# Origins of the American Nation

Chapter 1 US History Honors



#### Focus Questions:

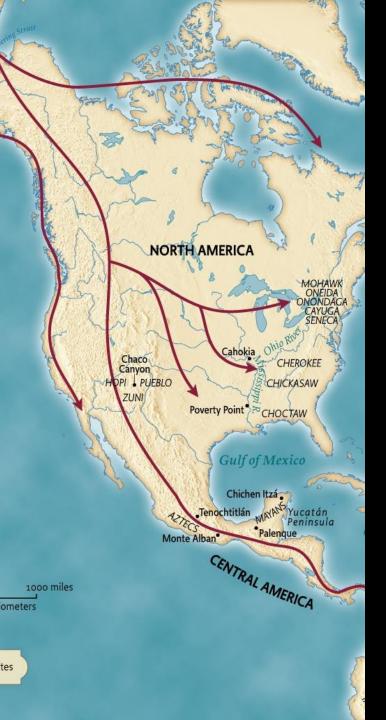
What were the major patterns of Native American life in North America before Europeans arrived?

How did Indian and European ideas of freedom differ on the eve of contact?

What impelled European explorers to look west across the Atlantic?

What happened when the peoples of the Americas came in contact with Europeans?

What were the chief features of the French and Dutch empires in North America?



#### Pre-Columbian America

- What shaped the geological history of North America? The Great Ice Age!
- How did people arrive in the Americas?
  - This is a highly controversial discussion
  - Could people have arrived on a land bridge across the Bering Sea?
  - Could people have arrived by boats like the settling of the Pacific islands?
  - Did these peoples follow migrating animals (food sources)?
  - All these theories are possible!



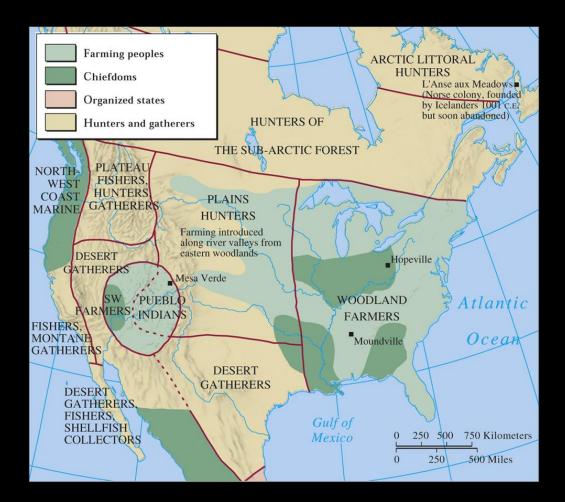
- What do historians believe?
  - The peopling of the Americas, prior to European contact, occurred over a period.
- The earliest civilizations were the Olmec.
  - 1500 to 1200 BCE
  - Found in Mesoamerica
- Other Civilizations
  - Aztec and Maya
  - Built temple structures

#### Peoples and cultures of central and Latin America

- First peoples to reach Central and Latin America were hunters/gatherers.
- Agriculture became the basis for this civilization as the last ice age ended.
- Centralized government systems will develop in these civilizations.
- These civilizations were very large and will trade with each other.
- True cities develop becoming the centers for government, population, & religion.



#### Peoples and Cultures of North America



- Great Basin (Nevada and Utah) is not suitable for farming.
- The eastern and plains areas provided more opportunity for crops.
- Largest population center north of Mexico was near present-day St. Louis.

