

Reaching Out: Cross-Cultural
Interactions
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Chapter 19: Reaching Out: Cross-Cultural Interactions

- Between 1000 and 1500, the peoples of the eastern hemisphere traveled, traded, communicated, and interacted more regularly and intensively than ever before.
- Merchants and travelers exchanged trade goods, diffused technologies and spread religious faiths.
- They also exchanged diseases that caused deadly epidemics.

- During the middle decades of the fourteenth century, bubonic plague traveled the trade routes and spread through most of Eurasia. It caused death and destruction on large scale and interrupted long distance trade networks.
- Societies had begun to recover from the plague by the early fifteenth century. Chinese and western European peoples especially had re-stabilized their societies and renewed cross cultural contacts.

- In Europe, this effort had profound consequences for modern world history.
- As they sought to enter the markets of Asia, European mariners sailed to the western hemisphere and the Pacific Ocean.
- Their voyages brought the peoples of the eastern and western hemispheres and Oceania into permanent and sustained interaction with each other.
- Between 1000 and 1500, cross-cultural interactions pointed toward global interdependence, a principal characteristic of modern world history.

- The emergence of elaborate trading networks and the establishment of vast imperial states created great demand for political and diplomatic representation during the centuries after 1000.
- The thirteenth century was a time of especially active diplomacy involving distant parties.
- After about the eleventh century, educated Muslims from southwest Asia and north Africa regularly traveled to recently converted lands to help instill Islamic values.

- Islamic values spread through the efforts of legal scholars like Iban Batuta and also through the missionary activities of Sufi mystics.
- As in the early days of Islam, Sufis from 1000 to 1500 ventured to recently conquered or converted lands and sought to win a popular following for Islam in India, southeast Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Sufis did not enforce a strict, doctrinally correct understanding of Islam, but instead emphasized piety and devotion to Allah.

- By taking a flexible approach, the Sufis spread Islamic values without facing the resistance that doctrinal and unyielding campaigns might have produced.
- Roman Catholic missionaries also traveled long distances to spread Christianity.
- Missionaries accompanied the crusaders and other forces to all the lands where Europeans extended their influence after the year 1000.
- The most ambitious missions sought to convert Mongols and Chinese to Roman Catholic Christianity.

- Christianity made few inroads in China and east Asia because east Asian peoples already possessed religious and cultural traditions.
- About 1,300 the earth underwent a global climatic change, causing temperatures to decline significantly throughout the world.
- The earth experienced a “little ice age” where temperatures were much cooler than before.
- Along with the climate change, peoples in much of the eastern hemisphere also encountered the challenge of bubonic plague.

- During the 1340s Mongols, merchants, and other travelers help spread plague along trade routes west of China.
- By 1348, following the trade routes, plague had sparked epidemics in most of western Europe.
- In Europe plague erupted intermittently from the 1340s until the late seventeenth century.
- From 79 million in 1300, European population dropped by almost 25 percent to sixty million in 1400.

- Because of its heavy demographic toll, bubonic plague disrupted societies and economies throughout Eurasia and north Africa.
- In 1368 with plague raging, the Yuan dynasty in China collapsed the Mongols departed leaving China in a state of demographic and political turmoil.
- When the Yuan dynasty fell, the governing of China returned to Chinese hands.
- The new Chinese emperor Hongwu set about eliminating all traces of Mongol rule and establishing a government on the scale of traditional Chinese dynasties. He established the Ming dynasty.

- The tightly centralized administration instituted by the early Ming emperors lasted more than 500 years.
- The Ming Dynasty fell in 1644 to Manchu invaders who founded the Qing dynasty.
- Demographic recovery and state building efforts in western Europe coincided with a remarkable cultural flowering known as the Renaissance.
- Renaissance comes from a French word renaissance which means rebirth and it refers to a period of artistic and intellectual creativity from the 14 to 16 century in western Europe.

- The voyages of European mariners during the 15th century and those following initiated a long term process that brought all regions and peoples of earth into permanent and sustained interaction.
- The voyage of Christopher Columbus in 1492 was one of the most significant.

Chapter 20: Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections

- In 1497 Portuguese mariner Vasco da Gama led a fleet of four armed merchant vessels with 170 crewmen on a voyage to India. He managed to exchange gold for a cargo of pepper and cinnamon that turned a handsome profit when the fleet returned to Portugal in August 1499.
- Da Gama's expedition opened the door to direct maritime trade between European and Asian peoples and helped to establish permanent links between the world's various regions.

- Equipped with advanced technologies and a powerful military arsenal, western European peoples began to cross the oceans in large numbers during the early modern era.
- At the same time Russian adventurers built an enormous Eurasian empire and ventured into the Pacific Ocean.
- Europeans weren't the only people to explore the larger world. In the early 15th century the Ming emperor of China sponsored a series of seven enormous maritime expeditions that visited all parts of the Indian Ocean Basin.

