1. **Transatlantic Encounters and Colonial Beginnings (1492 – 1690)**
   1. First Encounters
      1. Norsemen – Vikings from different Scandinavian societies develop long boats capable of going faster and longer distances than other boats at the time
         1. Vikings, in search of new land to plunder, begin exploring westward of British isles
            1. Island Hopping: Scandanavia > British Isles > Shetland Isles > Faroe Isles > Iceland > Greenland
      2. Important People:
         1. Bjarni Herjolfsson: saw Canada around 987AD, but turned around and never landed
         2. Leif Ericsson – “Eric the Red”: lands in Canada (Newfoundland)
         3. Thorvald Ericsson: follows brothers footsteps, and fights with natives (**Skraelings** “dwarves”)
      3. Giving up
         1. Eventually, Norsemen retreat from Canada and Greenland, finding the land inhospitable and the natives too unruly
      4. *Lasting Impact*
         1. No lasting cultural, social, or civilized impact
         2. Stories are spread throughout Europe that there may be land westward (never gains popular appeal)
   2. Europe in the **Middle Ages 500-1500**
      1. Poor economic conditions
         1. Trade and commerce extremely limited
         2. Constant warfare
      2. Disease and malnutrition: Black Death
      3. Divided into small provinces and regions which were further divided still (feudal society)
      4. No real central authority in European nations
         1. Exception: Holy Roman Emperor and the Catholic Church serves as some semblance of unity
   3. What Changed in Europe?
      1. **Commerce**
         1. *Pop. Rebounds* after Black Death (Bubonic)
         2. **Renaissance**: age of enlightenment and better economy
            1. Humanism: power of people to take change into their own hands
         3. Demand for new, exotic goods (people had extra $)
            1. Marco Polo: journeyed to distant lands in the east (parts of Asia) coming back with exotic goods such as porcelain and spice as well as fanciful tales
            2. *Demand* goes higher: goods from Asian markets are even harder to come by once Turks take Constantinople in 1453 and cut off trade routes
         4. **Merchant Class**: new class of citizens seeking to make money off of the new demands for goods
      2. **Technology**
         1. Due to Renaissance and higher investment
            1. Better, faster ships
            2. Better navigational tools: caravel, astrolabe
            3. Printing Press
            4. Better Education
      3. **Nationalism**
         1. Pope and Holy Roman Empire are weakening in influence
         2. Strong Monarchs emerge and create nation-states to centralize power and wealth
            1. National courts
            2. National armies
            3. National tax base
2. Rise in Exploration
   1. New nation-states, seeking to establish new trade routes to Asian markets, to bolster economies and satisfy demand, begin looking for new sea routes
      1. *Portugal*: best sea power at the time
         1. Prince Henry “the Navigator”: wanted to colonize Africa to get gold and convert people to Christianity
         2. Vasco De Gama: sailed around horn of Africa, all the way to India.
            1. Very long trip = not economical as a trade route
      2. *Spain:* 
         1. The “turn-around” year: **1492**
            1. Ends 700 years of war with Moors (Muslims) of southern Spain and North Africa through the “**Reconquista**”
            2. Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castille are married in a political effort to consolidate Spain into a single country
            3. Bolstering of **Spanish Inquisition**: an official court designated to ensure true Catholicism in Spain
            4. Christopher Columbus discovers the “new world”
      3. Christopher Columbus
         1. Born: Genoa, Italy
         2. Early experience building ships in Italy and sailing with Portuguese
         3. Became intrigued by idea of reaching Asia by going West to Asia for new trade routes
         4. Beliefs:
            1. He thought that there was 2,500 miles to Indies (actually 10,000) – vastly miscalculated
            2. Believed that the Asian continent extended further east than it actually did
            3. Believed in Divine intervention; God was somehow guiding him toward future glory

“God made me the messenger of the New Heaven and New Earth and showed me the spot to find it”

* + - 1. Traits:
         1. Charismatic, Handsome, and tall (6’, avg height at time 5’6”)
         2. Wanted fame
         3. God complex
      2. Made pitches to several European nations incl. England, France and Portugal (none wanted to fund expedition)
      3. Spain – the underdog taking a chance at glory
         1. Spain wanted to increase money and show their strength
         2. Wanted to spread Christianity
         3. Columbus makes plea to Isabella:

*Stipulations*:

10% of profits

Governor of all discovered lands

“Admiral of the Oceans”

* + 1. **Set Sail!** 1492
       1. 90 men and 3 ships (*Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria*): Land – Oct. 12, 1492
          1. Left in August, sail for 10 weeks
          2. Verge of mutiny when land is discovered
       2. First lands in Bahamas: thinks Japan
       3. Second lands in Cuba: thinks China
       4. Third lands in Hispaniola (DR + Haiti) on Christmas and calls the island “Navidad”
       5. Brings Natives back to Europe, calling “*Indians*” as a misnomer (thought they were from East Indies)
          1. Also brings Maize back to Europe
    2. 3 successive trips to “Asia” – at this point he still believed that they had discovered a route to Asia
       1. 1493- much larger expedition (17 ships, 1,200 men)
          1. Discovers Sugar Cane and Rum
          2. Creates “**Encomienda**” system

