

**Trade in the East and the Americas**

Portuguese East Empire - King John wanted a profitable spice trade empire

Why did they want to control the East Indies? 1. Christian crusade (they attacked Arab ships and merchants) 2. spices (they controlled trade in the Spice Islands through most of the 1500s)

competition - in 1595, the Dutch began attacking Portuguese trading stations and ships in the East Indies - by the 1600s, they had replaced the Portuguese as the dominant power in the region

England and France - established trading outposts in India

China and Japan - they saw Europeans as barbarians and had grown tired of missionaries - aside from guns and precious metals, Europeans had few goods that Asians wanted - 1639 - Japan began to expel all foreigners - only the Dutch could send one ship a year to trade at the port of Nagasaki

Spain and the Americas

1519 - Hernan Cortes - Spanish conquistador (conqueror) - wanted gold - landed in Mexico and quickly made alliances with native tribes who hated the Aztecs

- 600 soldiers (with 16 horses and a few cannons) marched toward the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan (present-day Mexico City)

- King Montezuma soon agreed to become a subject of the Spanish king - 1520 - Aztecs revolted, Cortes attacked and destroyed the capital in 1521 - Aztecs were conquered

- Francisco Pizarro - Spanish conquistador who arrived in Peru in 1532 - Inca empire was politically unstable following a civil war - Pizarro took advantage of this weakness by capturing their ruler, Atahualpa, then executing him and other govt. officials - without rulers, Incas couldn't fight effectively - Spanish conquered Incas in 1535

Why were the Spanish conquistadors so successful in defeating the Aztecs and Incas?

1. advanced weapon technology
2. horses (they frightened the natives)
3. disease
4. Spanish won allies by playing on old hatreds among rival Indian groups

The Treatment of Native Americans

- in the 1500s, Spanish maintained strict control over their vast empire (stretched from California to South America) - most important of its five provinces were New Spain (Mexico) and Peru
- encomiendas - lands granted to Spanish settlers in the colonies - settlers would demand labor from any natives living on the land (many forced to work in silver mines in some areas) - those who refused to work were killed - disease, starvation and cruel treatment led to many deaths among natives
- Catholic missionaries (in the New World to convert the natives to Christianity) condemned this treatment of Indians
- Bartolome de Las Casas - Spanish missionary who protested the abuses and demanded that Spain focus on converting the natives
- New Laws of the Indies -1542 - illegal to enslave Indians, natives given right to own cattle and raise crops - Spain was too far away, couldn't effectively enforce the laws, abuses continued
- plantation - large estate operated by the landowner and farmed by workers living on it
- Las Casas - believed it was immoral to enslave Indians, so he suggested that Africans be imported to the New World (thought they could better withstand hard labor in the hot climate)

### The Slave Trade

- The Middle Passage - sea route from Africa to the Americas - slaves suffered brutal hardships on the voyage, many died of disease and malnutrition
- 1530s - Spanish began bringing Africa slaves to the Americas, led to great profits for the Spanish and the Portuguese in their colonies

### The Portuguese in Brazil

- natives, African slaves worked on sugar plantations
- discovery of emeralds and diamonds brought new Portuguese settlers to farm and trade

### **A Commercial Revolution in Europe**

capital - money used for investment

capitalist - person who invests in business in order to make a profit

charter - authorization that gave a trading company the exclusive right to trade in a particular area

domestic system - merchant paid peasants in the countryside to do work such as spinning and weaving, thus bypassing guild regulations

entrepreneur - merchant willing to take financial risks in the hope of making large profits

insurance - a guarantee against loss or harm

joint stock company - private trading company in which shares are sold to investors to finance business ventures

mercantilism - economic philosophy maintaining that a nation's economic strength depends on its gold and silver treasure - to build this supply, a nation should export more goods than it imports



