The Simple AP® World History Unit 4 Cheat Sheet

4.1 Technological Innovations

Borrowed Know-How

Knowledge transfer: Europeans adapted tools from the Classical, Islamic & Asian worlds → sailed past the coasts into open ocean.

Tool	From	Use
Compass	China	find direction
Astrolabe	Islamic world	find latitude
Lateen sail	Indian Ocean	sail into wind
Rudder	China	steer big ships
Gunpowder	China	cannon on ships

Better Ships

Caravel (Portugal): small, fast ship w/ triangle + square sails → explored the W. African coast.
Carrack: big 3-masted ship for cargo & cannon → long voyages (Columbus, da Gama).
Fluyt (Dutch): cheap cargo ship w/ a small crew → lower costs → Dutch led 1600s trade.
Galleon: big armed cargo ship; Spain's Manila galleons carried silver from Mexico to Asia.

Winds & Maps

Wind patterns: crews learned trade winds & monsoons (seasonal winds) → planned trips.
Mercator map (1569): straight lines = steady compass heading → easier ocean navigation.

⚠ Europe didn't invent the compass or astrolabe; it adapted them from Asia & the Islamic world.

✓ Cause chain: new tech + state money + motives (wealth, faith) → exploration.

4.2 Exploration: Causes & Events

Motives: God, Gold, Glory

Wealth: skip Ottoman & Venetian middlemen → buy Asian spices & silk directly; find gold & silver.
Religion: spread Christianity after the Reconquista (Spain retakes Granada, 1492).
Glory: kings & queens paid for voyages to beat rival states; explorers wanted fame & land.

Explorer	Sponsor	Result
Dias, 1488	Portugal	Cape of Good Hope
da Gama, 1498	Portugal	sea route to India
Columbus, 1492	Spain	Caribbean
Magellan, 1519	Spain	sailed around world
Cabot, 1497	England	N. America
Cartier, 1534	France	Canada

Key Events

Portugal 1st: Prince Henry backed voyages down W. Africa → gold, enslaved people & forts like Elmina (1482) on the Gold Coast.
Treaty of Tordesillas (1494): split new lands between Spain & Portugal → Brazil went to Portugal; other states ignored it.
N. Atlantic: England, France & Dutch crossed for cod, furs & colonies in N. America.
Spain in Asia: Manila (1571) linked Asia & Mexico → American silver flowed to China.

⚠ Zheng He (1405–33) sought tribute, not colonies; use him only as a contrast.

✓ LEQ tip: link each motive to a state (Portugal → trade; Spain → gold & converts).

4.3 The Columbian Exchange

What Moved Where

Direction	What moved
Americas → world	maize, potato, cacao
Europe → Americas	horses, cattle, wheat
Europe → Americas	smallpox, measles
Africa → Americas	rice, okra, malaria

Disease & Labor

Epidemics: smallpox & measles killed est. 50–90% of Native Americans, who had no immunity.
Labor shortage: fewer Native workers → colonists turned to enslaved Africans → slave trade grew.
Malaria (from Africa) killed many Europeans in the tropics → planters relied on Africans.
Forced migration: enslaved Africans were the largest group to cross the Atlantic before 1800.

Food & Environment

American crops (potato, maize, manioc) → more calories → population grew in Europe, China & Africa; potatoes fed poor farmers.
Cash crops (sugar, tobacco) → plantations in Brazil & the Caribbean, cut forests & worn-out soil.
Horses changed Plains peoples (Comanche) → mobile bison hunting & warfare.
Cattle & pigs ate & trampled Native crops; European weeds & rats spread fast.

⚠ The Columbian Exchange = plants, animals, germs & people, not just trade goods.

✓ SAQ: name item + direction + effect (potato → Europe → population ↑ in 1700s).

4.4 Maritime Empires Established

Trading Posts: Africa & Asia

Portugal: forts at Goa & Malacca + armed ships → made Indian Ocean traders buy passes.
Dutch VOC (1602): took the Spice Islands & Batavia (Jakarta) → controlled nutmeg & cloves.
English EIC (1600): trading posts in India for cotton cloth, w/ the Mughal emperor's permission.
Spanish Philippines: Manila (1571) = Spain's Asian hub; traded Mexican silver for Chinese silk.

Empire	Main colony	Key good
Portugal	Brazil, Goa	sugar, spice
Spain	Mexico, Peru	silver
Dutch	Indonesia	spices
Britain	India, N. Am.	cloth, tobacco
France	Canada, Haiti	fur, sugar

Americas

Spain: Cortés beat the Aztecs (1521) & Pizarro the Inca (1532) w/ Native allies, guns & disease.
Britain & France: N. American colonies for fur, fish & tobacco; French traded furs w/ Native allies.

Slave Trade Begins

Slave trade: Portugal started the trans-Atlantic trade to work Brazil's sugar plantations.
African agency: African rulers sold captives for guns & cloth; Europeans stayed on the coast.

⚠ Before 1750, most of Asia & inland Africa stayed under local rule; Europeans held coasts.

