

Humans and the Environments

The environment shapes human societies, and as populations grow and change, these populations in turn shape their environments.

Learning Objective	Historical Developments	Study Guide Notes
Explain the causes of the Columbian Exchange and its effects on the Eastern and Western Hemispheres	The new connections between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres resulted in the exchange of new plants, animals, and diseases, known as the Columbian Exchange.	
	European colonization of the Americas led to the unintentional transfer of disease vectors, including mosquitoes and rats, and the spread of diseases that were endemic in the Eastern Hemisphere, including smallpox, measles, and malaria. Some of these diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas.	
	American foods became staple crops in various parts of Europe, Asia, and	

	Africa. Cash crops were grown primarily on plantations with coerced labor and were exported mostly to Europe and the Middle East.	
	Afro-Eurasian fruit trees, grains, sugar, and domesticated animals were brought by Europeans to the Americas, while other foods were brought by African slaves.	
	Populations in Afro-Eurasia benefitted nutritionally from the increased diversity of American food crops.	

Respond to the Learning Objective:

