

Chapter 13, Section 1 (Pages 430–437)

Exploration and Expansion

Big Idea

Europeans began exploring the world in the fifteenth century, and several nations experienced economic heights through worldwide trade. As you read, use a chart like the one below to list the explorers and lands explored by each European nation.

	Explorers	Lands Explored
Portugal		
Spain		
England		
France		
Netherlands		



Read to Learn

Motives and Means *(page 430)*

Making Inferences

Knowing what Christopher Columbus went on to do, how do you think he felt about the writings of Marco Polo?

Between 1500 and 1800, Portugal, Spain, the Dutch Republic (the Netherlands), England, and France expanded into the rest of the world.

Europeans had long been attracted to Asia. Marco Polo had visited the Chinese court of Kublai Khan, and many, including Christopher Columbus, read his written accounts of the journey. In the fourteenth century, conquests by the Ottoman Turks made it difficult to travel by land to the East. People then began to think about going to Asia by sea. People wanted to expand trade, especially for spices, which were needed to preserve and flavor food. They were quite expensive when they came over land through Arab middlemen. Europeans also wanted to find precious metals. Further, many Europeans wanted to spread their religion to native peoples. They also wanted adventure. By the second half of the fifteenth century, European monarchs had the power and resources to expand, while technology had developed that would enable long sea voyages.



Read to Learn

A Race for Riches (page 432)

Drawing Conclusions

Why did more voyages follow da Gama's route?

Beginning in 1520, Portuguese fleets began probing southward along the western coast of Africa. They discovered a new source of gold. Vasco da Gama went around the Cape of Good Hope (the southern tip of Africa) and cut across the Indian Ocean to India. He took on a cargo of spices, took it home, and made a profit of several thousand percent. Of course, many more voyages followed this route.

Portuguese fleets took control of the spice trade from the Muslims. They defeated a combined fleet of Turkish and Indian ships off the coast of India. Admiral Alfonso d'Albuquerque set up a port at Goa. Then he sailed into Melaka, on the Malay Peninsula. From Melaka, the Portuguese launched expeditions to China and the Spice Islands. Although they got control of the spice trade, the Portuguese had neither the people nor the desire to colonize Asian regions.

Europeans knew the world was round, so Christopher Columbus persuaded Queen Isabella of Spain to finance an expedition west to find Asia. In 1492 Columbus reached the Americas, believing he had reached Asia. In 1519 Ferdinand Magellan sailed around South America into the Pacific Ocean and on to the Philippines. Magellan was killed, but is still remembered as the first person to circumnavigate the world.

Both Spain and Portugal feared that the other might claim territories. They signed the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. It gave Portugal the unexplored territories east of a line through the Atlantic Ocean and gave Spain the territories to the west of the line. This gave Spain rights to almost all of the Americas.

John Cabot explored the New England coastline for England. Portuguese sea captain Pedro Cabral landed in South America in 1500. Amerigo Vespucci described voyages to the Americas, whose name came from Vespucci's first name. The new territories already had flourishing civilizations of millions of people, but Europeans saw them as opportunities for conquest and exploitation.



Read to Learn

The Spanish Empire (page 434)

Determining Cause and Effect

How did the advanced technology of the Spanish affect their conquests of the Aztec and the Inca?

The Spanish conquerors of the Americas were called **conquistadors**. They had advanced firearms, skills, and determination. In central Mexico, the Aztec had ruled for a century. In 1519 a Spanish force under Hernán Cortés marched to the magnificent Aztec capital, Tenochtitlán. The Aztec were astounded to see men on horseback with firearms, cannons, and steel swords. Eventually, the Spanish took the Aztec king, Montezuma, hostage and began to pillage the city. Although at first the citizens drove the Spanish out, they suffered a smallpox epidemic because they had no immunity to European diseases. Other Aztec city-states helped the Spanish reconquer the city. The Spanish then destroyed it.

The Inca Empire was flourishing in 1530, when Francisco Pizarro landed on the Pacific coast. He had only a few men, but like the Aztec, the Inca were awed by his weapons and horses. The Inca also experienced a smallpox epidemic, and their emperor died. Pizarro captured the emperor's son, Atahualpa, and executed him. He then captured the Inca capital at Cuzco. Pizarro established a new capital at Lima for a new colony of the Spanish empire.

By 1550 much territory in Mexico, Central America, and South America had been brought under Spanish control. Queen Isabella declared Native Americans to be her subjects. She granted to Spanish settlers in the Americas the **encomienda**, the right of landowners to use Native Americans as laborers.

Spanish settlers used Native Americans for forced labor. This, combined with European diseases, took a fearful toll on Native American lives. In Mexico, for example, the population dropped from 25 million in 1500 to 1 million in 1630.

Spaniards and Native Americans intermarried and created a new people. Traces of the original culture remain today. Colonists raised sugar, cotton, vanilla, and livestock to send to Europe. Europeans brought horses, cattle, and wheat to the Americas. Potatoes, cocoa, corn, tomatoes, and tobacco were shipped to Europe. The exchange of plants and animals between the Old and New Worlds, known as the **Columbian Exchange**, transformed economic activity in both worlds.

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European Rivals (page 437)

Comparing and Contrasting

How did the Spanish empire in Latin America differ from the English economy in North American colonies?

New European rivals began to challenge the Portuguese and the Spaniards by the beginning of the seventeenth century. The English established trade relations with India, as did the Dutch. The Dutch also traded in the Caribbean and settled on the North American continent in the Hudson River valley. After 1660, however, the English seized this colony of New Netherlands and renamed it New York. Canada became a French colony in 1663, but by the early eighteenth century, France had ceded some of its American possessions to the English. By this time, the English had control over most of the eastern seaboard of North America. Compared to the enormous empire of the Spanish in Latin America, the North American colonies still remained of little importance to the English economy.

Section Wrap-up

Answer these questions to check your understanding of the entire section.

1. Why were Europeans willing to make dangerous voyages of exploration?

2. Describe the details of the Treaty of Tordesillas.

Persuasive Writing

Using information from the text, explain how Spanish colonization affected the Native American peoples.
