

Chapter 3

THE ATLANTIC WORLD, COMMERCE, AND WARS OF RELIGION, 1560–1648

3.11 THE OPENING OF THE ATLANTIC

Study Questions

1. How did the new, complex association of the Old and New Worlds, as Europeans called them, become a momentous event in human history?
2. Of what significance was Vasco da Gama's discovery of a sea route to the East? Why was there opposition in India to the arrival of the Portuguese? How did the Portuguese meet that opposition?
3. How did Columbus react to his discovery? How did others in Spain regard the new land?
4. How would you assess the nature of the Spanish empire in America? What negative and positive aspects would you mention?
5. Compare and contrast the empires created by Portugal in the East and by Spain in America.
6. How did the voyages of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries add to existing geographical knowledge?
7. From the painting and other illustrations on pages 103 and 106 what conclusions may be drawn about the significance of the European voyages for Europe, and for the relationships of Europeans with non-European peoples?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. In the East, the Portuguese created the first of Europe's commercial-colonial empires.
2. Christopher Columbus's voyage led to the somewhat disappointing discovery of America.
3. For a century it was only the Spanish and Portuguese who followed up the new ocean routes to America and the East.

4. In the populous, long-established civilizations of the East, the Portuguese were never more than a handful of outsiders who could not impose their language, religion, or way of life, in contrast to the Americas, where Europeans imposed their civilization on weakened and demoralized survivors.
5. The true character of the Spanish Empire in America is not easy to portray.
6. The opening of the Atlantic reoriented Europe.

Identifications

Vasco da Gama	treaty of 1494	Encomienda
Creole	<i>Conquistadores</i>	Mestizo
St. Francis Xavier	Potosí	Manila galleons
Magellan	Viceroyalty	University of Lima

Map Exercises

1. Study the map on p. 101 in the text. Can you trace the principal voyages and explorations to the East and to America described in the text? How did the Spanish and the Portuguese divide the globe in 1494?
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 3.11?

3.12 THE COMMERCIAL REVOLUTION

Study Questions

1. What were the most important economic changes in the early modern centuries that constituted the Commercial Revolution?
2. Describe the growth of European population in the sixteenth century. Why did the European population expand in this period?
3. What led to the price revolution?
4. Explain the origins, nature, and effects of the “putting out” or “domestic” system. Of what importance were the needs of the military in the rise of capitalism? What change in attitudes could be noted toward the lending of money at interest?

5. What does the putting out system suggest about the role of women in the economy of this age? Consider the illustration on p. 114 in your response.
6. Explain the general nature and purpose of mercantilism, citing examples of mercantilist policies and regulations. What comparison may be made between mercantilism and the New Monarchies?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. In the economic readjustments taking place in Europe, the opening of ocean trade routes was important, and other key factors were the growth in population, and the gradual rise in prices.
2. The Commercial Revolution signified the rise of a capitalistic economy and the transition from a town-centered to a nation-centered economic system.
3. The system of rural household industry signaled a new divergence between capital and labor.
4. Mercantilist practices and policies were designed to build strong and self-sufficient national economies.
5. Merchants and their respective governments came together to found official companies for the transoceanic trade. The most famous of all were the East India Companies, which the English founded in 1600, the Dutch in 1602, the French not until 1664.

Identifications

Price revolution	Fuggers	Favorable balance of trade
Usury	Statute of Artificers	Putting out system
Entrepreneur	Commercial capitalism	Internal tariffs
Medici	Mercantilism	East India companies

3.13 CHANGING SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Study Questions

1. What were the changes that occurred in the social structure in the 17th centuries? How were the nobility and bourgeoisie different?

2. Why did new economic classes emerge in Europe in the early modern centuries? How did the economic changes of the sixteenth century shape the experiences of each class?
3. What does the illustration on p. 122 tell us about the new demand for education? What provisions were made for the education of girls?
4. How did the economic changes of the 16th and 17th centuries affect the rural classes of eastern Europe and of western Europe differently?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The classes of Europe, broadly defined, took on forms in the early modern centuries that were to last until the industrializing era of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
2. As noble and upper middle class living standards rose, domestic service became the most common job for women.
3. The poor, if not positively worse off than in former times, gained the least from the great commercial developments with which economic history is usually concerned.
4. Education in the latter part of the sixteenth century took on an altogether new importance for the social system.
5. Social classes were formed not only by economic forces and education, but also by the action of governments.
6. Tax exemption could also be a sign of high social standing.
7. It was in the sixteenth century that important social differences developed between eastern and western Europe.

