

AS THE WORLD TURNS: 1500-1640 AD

Overview

To review: the Ancient Era laid the foundations for every aspect of society (language, government, war, economics, etc). The Medieval Era was a time of transformation, that saw the ending of the old methods and institutions with a metamorphosis into what will become the “modern” methods and institutions. The 1300-1500s set the stage for the Globalization 1.0:

- There was a sharp increase in intercontinental trade. The Indian Ocean Trade connected the Muslim Middle East, India, China, and Africa; allowing for an exchange of diverse resources. The Mediterranean Trade connected the Muslim Middle East with the newly revived Italian City-States. Ideas, resources, manufactured goods and disease spread faster than any time before.
- Islamic Civilizations continued to increase in wealth and power. The Muslims controlled both the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Trade routes. The Ottoman Empire controlled North Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe (defeating/eliminating the Byzantine Empire). The Safavids Muslims conquered land in Central Asia. Muslims also took a prominent role in India, taking power and wealth away from the Hindus.
- China changed from being a major international trader to isolationists. They still allowed people to come and purchase goods, but protected their culture and country from outsiders.
- Europe underwent major changes. They saw a decline in feudalism because of a rise in cities and the creation of the Bourgeoisie. They conquered land on the Iberian Peninsula back from the Muslims and took great efforts to persecute those who were not Roman Catholic (i.e. Spanish Inquisition). They began to explore: finding waterways around Africa to India and stumbling upon the Americas. They also created the Printing Press, which allowed knowledge to travel more rapidly and cheaply than ever before.

Moving into 1500, the world sat on the edge of something extraordinary: Globalization 1.0. The Ancient and Medieval eras were regional histories, with very little contact between regions. In the 1500s, the people of earth will become interconnected in a way that was never imagined. The size of the empires and complexity of the accomplishments will reach new heights. The cruelty will dig to new depths. No corner of the world will be left unchanged.

Europe: Transformation

During the 1400s, Europe had undergone a period of great change. During the Medieval Era, Europe had been dominated by Feudalism and the Catholic Church. Thanks to the Crusades and the Black Death, their powers were beginning to weaken. Many serfs became free of their Lords because the Lord and most of his family had died, moved to towns and learned to become craftsmen. Towns began to grow and wealth began to flow. Towns grew into bustling cities.





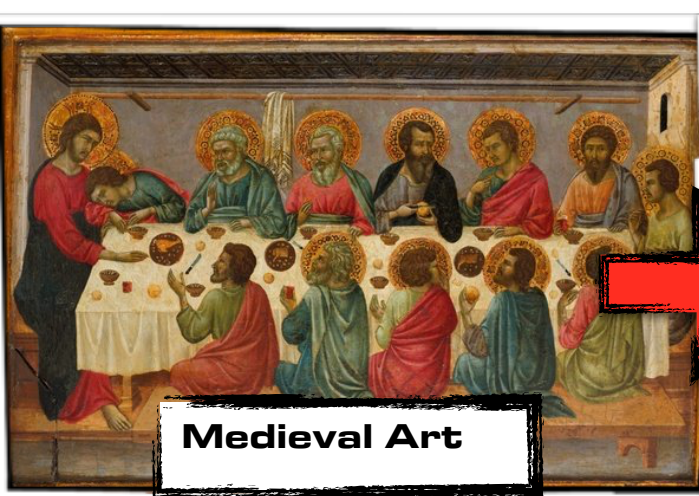
Kings became wealthy from the taxes on the trade and wanted to solidify their power. The new found wealth, along with weapons made with gunpowder, allowed Kings to build powerful armies by paying commoners. The Kings no longer had to rely on the Nobles for their military. The Nobles castles were no match for the King's cannons. The Nobles horses and armor was no match for a large group of peasants with guns. Slowly, the King's powerful armies began to unify the vast array of small kingdoms and city-states into the modern nations we know today. The countries of England, France Spain, Portugal, Austria, Poland, Norway, Sweden, Poland and Russia were "formed" during this era.