- In the 16th century, Ottoman mariners also ventured into the Indian Ocean and after the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in 1517, both merchants and military vessels established an Ottoman presence throughout the Indian Ocean basin.
- Despite the explorations of other peoples, only Europeans linked the lands and peoples of the eastern hemisphere, the western hemisphere and Oceania.
- After 1500 European peoples became much more prominent in the larger world than before.

- The expansion of European influence resulted in the establishment of global networks of transportation, communication, and exchange. A world wide diffusion of plants ,animals, diseases and human communities followed European ventures across the oceans and intricate trade networks eventually gave birth to a global economy.
- Europeans had various motives for exploring the oceans of the world. The most important motives were the search for basic resources and lands suitable for the cultivation of cash crops, the desire to establish new trade routes to Asian markets, and the desire to expand the influence of Christianity.

- European explorers could not have made their voyages without advanced nautical technology and navigational skills.
- They also needed sturdy ships, good navigational equipment and knowledge of sailing techniques. They acquired these by combining Chinese and Arabic technologies with their own inherited nautical technologies from the Mediterranean and northern Europe.
- Magnetic compasses were the most important navigational equipment aboard the ships.

- Ferdinand and Isabel of Spain eventually agreed to underwrite Columbus's expedition of sailing to the markets of Asia by a western route. In August 1492, his fleet of three ships departed southern Spain;
- On October 12, 1492 Columbus landed in the Bahamas on an island that the native Taino inhabitants called Guanahani and that Columbus renamed San Salvador.
- After cruising the Caribbean for almost three months looking for gold and China, he returned to Spain. He reported to his royal sponsors that he had reached islands just off the coast of Asia.

- Columbus never reached the riches of Asia, and he got very little gold in the Caribbean. But the voyages of Columbus established links between the eastern and western hemispheres and paved the way for the conquest, settlement, and exploitation of the Americas by European peoples.
- The Columbian Exchange was the global diffusion of plants, food crops, animals, human populations, and disease pathogens that took place after voyages of exploration by Christopher Columbus and other European mariners.

- The Columbian exchange had more profound consequences than earlier rounds of biological exchange, because it involved lands with radically different flora, fauna, and diseases.
- For thousands of years the species of the eastern and western hemispheres and Oceania had evolved along separate lines. By creating links between these biological zones, the European voyages of exploration set off a round of biological exchange that permanently altered the world's human geography and natural environments.

- Over time, the Columbian exchange increased rather than diminished human population because of the global spread of food crops and animals that it sponsored.
- Alongside disease pathogens and plant and animal species, the Columbian exchange involved the spread of human populations through transoceanic migration, whether voluntary or forced.

- The trading post empires established by Portuguese, Dutch, and English merchants linked Asian markets with European consumers and offered opportunities for European mariners to participate in the carrying trade within Asia.
- Besides stimulating commerce in the eastern hemisphere, the voyages of European merchant mariners encouraged the emergence of a genuinely global trading system.

- By 1750 all parts of the world except Australia participated in global networks of commercial relations in which European merchant mariners played prominent roles.

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- In October 1517, a German monk by the name of Martin Luther offered to publicly debate anyone who wanted to dispute his views against the practice of the Roman Catholic Church of issuing indulgences.
- He did not nail his Ninety-five Thesis to the door of the church at Wittenberg, but he did publish them a few weeks later.

- In 1520, Pope Leo the X excommunicated Martin Luther and in 1521 the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, a devout Roman Catholic, summoned Luther and demanded that he recant his views. Luther refused.
- Although he had been excommunicated from the church, Luther still considered himself a Christian and held services for a community of devout followers.
- By the 1520s, religious dissent had spread throughout Germany and Switzerland.

- During the 1530s, dissidents called Protestants because of their protests against the established order-organized movements in France, England, the Low Countries, Italy, and Spain.
- Up until the protestant dissent, the peoples of western Europe spoke different languages and observed different customs, but the church of Rome provided them with a common religious and cultural heritage.
- The 16th and 17th century revolts against the Roman Catholic Church shattered the religious unity of western Europe.

- Luther was a talented writer and he published scores of works condemning the Roman church. Printed editions of his writing appeared throughout Europe and sparked spirited debates on theological issues.
- By the mid 16th century, about half the German population had adopted Lutheran Christianity and reformers had launched Protestant movements and established alternative churches in other lands as well.
- Protestants flourished in Switzerland and the Low Countries.

