Chapter 14
Empires: The Struggle for Independence, 1750–1840

People
George Washington: commander of the colonial army that defeated the British and was the first President of the United States.
Robert Clive: English colonel who commanded British forces in India and won a decisive victory.
Lord Cornwallis: British commander who surrendered to American colonists, then was made governor-general of Bengal and made it a profitable British colony.
Ram Mohun Roy: Indian journalist and Sanskrit scholar who denounced poor treatment of women and the practice of Sati, or wife cremation.
Simon Bolivar: the most famous leader of independence movements in Spanish America.
Toussaint L’Ouverture: a freed slave on Saint Domingue who became leader of the slave revolt and as governor abolished slavery and fought the French.
Antoine de Bougainville: Astronomer and explorer who claimed Polynesia for France and circled the globe.
James Cook: British explorer of the Pacific, circled the globe three times, and discovered Australia and New Zealand.
Paul Gauguin: French painter who left his family and bank career to live in Tahiti’s “natural environment.”

Terms
Bill of Rights: first ten amendments to the United States’ Constitution, protecting freedoms of speech, association, and religion.
zamindars: type of Indian landlord, traditionally put in charge of land and peasants by the ruler; made landowners by the British, in return for annual payments.
sati: Hindu practice in which a new widow threw herself onto the cremation fire of her dead husband.
Bourbon Reforms: a program to “reconquer the Americas for Spain” by a stronger mercantile system.
Creoles: Spaniards born in colonies and in the élite class, but considered inferior to the European-born Spanish.
peninsulares: Spaniards born in Spain who were the only men allowed to govern in the colonies.
mestizos: persons of mixed descent, with one Spanish parent and one American Indian parent.
haciendas: élite-owned estates in Spanish America on which the peasants lived and worked.
mulattos: people of “mixed-blood,” descended from one European parent and one Black parent.
“Secret Instructions”: British orders for Captain Cook to go beyond scientific explorations and to take possession of Pacific lands he found for Britain.

1. British were strengthening their mercantilist system and discouraging colonial self-government.
   • Parliament passed laws to regulate trade and raise money for war debts.
   • Colonists considered this “taxation without representation” and a violation of their rights.
   • The British were unwilling to compromise, in spite of boycotts.
   • Troops were sent to capture supplies from the colonists; fighting broke out at Concord.
   • Colonists claimed the king was a tyrant, thus they argued they could re-claim their rights and form a new government.

2. Declaration of Independence:
   • defended right of rebellion.
   • stated that “all men were created equal” but did not define “all men.”
   • a weak government was created by the “Articles of Confederation”.

Constitution of the United States:
   • described authority of new government.
   • created a democratic republic, but without rights for women or slaves.
   • set up a strong, central government, though its powers were divided.

3. Indian rulers depended on British guns and soldiers to gain power. But they had to pay a subsidy to the British, which required taxing their peasants heavily. If peasants revolted, they needed British military help even more. As a result, they were conflicted between need to keep peasants happy and yet keep British happy.

4. The Permanent Settlement of 1793, which created a reliable source of revenue collection.
   • The English-style school system, which created a class of British-educated Indians.

5. Revenues collected from land tax financed British purchases
   • The flow of silver was reversed.
   • A “drain of wealth” from India to Britain began.
   • Revenues also helped to pay for maintenance of armed forces. Thus the British were able to defend and extend their territory.
   • Trade expanded and new commodities exported to Britain.
6.  
- Spanish tried to exert control over Americas since wealth of colonies was being re-invested there.  
- Tighter imperial control led to desire for independence.  
- Those born in the colonies resented their loss of opportunities and influence.  
- Joseph Bonaparte was rejected as king by colonies.  
- Wars of Independence began in Mexico, then South American colonies declared independence.  
- Spain was left with only Cuba and Puerto Rico.

7.  
- Under Spanish rule indigenous people were treated as wards of the crown and their lands protected.  
- At independence everyone achieved legal equality.  
- But the land was then free for sale as private property.  
- Millions of hectares of communal land was bought by a few wealthy and most became poor, landless peasants.

8.  
- In French Revolution, men were declared free and equal. But due to France’s economic dependence on the colony, slaves in Saint Domingue were not freed.  
- Free Blacks launched a revolt for equality citizenship.  
- Slaves joined and slavery was abolished to stop royalists.  
- Napoleon re-imposed slavery which resulted in an independence revolt.  
- **Unique:** only slave revolt able to end slavery forever.

9.  
- Voyages of “discovery” were often science-prompted. For example, to observe movement of Venus and calculate distance to sun.  
- They were also made to discover “new” land, (i.e. a southern continent), and to claim these lands for king and country.

10.  
- An ideal/perfect society:  
  - Nature was bountiful.  
  - Humanity was uncorrupted.  
  - There was no war or rules.  
  - People were beautiful.  
  - Constant love and leisure.