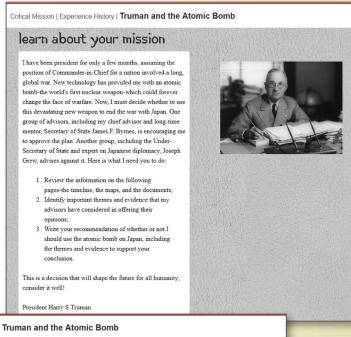
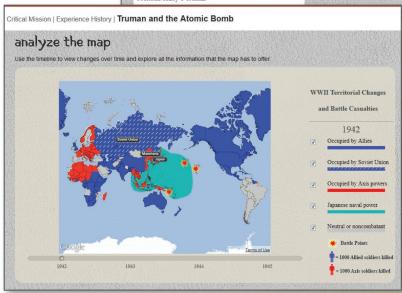


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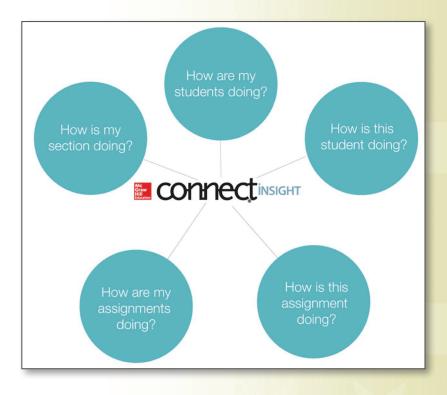
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THE UNFINISHED NATION

A Concise History of the American People

Eighth Edition

ALAN BRINKLEY

Columbia University

with Contributions from

JOHN GIGGIE

University of Alabama

Andrew Huebner

University of Alabama





THE UNFINISHED NATION: A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. EIGHTH EDITION

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PREFACE

title *The Unfinished Nation* is meant to suggest several things. It is a reminder of America's exceptional diversity—of the degree to which, despite all the many efforts to build a single, uniform definition of the meaning of American nationhood, that meaning remains contested. It is a reference to the centrality of change in American history—to the ways in which the nation has continually transformed itself and continues to do so in our own time. And it is also a description of the writing of American history itself—of the ways in which historians are engaged in a continuing, ever unfinished, process of asking new questions.

Like any history, *The Unfinished Nation* is a product of its time and reflects the views of the past that historians of recent generations have developed. The writing of our nation's history—like our nation itself—changes constantly. It is not, of course, the past that changes. Rather, historians adjust their perspectives and priorities, ask different kinds of questions, and uncover and incorporate new historical evidence. There are now, as there have always been, critics of changes in historical understanding who argue that history is a collection of facts and should not be subject to "interpretation" or "revision." But historians insist that history is not simply a collection of facts. Names and dates and a record of events are only the beginning of historical understanding. Writers and readers of history interpret the evidence before them, and inevitably bring to the task their own questions, concerns, and experiences.

Our history requires us to examine the many different peoples and ideas that have shaped American society. But it also requires us to understand that the United States is a nation whose people share many things: a common political system, a connection to an integrated national (and now international) economy, and a familiarity with a powerful mass culture. To understand the American past, it is necessary to understand both the forces that divide Americans and the forces that draw them together.

It is a daunting task to attempt to convey the history of the United States in a single book, and the eighth edition of *The Unfinished Nation* has, as have all previous editions, been carefully written and edited to keep the book as concise and readable as possible.

In addition to the content and scholarship updates that are detailed on pages xxxi–xxxii, we have strengthened the pedagogical features with an eye to the details. We added a glossary of historical terms and bolded those terms within the text where significantly discussed. These terms, along with key names, places, and events, are listed at the end of chapters to help students review. All of the Consider the Source features now include concise introductions that provide context for the documents. Every Consider the Source, Debating the Past, Patterns of Popular Culture, and America in the World feature is referenced within the narrative, for a clearer indication of how the different lines of inquiry work together to create a vivid and nuanced portrait of each period. Margin notes have been reinstated as well, at the request of reviewers who missed this feature from earlier editions.

It is not only the writing of history that changes with time—the tools and technologies through which information is delivered change as well. New learning resources include:

• McGraw-Hill Connect®—an integrated educational platform that seamlessly joins superior content with enhanced digital tools (including SmartBook®) to deliver a personalized learning experience that provides precisely what students need—when and how they need it. New visual analytics, coupled with powerful reporting, provide immediate performance perspectives. Connect makes it easy to keep students on track.

