Interactions with Outside World (1450-Present)

Big Picture Concepts/Questions to Know

- The influence of economic, religious, cultural, and political motives on European exploration and colonization of overseas territories. Why did Europeans explore, conquer, and colonize areas? What motivated them? Think of different eras for this (old vs. new imperialism).
- Know how political, scientific, and technological developments facilitated European contact and interaction with other parts of the world. What tools allowed Europeans to explore, conquer, and colonize areas? Again, think of different eras for this.
- Be able to explain how different motives for promoting European exploration and colonization of overseas territories changed from 1450 to the present.
- Be able to evaluate why different motives for promoting European exploration and colonization of overseas territories changed from 1450 to the present. Think of the bigger picture. What influenced the motives? This refers to movements like Social Darwinism.
- Explain how encounters between Europe and the wider world shaped European culture, politics, and society. How did the world impact Europe? Think of things like raw materials, increased exposure to non-European people and the effect that had on European attitudes toward non-Europeans, the emergence of the United States and its influence in Europe, immigration issues, etc.
- Explain how the encounters between Europe and the wider world shaped non-European culture, politics, and society. What impact did Europe have on the world?

15th, 16th, and early 17th Centuries (1450-1648)

- Age of Discovery/Exploration
  - o Europeans explored and settled overseas territories, encountering and interacting with indigenous populations.
    - ▪ Europeans were driven by commercial and religious motives to explore overseas territories and establish colonies.
      - European states sought direct access to gold, spices, and luxury goods as a means to enhance personal wealth and state power. This was done by Spain in the "New World", Portuguese in the Indian Ocean, and the Dutch in the East Indies.
      - The rise of mercantilism gave the state a new role in promoting commercial development and the acquisition of colonies.
      - Christianity was a stimulus for exploration as governments and religious authorities sought to spread the faith, and for some it served as a justification for the subjugation of indigenous civilizations.
    - ▪ Advances in navigation, cartography, and military technology enabled Europeans to establish overseas colonies and empires.
      - Navigational technologies like the compass, lateen sails, astrolabe, etc. were very important.
      - Military technologies such as guns and horses also assisted.

- Europeans established overseas empires and trade networks through coercion and negotiation.
  - The Portuguese established a commercial network along the African coast, in South and East Asia, and in South America in the late 15th and throughout the 16th centuries.
  - The Spanish established colonies across the Americas, the Caribbean, and the Pacific, which made Spain a dominant state in Europe in the 16th century.
  - The Atlantic nations of France, England, and the Netherlands followed by establishing their own colonies and trading networks to compete with Portuguese and Spanish dominance in the early 17th century.
  - The competition for trade led to conflicts and rivalries. Think of the Treaty of Tordesillas.
- Europe's colonial expansion led to a global exchange of goods, flora, fauna, cultural practices, and diseases, resulting in the destruction of some indigenous civilizations, a shift toward European dominance, and the expansion of the slave trade.
  - The exchange of goods shifted the center of economic power in Europe away from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic states and brought the latter into an expanding world economy. New Atlantic ports formed such as Amsterdam, Antwerp, and London.
  - The exchange of new plants, animals, and diseases, the Columbian Exchange, created economic opportunities for Europeans and in some cases facilitated European subjugation and destruction of indigenous peoples, particularly in the Americas. Know some items exchanged.
  - Europeans expanded the African slave trade in response to the establishment of a plantation economy in the Americas and demographic catastrophes among indigenous peoples.
- Joint-stock companies, such as the Dutch East India and British East India Companies, were examples of innovations in finance for the time period.
- Don't forget about the "price revolution" that occurred as a result of the influx of precious metals from overseas.
- Be aware of how Europeans used their colonies and the role of mercantilism in this use of their colonies.
- Know the Triangular Trade system.
- View of Non-Europeans
  - Europeans viewed indigenous populations as inferior to Europeans. Europeans were believed to be naturally superior. Europeans also believed that Christianity would save indigenous populations from damnation.

