

# New Monarchs, the Commercial Revolution, and Expansion

## I. "New" Monarchs – c.1460-1550

### A. They consolidated power and created the foundation for Europe's first modern nation-states in France, England, and Spain.

1. This evolution had begun in the Middle Ages.
  - a. New Monarchs on the continent began to make use of Roman Law and declared themselves "sovereign" while incorporating the will and welfare of their people into the person of the monarch.
    - They increasingly had authority to make their secular systems of laws.
  - b. Meanwhile, monarchies had grown weaker in eastern Europe during the Middle Ages.
2. New Monarchies never achieved absolute power; absolutism did not emerge effectively until the 17<sup>th</sup> century (e.g. Louis XIV in France).
3. New Monarchies also were not nation-states (in the modern sense) since populations did not necessarily feel that they belonged to a "nation."
  - a. Identity tended to be much more local or regional.
  - b. The modern notion of nationalism did not emerge until the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

### B. Characteristics of New Monarchies

1. They reduced the power of the nobility through taxation, confiscation of lands (from uncooperative nobles), and the hiring of mercenary armies or the creation of standing armies.
2. The **military revolution** increased monarchical power.
  - a. The advent of gunpowder (that resulted in the production of muskets and cannon) increased the vulnerability of noble armies, castles, and their mounted knights.
    - Disciplined infantry and artillery units consisting of common people could easily overcome highly-skilled knights.
  - b. Monarchs built increasingly complex fortifications.
  - c. The increased cost of a modern army was now beyond most nobles.
  - d. However, many nobles in return for their support of the king gained titles and offices and served in the royal court or as royal officials.
3. New Monarchs reduced the political power of the clergy.
  - a. The medieval notion of the Church being supreme to the

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**Bolded items** are meant to highlight terms that are fundamental to the course content.

**Under-lined phrases** highlight important material that is fundamental to the course content.

- state was replaced in belief and practice.
- b. They increasingly gained the right to determine the religion of their subjects.
4. New Monarchs created more efficient bureaucracies.
    - This enabled the “New Monarchs” to begin centralizing control of their realms.
  5. They increased the political influence of the bourgeoisie (at the expense of the nobility).
    - a. In return, the bourgeoisie brought in much needed revenues to the Crown.
    - b. This was more so in France than in Spain.
  6. They increased the public (national) debt by taking out loans from merchant-bankers, whose influence increased as a result.
- C. Opposition to monarchical power
1. Nobles resented the decline of their political influence.
  2. Clergy members saw the pope as their leader, not the monarch.
  3. Independent towns resisted more centralized monarchical control.
- D. **France**
1. France’s political and economic recovery began after the Hundred Years’ War (1337-1453).
    - a. England was expelled from France.
    - b. The defeat of the duchy of Burgundy in 1477 removed the threat of a new state in eastern France.
  2. Rise of the **Valois** dynasty
    - a. **Louis XI “Spider King”** (r. 1461-83)
      - Created a large royal army
      - Dealt ruthlessly with nobles, individually, and within the Estates General
      - Increased taxes
      - Exerted power over the clergy
      - Actively encouraged economic growth
        - Promoted new industries such as silk weaving
        - Encouraged foreign merchants and craftsmen to immigrate to France
        - Entered into commercial treaties with England, Portugal and the Hanseatic League
    - b. **Francis I** (r. 1515-1547):
      - **Concordat of Bologna** (1516): The king of France now had power to appoint bishops to the Gallican (French) Church.
        - This represented a major blow to papal influence in France.
        - Yet, French control over these appointments was one reason France did not become Protestant during the Reformation.
      - **taille**: Francis instituted a direct head tax on all land and property.
        - This enabled the French gov’t to expand its budget on such things as a larger army.

