Recovery and Exploration in Europe

Chapter 22 (Bentley Textbook)

Rather than having you read this chapter, use this PPT to complete your notes. This will reinforce and add to the lecture from class. If you need clarification on anything, then go to that section of the textbook but otherwise you do not need to read it.
RECOVERY IN EUROPE: STATE BUILDING

- Holy Roman Empire survived in name only by the mid-13\textsuperscript{th} century
  + Authority rested in German princes and Italian city-states rather than the emperor
- Constant conflict between France and England (Hundred Years War)
- Russia had been under the control of the Mongols for almost 250 years until they fell into disorder in the 15\textsuperscript{th} century
By the late 15th century, regional states in western Europe had strengthened their societies with some laying the foundations for powerful monarchies.

State-building efforts included two important elements…

- Taxes – levied directly on citizens to supplement income from the subordinates of the rulers
- Armies – supported by state funds and usually made up of mercenary forces and equipped with gunpowder weapons
Recovery in Europe: State Building

- Italian city-states flourished with industries and trade
  - Principal Italian states – Milan, Venice, Florence, the papal state based in Rome, and the kingdom of Naples
  - Each with independent administration and army
  - Levied direct taxes on citizens and issued long-term bonds to support a military that protected their interests
France and England

- Fought Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) over control of French lands
- Imposed direct taxes to pay the costs of war
- Asserted authority of central government over feudal nobility
- Unlike France, England did not maintain a standing army
- In France, Louis XI (1461-1483) and his successors enjoyed a decisive edge over ambitious subordinates/nobility seeking to challenge royal authority or build local power bases – too expensive for most to maintain large army
Spain was united by the marriage of Fernando of Aragon and Isabel of Castile

- The marriage united the two wealthiest and most important Iberian realms.
  - They were popularly known as the Catholic Kings
  - Completed the *reconquista* by conquering Granada from Muslims
  - Asserted their authority beyond Iberia (into Italy in the 1500s)

- Sales tax supported a powerful standing army

- Wanted to give Spain a place in the markets of Asia
  - Sponsored Columbus's quest for a western route to China
Recovery in Europe: State Building

- As Mongol power disintegrated, Russian princes sought to expand their territory
  - The grand princes of Moscow began the process of “gathering the Russian land” around Moscow
  - Grand Prince Ivan III (1462-1505, aka Ivan the Great) stopped paying tribute to the Mongol khan thereby declaring Russian independence
    - Muscovy (the principality ruled from Moscow) tripled in size
    - Novgorod – prosperous trading city, Ivan III crushed an uprising and brought it under his control in 1478
    - Ivan III built his government modeled on the Byzantine empire, even calling himself tsar (or czar) – a Russianized form of the term caesar
RECOVERY IN EUROPE: STATE BUILDING

- Competition among European states
  + Frequent small-scale wars
  + Encouraged new military and naval technology
  + Technological innovations vastly strengthened European armies
RECOVERY IN EUROPE: THE RENAISSANCE

- Demographic recovery and state-building efforts coincided with a remarkable cultural flowering known as the Renaissance.
- Renaissance is a French word meaning “rebirth” – refers to a round of artistic and intellectual creativity and that reflected the continuing development of a sophisticated urban society, particularly in western Europe.
- Drew inspiration from classical Greek and Roman artists rather than medieval predecessors – admired the realism of classical sculpture and the simplicity of classical architecture.
- Renaissance scholars, known as humanists, looked to classical rather than medieval literary models; adapted moral thought to the bustling urban society of the time.
ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART

- City-states sponsored innovations in art and architecture
- Italian artists studied the human form and represented the emotions of their subjects. Natural poses reflected the actual workings of human muscles rather than awkward and rigid postures
- Painters (Macaccio and Leonardo) used linear perspective to show depth
- Sculptors (Donatello and Michelangelo) created natural poses
RECOVERY IN EUROPE: THE RENAISSANCE

