

CHAPTER XIV OUTLINE

I. Opening Vignette

A. Around the end of the twentieth century, reactions to the empire building of the early modern period remain varied.

1. Uighur attempts to win independence from China
2. Native American protests against 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in America

B. Early modern European colonies were massively significant.

1. Russians also constructed a major empire
2. Qing dynasty China doubled in size
3. Mughal Empire of India pulled together Hindus and Muslims
4. Ottoman Empire reestablished some of the older political unity of the Islamic heartland

C. The empires of the early modern era show a new stage in globalization.

II. European Empires in the Americas

A. Western European empires were marked by maritime expansion.

1. Spaniards in Caribbean, then on to Aztec and Inca empires
2. Portuguese in Brazil
3. British, French, and Dutch colonies in North America
4. Europeans controlled most of the Americas by the mid-nineteenth century

B. The European Advantage

1. Geography: European Atlantic states were well positioned for involvement in the Americas
2. Need: Chinese and Indians had such rich markets in the Indian Ocean that there wasn't much incentive to go beyond
3. Marginality: Europeans were aware of their marginal position in Eurasian commerce and wanted to change it
4. Rivalry: interstate rivalry drove rulers to compete
5. Merchants: growing merchant class wanted direct access to Asian wealth
6. Wealth and status: colonies were an opportunity for impoverished nobles and commoners
7. Religion:
 - a. crusading zeal
 - b. persecuted minorities looking for more freedom
8. European states and trading companies mobilized resources well
 - a. seafaring technology
 - b. iron, gunpowder weapons, and horses gave Europeans an initial advantage over people in the Americas
9. Rivalries within the Americas provided allies for European invaders

C. The Great Dying—the demographic collapse of Native American societies

1. Pre-Columbian Western Hemisphere had a population of perhaps 60 million–80 million
2. No immunity to Old World diseases
3. Europeans brought European and African diseases
 - a. mortality rate of up to 90 percent among Native American populations
 - b. native population nearly vanished in the Caribbean
 - c. Central Mexico: population dropped from 10 million–20 million to around 1 million by 1650
 - d. similar mortality in North America

D. The Columbian Exchange

1. Massive native mortality created a labor shortage in the Americas
2. Migrant Europeans and African slaves created entirely new societies
3. American food crops (e.g., corn, potatoes, and cassava) spread widely in the Eastern Hemisphere
 - a. potatoes especially allowed enormous population growth
 - b. corn and sweet potatoes were important in China and Africa
4. Exchange with the Americas reshaped the world economy
 - a. importation of millions of African slaves to the Americas
 - b. new and lasting link among Africa, Europe, and the Americas
5. Network of communication, migration, trade, transfer of plants and animals (including microbes) is called “the Columbian exchange”
 - a. The Atlantic world connected four continents
 - b. Europeans got most of the rewards

III. Comparing Colonial Societies in the Americas

A. Europeans not just conquered and governed established societies, created wholly new societies.

1. All were shaped by mercantilism—theory that governments should encourage exports and accumulate bullion to serve their countries
2. Colonies should provide closed markets for the mother country’s manufactured goods
3. But colonies differed widely, depending on native cultures and the sorts of economy that were established

B. In the Lands of the Aztecs and the Incas

1. Spanish conquest of the Aztec and Inca empires (early sixteenth century)
 - a. The most wealthy, urbanized, and populous regions of the Western Hemisphere
 - b. Within a century, the Spaniards established major cities, universities, and a religious and bureaucratic infrastructure
2. Economic basis of the colonial society was commercial agriculture and mining (gold and silver)
3. Rise of a distinctive social order
 - a. Replicated some of the Spanish class hierarchy
 - b. Accommodated Indians, Africans, and racially mixed people
 - c. Spaniards were at the top, increasingly wanted a large measure of self-government from the Spanish Crown
 - d. Emergence of mestizo (mixed-race) population
 - e. Gross abuse and exploitation of the Indians
 - f. More racial fluidity than in North America

C. Colonies of Sugar

1. Lowland Brazil and the Caribbean developed a different society
 - a. Regions had not been home to great civilizations and didn’t have great mineral wealth until the 1690s
 - b. But sugar was in high demand in Europe
 - c. These colonies produced almost solely for export
2. Arabs introduced large-scale sugar production to the Mediterranean
 - a. Europeans transferred it to Atlantic islands and Americas
 - b. Portuguese on Brazilian coast dominated the world sugar market 1570–1670
 - c. Then British, French, and Dutch in the Caribbean broke the Portuguese monopoly

3. Sugar transformed Brazil and the Caribbean
 - a. Production was labor intensive, worked best on large scale
 - b. Can be called the first modern industry
 - c. Had always been produced with massive use of slave labor
 - d. Indians of the area were almost totally wiped out or fled
 - e. Planters turned to African slaves—80 percent of all Africans enslaved in the Americas ended up in Brazil and the Caribbean
4. Much more of Brazilian and Caribbean society was of African descent
5. Large mixed-race population provided much of urban skilled workforce and supervisors in sugar industry
6. Plantation complex based on African slavery spread to southern parts of North America
 - a. But in North America, European women came earlier
 - b. Result was less racial mixing, less tolerance toward mixed blood
 - c. Sharply defined racial system evolved
 - d. Slavery was less harsh

