

Chapter 01 - Three Societies on the Verge of Contact

True / False

1. The first settlers of the Americas seem to have appeared during the Paleo-Indian era.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

2. The Archaic era marked the end of sedentary existence in Native North America.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: False

3. By the late 1400s, North America was home to numerous civilizations and tribes, some of which were sizeable and dominated large swaths of land.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

4. The Pueblo people were the southwestern conglomeration of tribes who lived in today's Mexico and Arizona.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

5. The kingdom of Ghana did not have any extensive trade routes.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: False

6. The Kongo Empire took control of Timbuktu when the kingdom of Mali collapsed.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: False

7. Lower Guinea was the home of the majority of Africans who came to America.
 - a. True
 - b. False

ANSWER: True

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8. Religiously, most of the Africans in Lower Guinea did not embrace Islam.
- True
 - False

ANSWER: True

9. Until the twelfth century, most of Europe was an economic and intellectual backwater in comparison to China.
- True
 - False

ANSWER: True

10. Socially, most Europeans in the fourteenth and the fifteenth centuries still lived in an agrarian society on remnants of the feudal system.
- True
 - False

ANSWER: True

Multiple Choice

11. What was the significance of the discovery of Kennewick man?
- It confirmed that that earliest settlers in North America were of Asian origin.
 - It presented the possibility that North American settlement happened in different waves from a variety of locations.
 - It was the first discovery that confirmed the existence of the Aztec civilization in the American Southwest in 400 B.C.E.
 - It indicated that the first settlers came to North America for fame, fortune, and freedom.
 - It confirmed the Beringia theory, which stated that the first settlers of North America came following herds of woolly mammoths.

ANSWER: b

12. The _____ were the first people to settle in North America, roughly 10,000 to 15,000 years ago.
- Paleo-Indians
 - Paleolithic hominins
 - Australopithecines
 - Neolithic humanoids
 - Neanderthals

ANSWER: a

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13. The _____ era was the era beginning about 15,000 years ago and ending about 10,000 years ago, characterized by initial North American settlement.
- pre-Columbian
 - Archaic
 - Renaissance
 - Paleolithic
 - Paleo-Indian

ANSWER: e

14. The _____ era was the era beginning about 10,000 years ago and lasting until about 2,500 years ago; it was characterized by increased agricultural development.
- pre-Columbian
 - Archaic
 - Renaissance
 - Victorian
 - Paleolithic

ANSWER: b

15. Which of the following is a true statement about the Archaic era?
- It was the era during which hunting was a primary source of sustenance for most people of Native North America.
 - It was characterized by the establishment of sedentary existence in American prehistory.
 - It was characterized by the creation of complex social hierarchical structures.
 - It began when Columbus first landed in North America.
 - It marked the end of the pre-Columbian era.

ANSWER: b

16. The _____ is the North American era lasting from 500 B.C.E. to 1492 C.E.
- Neolithic era
 - Renaissance
 - Paleolithic era
 - pre-Columbian era
 - Paleo-Indian era

ANSWER: d

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17. Which of the following is a true statement about the pre-Columbian era?
- During this era, people primarily followed herds of animals as their livelihood was based on hunting and gathering.
 - People during this era were able to endure in a single location long enough to create complex, hierarchical societies.
 - This was the era that began 15,000 years ago and ended 10,000 years ago.
 - During this era, which began 12, 000 years ago, thousands of young adults from Asia came to North America, crossing Alaska.
 - People during this era were unaware of the possibility of a sedentary existence.

ANSWER: b

18. Which of the following is a true statement about the Incas?
- They were the earliest settlers of North America who came from Europe.
 - They lived in the western coast of South America and formed the largest Indian civilization in the pre-Columbian era.
 - They built step-tiered temples and dominated southern Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula from the fifth to the eighth centuries.
 - They ruled central Mexico from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries.
 - They built fourteen “great houses” in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.

ANSWER: b

19. Which of the following is a true statement about the Anasazi?
- They were known for their step-tiered temples and dominated the Yucatan Peninsula.
 - They were the earliest settlers of North America who were of European origin.
 - They built fourteen “great houses” in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.
 - They ruled central Mexico from the ninth to the fifteenth centuries.
 - They dominated southern Guatemala and the Yucatan Peninsula from the fifth to the eighth centuries.

