Did You Know? The captain of the only ship from Magellan's voyage that actually encircled the globe and returned to Spain received from the Spanish ruler a globe with the inscription Primus circumdestisti me (You were the first to encircle me) to add to his coat of arms.

I. Motives and Means (pages 407–409)

A. Europeans had long been attracted to Asia. Many people, including Christopher Columbus, were fascinated by Marco Polo’s account of his travels to the court of Kublai Khan and the exotic East. Fourteenth-century conquests by the Ottoman Empire made traveling to the East by land difficult. Europeans wanted a route by sea.

B. The desire for wealth was a large part of European expansion. Merchants, adventurers, and government officials hoped to find precious metals in and expand trade with the East, especially trade in spices. Another motive was religious, the desire to spread the Catholic faith to native peoples.

C. Adventure and glory comprised another motive for European expansion. “God, glory, and gold,” then, were the motives.

D. By the fifteenth century the European monarchies had expanded their power and resources to a point of being able to support ambitious expansion. Europeans had also reached a level of technology that made a series of regular, long voyages possible.

E. Europeans acquired much of this technology from Arabs. Arab navigators and mathematicians had drawn charts, called portolan (records) showing coastlines and distances between ports. By 1500, cartography—the art and science of mapmaking—had developed to where Europeans had fairly accurate maps of where they wanted to explore. The compass showed the ship’s direction, and the astrolabe (also developed by Arabs) showed its latitude, information needed for such long voyages. Europeans also were able to build ships that could sail against the wind.

Discussion Question
Which of the three motives for European expansion do you think was the strongest for most of the captains and sailors who made Europe’s initial voyages in search of the East? Why do you think so? (Answers will vary. Make sure students give reasons for their positions. Most answers will reveal the students’ views about human nature.)
II. The Portuguese Trading Empire (pages 409–410)

A. Portugal took the lead in European exploration. In 1420, Prince Henry the Navigator sponsored Portuguese fleets that sailed along the western coast of Africa. They found gold. Europeans called the southern coast of West Africa the Gold Coast.

B. In 1488, Bartholomeu Dias rounded the tip of Africa looking for a route to India. Vasco da Gama made the trip to the port of Calcutta in India in 1498. He took on a cargo of spices and returned to make a profit of several thousand percent. The route became well traveled.

C. Portuguese fleets took control of the spice trade from the Muslims by force. In 1510, Admiral Alfonso de Albuquerque set up a Portuguese port at Goa, on the western coast of India. He then sailed on to Melaka on the Malay Peninsula. This was a thriving port for the spice trade.

D. From Melaka, the Portuguese made expeditions to China and the Moluccas, known as the Spice Islands. In the Spice Islands they signed a treaty with a local ruler for the purchase and export of cloves to Europe. This treaty gave Portugal control of the spice trade. Its trading empire was complete. Portugal had neither the power, people, or desire to colonize Asian regions, however.

Discussion Question

Why was the spice trade so lucrative? (Answers will vary. One good answer is that the European diet was fairly uniform and bland. Another is that the East had a hold on the European imagination.)

III. Voyages to the Americas (pages 410–412)

A. As the Portuguese sailed east to reach the source of the spice trade, the Spanish sailed west to find it. Spain had more resources and people than Portugal, and it established an overseas empire quite different from the Portuguese trading posts.

B. Convinced that the circumference of the Earth was not as great as others thought, Italian Christopher Columbus believed he could reach Asia by sailing west. Financed by Queen Isabella of Spain, in 1492 he reached and explored the coastline Cuba. He believed he had reached Asia. In his four voyages he explored many Caribbean Islands and Honduras—all of which he called the Indies.

C. Both Spain and Portugal feared the other would claim some of its newly "discovered" territories. They resolved the problem by agreeing on a line of demarcation dividing their new domains. In the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, they decided on a north-to-south line through the Atlantic Ocean and the easternmost part of South America. Portugal claimed the unexplored territories east of the line, Spain to the west.
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D. Other countries realized that Columbus had discovered a new frontier. Explorers from
many countries joined the race to the Americas. Venetian John Cabot explored the
New England coastline for England. Florentine Amerigo Vespucci went on several
voyages and wrote letters describing what he saw. They led to the name America (after
Amerigo) for the new lands

E. Europeans called these lands the New World, but in fact they had had flourishing civili-
izations for centuries before the Europeans arrived.

Discussion Question

Portuguese is widely spoken in one country in the Americas. What country is that, and
how did Portuguese come to be the dominant language? (The country is Brazil. The Treaty
of Tordesillas gave Portugal claim to it because the eastern part of Brazil fell on Portugal’s side of
the demarcation line.)

