1. For each of the following, define and identify the significance in relation to the subject of the chapter, The World Economy, c.1450-1750.

Henry the Navigator – Henry the Navigator began expeditions down the coast of West Africa in order to establish a route to the Indies and establish trade with Africa. These expeditions brought back slaves, spices, and stories the Portuguese had not yet had contact with. These expeditions later led to contact with the Indies and further exploration and expansion.

Christopher Columbus – Christopher Columbus was a Genoese captain who, in the name of Spain, attempted to find a westward course to India and instead mistakenly landed in the Americas. Columbus’ expedition initiated the European conquest of the new world.

Vasco de Gama – De Gama brought a fleet of four ships around the coast of Africa and made first Portuguese contacts with India, which began annual expeditions to India. De Gama also reached Brazil after being blown off course and declared Portuguese sovereignty. The expeditions begun by De Gama also led to the setup of forts in India, Mozambique, and Goa.

Ferdinand Magellan – Ferdinand Magellan initiated the first circumnavigation of the earth, and even though he died during his voyage he claimed the Philippines for Spain. A claim that Spain was able to maintain until 1898.

Dutch East India Company – This Company was a private trade company that had a monopoly of trade in Asia and due to little supervision from Europe acted almost entirely as an independent government.

British East India Company – Similarly to the Dutch East India Company, the British East India Company had a monopoly over trade in India and acted as a virtual independent government.

Columbian Exchange – This was the exchange of plants, animals, diseases, and technology between the Americas and Europe. Goods such as corn, sweet potatoes, horses, and cattle were exchanged. Europeans brought diseases such as smallpox and measles to the Americas.

Battle of Lepanto (1571) – In the Battle of Lepanto, a European fleet under Spanish direction defeated the Ottoman naval fleet. This is significant in representing European naval dominance and the inability of the Ottomans to compete with Europe.

Mercantilism – This economic theory encouraged self-production of goods and a lesser amount of foreign imports to improve a nation’s tax base. Tariff policies were often initiated to increase home-based manufacturing.

Mestizos – These are people of mixed European and Native American blood. Their presence is representative of beginning globalization. They also were often involved in systems of estate management that required large amounts of labor.

Vasco de Balboa – Balboa was the first Spanish captain to begin settlement of Mesoamerica. These settlements eventually led to the conquest of the Aztec and Inca empires by other captains.

Francisco Pizarro – Pizarro led the conquest of the Inca empire, and allowed for most of the Incan holdings to fall into possession of the Spanish.

Seven Years’ War / Treaty of Paris (1763) – The seven years war, which was fought in Europe and North America, resulted in Prussian seizures of Austria and English seizures in India and North America. The treaty of Paris following the war granted New France to England for the return of a French sugar island in the Caribbean.

2. Identify the common significance of these places:

Macao
Cape Colony
Calcutta