- SmartBook®—an adaptive eBook that makes study time as productive and efficient as possible. It identifies and closes knowledge gaps through a continually adapting reading experience that provides personalized learning resources such as narrated map videos; key point summaries; time lines; and labeling activities at the precise moment of need. This ensures that every minute spent with SmartBook is returned to the student as the most value-added minute possible.
- Critical Missions—an activity within Connect History that immerses students in pivotal
 moments in history. As students study primary sources and maps, they advise a key historical
 figure on an issue of vital importance—for example, should President Truman drop the atomic
 bomb on Japan?
- Primary Source Primer—a video exercise in Connect History with multiple-choice questions.
 The primer teaches students the importance of primary sources and how to analyze them. This online "Introduction to Primary Sources" is designed for use at the beginning of the course, to save valuable class time.
- **Create** —a service that allows professors to create a customized version of *The Unfinished Nation* by selecting the chapters and additional primary source documents that best fit their course, while adding their own materials if desired. Register at www.mcgrawhillcreate.com to build a complimentary review copy.
- McGraw-Hill Campus—a first-of-its-kind institutional service that provides faculty with true, single sign-on access to all of McGraw-Hill's course content, digital tools, and other high-quality learning resources from any learning management system (LMS). This innovative offering allows secure, deep integration and seamless access to any of our course solutions, including McGraw-Hill Connect, McGraw-Hill LearnSmart, McGraw-Hill Create, and Tegrity. McGraw-Hill Campus covers our entire content library, including eBooks, assessment tools, presentation slides, and multimedia content, among other resources. This open and unlimited service allows faculty to quickly prepare for class, create tests or quizzes, develop lecture material, integrate interactive content, and much more.

ALAN BRINKLEY

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A GUIDED TOUR OF THE UNFINISHED NATION

The Unfinished Nation makes history relevant to students through a series of engaging features:

CONSIDER THE SOURCE FEATURES

In every chapter, Consider the Source features guide students through careful analysis of historical documents and prompt them to closely examine the ideas expressed, as well as the historical circumstances. Among the classic sources included are Benjamin Franklin's testimony against the Stamp Act, the Gettysburg Address, a radio address from FDR, and Ronald Reagan on the role of government. Concise introductions provide context, and concluding questions prompt students to understand, analyze, and evaluate each source.

BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS, "OF THE ISLAND

DEBATING THE PAST FEATURES



Debating the Past essays introduce students to the contested quality of much of the American past, and they provide a sense of the evolving nature of historical scholarship. From examining specific differences in historical understandings of the Constitution, to exploring the causes of the Civil War and the significance of Watergate, these essays familiarize students with the interpretive character of historical understanding.

AMERICA IN THE WORLD FEATURES





SIEGE OF DELHI. The Indian Matiny, which lasted from 1857 to 1859, was a major uprising against the rule of the British East India Company, with Indians fighting on both sides. The uprising ended over a century of indirect rule by the Company and results of into British from set taking direct cortrict over India. Affenishetzishor of the British in

Capetown into a substantial colony that iscluded much of what it now South Africa. 1959, he added new British territories to the north, which he named Rhodosis (and which today are Zhnabawa and Zenba). South which today are Zhnabawa and Zenba). Uganda, Nigoria, and much of Egypt. British Uganda, Nigoria, and much of Egypt. British imperallicts also extended the empire lost East Asia, with the acquisition of Singapore. Hong Kong, Burn, and Malays; and they built a obstantial presence—although not formal colonial rule—in-China.

Other European states, watching the vast expansion of the Britist Empire, quickly jumped into the race for colonies. France created colonies in Indochina (Victisma and Laov), Algeria, west Africa, and Madagascar. Belgium moved into the Congo in west Africa. Germany established colonies in the Cameroons, Tanganyika, and other parts of Africa, and in the Pacific islands north of Australia. Dark, Islaine, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Japanese imperialists created colonies as well in Africa, Asia, and the

their own commercial interests and by the remaind competition that had developed among rival imperal powers. In 1998, the littled States was drawn into the imperal interest individual content of the imperal properties of the properties of the properties with the properties of the properties of the properties of empire (among them Theodore concerned), who believed that is the modern colonies would have difficulty remaining, or bocomine, a true words cover.

UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, & EVALUA

 What motivated the European nations' drive for empire in the late nineteenth century?

2. Why was Great Britain so successful acquiring its vast empire?

 How do the imperial efforts and ambition of the United States at the end of the nineteenth century compare with those

America in the World essays focus on specific parallels between American history and those of other nations and demonstrate the importance of the many global influences on the American story. Topics such as the global Industrial Revolution, the abolition of slavery, and the global depression of the 1920s provide concrete examples of the connections between the history of the United States and the history of other nations.

