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*Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*  
Chapter 14, Study Guide, **Empires and Encounters, 1450-1750** Study Guide pp. 625-650

### European Empires in the Americas

1. What initiated early Western European Empires to expand? What role did geography play?

2. Why did the European merchant class seek direct access to Asian wealth?

3. As population sharply diminished in the Americas, what did the “great dying” create?

4. The silver mines in Mexico and Peru allowed the Spanish conquerors and other Europeans to buy massive amounts of what highly valuable commodities?

5. What was the Columbian Exchange?

### Comparing Colonial Societies in the Americas

6. Explain the theory of mercantilism.

7. What three kinds of economy were established by the new colonial societies among Native American cultures?

8. What was the economic foundation of colonial rule in Mexico and Peru? Who provided the labor?

9. Draw a diagram of this social hierarchy and elaborate on the class structure.

10. What happened to Native Americans’ religious beliefs in Mesoamerica and Peru when confronted with Catholicism?

11. How did the plantation societies of Brazil and Caribbean differ from those of southern colonies in British North America? (Think economies, labor, and social standing.)

### The Steppes and Siberia: The Making of a Russian Empire

12. Who were the Cossacks?

13. Compared to the Western Europeans, explain how the Russians acquired their empire.
Asian Empires

14. What were the major features of Chinese empire building in the early modern era of the 17th and 18th centuries?

15. How did Mughal attitudes and policies toward Hindus change from the time of Akbar to that of Aurangzeb?

16. What was the century-long conflict between the Ottomans and the Safavids?

17. Why was Byzantium no longer the “heir to the glory of Rome?”

18. What were some of the ways that Christians had welcomed Ottoman conquest?

19. In what other ways did Turkish rule bear heavily on Christians?

20. What was the outcome of the Ottoman Siege of Vienna in 1683

1. The racial system of which of the following regions was characterized by less racial mixing and less willingness to recognize the offspring of interracial unions than the other regions?
   (A) Brazil
   (B) British North America
   (C) The Caribbean
   (D) Mexico

2. Which of the following is a reason why Portugal, Spain, France, and Britain were the first to expand into the New World?
   (A) These lands had a long tradition of distant exploration.
   (B) These lands were Muslim.
   (C) These lands were on the Atlantic coast.
   (D) These lands believed in ancient legends of a lost world across the ocean.

3. The Spanish Empire in former Aztec and Inca lands
   (A) relied primarily on the import of African slaves for labor.
   (B) failed to set up an elaborate administrative bureaucracy.
   (C) possessed an economy based on commercial agriculture and mining.
   (D) possessed strict social boundaries between races which made mixed race people rare.

4. What happened to Native Americans’ religious beliefs in Mesoamerica and Peru when confronted with Catholicism?
   (A) They rejected Catholicism completely.
   (B) They blended their old customs easily into Catholic practices.
   (C) They only pretended to be Catholic when Europeans were around.
   (D) They completely abandoned their old religions, and embraced Catholicism entirely.

5. Which of the following statements about the systems of slavery in Brazil and British North America is true?
   (A) The importation of slaves ended earlier in Brazil than in North America.
   (B) More slaves were voluntarily set free by their owners in Brazil than in North America.
   (C) Slaves in Brazil had longer working lives on average and became self-reproducing after 1750.
   (D) Only slaves in North America worked on plantations.
6. The British colonies and the Portuguese/Spanish colonies in the Americas differed in that
   (A) more mixed-race families emerged in the British colonies.
   (B) Spanish colonists were far more numerous than British colonists.
   (C) the British colonists sought to escape European traditions, while Spanish/Portuguese colonists sought to recreate them.
   (D) the British colonization began a full 100 years before the Spanish/Portuguese colonization.

7. What is one major reason for the higher literacy rates in British colonies than in Spanish/Portuguese colonies?
   (A) Protestantism, which encouraged reading the Bible, was the dominant form of Christianity in the British colonies.
   (B) Paper was harder to maintain in the warm, humid Spanish/Portuguese colonies.
   (C) The British government invested massive funds into building libraries throughout North America.
   (D) Spanish/Portuguese colonizers did not attempt to teach Native Americans to speak or read Spanish/Portuguese.

8. Which of the following was a feature of China’s rule over its newly acquired Central Asian territories that made the region more a separate part of its empire rather unified with the core of China?
   (A) A massive inflow of Chinese settlers
   (B) A concerted effort to assimilate the local populations into Chinese society
   (C) Genocide
   (D) The creation of a new office called the Court of Colonial Affairs

9. What was the consequence of the expansion of the Chinese and Russian Empires on the nomadic peoples of Central Asia?
   (A) The political independence and economic prosperity of nomadic peoples came to an end.
   (B) The local religious customs and languages were completely erased, replaced entirely by the customs of the conquerors.
   (C) A brief economic boom ensued, which encouraged many nomads to move to cities and buy houses.
   (D) They felt little impact; as long as they paid tribute, the nomadic peoples were mostly left alone.

10. Akbar’s policy toward the Hindus of India is best described as
    (A) extermination.
    (B) religious tolerance and incorporation of Hindu elites.
    (C) massive efforts to convert Hindus to Islam.
    (D) holy war against Hindus.

Make sure the following empires are labeled and shaded on your world map and included on your timeline. Include the years each ruled.

1. Spanish Empire in the Americas
2. British colonies in the Americas
3. Rule of Peter the Great and Catherine the Great of Russia
4. Ming Dynasty of China
5. Qing Dynasty of China
6. Mughal Dynasty of India
7. Ottoman Empire
8. Safavid Empire
9. Habsburg Empire of Europe (map only)
10. England (map only)
11. France (map only)
12. Spain (map only)
13. Portugal (map only)