

Rise of a Global Trade Network

Overview

The early modern period witnessed the development of a global trade network. The global trade network was created by the discovery of the Americas. The discovery of the Americas and the subsequent discovery of silver helped create trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific trade routes that finally connected the eastern and western hemispheres. Silver was not the only product responsible for the development of a global trade network. Sugar, slaves, and Asian luxury products (silk and spices) also played a major role.

Objectives

Students should be able to:

- evaluate changes in trade and global interactions in the early modern period
- explain the development of slave systems and the expansion of the slave trade
- analyze major demographic and environmental changes
- compare coercive labor systems: slavery and other forms of coercive labor in the Americas

Sources of Information:

1. AP World History Textbook
2. "As Rich as Potosi" from The World That Trade Created by Kenneth Pomeranz & Steven Topik
3. "Bittersweet Isles" from The Wealth and Poverty of Nations by David Landes
4. "Early Global Commodities" from Bridging World History Series
<http://www.learner.org/resources/series197.html> (you will have to register to watch video again)

Instructions

Your map should include the following:

1. Using the map on page 388 of your textbook, color the colonial possessions of the Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands (Dutch), France, and Great Britain (England).

Include the following locations:

Batavia, Calcutta, Cape Colony (Cape of Good Hope), Ceylon, El Mina, Goa, Macao, Malacca (Melaka), Ormuz, the Philippines, Potosi, Rio de Janeiro, Saint-Domingue (Haiti)

2. Label the sources of silver, sugar, slaves, silk, spices, and other major trade goods
3. Show the major trade routes for silver, sugar, & slaves (i.e. triangle trade, Manila galleons, etc.)
4. Answer the following questions on the map:
 - a. How did the exchange of silver, sugar, slaves, and spices facilitate the development of global trade network?
 - b. What was the relationship between sugar & slaves? Silver & slaves? Spices & silver?
 - c. How did the sugar trade contribute to the rise of triangle trade (the Atlantic system)?
 - d. What was the impact of the global trade on Europe? Asia? the Americas? Africa?
 - e. What was the demographic and environmental impact of global trade?