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Unit 1 The Meeting of Cultures

Chapter One Main Themes

1. The colonization of the Americas represented a collision of European and Native American cultures that had been developing along completely different lines for thousands of years.
2. A variety of ambitions and impulses moved individuals and nations to colonize the New World, including long-standing demographic and economic changes, religious tensions wrought by the Protestant Reformation, and international rivalries among the European powers.
3. The collision of cultures in North America yielded many biological and cultural exchanges that remade both the Old and New Worlds.
4. The varied motives of the colonizers and their experiences prior to immigrating worked to shape their attitudes toward Native American cultures and helped determine the sociopolitical arrangements in the new colonies.
5. Other than in New Mexico and what would become the American Southwest, North American native peoples were relatively unaffected by European colonization until the arrival of the English, French, and Dutch in the seventeenth century.

A thorough study of Chapter One should enable the student to understand:

- The history of Native Americans before the arrival of Europeans to the New World.
- The varied societies, populations, and cultures of Native Americans at the time of Christopher Columbus.
- The economic, demographic, and political changes in Western Europe that spurred colonization of new lands.
- The rise of the Spanish Empire, from Christopher Columbus to the age of "conquistadores."
- The evolution of the Spanish Empire's treatment of Native American peoples.
- The biological and cultural exchanges between the New and Old Worlds, including the diseases and crops brought from Europe.
- The African cultures from which black slaves were taken, and the early development of the African slave trade.
- The economic and religious motives propelling English colonization of the New World.
- The early experience of the French and Dutch in North America.
- The first efforts of the English to establish a colony in the New World, the lessons they took from their experience in Ireland, and the reasons for their early failures.

Chapter Summary

Before European explorers arrived in the Americas, Native Americans had developed their own forms of social organizations that differed from one another in their levels of achievement. Europeans, concerned first with exploiting the New World and its peoples, regarded the natives as savages and set out to destroy their societies and replace them with a variation of European culture. The biological disaster brought on by smallpox and other diseases made it easier for the Europeans to conquer the tribes and civilizations, and to impose on the Native Americans a number of different colonial systems. To help make up for the Native Americans' labor lost through wars and epidemics, Europeans brought in African slaves, who added to the cultural diversity of America. Conflicts in the Old World spilled over into the new as different nations got into the race for colonies, and the many connections between events in the Americas and the rest of the world became apparent. By the end of the sixteenth century, the age of discovery was all but over, and the great era of colonization, especially English colonization, was about to begin.

KEY Terms

Tribal Societies	Merchant Capitalism
Mayans	Mercantilism
Aztecs	Martin Luther
Cahokia	John Calvin
Subsistence agriculture	Henry VIII
Nationalism	English Reformation
Smallpox	Calvinist Puritans
Christopher Columbus	Church of England
Conquistadors	Separatists
Missionaries	Elizabeth I
Pueblo	James I
Spanish Empire	Plantation Model of Colonization
African Slave trade	Fur Trade
Dutch West India Company	Spanish Armada
Enclosure Movement	Roanoke

Enrichment

(Note: some movies may carry an R rating.)

Movies

1492

Black Robe

Christopher Columbus

Squanto

GPS (GA Milestone Test Items)

1. Founding of VA colony
2. Tobacco economy
3. Colonial relations to Natives
4. House of Burgesses
5. Bacon's Rebellion
6. Development of slavery
7. Religion in setting New England
8. King Phillips War
9. Salem Witch Trials
10. Quakers
11. Mercantilism
12. Middle Passage

Many of these overlap Chapter 2.