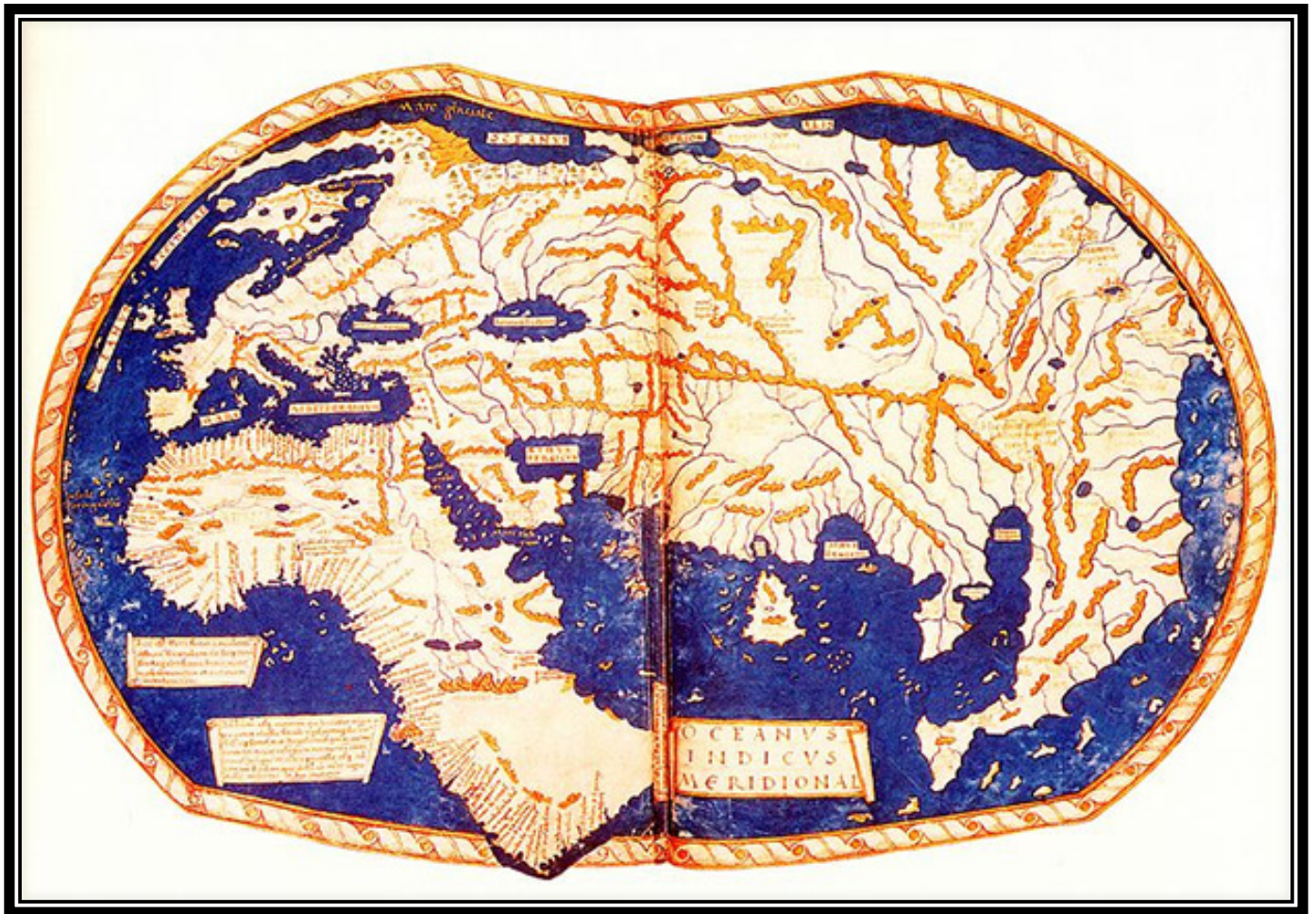


# UNIT ONE: EMPIRES, EXPLORATION & EXPANSION

*The World Around Columbus: the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Century*



*Map of the world by Henricus Martellus Germanus, produced around 1490*

# The World Around Christopher Columbus

What was the way of the world in the 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> century before Columbus' voyages really mattered?

Everybody always wants to talk about how Columbus *transformed* the world, how he made it *modern*, how there was no looking back after Europeans reached the Americas. But what about the world just *before* it felt the impact of Columbus' journey in 1492? Which empires existed and thrived? What was the source of their strength? What was it like to be alive in *that* place at *that* time?

For the first portion of our first unit of study together, we are going to spend the next several days diving into the state of the world **before** the famous European voyages of trans-Atlantic exploration transformed the way of the world. Our goals will be:

- to understand what was happening in diverse regions across the globe
- to determine the extent to which any one place/region/empire could be considered a dominant global force at that time

In order to make this happen, you will be working with a small group of your classmates to learn about one particular region of the world during a "Pre-Columbian" time and then to present what you have learned to the rest of the class. Our textbook will be your main source of information. This project is **not** about your ability to conduct independent research and to digest an enormous amount of information from a range of sources.