- E. **England** after the Hundred Years' War
1. War of the Roses (1455-1477)
    - a. Two noble families, the House of York and the House of Lancaster, fought a civil war to gain the crown.
    - b. Yorkists were victorious and gave rise to the **Tudor dynasty** (which would rule England until 1603).
  2. **Henry VII** (r. 1489-1509)
    - a. He reduced the influence of the nobility, in part, through the **Star Chamber** (secret trials).
      - Nobles were tried without a jury, could not confront witnesses, and were often tortured.
    - b. Nobles were not allowed to have private armies with their own insignias.
    - c. However, the English parliament continued to gain power in its struggle with the crown.
      - Standard governmental procedures of law and taxation were developed.
      - Thus, the Tudors did not have the power over taxation that the Valois' enjoyed in France.
  3. **Henry VIII** (r. 1509-1547) – (see unit 2.1)
    - a. He broke away from the Catholic church in 1534 and established the Church of England with the king as its head.
    - b. He oversaw the expansion of the royal bureaucracy and became the most powerful king in English history up to that time.
- F. **Spain**
1. **Ferdinand of Aragon** (r. 1478-1516) and **Isabella of Castile** (r. 1474-1504) eventually unified Spain and consolidated control the military.
  2. **Reconquista** (achieved finally in 1492)
    - a. Its goal was to remove the last of the Moors (Spanish Muslims) and Jews and Christianize Spain.
      - The last Muslim stronghold of Granada surrendered.
    - b. The loss of Jews and Moors resulted in a significant decline in the Spanish middle-class.
      - A minimum of 165,000 Jews were expelled, about 50,000 were baptized, and 20,000 died when emigrating.
      - Many Jews fled to Turkey, North Africa, and northern Europe (e.g., Holland, England, Scandinavia, Italy, and France).
  3. **Hermandades:** alliances of cities were created to oppose nobles.
    - They helped bring cities in line with royal authority.
  4. **Spanish Inquisition** (conceived by Isabella)
    - a. The monarchy enforced the authority of the national (Catholic) church.
    - b. Tomás de Torquemada, a Dominican monk, oversaw the Inquisition.
    - c. The Inquisition targeted **conversos**: Jews who had converted to Christianity but were now suspected of

backsliding to Judaism.

- Thus began a wave of anti-Semitism in certain parts of Europe.
  - In Portugal, 4,000 Jews who refused to leave were massacred in 1506.
  - Germany began systematically persecuting Jews in 1509.
- d. Cardinal Ximenes by 1500 had succeeded in getting rid of the abuses and opposition to reform in the Church (something that did not happen in most other countries).
- Thus, Spain, like France, did not turn Protestant during the Reformation.

**G. The Hapsburg Empire (Holy Roman Empire)**

1. The Holy Roman Empire (HRE) consisted of about 300 semi-autonomous German states.
  - a. Each state had its own foreign policy and wars sometimes occurred between states.
  - b. The center of Hapsburg power was in Austria and other hereditary states nearby.
2. The HRE was NOT a "New Monarchy"
  - a. The emperor did not have centralized control and could not levy taxes or raise armies outside of his own hereditary lands (largely around Austria).
  - b. Hapsburg kings were never able to gain control of the numerous German states, duchies, and principalities in the Holy Roman Empire that had enjoyed their own independence.
3. Maximilian I (r. 1493-1519): He gained territory in eastern France via his marriage to Mary of Burgundy.
  - This sparked a fierce dynastic struggle between the French Valois dynasty and the Hapsburgs that would last until 1559.
4. **Charles V:** (r. 1519-1556) most powerful European ruler in the 16<sup>th</sup> century
  - a. As Holy Roman Emperor, he controlled the Austrian Hapsburg lands while he ruled the Spanish Empire at the height of its power.
  - b. His armies sacked Rome in 1527 that symbolically ended the Renaissance in Italy.
  - c. Hapsburg-Valois Wars (c. 1519-1559): The HRE was locked in a dynastic struggle with Francis I for control of Burgundy and territories in Italy.
  - d. Charles V sought to prevent the spread of the Protestant Reformation in Germany throughout his reign.

**II. The Commercial Revolution (c. 1500-1800)**

**A. Causes**

1. Roots were in the Middle Ages (e.g. Hanseatic League, a commercial and defensive confederation along the coast of northern Germany)
2. Population growth recovered to its pre-Plague level: 70 million in 1500; 90 million in 1600; thus, more consumers existed.
3. The "Price revolution": long slow upward trend in prices