ANSWER: c

20. Identify an accurate statement about the Mississippians.
- Their civilization was formed after the weakening and dissolution of the Anasazi civilization.
 - They were the earliest settlers of North America who were of European origin.
 - They built fourteen “great houses” in the Chaco Canyon as a testament to the grandness of their civilization.
 - Their civilization disintegrated around 1100 C.E.
 - They developed an accurate calendar and built a pyramid.

ANSWER: e

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21. Most tribes of North America were based on a _____, in which a tribe was divided into a number of large family groups.
- clan system
 - feudal system
 - patriarchal system
 - monotheist system
 - secular system

ANSWER: a

22. A(n) _____ arrangement is a family arrangement in which children typically follow the clan of their mother and married men move into the clan of their wives.
- animistic
 - feudal
 - polytheist
 - patriarchal
 - matrilineal

ANSWER: e

23. A(n) _____ system is a belief system consisting of belief in many deities.
- atheistic
 - monotheistic
 - polytheistic
 - pantheistic
 - transcendentalist

ANSWER: c

24. A(n) _____ system is a belief system consisting of the belief that supernatural beings, or souls, inhabit all objects and govern their actions.
- atheistic
 - monotheist
 - polytheistic
 - animistic
 - transcendentalist

ANSWER: d

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25. The Iroquois Confederacy was formed by:
- southeastern Native American tribes.
 - northeastern tribes to counter the fear of attack.
 - the Prairies to restrict trade activities within the tribes.
 - the Indians of the High Plains.
 - European settlers in North America.

ANSWER: b

26. Which of the following tribes was NOT a northeastern tribe?
- The Wampanoag
 - The Massachusetts
 - The Narragansett
 - The Mohawk
 - The Cheyenne

ANSWER: e

27. _____ is the modern religion that was probably the most powerful and vibrant religion in the world during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; its followers are known as Muslims.
- Wicca
 - Jainism
 - Animism
 - Islam
 - Judaism

ANSWER: d

28. The kingdom of _____ ruled West Africa from the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, beginning a tradition of expansive trade throughout western Africa.
- Cahokia
 - Aztec
 - Mohawk
 - Wampum
 - Ghana

ANSWER: e

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29. _____ was a flourishing Islamic kingdom that enveloped the kingdom of Ghana by the thirteenth century.
- Cahokia
 - Aztec
 - Mohawk
 - Cheyenne
 - Mali

ANSWER: e

30. _____ was the principal city of the kingdom of Mali and was the cultural capital of Africa in the thirteenth century.
- Mohawk
 - Aztec
 - Timbuktu
 - Cheyenne
 - Wampum

ANSWER: c

31. Which of the following was true of the kingdom of Mali?
- It was enveloped by the kingdom of Ghana in the thirteenth century.
 - It collapsed around 1500 just as sustained contact with Europeans was beginning.
 - It was a predominantly Catholic civilization in the early thirteenth century.
 - Islam spread most rapidly in the southernmost part of Mali.
 - Timbuktu, the principal city of Mali, was taken over by the Kongo Empire when Mali disintegrated.

ANSWER: b

32. Which of the following was true of Lower Guinea?
- It was the region of the kingdom of Mali in which Islam spread more rapidly than in the rest of the kingdom.
 - It was the region that encompassed Timbuktu, the principal city of the kingdom of Mali.
 - It was one of the regions of the kingdom of Mali in which family descent was typically patrilineal.
 - It was the part of the kingdom of Mali in which people converted to Catholicism during the thirteenth century.
 - It was the region in which Africans possessed slaves, usually war captives or debtors.

ANSWER: e

33. Identify an accurate statement about Lower Guinea.
- Religiously, most Africans in Lower Guinea did not embrace Islam.
 - Lower Guinea was one of the African regions in which slavery and slave trade were absent.
 - The people living in Lower Guinea were dependent on hunting and gathering rather than agriculture.
 - Family descent in Lower Guinea was typically patrilineal.
 - Lower Guinea did not have hierarchical social structures.

ANSWER: a

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34. The _____ was the greatest portion of Mali after that kingdom collapsed around 1500; this empire controlled Timbuktu.
- Kongo Empire
 - Ghana Empire
 - Songhay Empire
 - Benin Empire
 - Wampum Empire

ANSWER: c

35. _____ was an African empire on the Malian coast.
- Beringia
 - Aztec
 - Mohawk
 - Benin
 - Cheyenne

ANSWER: d

36. A _____ was an agricultural estate on European land operated by a lord and worked by peasants in exchange for protection and sustenance.
- Wampum
 - serf
 - Roanoke
 - clan system
 - manor

ANSWER: e

37. Which of the following is a true statement about the feudal system that was prevalent in Medieval Europe?
- The serfs were people who were given the ownership of small portions of a large agricultural estate.
 - The vassal had authority over all a land's inhabitants.
 - The servants who worked for the vassals could act autonomously.
 - The serfs who worked on manors came from different professions and maintained their professions.
 - The Catholic Church did not have any control over agricultural estates.