Instead, **your goal is to** 1.) try to make sense of a **modest** amount of information, answer some key questions, and present that information to the class clearly, concisely, and enthusiastically and 2.) convince your audience of the extent to which your assigned empire was **THE** great dominant global force / empire of this time period.

## What Your Group Will Make and Do

Each group will be responsible for making a presentation about their region/empire using Google Slides. Your pres. should:

- assess the overall strength of your empire/region
- highlight the key political, economic, military, social, and cultural characteristics of your empire/region (*see additional questions below*)
- include a clear visual of the geographic boundaries of the empire/region
- include written and spoken contributions from each member of the group
- contain between 5 and 7 slides, each with a combination of (concise!) text and (relevant!) images
- last between 5 and 7 minutes

## The Day-by-Day Plan

### Day 1

- meet with your group
- assign roles (who will be responsible for which section)
- get textbooks
- **HW#3: read and take notes on your group's assigned pages ON OUTLINE SHEET (on last page)**

### Day 2

- presentation model
- share understandings, impressions, questions from HW#3
- help each other! (you are **all** responsible for the **whole** presentation, **not** just your one section)
- be sure that all members of the group have access to Google Slides
- begin making slides
- **HW#4: finish making Slides (this is counting as a HW assignment due the following class)**

### Day 3

- finalize slides!! **practice your section out loud** note-taking and Q&A sessions
- **HW #5 prepare for presentation**

### Day 4

- group presentations
- **HW #6 prepare for subsequent in-class quiz in the following class**

## Topics/Questions that Each Group Should Address

Below are the four main categories you should address during your presentation. Underneath are a handful of more focused questions that might help you to prepare. **\*\*Use them as *guiding questions* as you take notes on your empire. \*\*** **Your presentation is not simply a response to each question\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE** that you might not be able to answer all questions for each category. Along the same lines, you might read about something that seems extremely important to you but that I did not ask a specific question about. *Include it!* It is up to you to determine what is essential to include.

### SECTION #1: Political Organization and Strength

- What were the origins of the empire/region?
- How was it organized politically? Who was in charge?
- Was there a bureaucracy in place? How did it function? Who worked in the bureaucracy?
- Was the political system strong? Were the leaders supported?

### SECTION #2: Economic Life/Economic Strength

- How did its economy function?
- What were its economic strengths? Its weaknesses?
- Which goods did it produce? Which goods did it desire?
- Was the empire connected to other empires/regions through trade? If so, how? If not, why not?

### SECTION #3: Military Achievements

- Did the empire/region have a strong military? If so, what made it strong?
- What territories did it conquer?
- What were the empire/region's primary military goals? Who were their enemies?
- How did they treat the people they conquered?

### SECTION #4: Social Organization and Social Stability

- What were the different social classes within the empire/region?
- Was the population of the empire/region diverse?
- What was the nature of the diversity?
- How did they maintain stability in the face of this diversity?
- Were there opponents/enemies within the empire/region? If so, how were they dealt with?

**\*\*Above all, please remember that you are painting a picture for the rest of the class about your empire. It should be detailed, but you won't be able to include everything. Always ask 1.) Does this have something to do with my section of the presentation?, and, 2.) What about this information adds to understanding of the extent to which this empire/region was THE dominant global force of the world? & 3.) Does this information add to this empire/region's unique status?" If not, you should omit it. \***

***Please come to me with any questions!! – Mr. Flynn***

# My group's assigned empire / region is:

write in the space above!

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As this project does **not** intend to be heavily focused on deep historical research, we are going to stick to our class textbooks for information. However, if you come to this possessing outside knowledge that adds to your assigned section in a manner that is relevant and meaningful, bring it to your presentation. Yet, **do not feel overwhelmed. This is not a "research project."** Stick to your textbook and the provided

<i>EMPIRE / REGION (collection of empires)</i>	<i>TEXTBOOK PAGES / HANDOUTS TO REFERENCE</i>
The Ottoman Empire	Textbook pages 443 - 447
The Incan Empire	Textbook pages 407 - 411
The Aztec Empire	Textbook pages 400 - 406
The West African Region of Empires	Textbook pages 371 - 377
The Ming Dynasty	Textbook pages 469 - 470 + provided handouts
The Mughal Empire	Textbook pages 451 - 453 + provided handouts

*\*\*I will present a model presentation on the Safavid Empire and the European Region of burgeoning empires on Day 2 of our schedule\*\**

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## In my group, I have been assigned the section: *circle yours:*

- SECTION #1: Political Organization and Strength
- SECTION #2: Economic Life/Economic Strength
- SECTION #3: Military Achievements
- SECTION #4: Social Organization and Social Stability

# OUTLINE / NOTES PAGE

Name:

Block:

**DIRECTIONS:** Please take notes on your assigned section of your empire / region in any manner that showcases a thick and thorough review of the textbook material. This does not mean you have to write every word you read in the textbook! Look for main ideas and the examples or facts that illustrate the main idea of your section.

**This is due in our next class meeting.**

You can take notes in outline form:

*i.e.*

I. Safavid Economy

A.) Trade Strategies

1.)

Or, in free form. What works best for you is suggested.

*extra space on back → →*

**EXTRA SPACE FOR OUTLINE /  
NOTES PAGE**