Exploration In Context

- Starting in 1588 England and Spain go to war
- Utter defeat for Spain and the "Spanish Armada" marks the beginning of a downward slide of Spanish power
- From 1500 onward the Economy of Europe grew and transformed
  - Increased Agricultural production
  - Creation of a Global economy fueled in part by new banking and investment opportunities (Joint Stock Companies)
  - The 16th century saw a gradual inflation that eroded growth
The Rise of Spain

• Spain formed by a personal union between the Kingdoms of Aragon and Castile (Ferdinand and Isabella)

• Spain had been involved in the “Reconquista” to take back the Iberian peninsula from Muslims who had been there from the 8th century (completed in 1492)

• By early 1500’s Spain included large holdings in the New World

• Philip II is King during the peak of Spanish power – he is involved in a nearly endless series of wars culminating in the war with England in 1588
The Rise of England

- Tudor dynasty founded at the conclusion of the War of the Roses in 1487
- Henry VII became king in 1485 and ruled until 1509
  - A “New Monarch” who modernized and improved English government, restored English finances and built up the English Navy
- Henry VIII continued most of the trends started under Henry VII, but did launch a series of wars versus France that cost a fortune
  - Also broke with the Catholic Church in the 1530’s
  - Crushed an Irish rebellion and was declared King of Ireland
Elizabeth I and Elizabethan England

- Elizabeth settles the religious conflicts in England by taking the middle path (though people were still unhappy at times)
- Her execution of Mary “Queen of Scots” precipitates the Spanish attempt to invade
- Elizabeth expanded the power and efficiency of the state
- Parliament met only 3 times in her 45 year reign, but it was important since it controlled revenue and new laws
- Population and economy on the rise helped fuel England’s rise to dominance
The Decline of Spain

- Dutch revolt of 1556 led to new taxes on the Dutch to pay war expenses and heavy handed military action to restore order
- Spain was stretched thin occupying the Netherlands, fighting the Ottomans, French and English pirates
- 1576 The “Pacification of Ghent” treaty unites Catholic and Protestant Dutch together against the Spanish
- Result: wholesale rebellion and the signing of the Union of Utrecht in 1579 leading to the eventual independence of the northern seven provinces
New Maps Developed --

**Martin Behaim’s** terrestrial globe, 1492

Behaim’s version of the ocean between Asia (left) and Europe and Africa (right)
Waldseemüller’s world map (1507)

How is Waldseemuller’s map different from the Behaim map?

“America” is shown on the left of the map. It is the first map to identify the continent.
Key Explorers:

- Vasco DaGama
- Barthomeu Dias
- Christopher Columbus
- Henry Hudson
- Francis Drake
- Amerigo Vespucci
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Jacques Cartier
- Jacques Marquette
- Ponce De Leon
- Hernan Cortes
New Technologies

Instruments

- Magnetic compass (ca. 1300)
- Geometric quadrant (ca. 1460)
- Mariner’s astrolabe (ca. 1480)

Ship Technology

- Lateen sail and rope riggings
- Stern-post rudder (axial rudder)
- Guns, gunpowder, cannons, and horses
Dutch Merchant Ships
Voyages of Early European Explorers (1492–1522)

Source: James Killoran et al., The Key to Understanding Global History, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)
Portugal

- Prince Henry “The Navigator” (1394-1460) expands school for sailing and funds exploration
- Portuguese take an early lead in the Exploration of Africa – Looking for a route to India
- By 1500 they have rounded Africa, reached India and set up direct trade routes (at gunpoint at times)
- Harms Italian trade; helps shift power and wealth to the Northwest of Europe
Spain

- Since Portuguese have a lock on the African route, Spain starts to explore a western route – enter Christopher Columbus
- **Columbus** makes 4 voyages, discovers gold, brings back natives – brutal treatment of Natives shocks even other Spanish people including the priest Bartholomew de la Casas
- Spanish begin a decades long conquest of the Americas searching for gold, silver and other potential sources of income
Triangular Trade (A bit later)

- A description of the three legs of a trade journey including Africa, the New World and Europe
- The goal was to always be carrying cargo rather than having to sail somewhere with an empty ship
The Treaty of Tordesillas

- In 1494 the Pope divides East-West between Spain and Portugal
- Non-Catholic countries don’t really care
Conquistadors and Spanish Empire

• Cortez and the Aztec (1519) and Pizarro and the Inca (1532)

• Spanish begin to subjugate and control vast regions of the Americas
The Slave Trade
Origins of Slavery

• Nearly all societies have participated in slavery at some point in time
  – Ancient Greeks (Aristotle considered slavery “natural”)
  – Rome, China, all across Africa all had slavery in one form or another at various times
  – All major religions either justified or tolerated the practice
History of Slavery

• History of slavery is not just of black Africans
• Also included:
  – White Europeans
  – Asians
  – Native North and South American people
• Enslaved for various reasons in different places:
  – Debt slavery
  – War captives
  – Trading people for other goods and services
• Human trafficking still exists today
Origins of the Atlantic Slave Trade

• Started with the Portuguese exploration of Africa
• As trade in Africa expanded so to did the importation of slaves to Europe
• When the Portuguese expanded to Brazil the slave trade followed them and became an important source of labor
Early Labor in the New World

• At first Europeans tried to enslave Native people, however death from disease wiped out many

• White Europeans were also brought in as forced labor
  – Frowned on by the church
  – Indentured servants didn’t supply enough people
  – Europeans were susceptible to tropical diseases
• Africans slaves had economic advantages to European plantation owners
  – Were enslaved for life (unlike indentured servants)
  – Had better immunity to disease
  – Visual differences made them easy to tell apart
  – Could not simply run away like the Natives
Where were people taken?
African Kingdoms Played a Role

• Large coastal kingdoms captured people from opposing inland tribes/villages and sold them to Europeans.

• Weapons acquired from slave trade allowed these kingdoms to expand and control a larger region.
Between 1650 and 1860, approximately 10 to 15 million enslaved people were transported from western Africa to the Americas. Most were shipped to the West Indies, Central America, and South America.
The Middle Passage

• The Middle Passage refers to the journey from Africa to the New World

• A dangerous, long and horrific experience to be sure

• Of the 10-16 million people taken from Africa 2 million died during the Middle Passage

• Out of 100 people taken captive 40 never reached the New World
Plan shewing the stowage of 130 additional slaves round the wings or sides of the lower deck by means of platforms or shelves. (In the manner of galleries in a church) The slaves stowed on the shelves and below them have only a height of 2 feet 7 inches between the beams and far less under the beams. See Fig. 1.
The Decline of Spain

• Empire spread too thin
• By the time Philip IV (reigned 1621-1665) took over nearly constant war had exhausted the nation
• Portugal regained it Independence in 1640 (had been merged with Spain in 1580)
• Rebellious nobles within Spain
• Netherlands independence officially recognized in 1648
• Treaty of the Pyrenees in 1659 (with France and others) cedes Milan to Austria, Naples to Sicily – the Austrian Hapsburgs become the dominant side of the family
Conclusion

• The economic engine of the times was due in large measure to the Americas

• The New Monarchs in France (the Valois), England (the Tudors) and Spain (Hapsburgs) brought increased prosperity and centralization to their territory

• The 1588 defeat of the Spanish Armada signaled the increased importance of England on the world stage

• Spanish overreach, economic struggles, and the independence of the Dutch Republic helped to further shift the power center of Europe to the North and West