#### **First civilization of North America**

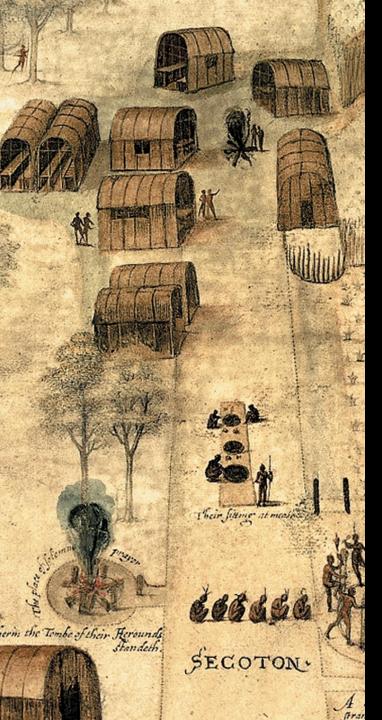
- Mound Builders: lower Mississippi River Valley whose life centered on a series of semicircular mounds.
  - Extensive trading networks across the continent.
- Hopi and Zuni = northeastern Arizona
  - Engaged in long-distance trade
  - Called Pueblo Indians by Spanish
- Pacific Coast densely populated
- Great Plains hunted buffalo herds
- Eastern North America = Choctaw, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Iroquois



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#### Native American Religion, Land and Property

- Although diverse, North American Indian societies shared common characteristics:
  - Religions and religious practices were often directly related to farming and hunting
  - Plants, animals, and non-living things such as water and wind were invested with spiritual power.
  - Shamans, medicine men, and other religious leaders seemed to have supernatural powers.
  - Most religions held a single creator similar to European religions.
  - Land was never "owned"!
  - Indigenous peoples did not devote themselves to accumulating wealth.



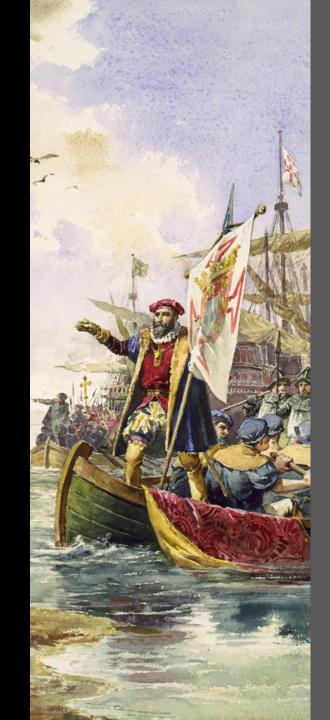


#### Renaissance and Reformation

- Renaissance "rebirth"
  - Fascination with Greece and Rome
  - Ancient "thinkers" inspired ideas
  - Helped start the scientific revolution
- Religious Transformations
  - Martin Luther 95 Theses
  - Puritanism
  - Issues within the Church of England

### Contact

- Columbus in the New World
  - October 1492 = Columbus arrived in the Bahamas (probably at Watling Island aka San Salvador)!
  - Columbus would continue to explore Hispaniola and Cuba.

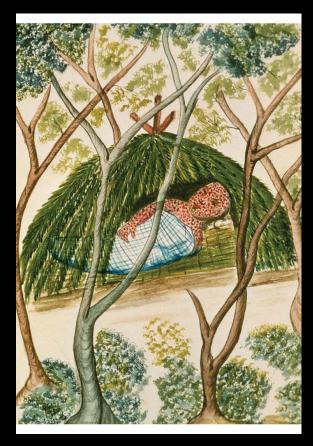




# After Columbus

- From 1493 on, European colonization of the New World began.
- Gutenberg's press spread information of the New World :
  - John Cabot (England, 1497) Newfoundland
  - Pedro Cabral (Portugal, 1500) Brazil
  - Nicolas de Ovando (Spain, 1502) permanent settlement in America
  - Amerigo Vespucci (Italian, 1499-1502) South America
  - Vasco Nuñez de Balboa (1513) Panama
  - Ferdinand Magellan (1519-1522) circumnavigation

## The Demographic Disaster



North America
Mexico
Central America
Hispaniola
The Caribbean
The Andes
South America

3,800,000 17,200,000 5,625,000 1,000,000 3,000,000 15,700,0008,620,000

Total

54,945,000