

MR. JOHNSTON'S APUS HISTORY

# **Study Guide Chapter 2**

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## Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings

*In this chapter, we learned about European exploration and expansion, including the discovery of the New World. Settlements and colonies are set up by European powers, which began to affect the Native Americans already living on the continent.*

Christopher Columbus, an Italian who travelled across the Atlantic for the Spanish monarchs Queen Isabella I of Castille and Ferdinand II of Aragon, was using outdated maps and calculations during his quest. Searching for a trade route to India, Columbus' faulty calculations landed him on the continent today known as North America. He and his crew reached San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Here, they were met by a curious tribe of Taino "Indians", whom eagerly traded with the strange European men. Columbus and his men returned to Spain and spread the news of this rich, desirable land.

The Native Americans were fascinated by the large European ships and the "magic" that the Europeans possessed- their guns, gunpowder, glass beads, and metal tools. They would later begin to see Europeans and their "magic" to be destructive. At the same time, Europeans began to see the natives as gullible fools and lazy, deceitful savages.

Latin America would see the coming of Europeans, particularly Spaniards in the "Golden Age" of Spain (1500s), which would eventually turn into conquests. Both Spain and Portugal had extensive claims on the South American continent, for both nations began exploring early; Portugal had been the first European nation to explore during the fifteenth century. Eventually, the nations consulted the pope, resulting in the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494). In this treaty, Portugal was granted what is now Brazil while the rest of the land went to Spain. Spain was a key player in the early explorations due to the surplus of conquistadores left over from the expulsion of Jews (and later Muslims) from Spain. These men went to the South American continent and decimated the native populations. Spain itself hit a major setback when the famed Spanish Armada was defeated by England in 1588.

## The Renaissance

When Columbus reached North America, Europe was just entering the Renaissance. During this time magnificent architecture was built, painters and sculptors created works that showcased human beauty, and scholars attempted to reconcile philosophy with the Christian faith. People wanted to explain nature and the world around them as well, which in part led to an increase in exploration.

Europeans during this time period (1400s - 1600s) were very concerned with power and rank. Gender, wealth, and political power all had an effect on one's status. Those with political authority generally imposed laws and taxes on the common folk. Many conflicts arose during this time, and a few revolts even had democratic undertones. Democracy was not usually found in Europe because democracy meant "mob rule" and the destruction of social classes. This fear led people to cling to hierarchies and want social order.

European kings consolidated their power as the leaders of nation-states. They waged costly wars, which spread disease and misery in their wake. Wars were seen as terrible and unchristian at this time.

Women monarchs were generally feared in Europe, but Mary I and Elizabeth I were two exceptions to this rule. After the death of her half-brother Mary I, the eldest child of King Henry VIII, became queen. Also known as "Bloody Mary" by many, she was a Catholic and she wanted to restore Catholicism in England. She burned hundreds of Protestants at the stake, thus earning her nickname. Despite her efforts, people began to give more support to Protestantism. Mary died in 1558 without producing an heir, and her younger sister took the throne. Queen Elizabeth I was a much more effective ruler than her sister. Elizabeth I carefully managed Parliament and cleverly managed patronage (the distribution of favors and offices); she chose good advisers; and England thrived as a whole under her leadership.

The population of England reached five million by 1620; this rapid expansion would lead to consequences for many. Because manufacturing changed very little, household income began to fall and caused workers to compete for fewer jobs. People out of work wandered in search of a job and became known as "vagrants" to the upper classes. Vagrants were commonly blamed for threatening law and order. This caused Parliament to pass "poor laws" that allowed for vagrants to be caught, whipped, and sent home; taxpayers then had to maintain them on relief.

## Joint-Stock Companies

Starting in the 1500s, interest began to be charged on borrowed money and merchants' prices rose with demand. New forms of business organization slowly spread, including the joint-stock company. Joint-stock companies had many investors and would lead to the rise of corporations in the future.

## Religious Changes and Reforms

Christianity was the major religion of Europe; the pope had authority over much of continental Europe. In order to raise money for the Catholic Church in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, popes offered people indulgences. These indulgences were extra “blessings” that could save people from going to Hell.

