

# Lesson 4 Impact of Exploration

## MAIN IDEAS

**Geography** The Age of Exploration caused ideas, technology, plants, and animals to be exchanged around the world.

**Government** Several European countries competed for colonies overseas, both in Asia and the Americas.

**Economics** Developments during the Age of Exploration led to the origins of modern capitalism.

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## The Exchange of Goods and Ideas

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What did exploration help to spread?

### The Columbian Exchange

- **Columbian Exchange**—movement of living things between hemispheres
- Exchange began after Columbus' voyages to Americas
  - Europeans shipped corn, potatoes, pineapples from America
  - brought domestic animals (horses), diseases (smallpox, measles)
- Native Americans had no resistance to diseases; 20 million died

### Changing International Trade Patterns

- Columbian Exchange changed world trade patterns
- Much world trade fueled by Spain's silver mining in South America
  - silver moved from Americas to Europe, then to China
  - Chinese goods (silk, porcelain), Indian spices returned to Europe
- **Triangular trade**—Europe, Americas, Africa exchanged goods, slaves
  - enslaved Africans worked in West Indies; sugar cane sent to Europe

### The Spread of Culture

- Ideas, culture exchanged between continents along with goods
- Spain, Portugal spread Christianity; explorers converted natives
  - converted Christians blended new religion with traditional beliefs
- Europeans blended cultural practices imported from other lands
  - Arabian coffee with American sugar became a popular drink

## REVIEW QUESTION

How did the Columbian Exchange affect world trade patterns?

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# Rivalry for Colonies

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** What European countries competed for colonies?

## Portugal and Spain

- Colonies provided European nations with raw material, ready markets
- Portugal had trade posts in Africa, India, East Asia; controlled Brazil
- Spain claimed Pacific lands (Philippines), focused on western trade
  - silver, gold mining profitable in Peru and Mexico

## The Dutch Republic and France

- Dutch had East Indies trade, New Netherland colony in America
- In early 1600s France established Quebec, Canada as base of empire
  - empire stretched down Mississippi River to Caribbean

## English Colonies

- England set up North America colonies; Jamestown, Virginia in 1607
- In 1620, Pilgrims settled Massachusetts
  - wanted to escape religious persecution in England

## The Spanish Armada

- English attacked Spanish gold ships returning from Americas
- Spain's King Philip II sent 130 ships to invade England
- Superior English navy destroyed Spanish forces
- Weakened Spain still leading European power due to gold, silver trade

## REVIEW QUESTION

Which countries had a strong presence in the Americas?

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# Europe's Economy Changes

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did events in the Age of Exploration lead to the development of modern capitalism?

## Capitalism

- **Capitalism**—economic system based on private ownership of resources
- Investor merchants made big profits from colonization, trade ventures
- Governments gave chartered companies sole rights to trade in a region
- Manufacturing was mainly through cottage industries
  - merchants provided raw goods to rural families who made products
  - merchants sold finished products in cities

## Mercantilism

- Policy of **mercantilism**—a nation's power depended on its wealth
- A nation could gain wealth in two ways
  - by finding large deposits of gold, silver
  - by obtaining gold, silver in favorable balance of trade
- Ideal is for nation to sell more goods than it buys
- Colonies provided gold, silver, raw materials, ready markets

## A Market Economy

- By late 1700s, some felt government had too much control of economy
- Economist Adam Smith felt economy should be free of government
  - put forth idea of free market economy in *Wealth of Nations* (1776)
  - felt free market would ensure economic prosperity if left unhindered
  - Smith's ideas are basis of modern U.S. economic system

## REVIEW QUESTION

What economic developments took place in Europe after the Age of Exploration?

## Lesson Summary

- European explorations led to the Columbian Exchange and an increase in international trade.
- European nations competed for colonies.
- The European economy underwent major changes.

## Why It Matters Now . . .

Today, as in the days of mercantilism, some groups want to restrict global trade to protect certain jobs and industries from competition.