- Roman Catholic authorities responded to the Protestant Reformation with a reformation of their own. The Council of Trent and the Society of Jesus were the two important elements that defined the Catholic Reformation and advanced its goals. The Council of Trent was an assembly of high church officials that met between 1545 and 1563 to address matters of doctrine and reform.
- St. Ignatius Loyola and a small band of disciples founded The Society of Jesus in 1540.

- Loyola required that the Jesuits as the Society members were called, to complete a rigorous and advanced education.
- The Jesuits made extraordinary effective missionaries and they also acquired a reputation for discipline and determination.
- Jesuits became the most prominent of the early Christian missionaries outside Europe and they attracted converts in India, China, Japan, the Philippines and the Americas, thus making Christianity a genuinely global religion.

- In 16th century Europe, religious divisions helped to fuel social and political conflict.
- Besides wars, the most destructive violence afflicting modern European was the hunt for witches.
- The hunt for witches was especially intense in regions like the Rhineland where tensions between Protestants and Roman Catholics ran high.
- In the 17th and 18th centuries, there was a widespread hunt for witches across Europe and about 110,000 people were tried as suspected witches.
- About 60,000 of the suspected witches were hanged or burned at the stake.

- Most of the victims were poor, old, single or widowed women who lived on the margins of their societies and were easy targets.
- The fear of witches had mostly diminished by 1700, but the intermittent pursuit of witches for about two centuries clearly revealed the secular and religious strains that afflicted European society during early modern times.
- Religious tensions also led to war between Protestant and Roman Catholic communities.

- The religious wars culminated in a great continental conflict known as the Thirty Years War which raged from 1618-1648. The war began after the Holy Roman emperor tried to force his Bohemian subjects to return to the Roman Catholic Church, and the main battleground was the emperor's territory in Germany.
- By the time the war ended, Spanish, French, Dutch, German, Swedish, Danish, Polish, Bohemian, and Russian forces had taken part in the conflict.
- The Thirty Years War was the most destructive European Conflict before the 20th century.

- Soldiers committed violence and brutality and the war damaged societies and economies throughout Europe.
- The War led to the death of about one third of the German population.
- Although religious differences were not the only issues of the War, they complicated other issues and made them more difficult to resolve.

- After the devastation of the Thirty Years War, rulers of centralizing European states devised a diplomatic system that sought to maintain order among the many independent and competitive European states.
- During the early 16th Century, Emperor Charles V appeared to be reestablishing the Holy Roman Empire as he preeminent political authority in Europe. By the mid 16th century, it was clear that there would be no revival of empire.
- Unlike China, India, and the Ottoman empire, early modern Europe developed as a region of independent states.

- Domestic and foreign problems prevented Charles V from establishing his vast empire as the supreme political authority in Europe.
- In 1556, disappointed especially in his inability to suppress the Lutherans in his territories the emperor abdicated his throne and retired to a monastery in Spain.
- The Spanish Inquisition was founded in 1478 by King Fernando and Queen Isabel of Spain and they obtained papal license to operate the institution as a royal agency.

- Its original task was to ferret out those who secretly practiced Judaism or Islam, but Charles V charged it with responsibility also for detecting Protestant heresy in Spain.
- Inquisitors usually observed rules of evidence, and they released many suspects after investigation.
- When inquisitors investigated heresy, they could be ruthless, sentencing hundreds of victims to hang from the gallows or burn at the stake and imprisoning many others for extended periods of time.

- During the 17th and 18th centuries, as they tried to restore order after the Thirty Years' War, European states developed in two directions.
- Rulers in England and the Netherlands shared authority with representative institutions and created constitutional states.
- Rulers in France, Spain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia concentrated power in their own hands and created a form of state known as absolute monarchy.
- Absolutist policies resulted in tight centralization and considerable strengthening of the state.

- Europeans ended the Thirty Years' War with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 which laid the foundation for a system of independent, competing states in Europe.
- By the Treaty's terms, the European states regarded one another as sovereign and equal.
- European religious unity had disappeared and the era of the sovereign state had arrived.
- The balance of power between states was the foundation of European diplomacy in early modern times.

- The Protestant Reformation and the emergence of sovereign states brought religious and political change and a rapidly expanding population and economy encouraged the development of capitalism.
- Capitalism led to a restructuring of European economy and society.
- In the 17th and 18th centuries, science and the Enlightenment ushered in a new intellectual era.
- Astronomers and physicists rejected classical Greek and Roman authorities whose theories had dominated scientific thought during the middle ages, and based their understanding of the natural world on direct observation and mathematical reasoning.

- Newton's scientific theories suggested that rational analysis of human behavior and institutions could lead to fresh thoughts about the human as well as the natural world.
- In both Europe and America, thinkers launched an ambitious project to discover natural laws that governed human society in the same way that Newton's laws regulated the universe.