- a. It resulted from increased food prices, increased volume of money, and the influx of gold and silver from the New World.
  - b. Increased prices resulted in an increase in the supply of goods and an accumulation of capital among large landowners who oversaw the commercialization of agriculture.
  4. States and emerging empires sought to increase their economic power.
  5. Rise in **capitalism** (*laissez-faire*): *entrepreneurs* invested money in their own businesses or other business ventures.
    - The **middle class (bourgeoisie)** led the way.
- B. Features
1. Banking
    - a. The Fuggers in Germany and the Medicis in Italy were among the leading bankers in Europe.
      - They funded countless economic activities.
    - b. Antwerp in Flanders became the banking and commercial center of Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
    - c. Amsterdam became the financial center in the 17<sup>th</sup> century after the successful Dutch Revolt against Spain.
    - d. Innovations in accounting, such as double-entry bookkeeping, made banking far more efficient.
  2. The **Hanseatic League** evolved from within the German states in the Middle Ages to eventually controlling trade in much of northern Europe well into the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
    - The League was a mercantile association of numerous cities and towns.
  3. **Chartered companies**: States provided monopolies in certain areas (e.g., British East India Co. and the Dutch East India Co.)
    - These chartered companies became, in effect, a state within a state with large fleets of ships and military power.
  4. **Joint-stock companies**: investors pooled resources for a common purpose (forerunner of the modern corporation).
    - This was an early prime example of capitalism.
  5. Stock markets emerged: e.g., the **bourse** in Antwerp
    - Investors financed a company by purchasing shares of stock; as the value of the company grew so did the value of the stock, and thus the investors' profit.
  6. First Enclosure movement in England: Wealthy landowners enclosed their lands to improve sheep herding and thus the supply of wool for the production of textiles.
  7. The "putting-out" Industry emerged in the countryside for the production of cloth.
    - Some farmers, displaced by enclosures, supplemented their income by producing textiles at home.
  8. New industries: cloth production, mining, printing, book trade, shipbuilding, cannons and muskets
  9. New consumer goods: sugar (most important), rice, and tea
    - Sugar production resulted in an enormous slave trade in the Atlantic.
  10. Mercantilism developed in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
    - a. Goal: Nations sought a self-sufficient economy.

- b. Strategy: create a favorable balance of trade where one's country exported far more than it imported
  - c. **"Bullionism"**: A country should acquire as much gold and silver as possible.
    - A favorable balance of trade was necessary to keep a country's supply of gold from flowing to a competing country.
- C. Significance:
1. A slow transition occurred from a European society that was almost completely rural and isolated, to a society that was more developed with the emergence of towns.
    - Many serfs, mostly in western Europe, improved their social position as a result.
    - Migration to towns and cities resulted in problems such as crime, poverty, unemployment, and sanitation problems.
    - Town elites such as bankers, merchants, and craft guilds struggled to govern effectively and experienced inadequate resources.
  2. The emergence of more powerful nation states occurred.
    - Wealth was increasingly taxed for state purposes.
  3. The age of exploration emerged as competing nations sought to create new empires overseas.
  4. **The "Price Revolution"**
    - a. Prices during the 16<sup>th</sup> century rose gradually.
    - b. The rising population of Europe increased demand for goods, thereby increasing prices.
    - c. The influx of gold and silver from the New World was one of the factors (but not *the* major factor).
    - d. Inflation stimulated production as producers could get more money for their goods.
    - e. The middle class acquired much of its wealth from trading and manufacturing; its social and political status increased.
    - f. Peasant farmers benefited when their surplus yields could be turned into cash crops.
    - g. The nobility, whose income was fixed (based on feudal rents and fees), suffered a diminished standard of living in the inflationary economy.
  5. The bourgeoisie grew in political and economic significance.
    - a. This first became evident in the Italian city-states during the Renaissance.
    - b. It became the most powerful class in the Netherlands.
    - c. In France, it grew in political power at the expense of the nobility.
    - d. The gentry exerted increasing influence in English politics.
  6. The standard of living increased (e.g., greater varieties of foods, spices, utensils), especially among the upper and middle classes.