Martin Luther, a German friar, attacked the selling of indulgences and other aspects of Catholicism. He believed that God alone chose who to save from damnation and only God’s love could be trusted. Luther’s revolt would lead to the Protestant Reformation.

John Calvin was another reformer, and he insisted on the doctrine of predestination; according to him an omnipotent God predestined most people to Hell and saved a few to exemplify His grace.

Both John Calvin and Martin Luther disliked the Anabaptists, the most socially and politically radical group of its time. Anabaptists restricted baptisms to adults and mostly appealed to women and commoners. Despite being pacifists, they were seen as a threat to the social order and were persecuted.

The Reformation Era created many major traditions that would come to America, including Protestantism, Catholicism, and other radical Protestant groups. The Reformation, along with the Counter-Reformation that cleaned up the Catholic Church, led to a crusading spirit. Christians began to believe that they were superior to other religions, including the Native Americans and Africans.

## Puritanism

The Anglican Church was formed during the reign of King Henry VIII. Henry VIII was a devout Catholic, but he eventually broke ties with the Catholic Church after the pope refused to let him divorce his first wife. He was granted more authority over the English clergy and became the head of the English Church.

Puritanism was a Calvinist movement that demanded that the Church of England be purified of Catholic abuses. They objected to some Catholic practices like Mass, elaborately decorated churches, kneeling, and the use of priestly robes. Puritans said that Christians had to forge a commitment to God through the conversion experience. Through sanctification, the new convert was cemented to God as a “saint” or member of the “elect.” Only members of the elect were allowed to join Puritan congregations. Puritanism mostly appealed to the landowning gentry, educated clergymen, merchants, intellectuals, shopkeepers, artisans, and yeoman farmers.

After Elizabeth I’s rule ended, James I took the throne. Unlike Elizabeth before him, James I opposed Puritans and their efforts to get rid of Catholicism from the Anglican Church. Some Puritans became known as Separatists after they left England and decided to separate from the English Church; Non-Separatists thought that the English Church could be reformed from within.

## Slavery

Muslims and Europeans turned slavery into an intercontinental business and tore Africans from their native societies. The Portuguese found slave trading to be very profitable and held most of the trade until 1600.

The new slave trade expanded steadily, with 250,000 slaves reaching the Western Hemisphere between 1500 and 1600. Another 200,000 would arrive twenty years after that. Africans' blackness and odd religion dehumanized them to Europeans.

## The Spanish

Spaniards grew wealthy from sugar plantations and cattle ranches, but silver was also brought back to Spain and increased the wealth of many. Eventually, too much silver was brought back, leading to inflation. Spain began to tax Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg; this led them to revolt in the 1560s. Protestants also believed at this time that the Catholic nation wanted to brutally conquer other lands.

Spanish attempts at colonizing failed for the most part except for at St. Augustine, Florida. By 1614 Spain, England, France, and the Netherlands had established colonies.

The Spanish wanted more wealth, so they moved their explorations to the north. Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto travelled from Tampa Bay to the Appalachian Mountains to southern Texas in search of gold; he found no gold but he did manage to create epidemics that destroyed Mississippian societies. Francisco Vásquez de Coronado led a conquest that plundered pueblos and explored the Grand Canyon; he too found no gold. Hernán Cortés led people to the Mexican coast and began to conquer Mexico. He found the Aztec civilization and fought against them in order to steal their wealth. He won due to his advanced technology, epidemics that plagued the natives, and boldness over the Aztecs. Mexico City was constructed atop of the Aztec's ruined capital city. Mexico's population rapidly declined because of warfare, starvation, and disease.

The Spanish wanted to keep England and France out of the area, so St. Augustine was founded. New Mexico was also founded by Spain, and it survived thanks mainly due to Franciscan missionaries.

## The French

In 1535 Jacques Cartier was searching for the Northwest Passage and identified the St. Lawrence River as one of the entryways leading into North America. France's first colonization attempt occurred in 1541 after Cartier led men into the St. Lawrence Valley. The fortified settlement did not have native allies and was eventually attacked and ravaged by disease. Further attempts were not any more successful.

The French managed to dominate the fur trade and thrived when they allied with native groups. Metal tools, cloth, and beads were traded for pelts; more of these items were produced in order to fuel the “Indian Trade.”

The first successful French settlement, Quebec, was started by Samuel de Champlain. The French ended up striking positive relations with some tribes, leading them to help each other out and getting the French a large supply of pelts.

### **The Dutch**

The Dutch, after gaining freedom from Spain, began to colonize. After Henry Hudson travelled up the Hudson River, the Dutch East India Company became interested in North America. In 1614 Fort Nassau was created, and Fort Amsterdam was built soon after.

New Netherlanders participated in the fur trade, with native enemies of the French. Traders got wampum from Native Americans in some parts and used this currency to purchase beaver pelts.

### **The English**

Some English travelled to the Grand Banks in order to fish before England had any land claims. Members of the gentry were used to the sea, linked by family ties and Puritan sympathies, and frustrated that only older siblings inherited property. Men like Francis Drake, John Hawkins, Humphrey Gilbert, and Walter Raleigh became some of the first privateers. When Spain and England were no longer on good terms during Elizabeth’s reign, she began to aid Calvinist rebels and “sea dogs.”

In 1565 the English fought to control Ireland; this conflict intensified after the pope and the Spanish began to help the Catholic Irish. The English managed to drive the Irish clans out of the northern part of Ireland and set up their own plantations. The English used their experience dealing with the mobile Irish “savages” later on when dealing with Native Americans.

The English wanted to find the Northwest Passage and possibly gold along the way. They also wanted to raid Spanish fleets and ports, which was successful thanks to privateers. The English started a colony in Newfoundland and also tried (and failed) to set up a settlement on Roanoke Island. They, along with the Dutch, would also work at dismembering the Spanish Empire.

The English Parliament could not fund colonies in North America, so joint-stock companies began to take charge of colonization. King James I allowed two joint-stock companies grants of land in the New World; both companies sent men over in 1607.

The Virginia Company of London, however, was much more successful. This company founded Jamestown in 1607. Despite its rocky starts, the settlement improved after Captain John Smith became its leader. He organized work gangs, made

rules that promoted healthier living conditions, and brought order through military discipline. He was a brave man and an ally of the Powhatan tribe. Smith returned to England in 1609 and the people suffered. Despite this, an influx of recruits and the imposition of military rule allowed the English to win the First Anglo-Powhatan War.

Tobacco became Virginia's economic salvation, especially after John Rolfe perfected it. Virginia began to export large quantities of tobacco out of the New World.

The Virginia Company awarded fifty-acre grants (headrights) to people paying their own passage to America; this was done so that more people would come over and colonize the land. Indentured servants also came over, worked off their debts, and started new lives. An assembly was also provided, which was the start of a representative government where planters picked their representatives.

Virginia was met with hardship after the Virginia Company fell into debt due to greedy and unfair shareholders. Disease killed many Virginians because the water was contaminated and the area had a very high death rate. The Powhatan Natives also attacked the English, which destroyed livestock and crops as well as spread disease.

The Virginia Company sent more men to Jamestown and the men took the offensive during the Second Anglo-Powhatan War. They used tactics that had proven to be successful against the Irish clans and thus won the war.

The Virginia Company gave land to London merchants, including Thomas Weston, and they sent 24 families onto the Mayflower. After seven years of living in the New World and sending goods back to England, the Puritan families would own all of the land. The Mayflower was blown off-course during a storm and the ship landed at Plymouth Bay. Since they had no legal right to the land, the families signed the Mayflower Compact. This made them a civil government and established the Plymouth Plantation.

Plymouth eventually became self-sufficient, but they were cheated by their English sponsors and sank deeply into debt. It took an extra fifteen years to finally pay off what they needed to.

## Terms to Know

### The Elect

The Elect were Puritans who had been predetermined by God to be saved. The idea of the Elect came from European Calvinists around the mid-1500s, but this idea spread to the American colonies as well. The process to becoming a member of the Elect, also known as a saint, was a very difficult one. To become a member of the Elect, one had to go through the conversion experience and then sanctification. Only saints were able

to join Puritan congregations, vote, and take communion. The Elect were important because some held influential positions in the colonies. They also set the high standard for faith, which would prove difficult to maintain later on.

