Key Takeaways - Transoceanic Interconnections

**Technological Innovation:**

**Shipbuilding** - India and China more advanced than Europe but spread new technologies to builders.

**Tools & Science** - compass, astrolabe, navigable maps, sails, etc. transferred via trade to Europe. Telescope, barometer, math used to enhance sailing skills.

**Caravel and Lateen Sail** - widely built and used to extend sailing voyages.

**Exploration:**

**Spanish and Portuguese Catholics** - desire to spread Christianity into Asia and reconquered Iberia.

**Western European Kingdoms** - Sought new routes to Asia for trade to avoid land route traveling issues.

**Portugal** - Explored south into Africa. Henry the Navigator and Vasco da Gama, looking for routes to India.

**Spain** - Wanted to extend their influences (religion, economic, political) into new territories. Columbus launched expeditions for God, Gold, and Glory, also looked for routes to India.

**Britain and France** - followed the Spanish lead but for completely different reasons.

**The Columbian Exchange:**

**Old World** - horses, cows, chickens, pigs, grains, etc. Impact of the horse? ([Contextualize with the Mongols](#)).

**New World** - potatoes, tobacco, tomatoes, corn, peppers, etc. Staple crops generated large population booms in Europe and Asia (China). Sugarcane Plantations in the Caribbean increased wealth and the demand for forced labor. Native enslaved labor forces were decimated by disease which caused extreme labor shortages.

**Diseases** - smallpox is estimated to have wiped out 90% of the indigenous populations in the Americas. Lasting impacts for settlement?

**Maritime Empires:**

**Trading Posts** - Portuguese port grabbing on the western African coast challenged regional influences of the Songhai and Swahili. Later they would control the Persian Gulf and Malacca. Competition for these locations sparked rivals such as the Dutch to challenge Portuguese control and influences.

**Spain** - Explorations were a mechanism to spread the Catholic faith in opposition to the Protestants. This eventually led to wars amongst the main Western European Empires. Conquest of Latin/South America created mixed-raced populations as Spanish women did not travel on these expeditions. Eventually Spanish women relocated, along with their families, to establish a societal hierarchy in the region. ([Case study - present day Mexico](#)).

**Indian Ocean Holdouts** - Swahili, Gujarat, Java resisted European expansion and remained dominant regional influences.

**Continental Differences** - African and Asian conquered territories were trading outposts (Trading Post Empires). The Americas were fully conquered and subjugated.

**Opposition to European Expansion** - African/Asian resistance towards European influences was widely evident. Tokugawa Japan restricted trade to just one ship per year, heavily regulated. China (Ming) traded for silver from Spain, both nations eventually faced long-lasting consequences of the silver trade. ([Contextualization with Confucian principles](#)).
Britain, France, The Netherlands- Cash crops, commodities, and cod. Tobacco and lumber were highly sought after along with the abundant presence of cod. Religious settlements were established by the British and fur trading outposts by the French.

The Unfortunate Few- Incan and Aztec communities fought against the Spanish resulting in their demise as regional empires.

The Labor Force- African kingdoms like the Kongo and Asante, along with Arabs, traded slaves for guns, salt, etc. Exportation of African slaves occurred in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, and via the ‘Middle Passage’ (Caribbean plantations). Encomienda System- Amerindians used as labor force to work and farm the lands (Contextualization with Feudalism). Incan Mit’a system. British indentured servitude.

Religion- syncretism structures with Catholics and native traditions. Protestants relocated to northern British colonies. Islam and Buddhism spread throughout southeast Asia.

Maritime Empires Maintained:

Mercantilism- The first global trade network. Raw materials were shipped to the parent country and in return the finished goods were sold on the open market. Exports had to exceed imports for the system to be viable. Silver, spices, silk fueled trade between the Americas and Asia (China and Japan).

Triangular Trade- Sugar, rum, cod traded from the Americas to Europe. Silver and finished products traded from Europe to Africa for slaves, who were sent to the Americas.

Privatizing Global Trade- British East India Company, Dutch East India Company, the Muscovy Company, Joint-Stock Corporations all operated with their government’s approval, conducted their own policies, and negotiated trade.

Global Economy- Most people were farmers, subsistence farmers, or commercial farmers. Morocco defeated the Songhai Empire and controlled the Trans-Sharan trade routes. Trade was beginning to wane on the Silk Roads as empires and kingdoms sought oceanic voyages to avoid tariffs and regional conflicts between the Ottoman and Mughal Empires. Use of peasant labor was evident in Russia (furs), India (cotton), and China (silk).

Internal and External Challenges to Land and Maritime Empires:

Resistance Movements- Pueblo revolts, Cossack revolts, King Phillip’s War, marooned societies (escaped slaves).

Changing Social Hierarchies:


State Sponsored Suppression and Subjugation- Plight of Jewish communities in Europe had not fully recovered from the Renaissance. Japanese intolerance of foreigners continued to stifle regional trade with the island nation. Islamic fragmentation continued to stoke conflict amongst Muslim communities. Catholic and Protestant conflicts sparked mass exodus of protestants to North America. Manchu (Qing) victory of the Ming mandated that the majority (Han) submit to Manchurian rule and policies. Lastly, the Spanish Conquistadors.