

name: \_\_\_\_\_

class: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Age of Discovery and Economics



In the Age of \_\_\_\_\_, European countries were driven by the desire to find new trade routes and expand their \_\_\_\_\_. Mercantilism, an economic theory, played a crucial role during this period. It emphasized that a country's power depended on its \_\_\_\_\_ of gold and silver. To increase their wealth, nations aimed to export more than they \_\_\_\_\_, fostering a favorable balance of trade. This led to the establishment of \_\_\_\_\_ around the world, which were seen as sources of raw materials and markets for finished goods. European powers such as \_\_\_\_\_, Portugal, and England, competed fiercely for dominance over these territories. The Spanish, for instance, extracted vast amounts of \_\_\_\_\_ and silver from the Americas, which significantly increased their wealth and influence. Meanwhile, England focused on establishing a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ to protect its trade routes and colonies. This era also saw the rise of joint-stock \_\_\_\_\_, like the British East India Company, which were pivotal in financing voyages and establishing trade networks. Mercantilism also led to the implementation of protectionist policies, such as high \_\_\_\_\_ on imported goods, to support domestic industries. However, this system also had its drawbacks, including the exploitation of \_\_\_\_\_ peoples and the instigation of numerous wars over trade disputes. Despite these issues, mercantilism laid the groundwork for the modern capitalist \_\_\_\_\_, highlighting the interconnectedness of national power, trade, and colonial expansion.

colonies

companies

tariffs

Discovery

gold

navy

treasury

colonized

economy

Spain

wealth

imported