

CHAPTER 22-TRANSOCEANIC ENCOUNTERS AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

In the early 1440s, Europeans start taking to the oceans in search of new resources and new converts to Christianity, and in order to avoid contact with the Muslims. Aided by new technology such as new types of rudders and sails, the compass and the astrolabe, and increased knowledge of winds and currents, Europeans began to venture much farther into the world.

With support from their king, the Portuguese set out down the coast of Africa, conquered Ceuta in 1415 and established trading posts. In 1488, Bartolomeu Dias rounded the Cape of Good Hope and entered the Indian Ocean. Vasco da Gamma, who sailed up the coast of east Africa and arrived in Calicut, India in 1498, followed him. And in 1492, Christopher Columbus (Cristoforo Colombo), an Italian who received support from the Spanish government, arrived in the New World.

For the next three centuries, Europeans continued to explore the world's oceans. Most notable, Magellan and his crew set out from Portugal to circumnavigate the globe, and James Cook spent three voyages exploring the Pacific.

The competition for the Indian Ocean trade increased with the entry of the English and the Dutch. At first, the Portuguese had controlled the trade, establishing many trading posts, seizing control points such as Hormuz, and forcing all merchant ships to purchase safe-conduct passes. As the English and the Dutch, aided by better ships than the Portuguese, began to set up their own trading posts, helped by joint-stock companies and government support, Portuguese influence in the basin weakened.

This period of exploration and competition led to European domination. The Spanish conquered the Philippines in 1565 and made Manila their capital. They spread Christianity through the islands but encountered resistance from the Muslims on the island of Mindanao. The Dutch United East India Company (VOC) moved into Java, secured a monopoly on spice production and reaped enormous profits that were in part responsible for the Dutch "golden age" in the 1600s. What started as exploration and trade soon turned into conflict, culminating in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763) involving conflict in Europe, India, the Caribbean, and North America, and ending with the British in control in India, Canada, and Florida. (Some historians think of this as the first world war.)

The other connection between the East and West during this period is known as the Columbian Exchange, a term for the exchange of plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Old and New World.. Across the New World and Oceania, epidemic diseases caused an estimated 100 million deaths between 1500 and 1800, including the death of 95% of the Aztec population. In a positive development, the new foods cultivated, both plant and animal, helped raise the world's population by 500 million in the same 300 years. There were also major migrations of the world's people, the largest being enslaved Africans. This era also marked the start of global trade networks linking customers and suppliers around the globe.

Key Concept 4.1. Globalizing Networks of Communication and Exchange

- II. European technological developments in cartography and navigation built on previous knowledge developed in the classical, Islamic and Asian worlds, and included the production of new tools (*such as the astrolabe or revised maps*), innovations in ship designs (*such as caravels*), and an improved understanding of global wind and currents patterns all of which made transoceanic travel and trade possible

- IV. The new global circulation of goods was facilitated by royal chartered European monopoly companies that took silver from Spanish colonies in the Americas to purchase Asian goods for the Atlantic markets, but regional markets continued to flourish in Afro-Eurasia by using established commercial practices and new transoceanic shipping services developed by European merchants.

- V. The new connections between the Eastern and Western hemispheres resulted in the Columbian Exchange.

Key Concept 4.2. New Forms of Social Organization and Modes of Production

- I. Traditional peasant agriculture increased and changed, plantations expanded, and demand for labor increased. These changes both fed and responded to growing global demand for raw materials and finished products.

Key Concept 4.3. State Consolidation and Imperial Expansion

- II. Imperial expansion relied on the increased use of gunpowder, cannons and armed trade to establish large empires in both hemispheres.