

## STUDY PACKS 6 & 7

### EXPLORATION AND COLONIALISM

“The historians who objected to the term ‘discovery’ were trying to camouflage the fact that it was Columbus and his ships that ventured out and landed on the shores of the Americas, and not American Indians who landed on the shores of Europe.”

~~ Dinesh D’ Souza, *What’s So Great about America*, p.59~~

#### I. EXPLORATION BECOMES A SCIENCE

Before the 1500’s, the people of Europe existed largely \_\_\_\_\_. There was only very limited trade with Asia and Africa. There are many stories of bold adventurers who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the west, but they left no permanent colonies or trading routes. But as time went on, Europeans developed the necessary tools for successful exploration and colonization.

##### A. THE VIKINGS

The Viking tribes of Scandinavia were the first Europeans to explore widely and leave a record of it. These fierce warrior tribes believed in their right to plunder and pillage anywhere they could travel to. They established colonies in Russia where they battled the Slavic peoples. They were great seafarers who built battleships that used to raid all over Europe. Towns near the ocean coast or on the shores of rivers that emptied into the ocean were always targets for lightning-quick Viking raids. “The Vikings are coming—the Vikings are coming!” was the most feared sound of the time for many towns and villages. The Vikings came to settle in places like Normandy (France) and Northern England.

The Vikings became great seafarers and learned how to build ocean-worthy ships. Their culture greatly valued daring exploits and risky adventures. This spirit led them west where they settled the Island of Iceland.

Around A.D. 99, Olaf Tryggvason became a Christian during one of his raids into Germany. He became quite a changed man and he devoted himself bringing Christianity to the Vikings. Eventually, the Vikings developed a mixed culture—\_\_\_\_\_. Olaf sent both missionaries and trading expeditions to Iceland. Eric the Red, still a pagan, sailed west from Iceland and discovered Greenland. Several settlements were started there and trade was begun with the Eskimos who lived there.

Eric’s son, Leif Erickson, became a Christian and he soon took missionaries to Greenland, both to preach to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Soon, thirty-two Christian churches were started in Greenland settlements. From Greenland, Leif sailed west and discovered what he called Vinland. Repeated trips were made and settlements were established. Undoubtedly, this was part of North America. Unfortunately, the settlements in Greenland and Vinland were eventually abandoned by the Vikings, but the stories about them continued. Iceland became an accepted part of Europe, and much commerce traveled back and forth from the island to the continent. Columbus visited there in 1477. While in Iceland, he probably heard stories about Vinland.

## B. MARCO POLO

The Venetian adventurer, Marco Polo, traveled to China and back. His writings focused European attention on this part of the world. This resulted in trade China for spices, silk, cotton, and precious stones.

However, this trade was very expensive, and it was monopolized by the merchants of Venice. Europeans began to dream of \_\_\_\_\_ . Some dreamed of sailing past Africa and turning east —others dreamed of sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean and arriving in the Orient.

Despite the mythology common in the late twentieth century, most Europeans about this time, did not believe the earth was flat. A few did, and they had drawn maps, but it was commonly known that the earth was round. The Jews, Arabs, Greeks, and the Romans had all taught that \_\_\_\_\_. This was the official position of the Roman Catholic Church. People were familiar with the reference to the “circle of the earth” in Isaiah 40:22.

## C. PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

Prince Henry, of the royal family of Portugal, devoted himself to developing new sailing methods. Every year, he sponsored a new expedition down the coast of Africa. Each year, his men tried to travel farther than the expedition the year before. Each crew — mapped the coast, went ashore, and brought back interesting items to return to Portugal (like ivory and apes). Each expedition tested new sailing techniques, navigation instruments, types of sail, and wrote reports on their finding. Much was learned that improved the European ability to \_\_\_\_\_ .

Shortly after his death, one of Henry’s sailors, Bartholomew Diaz, rounded the southernmost tip of Africa — the Cape of Good Hope. Later, one of his sailors, Vasco De Gama, made it all the way to India. Soon, Portuguese ships were regularly sailing to India and China.