PATTERNS OF POPULAR CULTURE FEATURES



desce, and centremental ballack played baspine, camanett, and their intern university and sumply reductive and their internative and sumply reductive the centre group. After the Cold War, white interactive bases from the famous and accessful fractive those mentioned and accessful fractive those sumplements, some began to include sumper basis, some began to include summers brain, shared failes, and evide summers brain, shared failes, and such their shows. They solve incomposate days have shown. They solve incomposate days have shown. They solve incomposate days more popularly, by recruiting familal impormance popularly, by recruiting familal impormance, they of the most successful primations.

One reason white minterfel loops to move in these new directions used in more in more in these new directions was the most move in the analysis of the first and balancy for more who could proud more and humor. They usually brought more tall formation of the minterfel more in the more of the first all blade minterfel troupes and the more of the first all blade minterfel troupes and the more in the first all blade minterfel troupes and the more in the more better than the more better than the more better than the more better than the more than

demeaningly of the capacities of their race. But they could not entirely escape caricaturing African American life as they struggled to meet the expectations of their white audiences. The black minstrel shows had few openly political sizes. Thou did hole develop a power the national culture. Black minstrels introduced new forms of dance, derived from the informal traditions of slavery and become more of the community life. They showed the 'Buck and wing,' the 'tapt plure,' and the Vilginia essence,' which established the foundations for the tap and just dancing of the early twentieth century. They also improvised musically and began experimenting with form: that over time contributed to the growth of respine, just, and rhythm and growth of respine, just, and rhythm and

Eventually, black mintreley—blee it white countrepart—evolved into other forms of the start, including the longinings of around the start, including the longinings of around the 1890s, for example, the celebrated back comedian Sam Luca (a vestera of the min text of increase in the latest of the start of the start of in the play Bréval America, shelds one black necessary latest and the play Bréval reprint the reach through all them historica phases from the plantation, into reconstruct phases from the plantation, into reconstruct ondays and finally planting our people are they are today, cultured and accomplished the social general, foldingly the mineral table to acclay practice.

fully up to nature."

But interest in the ministrel show did not de al together. In 1927, Hollywood released has been seen to the ministrel performer, and its star was one of the most popular singers of the twentiether the most popular singers of the twentiether century. All ploton, whose career had begun on the blackface ministrel circuit years.

UNDERSTAND, ANALYZE, & EVALUATI

- How did minstrel shows performed by white minstrels reinforce prevailing att
- tudes toward African Americans?

 Miorteal chour conformed by black min
- strels often conformed to existing
- Can you think of any popular entertainments today that carry remnants of the minstrel shows of the nineteenth century?

Patterns of Popular Culture essays bring fads, crazes, hangouts, hobbies, and entertainment into the story of American history, encouraging students to expand their definition of what constitutes history and gain a new understanding of what popular culture reveals about a society.

WHAT'S NEW TO THE UNFINISHED NATION, EIGHTH EDITION

We have revised the narrative and the features throughout this eighth edition for clarity and currency. On a chapter-by-chapter basis, major changes include:

Chapter 1, The Collision of Cultures

 New Debating the Past: "Why Do Historians So Often Differ?"

Chapter 2, Transplantations and Borderlands

- New portrait and information about early colonist Anne Pollard.
- · New illustration of the early Savannah colony.

Chapter 3, Society and Culture in Provincial America

New map of African population density in the colonies

Chapter 6, The Constitution and the New Republic

 New illustration of the Jeffersonian vision of an agrarian republic.

Chapter 7, The Jeffersonian Era

 New political cartoon about the effects of the Embargo Act.

Chapter 8, Varieties of American Nationalism

· New portrait and information about Sequoyah.

Chapter 9, Jacksonian America

- Additional text and chapter question on the Native American response to U.S. expansion.
- New image satirizing financial policies associated with the depression of the late 1830s.

Chapter 10, America's Economic Revolution

• New Consider the Source: "Handbook to Lowell, 1848."

Chapter 11, Cotton, Slavery, and the Old South

 New photograph and information about Harriet Tubman.

Chapter 12, Antebellum Culture and Reform

- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "Sentimental Novels," including a discussion of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
- New section—"Struggles of Radical Black Women"—on preachers Jarena Lee and Rebecca Cox Jackson.

