Mercantilism and the Columbian Exchange
The Columbian Exchange

- The widespread exchange of plants, animals, diseases and people that took place between the “Old World” and the “New World” became known as **the Columbian Exchange**.
The Columbian Exchange

**Animals to the New World:**

- Horse
- Cow
- Pig
- Chicken
- Rats
- Bees

The introduction of beasts of burden to the Americas was a significant development from the Columbian Exchange. The introduction of the horse provided people in the Americas with a new source of labor and transportation.
The Columbian Exchange

Plants to the "New World"

- Sugarcane
- Grapes
- Wheat
- Bananas
- Coconut Palms
- Coffee
- Dandelions
The Columbian Exchange

Plants to the “Old World”

- Potato
- Corn
- Tomato
- Sweet Potato
- Cacao (Cocoa)
- Pineapples
- Pumpkins

- Exchange of foods, animals had dramatic impact on later societies
- Over time crops native to Americas became staples in diets of Europeans
- Foods provided substantial nutrition, helped people live longer and European population grew
- Until contact with Americas, Europeans had never tried tomatoes
- Most Europeans thought tomatoes poisonous
- By late 1600s, tomatoes had begun to be included in Italian cookbooks
The Columbian Exchange

*An Exchange of Pathogens*

The smallpox virus
In Mexico alone, the native population fell from roughly 30 million in 1519 to only 3 million in 1568.
“New World” Diseases

- Syphilis
- Hepatitis
- Polio
- Tuberculosis
People in the New World

- **Peninsulares** - Living in New World, born in Spain
- **Creoles** - Children of Peninsulares born in New World
- **Mulattos** - Children of Europeans & African slaves
- **Mestizos** - Children of Europeans & natives
- **Encomienda** - Labor system under which natives worked for Spanish
  - Early system of slave labor
  - Harsh treatment of natives
  - Usually overworked and often abused

*New people brought with them new ideas and cultures*
Slavery Expands

• As disease reduced the native populations in Spanish conquered territories, the Spanish began relying on imported slaves from Africa.

• In 1518, the first shipment of slaves went directly from west Africa to the Caribbean where the slaves worked on sugar plantations.

• By the 1520s, the Spanish had introduced slaves to Mexico, Peru, and Central America where they worked as cultivators and miners.

• By the early 17th Century, the British had introduced slaves to North America.
The Triangular Trade

Triangular Trade:
Trade routes between Africa, Europe and the Americas during the Atlantic Slave Trade.
Maps of the Triangular Trade

- Europeans take sugar, cotton, rum, tobacco, and coffee back to Europe.
- Europeans take slaves to the Americas.
- Europeans take pots, pans, guns, alcohol, and horses to Africa.
Stage One: Triangular Trade

- Ships left Europe loaded with goods, such as guns, tools, textiles & rum.
- Crews with guns went ashore to capture slaves.
- Slaves were obtained by:
  1. Kidnapping
  2. Trading
  3. People were given by chiefs as tributes (gifts)
  4. Chiefs would send people who were in debt
  5. Chiefs would send criminals through judicial process
  6. Prisoners of tribal wars were also sent.
Goree, or Slave-Stick

A French naval officer, in the Angola region in the late eighteenth century, describes how slave traders used "a forked branch which opens exactly to the size of a neck so the head can't pass through it. The forked branch is pierced with two holes so that an iron pin comes across the neck of the slave . . ., so that the smallest movement is sufficient to stop him and even to strangle him"
Goree, or Slave-Stick
Forced Participation

African Chiefs did resist in the beginning; however, they needed weapons for defence.

The Europeans were too powerful; therefore, any effort to resistance was unsuccessful.

If chiefs did supply slaves, they were threatened to be taken as slaves.
• Slaves were held in prisons along the west coast of Africa.

• They were waiting to put on slaves ships.

• Those that journeyed from the interior and were not fit for the ship were left on the shores to die.
Stage Two: The Middle Passage

- Ships sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas

- The journey took 8-10 weeks

- Some Africans tried to jump ship, refused to eat and rebelled.

- Loss of a slave’s life was a loss of $ for the sailors.
Stage Two

“Loose packing” meant that the captains would take on board fewer slaves in hope to reduce sickness and death.

“Tight packing” meant that the captains would carry as many slaves as their ship could hold, as they believed that many blacks would die on the voyage anyway.
Stage Three

• Africans would be sold at auctions in the Americas.
• The ships’ captains would use the $ from their sale to buy a 3rd cargo of raw materials: sugar, spices or tobacco.
• They sold this for a further large profit in Europe.
• In Europe, they would convert the raw materials into finished product.
Mercantilism: What is it?

**Mercantilism:** economic system where colonies exist for the benefit of the colonial power

- Europeans looked at their colonies as possessions that existed solely for their benefit
Principles of Mercantilism

1. The might of a country depends on gaining surpluses of gold and silver
2. A main goal is the creation of a **favorable balance of trade**
   
   • Exporting more than you import
Principles of Mercantilism

The Purpose of Colonies:
- Ship raw materials to the “mother country” (colonial power)
- Buy finished goods from the colonial power
The Growth of Capitalism in Europe

Increased trade with colonies encouraged the development of Capitalism in Europe

**Capitalism:**
An economic system in which assets are privately owned, and goods are produced for profit in a market economy
Supply and Demand

Market economies are based on the idea of supply and demand. This idea states that people will produce goods that other people want. In Europe, market economies developed as populations grew and the world economy developed.

1. Population grew in Europe. With more people, there was a greater demand for goods.
2. Since people wanted more goods, companies worked to make, or supply, more goods.
3. Finally, the supply of goods met the demand for goods.
The Growth of Capitalism in Europe

• People invested money in companies in hopes of making a profit

• **Joint Stock Companies**
  • Formed to finance overseas expeditions
  • Money is pooled together
  • Limited liability if venture fails