

CHAPTER 24-NEW WORLDS: THE AMERICAS AND OCEANIA

European invasions had a tremendous effect on native populations. The people that the Spanish found in the Caribbean were the Taino, a tribal people living under the authority of a village chief, and not being warlike, offered the Spanish little resistance. The natives were forced into mining gold as part of the *encomienda*. This was a system wherein the Spanish controlled the natives, but also ensured the health and welfare of the natives, while converting them to Christianity. Abuse and disease soon made the Taino culture almost extinct. In 1519 Hernan Cortés and 450 soldiers conquered the Aztec empire, assisted by the tribes who were dissatisfied with Aztec control, and by inflicting smallpox upon this population. In 1533, Francisco Pizarro, with an equally small band of men, used this disease and exploited internal problems to conquer Incan empire.

The Europeans set up different governmental structures in the Americas. Having conquered all of the native peoples in Latin America, the Spanish started governing the area using a system of viceroys watched over by the *audiencias*, courts appointed by the king. Viceroys were given control of large areas and had almost unlimited power. The Portuguese king received control of Brazil through the Treaty of Tordesillas, and distributed the land to the nobility appointing a governor to oversee them. Both the Spanish and the Portuguese colonies exploited the natives and set up European-style cities, while the countryside remained rural.

For the French and the English in North America, the pattern was one of settlement and then exploration. Both groups came seeking both trade goods and trade routes in the early 1600s. Relying on private companies rather than government support, these colonies had some self-government. Relations with the natives tended to be antagonistic, with the settlers taking land, the natives retaliating with raids, and then Europeans attacking back. Between conflict and disease the native population dropped by 90 percent from 1500 to 1800.

Colonial society developed differently throughout the Americas. Since fewer Spanish and Portuguese women settled in the Americas, a multicultural society developed. The societal structure had those of European descent at the top with the mixed and native races at the bottom. In North America, the French also mixed with the natives. The English, however, brought more women to their settlements and disdained mixed relationships.

Europeans also impacted religion in the New World. In the Spanish areas, the Catholic Church made many converts, although native religions still survived. The English had less success spreading Christianity because not only were the native populations not captive, the English had little interest in converting them.

American colonies had differing economic impacts on Europe and the colonies themselves. Economically, the Spanish relied on their colonies for gold, silver and agriculture. The mining of silver in Mexico and Peru brought great wealth to Spain and also fueled Asian and European markets. Agriculture was based in large private estates using the *encomienda* system. In the Portuguese colony of Brazil, sugar provided the wealth and its production provided the basis for the *engenho* system, a mix of agricultural and industry. This dependence on sugar increased the slave trade. Disease had reduced the indigenous population, but there

was still a high demand for labor. The slave trade fulfilled this need. In North America the fur trade was profitable, but caused both environmental problems as well as conflicts among the natives competing for resources. Agriculture and the cultivation of cash crops was a more serious threat to the native populations because of land loss. The population of new peoples was also growing, including large numbers of indentured workers and later the slaves who replaced them.

In the Pacific, Australia was a focus for both the Dutch and the English but with few items for trade the Dutch soon lost interest. The English turned Australia into a penal colony. The Spanish visited many of the Pacific islands while en route from Mexico to Manila. This regular trade brought advantages but also disease.

Key Concept 4.1. Globalizing Networks of Communication and Exchange

- IV. The new global circulation of goods was facilitated by royal chartered European monopoly companies that took silver from Spanish colonies in the Americas to purchase Asian goods for the Atlantic markets, but regional markets continued to flourish in Afro-Eurasia by using established commercial practices and new transoceanic shipping services developed by European merchants

Key Concept 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.

Key Concept 4.3. State Consolidation and Imperial Expansion

- I. Rulers used a variety of methods to legitimize and consolidate their power