

**SS6H6: The student will explain the impact of European exploration & colonization on various world regions.**

- a. Identify the causes of European exploration & colonization; including religion, natural resources, a market for goods & the contributions of Prince Henry the Navigator**
- b. Trace the empires of Portugal, Spain, England & France in Asia, Africa & the Americas**
- c. Trace the colonization of Australia by United Kingdom**
- d. Explain the impact of European empires building in Africa & Asia on the outbreak of WWI**

### **Causes of European exploration & colonization**

- 3 G's: God, Gold, Glory
  - In the 1400s, European countries were competing with each other for natural resources (gold, silk & spices)
    - Spices were especially valuable
    - Many of these things could be found in India.
    - Traders had to travel great distances over land to get these **natural resources**.
    - Transporting goods across these great distances was costly.
    - Everyone along the way had to be paid and wanted to earn a profit
    - By the time the spices and goods reached Europe, they had to be sold at extremely high prices.
    - European merchants knew that if they would trade directly with people in Asia, they could make enormous profits.
  - In the 1400s, Europeans began searching for a sea route to Asia.
  - Some Europeans believed it was their duty to spread the **Christian faith** throughout the world.
    - They felt that if they could convert the Native people, they met in their journeys into Christians.
  - As Europeans began exploring the Coast of Africa, they began settling colonies.
  - Colonizing new areas added to a country's territory (more natural resources, more wealth)
  - Colonizing also opened **new markets**

- European countries could sell things to the people in these areas and make even more money
- The more colonies a country had, the more wealth it had
- More colonies meant more prestige or **glory**
- Countries began competing with one another for colonies
- When one country takes over another it is called **Imperialism**
- **Prince Henry the Navigator** of Portugal began the age of European exploration
  - Prince Henry began Portugal's exploration of Africa in the mid-1400s.
  - He hired sailors who explored the coast of Africa and opened the way for future journeys
  - Henry also opened a school of Navigation in Portugal
  - He wanted shipbuilders, mapmakers, sea captains, and inventors to learn and work together.
- For the next 200 years, Europe's largest countries began exploring Africa, Asia, and North America.
- They set up colonies, new markets, and spread Christianity.

### **Colonization in Africa, Asia & the Americas**

- After the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Europe's most powerful countries competed to see who could get the most colonies.
- They wanted to build their empires by taking over other parts of the world (Imperialism).
- Military expeditions were sent by the Popes of the Roman Catholic Church to capture the Holy Land from the Muslim Turks
- They were not successful, but had a few positive results:
  - Western Europeans learned to:
    - make better maps
    - build better ships
    - expose Europeans to spices & goods from the East
- Major trade routes from the East to Europe went through 2 Italian cities (Venice & Genoa)
- Italian merchants marked up the prices on the jewels, fragrances, woods and finished goods & sold them throughout Europe.

- Portugal, Spain, France, and England resented the huge profits made by Italians. Since they controlled the trade routes through Mediterranean Sea, they began to look for other routes to the India, China and Spice Islands.
  - This led to the colonization of most of Africa, Asia & the Americas
- Portugal and Spain claimed territories in the New World before any other European powers.
- Since both nations were Catholic, the Pope drew a line (Treaty of Tordesillas) on the map showing which territories would belong to Portugal and which ones belonged to Spain
- **Portugal**
  - Time Period/Routes: 15<sup>th</sup> century: led the world in sea exploration and explored the western coast of Africa
  - Motivation: find a trade route around Africa to Asia
  - Believed they could make a lot of money as traders if they could get Asian goods for a cheaper price
  - Also wanted to spread Christianity along Africa's west coast
  - **Prince Henry the Navigator**
    - Son of the Portuguese king
    - 1st to start the colonial empires.
    - created a naval observatory that taught students navigation, astronomy, & cartography
    - Sent more than 50 expeditions down the west coast of Africa and a route to India and China but never visited them.
    - Wanted to establish Portuguese colonies & break the Muslim hold on trade routes
    - Unable to make money trading gold, so he tried creating sugar cane plantations
    - Sugar cane was a very profitable crop, but required lots of labor
    - Henry imported slaves from Africa to work the fields
    - This was successful & was later copied in the New World
    - Encouraged a slave trade that lasted another 400 years...
    - Explorers: Bartolomeu Dias (one of Prince Henry Sailors) reached the southern tip of Africa called The Cape of Good Hope and The Indian Ocean.
    - Explorers: Vasco da Gama, another explorer, later sailed around the cape and continued to India.

- For decades, Portuguese sailors continued to explore East Asia where they established forts & trading posts
- By 1571, a string of outposts connected Portugal to Africa, India, South Pacific Islands, & Japan
- Portugal grew wealthy from these trade routes, but...
- Its most profitable colony was Brazil in South America. Brazil was a Portuguese Colony until 1822.
- The Portuguese Empire included the area known today as Brazil and much of the West Coast of Africa.
- **Spain**
  - Time Period/Routes: 15<sup>th</sup> Century: Spanish explorers were searching for a trade route through or around North & South America to Asia
  - Motivation: Wanted to find a quicker route to the gold & spices in Asia.
  - Spain controlled most of the New World (North America and South America), and parts of Europe, Africa, and the Philippines in Asia
  - **Christopher Columbus**
    - 1490s—C.C., an Italian, was given ships & sailors by the Spanish monarchy
    - They wanted him to try to find a quick route through the Atlantic Ocean to Asia
    - He discovered the Bahamas, but thought he was in Asia... “East Indies”
    - Later, it was realized that he “discovered” 2 new continents (North and South America)
    - Exploration of these areas brought great wealth to Spain
  - Spain's empire was a huge empire that spanned the globe
  - Spanish conquistadors conquered the Inca and Aztec civilizations in the 1500's (South America)
  - More Motivation
    - Looking for gold & spices
    - Used missionaries to convert natives to Christianity
    - Claimed huge areas of North & South America & ruled over them for
- **England**
  - England used to be one of three countries (England, Scotland, & Wales); shared an island.