ANSWER: b

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38. In the European feudal system, a _____ was a laborer living and working on an estate; such estates were ruled by members of the upper class.
- a. manor
 - b. vassal
 - c. serf
 - d. wampum
 - e. nobleman

ANSWER: c

39. Which of the following was one of the factors that engendered the Renaissance?
- a. The expansion of the feudal system in the fifteenth century
 - b. The high level of material well-being in the great European cities
 - c. The spread of atheism in the great European cities
 - d. The acceptance of social hierarchies and the subordination of serfs
 - e. The increased control of the Catholic Church over agricultural estates

ANSWER: b

40. The _____ was an intellectual and artistic reconnection to the age of Greco-Roman antiquity; it started in the fourteenth century and lionized the individual.
- a. Renaissance
 - b. Pantheism
 - c. Crusades
 - d. mercantilism
 - e. feudal revolution

ANSWER: a

41. _____ is the theory that a nation or state's prosperity was determined by the total volume of its trade.
- a. Animism
 - b. Pantheism
 - c. Mercantilism
 - d. Renaissance
 - e. Atheism

ANSWER: c

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42. The _____ was the bubonic plague that started to spread in 1346 and eventually killed one-third of all Europeans.
- a. Holocaust
 - b. Pequot War
 - c. Renaissance
 - d. Black Death
 - e. Crusades

ANSWER: d

43. The _____ consisted of a series of campaigns in which Europeans marched to the Middle East in an effort to seize the Holy Land of Jerusalem, which at the time was controlled by Muslims.
- a. Reformation
 - b. Hundred Years' War
 - c. Renaissance
 - d. Black Death
 - e. Crusades

ANSWER: e

44. _____ was the central religious force in western Europe and the sole institution with moral authority and political power over all of medieval Europe.
- a. Renaissance
 - b. Pantheism
 - c. Islam
 - d. Mercantilism
 - e. Catholicism

ANSWER: e

45. The _____ was the movement that challenged the Catholic Church to return to its unornamented origins.
- a. Renaissance
 - b. black death
 - c. mercantilism
 - d. Protestant Reformation
 - e. Catholic humanism

ANSWER: d

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46. Which of the following factors led to the development of Christian humanism in sixteenth century Europe?
- The slow urbanization of Europe
 - The increased acceptance of the feudal system in Europe
 - The decision of the Church to promote multiple religions
 - The decline of the Reformation movement
 - The disintegration of monarchial powers

ANSWER: a

47. Identify a factor that led to the development of Christian humanism in sixteenth century Europe.
- The increased acceptance of the Roman Catholicism
 - The increased acceptance of the feudal system in Europe
 - The decision of the Church to promote multiple religions across Europe
 - The decline of the Reformation movement
 - The consolidation of monarchial powers

ANSWER: e

48. _____ was a renewed belief in the importance of the individual as opposed to the institution of the Church; it was characterized by optimism, curiosity, and an emphasis on naturalism.
- Roman Catholicism
 - Polytheism
 - Mercantilism
 - Pantheism
 - Christian humanism

ANSWER: e

49. Which of the following is a true statement about the Protestant Reformation?
- It supported the Church's authority over the feudal lands.
 - It questioned the practice of selling indulgences.
 - It emphasized that the works one did to demonstrate faith led to salvation.
 - It demanded the establishment of a church with hierarchies.
 - It upheld the righteousness of Roman Catholicism.

ANSWER: b

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50. The Reformation:

- a. solidified the unity of Catholic authority over Europe.
- b. hastened the development of nationalism.
- c. demanded a Church with more hierarchies.
- d. upheld the importance rituals such as the Mass and confessions.
- e. suppressed the growth of new religious traditions.

ANSWER: b

Completion

51. _____ were the beads made of polished shell that were used as currency for trading goods among North American tribes.

- A. Wampum
- B. Benin
- C. Taos
- D. Hopi

ANSWER: Wampum

52. _____ was an African empire on the Malian coast.

- A. Cheyenne
- B. Kongo
- C. Taos
- D. Hopi

ANSWER: Kongo

53. _____ was the practice of popes using their authority to limit the time a person's soul spent in purgatory, in exchange for cash.

