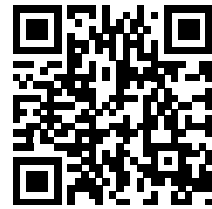


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# Mercantilism in the Age of Exploration



Mercantilism played a crucial role during the Age of Exploration and \_\_\_\_\_, influencing the economic and political strategies of European powers. This economic theory emphasized the importance of \_\_\_\_\_ and the accumulation of wealth, primarily through the control of international commerce and the establishment of \_\_\_\_\_. European nations believed that the key to national prosperity was acquiring precious metals, like \_\_\_\_\_ and silver, and ensuring favorable balances of trade.

Countries like Spain, Portugal, England, and \_\_\_\_\_ embarked on extensive voyages to discover new lands from which they could extract resources. These \_\_\_\_\_ were not only limited to precious metals but also included spices, silk, and other valuable commodities that were rare in \_\_\_\_\_. The competition among these nations was fierce, leading to numerous conflicts and \_\_\_\_\_.

The impact of mercantilism also led to the development of vast colonial \_\_\_\_\_. Colonies were seen as vital assets that could provide not only resources but also markets for European manufactured goods. The \_\_\_\_\_ of these colonies was tightly controlled to benefit the mother country, preventing them from trading with other \_\_\_\_\_.

The enforcement of mercantilist policies often involved the establishment of monopolies and trade \_\_\_\_\_, which were designed to prevent the outflow of money and to encourage the inflow of wealth. This \_\_\_\_\_ had significant social and economic effects on the colonies, including the stifling of local industries and \_\_\_\_\_ in social structures. Furthermore, mercantilism contributed to the intensification of \_\_\_\_\_ and forced labor. The demand for labor in the colonies, especially in plantations and mines, led to the tragic transatlantic \_\_\_\_\_ trade, which had enduring impacts on societies across the world. Overall, mercantilism was a driving \_\_\_\_\_ behind the Age of Exploration and Colonization, shaping the modern world in profound ways through its \_\_\_\_\_ on global trade patterns, the creation of international rivalries, and the structure of modern economies.

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