- New text connecting Thoreau's idea of civil disobedience with later abolitionist and civil rights protests.
- New text explaining why free blacks resisted the ACS's plan for populating Liberia.
- New photograph and information about Margaret Fuller.
- New painting depicting the Mormon trek to Utah.

Chapter 13, The Impending Crisis

- Revised accounts of how the Compromise of 1850 and the Lincoln-Nebraska Act were achieved.
- New Lone Star flag picture and information on Texas's years as an independent republic.
- New photograph of a multiethnic group of California gold miners.
- New cartoon illustrating a pro-slavery argument.

Chapter 14, The Civil War

- New section—"Billy Yank and Johnny Reb" describing the motivations and outfitting of Northern and Southern recruits at the start of the Civil War.
- Revised discussion of the North's strategy for winning the war and Lincoln's search for a commander.

Chapter 15, Reconstruction and the New South

- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "The Minstrel Show."
- Expanded discussion of plans to give land to freed slaves as a first step in Reconstruction.
- New editorial cartoon on critics' view of Reconstruction.

Chapter 16, The Conquest of the Far West

- New painting, *American Progress*, illustrating the American idea of the frontier.
- · New painting of a Tejanos-run ranch in Texas.
- New painting of Little Bighorn, from a Native American artist's perspective.

Chapter 17, Industrial Supremacy

 New photograph of child laborers and information about Lewis Hine's investigative photography.

Chapter 19, From Crisis to Empire

- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "Yellow Journalism."
- Revised discussion of the factors motivating American imperialism, introducing the concept of "jingoes" and the connection to ideas about the nation's masculinity.
- Revised discussion of the range of American reactions to the Cuban rebellion and the Teller Amendment.
- New discussion of race in the context of the Philippine War.
- New editorial cartoon of Chester Arthur feeling heat of competing interest groups.
- · New pro-imperialism editorial cartoon.
- New photograph and information about Populist orator Mary Lease.

Chapter 20, The Progressives

- New Consider the Source: "John Muir on the Value of Wild Places."
- New photograph and information about the suffrage pageant in Washington, D.C., on the eve of Wilson's inauguration.

Chapter 21, America and the Great War

- New Consider the Source: "Race, Gender, and World War I Posters."
- Revised discussion of European alliances and the start of World War I.
- New "Intervention" subsection with a revised discussion of what compelled Wilson to enter the war.
- Revised discussion of the American contribution to the Allies' victory.
- New descriptions of American troops and how Progressive ideas were employed in basic training.
- Reorganized and revised discussion of war casualty numbers.

Chapter 22, The New Era

 New Consider the Source: "America's Early Telephone Network."

Chapter 23, The Great Depression

 Revised discussion of Depression-era literature, and addition of Richard Wright's Native Son.

Chapter 24, The New Deal

- New editorial cartoon of an optimistic FDR steering the nation toward recovery.
- New photo and information on the Memorial Day Massacre.
- New photo and information on Eleanor Roosevelt's role in the New Deal.

Chapter 25, The Global Crisis, 1921-1941

 New Patterns of Popular Culture: "Orson Welles and the 'War of the Worlds."

Chapter 26, America in a World at War

- New Consider the Source: "The Face of the Enemy."
- New scholarship on wartime culture, including two new sections: "Home-Front Life and Culture" and "Love, Family, and Sexuality in Wartime."
- · Updated war casualty numbers.

Chapter 27, The Cold War

- · New information on the Rosenberg case.
- Additional information on Ellen Schrecker's Many Are the Crimes.
- · Revised discussion of Cold War attitudes.

Chapter 28, The Affluent Society

- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "On the Road."
- Expanded explanations of postwar economic growth as well as the decline in farm prices.

Chapter 29, retitled The Turbulent Sixties

- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "The Folk-Music Revival."
- New Consider the Source: "Fannie Lou Hamer on the Struggle for Voting Rights."
- Expanded discussions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; Malcolm X; the Cuban missile crisis.

Chapter 30, The Crisis of Authority

- Additional information on the extent of the draft and resistance; the history of gay rights; the consequences of the 1973 OPEC embargo.
- New photos showing the Native American occupation of Alcatraz; Robert Kennedy with César Chávez; Nixon in China.
- New graph on the gender income gap.

Chapter 31, From the "Age of Limits" to the Age of Reagan

 New Consider the Source: "Ronald Reagan on the Role of Government."

Chapter 32, The Age of Globalization

- Thoroughly updated and reorganized chapter and illustrations to reflect events up to press time. In addition to content changes in every section:
- New Patterns of Popular Culture: "Rap."
- New Consider the Source: "Same-Sex Marriage, 2015."
- New graph on immigration trends from 1850 to the present.
- Updated discussion of environmental catastrophes, including Deepwater Horizon.