IV. The Spanish Empire (page 412)

A. The Spanish conquerors of the Americas—known as conquistadors—had incredible
success due to guns and determination. By 1550, Spain controlled northern Mexico.
Shortly thereafter, Francisco Pizarro took control of the Inca Empire in the Peruvian
Andes. Within 30 years, the western part of Latin America, as Europeans called it, was
under Spanish control.

B. The Spanish created a system of colonial administration. Queen Isabella declared that
the natives (called Indians after the Spanish word Indios, or “inhabitants of the Indies”) were her subjects. She gave the Spanish the right, called encomienda, to use the natives as laborers.

C. The Spanish were supposed to protect Native Americans, but few of them worried
about this matter. Forced labor, starvation, and disease took a huge toll on the Native
Americans. European diseases ravaged the native populations, who lacked immunity
to such diseases as smallpox. Haiti had a population of 100,000 when Columbus
arrived. By 1570, only 300 Native Americans had survived. Mexico’s population
dropped from 25 million to 3 million.

D. Catholic missionaries converted and baptized hundreds of thousands of native peo-
bles. They also brought parishes, schools, and hospitals. European religion, culture,
language, and government replaced the native structures.
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**Discussion Question**

Much of contemporary culture insists that Native American replace the word Indian. What is the argument for the change? Do you think paying attention to the names of peoples and groups is important for society? *(Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. The chief argument for changing such terms probably is that native people should not bear the names given them by colonial masters because it tends to perpetuate the effacement of their own history and because people have a right to determine their identities.)*

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V. Economic Impact and Competition *(pages 412-413)*

A. Europeans sought silver and gold wherever they went in the Americas. One Aztec commented that the conquistadors “longed and lusted for gold. Their bodies swelled with greed; they hungered like pigs for that gold.” Silver was found in Mexico and modern Bolivia.

B. In addition to gold and silver, sugar, cotton, dyes, vanilla, and hides from livestock flowed into Spain. Native agricultural products such as potatoes, coffee, corn, and tobacco were shipped to Europe.

C. Portuguese expansion in the East also created an economic impact. Portugal soon challenged the Italian states as the chief entry point for eastern spices, jewels, silk, carpets, ivory, leather, and perfumes.

D. Other European countries soon sought similar economic benefits for themselves.

E. By the end of the sixteenth century, the Spanish had established themselves in the Philippine Islands, where Ferdinand Magellan had landed earlier and was killed by the natives. It was a base for Spanish trade across the Pacific Ocean.

F. Several rivals entered the trading scene. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, an English fleet sailed to India and established trade on the northwestern coast. Trade with Southeast Asia followed.

G. The Dutch arrived in India in 1595. The Dutch formed the East India Company and competed with the English and the Portuguese. The Dutch also formed the West India Company for trade in the Americas. The Dutch colony of New Netherlands was in modern New York. Names like Staten Island and Harlem come from the Dutch.


I. The English established the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630. Soon its numbers increased to forty thousand. By 1700, England has established a colonial empire along North America’s eastern seaboard.
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J. European nations in the 1500s and 1600s established many colonies in the Americas and the East. A colony is a settlement of people living in a new territory, linked with the parent country by trade and governmental control.

K. Colonies and trading posts greatly increased international trade. Colonies played an important role in the theory of mercantilism, a set of principles that dominated seventeenth-century economic thought. According to this theory, a nation’s prosperity depended on a large supply of bullion (gold and silver) because bullion gave a country a favorable balance of trade—the difference in value between what a nation imports and what it exports over time.

L. Nations wanted a favorable balance of trade, which means that the value of exported goods is greater than the value of imported goods. Governments stimulated export industries and trade by granting subsidies to new industries, improving transportation systems, and placing high tariffs (taxes) on foreign goods to keep them out of the parent country.

M. Colonies were important as sources of raw materials for the parent country and markets for the parent country’s finished goods.

Discussion Question

Historians call the complex interchange between Europe and the Americas begun in the fifteenth century the “Columbian Exchange,” after Columbus. On balance, was this exchange beneficial or non-beneficial for the world? (Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. Students should be specific about the effects of the exchange.)
I. The Slave Trade (pages 415–417)

A. In the fifteenth century the primary market for African slaves was Southwest Asia, where they were used principally as domestic servants. Some European countries also had slaves, used as servants for wealthy families.

B. The demand for slaves rose dramatically with the European voyages to the Americas and the planting of sugar cane there. Plantations, large agricultural estates, were set up on the eastern coast of Brazil and on islands in the Caribbean to grow sugar cane. Growing cane is labor intensive. The small native population, much of which had died from European diseases, could not provide the labor. African slaves were imported to meet the need.

