



AP[®] European History 2001 Sample Student Responses

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not to
During the 16th century, European states ~~had~~ were starting to focus ~~more~~ so much on the affairs of land as they were beginning to be taken the prospect of learning about what was not within their realm: the open seas. Portugal, under the direction of Prince Henry "the Navigator", used its location bordering the Atlantic to begin what is now considered the Age of Exploration. This era of sea-faring explorers brought about the discovery of vast, unexplored lands filled with wonder and new fortune. As nations ~~were~~ discovered these places, they scrambled to build colonies and create an overseas empire. As Europe entered the 17th century, its ~~own~~ nations found that global trade had suddenly expanded and international relations were ~~becoming~~ becoming strained with competitive tension.

As European nations pulled in resources and wealth from their colonial empires, global trade began to flourish. The Dutch led the other nations in trade, reaching a "golden era" in the mid-1600s. ^{other} Countries began practicing mercantilism, a form of economics created by Jean Baptist Colbert under Louis XIV in France. Under this system, countries would import resources from their colonies, manufacture goods, and export them to turn a profit. Colbert felt that mercantilism benefited nations because it saved gold needed in production and ~~also~~ ^{always} it provided a market for a country's goods. As countries like France traded

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almost solely with their colonies, other countries ^{also} expanded their trade by bringing new materials ^{and goods} from newly discovered nations. The Dutch East India Company, a trading company, dealt in countries across Europe and Asia, bringing new products ^{from various cultures} to different areas across Europe.

While global trade was growing quickly, international relations ~~was~~ became filled with an unsettled tension.

European nations saw having a colonial empire as important to their economic growth and survival (as they would again prior to WWI) and sought to continue expansion even on land, feeling threatened by the competition imposed by their neighbors. England, which was once the prime outputter of wool, found itself to be rivaled by the Netherlands which could match its exports. ~~The same went to the English~~

The two countries were on opposite sides ^{up} until ~~after~~ the end of the ~~three~~ War of Spanish Succession, when the Dutch state began to decline. Other countries such as France ~~to~~ felt they had to protect their trading investments and began to seek expansion on land to prevent a loss of expansion overseas. When Louis sought to gain territory in the War of Spanish Succession and other wars during his reign, the English fell opposite France to prevent it from gaining too much power.

~~was the Age of Exploration~~ By the ^{mid} 17th century

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1700s, the drive to expand overseas had generally cooled off among European nations. ~~and~~ While ~~the~~ relations between ~~the~~ countries was strained as each perceived the other as a threat to its ~~an~~ empire, global trade took off and continued to flourish through the 18th century. It would not be until the late 1800s when overseas expansion would once again create ^{international} problems for Europe.

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European expansion from 1600 to 1715 was a time of increased trade among nations and colonies. New products were gained, and new ideas on international relations were common.

Starting in 1492 when Columbus reached the "New World", there ~~was~~ was a time of great ^{expansion} ~~expansion~~ and imperialism ^{made by} many countries.

The Portuguese controlled India in the beginning of exploration. This country was easily taken over because political and economic unrest was present, and the country was not unified. Great Britain soon took over this area from the Portuguese, creating colonies that would produce raw materials for them. This policy of mercantilism, was a new trading system developed, and was encouraged by Jean Colbert. Perhaps the ~~area~~ area with the greatest use for mercantilism was the "New World".

Spain obtained colonies in New England ^{which} ~~and~~ increased the economy ~~of~~ their country. Although the slave trade was instituted, which had huge effects ~~of~~ on African culture, diminishing the values of its peoples, mercantilism

proved to be a prosperous economic system that had a lasting effect on global trade.

Imperialism effected international relations incredibly. Many cultures expanded in the search for God's glory, gold, and strategic reasoning.

Basically, many nations saw expansion as a means to increase national power and wealth. Control of the East and West Indies was key to this power. ~~Even~~ Even though Spain controlled the West Indies, these two areas became battlegrounds for imperialism. Goods such as fruits, coffee and spices were abundant, and could make any country wealthy. Control in the "New World" was also wanted. This area produced chocolate and other luxuries foreign to Europe. Britain's hold in the "New World" ~~won~~ won them power over other countries.

The battles for control of prosperous colonies and goods led to ~~weakened~~ weakened international relations. In many colonies, the ideas of that nation that took over were instilled into the powerless countries. ~~Weak~~ Weak nations were

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taken over by arrogant ones that thought their ideas would help ^{the} divided countries. This arrogance, along with ^{the} power of stronger nations led to the conformity of ~~new~~ new colonial ~~area~~ areas, which also weakened international relations.