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CHAPTER

1



Columbus erroneously thought he had reached the Orient when he landed on San Salvador.

New and Old Worlds Meet

- I. Changes in the Old World
- II. Contacts in the New World

*"At two hours after midnight appeared
the land..."*

*Christopher Columbus, October 12, 1492,
Captain's Log Entry*

Iron shackles clanked in the musty prison cell as huddled forms awakened. The eastern sun brightened the cell. One prisoner, gathering quill and parchments from beneath his pillow, continued his writing. In happier times he had been known as Rustichello of Pisa, a writer of romances and chivalric legends who had enjoyed modest acclaim. Now in 1296 the furies of war had cast him into prison with a living legend named **Marco Polo**.

Though a prisoner of war like Rustichello, Polo could tell the most fantastic stories. His adventures in China had spanned nearly twenty years, during which time he had been a favorite of Kublai the grand Khan of the Mongols.

Polo described mysterious Asia, a world of shimmering silks, fragrant spices, and unlimited gold. In the land of Cipango (the PAN go; an island kingdom that would someday be called Japan), Polo had heard that gold was so common it was used for pavement.

In that prison cell, Rustichello penned the words of one of history's greatest travelers, later published under the imposing title *Description of the World*. Polo's narrative became the definitive work on the Orient for the next three centuries. Its vivid scenes enticed men to see the Orient for themselves, and this enticement prepared Europe to experience sweeping change. The Orient offered Europeans a chance to experience remarkable growth, in personal wealth as well as in the power and prestige of their homelands. Seeking this growth eventually led to the discovery of another world—a world that would make all they had known seem old.

I. Changes in the Old World

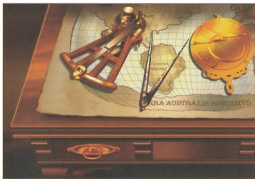
China, Innovations, and Mercantilism

Early European explorers saw China as the source of great riches and opportunities for their countries. The first peoples to take advantage of China (and the islands of South Asia called the East Indies) were the Muslims, who for decades held a virtual monopoly on all trade in the region. Soon, however, Europeans determined to get their "piece of the pie" in the Indies, and that area became the focus of exploration before the discovery of the New World.

Several innovations made it possible for the Europeans to compete with the Muslims and eventually to discover the New World. One was the development of the **compass**, which enabled sailors to know in which direction they were heading. Another invention was the **astrolabe**, which enabled them to determine their ship's latitude on the ocean.

Another important innovation was a Portuguese ship called a **caravel**. It sported two, or even three, triangular sails, making it extremely maneuverable. Armed with overwhelming cannon power and skillfully and swiftly maneuvered by their captains, the caravels enabled not only the expansion of European trade with China and the Indies but also the

The astrolabe and other new navigational instruments made it easier for explorers to sail the unknown oceans of the world more accurately.





and competent leader, came to North America and, with the aid of French settlers and Indians, inflicted considerable damage and fear upon the English settlements. The English colonies had the advantage of numbers, but they did not cooperate with one another well enough to raise funds for military supplies; an intercolonial conference held in New York in 1690 failed because of a lack of unity. In Europe a peace treaty was finally signed in 1697, but all was neither forgiven nor forgotten; the mutual hatred only deepened. Meanwhile, the French continued to build forts along the Mississippi and St. Lawrence Rivers.

Chapter Review

People, Places, and Things to Remember

George Washington
 Thomas Jefferson
 Alexander Hamilton
 cabinet
 Judiciary Act of 1789
 James Madison
 Bill of Rights
 funding
 assumption
 loose constructionists
 strict constructionists
 National Bank
 Federalists
 Republicans (Democratic-Republicans)
 French Revolution
 Proclamation of Neutrality
 Citizen Genêt
 Jay Treaty
 Whiskey Rebellion
 Daniel Boone
 Washington's Farewell Address
 John Adams
 Quasi War
 XYZ Affair
 Alien and Sedition Acts
 Kentucky Resolutions
 Virginia Resolutions
 Judiciary Act of 1801
 "midnight appointments"

Making Connections

1. What was the most significant section of the Judiciary Act of 1789? Why?
2. What did Hamilton offer the South to win Southern support for assumption of state debts by the federal government?
3. How did the Federalist and the Republican Parties differ concerning constitutional interpretation?
4. How did the elections of 1796 and 1800 reveal flaws in the presidential election system established by the Constitution?

