AP World History
Period 4 Review

Characteristics of the Early Modern Period (1450-1750)

- During the Early Modern Period, a rise in technological advances will change the global trade network as well as the lives of everyday people
- Improvements in medicine allow for an increased lifespan for many Europeans
- The idea of a nation-state will also begin to emerge, with distinct boundaries, languages, and cultures
- As a result, many European countries will begin to compete with each other for power and prestige, beginning with the Age of Exploration (ex. Seven Years’ War)

Factors for the rise of Exploration

- Technological advances in the compass, astrolabe, and shipbuilding made it physically possible for Europeans to travel far distances
- Individuals such as Prince Henry the Navigator from Portugal encouraged exploration – this led to other nations joining in to compete
- Remember the 3 G’s – God, Glory, Gold!

Commercial Revolution

- The Commercial Revolution in banking, investment and trade led to the wealth of nations who could then finance these journeys
- Although this benefited the economies of European countries, it had a negative effect on the property-less and urban workers (working class, who did not own the businesses)

Portugal’s trading-post empire

- Although they had nothing to offer in trade, Portuguese expeditions hoped to control the African gold and slave trade and the spice trade in the Indian Ocean
- They negotiated trading posts along the coast of Africa, giving them a monopoly over the African slave trade
- Eventually they moved toward the Indian Ocean, establishing ports along the Middle East and toward India

Control over the Indian Ocean Basin

- Portuguese ships attempted to control trade throughout the Indian Ocean Basin by building fortresses along the coast and patrolling the ocean
- In reality, Arab, Indian and Chinese merchants continued to play prominent roles in Indian Ocean commerce as Portugal did not have enough ships and manpower to sustain a monopoly

Exploration in Southeast Asia

- The Portuguese attempted to settle in Indonesia, but would eventually be forced out by the Dutch East India Company (Holland), who would take control of the island of Java
- The Spanish, who claimed the Philippines, brought missionaries to the archipelago, which resulted in a large number of the population converting to Roman Catholicism
- Eventually, European conquests in Southeast Asia will give them control of the

Treaty of Tordesillas

- Both Portugal and Spain wanted to stake claim on the territories they encountered in the Americas
- To avoid the two Catholic kingdoms from going to war, they signed the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), giving Spain all territory to the west of the line and Portugal all territory to the east of the line
- As a result, Portugal received Brazil and Spain received Mesoamerica, the Andean Region, and the Philippines

The Portuguese in Brazil

- The Portuguese at first did not have much interest in Brazil until after French and Dutch explorers attempted to settle
- Eventually they began building sugar plantations which would later be copied in the Caribbean
- Because it was difficult to get native labor, the Portuguese turned to importing African slaves. By the 1580s they would rely on large scale slave labor

The Spanish Colonies

- By the 1570s the Spanish monarchy gradually extended its control over the Americas, replacing the conquistadors with royal administrators
- The Spanish appointed viceroy. (king’s representatives in the Americas) to rule these territories (called viceroyalties)
The Renaissance
- The expansion of the Portuguese and Spanish in the Caribbean and development of sugar plantations created an increased need for labor
- Natives were succumbing to new diseases such as smallpox
- Few indentured servants would willingly sign up to work in harsh environments of the sugar plantations

Missionary Efforts in the Colonies
- Catholic missionaries also traveled to the colonies in an attempt to convert the native population
- Bartolome de las Casas was a Spanish priest who went to the colonies as a missionary and eventually protested the treatment of the native Indians

Rise of Mercantilism
- The wealth gained from the colonies in the Americas led to a rise in mercantilism – an economic policy that involved minimizing imports, selling more exports and collecting taxes from colonies to make a profit
- The “mother country” would be able to increase their exports and imports from the colonies without having to pay a tariff (tax) – causing a favorable balance of trade

Influx of gold and silver
- Although Spain and Portugal became extremely wealthy through their colonies, the increased influx of silver and gold into Spain’s economy resulted in inflation, devaluing the currency
- Other regions which benefited from the influx of silver and gold, such as Ming China and the Ottoman Empire also saw a detrimental effect on their economies

The Columbian Exchange
- The Columbian Exchange was the global transfer of animals, plants, diseases, human populations, and culture between the Old World (Europe, Asia, Africa) and the New World (Americas)
- New World crops such as maize, corn, potato and squash were introduced to the Old World
- The Old World brought wheat, rice, horses, cattle, and disease to the New World

Impact of Slave Trade on Africa
- Many African tribes participated in the lucrative slave trade by kidnapping and selling their enemies to the Europeans
- Their desire for European guns and manufactured goods led to increased violence between African tribes and local conflicts/wars

Ming Dynasty ends exploration
- Although the Ming Dynasty had fleets of ships larger than the Europeans, their ethnocentrism and lack of interest in other lands diminished their desire to explore
- Confucian bureaucrats who had just retaken power after the overthrow of Mongol rule was also hesitant to embrace anything foreign, and discouraged exploration
- At this same time, Neo-Confucianism, which absorbed Buddhist and Confucian influences became prominent in Ming China
- Neo-Confucianism emphasized conservative social values such as family loyalty, obedience to authority, and correct social behavior

Tokugawa Japan
- By the 1600s, the Tokugawa Shogunate had taken control of the government, leaving the emperor as the figurehead but holding the real power
- Like Ming China, Japan isolated themselves from European contact and trade
- The shoguns feared westernization, and wanted to keep control of Japan without the influence of foreign ideas

The Renaissance
- The Renaissance, a rebirth of arts and culture, began in Italy during the 14th and 15th centuries
- Renaissance art reflected Humanist ideals – focusing on every day life and individual achievement
- Moved away from religious themes and moved toward secular (non-religious) thought
- Many Renaissance artists recalled works from Classical Greece and Rome
The Protestant Reformation Begins