### III. The Age of Exploration and Conquest

- A. Causes for exploration
  1. **"God, glory and gold"** were the primary motives.
  2. Christian Crusaders in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries created European interest in Asia and the Middle East.
  3. The rise of nation states (e.g., "New Monarchs") resulted in competition for empires and trade.
    - Portugal and Spain sought to break the Italian monopoly on trade with Asia.
  4. Impact of the Renaissance: search for knowledge
    - a. Revival of Platonic studies, especially mathematics
    - b. Awareness of living "at the dawn of a new age"
    - c. Invention of the printed book resulted in the spread of accurate texts and maps.
  5. Advances in cartography improved navigation
    - a. Martin Behaim: terrestrial globe, 1492
    - b. Waldseemuller's world map (1507)
    - c. Mercator's map (ca. 1575)
    - d. Portolani: navigational maps based on compass directions and estimated distances for ports and coastal areas
      - Portugal and Spain saw them as state secrets.
  6. Technological advances facilitated sea travel
    - a. Advances in astronomy helped in charting locations at sea
    - b. Instruments
      - Magnetic compass (ca. 1300): pointed to the magnetic north making it easier to determine direction.
      - A number of instruments were used to determine latitude by measuring the altitude of celestial bodies.
        - Geometric quadrant (ca. 1460): used to determine latitude by measuring the altitude of celestial bodies
        - Mariner's astrolabe (ca. 1480): used to determine latitude by measuring the altitude of celestial bodies
        - Cross staff (ca. 1550): used to find the latitude by measuring the altitude of the Pole Star above the horizon
    - c. Ships
      - Portuguese *caravel* (ca. 1450)
        - Lighter, faster ships than the Spanish Galleons and much better suited for exploration along the African Coast
        - Could sail into the wind
      - Lateen sail and rope riggings
        - Enabled sails to be quickly and efficiently maneuvered to take advantage of wind power
      - Stern-post rudder (axial rudder)
        - Provided for improved change of direction
      - Guns, gunpowder, cannons and horses provided military advantages.
        - Provided protection against hostile ships and facilitated the domination of indigenous peoples in lands explored.
  7. The commercial revolution resulted in capitalist investments in overseas exploration.

8. The religious desire to convert pagan peoples in the New World served as an important impulse.

## B. Portugal

1. Portugal established a commercial network along the African coast, in South and East Asia, and in South America.
2. Motives for exploration
  - a. Economic: sought an all-water route to Asia to tap the spice trade
    - The Ottoman Empire blocked land routes from the Mediterranean to Asia.
  - b. Religious: sought to find the mythical Prester John (a Christian king somewhere in the East) for an alliance against the Muslims
3. Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460)
  - a. He financed numerous expeditions along the West African coastline in hopes of finding gold.
  - b. This ushered in a new era of European exploration.
4. Bartholomew Dias (1450-1500): He rounded the southern tip of Africa in 1488.
5. **Vasco da Gama** (1469-1525):
  - a. Building on Dias' route, he completed an all-water expedition to India in 1498.
  - b. He brought back Indian goods creating a huge demand for these products in Europe.
  - c. This was a huge blow to the Italian monopoly of trade with Asia and helped precipitate the economic and political decline of the Italian city-states.
6. Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)
  - a. He explored Brazil.
  - b. He was perhaps the first European to realize that he had discovered a new continent in the New World.
    - He was not the first to sight South America, however (Cabral had done it a year or so earlier).
  - c. "America" was named after him when Waldseemüller honored Vespucci's false claim that he was the first to sight the new continent.
7. **Brazil**
  - a. Portugal's major colony in the New World
    - Administrative structure was similar to that of Spain in the New World (see below)
  - b. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, large numbers of slaves from Africa were imported for production of coffee and cotton and most importantly, sugar (18<sup>th</sup> century).
    - A significant racial mixture between whites, Amerindians and blacks resulted.

## C. Spain

1. Exploration
  - a. **Christopher Columbus** (1451-1506): eager for Spain to compete with Portuguese expansion, Ferdinand and Isabella financed Columbus' voyage.
    - 1492, Columbus reached the Bahamas, believing he had reached the "Indies" somewhere west of India.



