

CHAPTER 1

New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C.–A.D. 1769

PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Describe the geological and geographical conditions that set the stage for North American history.
2. Describe the origin and development of the major Indian cultures of the Americas.
3. Explain the developments in Europe and Africa that led to Columbus's voyage to America.
4. Explain the changes and conflicts that occurred when the diverse worlds and peoples of Europe, Africa, and the Americas collided after 1492.
5. Describe the Spanish conquest of Mexico and South America, and of the later Spanish colonial expansion into North America.
6. Describe the major features of Spain's New World Empire, including relations with the native Indian populations.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **nation-state** The form of political society that combines centralized government with a high degree of ethnic and cultural unity. “. . . the complex, large-scale, centralized Aztec and Incan nation-states that eventually emerged.”
2. **matrilinear** The form of society in which family line, power, and wealth are passed primarily through the female side. “. . . many North American native peoples, including the Iroquois, developed matrilinear cultures. . . .”
3. **confederacy** An alliance or league of nations or peoples looser than a federation. “The Iroquois Confederacy developed the political and organizational skills. . . .”
4. **primeval** Concerning the earliest origin of things. “. . . the whispering, primeval forests. . . .”
5. **saga** A lengthy story or poem recounting the great deeds and adventures of a people and their heroes. “. . . their discovery was forgotten, except in Scandinavian saga and song.”
6. **middlemen** In trading systems, those dealers who operate between the original buyers and the retail merchants who sell to consumers. “Muslim middlemen exacted a heavy toll en route.”
7. **caravel** A small vessel with a high deck and three triangular sails. “. . . they developed the caravel, a ship that could sail more closely into the wind. . . .”
8. **plantation** A large-scale agricultural enterprise growing commercial crops and usually employing coerced or slave labor. “They built up their own systematic traffic in slaves to work the sugar plantations. . . .”

9. **ecosystem** A naturally evolved network of relations among organisms in a stable environment. “Two ecosystems . . . commingled and clashed when Columbus waded ashore.”
10. **demographic** Concerning the general characteristics of a given population, including such factors as numbers, age, gender, birth and death rates, and so on. “. . . a demographic catastrophe without parallel in human history.”
11. **conquistador(es)** A Spanish conqueror or adventurer in the Americas. “Spanish *conquistadores* (conquerors) fanned out across . . . American continents.”
12. **capitalism** An economic system characterized by private property, free trade, and open and accessible markets. “. . . the fuel that fed the growth of the economic system known as capitalism.”
13. **encomienda** The Spanish labor system in which persons were held to unpaid service under the permanent control of their masters, though not legally owned by them. “. . . the institution known as *encomienda*.”
14. **mestizo** A person of mixed Native American and European ancestry. “. . . the new race of *mestizos* formed a cultural and biological bridge. . . .”
15. **province** A medium-sized subunit of territory and governmental administration within a larger nation or empire. “They proclaimed the area to be the province of New Mexico. . . .”

PART II: CHECKING YOUR PROGRESS

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, circle **T**; where it is false, circle **F**.

1. T F The geography of the North American continent was fundamentally shaped by the advance and retreat of glaciers during the Great Ice Age.
2. T F Native peoples of northeast Asia continued to migrate across the land bridge from Siberia to Alaska until the time of Columbus.
3. T F The early Indian civilizations of Mexico and Peru were built on the economic foundations of cattle herding and wheat growing.
4. T F Most American Indians north of Mexico lived in small, seminomadic agricultural and hunting communities.
5. T F Many Indian cultures like the Iroquois traced descent and passed possessions through the female line.
6. T F No Europeans had ever set foot on the American continents prior to Columbus’s arrival in 1492.
7. T F A primary motive for the European voyages of discovery was the desire to find a less expensive route to Asian luxury goods and markets.
8. T F African slavery first developed in the aftermath of the Spanish conquest of the Americas.
9. T F Columbus immediately recognized in 1492 that he had come across vast new continents previously unknown to Europeans.
10. T F The greatest effect of the European intrusion into the Americas was to increase the Indian and *mestizo* population through intermarriage with the whites.