Identifications

Social structure	<i>Robot</i>	Plebeians
Yeomanry	Hidalgo	Hereditary subjection
Poor Law of 1601	Colleges	Junker
Bourgeoisie	Ursuline sisters	

3.14 THE WARS OF CATHOLIC SPAIN: THE NETHERLANDS AND

ENGLAND

Study Questions

1. Why did Philip II regard himself as a champion of Spanish national interests and as an international figure? Why was Spain ideally suited to be the instrument of Philip's goals and ambitions?
2. How would you characterize the general state of political and religious affairs in Europe in the early years of Philip's reign? What conflict existed between religious and national loyalties?
3. How permanent were Philip's triumphs in the years 1567 to 1572?
4. Explain the political, economic, and religious issues involved in the revolt of the Netherlands. How did the revolt overlap with the international political and religious struggles in Europe?
5. What role did the Spanish Armada play in invasion of England?
6. What were the reasons for Spain's decline after Philip's reign?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Philip's active participation in Europe's religious wars should be seen as part of his wider campaign to protect Spanish and Habsburg interests rather than as a crusade for Catholicism.
2. The Netherlands' revolt against Philip II was both political and religious and increasingly became an economic struggle as the years passed.
3. The Netherlands' revolt, which began as a national revolution for political independence from Spain, became part of the international conflict of the age.
4. England was now clearly emerging as the chief bulwark of Protestantism and of anti-Spanish feeling in northwestern Europe.
5. Although Spain was to remain the most formidable military power of Europe for another half-century, by the early seventeenth century its political and economic decline had already begun.

Identifications

Spanish Inquisition	Council of Troubles	Prince of Parma
Habsburg	Duke of Norfolk	Union of Utrecht
<i>Siglo de oro</i>	Lepanto	Sir Francis Drake
Escorial	William the Silent	<i>Armada católica</i>
Mary Queen of Scots	Twelve Years' Truce	Duke of Alva
Don Juan		

Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, Europe 1526, used in the preceding chapter for Section 2.9, show the division of Charles V's empire in 1556 between the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs. What other territories did Philip II rule outside Europe and in Europe after 1580? Source: *A History of the Modern World*, p. 79.
2. Study the map, The Low Countries, 1648, in the text on p. 129. How were the Low Countries divided as a result of events in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?
3. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 3.14?

3.15 THE DISINTEGRATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FRANCE

Study Questions

1. To what extent did the monarchy succeed in imposing unity on France by the second half of the sixteenth century? In what ways had feudalism changed?
2. Who were the Huguenots? What role did they play in French politics?
3. Describe the causes, course, and consequences of the civil and religious wars in France in the sixteenth century. How does the illustration on p. 136 depict the struggle?
4. Of what long-range significance was the position taken by the *politiques* in the civil wars in France?
5. How did Henry IV come to the throne in 1589? What was the deeper meaning of the remark, "Paris is well worth a Mass"?

6. Discuss Henry IV's attempt to resolve religious strife. What was the significance of his reign for the development of the French monarchy?
7. What were the objectives and accomplishments of Cardinal Richelieu?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Wars of Religion in France from 1562 to 1598 were no more religious than political.
2. The civil wars in sixteenth-century France were not wars in which one region of a country takes up arms against another, each retaining some apparatus of government, as in the American Civil War or the civil wars of the seventeenth century in England.
3. The *politiques* concluded that no doctrine was important enough to justify continuing war.
4. From the disorders of the religious wars in France germinated the ideas of royal absolutism and the sovereign state.
5. Under Henry IV, the foundations of Bourbon absolutism were laid.
6. Cardinal Richelieu worked to further the interests of the state, not those of the church.