- Time Period: 1700's, the three united and became *Great Britain*
- British empire was the largest in history
- At its peak, Great Britain controlled: Canada, Australia, India, much of Africa, and numerous islands
- By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the British Empire was the most powerful in Europe
- Territories: had colonies in in North America, Africa, the Caribbean, India, and Australia
- North America came under British control in the 1700s
- Lost American colonies in 1776 and U.S became an independent country.
- Maintained control over Canada until 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Great Britain colonized Australia in 1788
- Motivation--Used it as a penal (prison) colony to relieve overcrowded jails in England
- **France**
  - Time Period: French possessed colonies around the world from 1600 to 1900
  - Motivation: Imperialism. Also dominated much of the European continent
  - By 1812, France controlled much of Germany, Italy, & France
  - Established other colonies in the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries:
    - Islands in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean, the South Pacific, the North Pacific, & the North Atlantic
    - France also maintained influence in Canada, South America, Southeast Asia, & Northwest Africa
    - The French Empire consisted of colonies in North America, Asia, and the West Indies
    - The French lost many of these to Britain, but it still controlled part of Asia, North America and eventually parts of West Africa
- **Imperialism = Injustice**
  - Impact #1: European nations showed little respect for the indigenous (native) peoples they colonized.
  - Impact #2: Using military force and slave labor, they exploited (oppressed) conquered territories while they increased their wealth and power.

## Colonization of Australia by United Kingdom

- **The Aborigines:**
  - First settled 40 – 60 thousand years ago in Northern Australia.
  - Europeans called them Aborigines
  - Formed different groups in different parts of Australia
  - Spoke different languages
  - Developed their own culture.
  - Early aborigines:
    - Traveled in small groups called clans
    - Shared a common language and religion
    - Elders led the clan and made decisions
    - They were hunter-gatherers
    - Used bones, wood, and stones to construct tools and weapons
    - Religious beliefs centered on the environment
    - Valued art
- **Captain James Cook**
  - 1770 – arrived in Australia
  - Claimed territory for Great Britain
  - First British settlement was Sydney
- Europeans traded with Australia
- Sent natural resources from Australia to Great Britain
- European colonists farmed and mined
- Brought advanced weapons which caused deadly wars with the Aborigines
- Waged war to drive Aborigines from the coastal area.
- Destroyed many Aboriginal groups with advanced weapons
  - Aborigines fought back, but lost battles.
  - Forced to live on reservation in the interior
- Also introduced alcohol – many abused it so fighting increased
- Brought diseases
- Bodies had no natural defense from these diseases
- Thousands of people died
- In 1788, the colony began to be used as a place to send criminals
- By 1852, when they ended the practice, over 150,000 prisoners had been sent there
- British established the country of Australia in 1901

- Made laws for Aboriginal people who survived.
- Limited where they could live and work
- Took mixed children from their home
- British hoped to end Aboriginal culture
- 1960's – government started to change some of the policies

### Impact of WWI on empires built in Africa & Asia

- Between 1885 – 1910, Great Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, divided Africa among themselves
  - What did they want Africa for?
    - Natural resources
    - Gold, diamonds, oil
    - Politics
    - National pride (more colonies = more status)
    - Desire to “civilize” and Christianize Africa
  - Europe changed from Asia's trading partner to Asia's conqueror
    - British took India
    - French took Vietnam

### Causes of World War I

- **Militarism** – building up armed forces, getting ready for war
  - Countries had built strong armies and navies to defend their own countries and their colonies. Tensions built as countries watched each other build up military power.
- **Alliances** – agreements or promises to defend and help another country
  - European countries had joined alliances to better protect themselves. If one member was attacked, the others were obligated to help that country.
  - Example? Germany's problem was that it was in the middle of Europe. Being in the middle made it vulnerable if it came to war. To solve its problem, Germany and other countries formed alliances.
  - By 1914, Europe was divided into two massive alliances.
- **Imperialism** – trying to build up an empire (powerful country that controls several less powerful countries)

- Rivalries developed as countries tried to grab colonies. Conflicts had occurred over control of colonies in Africa and Asia. European countries resented and distrusted each other.
- **Nationalism** – having pride in your country, willing to defend it
  - Pride in one's country; nations sought their own interests over others. Many groups wanted to be free from the control of other nations.

### **What was the final straw?**

- Because of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June of 1914, by a Serbian, the emperor of Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
- Russia sent troops to defend Serbia because Russia had a treaty with Serbia. Russia supported Serbia because they were both of a similar ethnic backgrounds.
- Since Germany had a treaty with Austria-Hungary, Germany declared war on Russia
- France had a treaty with Russia so Germany declared war against France.
- War begins!

### **The Central Powers**

Austria-Hungary, Germany, Turkey (Ottoman Empire)

### **The Allied Powers**

Russia, France, United Kingdom, Italy, United States