- Renaissance architecture
  + Simple and elegant style, inherited from classical Greek and Roman
  + Magnificent domed cathedrals such as Brunelleschi's cathedral of Florence
    - Residents saw it as a symbol of the city’s wealth and its leadership in artistic and cultural affairs.
RECOVERY IN EUROPE: THE RENAISSANCE

- Humanists drew inspiration from classical models
  - Scholars interested in literature, history, and moral philosophy
  - Recovered and translated many classical works - Scorned the writings of the medieval philosophers/theologians and instead returned to classical Greek and Roman authors and early church authorities
  - Humanists were deeply committed to Christianity.
  - Believed it was possible to lead to morally virtuous life while participating actively in the affairs of the world (taken from classical author, Cicero)
  - Made an effort to reconcile Christian values and ethics with the increasingly urban and commercial society
Renaissance Europe and the Larger World

- Increased prosperity enabled them to invest resources in artistic production and support for scholarship
As peoples of the eastern hemisphere recovered from demographic collapse and restored order to their societies, they also sought to revive the networks of long-distance trade and communication that epidemic plague had disrupted. Most active in this effort were China and western Europe in the 15th century.
CHINESE RECONNAISSANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN

- Zheng He's expeditions
  - Ming emperor permitted foreigners to trade at Quanzhou and Guangzhou
  - Refurbished the navy and sent seven large expeditions to the Indian Ocean basin
  - Purposes: to control foreign trade and impress foreign peoples
  - Admiral Zheng He's ships were the largest marine crafts in the world
  - Visited southeast Asia, India, Ceylon, Arabia, and east Africa
Zheng He’s fleets, which numbers 200 ships, sailed on a series of voyages across the Indian Ocean as far as Arabia and the east coast of Africa, and throughout the islands of Southeast Asia. The ships returned laden with goods and exotic plants, as well as prisoners of war (including the King of Ceylon). Zheng He’s fleets used force – mainly against Chinese pirates - on three occasions: Sumartra (1404 and 1413), Ceylon/Sri Lanka (1410),
Chinese naval power

- Zheng He's voyages diplomatic: exchanged gifts, envoys
- Also military: used force to impress foreign powers, for example, against coastal pirates
- Expeditions enhanced Chinese reputation in the Indian Ocean basin
End of the voyages, 1433

- Confucian ministers mistrusted foreign alliances
- Resources redirected to agriculture and defense of northern borders
- Technology of building large ships was forgotten, nautical charts destroyed
EUROPEAN EXPLORATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEANS

× Portuguese exploration
  + European goals: to expand Christianity and commercial opportunities
  + Portuguese mariners emerged as the early leaders
  + Prince Henry of Portugal determined to increase Portuguese influence
  + Seized Moroccan city of Ceuta in 1415
Colonization of the Atlantic Islands

- Portuguese ventured into the Atlantic, colonized Madeiras, Azores, other islands
- Italian investors, Portuguese landowners cultivated sugarcane on the islands
Slave trade expanded fifteenth century
- Portuguese traders ventured down west coast of Africa
- Traded guns, textiles for gold and slaves
- Thousands of slaves delivered to Atlantic island plantations
EUROPEAN EXPLORATIONS IN THE ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEANS

Indian Ocean trade

- Portuguese searched for sea route to Asian markets without Muslim intermediaries
- Bartolomeu Dias reached Cape of Good Hope, entered the Indian Ocean, 1488
- Vasco da Gama arrived at Calicut in 1498, returned to Lisbon with huge profit
- Portuguese mariners dominated trade between Europe and Asia, sixteenth century
- Portuguese ships with cannons launched European imperialism in Asia
Cristoforo Colombo (Christopher Columbus) hoped to reach Asia by sailing west.

- Plan rejected by Portuguese king but sponsored by king and queen of Spain.
- 1492, led three ships to the Caribbean Sea, believed he was near Japan.
- Other mariners soon followed Columbus and explored American continents.