Developing History Skills

1. How would the application of the Alien and Sedition Acts have backfired on the Federalists if Congress had not allowed them to expire?
2. Compare and contrast the course and consequences of Shays's Rebellion and the Whiskey Rebellion.

Thinking Critically

1. Which view of constitutional interpretation do you think is better, loose or strict constructionism?
2. How was the presence of political opponents Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson in Washington's cabinet both positive and negative for the young nation?

Living as a Christian Citizen

1. Imagine that the United States Congress was sued for opening its sessions in prayer on the grounds that such prayers amount to the establishment of religion in violation of the First Amendment. You are a lawyer tasked with defending the members of Congress in court. Outline your arguments in their behalf.
2. From the biblical perspective on human nature, what dangers can be found in the Federalist emphasis on centralized government and in an Anti-Federalist push toward greater democracy?

Sam Houston

Sam Houston was a 6'6" giant, a soldier, statesman, and adventurer whose life was even larger than his legend.

As a teenager in East Tennessee, Houston ran off and lived with the Cherokee Indians for three years. The tribe adopted him, giving him the name "the Raven." At age twenty-three, Houston served as a lieutenant under Andrew Jackson at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, where he received an arrow in the thigh and two bullets in the shoulder while leading a daring charge.

When Old Hickory began his rise to national power, Houston followed as Jackson's friend. He was elected as one of Tennessee's representatives to Congress. In 1827, he was elected governor of the state. Then, suddenly, his career came crashing down. In addition, his bride of only three months left him. Angry and embittered, Houston resigned as governor and—like many other Tennesseans, including Davy Crockett—moved to Texas.



In Texas, Houston became a brawling, moody loner who tried to drown his troubles in alcohol. The Indians gave him a new and more appropriate name: "Big Drunk." But the Texan War for Independence gave him new purpose and drive. His natural leadership and military talents won him the command of the Texan forces. After his decisive victory at San Jacinto, Houston was the most popular man in Texas.

Houston put his life back together and served two terms as the president of the Republic of Texas. After Texas joined the Union, he served the state as both U.S. senator and governor. He also married again in 1840 and proved to be a devoted family man, rearing eight children. He later trusted Christ and was baptized at the age of sixty-one in a Texas creek.

The final crisis of Houston's career came in 1860 when he was governor. Texas strongly favored joining the other Southern states in seceding from the Union. As loyal to the Union as he was to Texas, Houston opposed secession.

When the new Confederate government ordered all officials to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, Houston refused. He resigned as governor and retired from public life. He died in 1863. The last line of the inscription on his tombstone reads, "A Consistent Christian—An Honest Man."



The tiny mission called the Alamo and the battle that occurred there stand as symbols of the Texans' determination to gain their independence.

governor **Sam Houston**, was more radical, proposing a rebellion that would lead to full independence from Mexico.

"Remember the Alamo!"

A series of revolutions in Mexico City brought to power a government that was determined to retain the loyalty of the province of Texas. In 1835, the Texans took up arms, at first to defend the Mexican constitution of 1824, which guaranteed them a degree of autonomy within Mexico. When the Mexican dictator, General **Antonio López de Santa Anna**, approached Texas with some five thousand troops, however, the Texans changed their demands to a call for outright independence from Mexico.

Santa Anna planned to drive through the heart of Texas, execute the leaders of the revolt,

and expel the American pioneers. His first stop on the drive was San Antonio, which was defended by a Catholic mission turned fortress called the **Alamo**. The commander of the Texan forces, Sam Houston, ordered the tiny force holding the Alamo to destroy the fort and fall back. However, the commanders at the Alamo, Jim

Bowie and William Travis, decided to hold the post and block the Mexican advance. In February 1836, Santa Anna marched into San Antonio and laid siege to the Alamo. The Mexicans flew a blood-red flag, meaning that no mercy would be shown to the defenders. The 189 defenders—including Bowie, Travis, and the legendary Tennessee frontiersman Davy Crockett—held out for thirteen days, and they inflicted somewhere between 600 and 1,500 casualties on the Mexicans. In the end, though, the Mexicans stormed the fort and killed all the defenders.