- A. Christian humanism
- B. Pantheism
- C. The selling of indulgences
- D. The Protestant Reformation

ANSWER: The selling of indulgences

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54. _____ was one of the most important leaders of the Protestant Reformation.
- A. Afonso I
 - B. Adam Smith
 - C. Winston Churchill
 - D. Martin Luther

ANSWER: Martin Luther

55. The Hundred Years' War was a war waged between _____ in the fourteenth century.
- A. the African tribes
 - B. the kingdom of Mali and European traders
 - C. France and England
 - D. China and North America

ANSWER: France and England

Essay

56. Describe the lifestyles of the people of the Paleo-Indian era.

ANSWER:

The people of the Paleo-Indian era (10,000 to 15,000 years ago) lived a wide range of lifestyles, developing many languages and belief systems along the way. Some of the most ancient peoples made spears by flaking stones and then chose "kill sites" where large herds traversed. Others hunted herds of animals across great distances. Still others slowly began to cultivate complex systems of sustainable agriculture that allowed them to remain in a single area for years. And still others depended on fishing and the riches of the seas to provide a stable life for their families. Over time, the population of Native North America grew.

57. Explain the importance of the Archaic era.

ANSWER: Between 5,000 and 8,000 years ago, a monumental transition occurred in how people lived. During the Archaic era, agriculture, not hunting, gradually became the primary source of sustenance for most of the people of Native North America. This trend was perhaps the most significant development in American prehistory, because settled agriculture permitted the establishment of a sedentary existence, without the need to pursue herd animals. The cultivation of maize, a form of corn, was one key element of this existence. Maize is a highly nutritious cereal, containing more nutrients than wheat, rice, millet, and barley. Its development was a remarkable feat of genetic engineering; some 6,000 years ago, Indians in today's southern Mexico cultivated the crop through the careful selection of desirable seeds, ultimately producing corn. This still stands as one of the most significant instances of crop cultivation in world history.

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58. Describe the Anasazi civilization of the pre-Columbian era.

ANSWER: In the present-day United States, two of the largest pre-Columbian cultures were the Anasazi and the Mississippians. In the American southwest, the Anasazi founded a vast civilization by combining hunting and gathering with sedentary agriculture in order to sustain a large population in the arid desert of present-day New Mexico. As a testament to the greatness of their civilization, the Anasazi built fourteen “great houses” in Chaco Canyon, each one several stories tall and containing more than two hundred rooms. They were perhaps used as large apartment buildings, as the canyon served as the major trading post for turquoise and other material goods.

59. Discuss the social systems of the pre-Columbian native North Americans.

ANSWER: Despite the wide variety of lifestyles developed by the pre-Columbian peoples, there were some broad general similarities among the tribes in North America during the late 1400s. Most of the tribes, for instance, were based on a clan system, in which a tribe was divided into a number of large family groups. They were also mostly matrilineal, meaning that children typically followed the clan of their mother and that a man, when married, moved into the clan of his wife. Matrilineal societies usually develop when agriculture is the primary food source for a society. In these societies women are in charge of farming (Europeans were universally surprised to see women working in the fields). Thus Indian women maintained the tribe’s social institutions while men were hunting, fishing, or off to war.

60. Discuss the factors that led to the formation of the Iroquois Confederacy.

ANSWER: Most of the northeastern tribes lived in small villages that were closely surrounded by forests that protected them from attack. An attack was always a possibility in the congested northeastern region. Indeed, fear of attack was part of the reason that several of these tribes came together to create the Iroquois Confederacy, a political and trading entity that maintained relations between several tribes. (Iroquois is actually the European name for the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.) The local forests provided the raw materials for wooden houses crafted by the tribes of the Haudenosaunee, who called their houses longhouses. Most of these tribes remained small, however, only occasionally trading with one another.

61. Describe the kingdom of Ghana in West Africa.

ANSWER: The kingdom of Ghana ruled West Africa from the eighth to the thirteenth centuries, beginning a tradition of expansive trade throughout western Africa using horses, camels, and advanced iron weapons to transport goods and ideas. A kingdom as rich in arts and commerce as any in Europe at the time, Ghana was made up of several large cities, where the people produced elaborate works of art and maintained a stable political structure. Ghana was especially famous for its gold. But the kingdom’s extensive trade routes caused its eventual demise. In the twelfth century, it lost its trade monopoly, and gold was discovered elsewhere in West Africa. In addition, during the first half of the thirteenth century, North African Muslims used Ghanaian trade routes to invade the kingdom, and by 1235 C.E. they had conquered the ruling parties of Ghana.