- Mercantile Empires
  - Europeans continued to build their colonies and use it for a favorable balance of trade. While they still practice mercantilism early on during this period, a shift toward a market economy and capitalism began to occur toward the end of the period due to the Agricultural Revolution and cottage industry.
  - The European dominated worldwide economic network contributed to the agricultural, industrial, and consumer revolutions in Europe.
    - European states followed mercantilist policies by drawing resources from colonies in the New World and elsewhere.
    - The transatlantic slave labor system expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries as demand for New World products increased. Think of the triangular trade system and plantation economies.
    - Overseas products and influences contributed to the development of a consumer culture in Europe. Items like tea, sugar, and coffee were in high demand.
    - The importation and transplantation of agricultural products from the Americas contributed to an increase in the food supply for Europe.
    - Foreign lands provided raw materials, finished goods, laborers, and markets for the commercial and industrial enterprises in Europe.
  - Commercial rivalries influenced diplomacy and warfare among European states in the early modern era. Wars such as the Seven Years' War and War of Spanish Succession occurred.
    - European sea powers vied for Atlantic influence throughout the 18th century.
    - Portuguese, Dutch, French, and British rivalries in Asia culminated in British domination in India and Dutch control of the East Indies.
    - Rivalries between the British and the French resulted in world wars fought both in Europe and in the colonies, with Britain supplanting France as the greatest European colonial power as a result of the Treaty of Paris (1763).
  - A consumer revolution occurred in the 18th century, influenced in part by goods coming in from colonies and overseas trade (porcelain and coffee for example).
- The French Revolution inspired a slave revolt led by Toussaint L'Ouverture in the French colony of Haiti, which became an independent nation in 1804.
- View of Non-Europeans
  - Natural sciences, literature, and popular culture increasingly exposed Europeans to representations of peoples outside Europe and, on occasion, challenged accepted social norms.
  - The Enlightenment preached ideas such as equality and began to expose Europeans to other groups more and more.
  - Some Europeans began to advocated for the abolition of slavery because of the Enlightenment.
  - Jean Jacques Rousseau developed the idea of the noble savage.

- Age of Imperialism
  - This was influenced by the Second Industrial Revolution. It provided new technologies, new communication and transportation, and new military technologies to allow for imperialism to occur. It also drove Europeans to want more markets and raw materials from overseas for industrial production.
  - A variety of motives and methods led to the intensification of European global control and increased tensions between the Great Powers.
    - European nations were driven by economic, political, and cultural motivations in their new imperial ventures in Asia and Africa.
      - European national rivalries and strategic concerns fostered imperial expansion and competition for colonies.
      - The search for raw materials and markets for manufactured goods, as well as strategic and nationalist considerations, drove Europeans to colonize Africa and Asia, even as European colonies in the Americas broke free politically, if not economically.
      - European imperialists justified overseas expansion and rule by claiming cultural and racial superiority. White Man's Burden and Social Darwinism were influential ideas.
    - Industrial and technological developments facilitated European control of global empires.
      - The development of advanced weaponry ensured the military advantage of Europeans over colonized areas (machine gun).
      - Communication and transportation technologies facilitated the creation and expansion of European empires (steamships, railroads, and the telegraph).
      - Advances in medicine enabled European survival in Africa and Asia (Quinine, germ theory, etc.).
    - Imperial endeavors significantly affected society, diplomacy, and culture in Europe and created resistance to foreign control abroad.
      - Imperialism created diplomatic tensions among European states that strained alliance systems (Berlin Conference, Moroccan crises).
      - Imperial encounters with non-European peoples influenced the styles and subject matter of artists and writers and provoked debate over the acquisition of colonies (Paul Gauguin, Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, Joseph Conrad, Vladimir Lenin, etc.).
      - Especially as non-Europeans became educated in Western values, they challenged European imperialism through nationalist movements and y modernizing local economies and societies (Indian Congress Party, India's Sepoy Mutiny, China's Boxer Rebellion, Meiji Restoration in Japan).