THE COLLISION OF CULTURES

AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS EUROPE LOOKS WESTWARD THE ARRIVAL OF THE ENGLISH

LOOKING AHEAD

- 1. How did the societies of native people in the South differ from those in the North in the precontact period (before the arrival of the Europeans)?
- 2. What effects did the arrival of Europeans have on the native peoples of the Americas?
- **3.** How did patterns of settlement differ among the Spanish, English, French, and Dutch immigrants to the Americas?

THE DISCOVERY OF THE AMERICAS did not begin with Christopher Columbus. It began many thousands of years earlier, when human beings first crossed into the new continents and began to people them. By the end of the fifteenth century A.D., when the first important contact with Europeans occurred, the Americas were home to millions of men and women.

These ancient civilizations had experienced many changes and many catastrophes during their long history. But it is likely that none of these experiences was as tragically transforming as the arrival of Europeans. In the first violent years of Spanish and Portuguese exploration and conquest, the impact of the new arrivals was profound. Europeans brought with them diseases (most notably smallpox) to which natives, unlike the invaders, had no immunity. The result was a great demographic catastrophe that killed millions of people, weakened existing societies, and greatly aided the Spanish and Portuguese in their rapid and devastating takeover of the existing American empires.

But the European immigrants were never able to eliminate the influence of the indigenous peoples (whom they came to call "Indians"). In their many interactions, whether beneficial or ruinous, these very different civilizations shaped one another, learned from one another, and changed one another permanently and profoundly.

TIME LINE **11,000 YEARS AGO** Migrations into the Americas begin 1492 Columbus's first transatlantic voyage 1497 Cabot explores North America 1502 African slaves arrive in Spanish America 1518-1530 1519-1522 Smallpox ravages Indians Magellan expedition circumnavigates globe 1558 Elizabeth I becomes 1565 English Queen St. Augustine, Florida, founded 1587 Second attempt to establish Roanoke 1603 colony James I becomes English King 1607 Jamestown founded 1608 French establish 1609 Quebec Spanish found

AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS

We know relatively little about the first peoples in the Americas, but archaeologists have uncovered new evidence from artifacts that have survived over many millennia. We continue to learn more about the earliest Americans.

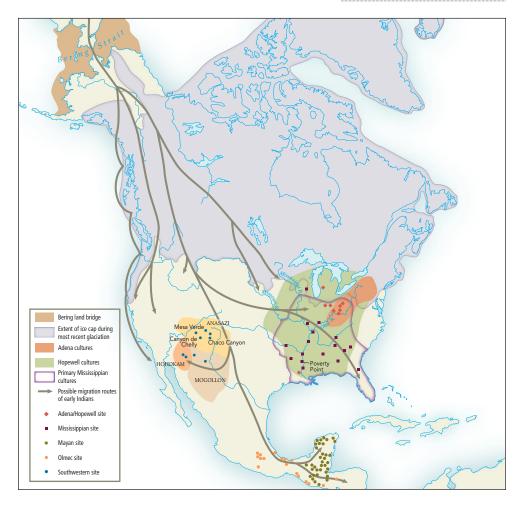
THE PEOPLES OF THE PRECONTACT AMERICAS

For many decades, scholars believed that all early migrations into the Americas came from humans crossing an ancient land bridge over the Bering Strait into what is now Alaska, approximately 11,000 years ago. The migrations were probably a result of the development of new stone tools—spears and other hunting implements—used to pursue the large animals that crossed between Asia and North America. All of these land-based migrants are thought to have come from a Mongolian stock related to that of modern-day Siberia. Scholars refer to these migrants as the "Clovis" people, so named for a town in New Mexico where archaeologists first discovered evidence of their tools and weapons in the 1930s.

More recent archaeological evidence suggests that not all the early migrants to the Americas came across the Bering Strait. Some migrants from Asia appear to have settled as far south as Chile and Peru even before people began moving into North America by land. These first South Americans may have come not by land but by sea, using boats.

This new evidence suggests that the early population of the Americas was more diverse and more scattered than scholars used to believe. Recent DNA evidence has identified a possible early population group that does not seem to have Asian characteristics. This suggests that thousands of years before Columbus, there may have been some migration from Europe.

