule toward the Indians.
2. He believed that "the entire human race is one," but favored African slavery.

H. Reforming the Empire

1. Las Casas's writings encouraged the 1542 New Laws, which forbade the enslavement of Indians.
2. Black Legend was an image, put forth in part by Las Casas, that Spain was a uniquely brutal and exploitive colonizer.

I. Spanish Florida

1. Spanish explorers migrated north in search of gold.
2. Florida was the first region within the present United States to be colonized by the Spanish.

J. Spain in the Southwest

1. Juan de Oñate led settlers into present-day New Mexico.
 - a. Oñate's methods toward the native Acoma were brutal.

K. The Pueblo Revolt

1. In 1680 Pueblo Indians rebelled against the Spanish colonists in present-day New Mexico for forcing the Indians to convert to Christianity.

VI. The French and Dutch Empires

A. French Colonization

1. The French were hoping to find gold and a Northwest Passage to the Pacific, but found only a barrier.
2. Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec in 1608.

B. New France and the Indians

1. With few settlers, friendly relations with the Indians were typical with France.
2. The French prided themselves on adopting a more humane policy toward the Indians than Spain, yet their contact still brought disease and a depletion of animals from fur trading.
3. The *metis* were children of Indian women and French men.

C. The Dutch Empire

1. In 1609 Henry Hudson sailed into New York harbor and claimed the area for the Netherlands.

D. Dutch Freedom

1. The Dutch prided themselves on their devotion to liberty; freedom of the press and a broad religious toleration were unique to the Dutch.
2. Amsterdam was a refuge for many persecuted Protestants and Jews.

E. Freedom in New Netherland

1. It was a military post, not governed democratically, but the citizens possessed rights.
2. Slaves had some rights, women enjoyed more independence than their counterparts in other colonies, and there was more religious toleration.

F. Settling New Netherland

1. Cheap livestock and free land after six years of labor were promised in an attempt to attract settlers.
2. A plan was adopted to offer large estates to *patroons*, shareholders who agreed to transport tenants for agricultural labor.

G. New Netherland and the Indians

1. The Dutch came to trade, not conquer, and were determined to treat the Indians more humanely, although conflict was not completely avoided.