“New Worlds”: Americas and Oceania

- Transformation of Europe I
  (Economy, Religion and State)
6,613 mi
The Age of Exploration
Age of Exploration
Or Age of Conquest?
King Ferdinand II (1452-1516) & Isabella I (1451-1504)
Iberian Empires
15th to 17th centuries
Treaty of Tordesillas (tor-duh-See-yuhs) 1494

- Spanish authorities persuaded the pope to issue the treaty to give Spain the right to most of the Americas.

- Portuguese received Africa and Brazil.

Promise: to convert people to Christianity.
Early Spanish Colonialism

- Caribbean: “Hispaniola”

  Haiti and the
  The Dominican Republic
  1492 C.E.
  - Fort of Santa Domingo
  - No silk or spices.
  - Mining for gold.
Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)

- Not Asia’s eastern outskirts but new lands unknown to Europeans
- “New World”
- 1508 Vespucci is appointed as the chief navigator of Spain
- Standardizing navigation techniques
"I do not see what right any one would have to object to calling this part, after Americus who discovered it and who is a man of intelligence, Amerige, that is, the Land of Americus, or America: since both Europa and Asia got their names from women"
“Pre-Columbian America” & and new encounters
Taíno people of the Caribbean islands

- Communal: no real private property.
- Chief: Political Structure.
- *Encomienda* (pre-Americas):
  An institution for the recruitment of labor, which gave the Spanish, as the settlers, the right to force Taíno to work.
  - Punished the natives if rebelled.
  - Conversion to Christianity.

1515: beginnings in the decline of Taíno
1518: Disease reaches the Caribbean.
Spaniards considered Native Americans as

“naturally lazy and vicious, in general a lying, shiftless people [whose] chief desire is to eat, drink, heathen idols, and commit bestial obscenities.”
Role of Religion

- Missionaries converted native Americans: superficial Christianity, changing local gods into Christian saints.
- Sometimes changing their economic life too.
- Fray Junipero Serra (1713-1784) Required semi-nomadic people to live in towns.
1625, Indian writer in Peru

“In the mines, Indian women are made into concubines, daughters of Indian men are kidnapped. In the villages, [Spanish men convert] single women, married women, all women into prostitutes. Parish priests have concubines. There is no one who takes these women’s side.”
Bartolomé de las Casas (1474-1566)
Indians are Humans
1637 Jesuits in Uruguay armed the Indians to fight slave raiders
Hernán Cortés (1487-1547)

Conquest of Mexico (1518-1520)
Francisco Pizarro (1476-1541)
Battle of Cajamarca, Nov 16, 1532

- Atahualpa (1497–29 August 1533)
Atahualpa
(1497–29 August 1533)
Conquistadors
Horse
Greed?
Guns, Germs, and Steel
The Fates of Human Societies
Jared Diamond

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

"The scope and explanatory power of this book are astounding." — The New Yorker
“Accidental Conquerors”

1) Steel
2) Guns
3) Germs
Small Pox
1518

- Introduction of devastating epidemics.
- Spanish settlers would raid and enslave the Taíno, which spread disease and killed off more of the indigenous people.
1520’s Disease spreads
Small pox
Columbian Exchange

- The transportation of diseases, animals, and plants
  Between the hemispheres that resulted from European conquest and exploration.

--Native Americans: polio, hepatitis and tuberculosis and syphilis.
Hemispheric Epidemic

- 20 million people
- 90% died
Domesticated Animals & Disease
Eurasian Plagues
Geography
Limited contact

- Most inhabitants of Americas and, especially Oceania, did not interact with other peoples around the world.
- Aboriginal people of Australia
- Central and Western Pacific
  Had contact
Americas and Oceania

1) Inhabitants lived in societies that were much smaller.
2) Absence of metallurgical technologies, so not able to exploit the natural environment.
3) But they created sophisticated societies and developed elaborate religious traditions.
4) Pacific islands: agricultural and fishing societies.
5) Less lengthy travels and yet the ability to exploit their natural environments.
Absence of transportation technologies based on wheeled vehicles.
Americas

- Major imperial powers.
- Complex civilizations.
- Lack of organized army, but major military force.
- Created elaborate trade networks throughout most regions in the American continents.
Aztecs and other NeoClassic Cultures
1428-1521

Cultures
- Huasteca
- Totontepec
- Mixteca
- Zapoteca
- Chiapaneca
- Nahua Aztecs
- Other Nahua People
- Trincheras People
- Tarasco
Post-Teotihuacan (10th Century)

- Teotihuacan empire collapses in 8th century.
  - Toltecs: migrated in the 8th century.
  - Good agricultural lands: maize, peppers, tomatoes, chiles and cotton.
  - Urbanization: 60,000 population.
  - Tula: capital city.
  - Trade with the Maya of Yucatan.
  - 1175 Toltec state destroyed.
Mexica People

- Migrated from northwestern regions: Kidnapping and stealing other’s lands.
- Aztecs derive from Aztlan, “The place of the seven legendary caves” or the home of their ancestors.
- Tenochtitlan: an island in a marshy region of Lake Texcoco (Spanish later built Mexico City)
Mexica population

- Rigidly hierarchical.
- Militaristic society.
- Calpulli: clans or groups of families kinship ties through a common descent.

