

1. [TITLE]

2. [ANNOUNCEMENTS]

A. CHANGED OFFICE HOURS

3. [HOOK: MAPS] Ptolemy map

A. People represent the “entire” world, but it ends up being just the piece relevant to them.

B. [MUSLIM WORLD] note that “south” is at the top

C. [Europe, 1350]

D. [CHINA]

i. Europe is extreme west end.

E. [1507 European]

i. Early representation of the Americas

F. [1662 Europe]

i. The world has become an interdependent global system.

ii. This had massive repercussions for global power

iii. Spread of ideas, plants, animals, diseases, commodities

iv. TODAY: we will explore that world.

9. [Overview]

A. NOTE: much of the lecture today will happen at the 30,000 foot level, talking about BIG processes

B. A note on terminology of “new world” vs. “Old world” (generally I’ll use Americas).

i. “New World” as a term emerged in the early 16th century, and as a historical term has the useful sense that people viewed this not simply as a new place, but as an entirely new world of people, plants, animals and ideas.

ii. Generally I’ll refer to the Americas, though old and new world are often used terms.

[Settlement slide]

A. Humans arrived in North America about 25 to 35,000 thousand years ago.

i. The Ice age had created massive glaciers and ice caps that lowered the sea to create a land bridge.

ii. People moved back and forth across this bridge, though this is a matter of debate: some people now say genetic evidence suggests people lived in relative isolation in the area of the land bridge for a long time (separate from other asian populatoins)

iii. These people populated the Americas.

iv. Roughly 10,000 years ago, the land bridge closed, cutting off the people of the americas and they developed hundreds of societies, languages, and cultures.

A. Maybe 2,000 languages

B. HUGELY DISPUTED, but perhaps 50million people lived in the two continents before columbus' arrival

i. Mostly in South/Central America, 5-10million in North America (well, north of the aztecs!)

V. Vikings visited newfoundland in 1,000 CE or so, but didn't stay permanent.

(Fake historical artifacts—> Minnesota rune stone)

[Early navigation]

A. Why were europeans trying to get around? TRADE —> making money

B. They had land routes to asia, but this was expensive and slow, so everyone wanted a sea route

C. Problem: sailing technology wasn't quite there before 15th century.

i. Also they need good compass technology and clocks are VERY important

D. In 1450, the Portuguese developed the caravel, which could sail into the wind (to an extent) and they figured out an efficient wind system for getting around the atlantic (particularly down into africa and then northwest's toward the azores).

i. Now they traded slaves with Africa and began setting up plantations on the coastal islands of the atlantic (madeira, canara islands), giving them experience w/ settler-colonialism

[Columbus]

A. Christopher Columbus, born in Genoa (Italy) was a kind of sea-farer explorer for hire (good career path back in the day).

B. Catholic monarchs of spain bankroll his voyage in 1492.

C. Was looking for a cheap and faster route to the east

[Columbus landing]

A. At sea for six weeks, starting to panic, but they sight land! End up in the bahamas. (Unlcear exactly what island)

B. UNTIL HIS death, he insisted he'd found part of asia.

C. He has this to say about indiginous people: **“They willingly traded everything they owned.... They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features.... They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane.... They would make fine servants.... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”**

D. LOTS OF VOYAGES FOLLOW (columbus returns four times)

[Columbus day debate]

A. “Columbus Day” is a federal holiday in the US. He's particularly celebrated by Italian-

Americans (see: Sopranos)

B. People often protest this and oppose it, in fact many cities have replaced Columbus day with a “World Indigenous peoples day.”

C. But what about some holiday marking this process or moment, should there be a holiday? **[DISCUSSION SLIDE]**

[Discussion]

A. YOUR THOUGHTS?

[Spanish conquest] GOD & PRIVATE INVESTMENT

A. Conquistadors were pretty much private armies raised from investment and approved by the king.

B. Converting the indigenous peoples!

C. Disease is a big part of the success, but more on that later.

D. Big egos: one “conquistador” (translation: CONQUERORS) reached the Pacific ocean in 1513 and claimed EVERYTHING that touched the ocean for the King of Spain.

E. Winning formula: HORSES + gunpowder + disease enabled roughly 1,000 spanish troops to conquer most of south and central america.

[Aztec conquest]

A. In 1519, Hernan Cortes sets off on an expedition to southern Mexico, he knows about political unrest which will make the job easier.

i. When his troops are wary of the expedition Cortes (supposedly) BURNS his ships so that he can't return

B. Cortes wants the aztec capital of Tenochtitlan (roughly 200-300,000 people, one of the largest cities in the world at the time). Today mexico city, still a major global population center.