- His four expeditions charted most of the major islands in the Caribbean as well as Honduras in Central America.
  - b. The monumental significance of Columbus' expeditions was that it ushered in an era of European exploration and domination of the New World.
  - c. **Bartholomew de las Casas** (1474-1566)
    - Priest and former conquistador whose father had accompanied Columbus on his 2nd voyage
    - A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies (1542)
      - Publicly criticized the ruthlessness with which Columbus and his successors treated the Amerindians.
      - His writings helped spread the "black legend" in Protestant countries where Spain was accused of using Christianity ostensibly for killing countless natives.
        - In reality, Protestant countries, like England, were just as guilty of decimating Amerindian populations.
  - d. **Treaty of Tordesillas** (1494)
    - Spain sought to secure Columbus' discoveries in the New World.
    - Provisions:
      - The New World was divided between Spain and Portugal (at the behest of Pope Leo V).
      - A north-south line was drawn down the middle of the Atlantic Ocean: Spain's territory was west of the line; Portugal's was east
      - Portugal was granted exclusive rights to the African slave trade.
    - Thus, Portugal retained Brazil and its claims to Africa while Spain received the rest of the Americas.
2. Ferdinand Magellan (1480-1521):
    - a. His ship was the first to circumnavigate the globe.
    - b. Charted the enormous size of the Pacific Ocean.
  3. Spanish **conquistadores**: began creating Spain's New World empire by conquering Amerindians
    - a. Hernando Cortés (1485-1547): conquered the Aztecs in Mesoamerica by 1521.
    - b. Francisco Pizarro (1478-1541): conquered the Inca Empire along the Andes Mountains in modern-day Peru in 1532.
- D. **Spanish empire** in the New World ("**Golden Age of Spain**")
1. It resembled more the "New Imperialism" of the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> century by outright conquering entire regions and subjugating their populations.
  2. The empire was divided into four vice-royalties, each led by a viceroy.
  3. It was mercantilist in philosophy from the early-16<sup>th</sup> century onward.
    - Colonies existed for the benefit of the mother country.
    - The mining of gold and silver was most important (the Crown got 1/5 of all precious metals); this accounted for

- 25% of the crown's total income.
    - In 1545, the opening of the world's richest silver mines at Potosí in Peru ushered in the "golden age."
  - Spain shipped manufactured goods to America and discouraged native industries from taking root so to avoid competition with Spanish merchants.
  - 4. **Encomienda system:**
    - a. Motive: the Spanish government sought to reduce the savage exploitation of American Indians in the Spanish empire.
      - In reality, the laws against exploitation were poorly enforced.
    - b. System: American Indians worked for an owner for certain number of days per week but retained other parcels of land to work for themselves.
    - c. Spain's ability to forcibly utilize American Indian labor was a major reason why the Spanish Empire imported few slaves from Africa.
  - 5. **Mestizos**
    - a. Spaniards married American Indian women creating children of mixed white and Native American descent.
    - b. Relatively few Spanish women came to the New World during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
  - 6. **Creoles:** Spaniards who were born in the New World to Spanish parents
    - Eventually, they came to dominate politics in the empire and later, independence movements.
- E. **"Old Imperialism"** in Africa and Asia
1. Characterized by the establishment of posts and forts on coastal regions but not penetration inland to conquer entire regions or subjugate their populations
    - a. It posed a sharp contrast to Spanish imperialism in the New World.
    - b. It posed a sharp contrast to the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century pattern of "New Imperialism" where entire nations were conquered and exploited for the benefit of the European colonial powers.
  2. Portugal
    - a. By 1495, Portugal had established forts and posts along the Guinea Coast and penetrated inland to the Mali capital of Timbuktu in West Africa.
    - b. Da Gama set up trading posts in Goa and Calcutta (in India).
    - c. Alphonso d'Albuquerque (1453-1515)
      - He laid the foundation for Portuguese imperialism in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.
      - He established a strategy of making coastal regions (that had been won from the Muslims) a base to control the Indian Ocean.
      - He did not seek to create an empire by penetrating inland.
      - He established an empire in the Spice Islands (modern-day Indonesia) after 1510.

