20-1 Notes
Many European started expanding into Asia to increase their power
Christopher Columbus left Spain in 1492 trying to find a new route to Asia.
No one knew about North and South American continents
So it was thought that if you sailed west in the Atlantic Ocean, you would hit Asia (not the Americas).
He wound up in the Caribbean.
In August of 1492, Christopher Columbus headed west.
When Columbus reached the shore, he thought he was in the Indies
Called the people Indians
Landed at San Salvador - “Holy Savior”
Began to look for gold, searching many islands and claiming them for Spain in the process.
When Columbus returned, the people were amazed at what he said and financed more trips to establish colonies
As more countries sponsored trips to this “new world,” parts of the Americas were divided between many European nations
Later, Ferdinand Magellan left Spain and his crew sailed around the world over three years
Magellan died, only 18 of 250 men returned to Spain.
After conquering several islands, the Spanish turned their sights to the American mainland
Hernando Cortes sailed to Mexico looking for riches and gold
Men he led were called conquistadors
Spanish were the first American settlers, making their countries rich and leaving an impacts in America
After Cortes landed, he marched to Mexico’s interior and met with the Aztec people.
Reached the capital city of Tenochtitlan, where Montezuma II, the emperor, accepted Cortes as a god.
Cortes convinced other tribes in the area to join him in his fight against the Aztecs
Eventually, tensions began to mount between the Aztecs and the Spanish
Back and forth fighting between the two
Eventually, Cortes’ forces defeated the aztecs
Spanish had better weapons (guns & cannons > arrows)
Cortes convinced other tribes in the area to join him in his fight against the Aztecs
European diseases killed many native people because they had never been exposed to them