Aditya Patel

APUSH

Period 4

09/08/2020

Chapter 1 HW 9/8

Focus Questions (pg.1):

12

30

49

65

79

93

105

119

136

148

164

14

27

38

52

66

80

4. Mercantilism was an economic policy practiced from 16th to 18th centuries which stated that there was finite wealth in the world. A nation’s goal in society should be to increase its own wealth, at the cost of others. It would have to grow exports to other lands and decrease imports so that it would be bringing in money. This concept was closely related to bullionism, which theorized that only gold and silver determined a country’s wealth. The Spanish practiced this theory by stealing gold and silver from the Americas in their early explorations. Mercantilism also provided a commercial incentive to colonization, where nations would get resources from instead of competing countries and would also provide markets for goods. The English Navigation Acts of the 1660s were attempts to restrict trade of its colonies so that only England would benefit from the resources and market. Mercantilism was eventually proved inferior to *laissez-faire* but was an important factor in the drive to create colonies in Europe.

5. The Columbian Exchange was a major moment in history where the New World and the Old World touched to exchange technology, crops, animals, resources and diseases. The agricultural exchange resulted in Europeans receiving maize, beans, tomatoes, and potatoes, which became a staple in some European countries. The Native Americans also gained many agricultural benefits, such as sugar, bananas, cattle, and most importantly, the horse. The horse became an essential part of Native American life, after being reintroduced to North America. From the first meeting, Native Americans experienced demographic catastrophe at the hands of European and Old-World diseases, losing up to 90% of their population. Native Americans were further suppressed by Spanish conquistadors such as Hernando Cortés, who looted and destroyed the people and cities in search of gold and silver.  It is undeniable that the Columbian Exchange improved conditions in both worlds, but the Native Americans were definitely worse off afterwards.

93

108

121

138

151

152

Debating the Past (pg. 9,11):

12

28

43

58

73

89

99

119

136

151

166

167

15

28

43

58

3. Historians have always looked at the past with different lenses, identifying problems and solutions through the eyes of their era and society. Having different historical narratives are essential to the study of history. These different views provide insight of history from multiple angles. Some historians may believe that the overpopulation in Europe had the largest effect on emigration to North America, and others may believe that it was religion. Their beliefs are influenced by the motives and beliefs of their times, and people should be able to consider perspectives. Using these multiple perspectives, people can learn from debates between historians and see that past more clearly, and not have it be blurred by the lens of historians. For example, the War of 1812 is often considered a loss for the United States, and some historians consider it a draw. When there are differences, people can use multiple perspectives and have a better picture of the time. Having overviews of events are more informative than single perspectives.

2. Prior to the 1960s, people across the world, due to anti-Native racism, believed that Native American population before 1492 was very low: between one and eight million. However, in the 1830s, Native Americans claimed that their population was once as high as sixteen million in North America, but this was regarded as preposterous. A significant shift in opinion occurred in the late 1900s, when historians William McNeill and other historians proved evidence and accounts of tribes facing massive depopulation and extinction due to Smallpox and Measles. Historians realized that Native Americans were likely devastated by European diseases such as Smallpox and Measles. Soon after this, the estimates of the North and South American populations increased from the single digits to between 10 and 112 million. The massive shift in the numbers directly resulted from the work of historians such as William McNeill and Alfred Crosby, who completely changed the conversation about Pre-Columbian America, which was now viewed as more of a complex society.

72

87

99

115

131

146

157

165