- Humanist ideas during the Renaissance led people to question the Church
- Objected to things like: sale of indulgences (official pardon from sin), increased church fees, power-hungry clergy
- This led to the Protestant Reformation: an era of PROTEST to and REFORM of the abuses of the Catholic Church

Martin Luther Ushers in the Protestant Reformation

- **Martin Luther** was a German monk who objected to the sale of indulgences
- He posted his famous 95 Theses, or arguments, against the corruption of the church
- The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg allowed his ideas to spread quickly
- Other Reformers during this time period include: **John Calvin and King Henry VIII of England**

The impact of the Enlightenment

- During the Enlightenment period, philosophers attempted to use reason and rational thought to understand nature and human affairs
- Writers such as John Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire, and Wollstonecraft wrote about the rights of humans (incl. women)
- These ideas would eventually influence the basic tenants of government found after the French and American Revolutions

Absolute Monarchies

- During the Early Modern Period, the absolute monarchs of England, France and Spain centralized their regimes, curbed the power of the nobles, and increased their wealth
- Many of them limited religious tolerance by establishing a state religion and forcing subjects to convert (i.e. Anglican Church, French Huguenots)
- In England, the signing of the Magna Carta established the power of the Parliament over the king

Peter the Great of Russia

- As and absolute czar, Peter the Great is known for westernizing Russia, establishing the capital St. Petersburg as the "Window to the West"
- He attempted to establish western traditions in Russia by encouraging Russian nobles (boyars) to shave their beards and wear western clothes
- He also encouraged women to adopt western styles and attend public events

Catherine the Great

- Following Peter the Great, Catherine the Great also attempted to modernize and westernize Russia
- Even though she was influenced by Enlightenment ideas, she was an absolute ruler who increased the power of the aristocracy over the serfs, making the lives of the serfs worse during her reign
- Many serfs rebelled by attempting to seize land and killing their landlords, making Catherine even more ruthless in her persecution of them

The Muslim Empires

- By the 16th century, Turkish warriors from central Asia would set up three empires in the Islamic world: Ottoman Empire, Safavid Empire, and Mughal Empire
- Their use of newly invented firearms, including cannons and small arms to create their empires led to them to become known as **Gunpowder Empires**

The Ottoman Slave Troops

- As the Ottoman forces continued to expand to the Balkans, they would capture young boys to become slaves of the sultan, in a policy called Devshirme
- These boys received special training, learned Turkish, and converted to Islam. Many would join an elite soldier class, known as **Janissaries**
- Over time, these Janissaries would become their own state-within-a-state, with their own political power – sometimes even controlling who became sultan

The Siege of Constantinople

- In 1453, the Ottomans surrounded the city of Constantinople, led by Mehmed II
- After a month of siege warfare, their cannons were finally able to break down the city's walls
- Constantinople was renamed Istanbul and was established as the new Ottoman capital
Suleyman (Suleiman) the Magnificent

- The Ottoman Empire reached its height under **Suleyman the Magnificent**, who ruled from 1520-1566
- He commissioned the **Suleymaniye**, one of the greatest engineering achievements of Islamic civilization
- Like Suleyman, many sultans of the Ottoman Empire patronized the arts and commissioned the building of mosques to demonstrate their power

Reasons for Ottoman Decline

- As Ottoman rule continued into the 20th century, their empire became **too large to maintain**, leading to a decline in effective administration
- A weak central government led to the exploitation of peasants by their local rulers, resulting in **peasant uprisings**
- Issues with succession led to weak sultans becoming pawns to their viziers
- The Ottomans also failed to drive the Portuguese out of the Indian Ocean trade network – weakening their control of the region

The Safavid Empire

- Similar to the Ottomans, the Safavid dynasty began as frontier warriors who became a military power
- However, the Safavids followed the Shi’a sect of Islam, making them enemies with the Ottomans (who were Sunni)

Distinct Persian Culture

- Persian influences began to supplant (override) Turkish influences in the Safavid Empire
- Persian gradually became the language over Turkish
- Persian court rituals and bureaucratic organization were also practiced
- As Shi’ism continued to spread, it became part of Iranian identity, separating them from their Arab and Turkic neighbors

The Battle of Chaldiran

- The Safavid Empire attempted to challenge Ottoman authority in the West, and take revenge for the Ottoman persecution of Shi’a in their territory
- Their defeat at the **Battle of Chaldiran** cemented the Ottoman control of the region and put an end to Safavid dreams of westward expansion

Rulers of the Mughal Empire

- In the early 16th century, a conqueror named **Babur** (ruled 1526-1530) overthrew the Delhi Sultanate and founded the Mughal Dynasty
- Babur's grandson **Akbar the Great** (ruled 1556-1605) came to power when he was 13 and went on to conquer most of northern and central India
- This made the Mughal Empire the only one of the three gunpowder empires in which **Muslims were the minority**

How were Akbar's policies tolerant of other cultures/religions?

- To reward loyal members of the military and civil servants, Akbar granted **mansabs**, or ranked offices, who received land or cash payments
- He abolished the tax on non-Muslims (jizya), passed laws protecting cows (which were sacred to Hindus), and gave influential Hindu key positions in government
- He also forged strong alliances with local Hindu princes by marrying Hindu women and allowing them to practice their own religion

Similarities between the Gunpowder Empires

- Relied on large bureaucracies to govern
- Followed traditions of Central Asian steppes
- Powerful rulers garnered public support by providing for their subjects and patronizing the arts
- **ALL THREE** empires created with help from firearms and cannons

Differences

- Ottomans – wanted to become ghazis, or warriors of the faith
- Safavids – devout religious Shi’a (enemies with Ottoman Sunni)
- Mughals – most religiously diverse of the three, with Muslim rulers as the minority