Santa Fe



NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATIONS This map tracks some of the very early migrations into, and within, North America in the centuries preceding contact with Europe. The map shows the now-vanished land bridge between Siberia and Alaska over which thousands, perhaps millions, of migrating people passed into the Americas. It also shows the locations of some of the earliest settlements in North America. • What role did the extended glacial field in what is now Canada play in residential patterns in the ancient American world?

The Archaic period is a scholarly term for the early history of humans in America, beginning around 8000 B.C. In the first part of this period, most humans The Archaic Period supported themselves through hunting and gathering, using the same stone tools that earlier Americans had brought with them from Asia.

Later in the Archaic period, population groups began to expand their activities and to develop new tools, such as nets and hooks for fishing, traps for smaller animals, and baskets for gathering berries, nuts, seeds, and other plants. Still later, some groups began to farm. Farming, of course, requires people to stay in one place. In agricultural areas, the first sedentary settlements slowly began to form, creating the basis for larger civilizations.

THE GROWTH OF CIVILIZATIONS: THE SOUTH

The most elaborate early civilizations emerged in South and Central America and in Mexico. In Peru, the Incas created the largest empire in the Americas, stretching almost the Inca in Peru 2,000 miles along western South America. The Incas developed a complex administrative system and a large network of paved roads that welded together the populations of many tribes under a single government.

Organized societies of Mesoamericans emerged around 10,000 B.C. They created a Mesoamerican Civilizations civilization in what is now Mexico and much of Central America. They were known as the Olmec people. The first truly complex society in the region began in approximately 1000 B.C. A more sophisticated culture grew up around A.D. 800 in parts of Central America and in the Yucatán peninsula of Mexico, in an area known as Maya. Mayan civilization developed a written language, a numerical system similar to the Arabic, an accurate calendar, an advanced agricultural system, and important trade routes into other areas of the continents.

Gradually, the societies of the Maya region were superseded by other Mesoamerican tribes, who have become known collectively (and somewhat inaccurately) as the Aztec. They called themselves Mexica. In about A.D. 1300, the Mexica built the city of Tenochtitlán on a large island in a lake in central Mexico, the site of present-day Mexico City. With a population as high as 100,000 by 1500, Tenochtitlán featured large and impressive public buildings, schools that all male children attended, an organized military, a medical system, and a slave workforce drawn from conquered tribes. A warlike people, the Mexica gradually established their dominance over almost all of central Mexico.

Like other Mesoamerican societies, the Mexica developed a religion that included a belief that the gods could be satisfied only by being fed the living hearts of humans. The Mexica sacrificed people—largely prisoners captured in combat—on a scale unknown in other American civilizations. The Mesoamerican civilizations were for many centuries the center of civilized life in North and Central America—the hub of culture and trade.

THE CIVILIZATIONS OF THE NORTH

The peoples north of Mexico developed less elaborate but still substantial civilizations. Inhabitants of the northern regions of the continent subsisted on combinations of hunting, *Hunting, Gathering, and Fishing* gathering, and fishing. They included the Eskimo (or Inuit) of the Arctic Circle, who fished and hunted seals; big-game hunters of the northern forests, who led nomadic lives based on the pursuit of moose and caribou; tribes of the Pacific Northwest, whose principal occupation was salmon fishing and who created substantial permanent settlements along the coast; and a group of tribes spread through relatively arid regions of the Far West, who developed successful communities based on fishing, hunting small game, and gathering edible plants.

Other societies in North America were agricultural. Among the most developed were **Agricultural Societies** those in the Southwest. The people of that arid region built large irrigation systems, and they constructed towns of stone and adobe. In the Great Plains region, too, most tribes were engaged in sedentary farming (corn and other grains). They lived in large permanent settlements.

The eastern third of what is now the United States—much of it covered with forests and inhabited by the Woodland Indians—had the greatest food resources of any area of the continent. Most of the many tribes of the region engaged in farming, hunting, gathering,



HOW THE EARLY NORTH AMERICANS LIVED This map shows the various ways in which the native tribes of North America supported themselves before the arrival of European civilization. Like most precommercial peoples, the Native Americans survived largely on the resources available in their immediate surroundings. Note, for example, the reliance on the products of the sea of the tribes along the northern coastlines of the continent, and the way in which tribes in relatively inhospitable climates in the North—where agriculture was difficult—relied on hunting large game. Most Native Americans were farmers. • What different kinds of farming would have emerged in the very different climates of the agricultural regions shown on this map?

and fishing simultaneously. In the South there were permanent settlements and large trading networks based on the corn and other grains grown in the rich lands of the Mississippi River valley. Cahokia, a trading center located near present-day St. Louis, had a *Cahoki* population of 40,000 at its peak in A.D. 1200.