D. Settler Colonies in North America

1. A different sort of colonial society emerged in British colonies of New England, New York, and Pennsylvania
 - a. British got into the game late; got the unpromising lands
 - b. but British society was changing more rapidly than Catholic Spain
2. Many British colonists were trying to escape elements of European society
3. British settlers were more numerous; by 1750, they outnumbered Spaniards in New World by five to one
 - a. by 1776, 90 percent of population of North American colonies was European
 - b. Indians were killed off by disease and military policy
 - c. small-scale farming didn't need slaves
4. England was mostly Protestant; didn't proselytize like the Catholics
5. British colonies developed traditions of local self-government
 - a. Britain didn't impose an elaborate bureaucracy like Spain
 - b. British civil war (seventeenth century) distracted government from involvement in the colonies
6. North America gradually became dominant, more developed than South America

IV. The Steppes and Siberia: The Making of a Russian Empire

A. A small Russian state centered on Moscow began to emerge ca. 1500.

1. Moscow began to conquer neighboring cities
2. Over three centuries grew into a massive empire
3. Early expansion into the grasslands to south and east was for security against nomads
4. Expansion into Siberia was a matter of opportunity (especially furs), not threat

B. Experiencing the Russian Empire

1. Conquest was made possible by modern weapons and organization
2. Conquest brought devastating epidemics, especially in remote areas of Siberia—locals had no immunity to smallpox and measles
3. Pressure to convert to Christianity
4. Large-scale settlement of Russians in the new lands, where they outnumbered the native population (e.g., in Siberia)
5. Discouragement of pastoralism
6. Many natives were Russified

C. Russians and Empire

1. With imperial expansion, Russians became a smaller proportion of the overall population
2. Rich agricultural lands, furs, and minerals helped make Russia a great power by the eighteenth century
3. Became an Asian power as well as a European one
4. Long-term Russian identity problem
 - a. expansion made Russia a very militarized state
 - b. reinforced autocracy
5. Colonization experience was different from the Americas
 - a. conquest of territories with which Russia had long interacted
 - b. conquest took place at the same time as development of the Russian state
 - c. the Russian Empire remained intact until 1991

V. Asian Empires

A. Asian empires were regional, not global.

1. Creation of Asian empires did not include massive epidemics
2. Did not fundamentally transform their homelands like interaction with the Americas and Siberia did for European powers

B. Making China an Empire

1. Qing dynasty (1644–1912) launched enormous imperial expansion to the north and west
2. Nomads of the north and west were very familiar to the Chinese
 - a. 80-year-long Chinese conquest (1680–1760)
 - b. motivated by security fears; reaction to Zunghar state
3. China evolved into a Central Asian empire
4. Conquered territory was ruled separately from the rest of China through the Court of Colonial Affairs
 - a. considerable use of local elites to govern
 - b. officials often imitated Chinese ways
 - c. but government did not try to assimilate conquered peoples
 - d. little Chinese settlement in the conquered regions
5. Russian and Chinese rule impoverished Central Asia, turned it into a backward region

C. Muslims and Hindus in the Mughal Empire

1. Mughals united much of India between 1526 and 1707
2. The Mughal Empire's most important divide was religious
3. Emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605) attempted serious accommodation of the Hindu majority
 - a. brought many Hindus into the political-military elite
 - b. imposed a policy of toleration
 - c. abolished payment of jizya by non-Muslims
 - d. created a state cult that stressed loyalty to the emperor
 - e. Akbar and his successors encouraged a hybrid Indian-Persian-Turkic culture
4. Mughal toleration provoked reaction among some Muslims
 - a. Emperor Aurangzeb (r. 1658–1707) reversed Mughal policy, tried to impose Islamic supremacy
 - b. Aurangzeb banned sati (widow burning), music, and dance at court, various vices
 - c. Destruction of some Hindu temples
 - d. Reimposition of jizya
5. Aurangzeb's policy provoked Hindu reaction

D. Muslims, Christians, and the Ottoman Empire

1. The Ottoman Empire was the Islamic world's most important empire in the early modern period
2. Long conflict (1534–1639) between Sunni Ottomans and Shia Safavids
3. The Ottoman Empire was the site of a significant cross-cultural encounter
 - a. In Anatolia, most of the conquered Christians converted to Islam
 - b. In the Balkans, Christian subjects mostly remained Christian
4. In the Balkans, many Christians welcomed Ottoman conquest
 - a. Ottoman taxed less and were less oppressive
 - b. Christian churches received considerable autonomy
 - c. Balkan elites were accepted among the Ottoman elite without conversion
5. Jewish refugees from Spain had more opportunities in the Ottoman Empire
6. devshirme: tribute of boys paid by Christian Balkan communities
 - a. Boys were converted to Islam, trained to serve the state
 - b. The devshirme was a means of upward social mobility
7. The Ottoman state threatened Christendom
8. Some Europeans admired Ottoman rule
 - a. Philosopher Jean Bodin (sixteenth century) praised Ottoman religious tolerance
 - b. European merchants evaded papal bans on selling firearms to the Turks
 - c. Ottoman women enjoyed relative freedom

VI. Reflections: Countering Eurocentrism . . . or Reflecting It?

- A. The chapter brought together stories of European, Russian, Chinese, Mughal, and Ottoman colonization to counteract a Eurocentric view of the early modern world.***
- B. Western European empires still receive more discussion space because they were different and more significant than the others.***
 1. They were something wholly new in human history
 2. They had a much greater impact on the people they incorporated
- C. Eurocentrism continues to be a controversial issue among world historians.***