I. Encounters With Europe (1450-1550)

**Western Africa:**

15th Century = Portuguese and Africans traded  
- Africans – exported gold  
- Portugal – exported Asian, African, European goods  
  - Example: firearms  

Portugal/African interaction varied from place to place  
- King of Benin – sent Ambassador to Portugal  
  - established royal monopoly on trade with Portugal  
  - Benin exported some slaves  
  - Mild interest in Christianity  

After 1538, Benin limited its contact with Portuguese  
- Example: no more missionaries allowed, closed market for male slaves  

Kingdom of Kongo  
- Not many exports – needed slave trade  
  - Christian King Alfonso I lost slave trade monopoly  
  - Power weakened, some people revolted  

**Eastern Africa:**

Some allies, some suspicious with the Portuguese  
- Swahili Coast  
  - City-State of Malindi – good relations with Portugal  
  - Portugal attacked many other city-states in region in 1505  

Ethiopia:  
- Christian  
  - Sought support from Portugal in was against Moslems (Moslem forces of Adal)  
  - Moslems defeated  
  - Long-term Portuguese alliance did not exist  
  - Reason: Ethiopians kept loyalty to Patriarch of Alexandria (Did not want a connection to Pope in Rome)  

In Africa, Europeans really limited to a few port cities (did not enter much of the interior)  

**Indian Ocean States:**

Vasco da Gama (1498) – arrived in Calicut, India  
- Indians had poor impression of da Gama because of his simple gifts
Portugal determined to control Indian Ocean trade
Superior ships and firepower could allow the Portuguese to take control of Indian Ocean trade

Portugal conquests:
Swahili city-states (1505)
Captured Malacca (1511)
Captured Hormuz (1515)
Established trading port at Macao (1557)

↓
Southern China

Portugal – major control on ports
All spices must be carried on Portuguese ships
All ships must have Portuguese passports and pay custom duties to Portugal

Reaction by others:
Mughals (India) – no action
Ottoman Turks – resisted – Able to maintain Red Sea and Persian Gulf trade
Some smaller states cooperated with Portugal, while other small states evaded and resisted
Portugal never gained complete control of the Indian Ocean trade, but it was able to dominate it enough to make good profits and break Italian city-states monopoly on pepper

The Americas:
Spanish built territorial empire in the Americas
Reason:
Amerindians were isolated and lack of resistance to European diseases

Arawak: Originally in Peru, then migrated to Venezuela & Guyana. Then the Arawak migrated to the West Indies.
-Agricultural people who mined gold, but did not trade it over long distances
-The Arawak in the West Indies exaggerated to Columbus about gold in other places so he would not stay on the islands.
-Did not work with iron

Spanish: wars killed 1000s of Arawaks
Undermined Arawak economy
Arawak of Hispaniola became forced laborers

Spanish conquest of Antilles
-defeated non-Christians; put them under Christian control (Spanish did the same thing to the Moslems earlier in history)
Conquistadors
Hernán Cortés:
Replied on native allies
Cavalry
Steel swords
Canon
Defeated Aztecs (1519-1521)
Captured Tenochtitlan
Smallpox spread throughout civilization

Francisco Pizarro:
Conquered Inca Empire (1531-1533)
-Only had 180 Spanish men to defeat the Inca

Reason: Spanish cannon and steel sword
Also, the conquered people of South America were upset with the Inca

Comparisons:
Strong centralized governments not inclined to attempt long distance trade
Example: China

Weak rulers of the Iberian Peninsula left details of exploration to individuals like
Christopher Columbus

Spain and Portugal reason for dominance of Americas – helped by native population’s
vulnerability to disease and European superior weaponry

Asian and African Population – more immune to European diseases (reason – earlier
contact with the Europeans) and they were more able to resist European military

Europeans – found sophisticated markets and trade networks in Africa and Asia

In Americas, Europeans needed to introduce new technology and strong political control
in order to exploit new world natural resources