**Chapter 3 Journal**

In chapter 3 Belshaw explains the outburst of sea expeditions during the 1400’s. Most of these conquests, led by the French and Spanish, set out across the Atlantic and Indian oceans searching for new land or some sort of material good.

The Indigenous population of the British Isles were subject to many encounters from newcomers from the mainland of Europe (p.65). However, because of the sudden appearance of these newcomers the Indigenous peoples from the British Isles and Northwestern Europe were pushed to the borders in the late pre-contact period. The British Isles would support the agricultural needs of the French as well as support a healthy fishing economy for them (p.66).

A monarchial regime referred to as Absolutist, reigns with powerful religious institution, lead many nations to begin to participate in trading networks by sea (p.69). 1492 was a breakpoint in human history. (put something about the compass in here) The changes it brought to the Americas were far-reached. However, Europe had significant economic repercussions, while the Spanish secured bounty in the form of precious metals. Economic fiancés were secure as the class of traders and manufacturers began to show off their countries wealth (p.70). Spain was divided since the 8th century between Muslim south and Christian north. After a decade of fighting, Grenada fell to the catholic monarchs and in 1492 and the Reconquista was complete (p.70). It was the Inquisition that begun the process of “purifying” their kingdoms. The monarch issued orders for all Jews and Muslims to convert to Christianity or leave Spain (p.70).

That same years Christopher Columbus would set sail on his search for a path to India (p.70) Later, Ferdinand Magellan (ca 1480-1521) would confirm Columbus’s mathematical errors and major cartographical ignorance in late 1520’s when his fleet would enter the Pacific (p70-71).

The first challenge to Spanish hegemony in the new world came with the Treaty of Tordesilla, which divided what the Europeans knew of the Americas and Portugal (p.71). Spain and Portugal began the process of colonization, while England found itself in the midst of a political and religious crisis for much of the 16th century (p.75). Three decades after Columbus’s voyage, the Spanish were in control of a vast amount of indigenous empires. The Spanish appropriated the indigenous administrative and many of its legal practices, adopting some while replacing others. This system of conquest allowed the Spanish to take advantage of existing labor supplies and to easily divert local wealth to Spain (p.75).

The distance between Europe and the Americas played a very important role in shaping colonial administration along with patterns of imperial control (p.76) As for the Portuguese, the Dutch took them on more directly, dominating small but important lands in Brazil. Ignoring the Treaty of Tordesilla, the Dutch established a colony on the Hudson River around 1614. Their colonial economy was a mixed one but one aspect was the fur trade with the Haudensaunee would bring the Dutch to conflict with New France (p.76). French imperial activity in the New World got off to a bad start. The earliest French expeditions to North America and particularly Canada were not ver memorable voyages. The First voyage lead by Jacques Cartier between 1534 and 1542 made contact with local peoples including the St. Lawrence Iroquois (p.78). The Algonquin people Cartier encountered indicated that they favored some European goods over others, a sign that they were becoming knowledgeable about the newcomers (p.78).The Iroquan leader made the mistake of telling Cartier about metal sources upriver and this set off Cartier’s gold fever.(p.80) Cartier disappointed his sponsors with samples of quarts and iron pyrites from Canada, which he very optimistically claimed to be diamonds and gold. Finally the latter part of the 16th century, the wars of religion, distracted the French from further oversea efforts in Canada.