This chapter traces the devastating impact of European exploration and conquest on the societies in the Americas and on the Pacific Islands. Those societies, described in detail in Ch 21, succumbed very quickly under the combined pressures of European diseases and superior technology. By 1700, most of the western hemisphere had been claimed by western powers. Colonial societies were shaped by a number of considerations:

- Conquests of the Aztec empire by Cortés and the Inca empire by Pizarro were swift and brutal. The Spanish empire brought the Indian empires of Mexico and Peru under royal authority, represented by the viceroy, and a small class of white landowners. Indigenous peoples were impressed into service in mines and on plantations.

- In Brazil, the Portuguese established a plantation society based on sugar mills. (engenhos) After the native population died off, African slaves were imported and forced to labor under brutal conditions.

- The earliest British and French colonies in North America centered on the fur trade and subsistence farming. Plantations in Virginia and the Carolinas were originally worked by indentured servants from Europe, but by the late 1600s, planters found African slaves to be a better investment.

- Catholic missions in Spanish and Portuguese colonies actively sought the conversion of native peoples. In North America, there were fewer contacts and more native resistance to conversion.

1. Colliding Worlds

A. The Spanish Caribbean
   1) Indigenous peoples were the Taino
      a. Lived in small villages under authority of chiefs
      b. Showed little resistance to European visitors
   2) Columbus built fort of Santo Domingo, capital of Span. Caribbean
      a. Taino conscripted to mine gold
      b. Encomiendas: land grants to Spanish settlers w/ total control over local people
      c. Brutal abuses plus smallpox brought decline of Taino populations

B. The conquest of Mexico and Peru
   1) Hernan Cortés
      a. Aztec & Inca societies wealthier, more complex than Caribbean societies
      b. With 450 men, Cortés conquered the Aztec empire, 1519-1521
      c. Neighboring tribal resentment against the Mexica helped Cortés
      d. Epidemic disease (smallpox, et al) also aided Spanish efforts
   2) Francisco Pizarro
      a. Led a small band of men & toppled the Inca empire, 1532-33
      b. Internal problems & smallpox aided Pizarro’s efforts
      c. By 1540 Spanish forces controlled all the former Inca empire
C. Iberian Empires in the Americas
1) Spanish colonial administration formalized by 1570
   a. Administrative centers in Mexico & Peru governed by viceroys
   b. Viceroy controlled by audiencias, courts appointed by the king
   c. Viceroy had sweeping powers w/in jurisdictions
2) Portuguese Brazil: given to Portugal by Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494
   a. Portuguese king granted Brazil to nobles, overseen by a governor
   b. Sugar plantations by mid-1500s
3) Colonial American society
   a. European-style society in cities, indigenous culture persisted in rural areas
   b. More exploitation of New World than true settlement
   c. Still, many Iberian migrants settled in the Americas, 1500-1800

D. Settler Colonies in North America
1) Foundation of colonies on east coast, exploration of west coast
   a. Early 1600s France & England came for fur, fish, trade routes
   b. Settlements suffered isolation, food shortages
2) Colonial government different from Iberian colonies
   a. N Am colonies controlled by private investors w/ little royal backing
   b. Royal authority & governors, but also institutions of self-gov’t
3) Relations w/ indigenous peoples
   a. Settlers’ farms interrupted the migrations of indigenous peoples
   b. Settlers seized lands, then justified w/ treaties
   c. Natives retaliated w/ raids on farms & villages
   d. Attacks on European communities brought reprisals from settlers
   e. Btwn 1500-1800, native population of N Am dropped 90%

2. Colonial Society in the Americas

A. The Formation of Multicultural Societies
1) In Spanish & Portuguese settlements, mestizo societies emerged
   (children of Spanish & Portuguese men & native women)
   a. Peoples of varied ancestry lived together under European rule
   b. Society of Brazil more thoroughly mixed: mestizos, mulattoes, zambos
2) Typically the social (& racial) hierarchy in Iberian colonies was:
   a. Whites (peninsulares & criollos or creoles) owned the land & held the power
   b. Mixed races (mestizos & zambos) performed most manual labor
   c. Africans & natives were at the bottom

ENV-Q#3 How has the environment changed as a consequence of population growth and urbanization?