The agricultural societies of the Northeast were more mobile. Farming techniques there were designed to exploit the land quickly rather than to develop permanent settlements. Many of the tribes living east of the Mississippi River were linked together loosely by common linguistic roots. The largest of these language groups consisted of the Algonquian tribes, who lived along the Atlantic seaboard from Canada to Virginia; the Iroquois Confederacy, which was centered in what is now upstate New York; and the Muskogean



PUEBLO VILLAGE OF THE SOUTHWEST (© C. McIntyre/PhotoLink/Getty Images)

tribes, which consisted of the tribes in the southernmost regions of the eastern seaboard.

Religion was usually closely linked with the natural world on which the tribes depended for sustenance. Native Americans worshiped many gods, whom they associated variously with crops, game, forests, rivers, and other elements of nature.

All tribes assigned women the jobs of caring for children, preparing meals, and gathering certain foods. But the allocation of other tasks varied from one society to

another. Some tribal groups reserved farming tasks almost entirely for men. Among other *Gender Relations* groups, women tended the fields, whereas men engaged in hunting, warfare, or clearing land. Because women and children were often left alone for extended periods while men were away hunting or fighting, women in some tribes controlled the social and economic organization of the settlements.

EUROPE LOOKS WESTWARD

Europeans were almost entirely unaware of the existence of the Americas before the fifteenth century. A few early wanderers—Leif Eriksson, an eleventh-century Norse seaman, and others—had glimpsed parts of the eastern Atlantic on their voyages. But even if their discoveries had become common knowledge (and they did not), there would have been little incentive for others to follow. Europe in the Middle Ages (roughly A.D. 500–1500) was too weak, divided, and decentralized to inspire many great ventures. By the end of the fifteenth century, however, conditions in Europe had changed and the incentive for overseas exploration had grown.

COMMERCE AND SEA TRAVEL

Two important changes encouraged Europeans to look toward new lands. One was the significant growth in Europe's population in the fifteenth century. The Black Death, a catastrophic epidemic of the bubonic plague that began in Constantinople in 1347, had killed more than a third of the people on the Continent (according to some estimates). But a century and European Population Growth a half later, the population had rebounded. With that growth came a reawakening of commerce. A new merchant class was emerging to meet the rising demand for goods from abroad. As trade increased, and as advances in navigation made long-distance sea travel more feasible, interest in expanding trade grew even more quickly.

The second change was the emergence of new governments that were more united and *Strong Monarchies* powerful than the feeble political entities of the feudal past. In the western areas of Europe in particular, strong new monarchs were eager to enhance the commercial development of their nations.

In the early fourteenth century, Marco Polo and other adventurers had returned from Asia bearing exotic spices, cloths, and dyes and even more exotic tales. Europeans who

craved commercial glory had dreamed above all of trade with the East. For two centuries, that trade had been limited by the difficulties of the long overland journey to the Asian courts. But in the fourteenth century, talk of finding a faster, safer sea route to East Asia began.

The Portuguese were the preeminent maritime power in the fifteenth century, largely because of Prince Henry the Navigator, who devoted much of his life to the promotion of exploration. In 1486, after Henry's death, the Portuguese explorer *Portuguese Exploratio* Bartholomeu Dias rounded the southern tip of Africa (the Cape of Good Hope). In 1497–1498, Vasco da Gama proceeded all the way around the cape to India. But the Spanish, not the Portuguese, were the first to encounter the *New World*, the term Europeans applied to the ancient lands previously unknown to them.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Christopher Columbus was born and reared in Genoa, Italy. He spent his early seafaring years in the service of the Portuguese. By the time he was a young man, he had developed great ambitions. He believed he could reach East Asia by sailing west, across the Atlantic, rather than east, around Africa. Columbus thought the world was far smaller than it actually is. He also believed that the Asian continent extended farther eastward than it actually does. Most important, he did not realize that anything lay to the west between Europe and the lands of Asia.

Columbus failed to enlist the leaders of Portugal to back his plan, so he turned instead to Spain. The marriage of Spain's two most powerful regional rulers, Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, had produced the strongest and most ambitious monarchy in Europe. Columbus appealed to Queen Isabella for support for his proposed westward voyage, and in 1492, she agreed. Commanding ninety men and three *Columbus's First Voyage* ships—the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*—Columbus left Spain in August 1492 and sailed west into the Atlantic. Ten weeks later, he sighted land and assumed he had reached an island off Asia. In fact, he had landed in the Bahamas. When he pushed on and encountered Cuba, he assumed he had reached China. He returned to Spain, bringing with him several captured natives as evidence of his achievement. (He called the natives "Indians" because he believed they were from the East Indies in the Pacific.)