## II. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Columbus was born in 1451. He dedicated his life to the sea and to God. He served in an expedition that fought the Barbary Pirates in North Africa. He was twice shipwrecked. He was married in 1480, had one son, was widowed in 1485, remarried in 1488, and had one more son. It was Columbus’ dream to sail across the Atlantic Ocean and find a quicker way to India and China. He had three clear motives \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , and \_\_\_\_\_. He did not see any conflict in these motives. Columbus was a Roman Catholic, but he had clear evangelical Protestant leanings. The writings of Columbus contain literally hundreds of references to his personal trust in Christ and his missionary desire. Below are a few representative samples:

“And your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians and Princes, devoted to the holy Christian faith and the propagation thereof — and the enemies of the sect of Mohammed and of all idolatries and heresies, resolved to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the said regions of India, to see the said

Princes and peoples and lands, and the disposition of them an[d] of all [tribes] and the manner which may be undertaken for their conversion to our holy faith.” (*Journal*, P.48)

“I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy and they have covered me completely, I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence. No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, who desires that people should perform for Him those things for which He hold Himself responsible! Day and night, moment by moment, everyone should express to Him their most devoted gratitude.” (*Book of Prophecies*)

“I, in order that they might develop a very friendly disposition toward us, because I knew that they were a people who could better be freed and converted to our holy faith by love than by force, gave to some of them red caps and to others glass beads, which they hung on their necks and many other things of slight value, in which they took much pleasure. At this, they were greatly pleased and became so entirely our friends that it was a pleasure. At this, they were greatly pleased and became so entirely our friends that it was a wonder to see. ...I believe that they would easily be made Christians, for it seemed to me that they had no religion of their own.” (*Journal*, pp. 64-65)

Columbus got sponsorship from the King and Queen of Spain for voyages west. He made four expeditions, in AD 1492, 1493, 1498, and 1502. Among Columbus’ many accomplishments included exploring all through the Caribbean, claiming the area for Spain, starting several settlements and making alliances with many native tribes. At first, he mistakenly thought he had arrived in India and he called the natives Indians. The name stuck.

One tribe Columbus did not make an alliance with was the Caribs. Many other tribes saw Columbus \_\_\_\_\_.  
Columbus eventually enslaved the Caribs saying that they were fit for no other life.

Columbus became a governor for the Spanish. He was not as efficient a governor as he had been an explorer, but he was a good and honest ruler. Tragically, not all the governors who came after him were as worthy. Unfortunately, many modern historians have seen fit to blame Columbus for their failings.

Columbus’ explorations and writings had brought the Western Hemisphere to the attention of Europe. The history of the world \_\_\_\_\_.

The late Twentieth Century has seen much false information given out about Columbus. He has been described as an evil, hypocritical villain. None of these charges are true. Much more accurate accounts of Columbus are found in *Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus* by Samuel Eliot Morrison and *Columbus and Cortez, Conquerors for Christ* by John Eidsmore.

### III. THE POPE’S LINE OF DEMARCATION

All of Europe was awed by the discoveries of the Spanish and Portuguese. In order to prevent conflict between nations loyal to the papacy, the pope announced that he was dividing the world in half — one side to be colonized by the Portuguese, the other by the Spanish. As a result, the Portuguese colonized in Africa and India. The Spanish settled throughout South and Central America. Of course, not all of Europe was pleased with this arrangement. The French king declared that he wanted to be shown \_\_\_\_\_ it declared that the world was to be half Portuguese and half Spanish.

#### IV. CORTEZ AND THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO

The Spanish began to settle the islands of the Caribbean. From there, they spread out, exploring the continent. Ponce de Leon lost his life trying to find the Fountain of Youth in modern-day Florida. Hernando De Soto explored the Mississippi River and the southeastern part of what is now the United States. Francisco de Coronado explored the southwestern part of the present United States. He was looking for El Dorado, the legendary seven cities of gold.