SOC-Q#3 How have political, economic, cultural, and demographic changes affected social structures over time?

ECON-8 Analyze the relationship between belief & economic systems.

SOC-Q#1 How have distinctions based on kinship, ethnicity, class, gender, and race influenced the development and transformations of social hierarchies?
3) North American societies
   a. Greater gender balance among settlers allowed marriage (w/in their own groups)
   b. Relationships of French traders & native women = métis
   c. English disdainful of interracial marriages
   d. Cultural borrowing: plants, crops, deerskin clothes

B. Mining and Agriculture in the Spanish Empire
   1) Silver more plentiful than gold, basis of Spanish New World wealth
      a. Conquistadores melted Aztec & Inca gold artifacts into ingots
      b. 2 major mining sites: Zacatecas (Mexico) & Potosí (Bolivia/Peru)
   2) The global significance of silver
      a. 1/5 of all silver mined went to royal Spanish treasury (the quinto)
      b. Paid for Spanish military & bureaucracy
      c. Passed on to/thru Europe & then to Asia for luxury trade goods
   3) Large private estates, or haciendas, were the basis of Spanish American production
      a. Produced foodstuffs for local production
      b. Abusive encomienda system eventually replaced by the repartimiento system, which was itself replaced by “free” (voluntary, paid) laborers by mid-1600s
   4) Resistance to Spanish rule by indigenous people
      a. Various forms of resistance: rebellion, indolence, retreat
      b. Difficult for natives to register complaints: e.g. Poma de Ayala

C. Sugar and Slavery in Portuguese Brazil
   1) The Portuguese empire in Brazil dependent on sugar production
      a. Colonial Brazilian life revolved around the sugar mill, or engenho (“engine”) which combined agricultural & industrial enterprises
      b. Sugar planters became the landed nobility
   2) Growth of slavery in Brazil
      a. Natives of Brazil were NOT cultivators; resisted farm labor
      b. Smallpox & measles reduced indigenous population
      c. Imported African slaves for cane & sugar production after 1530
      d. High death & low birth rate fed constant demand for more slaves
      e. Every ton of sugar cost one human life

D. Fur Traders and Settlers in North America
   1) The fur trade was very profitable
   2) Native peoples trapped for & traded w/ Europeans
   3) Impact of the fur trade
      a. Environmental impact, e.g. beavers pushed further inland
      b. Conflicts among natives competing for resources, who were often supplied by European allies/patrons
4) European settler-cultivators posed more serious threat to natives
   a. Cultivation of cash crops—tobacco, rice, indigo, & (later) cotton
   b. Indentured labor flocked to N America in the 1600s-1700s
5) African slaves replaced indentured servants in the late 1600s
   a. Slave labor not yet prominent in N America (lack of labor-intensive crops)
   b. New England merchants participated in slave trade, rum distillation

E. Christianity and Native Religions in the Americas
   1) Spanish missionaries introduced Catholicism
      a. Mission schools & churches established
      b. Some missionaries recorded native peoples’ languages/traditions
      c. Native religions survived but Catholicism attracted many converts
   2) In 1531, the Virgin of Guadalupe became a national symbol
   3) French & English missions less successful
      a. N American populations not settled or captive
      b. English had little interest in converting indigenous peoples
      c. French missionaries worked actively, but only modest success

3. Europeans in the Pacific

   A. Australia and the Larger World
      1) Dutch mariners explored W Australia in the 600s
         a. No spices, no farmland
         b. Australia held little interest until the 1700s
      2) British captain James Cook explored E Australia in 1770
         a. England established 1st penal colony settlement in Australia, 1788
         b. Free settlers outnumbered criminal migrants after 1830s

   B. The Pacific Islands and the Larger World
      1) Spanish voyages in the Pacific after Magellan
         a. Regular voyages from Acapulco to Manila on the trade winds
      2) Impact on Pacific islanders of regular visitors & trade
         a. Occasional misunderstandings & skirmishes
         b. Whalers were regular visitors after the 1700s
         c. Missionaries, merchants, & planters followed

CUL-Q#1 How and why have religions, belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies developed and transformed as they spread from their places of origin to other regions?

SB-Q#3 How have conflicts, exchanges, and alliances influenced the processes of state building, expansion, and dissolution?