System of plantations operated primarily by Native American servants (essentially slave labor)

First African slaves also sent over

Pope said no to using Native labor

Africans were immune to European diseases Natives were not

* + - 1. 1498: discovered South America
      2. 1502: gets stranded in Jamaica returns to Spain in 1504
      3. Dies in 1506

1. Other Important Explorers
   1. Amerigo Vespucci (Ita): 1502
      1. Florentine merchant
      2. Went on expeditions to new lands and realized that they were a brand new continent
         1. “**Mundus Novis**” – book about what he calls the New World
         2. Amerigo = Americas
   2. Vasco de Balboa (Spa)
      1. Fought across Panama Canal and was first to see the Pacific Ocean which he termed the “South Sea”
   3. Ferdinand Magellan (Spa): Portuguese sailor working for Spanish
      1. Sailed below South America and named the new ocean he encountered the “**passive ocean” – Pacific**
      2. First to circumnavigate the globe (1519 to 1522)
      3. Killed in the Philippines in battle
2. Spanish Conquerors “**Conquistadores**”
   1. *Change in ideology*: new lands are no longer seen as an obstacle, but as the new goal (potential source of vast wealth)
   2. Spain decreed the whole new world for themselves; Pope intervenes and establishes a North to South Boundary line separating what areas Portugal gets (basically just Brazil)
   3. Hernando Cortes- 1518
      1. Gained experience and favor as a governor in Cuba for 2 years
      2. Leads small expedition of 600 men into Aztec civilization in search of primarily of Gold and Silver (modern Mexico)
      3. 1st attempt at conquest of Aztecs fails; however, Natives are exposed to smallpox which kills off many natives
         1. Primarily spread through livestock (pigs were European) and through Native trade routes
         2. “God saw fit to give the Indians small pox” – Cortes
   4. Francisco Pizarro: 1532-1538
      1. Conquered Incas in Peru by taking out “The Inca” (leader)
   5. Hernando de Soto:
      1. Conquers Florida and crossed Mississippi river
   6. Francisco Coronado: 1540-1542
      1. Conquers New Mexico and Southwest
   7. **Ways the Eurpoeans won:**
      1. *Disease*:
         1. Smallpox, measles, whooping cough, typhus, scarlet fever (Europeans got syphilis from Natives)
      2. *Technology*
         1. Steel, guns, horses, large dogs, crossbows
      3. Alliances with rival tribes
      4. Brutality and subjugation: actions defended as natives were believed to be barbarous and uncivilized
      5. Slavery
      6. Christianity: convert or burn at the stake as a heathen
         1. **Missions**: system of church establishments designed to convert natives
      7. Cultural destruction
         1. Adopting European culture, lifestyle and language
         2. **Mestizos**: “mixed race” people begin to emerge
3. English Explorers: other explorers ignore Papal decree of land claims
   1. John Cabot (Eng): 1497
      1. King Henry VII commissioned him
      2. Used Viking routes and claimed Newfoundland
   2. Sir Francis Drake (Eng): 1578 – 1580 sailed around the world
      1. Claimed California and brought back vast wealth in gold (mostly plundered from Spanish settlements)
   3. Sir Walter Raleigh (Eng): 1584 est. colony in Virginia
      1. **Roanoke** Colony = Lost colony
      2. Everyone disappears. One word inscribed on a tree “*Croatan*”. MYSTERY
4. French Explorers
   1. Giovanni Verrazano (Fra): 1524 Italian hired by French to find quicker passage to Asia
      1. Sailed up Carolinas to Maine
   2. Jacques Cartier (Fra): Discovered Montreal in 1534
   3. Samuel Champlain (Fra): est. Quebec in 1603
5. Dutch Explorers
   1. Henry Hudson (Ned): 1609 est. colony in New York
6. **Economics**
   1. Early demand for trade routes with Asia is replaced by demand for resources from the New World
   2. At first, New World is seen primarily as an outlet for money by the potential for vast gold deposits (increase wealth in Europe): inadvertently creates *inflation*
   3. Eventually, Spanish see the ability to make money through other outlets (sugar cane and rum production)
      1. \*\*\*English desire to settle is slightly different (new land, rather than wealth, and religious freedom)
   4. As cash crops begin to develop, Europeans see need for cheap or free labor
   5. **Beginnings of demand for African slave labor**
      1. Europeans claim that Africans are uncivilized and barbaric
      2. To the contrary, huge civilizations exist and have existed in Africa
         1. Ex. Mali and city of Timbuktu- vast civilization
      3. Slave trade had started as early as *8th century* in the Mediterranean by Portuguese merchants
      4. Labor intensive crops create high demand for labor
         1. Portuguese are first to exploit African slaves, then Spanish, Dutch (who eventually control slave trade) and finally English (who eventually demand the most slaves)