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**Robert W. Strayer**

***Ways of the World: A Brief Global History***

***Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources***

Chapter 14, Study Guide, **Empires and Encounters,** **1450-1750** Study Guide (Original: pp. 397-430; With Sources: pp. 625-650)

**European Empires in the Americas**

1. What initiated early Western European Empires to expand? What role did geography play?

2. Why did the European merchant class seek direct access to Asian wealth?

3. As population sharply diminished in the Americas, what did the “great dying” create?

4. The silver mines in Mexico and Peru allowed the Spanish conquerors and other Europeans to buy massive amounts of what highly valuable commodities?

5. What was the Columbian Exchange?

**Comparing Colonial Societies in the Americas**

6. Explain the theory of mercantilism.

7. What three kinds of economy were established by the new colonial societies among Native American cultures?

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8. What was the economic foundation of colonial rule in Mexico and Peru? Who provided the labor?

1.
2.

9. How did this economic base shape the kinds of societies that arose there?

10. Draw a diagram of this social hierarchy and elaborate on the class structure.

11. What happened to Native Americans’ religious beliefs in Mesoamerica and Peru when confronted with Catholicism?

12. How did the plantation societies of Brazil and Caribbean differ from those of southern colonies in British North America? (Think economies, labor, and social standing.)

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| --- | --- |
| **Brazil/Caribbean** | **British North America** |
| Sugar Plantation Economy |  |
|  | Slave labor/less harsh |
|  |  |

13. As the third distinctive type of colonial society that emerged, what did the British colonists find in the Americas?

14. What is one major reason for the higher literacy rates in British colonies than in Spanish/Portuguese colonies?

**The Steppes and Siberia: The Making of a Russian Empire**

15. How did the Russian Empire transform the life of its conquered people?

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16. Who were the Cossacks?

17. Compared to the Western Europeans, explain how the Russians acquired their empire.

**Asian Empires**

18. What were the major features of Chinese empire building in the early modern era of the 17th and

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19. Chinese conquests, together with the expansion of the Russian Empire, transformed Central Asia. What was it like before and after?

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| --- | --- |
| **Eurasia Before** | **After under Russian or Chinese Rule** |
|  |  |

20. How did Mughal attitudes and policies toward Hindus change from the time of Akbar to that of Aurangzeb?

* Akbar—
* Aurangzeb—

21. What was the century-long conflict between the Ottomans and the Safavids?

22. Why was Byzantium no longer the “heir to the glory of Rome?”

23. What were some of the ways that Christians had welcomed Ottoman conquest?

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24. In what other ways did Turkish rule bare heavily on Christians?

25. What was the outcome of the Ottoman Siege of Vienna in 1683?

**Explain the significance of the following:**

*Sati*—

*Jizya—*

*Constantinople, 1453—*