C. A Spanish ship carried the first boatload of African slaves to the Americas in 1518. The trade grew tremendously in the next two centuries, becoming part of the New World economy's triangular trade.

D. This pattern of triangular trade connected Europe, Africa and Asia, and the Americas. European merchants carried goods to Africa, where they traded for slaves. The slaves were shipped to and sold in the Americas. European merchants then bought tobacco, molasses, sugar, and cotton for sale in Europe.

E. An estimated 275,000 African slaves were exported during the sixteenth century. Over a million were shipped in the seventeenth century, and six million in the eighteenth century. Up to ten million slaves in all were shipped from Africa to the Americas.

F. One reason for the high numbers was the death rate. Many slaves died on the Middle Passage, the journey to the Americas that was the middle leg of the triangular trade route. Many of those who survived died of diseases after arriving. Since succeeding generations developed immunities, death rates were higher for newly arrived slaves than for those who were born and raised in the Americas.

G. Before the Europeans entered the scene, most slaves in Africa were war captives. Europeans bought slaves in return for guns, gold, and other European goods.
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H. Some local rulers became concerned about the impact of the slave trade on their societies. In a letter to the king of Portugal in 1526, King Afonso of Congo said, “so great is the corruption that our country is being completely depopulated.” These protests were ignored, and many other local rulers profited from the slave trade.

I. The slave trade depopulated areas, deprived many African communities of their youngest and strongest men and women, and increased local warfare as different traders and rulers competed with each other and raided neighbors for slaves.

J. One Dutch slave trader remarked, “From us they have learned strife, quarreling, drunkenness, trickery, theft, unbridled desire for what is not one’s own, misdeeds unknown to them before, and the accrued lust for gold.”

K. Some African states, such as the brilliant and creative Benin, were devastated by the slave trade. As their population declined and warfare increased, the people lost faith in their gods, their art deteriorated, and human sacrifice increased. Benin became brutal and corrupt. Later, it took years to discover the brilliance of the earlier culture destroyed by slavery.

Discussion Question
What corruption did King Afonso have in mind? (He meant the way that his people and the Europeans gave up their souls for greed. The Portuguese also tried to assassinate him because they thought he was hiding gold. King Afonso converted to Christianity and remained a devout Christian.)

II. Political and Social Structures (pages 417–418)

A. Only in a few areas, such as South Africa and Mozambique, were there signs of a permanent European presence. Generally, European influence did not extend beyond slave trade in the coastal regions.

B. In general, traditional African political systems continued. Monarchy was common by the sixteenth century. Some were highly centralized, and the king was considered almost divine.

C. Other African states were collections of small principalities tied by kinship or other loyalties. Ashanti on the Gold Coast is a good example. To provide visible evidence of local ties to the king, each local ruler had a ceremonial stool of office that symbolized the kinship ties linking the rulers together. The king had an exquisite golden stool to symbolize the unity of the entire state.

D. In such societies as the Ibo of eastern Nigeria, Africans lived in small political units with authority vested in a village leader. The Ibo region produced more slaves than almost any other area of Africa.
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E. Europeans did cause some changes in Africa. The Songhai trading empire was weakened when slave trade routes shifted to the coast. This change also led to the emergence of a new Moroccan dynasty in the late sixteenth century. Morocco wanted to control the Saharan gold and salt trade. In 1590, Moroccan forces defeated the Songhai army and occupied the trading center of Timbuktu.

F. Foreigners also influenced African religious life. The main impact was from Islam. It became dominant in North Africa and spread southward into the states of West Africa. Christianity was established only in South Africa and Ethiopia.

Discussion Question
What symbols of authority does the American president have? (Answers will vary. Some obvious possibilities are the seal of the presidency and the right to live in the White House.)
Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 13, Section 3

Did You Know? General Phraya Chakkri became the Thai monarch in 1782 and founded the royal dynasty that still rules Thailand today. Chakkri built a new capital called Bangkok, still Thailand's capital, after the Burmese army sacked the previous Thai capital in 1767. He renamed the Thai kingdom Siam.

I. Emerging Mainland States (pages 419–420)

A. In 1500, mainland Southeast Asia was relatively stable. From Burma to Vietnam, kingdoms with their own ethnic, linguistic, and cultural characteristics were being formed.

B. Conflicts did erupt between the emerging states. Burma and Thailand clashed. The Vietnamese began their “March to the South.” By the end of the fifteenth century, they subdued the rival state of Champa. They then took control of the Mekong delta from the Khmer, a monarchy that virtually disappeared by 1800.

