Chapter 22 Essential Questions

1. In Christopher Columbus’s journals, he suggested to the king and queen of Spain that they focus on converting the peoples of the Americas because “in a short time you will end up having converted to our Holy Faith a multitude of peoples and acquired large dominions and great riches.” How does this brief statement express the European goals for exploration? Why did the Europeans explore?
2. Examine the western European conquest of the Philippines and Indonesia. How was this different from the role they played in trading with powers such as China? What did the areas that fell completely under European control have in common?
3. What developments and discoveries were important in the process of western European exploration?
4. Examine the growth of worldwide trade from 1500 to 1800. Discuss the rise and implications of a global trading system.
5. After reading the selection from Christopher Columbus’s journal on, can you tell what Columbus’s motives were for exploration? (See Textbook: Sources from the Past: Christopher Columbus’s First Impressions of the American Peoples.)
6. How were the English and Dutch trading companies organized and administered? How were these companies able to establish themselves in Asia?
7. Compare the Spanish conquest of the Philippines with the Dutch conquest of Indonesia. What kind of colony emerged in each case?
8. What factors led to the Seven Years’ War in the eighteenth century? What was the outcome, globally, of that conflict?
9. What were some of the positive aspects of the Columbian exchange? What were some of the destructive aspects of this exchange? Give some specific examples.
10. Overall, what was the demographic impact (demography concerns the health and size of populations) of European contact with the New World?