**Question:**

**In the period 1450–1750, oceanic voyages resulted in the Columbian Exchange, which transformed the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.**

**Develop an argument that evaluates how the Columbian Exchange affected peoples in the Americas in this time period.**

**Sample 1**

**Context-1**

**Thesis-1**

**Provides Evidence (Content)-1**

**Provides and Supports Evidence (Content)-1**

**Historical Reasoning (Explanation/analysis)- 1**

**Complexity-1**

In 1453, Sultan Mehmed II led the Ottoman Turks and invaded the city of Constantinople. This cut off Europeans from trade with China and its luxury goods like porcelain and silk. To avoid being double taxed by both the Venetians and Ottomans to reach China, explorations were sent out to find a new way to China. Instead, the Americas were found and trade began. The Columbian Exchange began with Columbus’s discovery in 1492 which led to new social hierarchies as races began to mix and the spread of disease and religious practices to the native population.

                The Columbian Exchange was an effect resulting in Europeans coming to the Americas with new items and leaving the New World with crops like potatoes and tomatoes. However, while people like the Spaniards were in the Americas, they married the local populations. This created new social hierarchies like creoles, Europeans born in the Americas, mestizos, a mixture of Spanish and natives, eventually mulattos, and the peninsulares Europeans remained on top. This is very similar to the caste system, brought by the nomadic Aryans to India. Those at the bottom of this new social hierarchy were treated with less respect and subjugated to European imperialism.

                Moreover, an effect of the Columbian Exchange brought disease over to the Americas and killed native populations. The immune Europeans brought over diseases such as smallpox and influenza along with the horses they brought over. This killed much of the native population, eventually resulting in a lack of labor. This lack of labor and the end of the “too cruel” encomienda system would eventually result in the Atlantic Slave Trade. Similarly, the Bubonic Plague in the 1300s in Europe was also spread over trade routes. It was spread by the Mongols over the Silk Road and eventually led to the death of over half of the European population. The native populations gained new items but also suffered the consequence of disease.

                The Europeans, in the process of conducting the Columbian Exchange, brought Catholicism with them. They forced their religious beliefs onto the natives. The Spanish enforced the religion as shown through the Spanish Inquisition. However, the natives, not quite ready to give up their polytheistic beliefs, took on some aspects of Catholicism while maintaining their own culture. They would secretly practice pagan beliefs while praying to the Virgin Mary. This religious syncretism is a continuity throughout history. It can be seen with the development of Neo-Confucianism, vodun (voodoo), and even Christianity itself took on aspects of Judaism.

                From 1450-1750, the Columbian Exchange led to the development of interracial relationships, resulting in a social hierarchy. It also led to religious syncretism by the native population as they took on some of the European Catholicism as well as the spread of diseases such as the smallpox in the Americas which killed many native people.

**Context Class Notes**

* european conquest from 1450 to 1750 involved european control of eurasia through trading post empires.
* the trading post empires were dominated by three main countries, the spanish, dutch, and portuguese
* slave trade started during this time
* europeans broke into the indian ocean spice trade
* american silver allowed greater european participation in the commerce of east asia (could be complexity)
* fur trading affected the commerce and natural environment
1. europeans traded natives goods such as pots and pans, alcohol, and guns for fur pelts
2. led to alcoholism
3. changed the traditional culture
4. made natives dependant on the europeans
* slave trade was only part of the international networks
* european desires for spices
* commerce and empire were the two forces driving globalization
* Columbus was first to find the Americas and Vasco da Gama found a way to India
* europe has recovered from the black death
* rise of new and early absolute monarchs (national monarchies were learning to govern more effectively)
* new monarchs in europe were consolidating power
* the muslims had control over the major trading areas in eurasia, europeans wanted to avoid them
* the mediterranean sea became a second rate trading area with a decline as venice as a result
* during the middle ages the europeans were at a trade deficit with asia because they didn't have the power or goods in order to successfully carry out trade
* establishment of dutch east india company and british east india company, both joint stock companies
* Japan under shogunate system, and not participating in trade and suppressing Christianity
* the Portuguese first in east asia, the Spanish controlled it after them, then the Dutch
* globalization of european powers as a result of trade.
* the spread of christianity in specific areas (americas)

**Complexity**

**Make complexity more than one sentence**

* commerce and empire were the two forces driving globalization
* the muslims had control over the major trading areas in eurasia
* Spain and Philippines
* american silver allowed greater european participation in the commerce of east asia
* silver drain had global effects
* all money made from fur trade goes to the crown
* Differences between taking over people in the Americas and Asia (joint stock companies)
* Differences between spreading Christianity in the Americas and Japan
1. Not successful in Japan because of the government shut it out
2. Banned europeans
3. Japan only trades with the Dutch (and once a year too) because they were more liberal and secularized
* General differences between Japan and the Americas in relation to European effects

**Effects**

**Social**

* casta system created a new social class system, designed in favor of the spanish for social control of the mixed cultures
* economic gain for the spanish through casta system
* in North America class systems became more racist and separated
* Great Dying was a demographic destruction of the americas because of the spread of disease

**Political**

* mercantilism was prevalent and the idea of state supremacy of european powers,  built upon their ability to control trade being a major part of their political power
* the demise of political population center that once had autonomous rule were then directly controlled by european powers, especially british, portuguese, spanish
* in British North America the early settlers wanted to break away from european ideologies and establish their own pre democratic ideals

**Economic**

* slave trade began during this time
* constant reliance on slavery
* the growing industry of american silver allowed european coerced labor and participation in commerce of Asia
* european desire for fashion and shielding from little ice age cold weather led to trading of furs
* uneven relationship with natives due to the natives role in hunting and acquiring the skins and fur
* **encomienda system:**a labor system put in place by the spanish
* EFFECTS:
* no longer any type of individual choice in labor
* all the land was controlled by the government
* coerced labor
* slavery due to growth of the sugar industry

**Cultural**

mass conversion of Christianity mostly spurred on by spanish  and their implementation of the mission system  and elimination of belief systems that didn’t work with the christian-judea ways.

* fur trading for fashion and for climate which also had primarily negative social effects because of the competition