11. T F The primary cause of the massive population decline among native Americans after the European arrival was not warfare but disease.
12. T F The Spanish *conquistadores* had little to do with the native peoples of Mexico and refused to intermarry with them.
13. T F The Spanish were able to defeat the Aztecs because the Aztecs had no experience with a sophisticated, urban civilization.
14. T F Spain expanded its empire north into Florida and Texas partly to block French ambitions and protect their Caribbean Sea lanes.
15. T F The Spanish Empire in the New World was larger, richer, and longer-lasting than that later established by the English.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

1. The geologically oldest mountains in North America are the
 - a. Appalachians.
 - b. Rockies.
 - c. Cascades.
 - d. Sierra Nevada.
 - e. Ozarks.
2. The Indian peoples of the Americas
 - a. developed no advanced forms of civilization.
 - b. migrated by boat from the South Pacific region about 10,000 B.C.
 - c. were under the control of the two large empires of the Incas and the Aztecs.
 - d. relied primarily on nomadic hunting for their sustenance.
 - e. were divided into many diverse cultures speaking more than two thousand different languages.
3. Which of the following was *not* among the ancient Indian cultures established in North America prior to 1300 A.D.?
 - a. The Incas
 - b. The Pueblos
 - c. The Anasazis
 - d. The Mississippian culture (Cahokia)
 - e. The Mound Builders
4. One of the important factors that first stimulated European interest in trade and discovery was
 - a. the Christian crusaders who brought back a taste for the silks and spices of Asia.
 - b. the Arab slave traders on the east coast of Africa.
 - c. the Scandinavian sailors who had kept up continuous trade contacts with North America.
 - d. the division of Spain into small kingdoms competing for wealth and power.
 - e. Copernicus's discovery that the earth revolved around the sun.
5. Among the most important American Indian products or discoveries to spread to the Old World were
 - a. animals such as buffalo and horses.
 - b. technologies such as the compass and the wheel.
 - c. clothing such as buckskin and beaver fur hats.
 - d. foodstuffs such as corn, beans, and tomatoes.
 - e. methods of calculating time such as the lunar calendar and the sundial.

6. The primary staples of Indian agriculture before the European arrival were
 - a. potatoes, beets, and sugar cane.
 - b. rice, sweet potatoes, and peanuts.
 - c. fruit, nuts, and honey.
 - d. wheat, oats, and barley.
 - e. corn, beans, and squash.
7. The number of Indians in North America at the time Columbus arrived was approximately
 - a. one million.
 - b. four million.
 - c. twenty million.
 - d. one hundred and fifty million.
 - e. three hundred million.
8. Before Columbus arrived, the only Europeans known to have visited North America, temporarily, were the
 - a. Greeks.
 - b. Irish.
 - c. Norse.
 - d. Italians.
 - e. Portuguese.
9. Even before the discovery of the Americas, Portugal became the first nation to enter the slave trade and establish large-scale plantations using slave labor in
 - a. West Africa.
 - b. the Mediterranean islands of Sardinia and Sicily.
 - c. the West Indies.
 - d. Brazil.
 - e. the sugar islands off the coast of Africa.
10. Much of the impetus for Spanish exploration and pursuit of glory in the early 1500s came from Spain's recent
 - a. successful wars with England.
 - b. national unification and expulsion of the Muslim Moors.
 - c. voyages of discovery along the coast of Africa.
 - d. conversion to Roman Catholicism.
 - e. founding of the Jesuit order by the Spanish soldier Ignatius Loyola.
11. A crucial political development that paved the way for the European colonization of America was the
 - a. rise of Italian city-states like Venice and Genoa.
 - b. feudal nobles' political domination of the merchant class.
 - c. rise of the centralized national monarchies such as those of Spain, Portugal, and France.
 - d. political alliance between the Christian papacy and Muslim Arab traders.
 - e. decline of religious conflict between Roman Catholics and Protestants.
12. The primary reason for the drastic decline in the Indian population after the encounter with the Europeans was the
 - a. rise of intertribal warfare.
 - b. destruction of major Indian cities and their dispersal into small, nomadic groups.
 - c. sharp decline in the Indian birthrate due to the killing of Indian males by the Europeans.
 - d. sudden introduction of the deadly disease syphilis to the New World.
 - e. Indians' lack of resistance to European diseases such as smallpox and malaria.