### **The Mayflower Compact**

The Mayflower Compact was a contract signed aboard the ship known as the Mayflower in 1620 by Separatists originally from England. When the ship landed in Plymouth, off-course and out of Virginia territory, they had no authority controlling them. Because of this, the Mayflower Compact was signed, forming a government based on consent of the people. The compact itself was a social contract that acknowledged the settlers' loyalty to King James I, and also stated that everyone would agree to the rules of the settlement for the sake of their survival. This is important because the Mayflower Compact was the first written framework of government on American soil.

### **Separatists**

Separatists were Protestants from Scrooby, England, who were very critical of the Church of England due to the fact that it had, according to them, retained too many elements of Roman Catholicism. They wanted to either completely destroy or separate themselves from the church, eventually choosing the latter option. In the early 1600s, Separatists began moving to Holland to escape persecution in England. However, they began to fear that Dutch culture was influencing their children too much. They sailed to America in order to be separate from England but still have control over their children. This is important because Separatists eventually signed the Mayflower Compact and founded Plymouth. Also, Separatists feasted with natives after a successful year of growing and harvesting, giving Americans the first Thanksgiving celebration.

### **John Calvin**

John Calvin was a reformer from France in the mid-1500s, during the Protestant Reformation. Calvin wrote a book called the Institutes of Christian Religion, which attacked Roman Catholicism. He also established a powerful reformed group in Geneva, Switzerland, and the cornerstone of his theology was that God had all-encompassing power and knowledge. Calvin also believed in the theology of predestination, which stated that God predetermined the fate of every individual. John Calvin was important because he became the father of a new Protestant faith, known as Calvinism. His beliefs and teachings would later inspire other reformers as well.

### **Joint-Stock Companies**

The joint-stock company was a new form of business organization that started in England in the mid-1500s and later spread across Europe. In these companies, wealthy men would invest money and receive a percentage of the total profit. Since the English crown rarely spent money on colonies they believed might fail, colonies were funded

by joint-stock companies throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Colonists, who were business employees, would then travel to the newly funded colonies and the stockholders regulated their behavior. Joint-stock companies are important because they help set up more colonies, such as Jamestown. Without joint-stock companies, fewer colonies would have been set up and less people would have settled in America. Also, joint-stock companies themselves led to more modern-day corporations.

## **Timeline**

1440- Portuguese slave trade in West Africa begins.

1492- Christopher Columbus reaches San Salvador.

1517- Protestant Reformation begins in Germany.

1534- The Church of England breaks from the Roman Catholic Church.

1558- Elizabeth I becomes the Queen of England.

1565- St. Augustine is founded by the Spanish.

1588- The English defeat the Spanish Armada.

1598- The colony of New Mexico is founded by Spain.

1603- James I becomes King of England.

1607- Jamestown is founded.

1608- Samuel de Champlain founds Quebec.

1614- New Netherland is founded.

1619- First Africans arrive in Virginia.

1620- The Mayflower Compact is signed and the Plymouth Plantation is created.

1624- The Virginia Company's charter is Revoked by James I.

## Practice Questions

All of the answers should be found in the reading or in your old test; if you are still unsure feel free to contact me at [johnstonapus@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonapus@gmail.com).

1. Which of the following sixteenth-century groups was the most socially and politically radical?
  - a. Calvinists
  - b. Jesuits
  - c. Anabaptists
  - d. Lutherans
  
2. Which of the following nations was the first in the new explorations that began in the fifteenth century?
  - a. England
  - b. Portugal
  - c. Spain
  - d. France
  
3. Which of the following is true about Christopher Columbus?
  - a. He was using outdated calculations and estimates about the Earth's circumference and Asia's eastward thrust.
  - b. He had very little navigating experience.
  - c. He was a Spanish friar who wanted to bring Catholicism to the Native Americans.
  - d. He was a rich member of the gentry class and was known as a "sea dog."