- View of Non-Europeans
  - The idea of the noble savage persisted in the early part of the 19th century as a result of Romanticism.
  - Romanticism also assisted in calls to end slavery.
  - Abolitionist movements emerged and more in the early part of the 19th century. For example, this was a huge movement in Britain. The British ended the slave trade and abolished slavery across their imperial empire.
  - Imperialism saw a shift back to racist views of European superiority with ideas like the White Man's Burden and Social Darwinism.
  - Some Europeans opposed imperialism and began to speak out. Some Europeans were influenced by non-European groups in terms of art and literature.

20th Century (1900s)

- WWI
  - WWI was partially caused by imperial competition.
  - The war in Europe affected non-European areas, such as the Middle East and the Armenian Genocide.
  - The relationship of Europe to the world shifted significantly with the globalization of the conflict, the emergence of the United States as a world power, and the overthrow of European empires. Empires like the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empire collapsed.
  - The League of Nations was weakened from the outset by the nonparticipation of major powers like the United States, Germany, and the Soviet Union.
  - Mandate System
    - Britain and France established mandates to rule over areas such as Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, etc. in the Middle East after WWI. They eventually transitioned these mandates to independent nations.
- WWII
  - The United States involvement in WWII again illustrated the relationship of Europe to the world shifting as the United States continued to grow as a world power.
- Cold War
  - The Cold War emerged after WWII. It primarily pitted the United States against the Soviet Union.
  - Marshall Plan funds from the United States financed an extensive reconstruction of industry and infrastructure and stimulated an extended period of growth in Western and Central Europe, often referred to as an "economic miracle", which increased the economic and cultural importance of consumerism.
  - The Cold War played out on a global stage and involved propaganda campaigns, covert actions, limited "hot wars" in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and an arms race with the threat of nuclear war.
  - The United States exerted a strong military, political, and economic influence in Western Europe, leading to the creation of world monetary and trade systems and geopolitical alliances such as NATO. Organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and World Bank also formed.

- Decolonization
    - The process of decolonization occurred over the course of the century with varying degrees of cooperation, interference, or resistance from European imperialist states.
        - At the end of WWI, President Woodrow Wilson's principle of national self-determination raised expectations in the non-European world for new policies and freedoms.
        - The League of Nations distributed former German and Ottoman possessions to France and Great Britain through the mandate system, thereby altering the imperial balance of power and creating a strategic interest in the Middle East and its oil.
        - Despite indigenous nationalist movements, independence for many African and Asian territories was delayed until the mid and even late 20th century by the imperial powers' reluctance to relinquish control, threats of interference from other nations, unstable economic and political systems, and Cold War strategic alignments.
- Post WWII Generic Developments
    - Increased immigration into Europe altered Europe's religious makeup (increased influence of Islam and non-Christian religions), causing debate and conflict over the role of religion in social and political life.
        - Extremist anti-immigration parties began to emerge near the end of the 20th century with racist and discriminatory views.
    - Increased imports of United States technology and popular culture after World War II generated both enthusiasm and criticism. A lot of criticism occurred in France in the 1960s and 1970s.
    - New communication and transportation technologies multiplied the connections across space and time, transforming daily life and contributing to the proliferation of ideas and to globalization. Think of smart phones and the internet here.
    - New voices gained prominence in political, intellectual, and social discourse.
        - Because of the economic growth of the 1950s and 1960s, migrant workers from southern Europe, Asia, and Africa immigrated to Western and Central Europe; however, after the economic downturn of the 1970s, these workers and their families often became targets of racism, anti-immigration agitation, and extremist nationalist political parties (French National Front and Austrian Freedom Party).
    - The EU emerged to attempt to rival the United States and NAFTA.