Chapter 22 (Starting with some Chapter 21)

Some important happenings in Europe that helped spur the process of exploration

1. Crisis
   1. Lil’ Ice Age - around 1300, global temperatures dropped (and only started to recover in the 19th century)
      1. This led to a drop in food production, which led to a famine from 1315-17
      2. New farming techniques and a leveling off of population ended the famine
   2. Bubonic Plague - spread from SW China (where it still exists) in 1331
      1. Mongols, merchants and travelers spread the disease to Europe, reached it in 1346 and by 1348 it had sparked epidemics throughout WE
      2. It killed 60-70% of Europe’s population; it killed a person within days and villages within months
         1. 20-25 million in Europe, about the same in China
      3. Births replenished populations, but the plague was unpredictable and would reappear without warning
      4. Plague caused a lot of social unrest, too.
         1. Labor shortages caused healthy laborers to demand more money, lords were unwilling to do this - led to riots all over Europe
         2. Church lost power because the sick people’s prayers did not save them
            1. Some priests also abandoned their posts when the plague struck
2. Recovery
   1. One method European leaders used to rebuild was through state-building. This is a process by which the leaders build the machinery to reliably collect taxes and construct a military
   2. Holy Roman Empire - Emperor in charge in name only, really the German princes and Italian city-states within the HRE ran their own affairs
      1. The Italian city-states (Naples, Venice, Milan, Florence) had complex, expensive needs - basically acting as trade hubs for Europe
         1. Levied taxes, issued bonds in order to pay for bureaucrats and soliders
   3. England and France
      1. Hundred Years’ War drove state-building in both countries from 1337-1453
         1. War was fought over royal lines in both countries
            1. French thought that English king was a vassal of the French King (Duke of Normandy and all)
            2. English though that their king was next in line to be the French king (Duke of Normandy and all)
      2. War saw the invention of the longbow, which revolutionized warfare (a cheap weapon that is easy to use and can kill an armored knight from a football field away) and the brief life of Joan of Arc
      3. More importantly, both countries needed extensive tax systems in order to fund the war.
         1. It also solidified the supremacy of the king over the nobility
   4. Spain
      1. Two smaller Spanish states united through marriage (Aragon and Castile)
         1. United their forces to reconquer the Iberian peninsula
         2. Defended Spain against French aggression and managed to take over southern Italy
            1. By 1559, had taken most of the Italian Peninsula, except the important city states, Rome and northern Italy, which was controlled by the HRE
         3. Also attempted to cut into Chinese trade by sending Columbus west to find a direct route to India
   5. Russia
      1. Princes of Moscow, led by Dmitry Donskoi, overthrew the Golden Horde and ended the tribute to the Mongols
      2. Ivan III (The Great) began expanding Russian territory from his capital of Moscow
      3. Conquered the rich trade city Novgorod into his empire (a member of the Hanseatic League)
      4. Centralized his authority and based his administration on the Byzantines, which were falling to the Ottoman Turks. (Why he called himself a Tsar - Russian for Caesar)
3. Renaissance and Humanism
   1. Another response to the crises was the Renaissance - a rebirth of art, culture and Greek and Roman philosophy
   2. Mostly centered in Italy - several reasons
      1. Utterly destroyed by the plague - those that survived were less religious and were willing to try something new
      2. Urban centers were rich and could afford to support artists
      3. Italy was Europe’s entry point into the cultures of those societies around them
   3. Renaissance art was different from medieval art
      1. Looked realistic and incorporated math and science into the work as well
      2. Noted Ninja Turtles like LdV, Donatello, Michelangelo were important here
      3. Architecture - Lots of domes and open areas with lots of light - indicators of wealth
   4. Humanism - New idea put forward in Italy - you can achieve things in your life without offending God. Your life is not just about getting to Heaven
      1. This is in opposition to the dominant Christian lifestyle of asceticism - monks and nuns
      2. Still Christian, though, and used philosophy, literature, poetry and history (the humanities) to spread Christian thought
      3. Desiderius Erasmus and Petrarch were two major Humanist thinkers translated Greek, Roman and Byzantine work into Latin
         1. This cements Latin as the language of scholars
4. European motivations for exploration
   1. Searching for resources that Europeans were demanding
   2. Finding land suitable for cash crops, like sugar
   3. New trade routes to Asia
   4. Spread Christianity, last but maybe least
5. Portuguese started this process
   1. Portugal was (and still is) a poor country with few resources or farmland
      1. They did have a lot of good coastland, which meant they had were able seamen
      2. Went exploring for resources, like fish, timber and farmland for wheat
      3. Discovered uninhabited islands off the coast of northern Africa and set-up sugar plantations there - financed by rich Italian merchants
      4. Important Portuguese explorers
         1. Prince Henry the Navigator - not actually an explorer but funded a school for sailors
         2. Bartolomeu Dias - rounded Cape of Good Hope in 1488, crew mutinied and forced their return
         3. Vasco de Gama - landed in India in 1497 and after a difficult journey (in which he ignored local information about monsoon winds and lost a couple of ships and dozens of men) brought back spices that paid for his journey many times over
6. Trade was the primary drive for exploration
   1. Certain spices, pepper, nutmeg, ginger were expensive necessities in Europe (food, medicine and aphrodesiacs)
   2. Muslims controlled these routes and acted as middlemen, raising the prices of these items
      1. Europeans went looking for new routes to cut out the Muslims
      2. Also wanted to do exactly what the Muslims were doing
   3. Spreading Christianity was an excuse for this - de Gama said he was looking for Gold and Christians when he landed in India
      1. Similar to the Reconquista and the Crusades in which spreading Christianity was an excuse for other economic and political motives.