[TENOCHTITLAN SLIDE]

C. Montezuma tried appeasement, but the greedy conquistadors were not to be pleased. One aztec said: **“they thirsted mightily for gold...they starved for it...they lusted for it like pigs.”**

D. Spaniards driven from the city in 1520, Cortes lays siege to the city for months and is finally successful in 1521, during a smallpox epidemic. The city is essentially razed and replaced with a catholic city (Mexico city).

E. Cortes survives other campaigns and eventually makes it back to spain. Now he's rich but facing law suits from many of his soldiers and investors. Though he died peacefully.

[Incan conquest]

A. Modern day peru Image: Felipe Huaman Poma de Ayala (indigenous south american artist after conquest (condemned spanish abuses).

B. Incas have an amazing empire (largest in the Americas at the time)

i. Impressive administrative, political, and military system

ii. Huge network of roads.

C. Inca had been going through political chaos following the death of Huayna Capac in 1528 (prob from smallpox)

i. War for succession ensues between Huascar and Atahualpa

D. Francisco Pizarro has heard about how much silver the Inca have and attacks the empire in 1532.

E. They ambush and capture Atahualpa (who has just essentially won a civil war)

F. Pizzaro essentially installs a puppet and gains control.

G. BUT THEN, there is infighting and chaos among the conquistadors for control of the empire. (Pizarro and rivals all killed, but Spain gains control of empire)

H. The point: conquest enabled by political chaos caused by disease.

I. Gain control of MASSIVE SILVER MINES that give so much wealth it actually disrupts the global economic system (more below)

[Early European power in the Americas]

A. So the dominant early powers in the Americas are Spain and Portugal. Portugal dominated the early Atlantic

B. Note: they dominate central/south america into today's American southwest.

C. They actually create a catholic treaty dividing the "heathen lands" of the new world. The treaty of Tordesillas.

i. Other european powers pretty much ignore it, but Spanish and Portuguese power is real.

ii. Other europeans avoid the areas they control, which is why the British settle what becomes British north america (and the french FUR TRAPPERS are up in Canada as well).

D. An irony: following this period both Spain and Portugal go into decline, perhaps victims of early success.

[Columbian exchange]

A. Transition slide.

B. One note on this: think of the way the differences of plants and animals shocked people. They assumed that plants and animals were (pretty much) the same in most places. They also wondered how animals plants and people got the americas, if the bible was accurate.

[Animals]

A. Domesticated animals quite limited in the americas

i. Some dogs, llamas in south america, guinea pigs in south, and some semi-domesticated fowl.

ii. NO horse, or real beast of burden

B. Animals THRIVE, from a tiny population of swine abandoned in Cuba (people abandoned animals on island to come back to food), almost 30,000 animals within a few years,

one spaniard described as “**more pigs than I ever saw before in my life.**”

i. Swine helped enable the conquistadors: pigs adapted well to the environment and were brought alongside spanish armies to provide food.

ii. Sheep thrive so well in the Southwest of today’s US that they nearly convert the land to desert permanently.

C. KEY POINT OF THIS SLIDE: DOMESTICATED ANIMALS made it possible for european powers to take root in the americas as they provided for and power.

D. Domesticated animals will reconfigure the kinds of societies possible in the americas.

E. Spanish try to control horses at first, but in 1680, a revolt of the Pueblo people steal many horses and they enter into great plains trading networks in the USA.

i. Indian societies reorient around the horses, completely changes how they live.

[BUFFALO SLIDE]

F. [Europeans draw buffalo]

[Plants]

A. American peoples did not have as many domesticated animals, but they were MASTERS of plant-based agriculture.

i. They domesticate most of the key global crops, particularly corn around 5,000 BC.

ii. Also non-food plants: tobacco, rubber, etc.

B. Remakes global cuisine: think about the spread of hot peppers.

C. VERY calorically dense food [TABLE SLIDE]

i. More importantly: the new world crops are hardy and can grow on more marginal soil.

D. New World crops makes european demographic growth possible

i. European population DOUBLES between 1650 and 1800, despite millions of people leaving for the americas.

[Disease: smallpox]

A. Underpins european conquest.

B. Smallpox as a disease was unknown in the Americas and it spread rapidly throughout all indigenous populations (even ahead of european peoples).

i. Killed a third or half of those infected.

