Chapter 16
The Transatlantic Economy, Trade Wars, & Colonial Rebellion
Empire, War, and Colonial Rebellion Periods of European Overseas Empires

- **Four Stages of European contacts with world**
  - discovery, exploration, initial conquest, and settlement of the new world
  - colonial trade and rivalry b/w Spain, France, and Great Britain
  - 19th century = empires in Africa and Asia
  - mid 20th century = decolonization

- treated others as social, intellectual, and economic inferiors

- greed, god, glory

- technological supremacy (naval and gunpowder)
Eighteenth-Century Empires

- existed to enrich trade
- protection required a strong navy
- depended upon slave labor
- Mercantile Empires
  - Spain = controlled all of the mainland of S. America (except for Brazil) : N. America = Florida, Mexico, California, and the Southwest: Cuba, Puerto Rico, and half of Hispaniola
  - Great Britain = North Atlantic seaboard, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Jamaica, and Barbados : A few Colonies in India
  - France = Saint Lawrence River valley, Ohio and Mississippi River valleys : Saint Domingue, Guadeloupe, and Martinique
  - Dutch = Surinam, and trading stations in Ceylon and Bengal
Mercantilist Goals

- heavily regulated trade and commerce by gov’t
- favorable balance of trade of gold and silver bullion
  - bullion = measure of country’s wealth
  - want more bullion than your rivals
- colonies were to provide markets
- national monopoly = guiding principle
- worked better on paper
- “golden age of smuggling”
French-British Rivalry

- colonists quarreled with each other
- India – each traded through privilege with chartered companies
  - By 18th century; Indian government decayed
  - Joseph Dupleix and Robert Clive competed for control of government power
Spanish Colonial System

• Colonial government
  – Crown of Castile = link
  – Council of the Indies
  – Viceroy = chief executives in the New World
  – Audiencias = judicial councils
  – Corregidores = local officers
  – Power flowed from the top-down

• Trade and regulation
  – Casa de Contratacion (House of Trade) in Seville regulated all trade in the New World
    • Most influential institution of Spanish Empire
    • Flota (commercial vessels)
Spanish Colonial System Reform

- **Philip V**
  - Tried to suppress smuggling
  - Viceroyalty of New Granada – wanted more direct royal control

- **Ferdinand VI**
  - Saw need for further reforms in the colonies

- **Charles III**
  - Emphasized royal ministers instead of councils
  - Abolished monopoly of Seville and Cadiz
  - Permitted other Spanish cities to trade with America
  - Wanted to increase efficiency of tax collection and end bureaucratic corruption
  - Indendent - royal, loyal bureaucrats
Black African Slavery

• West Indies
  – Jewels of empire
  – Tobacco, indigo, coffee, and sugar
  – Slavery was basic the economies

• Prior to the 18th century – no religious or moral stigma with owning a slave

• After conquest of Constantinople, Ottomans forbade exportation of white slaves

• So, Portuguese imported West Africans
The Plantation system

• Plantation system
  – Disease killed Native Americans, so laborers were needed
  – 90% of population of Jamaica were slaves
  – Triangular Trade Route

• First slaves entered Jamestown in 1619
Atlantic economy

- Slave Experience
  - Passage
    - Cramped
    - Bad food
    - Disease
    - Most died in crossing
  - Living Conditions
    - Hard labor
      - Poor diet
      - Inadequate housing
      - Marriages not recognized
    - Property
      - Sold away from families
Mid-Eighteenth Century Wars
War of Jenkins Ear

- West Indies = hotbed of trade rivalry
- Spain wanted to tighten its monopoly
- English smugglers wanted to pierce it
- Treaty of Utrecht (1713) gave two privileges to Great Britain
  - 30 year asiento (contract) to provide slaves for Spain
  - right to send one ship each year to Portobello
    - allowed smugglers into Spanish markets
    - British ships would reload the legal ship
- 1731 – Robert Jenkins
  - ear cut off during a Spanish boarding operation
  - saved ear in jar of brandy
  - no real consequence until 1738
  - 1738 – Jenkins testified in Parliament
    - proof of Spanish atrocities in the West Indies
  - 1739 – Robert Walpole (prime minister) pressured into war
    - 1st war of many European wars fought until 1815
War of Austrian Succession