Sam Houston did not panic. Despite the pleas of his men to attack the Mexicans and avenge the slaughter, Houston slowly fell back, forcing the Mexicans to stretch their supply lines. Santa Anna split his army into three forces to speed the crushing of the revolt. Seizing his opportunity, Houston attacked part of Santa Anna's divided army near the San Jacinto (juh SIN toh) River on April 21, 1836. In the brief but bloody **Battle of San Jacinto**, 800 enraged Texans—many shouting, "Remember the Alamo!"—routed 1,200 Mexicans. The Texans captured Santa Anna himself and forced the dictator to sign a treaty recognizing Texan independence.



(Above) Davy Crockett, "king of the wild frontier" and fallen defender of the Alamo, is a hero of both his native state of Tennessee and his adopted state of Texas. (Left) The Battle of San Jacinto forced Santa Anna to recognize Texan independence.



The Republic of Texas

Although the Mexican government quickly repudiated the treaty, Texas was in fact free from Mexico. Most Texans would have preferred to join the United States. President Andrew Jackson, however, realized that accepting Texas into the Union might spark a war with Mexico. Also, antislavery forces in the United States opposed Texan annexation because Texas would almost certainly enter as a slave state. All that Jackson would do was recognize the independence of Texas. Thus began a ten-year history of independence for the **Republic of Texas**.

Trails West

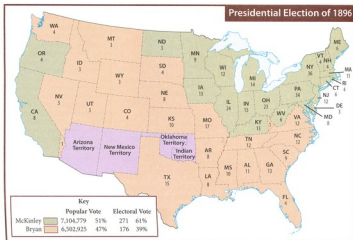
One important aspect of Manifest Destiny was simply getting to the West. Traveling to the new lands of the West in the 1800s was obviously not a matter of hopping in a car and driving down an interstate. The goal of the pioneers was the far West, and the means of getting there was the overland trails. *Trail* is an accurate term, for these routes were certainly not roads. At best, they consisted of the ruts left by preceding wagons. Packing all their belongings into sturdy ox-drawn wagons, settlers journeyed west seeking a new and better life. Often, as trails climbed into the steep passes through the Rocky Mountains, pioneers had to lighten their loads. Oak chests,

Davy Crockett

Davy Crockett, who died at the Alamo, is second in fame only to Daniel Boone among American frontiersmen. Born in Tennessee in 1786, Crockett was a farmer, hunter, and soldier. Crockett fought in the Creek campaign of 1813–14 and served in the Tennessee legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democrat.

A shrewd self-promoter and frontier humorist, Crockett enhanced his reputation as a frontiersman with outlandish tales of his achievements. For example, he explained with mock seriousness how he killed raccoons by grinning them to death. On one occasion, he said he was preparing to shoot a raccoon when it turned to him and said, "Is your name Crockett?" When Crockett admitted that it was, the animal responded, "Then you needn't take no further trouble, for I may as well come down without another word."

Because he disagreed strongly with President Jackson over Indian removal, Crockett switched to the Whig Party. Defeated for reelection to Congress in 1834, Crockett led a company of Tennessee riflemen to join the Texan War for Independence, ending up at the Alamo.



Importance of the 1896 Election

The 1896 election was a turning point in American political history, the culmination of the struggle between the past and the future, between the farm and the factory—and the factory won. The rural leadership that Populism represented was growing old with the century. For good or bad, America's future lay amid her crowded city streets.

Bryan's words swept the convention like a prairie fire. The campaign that followed was the first modern campaign and a study in contrasts. Leading a cash-poor campaign (Republicans outspent Democrats as much as twenty to one), Bryan went on a whirlwind tour of the country. He made hundreds of whistle-stops during an 18,000-mile trek and was seen and heard by audiences totaling five million. McKinley, however, stayed home. In a carefully orchestrated effort, McKinley ran a "front porch campaign" from his home in Canton, Ohio. Trainloads of select audiences were given all-expense-paid trips to Canton to hear McKinley read a prepared script, while hundreds of speakers fanned out across the country to promote him.

On election day, Bryan polled six and a half million votes, but McKinley got more than seven million. The Great Commoner, however, was not the only casualty on election day. The Populist Party, in giving up its reform efforts for a single issue and in losing its identity by casting its lot with the Democrats, had betrayed its cause for a few pieces of silver. Other groups would take up many of its reforms, but they would be won under different labels and circumstances in later years.

Section Quiz

1. What was the most enduring achievement of the American Federation of Labor?
2. Name the two major labor strikes of the late 1800s.
3. What industry did most farmers blame for their low profits?
4. Describe the difference between the campaigns of the two candidates in the 1896 presidential election, William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan.



DON'T TREAD ON ME