C. Known as a “virgin soil epidemic.” People had no resistance.

D. The scale of smallpox epidemics throughout the Americas created power vacuums as leaders of communities and polities would die, causing local wars that weakened societies in advance of european arrival. When the Incan leader Huayna Capac unexpectedly died, civil war ensued, which weakened the empire in advance of conquest.

i. Massive smallpox epidemic hit the Aztec capital shortly before the arrival of

cortes (when he returned with an army) and seriously weakened the city

E. French jesuit report in Canada: “[indians] are astonished and often complain that, since the French mingle with and carry on trade with them, they are dying fast and the population is thinning out. For they assert that, before this association and intercourse, all their countries were very populous and they tell how one by one the different coasts, according as they have begun to traffic with us, have been more reduced by disease.”

F. As many as 90% of indigenous americans would die from eurasian disease. Unparalleled in human history. Maybe 20 million? Though these numbers are so insanely large it is hard to say; killed tens, possibly hundreds, of millions of people in the 20th century

G. Bartolome de las Casas, a reform minded dominican wrote in the 16th century: “Who of those in future centuries will believe this? I myself who am writing this and saw it and know the most about it can hardly believe that such was possible.”

[Disease: syphilis]

0. STD that untreated stays with the person with periodic flare-ups. Creates pustules, sores, and later, tumors, nose deformation, dementia, and death.

i. No effective treatment at the time; mercury was used but often fatal.

ii. This is a prosthetic nose: consider this my safe-sex warning slide.

A. Syphilis emerges in Europe around 1493. Sexually transmitted, and without a theory to explain how disease spread, it goes all over europe.

B. How do we know? People start talking about it then, also syphilis causes damage to bones, and we don't see any evidence before columbus (in europe).

C. Starts to spread VERY rapidly during times of war, particularly in Italy in the mid 1490s, this is due to the prevalence of sexual violence.

[Syphilis debate]

A. TURNS OUT THOUGH WE CANT BE SURE ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF SYPHILIS.

i. One theory is that perhaps it simply emerged at the same time, because our evidence is quite limited of similar diseases.

B. Medicine, genetics, history —> interdisciplinary research and debate.

C. Why do we care?

i. Historians:

ii. Doctors: helps us understand epidemics, spread of disease (vectors), genetic history, etc.

[SPECIE]

A. Huge amounts of silver come from mines in Potosi in Bolivia (one of the highest elevation cities in the world, 13,000 feet).

B. Indian slave labor pulling seemingly unending amounts of silver out of the mines for hundreds of years.

C. The Spanish are making HUGE amounts of money, but its actually SO much that prices worldwide start to inflate, since previous amounts of silver buy less and less.

i. Allows commercial banking to take off in europe and investment (origins f capitalism?)

ii. Prices increase almost 500 percent over a hundred years.

[Discussion: european dominance]

1. YOUR THOUGHTS?

[Early British empire]

A. Since the Spanish dominate so much of the world, the British decide to set up on the coast of north america, first around Virginia (mid-atlantic)

B. Under Elizabeth I, rules 1558-1603, the english navy is improving and beginning to exert control in the Atlantic

i. 1588 Spanish Armada defeated, england begins to rule the waves. (England had longer-range and more favorable weather) <—**this battle is more important than I initially realized; explains british empire’s emergence.**

ii. Elizabeth I really important, watch the two movies. (Not the most accurate though, but good)

C. Early imperial power: COLONIAL RULE OF CATHOLIC IRELAND!

D. In 1585, they had established a colony in Virginia named Roanoke Colony. First british person borne in NA: Virginia Dare.

i. During the Anglo-spanish war they lose connection with the colony and when people make it back EVERYONE HAS DISAPPEARED!

ii. Everything is taken down gone. Just the word “Croatan” carved on a fence. They never saw any of the roughly 100 colonists again, though they heard stories of Native Americans with blue eyes(!).

E. England still wants its own route to the indies and a foothold in the new world so it creates a joint-stock company (a bit like an early corporation, it has shareholders) called the Virginia company.

D. Establish the colony of Jamestown in 1607, and its the first permanent foothold.

i. Nearly all starve during the “starving time” in 1609-1610, 3/4 of colonists die of disease and starvation

ii. George Percy wrote that they felt "the sharpe pricke of hunger which noe man trewly descrybe butt he which hathe tasted the bitternesse thereof."

iii. There had been war with local Native Americans and a siege, colonists had t eat anything they could, including (possibly) cannibalism.

[Conclusions]

[Key terms/dates]

[Further reading]

[Next week]