

Europe is important (I guess)

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Geography 101 World Regional Geography

2024 March 13

If one were to take a snapshot of the world in the 1400s and pick out the country most likely to take over the world, they would likely pick China. If one were to repeat this experiment in the 16th century, they might pick Spain or Portugal. Yet, one would be wrong on both accounts. If one were to take a snapshot of the world today, they would not see a global Spanish, Portuguese, or Chinese system. They would instead see a western system of Europe and European derived countries. They would see clear signatures of Europe in the global capitalist trend, the focus on individual military development, and the continual development of democratic systems. So in a nutshell, no other country or system impacted the world in the way Europe would. To understand the world today requires an understanding of how it was developed and the people who developed it.