Chapter 1

New World
Encounters
Preconquest–1608
In 1528, a hurricane destroyed a fleet transporting over 300 Spanish soldiers from Florida to Cuba. Shipwrecked on the Florida coast, the survivors set out over land for Spain's holdings in Mexico. Eight years later only De Vaca and three companions survived to stumble into the Spanish outpost at Culiacán.
Diverse Cultures: De Vaca’s Journey Through Native America

- Europeans astonished by the diversity of Native Peoples
  - De Vaca shipwrecked in Florida in 1528
  - Met and lived among the Indians of twenty unique cultures
  - Encountered Apalachees of Florida, who cultivated maize, beans, and squash
  - Indians of southeastern Texas—”People of the Figs”
  - “People of the Cows”—northern Mexico
New World Encounters
Preconquest–1608

- Native Americans Before the Conquest
- Conditions of Conquest
- West Africa: Ancient and Complex Societies
- Europe on the Eve of Conquest
- Spain in the Americas
- The French Claim Canada
- The English Take Up the Challenge
Native Americans
Before the Conquest
The Environmental Challenge: Food, Climate, and Culture

- Native Americans enjoyed an abundant supply of meat
  - Some suggest overhunting may have caused the extinction of large species
  - Climatic warming probably played a much bigger role
The peopling of North America began about 20,000 years ago, during the last Ice Age, and continued for millennia.
The Environmental Challenge: Food, Climate, and Culture (cont’d)

• 5000 years ago—agricultural revolution
  ▪ Crops: maize, squash, beans
  ▪ Shift from nomadic hunting and gathering to permanent villages
Aztec Dominance

- Aztecs settled valley of Mexico
- Center of large, powerful empire
- Highly organized social and political structure
- Ruled through fear and force
The Aztecs

This image from the Codex Magliabechiano depicts Aztec priests engaged in human sacrifice.
Map 1.2

The First Americans: Locations of Major Indian Groups and Culture Areas in the 1600s

The Native American groups scattered across North America into the 1600s had strikingly diverse cultures.
Eastern Woodland Cultures

- Atlantic coast of North America
- Native Americans lived in smaller bands
- Agriculture supplemented by hunting and gathering
- Likely were the first natives encountered by English settlers
Conditions of Conquest
Conditions of Conquest

- Arrival of white men and women
- Native American cultures altered
- Conquest strained traditional way of life
Cultural Negotiations

- Diversity of language groups, ethnicities
- Place in society defined through kinship
- Communal, charismatic, sociopolitical formation
- Diplomacy, trade, and war organized around reciprocal relationships
Threats to Survival: Columbian Exchange

- Native Americans were eager for European trade
- Dependent on, indebted to, Europeans
Threats to Survival: Columbian Exchange (cont’d)

- Commerce also influenced warfare patterns
- 1492—Columbus initiated large-scale European colonization
From the Americas to Eurasia and Africa

Maize, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes, Tomatoes, Beans, Cinchona Tree (the source of quinine), Many Types of Beans, Pineapples, Blueberries, Papaya, Pecans, Tobacco, Cacao, Vanilla, Peanuts, Peppers, Cassava, Squash, Avocados, Sunflowers, Turkeys, and (maybe) Syphilis

From Eurasia and Africa to the Americas

Cereals (wheat, rice, barley, etc.), Sugar, Bananas, Coconuts, Orchard Trees (apples, oranges, lemons, etc.), Olives, Wine Grapes, Coffee, Lettuces, Black Pepper, Livestock (horses, sheep, swine, cattle, goats, chickens, etc.), Honey Bees, Many Epidemic Diseases (smallpox, influenza, chicken pox, etc.)
West Africa: Ancient and Complex Societies
Slave Factories

Cape Coast Castle was one of many so-called slave factories European traders built on the West African coast.
This map of African trade routes in the 1600s illustrates the existence of a complex economic system.
Disease

- Contact brought population decline among American Indians
- Cause: lack of resistance to epidemic disease
  - Smallpox
  - Measles
  - Influenza
- Rate as high as 95%
Europe on the Eve of Conquest
Europe on the Eve of Conquest

• 10th century—Leif Ericson settled “Vinland”

• Late 15th century—preconditions for overseas settlement attained
  - Rise of nation-states
  - Spread of new technologies
  - Spread of old knowledge
L’Anse aux Meadows