But Columbus did not, of course, bring back news of the great khan's court in China or any samples of the fabled wealth of the Indies. And so a year later, he tried again, this time with a much larger expedition. As before, he headed into the Caribbean, discovering several other islands and leaving a small and short-lived **colony** on Hispaniola. On a third voyage, in 1498, he finally reached the mainland and cruised along the northern coast of South America. He then realized, for the first time, that he had encountered not a part of Asia but a separate continent.

Columbus ended his life in obscurity. Ultimately, he was even unable to give his name to the land he had revealed to the Europeans. That distinction went instead to a Florentine merchant, Amerigo Vespucci, who wrote a series of vivid descriptions of the lands he visited on a later expedition to the New World and helped popularize the idea that the Americas were new continents.

Partly as a result of Columbus's initiative, Spain began to devote greater resources and energy to maritime exploration. In 1513, the Spaniard Vasco de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama and became the first known European to gaze westward upon the great ocean that separated America from China. Seeking access to that ocean, Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese



EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND CONQUEST, 1492–1583 This map shows the many voyages of exploration to and conquest of North America launched by Europeans in the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Note how Columbus and the Spanish explorers who followed him tended to move quickly into the lands of Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America, while the English and French explored the northern territories of North America. • What factors might have led these various nations to explore and colonize different areas of the New World?

in Spanish employ, found the strait that now bears his name at the southern end of South America, struggled through the stormy narrows and into the ocean (so calm by contrast that he christened it the *Pacific*), and then proceeded to the Philippines. There Magellan died in a *Circumnavigation of the Globe* conflict with natives, but his expedition went on to complete the

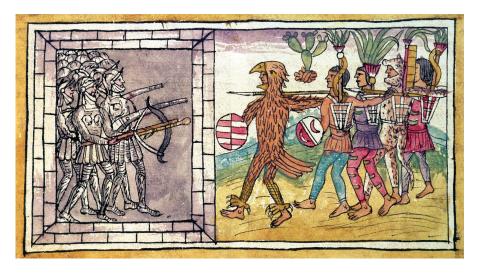
first known circumnavigation of the globe (1519–1522). By 1550, Spaniards had explored the coasts of North America as far north as Oregon in the west and Labrador in the east.

THE SPANISH EMPIRE

In time, Spanish explorers in the New World stopped thinking of America simply as an obstacle to their search for a route to Asia and began instead to consider it a possible source of wealth in itself. The Spanish claimed for themselves the whole of the New World, except for a large part of the east coast of South America (today's Brazil) that was reserved by a papal decree for the Portuguese.

In 1518, Hernando Cortés, who had been an unsuccessful Spanish government official in Cuba for fourteen years, led a small military expedition (about 600 men) against the Aztecs in Mexico and their powerful emperor, Montezuma, after hearing stories of great treasures there. His first assault on Tenochtitlán, the Aztec capital, failed. But Cortés and his army had unwittingly exposed the natives to smallpox, to which the natives, unlike the Europeans, had developed no immunity. The epidemic decimated the Aztec population and made it possible for the Spanish to triumph in their second attempt at conquest. Through his ruthless suppression of the surviving natives, Cortés established himself as one of the most brutal of the Spanish **conquistadores** (conquerors). Twenty years later, Francisco Pizarro conquered *Conquistadore* the Incas in Peru and opened the way for other Spanish advances into South America.

The first Spanish settlers in America were interested only in exploiting the American stores of gold and silver, and they were fabulously successful. For 300 years, beginning in the sixteenth century, the mines of Spanish America yielded more than ten times as much gold and silver as all the rest of the world's mines combined. Before long, however, most Spanish settlers in America traveled to the New World for other reasons. Many went in hopes of profiting from agriculture. They helped establish elements of European



THE MEXICANS STRIKE BACK In this vivid scene from the Durán Codex, Mexican artists illustrate a rare moment in which Mexican warriors gained the upper hand over the Spanish invaders. Driven back by native fighters, the Spanish have taken refuge in a room in the royal palace in Tenochtitlán while brightly attired Mexican warriors besiege them. Although the Mexicans gained a temporary advantage in this battle, the drawing illustrates one of the reasons for their inability to withstand the Spanish in the longer term. The Spanish soldiers are armed with rifles and crossbows, while the Indians carry only spears and shields. (© Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, Spain/Bridgeman Images)