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Chapter 1
New World Beginnings
33,000 B.C. - A.D. 1769

225 Million Years Ago - Pangaea started to break apart.

10 Million Years Ago - North America was shaped by nature - Canadian Shield

2 Million Years Ago- Great Ice Age

35,000 Years Ago - The oceans were glaciers and the sea level dropped, leaving an isthmus connecting Asia and North America. The Bering Isthmus was crossed by people going into North America.

10,000 Years Ago - Ice started to retreat and melt, raising the sea levels and covering up the Bering Isthmus.

Peopling the Americas

Evidence suggests that early people may have come to the Americas in crude boats, or across the Bering Isthmus.

By the time Columbus arrived in America in 1492, over 54 million people may have been living in North & South America.

The Earliest Americans

Unlike in Mexico with the Aztecs, dense populations did not exist in North America. This may have made it easier for the Europeans to colonize the continent.

Europeans Enter Africa

People of Europe were able to reach sub-Saharan Africa around **1450** when the Portuguese invented the **caravel**, a ship that could sail into the wind. This ship allowed sailors to sail back up the western coast of Africa and back to Europe.

The **Portuguese** set up trading posts along the African beaches trading with slaves and gold, trading habits that were originally done by the Arabs and Africans. The Portuguese shipped the slaves back to Spain and Portugal where they worked on the sugar plantations.

Columbus Comes upon a New World

Columbus was actually looking for a new trading route with the Indies when he stumbled upon the Americas.

When Worlds Collide

Possibly 3/5 of the **crops** cultivated around the world today originated in the Americas.

The **Columbian Exchange** refers to the increase of global commerce (globalization).

Within 50 years of the Spanish arrival in **Hispaniola**, the Taino natives decreased from 1 million people to 200 people due to diseases brought by the Spanish.

In centuries following Columbus's landing in the Americas, as much as **90%** of the Indians had died due to the diseases.

The Spanish Conquistadores

In the **1500's**, Spain became the dominant exploring and colonizing power. The **Treaty of Tordesillas** divided the Americas between the Spanish and the Portuguese.

The Spanish conquerors came to the Americas in the service of **God** as well as in search of **gold** and **glory**.

Due to the gold and silver deposits found in the New World, the European economy was transformed.

The islands of the Caribbean Sea served as offshore bases for the staging of the Spanish invasion of the mainland Americas.

By the **1530s** in **Mexico** and the **1550s** in **Peru**, colorless colonial administrators had replaced the conquistadores.

Some of the conquistadores wed Indian women and had children. These offspring were known as **mestizos** and formed a cultural and biological bridge between Latin America's European and Indian races.

The Conquest of Mexico

In about **1519**, Hernan Cortes set sail from Cuba with men and horses. Along the way, he picked up two translators - A Spanish prisoner of Mayan-speaking Indians, and an Indian slave named Malinche.

The Spaniards arrived at **Tenochtitlan**, the Aztec capital with the intention of stealing all of the gold and other riches; they were amazed by the beauty of the capital.

On **June 30, 1520**, the Aztecs attacked the Spanish because of the Spaniards' lust for riches. The

Spanish countered, though, and took over the capital and the rest of the Aztec empire on **August 13, 1521**.

Due to the rule of the Spanish, the Indian population in Mexico went from 20 million to 2 million in less than a century.

The Spread of Spanish America

In **1565**, the Spanish built a fortress at St. Augustine, Florida to protect the sea-lanes to the Caribbean.

In **1680**, after the Spanish captured an area known today as New Mexico in **1609**, the natives launched a rebellion known as **Pope's Rebellion**. The natives burned down churches and killed priests. They rebuilt a **kiva**, or ceremonial religious chamber, on the ruins of the Spanish plaza at Santa Fe.

The misdeeds of the Spanish in the New World led to the birth of the "**Black Legend**." This false concept stated that the conquerors just tortured and killed the Indians, stole their gold, infected them with smallpox, and left little but misery behind.

Chronology

33,000-8,000 B.C.	First humans cross into Americas from Asia.
5,000 B.C.	Corn is developed as a stable crop in highland Mexico.
4,000 B.C.	First civilized societies develop in the Middle East.
1,200 B.C.	Corn planting reaches present-day American Southwest.
1,000 A.D.	Norse voyagers discover and briefly settle in northeastern North America. Corn cultivation reaches Midwest and southeastern Atlantic seaboard.
1,100 A.D.	Height of Mississippian settlement at Cahokia.
1,100-1,300 A.D.	Christian crusades arouse European interest in the East.
1295	Marco Polo returns to Europe.
Late 1400s	Spain becomes united.
1488	Diaz rounds southern tip of Africa.
1492	Columbus lands in the Bahamas.
1494	Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal.
1498	Da Gama reaches India. Cabot explores northeastern coast of North America for England.
1513	Balboa claims all lands touched by the Pacific Ocean for Spain.
1513, 1521	Ponce de Leon explores Florida.
1519-1521	Cortes conquers Mexico for Spain.
1522	Magellan's vessel completes circumnavigation of the world.
1524	Verrazano explores eastern seaboard of North America for France.
1532	Pizarro crushes Incas.
1534	Cartier journeys up the St. Lawrence River.
1539-1542	De Soto explores the Southeast and discovers the Mississippi River.
1540-1542	Cabrillo explores present-day Southwest.
1542	Cabrillo explores California coast for Spain.
1565	Spanish build fortress at St. Augustine.
Late 1500s	Iroquois Confederacy founded, according to Iroquois legend.
1598-1609	Spanish under Onate conquer pueblo peoples of Rio Grande valley.
1609	Spanish found New Mexico.

1680s	French exploration down Mississippi River under La Salle.
1769	Serra founds first California mission, at San Diego.

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