
European Colonial Expansion & Its Aftermath

The Historical, Ecological and Cultural Consequences of 1492



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Instructions: In a separate document please respond to these questions. To start with, “copy-and-paste” each question into a document of your own, and then write a brief response to each question.

* Then, save your file on your computer with the filename:

“20190724 - [Name] - Questions for Session 3”

* Finally, upload this file to the [2019 - Colonialism](#) Participants folder with your name on it.

Questions for Session 3 – 24 July 2019

Please review the video of the class session (link to the session video should be available from Wei Wang) and then look in detail at the [“Slides” for Lecture 3](#). Then, think for a moment and write responses in a separate file. Then upload it to your “Dropbox” ‘

Overview - from the 3rd class lecture you would have learned that....

In general terms European colonialism progressed through **three stages** of development. **Initially** it was based on long-distance trade in high value-to-weight ratio items between “enclaves” around the world.

In a **second stage**, however, colonialism came to be based on the development of plantation agriculture in the tropics, fueled by the forced migration of labor (the transport of slaves) to grow agricultural products on a large scale for export to the European countries where these agricultural raw materials were transformed into manufactured goods which were then sold around the world.

In a **third phase**, the profits made from both the trade and manufacturing phases of colonialism were concentrated in the hands of large companies and banks. By the end of the nineteenth century, it was the “investment” decisions of these corporations and banks that took the lead in expanding European colonial initiatives around the world. European governments were encouraged by the banks and investors to pursue policies of colonial expansion in order to “protect” investments and expand both access to new raw materials on the one hand and new markets in which to sell products on the other.

Questions:

- 1) What, in your view, were three of the principal consequences of the “Columbian Exchange” in the Caribbean that meant it would develop a different kind of colonialism than that which characterized the trade between Europe and the Far East?
- 2) Many historians would argue that it was not the political leadership, nor the military might, nor the naval superiority that led to the outward thrust of European maritime empires. Instead they argue, it was the “invention” by the Dutch (and the rapid adoption by the merchant classes in other competing European countries) of the “joint stock company.” ([See slides 113-121 of Lecture 3](#)). Why do you think this social “invention” or institutional innovation would be so important in the evolution of European colonialism and its aftermath?

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