

Robert W. Strayer

**Ways of the World:
A Brief Global History**

First Edition

CHAPTER XIV
Empires and Encounters
1450–1750

The Great Dying

European Empires in the Americas

- Western European Empires were marked by maritime expansion
- Spaniards
- Portuguese
- British, French, and Dutch colonies
- Europeans controlled most of the Americas by the mid-nineteenth century

European Empires in the Americas

- The European Advantage
 - Geography
 - Countries on the Atlantic rim of Europe (Portugal, Spain, Britain, and France)

Map 14-1
Ways of the World, First Edition
© 2008 Bedford/St. Martin's

The European Advantage

Need:

Chinese and Indians markets

Marginality

Rivalry

Merchants

Wealth

Religion

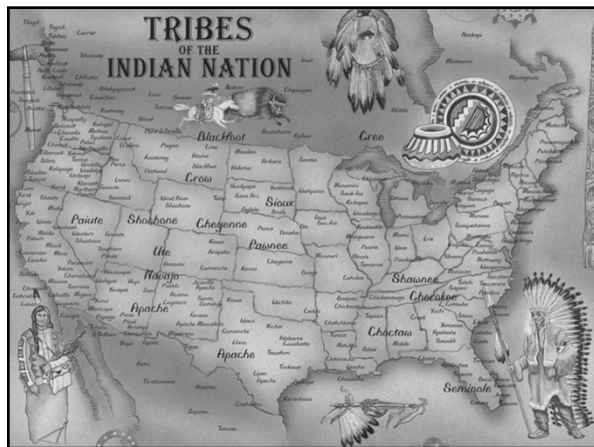
The Great Dying

Europeans brought European and African diseases.

Native American populations

Caribbean

Central Mexico



The Great Dying

•Pre-Columbian Western Hemisphere had 60-80 million

•No immunity to Old World Diseases

•Created an acute labor shortage

Made room for immigrant newcomers—
colonizers

enslaved Africans