62. Discuss the collapse of the kingdom of Mali in Africa.

ANSWER: The kingdom of Mali collapsed around 1500 C.E.—just as sustained contact with Europeans was beginning. Mali was divided, with the largest portion replaced by the Songhay Empire, which took control of Timbuktu. Farther along the Malian coast, the empires of Benin and Kongo were similarly approached by European traders in search of goods and, eventually, slaves. Indeed, by 1500, the ruler of the Kongo people converted to Catholicism, having been impressed by the Portuguese traders he had encountered.

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63. Discuss the concept of feudalism in medieval Europe.

ANSWER: A significant factor in Europe's withdrawal from world affairs was feudal lords' domination of large plots of European land, called manors. These men presided over a system of labor that came to be called feudalism, in which a lord granted control over a piece of land to an upper-class ally known as a vassal. The vassal's grant included authority over all the land's inhabitants. The vassals treated these laborers as servants, guaranteeing them a level of protection in return for a portion of the fruits of their labor. In reality, these servants, called serfs, forfeited nearly all of their freedoms to the lord and vassal. With the exception of the Catholic Church, the nobleman was the sole authority on the land.

64. Discuss the Renaissance in Europe in the late fourteenth century.

ANSWER: By the late fourteenth century, the forces of economic expansion and the development of urban life allowed for a high level of material well-being in the great European cities and the general decline of closed-off feudal living. This wealth and expansive mindset engendered the Renaissance, an intellectual and artistic reconnection to the age of Greco-Roman antiquity, when humankind was considered to be more cosmopolitan and not merely a source of labor for feudal fiefdoms. Central to Renaissance art and thought was the idea of humanism, which lionized the individual and therefore directly challenged the declining feudal system.

65. Discuss the factors that led to the development of Christian humanism.

ANSWER: By the first quarter of the sixteenth century, two impulses collided to challenge the authority of the Catholic Church. The first was a new attitude toward humankind brought about by the slow urbanization of Europe, the consolidation of monarchical powers, and the rise of popular piety. Merchants did not like the priests moralizing about their profits, and rulers did not like their authority challenged. In addition, the Church's total incapacity to confront and respond to the crises of the fourteenth century promoted several movements of popular piety. Together, these challenges led to the development of Christian humanism.

66. Discuss the Protestant Reformation.

ANSWER: At its core, the Reformation was a movement that challenged the Catholic Church to return to its unornamented origins. In addition to questioning the selling of indulgences, the leaders of the Reformation were critical of Church rituals—including the Mass, confession rites that reinforced the hierarchy by putting absolution at the discretion of a priest, and pilgrimages to holy sites. In short, the reformers felt it was faith in God that led to salvation, not the works one did to demonstrate that faith.

67. Discuss the role of the printing press in the Reformation.

ANSWER: The leaders of the Reformation, most importantly Martin Luther (the moral conscience of the movement) and John Calvin (the movement's great organizer), took advantage of the invention of the printing press (developed in the 1440s, although not widely used until 1450s) to advocate that scripture be read in vernacular languages like German and English rather than Latin.

68. Explain the significance of the Reformation.

ANSWER: The Reformation was important for at least two reasons. First, the Reformation hastened the development of nationalism by fragmenting the unity of Catholic authority over Europe. Freed from that yoke, European nations began to develop unique identities and consolidate wealth, which, in the creed of mercantilism, spurred aggressive attempts to expand in search of greater wealth. This would lead to the Age of Discovery and to sustained contact with both Africa and the New World.

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69. Discuss the power of Catholicism in medieval Europe.

ANSWER: If the system of feudalism was declining in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Catholicism was still the undisputed religious force in western Europe. Indeed, the artists of the Renaissance usually used Christian images to celebrate the new, more open atmosphere in Europe at the time. The Church asserted its greatest power in the divided feudal society as the sole institution with moral authority and even political power over all of Europe.

70. Discuss the political and social system in Europe in 1492.

ANSWER: By 1492, Europe was a dramatically different from how it was just a century earlier. Europeans had fundamentally altered their political, social, religious, and economic structures. Feudalism, in which power was divided between hundreds of feudal lords and vassals, had collapsed—and nations, headed by a handful of kings and queens, had become the most powerful political structures on the continent, covering vast territories and allowing for the easy movement of goods and peoples. Spain was the most powerful nation in Europe at that time, France was the largest, and Portugal had the advantage of superior nautical craftsmanship.