- December 1740, Frederick II seized Austrian province of Silesia
- Upset Pragmatic Sanction and balance of power established by Utrecht
- Maria Theresa
  - Major accomplishment = preserved the Habsburg empire
  - 23 yrs old when gained power
  - granted new privileges to nobility
  - Hungary = most important of her crowns (promised Magyars local autonomy)
- France draws Great Britain into war
- Fleury was pushed to support Prussia against Austria
  - aid consolidated Prussia
  - brought G.B. into war to support Austria
- 1744 France supports Spain against G.B. in New World
  - divided French resources and weakened the country
- 1748 – Stalemate
  - Aix-la-Chapelle
    - Prussia kept Silesia
    - Spain renewed asiento
Diplomatic Revolution of 1756

- 1756- Convention of Westminster signed by Prussia and Great Britain
  - defensive alliance

- 1756- France and Austria sign a defensive alliance
Seven Years’ War

- Colonial clashes b/w France and Great Britain
- August 1756
  - Frederick II invaded Saxony
    - Preemptive strike?
- 1757 – Austria and France signed a new alliance
  - Destroy Prussia
  - Russia and Sweden join later
- 2 Factors saved Prussia
  - G.B. provide financial aid
  - 1762 – Empress Elizabeth of Russia died
    - Peter III took over throne made peace with Prussia
- 1763 Treaty of Hubertusburg
William Pitt and North America

- William Pitt the Elder – architect of British victories during Seven Years’ War
  - 1757 – gave $ to Prussia
    - German conflict diverted France’s attention from N. America
    - Wanted all land east of the Mississippi
    - Sent more than 40,000 troops
    - Cooperated with colonists
  - British General James Wolfe defeated France in Sept 1759
  - Won the West Indies with the British Navy
  - Robert Clive won India in 1757
    - British East India Company
Treaty of Paris 1763

- Britain gets Canada, Ohio River Valley, and eastern half of Mississippi River Valley
- France is no longer a colonial power
- G.B. = world power until WWII
The American Revolution and Europe

- problems of revenue collection
- Great Britain needed money to pay for wars and colonial protection
Resistance to the Imperial Search for Revenue

• 2 problem for G.B. after the Treaty of Paris
  – sheer cost of the empire
  – vast expanse of new territory in N. America

• 1764 – Sugar Act passed
• 1765 – Stamp Act passed
• 1765 – Stamp Act Congress
  – protest to the crown
  – Sons of Liberty
  – 1766 – repeal of the Stamp Act
  – 1766 – Declaratory Act
  * power to legislate for the colonies
Crisis and Independence

- 1767 – Townshend Acts
  - sent agents to administer these new acts
- 1768 – Troops sent to Boston to protect the agents
- March 1770 – Boston Massacre
  - 5 people were killed
  - angry protestors threw rocks, snow, and ice at soldiers
    - Parliament repealed the Townshend Duties except for the tax on tea
- 1773 – British East India Tea Company
  - exclusive importation to colonies
    - Boston Tea Party
    - Dressed as Native Americans and dumped tea into harbor
- 1774 – Intolerable Acts
- 1774 – Quebec Act
- September 1774 – 1st Continental Congress in Philly
- April 1775 – Lexington and Concord
- May 1775 – 2nd Continental Congress
- August 1775 – George III states the colonies are in rebellion
- July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence
- 1781 – Washington defeats Cornwallis
- 1783 – Treaty of Paris
American Political Ideas

- English Revolution of 1688
  - Produced ideas of liberty and the role of government
  - According to the colonists, George III violated these liberties; therefore the colonies had right to rebel

- John Locke – Whig political ideas

- Commonwealthmen
  - Republican ideas stemming from the Puritan Revolution
  - John Trenchard and Thomas Gordon
  - Cato’s Letters
    - Criticized gov’t patronage
    - Corrupt gov’t undermined liberty
    - Taxation = $ for political corruption
    - Standing armies = instruments of tyranny
Events in Great Britain

- George III wanted ministers of his own choice
  - Sought aid from politicians that the Whigs hated
  - Whigs thought that George was imposing tyranny

- John Wilkes
  - The North Briton
    - 1763 – criticized government
      - expelled from Parliament and outlawed
    - 1774 – finally seated in Parliament again
      - incident with keeping him from his elected office showed the corruption of the government
Movement for Parliamentary Reform

• challenged power of monarch and parliamentary authority
• questioned taxation without representation
• power should come from the people
The Yorkshire Association Movement

• British resented handling of American War, high taxes, and Lord North’s ministry
• Christopher Wyvil organized the movement
  – Changes for corrupt system of Parliamentary Elections
  – Movement collapsed because of failure to appeal for popular support
• 1780 House of Commons lessened the power of the crown
• 1782 – Parliament calls for economic reform
• 1784 – William Pitt the Younger managed House of Commons
  – made it favorable to the monarch
  – George reasserted monarchial influence in politics
• America proved that government without kings and nobles was possible