**Chapter 14 Reading Guide**

1. List at least 4 things being bought or sold by Europeans between 1450-1750.
2. Define “**commerce**”

**I. Europeans and Asian CommercE**

1. Which European explorer sailed to India first and what country was he from?
2. What motivated Europeans to find a route to the Asian trading markets?
3. List some positive changes occurring in Europe after the end of the Black Death.
4. Why did Europeans want to find a new route to Asia instead of obtaining the goods from merchants in the Middle East?
5. Why were Europeans in need of more gold and silver?
6. Look at Map 14.1, which European country appears to control the most colonial territory in the Indian Ocean region?
   1. How does this compare with who controlled the most colonial territory in the Americas? (see a map for help if you don’t remember)

**A. A Portuguese Empire of Commerce**

1. Why couldn’t Europeans sell their goods in the Indian Ocean region?
2. What country withdrew from the Indian Ocean- creating an opportunity for Europeans to control it?
3. Why were the Portuguese able to establish fortified bases in the Indian Ocean region so quickly and easily?
4. List at least 3 locations of Portuguese fortified bases.
5. Explain the meaning of “trading post empire”
6. List some ways the Portuguese tried to dominate Indian Ocean trade.
   1. Were they successful in dominating the trade? Why or why not.
7. List some ways the Portuguese merchants were influenced by the Asian cultures in which they resided.

**B. Spain and the Philippines**

1. Which country was the first to challenge Portugal’s control of the Indian Ocean?
2. Where did Spain first colonize in the Asian regions?
3. Why did Spain colonize the Philippines instead of creating a trading post empire like Portugal?
4. Explain how Christianity made it’s way into Asia.
5. What ethnic groups were able to establish themselves as elites in society in the capitol city of Manila?

**C. The East India Companies**

1. How did the British and Dutch organize their Indian Ocean ventures (unlike the colonizing efforts of the Spanish)?
2. What were the names of the 2 private companies?
3. What power did these companies have in the Indian Ocean Basin?
4. Where did the Dutch focus on gaining trading posts?
   1. Where did the British focus on gaining trading posts?
5. Describe the Dutch East India Company’s treatment of the spice islands under its control.
6. How did the British East India Company secure trading bases in India? How did this differ from the method used by the Dutch?
7. What good did the British focus on exporting from India instead of spices?

**D. Asians and Asian Commerce**

1. What was occurring in Japan at the time Europeans first arrived to trade there?
2. What happened to European influence in Japan when the Tokugawa shogunate unified the country?
3. How did Asian womens’ participation in trade differ from that of European women?

**II. Silver and Global Commerce**

1. What good gave rise to the first global trading network? (Hint: not spices)
2. Where in the world produced almost 85% of this good?
3. Why did the value of silver skyrocket in the 16th century?
4. Your text uses the analogy of a “silver drain”- think of a faucet that pours water into a drain. In this analogy, Europeans would be the “faucet” pouring all of their silver into a specific country, which is represented by the “drain.” What country would be the “drain” in this analogy?
5. What city had the largest silver mines in the world?
6. Describe the society of Potosi.
7. What changes in the environment took place as a result of human interaction with the environment by mining for silver?
8. What did the influx of silver do to the Spanish economy?
9. How did the Tokugawa shoguns use silver to their advantage in Japan?
10. What happened to Japan’s population as a result of this new production of silver?
11. What happened to the Chinese economy as a result of the influx of silver?
12. What happened to China’s environment as a result of the influx of silver?

**III. The “World Hunt”: Fur in Global Commerce**

1. What were some causes for the increasing demand for fur in Europe?
2. In what region of the world did Europeans compete for control of fur trade?
3. Who actually hunted the animals to obtain their fur?
   1. How did the Europeans obtain the furs from them?
4. What happened to the environment in the Americas as a result of the fur trade?
5. Why were Native Americans in North America not enslaved by Europeans like they were in Latin America?
6. List some of the factors that led to a decline in the Native American population in North America.
7. How did women’s roles change as a result of the fur trade?
8. Compare and contrast the North American fur trade and Russian fur trade in Siberia.
   1. How are they similar?
   2. How are the different?

**IV. Commerce in People: The Atlantic Slave Trade**

1. Approximately how many Africans were taken and enslaved in the Americas?
2. Define “**African Diaspora**”

**A. The Slave Trade in Context**

1. What regions of the world used the practice of slavery in previous eras of history?
2. List the 3 things that made the Atlantic slave trade “distinctive” according to your text.
3. How did the desire for sugar lead to the practice of slavery by Europeans?
4. Why did Europeans turn to Africa as the location for extracting slaves instead of using Slavs or Native Americans?
5. How did racism help Europeans justify their actions against the Africans they enslaved?

**B. The Slave Trade in Practice**

1. How did Europeans obtain slaves from Africa?
2. What did African traders want in return for the slaves they provided?
3. Define “**Middle Passage**” (look it up on Google if necessary)
4. Why did the number of slaves being exported from Africa increase in the 17th century?
5. What African people were typically sold into slavery?
6. Where did the majority of African slaves end up after the Middle Passage?
7. Look at the bar graph in this chapter on slavery- why do you think there was a sharp decline in the number of slaves imported between the years 1851-1866? (Hint: think Abraham Lincoln and the US Civil War)

**C. Consequences: The Impact of the Slave Trade in Africa**

1. How was Africa’s population affected by the slave trade both positively and negatively?
   1. Positives
   2. Negatives
2. How were African women affected by the slave trade both positively and negatively?
   1. Positives
   2. Negatives
3. How were the pre-existing governments/kingdoms/chiefdoms within Africa affected by the slave trade both positively and negatively?
   1. Positives
   2. Negatives

**V. Reflections: Economic Globalization—Then and Now**

1. How was economic globalization during the Early Modern Era similar and different to economic globalization now?
   1. Similarities
   2. Differences