13. Cortés and his men were able to conquer the Aztec capital Tenochtitlán partly because
 - a. they had larger forces than the Aztecs.
 - b. the Aztec ruler Montezuma believed that Cortés was a god whose return had been predicted.
 - c. the Aztecs were a peaceful people with no experience of war or conquest.
 - d. the city of Tenochtitlán already had been devastated by a disease epidemic.
 - e. Cortes was able to bribe many Aztec warriors to betray their people.
14. The flood of gold and silver from Spain's New World Empire into Europe after 1500 played a large role in the
 - a. rise of capitalism and modern merchant banking.
 - b. Protestant Reformation.
 - c. development of an industrial working class.
 - d. expansion of the jewelry industry.
 - e. development of a modern system of precious metal currency.
15. The belief that the Spanish only killed, tortured, and stole in the Americas, while contributing nothing good, is called the
 - a. *encomienda*.
 - b. Inquisition.
 - c. Evil Empire.
 - d. *conquistadore* thesis.
 - e. Black Legend.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

1. _____ Extended period when glaciers covered most of the North American continent
2. _____ Staple crop that formed the economic foundation of Indian civilizations
3. _____ Important ancient Anasazi Indian center in New Mexico that included a pueblo of six hundred interconnected rooms
4. _____ First European nation to send explorers around the west coast of Africa
5. _____ Flourishing West African kingdom that had a major Islamic university in the city of Timbuktu
6. _____ The two smaller kingdoms that were united by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to create the powerful nation of Spain
7. _____ Animal introduced to North America by Europeans that transformed the Indian way of life on the Great Plains
8. _____ Name *one* of the major European diseases that devastated Native American populations after 1492
9. _____ Sexually transmitted disease originating in the Americas that was transmitted and spread among Europeans after 1492
10. _____ Treaty of 1492 that aimed to divide all of the Americas between Spain and Portugal
11. _____ Wealthy and populous capital of the Aztec empire
12. _____ Term for a person of mixed European and Indian ancestry

13. _____ A major Pueblo uprising of 1680 caused by Spanish efforts to suppress the Indians' religious practices
14. _____ Spanish term for the night of June 30, 1520, when war began between Aztecs and Spanish, leading to Spanish conquest of Mexico
15. _____ Roman Catholic religious order of friars that organized a chain of missions in California

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. _____ Ferdinand and Isabella | a. Female Indian slave who served as interpreter for Cortés |
| 2. _____ Hernan Cortés and Francisco Pizarro | b. Legendary founder of the powerful Iroquois Confederacy |
| 3. _____ Lake Bonneville | c. Wealthy capital of the Aztec empire |
| 4. _____ Días and da Gama | d. Financiers and beneficiaries of Columbus's voyages to the New World |
| 5. _____ Christopher Columbus | e. Portuguese navigators who sailed around the African coast |
| 6. _____ Malinche | f. Dominican friar who sympathized with Indians and protested cruel Spanish policies in the New World |
| 7. _____ Moctezuma | g. Founded in 1565, the oldest continually inhabited European settlement in United States territory |
| 8. _____ Hiawatha | h. Italian-born navigator sent by English to explore North American coast in 1498 |
| 9. _____ Tenochtitlán | i. Italian-born explorer who thought that he had arrived off the coast of Asia rather than on unknown continents |
| 10. _____ St. Augustine | j. Powerful Aztec monarch who fell to Spanish conquerors |
| 11. _____ Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) | k. Spanish conquerors of great Indian civilizations |
| 12. _____ Junipero Serra | l. Franciscan missionary who settled California |
| 13. _____ Bartolome de Las Casas | m. Inland sea left by melting glaciers whose remnant is the Great Salt Lake |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

1. _____ The wealthy Aztec civilization falls to Cortés.
2. _____ Portuguese navigators sail down the west coast of Africa.