- He became governor of India between 1509 and 1515.
  - d. Francis Xavier (1506-1552): led Jesuit missionaries to Asia where, by 1550, thousands of natives had been converted to Christianity in India, Indonesia, and Japan
3. **Dutch Republic (Netherlands)**
- a. The **Dutch East India Company** was founded in 1602 and became the major force behind Dutch imperialism.
  - b. It expelled the Portuguese from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and other Spice Islands (Indonesia).
  - c. By 1650, she began challenging Spain in the New World and controlled much of the American and African trade.
- F. France
- 1. Jacques Cartier (1491-1557): In search of the Northwest Passage, he explored the St. Lawrence River region of Canada.
  - 2. Quebec, France's first settlement in the New World, was not founded until 1608.
  - 3. France eventually lay claim to over one-half of North America before being expelled in 1763.
- G. England
- 1. The English came into exploration relatively late.
  - 2. The first permanent settlement in North America was not founded until 1607 in Jamestown (Virginia).
  - 3. Tens of thousands of Englishmen came to the eastern coast of North America in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
    - Far more English came to the New World than the French, Spanish and Portuguese combined; by 1775, 2.5 million Europeans lived in the original thirteen American colonies.
- H. **The slave trade**
- 1. Portugal first introduced slavery in Brazil to farm the sugar plantations.
  - 2. After 1621, the Dutch West India Co. transported thousands of slaves to the New World.
  - 3. England's Royal African Co. entered the slave trade in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
    - This facilitated a huge influx of African slaves into the Caribbean and North America.
  - 4. By 1800, Africans accounted for about 60% of Brazil's population and about 20% of the U.S. population.
  - 5. An estimated 50 million Africans died or became slaves during 17th and 18th centuries.
    - The horrific journey for slaves across the Atlantic from West Africa to the New World became known as the **Middle Passage.**
  - 6. Some African slaves went to Europe (e.g., Portugal).
    - a. Blacks were seen as exotic and highly prized in certain areas.
    - b. An "American form" of slavery existed in Mediterranean sugar plantations.

I. The **Triangular Trade**

1. Britain shipped textiles, rum, and manufactured goods to Africa.
2. Slaves were transported to the West Indies and North America.
3. Goods from the West Indies and North America, such as sugar, tobacco, lumber, cotton goods, were shipped to Britain.

IV. The **Columbian Exchange**

- A. The exchange of goods shifted the center of economic power in Europe from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic states and brought the latter into an expanding world economy.
- B. Both Europe and the New World were transformed as a result of the Age of Exploration and the exchanges that occurred between the two regions.
  1. For Europeans, the Columbian exchange resulted in improved diet, increased wealth, and the rise of global empires.
  2. For the American Indians, the results were largely catastrophic.
    - a. Michel de Montaigne in the 1580s contrasted the greed and violence of the Europeans with the relatively simple and harmonious American Indians.
    - b. Bartólome de las Casas had in the 1540s criticized Spanish ruthlessness in the New World.
- C. Disease
  1. Between 1492 (Columbus' first expedition) and 1600 approximately 90% of the American Indian population perished.
    - a. American Indians lacked immunities to diseases inadvertently brought over by Europeans.
    - b. **Smallpox** was the biggest killer but other major diseases included measles, bubonic plague, influenza and typhus.
  2. **Syphilis** was the most significant disease transmitted to Europeans by Amerindians, and it effected many thousands of people back in Europe.
- D. Diet
  1. For Europeans, the Columbian Exchange represented nothing short of a revolution in diet with the importation of a variety of new plants.
    - a. The **potato** (from South America) became the most important new staple crop in Europe a few centuries after Columbus' discovery.
    - b. Other important foodstuffs included maize (corn) from Mesoamerica, pineapples, tomatoes, tobacco, beans, squash, vanilla and chocolate.
  2. Plants: Old World contributions to the New World included wheat, sugar, rice, and coffee, and tobacco, although much of these crops were grown by transplanted Europeans in the New World.
    - By 1600, Europe's most important food crops were also being cultivated in Spanish America.

3. Livestock: cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, and chickens were brought to the New World where they eventually became important new sources of protein for Amerindians
    - Prior to the European invasion, Amerindians had no domestic animals larger than the llama and alpaca, thus relatively scarce sources of protein existed.
- E. Animals
1. The European introduction of the horse had a profound impact on certain groups of Amerindians, such as the Plains Indians in North America that developed a horse-based culture.
    - Cows, pigs, sheep and goats were important as food sources
  2. The turkey was the most important meat source exchanged from the New World to Europe
- F. Slavery (see III, H above)
- The capture and transportation of millions of Africans to North America represented a huge aspect of the Columbian Exchange.
- G. Gold and silver extracted from the rich mines in Potosi, Peru and in Mesoamerica provided an influx of wealth to the Spanish Empire.

