



# **A WORLD OF EMPIRES 1450-1750 CE**





# Americas 1300-1800

- Rise of Incas
- Continued rise of Aztecs
- Conquest - arrival of Spanish in western hemisphere
- Population impacts: disease, racial intermingling, war
- Columbian exchange
- Colonial societies





# Inca Empire—1438-1525

- Highly centralized government
- Diverse ethnic groups
- Extensive irrigation
- State religion/ancestor cult
- Rope suspension bridges
- Metallurgy - copper and bronze
- No use of wheel
- Roads for tax, labor, and courier system





# Aztec Empire 1325-1520

- Tenochtitlan "Foundation of Heaven"
- By 1519, metropolis of 150.000-five square miles
- Island location
- Tribute empire based on agriculture
- State control of market - redistributes all goods





# Changes in Trade, Technology and Global Interactions

- Exploration
- Gold, Glory and God?
- Commodities
- Cartography
- Empire Building





# Age of Exploration

- European exploration

Why then?

Why?

Who and where?

- End of Ming Treasure / Tribute Voyages

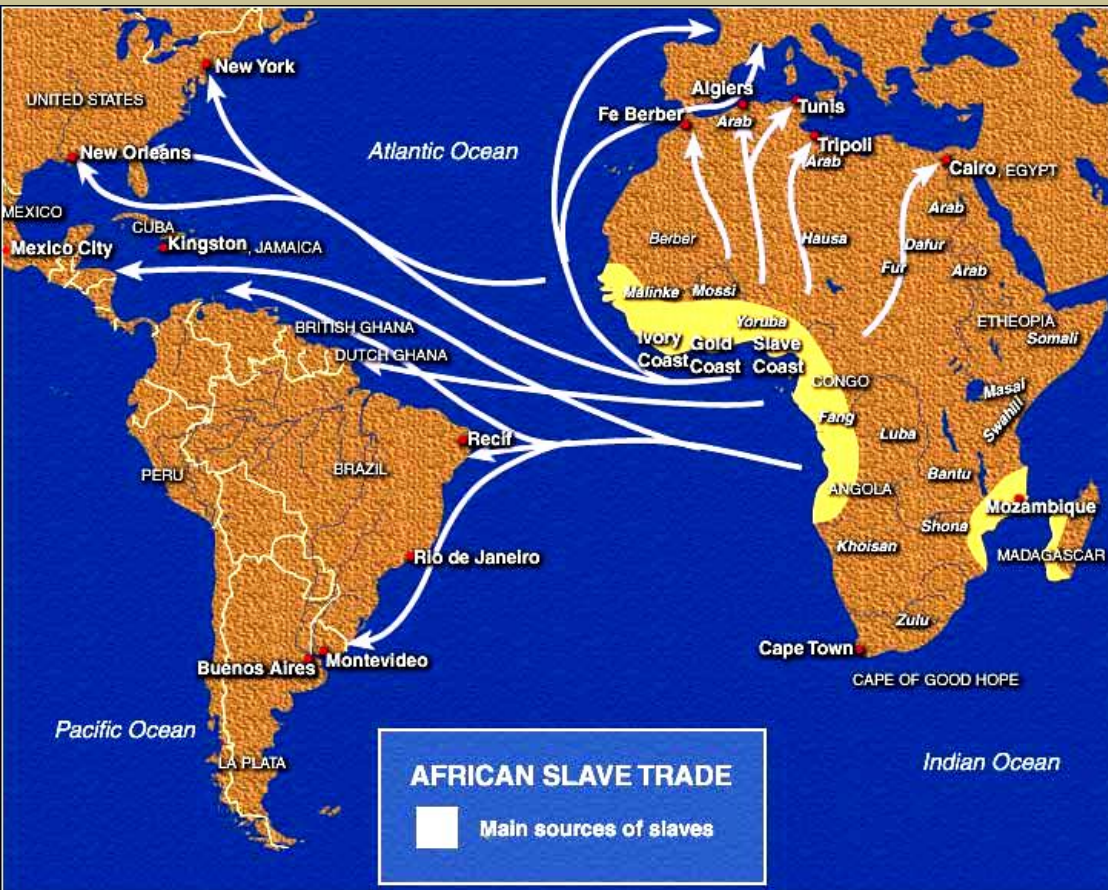
Zheng He



# Commodities

- African slave trade

Notice the primary destinations







# Commodities

- Coffee beans used first in Yemen and then later in Europe and Americas
- European used chocolate technology from Aztecs in 17<sup>th</sup> Century





# Cartographic Changes







# Empire Building

- How do empires rise and expand?
- What factors at this time will help empires maintain themselves and expand their borders?
- Consider the impact and nature of interaction with others...





# Africa

- Characteristics:
  - Stateless societies-organized around kinship, often larger than states, forms of government
  - Large centralized states-increased unity came from linguistic base-Bantu, Christianity and Islam, as well as indigenous beliefs
  - Trade-markets, international commerce, taxed trade of unprocessed goods.





# African Empires

- Oyo
- Benin
- Kongo
- Asante







# Songhay

- Initially farmers, herders, and fishers
- Foreign merchant community in Goa (gold)
- Powerful cavalry forces, expansive empire (1492)
- Fusion of Islamic and indigenous traditions





# Ottoman 1281-1914

- 1350's - Initial Ottoman invasion of Europe
- 1453 - Ottoman capture of Constantinople
- 1683 - Ottoman siege of Vienna





# Ming China 1368-1644

## Manchu Qing Dynasty 1644-1912



**Portrait on Silk of Emperor Kangxi in Court Robe**

Early 18th Century. Ink and color on silk.

