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Transoceanic Interconnections

Unit 4
c. 1450 C.E. - c. 1750 C.E.



Technological Innovations

- Innovative ship designs (Carrack, Carrack, Fluyt)
- Cross cultural technology (lanteen sail, compass, astronomical charts)



Exploration: Causes and Events

- State-supported and funded exploration
- Global trading post empires emerge, like Portugal
- Spain sponsors Columbus's voyage
- French, English, and Dutch sponsor North Atlantic crossings



Columbian Exchange

- Exchange of plants, animals, diseases
- European diseases significantly reduce indigenous populations
- American foods become staples in the Old World.
- Cash crops are grown on plantations and exported to Europe and the Middle East
- Horses, pigs, cattle brought from Europe
- Okra and rice brought by African slaves



Maritime Empires Established

- Asia adopts restrictive trade policies
- European states develop maritime empires
- African states like Asante and Kongo engage in trade
- Indian Ocean trade grows
- New labor systems used (mit'a, slavery, indentured servitude, encomienda, hacienda)
- Slavery continues in Africa; plantations in the Americas increase demand for slaves



Maritime Empires Maintained and Developed

- Mercantilist policies
- Economic disputes led to rivalries
- Spanish monopoly of silver
- Peasant and artisan labor (silk, wool, cotton)
- Demographic changes in Africa
- Racial mixing in the Americas
- Syncretic religions



Internal and External Challenges to State Power

- Local resistance from indigenous populations
- Slave resistance in the Americas



Changing Social Hierarchies

- Some states embraced diversity, other states suppressed it. (see: Jews in Ottoman and Spanish empires)
- New political and economic elites
- Elites began to confront strong monarchs.