- Kinship society.
- Highly male-dominated.
- Priestly class.
- Artisans and merchants.
- Commoners and slaves.
Culture & Religion

- Ball game.
- Solar calendar (365 days)

Two Gods:
1) Quetzalcóatl: supporting arts, crafts and agriculture.
Huitzilopochtli: Sun-god
Patron deity in the 14th century for their success against neighboring people
Blood sacrifice

- Ritual sacrifice of humans:
  a) To appease the god.
  b) enemies; criminals.
  c) sustained the world and supply of moisture for the earth.
  d) Agricultural purposes: cultivate crops and make society permanent.
Aztec empire

- By 15th century: a powerful empire: mid-century, southwestern Mexico is conquered.
- No elaborate bureaucracy or administration.
- No military garrison.
- They attacked and they kept their subjects inline through fear.
- Tribute: more than 450 subject territories.
- 200,000 capital’s population (16th century).
Inca (1456-1535)

- Title of rulers of a small kingdom in the valley of Cuzco.
- Pachacuti (1438-1471) conquered southern and northern highlands.
- More centralized than Aztecs.
- 11.5 million population, the largest in Americas.
- Kidnapping tactic.
- Inca roads: Communication and trade.
Threads of small cords of various colors and lengths to help Inca bureaucrats and administrators keep track of information to run an orderly empire.
Pacific Islanders

- Sailed over the ocean.
- Created links between islands and the Australian mainland.
- By 1000 C.E. Polynesians inhabiting the larger Pacific Islands grew in size.
Oceania:

- regional contact zone

- Eastern versus Western Oceania.

- Regular trade did not emerge in eastern Pacific Ocean.

- Long-distance voyage: built productive agricultural and fishing societies.

- Tonga, Samoa and Fiji islanders traded and intermarried.

- Polynesian mariners traveled to south America. (300C.E)
What did Polynesian mariners learned from regions in the Western Coast of South America?
Maori population of New Zealand
12th and 13th century: Intermarriage (Tahiti and Hawai‘i).
Social order & Encounter

- Self-sufficient societies.
- Hierarchical and hereditary chiefly rulers
- Limited amounts of land, by 13th century, they had created well-organized agricultural and fishing societies and states run by chiefs.
- Strengthened chiefly states and allowed them to establish much more harmonious relations.
Two-way voyaging between Tahiti and Hawaii

“[After returning to Tahiti, then sailing again to Hawaii, La’amaikahiki] set sail again, going up the Kona coast (of Hawaii island)… It was on this visit that La’amaikahiki introduced hula dancing, accompanied by the drum, to Hawaii… La’amaikahiki stayed a long time on Kaua’I teaching the people the art of dancing. From Kauai’I La’amaikahiki visited all the other islands of this group and thus the drum dance (hula Ka’eke) spread to the other islands.”
Hula dancing
Overpopulation

- Fish ponds (14\textsuperscript{th} century)
  Rock-enclosed spaces
- Population on the rise by the 14\textsuperscript{th} century
- 18\textsuperscript{th} century, Hawaii 500,000 population
- Environmental impact
IMpact

1) Specialization of work (crops, fishing, axes, canoes).
2) Stratification of society (Tonga, Tahiti, and Hawaii)
3) Political order: Chiefly states, expanding through conquest of other islands.
   ○ Ali’i nui
Europeans arrive (16th and 18th centuries)
“Unknown southern land” & Pacific Islands

- Portuguese mariners in 1520s
- Dutch sailors first recorded the southern continent (1606)
- “New Holland”
- New Guinea and Tasmania (mid-17th century)
- 1521 Ferdinand Magellan land Guam and northern Mariana Islands
1670s and 1680s

- Mariana Islands and the New Spain in Mexico
- Subject the Chamorro people
- Smallpox epidemic (1688)
- Reduced population
  From 50,000 to 5,000
James Cook (1728-1779)
Venereal diseases
STD

- Sailors and island women
Penal colony 1778
European Whalers in the Pacific Islands