C. Muslim merchants penetrated the Malay Peninsula and the Indonesian archipelago. The major impact of Islam came in the fifteenth century with the rise of the new sultanate at Melaka. Melaka was powerful because of its strategic location and the spice trade's rapid growth. Melaka shortly became the leading power in the region.

D. The European success in creating trading empires in the East and conquering the Americas owed much to the use of gunpowder and cannons. For example, the heavy cannon of the Portuguese ships made defeating the lighter Muslim fleets easy. The Ottoman and Safavid Empires also used gunpowder effectively, causing historians to label them and others “gunpowder empires.”

Discussion Question

The late twentieth century saw the emergence of a group in Southeast Asia that claimed the name of Khmer. Who were they, what country did they control, and what are they most known for? (The group was the communist Khmer Rouge (red), it controlled modern Cambodia after the Vietnam War, and it is most known for brutal repression and genocide.)

II. The Arrival of Europeans (pages 420–422)

A. In 1511, the Portuguese seized Melaka and soon occupied the Moluccas, or Spice Islands. They were the chief source of the spices that attracted the Portuguese to the Indian Ocean.
B. The Portuguese were able to establish only trading posts and way stations en route to the Spice Islands. That situation changed with the arrival of the English and Dutch traders, who were better financed than the Portuguese. In the early 1600s, the Dutch gradually pushed the Portuguese out of the spice trade. The Dutch also drove the English out of the spice trade. The English were reduced to one port on the coast of Sumatra, and the Dutch occupied most of the formerly Portuguese forts along the trade routes, including Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka).

C. The Dutch began to consolidate their political and military control over the entire area. They brought the island of Java under their control and established a fort there to protect their possessions in the East. They used tactics such as trying to dominate the clove trade by limiting cultivation to one island and forcing others to stop growing and trading the spice.

D. Europeans had less impact on the Southeast Asian mainland than on the Malay Peninsula and Indonesia. The Portuguese established limited trade relations with several mainland states (part of the continent, as opposed to peninsulas and offshore islands), including Thailand, Burma, Vietnam, and what remained of the old Angkor kingdom in Cambodia. European states also tried to gain missionary privileges. The mainland states generally were able to unite and drive the Europeans out.

E. Civil war in Vietnam temporarily divided the country into two separate states. By the mid-seventeenth century, Europeans began to take sides in local politics. Soon, however, it became clear that the economic opportunities were limited and many Europeans pulled out. French missionaries tried to stay, but they were blocked in their efforts by authorities who saw Catholicism as a threat to the prestige of the Vietnamese emperor.

F. The mainland states of Burma, Thailand, and Vietnam were able to resist the Europeans partly because they had strong monarchies that resisted foreign intrusion. Non-mainland states had less political unity. They were also victims of the fact that they were so rich in the spices that the Europeans coveted.

Discussion Question
The slang term java for coffee came into nineteenth-century American usage. Why is this a term for coffee? (The reference is to the coffee-producing island of Java that the Dutch controlled centuries ago.)

III. Religious and Political Systems (page 422)

A. Between 1500 and 1800 religious beliefs changed in Southeast Asia. Islam and Christianity made converts in the non-mainland states and the Philippines. Buddhism was advancing in the mainland and became dominant from Burma to Vietnam.
Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 13, Section 3

B. Politically, Southeast Asia evolved into four styles of monarchy: Buddhist, Javanese, Islamic, and Vietnamese.

C. The Buddhist style of kingship became the chief form of government in Burma, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia. The king was considered superior to other human beings, serving as the link between human society and the universe.

D. Javanese kingship was rooted in Indian political traditions. Like Buddhist kings, Javanese rulers were believed to have a sacred quality, maintaining the balance between the material and spiritual worlds. The palace was designed to represent the center of the universe.

E. Islamic sultans on the Malay Peninsula and some islands of the Indonesian archipelago were viewed as mortal, though with special qualities. They were defenders of the faith and staffed the bureaucracy—a body of nonelective government officials—with aristocrats.

F. Vietnamese kingship followed the Chinese model. The Vietnamese emperor ruled by Confucian principles. He was seen as a mortal appointed by Heaven to rule because of his talent and virtue. He also was an intermediary between Heaven and Earth.

Discussion Question

Why might people believe that their ruler was an intermediary between Heaven and Earth? (Answers will vary. Accept relevant, thoughtful answers. One good explanation is that this way they thought their ruler had the ability to maintain order in their lives and intercede with the gods on their behalf.)