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Unit 1 Test Essay

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The Impact of the Columbian Exchange on the Natives

Most of the consequences of the Columbian Exchange were negative and destructive towards the Natives. The Natives did not benefit as much as the Europeans did in terms of wealth and progress. The Europeans became very successful economically and socially through exploiting the Natives.

First of all, the Columbian Exchange brought ideas and goods from Europe, Asia and Africa to the Americas. Overall, the exchanges favored the Europeans more than the Natives. This is because when the Europeans came over to the Americas, they brought their diseases alongside them as well. And, the Natives had no immunity to these diseases, making them drop like flies. The Native population would shrink very rapidly because they were dying from diseases Europeans brought over. Around 90% of the entire Native population would perish from diseases such as smallpox, chickenpox, influenza, measles and more. Furthermore, even with all the disease killing the Natives, European would capture, kill, steal, exploit the Natives for goods and labor, and taking their land. The result of European domination over the Natives was many riches because of the looting and forced labor. Also, because of advanced European technologies at the time, the Natives had a hard time combatting with the Europeans. In addition, the Columbian Exchange brought new food items between both worlds. Europeans received corn, beans and Native foods, and the Natives received goods such as tea and alcohol. In this time period, the Europeans were very unhealthy and had very poor diets. The introduction of Native foods into the European diets made them ate better, healthier food products. The European diet was poor because they had very short lifespans and have many diseases. This is a result of consuming too much unhealthy and junk food. In general, the introduction of new foodstuffs into European diets had made them eat better than they did before. Moreover, the Europeans were Christian, which is a monotheistic religion. This meant the Europeans believed in one god, Jesus Christ. On the other hand, polytheistic meant worshipping many gods. The Natives had many religions of their own and most of them, they had believed in many Gods. The Natives worshipped elemental gods in hopes of having a good harvest season. The Europeans tried to force their own religion, Christianity, upon the Natives, and this was not good because the Natives did not have the same beliefs as the Europeans. Natives did not like being converted to the monotheistic religion of Christianity because it was very different from their own polytheistic practices.

In all, Europeans benefitted economically and socially from the Natives. The Europeans looted and killed Natives for gold and precious metals and forced religious conversions on the Natives. The Natives took the brunt of everything, losing the majority of their population, having their land taken, and being forced to participate in labor by the Europeans. The Europeans had exploited the Natives for their own benefit.