

Ch 1 Section 5 Transatlantic Encounters

Columbus Crosses the Atlantic

First Encounters

- In 1492, **Christopher Columbus** attempts to reach Asia by sailing west
- Meets **Taino**—natives of Caribbean; renames their island San Salvador

Gold, Land, and Religion

- Columbus searches for gold, claims lands for Spain, plants crosses
- Explores small islands and coastlines of Cuba, Hispaniola

Spanish Footholds

- Columbus leads 3 more voyages; takes soldiers, priests, colonists
- Spanish and others first occupy Caribbean island, then mainland

The Impact on Native Americans

Methods of Colonization

- **Colonization**—establishing and controlling distant settlements
- Europeans force locals to work, dominate with sophisticated weapons
- The Portuguese developed the model of using West African slaves as the labor force on plantations

Resistance and Conquest

- In the 1490s, Spanish put down rebellions on different islands

Disease Ravages the Native Americans

- Native Americans have no natural immunity to European diseases
- Contagious diseases kill hundreds of thousands

The Slave Trade Begins

A New Slave Labor Force

- As natives die of disease, Africans brought to work in colonies
- Demand for workers grows, price of slaves rises
- Slave trade becomes profitable; more Europeans join slave trade

African Losses

- African societies devastated: millions of people taken from Africa

The Impact on Europeans

The Columbian Exchange

- Thousands of Europeans voluntarily migrate to America
- **Columbian Exchange**: transfer of plants, animals between hemispheres

National Rivalries

- 1494 **Treaty of Tordesillas** divides Western Hemisphere:
 - lands west of imaginary line, most of Americas, belong to Spain
 - lands east of line, including Brazil, belong to Portugal
- Treaty unenforceable; English, Dutch, French colonize Americas

A New Society is Born

Three Cultures Affect One Another

- Columbus returns to Spain (1504), disappointed did not find China
- People transformed as unfamiliar customs come together
- Impossible to impose European ways on others— blended society emerges