One Spanish explorer, Hernando Cortez, began to explore the territory of modern Mexico. This was the territory of the Aztec Empire. The many tribes which had been subjugated by the Aztecs treated Cortez as a liberator.

The story of how a few hundred Spanish soldiers defeated the mighty Aztec Empire, which could field hundreds of thousands of soldiers is an incredible one. Modern historians often say that Cortez was triumphant over the Aztecs because of his superior technology. In reality, his forces had 13 muskets, 32 crossbows, and 10 cannons. While these were superior weapons to those of the Aztecs, you do not defeat hundreds of thousands of professional warriors with such few weapons. The key to Cortez's successful conquest of Mexico was \_\_\_\_\_. When Mexico City was captured, the Spanish soldiers made up less than \_\_\_\_\_ of the conquering army. Everywhere Cortez went, the people looked to him \_\_\_\_\_. Cortez's brilliant leadership and the bravery of his little band provided the spark of an empire-wide rebellion against Montezuma, the Aztec Emperor.

The Aztec culture was completely \_\_\_\_\_. Human sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_, child sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_, and torture were considered honorable and were a regular part of the culture. Modern historians often portray Cortez's motives as evil. While it is true that Cortez did not always live a consistent Christian life, it is also true that he had a distinct missionary motive. He described his preaching before Montezuma this way:

"I made them understand by the interpreters how deceived they were in putting their hope in idols made of unclean things by their own hands. I told them that they should know there was but \_\_\_\_\_, Who had created the heavens and earth and all things, and them and us, Who was without beginning and immortal; that they should adore Him and believe in Him and not in any creature or thing."

Cortez and his men also longed for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The conquest of Mexico was to provide plenty of both.

Through an incredible series of battles and adventures, Cortez defeated the Aztec Empire and claimed the region for Spain.

#### V. OTHER SPANISH EXPLORERS

Spanish explorers spread throughout this "new world". Balboa crossed the jungles of the Isthmus of Panama and saw the Pacific Ocean. Pizzaro, in a series of adventures similar to that of Cortez, conquered the Inca Empire (modern Peru) and claimed the region for Spain. Magellan made the first recorded trip around the world.

Because part of modern Brazil stretched east past the pope's Line of Demarcation, the Portuguese planted colonies there.

The Spanish set up governments based upon the model of the feudal system. Indians became serfs and the Spanish and other Europeans became the nobles. At first, the governors and nobles usually ruled wisely and \_\_\_\_\_.  
As time went on, the system became more and more corrupt, and often, life under the Spanish governors became as bad as it had been under tyrants like the Aztecs and Incas.

## **VI. FRENCH COLONIZATION**

Early French attempts to settle in the Caribbean and in Florida were defeated by the Spanish. The French eventually explored and settled the area of modern Canada. They moved down the Mississippi and established trading posts through much of the western half of the present United States.

The territory of Canada was known as New France. The territory west of the Mississippi was called Louisiana.

The French and English fought many wars throughout the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. As a result of these conflicts, New France was ceded to England. The British began to settle extensively in this area. In 1803, Napoleon, his new regime desperate for money, sold Louisiana to the United States.

Sweden and Holland established small colonies in North America, but they were soon absorbed by the English.

## **VII. ENGLISH COLONIZATION**

### **ENGLISH EXPLORERS**

The first recorded expedition of English ships to the "new world" came in 1497. John Cabot sailed the east coast of modern Canada. He discovered the great fishing regions in the oceans there. From then on, English fishing ships routinely traveled to the great fishing areas.

Most English explorers were focused on trying to find a way through this new continent. They were still interested in a waterway, which would allow them to travel quickly to India and China. They tried to sail around the northern islands of Canada but they were stopped by the ice and cold. They sailed up every navigable river, but no waterway was to be found. This process was referred to as the search for the Northwest Passage.