✓ Land empires (Unit 3) ruled land; maritime empires mostly ruled ports & sea routes.

4.5 Maritime Empires Maintained

Economic Systems

Mercantilism: wealth = gold & silver; colonies send raw goods, buy home products.
Joint-stock companies (VOC, EIC): investors share risk & profit → paid for long voyages.
Silver: Potosí (Peru) → Spain & Manila → China (taxes paid in silver) → 1st global trade.
Atlantic system: guns & cloth → Africa; captives → Americas; sugar & silver → Europe.

Labor Systems

System	Who worked
Chattel slavery	enslaved Africans
Encomienda	Natives (tribute)
Hacienda	peons in debt
Mit'a	Andean miners
Indentured	poor Europeans

Mit'a: Spain reused the Inca labor draft to force Andean men into silver mines; many died.

African & Asian Responses

Asante & Dahomey (W. Africa) grew strong by trading war captives to Europeans for guns.
Tokugawa Japan: banned Christianity & let only the Dutch trade, at Dejima in Nagasaki.
Ming & Qing China: limited Europeans to set ports & demanded silver for their goods.

⚠ Encomienda = right to Native labor; hacienda = big estate w/ workers stuck in debt.

✓ Silver links Americas → Europe → Asia: great "global" evidence for LEQs & DBQs.

4.6 Challenges to State Power

Resistance in the Americas

Why resist?: forced conversion, labor drafts, new taxes, land loss & slave raids by Europeans.
Pueblo Revolt (1680): Popé led Pueblo vs. Spanish missions & labor → Spain out 12 yrs.
Metacom's War (1675): Native alliance fought English land grabs in New England; lost.
Maroons: people who escaped slavery built free towns (Palmares in Brazil, Jamaica's Maroons).

Africa, Asia & Europe

Queen Nzinga (Ndongo): fought & bargained to resist Portuguese slave raids for decades.
Marathas: Hindu warriors (Shivaji) fought the Mughals → weakened the empire.
Fronde (1648): French nobles revolted vs. the king → Louis XIV tightened control at Versailles.
Cossacks: Stenka Razin (1670) led peasants vs. the Russian tsar & nobles; crushed.

Revolt	Against	Cause
Pueblo	Spain	religion, labor
Metacom's	England	land
Nzinga	Portugal	slave raids
Marathas	Mughals	rule, religion
Fronde	French king	taxes, power

⚠ Many revolts failed, but they still forced rulers to change policies (Spain eased religious rules).

✓ DBQ: group revolts by cause (religious, economic or political) to build 2 arguments.

4.7 Changing Social Hierarchies

New Elites

Manchus (Qing China): a minority ruling group that still used Han Chinese officials.
Creoles: American-born Spaniards; rich, but ranked below Spain-born **peninsulares**.
Merchants grew richer & more powerful in port cities from global trade; some bought land & titles.

The Casta System

Group	Status
Peninsulares	born in Spain; top jobs
Creoles	born in Americas
Mestizos	Spanish + Native
Mulattoes	Spanish + African
Natives, Africans	bottom ranks

Race-based ranks: ancestry decided rights, taxes & jobs; casta paintings showed the ranks.
Gender: few Spanish women came early → unions w/ Native women → many mestizos.

Families & Old Elites

Slave trade: most captives were men → W. Africa had more women → more polygyny.
Old elites (Mughal zamindars, daimyo) lost some power to stronger central rulers.
Jews: expelled from Spain (1492) → many resettled in Ottoman cities & Amsterdam.

⚠ Casta was a legal, race-based system, not just social class; tie it to labor needs.

✓ Compare: Qing (ethnic minority rules) vs. Spanish America (race & birthplace).

4.8 Continuity & Change + the Exam

1450–1750 at a Glance

Change	Continuity
Americas join trade	Asia still richest
Slave trade grows	Most people farm
Silver goes global	Land empires strong
New race hierarchies	Forced labor goes on

Big change: 1st truly global trade network linked the Americas to Africa, Asia & Europe.
Big continuity: Qing, Mughal & Ottoman economies still led; Europe joined Asian trade.

Key Comparisons

Spain vs. Portugal: Spain conquered land in the Americas; Portugal mostly ran trading posts.
Spain vs. England: Spain ruled & mixed w/ Native peoples; English settlers pushed them out.
Sea vs. land empires: sea empires used companies, forts & navies; land ones used armies.

Exam Moves

Weight: Unit 4 = 12–15% of the exam; often paired w/ Unit 3 (same era) in MCQ sets & LEQs.
LEQ prompts: causes of exploration, effects of the Columbian Exchange, compare labor systems.
SAQ: "Identify 1 effect of the Columbian Exchange" → name it + explain who it changed.
DBQ: thesis, context, 4 docs, outside evidence & sourcing (HIPP) on 2 docs = 7 pts.

⚠ Stay in 1450–1750: Atlantic revolutions & industrialization are Units 5–6.

✓ Go-to evidence: Potosí silver, Columbian Exchange, Tokugawa limits, casta.