Collection of The Palace Museum, Beijing.



# Japan







# Tokugawa Japan 1600-1853

- Cultural borrowing from China
- Emergence of warrior class and increasing civil wars
- Encounter with Portuguese-1543
- "Isolation" from West; rise of Tokugawas
- Tokugawa elite followed development in West (contrast to China's "hairy barbarian" mentality)





# Mughal India 1556-1739

- Empire based on military strength
- Akbar the Great--combined beliefs into new religion to unite Hindu and Muslim subjects: Din-I-Ilahi
- Indian textile trade-value to Europeans
- Patron of the arts—Shah Jahan





# Safavid Persia 1334-1722







# Empires: Russia



- Mongol occupation stalled Russian unification and development
- Increasing absolutist rule and territorial expansion by 16<sup>th</sup> Century - Ivan the Terrible
- Role of Russian Orthodox Church
- Peter the Great accelerated westernization process









# Portugal

- Search for maritime route to Asia
- Naval school
- Advanced naval technology: caravels, carracks, astrolabe and compass







# Portugal

- Established fortresses along the Gold Coast - sugar plantations and African slave labor
- Indian Ocean trade and Da Gama: Malindi, Sofala and Kilwa, Calicut and Goa, and later Macao
- Atlantic trade with conquest of Brazil - sugar plantation



# Brazil: Plantation colony

- Portuguese due to Treaty of Tordesillas 1494
- African slave labor used to support plantation complex (sugar)
- Largest producer of sugar in world first half of 17th C.





# Spain

- Reconquista ended with fall of Granada
- Inquisition
- Columbus' voyage
- Cortez in Mexico and Pizarro in Peru
- Took over existing tributary empires: labor, silver, gold, and foodstuffs
- Demographic impact: disease, death, and mestizos





# England

- Limited/constitutional monarchy
- Civil Wars
- Commonwealth
- Charles II
- James II
- Glorious Revolution
  - Bill of Rights
- Enlightenment ideas
- Colonies in Americas





# France

- Absolute Monarchy  
King Louis XIV  
"I am the State"  
Versailles
- Mercantilism
- Territorial expansion in Europe and fur-trading colonies in Saint Domingue (Haiti) and New France (Quebec)







# Dutch

- Dutch East India Company
  - 1660—employed 12,000 people with 257 ships
  - Sought monopolies and large profits
- North America (fur trade-Hudson River, New Amsterdam)
- Caribbean islands for plantations
- Capetown, South Africa - way station
- Southeast Asia - spice trade (nutmeg, cloves and pepper)





# Gender and Empire

- How might colonial conquests influence gender roles?



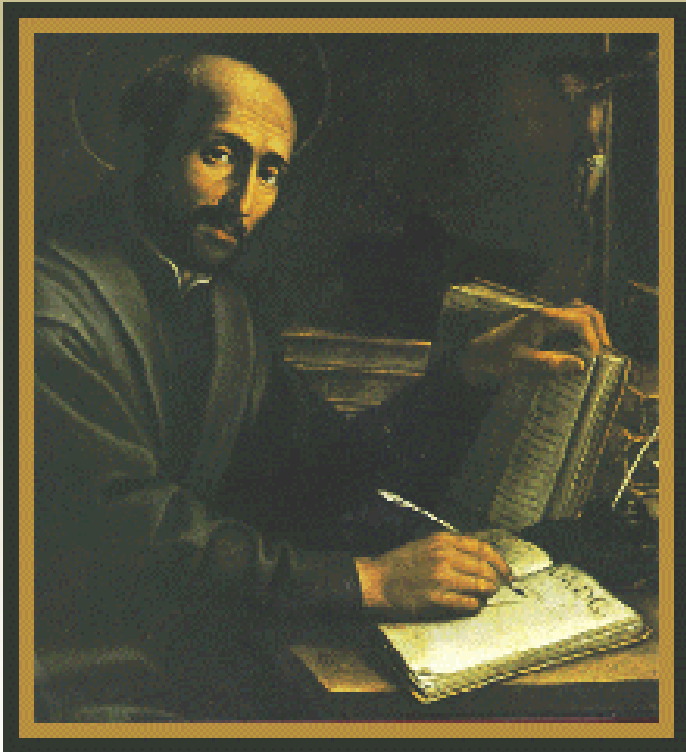


# Changing Beliefs

- Reformation
- Neo-Confucianism
- Missionaries: Christianity, Islam, Buddhism



# Missionaries: Jesuits







# Cultural and Intellectual Development

- Scientific Revolution
- Enlightenment
- Patronage of the arts





# Demographic and Environmental Changes

- Predict what the consequences of increased integration and empire building be on population? On the environment? Think long and short term.





# Comparisons

Be able to compare the following:

- Imperial systems: European monarchy vs. a land-based Asian empire
- Coercive labor systems
- Empire building in Asia, Africa and Europe
- Russia's interaction with the West compared to others





# Conclusions

- What are the major themes that seem apparent?
- What global processes are in action?





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