3. _____ The first human inhabitants cross into North America from Siberia across a temporary land bridge.
4. _____ Coronado explores present-day American Southwest.
5. _____ Spanish conquerors move into the Rio Grande valley of New Mexico.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
1. ____ The Great Ice Age	a. Rapid expansion of global economic commerce and manufacturing
2. ____ Cultivation of corn (maize)	b. European voyages around Africa and across the Atlantic attempting to reach Asia
3. ____ New sailing technology and desire for spices	c. Establishment of Spanish settlements in Florida and New Mexico
4. ____ Portugal's creation of sugar plantations on Atlantic coastal islands	d. Exposure of a land bridge between Asia and North America
5. ____ Columbus's first encounter with the New World	e. Formation of a chain of mission settlements in California
6. ____ Native Americans' lack of immunity to smallpox, malaria, and yellow fever	f. A global exchange of animals, plants, and diseases
7. ____ The Spanish conquest of large quantities of New World gold and silver	g. The formation of large, sophisticated civilizations in Mexico and South America
8. ____ Aztec legends of a returning god, Quetzalcoatl	h. Cortés's relatively easy conquest of Tenochtitlán
9. ____ The Spanish need to protect Mexico against French and English encroachment	i. A decline of 90 percent in the New World Indian population
10. ____ Franciscan friars' desire to convert Pacific coast Indians to Catholicism	j. The rapid expansion of the African slave trade

G. Developing Historical Skills

Connecting History with Geology and Geography

Because human history takes place across the surface of the earth, both the physical science of geology and the social science of geography are important to historians. Answer the following questions about the geological and geographical setting of North American history.

1. What are the two major mountain chains that border the great mid-continental basin drained by the Mississippi River system?

8 Chapter 1: New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C.–A.D. 1769

2. What great geological event explains the formation of the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River system, the Columbia-Snake River system, and Great Salt Lake?
3. How did this same geological event isolate the human population of the Americas from that of Asia?
4. Given the original geographical origins of the Indian populations, in which direction did their earliest migrations across North America occur: from southeast to north and west, from southwest to north and east, or from northwest to south and east?

H. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 1, answer the following questions.

1. *Chronological Chart*: The American Declaration of Independence occurred exactly 169 years between what other two major events in American history?
2. *The First Discoverers of America*: When the first migrants crossed the Bering Land Bridge from Siberia to North America, approximately how many miles did they have to walk before they were south of the large ice caps to either side of the only open route?
 - a. 200 miles
 - b. 500 miles
 - c. 2000 miles
 - d. 3000 miles
3. *North American Indian Peoples at the Time of First Contact with Europeans*: List five Indian tribes that lived in each of the following regions of North America:
 - a. Southwest
 - b. Great Plains
 - c. Northeast
 - d. Southeast

4. *Trade Routes with the East:* In the early European trading routes with Asia and the East Indies, what one common destination could be reached by the Middle Route, the Southern route, and da Gama's ocean route?
 - a. Constantinople
 - b. Persia
 - c. China
 - d. India

5. *Principal Early Spanish Explorations and Conquests:* Of the principal Spanish explorers—Columbus, Balboa, de León, Cortés, Pizarro, de Soto, and Coronado—which four *never* visited the territory or territorial waters of the land that eventually became part of the United States?

6. *Spain's North American Frontier, 1542–1823:*
 - a. What were the two easternmost Spanish settlements on the northern frontier of Spanish Mexico?
 - b. About how many years was Mission San Antonio founded before the first Spanish settlements in California?
 - (1) 10
 - (2) 25
 - (3) 50
 - (4) 100

7. *Principal Voyages of Discovery:*
 - a. Who was the first explorer of the Pacific Ocean?
 - b. According to the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, about how much of North America was allotted to the Portuguese?
 - (1) one-half
 - (2) one-third
 - (3) one-tenth
 - (4) none

Map Challenge

Using the text and the map on p. 9 of *North American Indian Peoples at the Time of First Contact with Europeans*, write a brief essay describing the geographical distributions of the more dense North American Indian populations at the time of European arrival. Include some discussion of why certain regions were densely populated and others less so.

PART III: APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED*

1. How did the geographic setting of North America—including its relation to Asia, Europe, and Africa—affect its subsequent history?
2. What were the common characteristics of all Indian cultures in the New World, and what were the important differences among them?
3. What fundamental factors drew the Europeans to the exploration, conquest, and settlement of the New World?
4. What was the impact on the Indians, Europeans, and Africans when each of their previously separate worlds collided with one another?
5. What were the greatest achievements of Spain's New World Empire, and what were its greatest evils and disasters?
6. Should the European encounter with the Indian peoples of the Americas be understood primarily as a story of conquest and exploitation, or as one of mutual cultural encounter that brought beneficial as well as tragic results for both?

* Space is provided at the end of each chapter for answering the essay questions. Students needing more room should answer on separate sheets of paper.