7. Technology of Exploration - mostly taken from Islamic and Chinese mariners
   1. Rudders
   2. Two types of sails - Square and Lateen
   3. Magnetic compass
   4. Cross-staves for determining latitude - also for creating maps
   5. Portuguese combined these things into ships called Caravels - very technologically advanced, although the Europeans didn’t invent any of these things
   6. Also a knowledge of winds - knowledge of monsoon winds were taught to merchants by Indians (although de Gama didn’t actually listen at first)
      1. Developed a method of using circular wind patterns to navigate Atlantic Ocean - volta da mar (return through the sea) - made easterly trips (back to Portugal) easier
8. Spain’s involvement
   1. Traditional rival of Portugal, jealous of their newfound riches through trade
   2. Listened to Columbus’ ideas about a western journey to Asia in order to cut out the Portuguese
   3. Spain and Italians sponsored his journey
      1. Landed in the Caribbean, thought he was in India, believed he landed in India for the rest of his life
      2. Wanted to bring Indian gold back to Spain, tortured native Taino people into telling him where it was (there wasn’t any)
         1. Now there aren’t any Taino people left
   4. Ferdinand Magellan also believed in a western path to Asia
      1. Spain still interested, so they sent him west
      2. Left in 9/1519, but died in March 1521 in the Phillipines
         1. Returned home through well-known Indian Ocean routes
         2. Completed first circumnavigation of the globe, although only 1 of 6 ships came back with 18 men.
9. Portuguese Trading Post Empire
   1. Made up of over 50 cities with which the Portuguese tried to corner the market on certain trade goods
   2. Sold licences to trade in the IO - didn’t work
   3. The Portuguese simply did not have the manpower to make this work and were eventually overshadowed by the English and the Dutch, who had similar structures to the Portuguese - lots of coastline and ships
10. English and Dutch Trading Posts
    1. Similar to what the Portuguese did, but did not try to coerce anyone into trade, most worked with those they traded with
    2. Conquered some of the Portuguese ports, but mostly set up their own
    3. This doesn’t mean they were nice guys - the Dutch were very ruthless in taking over the island of Java in Indonesia (heavy in spices) - ruled through local leaders to get money
    4. Also set up joint stock companies - early corporations
       1. Investors would give the companies money and buy shares of the company, if the company is successful, the investors get a share of the profits, if not, they’re only out their investment
       2. Companies, like the British East India Company and the United East India Company (Dutch) had almost complete authority to conduct business - this involved printing money, signing treaties and raising their own armies
11. European Expansion
    1. Colonies allowed Europeans to sell stuff to their colonial markets and get stuff for free
    2. Spain invaded and conquered the Philippines - government wanted these people to become Christian (the explorers just wanted money)
    3. Dutch invasion of Java
    4. Russia took a different approach and did not explore through the navy, but on land
       1. Same idea though, to trade with Indians, Persians, Ottomans, Chinese
       2. Conquered sparsely populated lands - wanted furs
          1. Some Orthodox missionaries wanted to convert people, but the people didn’t want to and once they converted, they were exempt from the fur tax People of Siberia mostly stuck with their old religions
12. Seven Years War
    1. This was a complex European conflict that we won’t need to get too deep into, but for our purposes, this conflict pitted competing trade empires against against each other
       1. Great Britain against France - all over the world
       2. Eventually, the British win this conflict and cripple the growing French trading empire - British get Canada and any French territory in India
13. Columbian Exchange
    1. The unintended consequences that occurred when plants, animals and diseases moved from the eastern to the western hemisphere and vice versa
    2. Wheat, rice, sugar, bananas, apples, cherries, peaches, peas and citrus moved west
    3. Also, horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, chickens also moved west
    4. Corn, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, peppers, peanuts and tobacco moved east
       1. Corn wasn’t eaten by people, but became an important animal feed
       2. Also provided quinine, a useful treatment for malaria
    5. These food crops gave everyone more calories - some crops from across the world grew well on new continents, like wheat in North America and potatoes in Ireland - leading to global population growth, in spite of the black death and great famine
    6. Epidemic disease also moved and destroyed indigenous populations in the western hemisphere, mostly smallpox, but also measles and mumps
       1. Syphilis moved from west to east