Located on Newfoundland

L’Anse aux Meadows was the site of a Norse settlement.
Spanish Expansion

- Unified under Ferdinand and Isabella
- Spain the first European nation to achieve conditions for successful colonization
- 1492—Jews and Muslims expelled
Spanish Expansion (cont’d)

• Conquest of Canary Islands provided rehearsal for colonization
• Conquistadores—men eager for personal glory and material gain
The Strange Career of Christopher Columbus

- Columbus persuaded Queen Isabella to finance westward expedition to “Cathay”
- 1492—initial voyage
- Three subsequent voyages to find cities of China
- 1506—died clinging to belief he had reached the Orient
- Made possible Spanish dominion in America
Spain in the Americas
Spain in the Americas

- Portugal wanted to exclude Spain from Columbus’s new route to “India”
- Treaty of Tordesillas—divided world exploration between Spain and Portugal
The Conquistadores: Faith and Greed

- By 1512—major Caribbean islands decimated
- By 1521—Cortés destroyed Aztec empire
- 1539–1542—de Soto explored Southeast
- 1540–1542—Coronado explored Southwest
From Plunder to Settlement

• Encomienda System rewarded Conquistadores
  ▪ Large land grants
  ▪ Indian inhabitants provided labor or tribute
• Appointed officials answered only to crown
New World discovery sparked intense competition among the major European states.
From Plunder to Settlement (cont’d)

• Catholic Church
  ▪ Protected Indian rights
  ▪ Performed mass conversions

• By 1650, half million Spaniards in New World
Indian Slaves

In 1595, Theodore de Bry depicted the harsh Spanish labor discipline on a sugar plantation on the Island of Hispaniola.
The Virgin of Guadalupe, depicted here in a 1531 representation, is a popular religious symbol of Mexico. Like the Indian Juan Diego, to whom she is said to have appeared and offered comfort, the Virgin is dark-skinned.
The French Claim Canada
The French Claim Canada

- 1608—Samuel de Champlain founded Québec
- French empire eventually included St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes, Mississippi
The French Claim Canada (cont’d)

- French crown makes little effort to foster settlement
- Fur trade underpinned economy
- Indians became valued trading partners
The English Take Up the Challenge
Claimed New World territory under Henry VIII (r. 1509–1547)
England achieved preconditions for colonization under Elizabeth I
Birth of English Protestantism

• Protestant Reformation played a major role in England’s rise to dominance
  ▪ 1517—Martin Luther sparked reform in Germany
  ▪ 1536—John Calvin’s Institutes published in Geneva

• Reformation pitted European Protestants against Catholics
Religion, War, and Nationalism

• Spanish hostility made Elizabeth the symbol of English, Protestant nationhood
• Sea Dogs’ seizure of Spanish treasure made them English heroes
Religion, War, and Nationalism (cont’d)

- Elizabeth’s subjects raided Spain’s American empire
- 1588—Spanish Armada defeated
Conclusion: Campaign to Sell America
Indian Fishing Techniques

John White depicted fishing techniques practiced by the Indians of the present day Carolinas. In the canoe, Indians use dip nets and multipronged spears. In the background, they stab at fish with long spears. At left, a weir traps fish by taking advantage of the river current's natural force.
Conclusion: Campaign to Sell America

- By 1600, no English settlements in New World
- Richard Hakluyt advertised benefits of American colonization
  - Claimed that England needs American colonies
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>24,000–17,000</td>
<td>B.C. Indians cross the Bering Strait into North America</td>
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<td>2000–1500</td>
<td>B.C. Agricultural Revolution transforms Native American life</td>
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<td>A.D. 1001</td>
<td>Norsemen establish a small settlement in Vinland (Newfoundland)</td>
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<td>1469</td>
<td>Marriage of Isabella and Ferdinand unites Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1492</td>
<td>Columbus lands at San Salvador</td>
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<td>1497</td>
<td>Cabot leads first English exploration of North America</td>
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<td>1498</td>
<td>Vasco da Gama of Portugal reaches India by sailing around Africa</td>
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<td>1506</td>
<td>Columbus dies in Spain after four voyages to America</td>
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<td>1521</td>
<td>Cortés defeats the Aztecs at Tenochtitlán</td>
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<td>1529–1536</td>
<td>Henry VIII begins English Reformation</td>
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1558 Elizabeth I becomes queen of England, p. 25
1585 First Roanoke settlement established on coast of North Carolina, p. 26
1588 English defeat Spanish Armada, p. 26
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