APUSH
1491-1607
NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE
EARLY COLONIZATION
REVIEWED!
American Pageant (Kennedy) Chapter 1
American History (Brinkley) Chapter 1
America’s History (Henretta) Chapter 1-2
Native Americans Pre-Contact (Prior to 1492)

- Over 10,000 years before Columbus, people came to the Americas via the Bering Strait.
- Native Americans developed a wide variety of social, political, and economic structures based upon interactions with each other and the environment.
- Native American religion was very often connected to their relationship with nature.
  - Animism: belief that non-human things (plants, animals) possess a spiritual essence.
Native American Culture

- They developed different and complex societies that both transformed and adapted to their diverse environments

- Examples:
  - **Southwest** (Pueblo): lived in arid land and relied on irrigation to grow maize & other agricultural products
  - **Great Basin & Great Plains** (Lakota Sioux): lack of natural resources led to growth of nomadic lifestyle & the importance of hunting buffalo
  - **Atlantic coast & Northeast** (Iroquois): mix of agricultural & hunter-gatherer society. Established permanent villages – Iroquois Confederation
Colonization of the “New” World

3 G’s: Gold, Glory, God
- Gold: New sources of wealth (trade with Asia)
- Glory: ^ power & status
- God: convert the native population to Christianity

The arrival of Columbus in 1492 (& other Europeans after) led to massive demographic and social changes on both sides of the Atlantic

Columbian Exchange: Trans-Atlantic exchange of people, diseases, food, trade, ideas, etc. between the Western Hemisphere, Africa, and Europe
- Horses (from Europe) dramatically change Native life
- Disease such as smallpox (from Europe) lead to massive population decline as deadly epidemics spread
- Maize/corn (from America) fueled population increase in Europe
EARLY COLONIZATION: Spain & Portugal

- Treaty of Tordesillas: Spain & Portugal agree to divide up the Western Hemisphere
- Spain was the earliest to colonize North America (St. Augustine, 1565)
- Encomienda System: Spanish colonists received land with native people
  - Native slave labor in mining (silver) or agriculture (sugar)
  - Spanish sought to convert Native people to Catholicism
- Racially mixed populations of European, Native, and African people
  - Mestizo: people of mixed Indian and European heritage
  - Mulatto: people of mixed white and black ancestry
Popé's Rebellion in 1680 leads to the death of hundreds of Spanish colonists and the destruction of Catholic churches in the area.

“Native people strove to maintain their political and cultural autonomy”
Debating Spanish Colonization

• “Debates occurred over how Native Americans should be treated and how “civilized” they were compared to European standards”

• Juan de Sepúlveda wrote “Just Causes for War Against the Indians” that justified Spanish colonization of the Americas

• Bartolomé de las Casas published in 1552 “A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies” that criticized Spanish treatment of the indigenous people
• Protestant England will soon challenge Spanish colonization of North America

• Unlike the English colonist, the Spanish, French, and Dutch are going to attempt to exploit new world resources AND form more complex relationships with indigenous people
  – Spain and Portugal formed colonies that used Native American and African slave labor in agriculture and mining
  – France, Holland, Spain will trade, intermarry with natives

Reasons for colonization
• Mercantilism: colonies exist to enrich the Mother country
  – Access to raw materials
  – Provide gold and silver