

Summer Reading Book: ***The Columbian Exchange, Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492***. 30th Anniversary Edition

Instructions

Read the following parts/chapters of this book:

- The *Forewords* by J.R. McNeill and Otto von Mering
- Ch.1(The Contrasts)-read only the following pages: 3,4,5,9,10,21,23,30,31-these provide a general overview of the *Old World-Europe,Asia,Africa* meeting the *New World-Americas*.
- Ch.2(Conquistador y Pestilencia)-whole chapter
- Ch.3((Old World Plants and Animals in the New World)-whole chapter
- Skip Ch.4 completely
- Ch.5(New World Foods and Old World Demography)-whole chapter
- Ch.6(The Columbian Exchange Continues)-whole chapter

Short Answer Questions: These will be due on the first day of class.

Ch. 2:

- a. Describe the meaning of the term 'ecological stability', and how it could be seen in the Old World(Europe, Africa, Asia) around the late 15th century.
- b. What were some of the biggest factors that led to the deaths of so many natives in the New World(Americas), especially in the first 100 years after Columbus landed there in 1492?
- c. Choose one example from the chapter, and Describe a specific instance of a Smallpox outbreak in the first 100 years of European conquest of the Americas, along with the subsequent impact it had.

Ch. 3:

- a. Crosby refers to the 'Old World to New World Exchange' in this chapter as, "*the greatest biological revolution in the Americas since the end of the Pleistocene Era*". What were some examples of Old World *flora* and *fauna* that would go on to thrive in, and change the societies of the New World forever?

Ch. 5:

- a. (This comes directly from the book)-*Is there a connection between the Columbian Exchange and the population growth much of the Old World(especially Europe) would go on to experience after the exchange started?* If so, what specifically can be attributed to it?

- b. Choose one other area in the Old World(outside of Europe), and describe how the Columbian exchange impacted it.

Ch.6/all chapters overall:

- a. Crosby utters these famous words to end his book, "*The Columbian Exchange has left us with not a richer but a more impoverished genetic pool. We, all of the life on this planet, are the less for Columbus, and the impoverishment will increase*". **To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?**- use evidence gathered from your reading of the book, and from your own knowledge, in order to explain and defend your viewpoint.