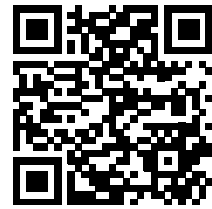


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# Colonial Expansion and Conquest



In the 15th century, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Exploration began as European powers started to search for new trade routes and \_\_\_\_\_. They were driven by a desire for wealth, resources, and the spread of Christianity. Explorers like \_\_\_\_\_ set sail across unknown seas, leading to the discovery of the Americas. This marked the beginning of European \_\_\_\_\_, where vast areas of land were claimed, often ignoring the rights of indigenous \_\_\_\_\_.

Colonialism had profound effects on both the colonizers and the colonized. European \_\_\_\_\_ such as Spain, Portugal, and later Britain and France, built large \_\_\_\_\_ that spanned several continents. They extracted valuable \_\_\_\_\_ like gold, silver, and spices, which were sent back to Europe, enriching the colonial \_\_\_\_\_.

However, the impact on the indigenous peoples was devastating. Many were subjected to forced \_\_\_\_\_, displacement, and diseases brought by Europeans, which drastically reduced their populations. Cultures and \_\_\_\_\_ were disrupted, and the traditional ways of life were often destroyed.

The introduction of new \_\_\_\_\_ like potatoes and maize to Europe had a positive effect on European diets and agriculture. Conversely, \_\_\_\_\_ introduced crops such as sugar and tobacco to the colonies, establishing \_\_\_\_\_ economies that relied heavily on slave labor.

Colonialism also led to the \_\_\_\_\_ slave trade, where millions of Africans were forcibly transported to the \_\_\_\_\_. This brutal aspect of colonization had lasting social and economic \_\_\_\_\_ on Africa and the Americas.

Through colonialism, the modern world was shaped in many ways, integrating \_\_\_\_\_ and cultures, but also causing long-lasting problems such as racial \_\_\_\_\_, cultural loss, and geopolitical conflicts that persist to this day.

- inequality
- Age
- labor
- Europeans
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- resources
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