### The Columbian Exchange

#### From the New World to Europe

- **Diseases:** syphilis
- **Plants:** potatoes, corn, tomatoes, pineapple, tobacco, beans, vanilla, chocolate
- **Animals:** turkeys
- Gold and silver

#### From Europe to the New World

- **Diseases:** small pox, measles, bubonic plague, influenza, typhus
- **Plants:** wheat, sugar, rice coffee
- **Animals:** horses, cows, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens

V. Life in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries

A. Society was rigidly hierarchical

1. Countryside

- In Catholic countries, the clergy was the most powerful group as they were viewed as intermediaries between the people and God; nobles were below the clergy.
- In Protestant countries, manorial lords (nobles) were at the top of the social ladder.
- Peasants constituted the largest percentage of the rural population; many owned land and most were involved in

- subsistence agriculture.
    - In eastern Europe (e.g., Muscovy, Poland, Prussia, and Austria) most peasants were serfs.
  - Landless workers earned the lowest wages.
  - 2. Towns:
    - Merchants (bourgeoisie) were among the wealthiest and most powerful.
    - Artisans were skilled craftsmen such as weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, etc. (often belonged to guilds).
    - Laborers did mostly low-skilled jobs for low wages.
  - 3. Education or wealth became the means of moving up the social ladder (for the fortunate few).
- B. Demography
1. "Long 16<sup>th</sup> century": population growth grew steadily between 1450 and 1650 (recovered to pre-Plague levels).
  2. Population growth leveled by 1650 until about 1750 when it rose again (due to the agricultural revolution).
  3. Cities saw larger increases than the countryside.
  4. Life expectancy
    - a. Average lifespan for men: 27 years
    - b. Average lifespan for women: 25 years
- C. Local church and authorities continued to enforce communal norms.
1. Controls on marriage
    - a. Unwed mothers with illegitimate children were seen as a threat to the community.
    - b. Young pregnant couples often received intense pressure from the community to marry in such cases.
  2. Charivari was used as a means of public humiliation.
    - Those who committed adultery or beat their spouse might be paraded around their village riding backwards on a donkey while holding up the donkey's tail.
  3. Offensive behavior could result in someone being placed in a stock for a brief period of time or suffering public whipping and branding.
- D. Popular culture, leisure activities, and rituals reflecting the persistence of folk ideas reinforced and sometimes challenged communal ties and norms.
1. The culture of villages remained more oral, rather than written (despite increases in literacy).
  2. Women often gathered in cottages to socialize.
  3. Men often went to the village tavern to drink and socialize
  4. Blood sports such as bullbaiting and cockfighting were popular.
  5. Carnival was popular in Catholic countries whereby excess partying preceded Lent (a 40-day period of fasting and penitence before Easter).

## Terms to Know

New Monarchs military revolution Valois line of French monarchs Louis XI ("Spider King") Francis I Concordat of Bologna, 1516 <i>taille</i> Tudor Dynasty Henry VII star chamber Henry VIII Ferdinand and Isabella <i>Reconquista</i> <i>hermandades</i> Spanish Inquisition <i>conversos</i> Hapsburgs Holy Roman Empire Charles V Commercial Revolution capitalism Middle class ( <i>bourgeoisie</i> ) Antwerp Amsterdam Hanseatic League chartered companies joint-stock companies <i>bourse</i> mercantilism	bullionism "Price Revolution" "God, glory, gold" cartography Vasco da Gama Brazil Christopher Columbus Bartólome de las Casas Treaty of Tordesillas <i>conquistadores</i> Hernan Cortés Francisco Pizarro Spanish Empire "Golden Age of Spain" <i>Encomienda system</i> <i>Mestizos</i> <i>Creoles</i> "Old Imperialism" Dutch Republic (Netherlands) Dutch East India Company slave trade Middle Passage triangular trade Columbian Exchange Smallpox syphilis potato "Long 16 <sup>th</sup> -Century"
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## **Essay Questions**

*Note: This sub-unit is an extremely high probability area for the AP exam. In the past 10 years, 13 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter. Below are some questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.*

1. Who were the "New Monarchs"? How did they go about centralizing power in their states? To what extent were they successful?
2. What were the causes and features of the Commercial Revolution? How did the Commercial Revolution impact European society politically, economically, and socially between 1500-1700?
3. Analyze the role that knowledge, politics and technology played in European exploration between 1450 and 1700.
4. Compare and contrast the European "Old Imperialism" in Africa and Asia with the European domination of the New World between 1450 and 1700.

5. Analyze causes for the rise of the Spanish Empire and features of Spain's rule in the New World.
6. Analyze the impact of the Columbian Exchange on European society.
7. Analyze factors that enabled Europeans to dominate world trade between 1500 and 1700.

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