Europe: 1300s



Europe: 1600s



Medieval Art



Renaissance Art

Italian Renaissance... Most of the great intellectual and cultural change in Europe took place in Italy during a period called the Renaissance. Renaissance means rebirth, specifically the rebirth of Ancient Greek and Roman ideas. The Italian City States were the first to come out of the “Middle Ages,” thanks to their trade with the Ottoman Empire. This gave Italians access to Islamic wealth and ideas. The Renaissance was further helped by the Fall of Constantinople, which caused a migration of rich, intelligent Christians from Constantinople to the Italian Cities.



The heart beat of the Renaissance was an idea called Humanism. During the Medieval Era, the focus had been on God and the Church. The Renaissance began to focus on man and what man was able to accomplish.

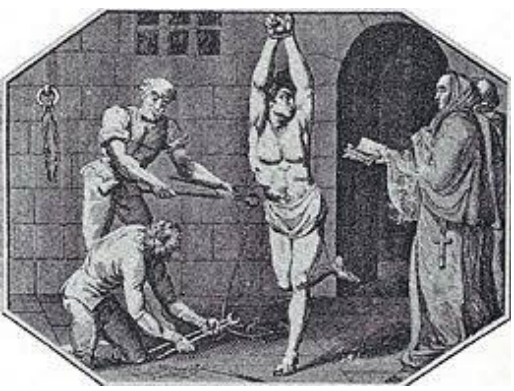
Many great works of art, music, architecture and literature was crafted during this era. Thanks to the printing press, great works of literature spread more quickly and could be read by more people. The printing press also allowed these people to become reconnected with the Greek idea of Democracy and the Roman Republic planted seeds about governments where the people have power, not kings or religious organizations. It was a truly impressive cultural era that is celebrated to this day.



Humanism and the Renaissance also began a European Scientific Revolution. Great minds were connected with the Ancient, Asian and Islamic innovations and were able to further improve upon them. Discoveries were made about the earth, space, and the human body. New forms of math were developed. New weapons were introduced to Europe include gunpowder and guns (a merger of Chinese and Islamic ideas). More importantly, these scientists were able to share ideas with other scientists quickly and cheaply, which sped up the innovation process.

Protestant Reformation... The Roman Catholic Church was the largest most powerful organization in Europe... but it had become corrupt. The leaders of the church were using their position to become wealthy and politically powerful. In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther had serious disagreements with the Roman Catholic Church, believing that they had strayed from the Bible. Luther began to write documents stating his concerns and the reforms he thought necessary to reform or correct the Church. Thanks to the Printing Press, Luther's ideas spread rapidly throughout Europe and Luther quickly gained a large following.

A large appeal of Luther's reforms was that people could be Christians without having to obey the Pope or pay indulgences (paying to remove sins to get into heaven). For common people, this was a way of getting freedom from what had become a corrupt system. For the Kings in Northern Europe, this was a way to stay Christian, but no longer have to obey the Pope. This created a large schism in Christianity called the Protestant Reformation - a group who were Christian, but no longer obeyed the Pope (or the Catholic Church) and put into place other church reforms. The Catholic church did not like these reforms and took strong, swift action to try to squash Luther's movement, including excommunicating him. However, the movement had grown so strong, nothing could stop it.





Roman Catholic Church Responses... The Roman Catholic church felt under attack from many fronts. The Scientific Revolution was questioning the church's authority and understanding of the world. The Protestants were protesting the religious structure and rules of the church. The Pope declared these things to be heresy, or speaking out against the church and God, and began the Roman Inquisition. Much like the Spanish Inquisition, if a person was accused of heresy, they were put on trial, tortured, imprisoned or put to death. Many protestants and scientists were persecuted and killed during this time. Religious wars, like the 30 year Anglo-Spanish War, broke out all over Europe over who had the "one true faith": Catholics or Protestants (...and over some colonies as well).

ASSIGNMENT

- 1) Read & Update the Content Matrix
- 2) Fill out this chart with the the strengths/positives and weaknesses/negatives of each region.

Region	Strengths	Weaknesses
Europe		
North & South America		

- 3) Create an impact chart. As you read you are to evaluate each area on the level of impact the people in that region had on the world culturally, militarily, and economically.
 - Rate each area as to how impactful you believe them to be at the at 1500 AD () and at 1640 AD ().
 - Draw arrows to show whether they grew or shrunk in impact and influence.
 - If there is change, ask yourself “What caused them to grow or shrink or stagnate in their influence?” and make note of it on your chart.

Examples