Eventually, the English took to settling along the North Atlantic seaboard. English merchants sponsored most of the thirteen colonies established there. Most of the settlers established there. Most of the settlers came looking for either religious or economic freedom.

## **VIII. MERCANTILISM**

The Spanish and French extended their imperial rule to their colonies in the Western Hemisphere. The people had few guaranteed rights in Europe, and they did not expect any better when they went to the colonies. For the English, things were different.

English merchants, closely allied to the English government, developed the philosophy of mercantilism. This theory declared that colonies existed for two reasons. First, to provide a source of raw materials for the mother country. Secondly, to provide a market in which the mother country could sell its finished products. In short, they saw the colonies as “slaves” to the mother country. However, the vast majority of English settlers crossed the ocean and braved the wilderness for increased freedom. They expected all the common law rights of native Englishmen.

From the beginning, there was a conflict between the British merchants and the colonists on the North Atlantic seaboard.

As European economic interests encouraged colonization, European nations began to colonize most of Africa, large parts of Asia, and a number of Pacific islands.

## IX. THE ETHICS OF COLONIZATION

“Slavery is the price I paid for civilization, and that is worth all that I have paid through my ancestors for it.”  
~~ Zoro Neal Hurston ~~

It is common today to view colonialism as a terrible, racist, blight on the history of the world. This is addressed effectively by Dinesh D’ Souza in chapter two of his book, *What Is So Great About America*. This chapter is entitled “Two Cheers for Colonialism”. D’ Souza, who is from India, sums it up this way:

“While I was a young boy growing up in India, I noticed that my grandfather, who had lived under British colonialism, was instinctively and habitually anti-white. He wasn’t just against the English; he was generally against the white man. For him, the white man was basically a scoundrel, and if he ever came across a white man, he had a way of showing that the seemingly innocuous fellow was actually up to no good. When I first proposed the idea of going to America, he dissuaded me. ‘You should stay away from that place,’ he said. ‘It’s full of white people.’ I realized that he had an animus that I did not share. This puzzled me: why did he and I feel so differently?

“Only years later, after a great deal of experience and a fair amount of study, did the answer finally hit me. The reason for our difference of perception was that colonialism had been pretty bad for him, but pretty good for me. Another was to put it was that colonialism had injured those who lived under it, but paradoxically, it proved beneficial to their descendants. Much as it chagrins me to admit it—and much as it will outrage many Third World intellectuals for me to say it—my life would have been much worse had the British never ruled India.

“How is this possible? Virtually everything that I am, what I do, and my deepest beliefs, all are the product of a worldview that was brought to India by colonialism. I am a writer, and I write in English. My ability to do this, and to reach a world market, is indebted to the British. If not for them, I might still be a writer (actually this is extremely doubtful, but for reasons given later), but I would write in a local language (Konkani or Marathi) and reach a very limited audience. My understanding of technology, which allows me, like so many Indians, to function successfully in the modern world, was entirely the product of a Western education that came to India as a result of the British. So also my beliefs in freedom of expression, in self-government, in equality of rights under the law, and in the universal principle of human dignity—they are all the product of Western civilization.

“I am not suggesting that it was the intention of the colonialists to give all these wonderful gifts to the Indians. Admittedly, some apologists for colonialism, such as Macaulay and Kipling, wrote as

if the British endured a ‘white man’s burden’ to share civilization with the lesser peoples. More candidly, Lord Lugard spoke of colonialism’s ‘dual mandate’: to help the local people *and* to benefit the ruling power. In practice, of course, the colonialists routinely subordinated the first objective to the second. Colonialism was not based on philanthropy; it was a form of conquest and rule. The English came to India to govern, and they were not primarily interested in the development of the natives, whom they viewed as picturesque savages. It is impossible to measure, or overlook, the enormous pain and humiliation that was inflicted by the rulers over their long period of occupation. Understandably, the Indians chafed under this yoke. Toward the end of the British reign in India, Mahatma Gandhi was asked, ‘What do you think of Western civilization?’ He replied, ‘\_\_\_\_\_.’”