

Chapter 13 Review:

Political Transformations: Empires and Encounters, 1450-1750¹

AP World History Key Concepts –

4.1: Globalizing Networks of Communication and Exchange

- V. The new connections between the Eastern and Western hemispheres resulted in the Columbian Exchange.
- VI. The increase in interactions between newly connected hemispheres and intensification of connections within hemispheres expanded the spread and reform of existing religions and created syncretic belief systems and practices.

Focus Questions: Refer to 'Period 4 Key Concepts and Focus Questions' Handout

One of the most important changes in human history was the connection of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres; it allowed people, plants, animals, technology, and culture to move freely from one part of the world to another, often with extreme consequences for the receiving region. Food (such as corn and potatoes) from the Americas allowed populations to rise in Eurasia and helped mitigate the population loss due to the slave trade in Africa. Plants and animals from the Eastern Hemisphere changed the Americas, where there were often no local competitors. In addition, the Europeans often set up plantations where single crops were grown for export, eliminating biodiversity.

More than just plants and livestock made the journey across the Atlantic; humans arrived with their diseases and their cultures. Native Americans had little immunity to Eurasian diseases such as measles or smallpox, and in some areas, nearly 90 percent of the population died within a hundred years of European arrival. Western Europeans came to settle, to get rich, or to convert natives to Christianity, often while exploiting the labor of Native Americans in mines and fields. Africans were imported as slave labor when the "great dying" left few Native Americans to work in lucrative plantations growing sugar or cotton. Europeans promoting Christianity suppressed the beliefs of Native Americans and African slaves, but in many regions (especially those with high populations before the conquest, such as Mexico and the Andes), Christianity blended some of the local traditions to create new practices.

AP World History Key Concepts –

4.2: New Forms of Social Organization and Modes of Production

- I. Traditional peasant agriculture increased and changed, plantations expanded, and demand for labor increased. These changes both fed and responded to growing global demand for raw materials and finished products.
- II. As new social and political elites changed, they also restructured new ethnic, racial, and gender hierarchies.

Focus Questions: Refer to 'Period 4 Key Concepts and Focus Questions' Handout

Most people still made their livings as agricultural laborers in various forms, ranging from serfdom in Russia, to peasant farmers in China, to people bound by the *encomienda* in Spanish America, to African slaves in the sugar plantations of Brazil and the Caribbean. Agricultural laborers more frequently worked to create products (such as sugar, tea, and tobacco) for global markets, not to produce food for themselves and local markets. In addition, demands for furs led to new exploitation of the environment in North America and Siberia.

In the Americas, new social orders emerged based on the blending of peoples from the Americas with those from Africa and Europe. For example, while pure Europeans were at the top of the social class system in Spanish colonies, people of mixed race—European and Indian or European and Africa—were accepted as racially mixed and identified in different groups (*mestizos* or *mulattoes*). In the British North American and Caribbean colonies, in contrast, strict racial attitudes led to people of mixed race being classified as black if they had any African ancestry. Women among the conquered indigenous people tended to fare even worse than men—in addition to harsh labor requirements, they often had to submit to the advances of European men. The same was true for African women imported as slaves, but they suffered even further in that their families could be broken up and their children could be sold.

¹ Adapted from *Strive for a 5 for Ways of the Word: A Global History with Sources*. N.p.: Bedford/St. Martins, 2013. Print.

AP World History Key Concepts –

4.3: State Consolidation and Imperial Expansion

- I. Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power.
- II. Imperial expansion relied on the increased use of gunpowder, cannons, and armed trade to establish large empires in both hemispheres.
- III. Competition over trade routes, state rivalries, and local resistance all provided significant challenges to state consolidation and expansion.

The era from 1450 to 1750 has often been called the age of gunpowder empires – such as the Mughal Empire, Ottoman Empire, Russian Empire, and Qing China – used their superior militaries and weapons, including cannons, to expand their empires over their neighbors. Western European states, starting with Spain and Portugal and continuing with France, England, and Holland, used superior military technology to acquire overseas empires in the Americas. These European states adapted ships to carry cannons, which allowed them to dominate sea trade, especially in the Indian Ocean. Cannon and gunpowder also helped European states overpower both the Aztec and Inca empires and more loosely populated regions in North America and Central Asia.

The conquests were also furthered by the spread of pathogens that nearly annihilated the peoples of the Americas and the small, isolated tribes in Siberia. For the first time, states ruled over vast territories that were separated by oceans from the “mother country,” requiring new methods of governance. In Spanish and Portuguese colonies, rule was directly tied to the mother country. In settler colonies like British North America, somewhat more local governments took place under charters granted by the king for particular groups, such as the Puritans, Catholics, or Quakers. In the Americas, indigenous governments were eradicated and replaced by European governors and European laws, conducted by European court in European languages.

Eurasia saw the last surge of the pastoralist empires (the Mughal, Ottoman, and Qing dynasties all traced their ancestry to the steppes). At the same time, the Russian Empire, recently freed from Mongol rule, expanded into Siberia and the tundra regions to the north (as well as south and west from Moscow), subjugating nomadic hunters and herders and replacing their sparse populations with ethnic Russians. The Qing dynasty annexed the steppes from the south, as well as Tibet and Muslim groups on the feared nomadic peoples into their empires and divided the old Silk Roads—one of the factors leading to the over land route’s demise as the major east-west trade route. These empires all developed varying methods of incorporating people of different ethnic and religious groups into their empires.

Social Development and Transformation of Social Structures	
Political State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict	
Interactions Between Humans and the Environment	
Culture Development and Interaction of Cultures	
Economics Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems	