

## CHAPTER THREE: EMPIRES, STATES, AND THE NEW WORLD, 1500-1775

This chapter covers the time period—from 1500 to 1775—that ultimately turned out to be pivotal in the course of world history. Three related process—the "first globalization" that brought the entire world into a single trading system for the first time, the vitality of empires throughout the world, and the growth of a system of sovereign states in Europe—brought Europeans to a position of broadly comparable wealth and power with Asians.

### Key Terms/Vocabulary

"first globalization"	Tenochtitlán	sugar plantations
empire	Moctezuma	slavery
sovereign state	Inca	trade triangles
Mughal India	Lake Titicaca	European state system
Russia	conquistadors	Great Power wars
Romanov dynasty	Hernan Cortéz	taxation
perdure	Francisco Pizarro	state building process
Qing dynasty	Columbian exchange	divine right of kings
Manchus	Great Dying	citizen
tribute trade system	<i>encomienda</i>	French Revolution of
tributary states	<i>repartimento</i>	1789
Safavid Iran	Potosí	mercantilism
Turks (Turkish)	Spanish empire	bullion
political economy	Charles V	monarchy
nomadic threat	Philip II	Navigation Acts
Aurangzeb	Manila	import duties
dynamics of empire	cotton textiles	Seven Years' War
Aztec empire	silk	
Mexica	silver	

### Study Questions for Chapter Three

A. The big questions for Chapter Three are these:

1. How did it happen that by 1775, two differently organized world systems—China's East Asian tribute trade system, and Britain's capitalist world system—came to dominate much of the world, and to confront each other?

2. How was the New World incorporated into the world economy, and why was silver such an important part of that story?

B. The following questions build up to and inform the big questions:

1. What is meant by "the first globalization"? Why do you think the author uses that term? What do you think he is trying to distinguish it from?
2. Identify which empires expanded across the Eurasian continent in the centuries after 1500? What consequences did the expansion of these empires have? Which part of Eurasia did not experience the establishment or expansion of an empire?
3. Compare and contrast the Aztec and Inca empires in the Americas. To what extent were they similar or different from empires in the Old World?
4. How and why was it possible for a small number of Spanish "conquistadors" to vanquish the much larger Aztec and Inca empires?
5. Why is the term "conquest" inappropriate for describing what happened to Aztecs and Incas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century?
6. What was the Columbian exchange?
7. What was the size of the New World population before Europeans arrived, and then after they arrived, say around 1600? Why did so many New World natives die during the 16<sup>th</sup> century? What was the significance of the Great Dying?
8. Why was there such a huge demand in the world for silver? Where did most of it come from after 1500? Where did most of it go?
9. Why did the Spanish attempt to create an empire in Europe, and why did the effort fail?
10. Why did most New World silver wind up in China?

11. Compare economic production and productivity in Europe and Asia ca. 1500-1800. Which part of the world was more productive and wealthy? Why? What evidence is there that Asian economies were more productive than European ones?
12. Why were slaves used on New World sugar plantations? Why did Europeans establish sugar plantations in the New World in the first place?
13. Who organized and controlled the African slave trade to the Americas?
14. How did warfare define the European state system? How did wars lead to a consolidation of political units in Europe into fewer and fewer numbers? Why did this process lead to the creation of a competing state system instead of a unified empire?
15. Describe the process of state building, and the role that taxation and armies have in it?
16. What was the theory of "mercantilism?" Which countries used it to inform their economic policies during the 18<sup>th</sup> century?
17. What was the Seven Years' War of 1756-1763, and why is it important in world history?
18. Summarize the global balance of forces around 1775. Since 1500, which states had become strong? Which weak? Which rising? Which declining (eclipsed)?

*Map exercise:* Using different colored pencils or highlighters, on Map 3.1 (pp. 90-91) identify the following empires/territories: 1) the Chinese Qing empire; 2) the Russian empire; 3) Mughal India; 4) Ottoman empire; 5) Safavid empire; 6) Spain and its colonial holdings; 7) Great Britain and its colonial holdings; 8) France and its colonial holdings. Why isn't Mughal India part of the British or French empires in 1760? What happens to British and French colonial holdings by 1800? What do they gain? Lose?

*Additional Web Sites to Explore*

- The Reconquest of Iberia

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied\\_history/tutor/eurvoya/timeline.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya/timeline.html)

<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/~rs143/reconque.jpg>

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied\\_history/tutor/eurvoya/latin.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya/latin.html)

- [Aztecs and Conquistadors](#)

- [Accounts of African slavery:](#)

- [Discover India](#)

- [The Mughals](#)

- [African Timelines](#)

- [Indian History Sourcebook](#)