

Transoceanic Interconnections

AP World History ■ Unit 4

AP World History



Transoceanic Interconnections

What we will cover

- 1 Why Europeans Sailed
- 2 The Columbian Exchange
- 3 Maritime Empires Established
- 4 Maritime Empires Maintained
- 5 Internal and External Challenges
- 6 Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

1 Why Europeans Sailed

Why Europeans Sailed

Unit 4 covers 1450 to 1750 – the period in which the Eastern and Western Hemispheres are permanently joined, and the consequences of that joining.

- **Portuguese** development of maritime technology and navigational skill led to the sea route around Africa to the Indian Ocean.
- **Spanish** sponsorship of Columbus and subsequent voyages opened the Atlantic to the Americas.
- **English, French, and Dutch** crossings of the northern Atlantic followed.

Why Europeans Sailed, continued

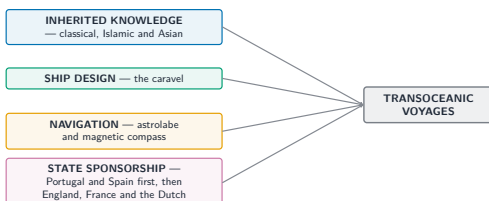
The voyages rested on borrowed knowledge. Learning and technology from the **Classical, Islamic, and Asian** worlds was gathered and applied in Europe: new tools, innovations in **ship design** 船舶设计, and better understanding of **navigation** 航海 – the **caravel** 卡拉维尔帆船, the **astrolabe**, the **magnetic compass**, and knowledge of wind patterns.

Motives combined the search for wealth, competition between states, and religious mission.



a car

Four conditions, all necessary



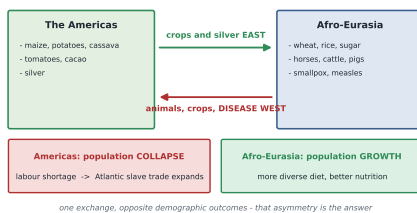
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The Columbian Exchange

Transoceanic Interconnections
└ The Columbian Exchange

Both directions, and the demographic consequence



- European colonisation led to the **unintentional transfer of disease** 疾病的非蓄意传播 to the Americas, causing catastrophic population loss.
- **American foods** 美洲作物 - maize, potatoes, cassava - became staple crops in parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Transoceanic Interconnections
└ The Columbian Exchange

The Columbian Exchange

New connections between the hemispheres produced the **Columbian Exchange** 哥伦布大交换, and the CED spells out four consequences.

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- **American foods** 美洲作物 - maize, potatoes, cassava - became staple crops in parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- **Afro-Eurasian** fruit trees, grains, sugar, and **domesticated animals** 驯化动物 were brought to the Americas, reshaping its landscapes and economies.
- Populations in Afro-Eurasia **benefited nutritionally** 营养状况改善 from a more diverse diet, contributing to population growth.

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Maritime Empires Established

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└ Maritime Empires Established

Maritime Empires Established

Europeans established **trading posts** 商站 in Africa and Asia, which proved profitable, and pursued colonisation in the Americas driven by political, religious, and economic **rivalries** 对抗.

- **Enslavement in Africa** continued in its traditional forms, including incorporation into households.
- The growth of the **plantation economy** 种植园经济 increased demand for enslaved labour, and the **Atlantic slave trade** expanded enormously to supply it.
- Systems such as the **encomienda** and **mita** 米塔制 compelled Indigenous labour.

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└ Maritime Empires Established

Maritime Empires Established, continued

Where existing states were strong, Europeans traded rather than conquered: despite disruption caused by Portuguese arrival, **existing trade networks in the Indian Ocean continued** 印度洋既有贸易网络得以延续, and Asian states largely dictated the terms.



Cerro Rico at Potosi

Four coerced-labour systems, told apart

SYSTEM	WHO, AND WHERE	WHAT IT SUPPLIED
ENCOMIENDA	Indigenous people, Spanish America	a labour grant attached to a colonist
MITA	Indigenous communities, the Andes	rotating compulsory labour, above all for the mines
PLANTATION SLAVERY	enslaved Africans, the Atlantic world	the workforce for sugar, tobacco and later cotton
SLAVERY WITHIN AFRICA	continues in its traditional forms	incorporation into households — a different institution, and the CED says so

- **Enslavement in Africa continued in its traditional forms**, including incorporation into households.
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4 Maritime Empires Maintained

Maritime Empires Maintained

The **Atlantic trading system** 大西洋贸易体系 moved goods, wealth, and people between Europe, Africa, and the Americas – the pattern usually taught as triangular trade, though real routes were more complex.

Colonial societies developed new **social hierarchies** 社会等级, defined by ancestry and by place of birth – the Spanish **casta** system being the most formally codified.

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Internal and External Challenges

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└ Internal and External Challenges

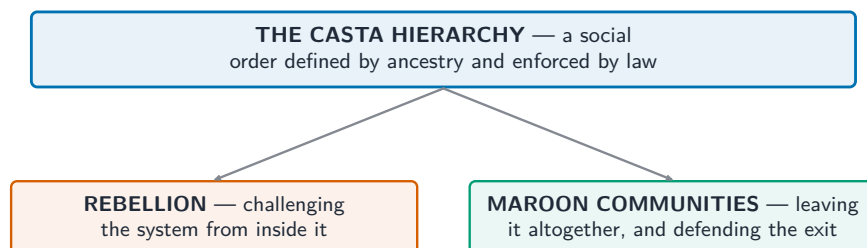
Internal and External Challenges

Rulers everywhere faced resistance.

Enslaved people resisted through **rebellion** 起义 and **maroon communities** 逃奴社群; Indigenous peoples resisted colonial demands; peasants and religious groups challenged state power across Eurasia.

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└ Internal and External Challenges

The casta hierarchy, and the pushback



Two **different** responses to one imposed order. A maroon community is not a failed rebellion — it is a different strategy, and the exam marks the difference

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Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

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↳ Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

The unit's reasoning skill is **continuity and change**.

The strongest answers hold both: connection between hemispheres was genuinely new, while the dominance of agriculture, coerced labour, and land empires continued.

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↳ Continuity and Change from 1450 to 1750

Exam tips

- Explain the voyages with **borrowed technology plus state support**, not with individual explorers.
- Keep the Columbian Exchange **two-directional** and **asymmetrical**: population fell in the Americas and rose in Afro-Eurasia.
- Where Asian states were strong, Europeans **traded**; where disease had shattered societies, they **conquered**. That contrast answers many questions.
- **Mercantilism** is the policy, the **Atlantic system** is the flow, and **coerced labour** is what made the plantation economy work.
- Always include **resistance** – rebellion, maroon communities, Indigenous refusal – since it is examinable and often omitted.
- On effect questions, trace the consequence. A named change with no mechanism is only half the mark.

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Recap

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↳ Recap

Unit 4 – key takeaways

1 Voyages

borrowed technology plus state support

2 Exchange

two-directional and asymmetrical

3 Power

trade where Asia was strong;
conquer where disease hit

4 Labour

mercantilism / Atlantic system /
coerced labour

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↳ Recap

Check yourself

- 1 What two things explain the voyages?
- 2 How was the Columbian Exchange asymmetrical?
- 3 When did Europeans trade rather than conquer?
- 4 Why always include resistance?

Answers: borrowed tech + state support ▪ Americas fell, Afro-Eurasia rose ▪ where Asian states were strong ▪ it is examinable