Identifications

<i>Politiques</i>	Parlements	Huguenot
St. Bartholomew's Day	Estates General	Catherine de' Medici
La Rochelle	Marie de' Medici	Jean Bodin
Peace of Alais	Admiral de Coligny	Edict of Nantes

3.16 THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR, 1618–1648: THE DISINTEGRATION OF GERMANY

1. How did the Peace of Augsburg attempt to settle the religious question in the German states? What developments upset those arrangements?
2. How may one attempt to analyze the issues of the Thirty Years' War? How did European rivalries and ambitions become linked to the conflict in Germany?
3. Sketch the events associated with each of the major phases of the Thirty Years' War. How does the illustration on p. 141 depict the nature of the war?

4. What led to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and fragmentation of Germany?
5. Summarize and evaluate the Peace of Westphalia with respect to (a) the religious settlement, (b) territorial changes, and (c) constitutional issues within the Holy Roman Empire. Of what significance was the Peace of Westphalia for modern international relations?
6. How would you evaluate the impact of the Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia? What was the net result of the Wars of Religion?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Thirty Years' War was fought over both religious and constitutional issues in the Holy Roman Empire.
2. As an international war, the Thirty Years' War was a conflict principally between France and the Habsburgs and between Spain and the Dutch.
3. The Peace of Westphalia represented a general checkmate to the Catholic Counter Reformation in Germany.
4. The Peace of Westphalia confirmed the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire as an effective political entity.
5. The Peace of Westphalia marked the advent in international law of the modern system of sovereign states.
6. Germany as such, physically wrecked and politically cut into small pieces, ceased for a long time to play any significant part in European affairs.
7. With the close of the Thirty Years' War, the Wars of Religion came to an end and religion was never again an important issue in the political affairs of Europe as a whole.

Identifications

Holy Roman Empire	Frederick V	Wallenstein
Peace of Augsburg	Protestant Union	Gustavus Adolphus
Defenestration of Prague	Oxenstierna	Matthias
Ferdinand	Battle of the White Mountain	Peace of Westphalia

Edict of Restitution

Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, Europe, 1648, draw the approximate boundaries of the major European states after the Peace of Westphalia. Source: *A History of the Modern World*, pp. 144–145.
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 3.16?



GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 3

Study Questions

1. What was the nature and consequences of the European encounter with the New World?
2. Explain how in the age of religious upheaval, from the beginnings of the Protestant Reformation to 1648, religious issues blended with political, constitutional, economic, and social questions.
3. Describe the evolution of early modern capitalism, explaining (a) its origins in the Middle Ages, (b) the impact of the overseas discoveries in the sixteenth century, and (c) the relationship of emergent capitalism to the various social classes.
4. How did the years 1560–1648 bring the religious revolution to a close? Discuss developments in Spain, the Netherlands, England, France, the Holy Roman Empire, and Europe as a whole.

GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 3

1. Europeans writers took increasing pride in their understanding of the world and in what they regarded as the superiority of their own cultural or religious traditions. There was also much speculation on the diversity of the human races and cultures, which sometimes led to a new kind of race consciousness on the part of Europeans and sometimes to a cultural relativism in which European customs were seen as only one variant of human behavior as a whole. (p. 100)
2. Discovery means the bringing of newly found countries within the habitual knowledge or permanent commercial activity of the society from which the discoverer comes. Although sailors and travelers from Asia had long made voyages to distant places and engaged in trade across the Indian Ocean or South Pacific, it was the Europeans who discovered much of the Atlantic world. They did so in the period between 1450 and 1600, using maritime skills and geographical knowledge developed in the Mediterranean and off the Atlantic coast. (p. 101)
3. The steady rise in prices, which is to say the steady decline in value of a given unit of money (such as a shilling), constituted a gradual inflation. It has been called a “price revolution,” but it was so slow as to be hardly comparable to the kinds of inflation known in some modern societies. (p. 108)

4. The very growth of social differentiation, the fact that the middle and upper classes made such advances, left the condition of the poor correspondingly worse. (p. 120)
5. In eastern Europe at the beginning of modern times, the rural masses lost personal freedom and lived in a poverty that was mostly unknown among the peasants to the west, poor as the latter were. (p. 123)
6. The diplomats who assembled at Westphalia represented independent powers that recognized no superior or common tie. No one any longer pretended that Europe had any significant religious or political unity. (p. 143)
7. The effects of fire, disease, undernourishment, homelessness, and exposure in the seventeenth century were the more terrible because of the lack of means to combat them. The horrors that civilians have suffered in modern war are not wholly different from horrors that men and women experienced in the past. (p. 146)