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Period 2, Unit 7

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**Notes Pgs. 476-501**

Introduction

1. Prussia emerged as a great power, and Great Britain gained a world empire
   * The Peace of Paris of 1763 caused countries to reconstruct their policies of taxation and finance
   * Among the results of these policies were the American Revolution, an enlightened absolutism on the Continent, a continuing financial crisis for the French monarchy, and a reform of the Spanish Empire in South America

Periods of European Overseas Empires

1. A fundamental element in these first two periods of European imperial venture in the Americas was the presence of slavery.
   * First Period – European discovery,
   * Second Period – one of colonial trade rivalry among Spain, France, and Great Britain, that of mercantile empire
   * **Plantation economies**: the economic system stretching between Chesapeake Bay and Brazil the produced crops, especially sugar, cotton, tobacco, using slave labor on large estates
   * The African brought to the American experience their labor, as well as their language, customs, and ethnic associations
   * During the second period, both the British colonies of the North American seaboard and the Spanish colonies of Mexico and Central and South America emancipated themselves from European control
   * European commonly treated other peoples as social, intellectual, economic, and racial inferiors
   * Naval power, ships, guns and gunpowder allowed Europeans to exert such influence and domination for so long over much of the world

Mercantile Empire

1. Navies and merchant shipping were keystones of the mercantile empire; they meant to bring profit

* Treaty of Utrecht (1713) – established the boundaries of empire during the first half of the eighteenth century
* Portugal - governed Brazil
* Spain - controlled all of mainland of South America, Florida, Mexico, California, and the Southwest; Governed Central America, Cuba, and Puerto Rico
* British Empire – colonies along North Atlantic Seaboard, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Bermuda, Jamaica, and Barbados, and trading stations on Indian subcontinent
* France – Saint Lawrence River valley, Haiti, Guadeloupe and Martinique. Also had stations in India and West Coast of Africa
* Dutch – Surinam (Dutch Guiana in South America), Cape Colony (south Africa), trading stations in West Africa, Sri Lanka, Bengal (India); also controlled trade with Java (now Indonesia)
* Dutch were daring sailors

Mercantilist Goals

1. **Mercantilism** – 18th century, belief in the benefits of profitable trading; commercialism

* Economic writers believed this system necessary for a nation to gain a favorable trade balance of gold and silver bullion
* **Bullion** – a measure of a country’s wealth

1. Mercantilist thinking assumed that only modern levels of economic growth were possible

* Before this, the wealth of one realm was assumed to grow/ increase largely at the direct expense of another nation
* The economic well-being of the name country was the primary concern of mercantilist writers

1. Colonies existed to provide markets and natural resources for the home country; the home country was to protect and administer colonies

* Home country and colonies were to trade exclusively with each other governments tried to forge trade – tight systems through navigation laws, tariffs, bounties to encourage production, and prohibitions against trading with the subject of other monarchs.
* National monopoly was ruling principle

1. Colonist of different countries wished to trade with each other

* Eighteenth century became a “golden age of smugglers”

French-British Rivalry

1. (French & British) colonists quarreled with one another over religious such as Saint Lawrence River valley, appear New England and Ohio River valley

* Other rivalries over fishing rights, fur trade, and alliances with Native Americans

1. West Indies was the heart of colonial rivalries.

* West Indies plantations raised tobacco, cotton, indigo, coffee, and sugar
* Sugar soon become a staple rather than luxury; used in coffee, tea, cocoa

1. India uses another area of French – British rivalries

* East India Company British institution
* Compagnie des Indes French equivalent in India
* **Factories** – original European footholds in India, trading posts

1. Two things changed situation in India

* 1 Administration and government of several Indian settler decayed
* 2 Joseph Dupliex – (1697 – 1763) French expanded company
* Robert Clive – (1725-1774) British
* Dutch maintained extensive commercial empire further to east

The Spanish Colonial System

1. Spanish control of American Empire involved a system of government and a system of monopolistic trade regulation

* Primary role of the Spanish empire was to supply Spain with precious metals mined in the New World

Colonial Government

1. Queen Isabella of Castile – (r. 1474-1504) commissioned Columbus, technical reign of Spain and New World belonged to the crown of Castile

* Council of Trades – nominated the viceroys of New Spain (Mexico) and Peru, worked with monarch; also issued laws for New World

1. **Audiencias** – subordinate judicial councils of viceroyalties

* **Corregidores** – most important of the local officers, presided over municipal councils.