Global Commerce
1450-1750
225 Million years ago the continents drifted apart....

Miraculously, Europeans in the early modern period, re-united them into an integrated world trade system.
Pangaea means “all lands” – Pangaea was a super continent 225 million years ago.
Theory of Continental Drift
Sought-after spices of Asia
Spice plantation in Southeast Asia
The Ottomans charged high tolls on European trade goods from Asia prompting Europeans to find an alternate route.
Magellan, the mariner whose expedition first circumnavigated the earth, died in the Philippines in 1521. 18 remaining crew members under the command of Sebastian de Elcano arrived back in Spain finishing the voyage in 1522 after a journey of 3 years.
In the early modern period Europeans were mainly interested in trade, not empire, in Asia.
European joint stock companies marshaled financing and crews and established networks of trade across the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
The East Offering its Riches to Britannia, 1778
Painting hung in offices of British East India Company
By the 1550’s Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English merchants and missionaries were in Japan.
Japan’s political structure was feudalism with lords called daimyo and warriors called samurai.
Jesuit Missionary St. Francis Xavier introduced Christianity in Japan in 1549.
By the 1600’s a Tokugawa clan shogun, Ieyasu, ended feudalism, united Japan, and expelled missionaries and foreigners allowing only Dutch merchants to trade between 1650 and 1850.
The Silver Trade
Silver trade gave rise to a truly global network of trade.
In the Andes mountains, the world’s largest silver mine, Potosi, Bolivia, 1500’s.
North American Fur Trade
Fur and the Russians
The Atlantic Slave Trade
Captives as Commodities
The Slave Trade in Numbers

The Destination of Slaves in the Eighteenth Century

- British North America and U.S.: 348,000 (6%)
- Spanish America: 578,600 (10%)
- Caribbean: 3,233,700 (53%)
- Brazil: 1,891,400 (31%)
SUGAR CANE FIELD
SUGAR CANE
COTTON PLANTATION
COTTON FIELD
PICKING TOBACCO
CAPTURE OF SLAVES
La distribuzione dei ciceri nella stiva di una nave d'epoca.
The Middle Passage
STOWAGE OF SLAVES ON SHIP
TO BE SOLD, on board the
Ship Bance: Isand, on tuesday the 6th
of May next, at Asbly-Ferry; a choice
cargo of about 250 fine healthy
NEGROES,
just arrived from the
Windward & Rice Coast.
—The utmost care has
already been taken, and
shall be continued, to keep them free from
the least danger of being infected with the
SMALL-POX, no boat having been on
board, and all other communication with
people from Charles-Town prevented.
Austin, Laurens, & Appleby.

N. B. Full one Half of the above Negros have had the
SMALL-POX in their own Country.
THE SLAVE MARKET
An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade. [25th March 1807]

WHEREAS the Two Houses of Parliament did, by their Resolutions of the Tenth and Twenty-fourth Days of June One thousand eight hundred and six, severally resolve, upon certain Grounds therein mentioned, that they would, with all practicable Expedition, take effectual Measures for the Abolition of the African Slave Trade, in such Manner, and at such Period as might be deemed advisable; and whereas it is fit upon all and each of the Grounds mentioned in the said Resolutions, that the same should be forthwith abolished and prohibited, and declared to be unlawful; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Fifth Day of May One thousand eight hundred and seven, the African Slave Trade, and all and all manner of dealing and trading in the Purchase, Sale, Barter, or Transfer of Slaves, or of any Slave intended to be sold, transferred, dealt with, or carried away, be, or be from any Part of the

ENGLAND
ABOLISHES
SLAVERY,
1807
Abolition of slavery in

13th AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION, 1865

Amendment XIII -

1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation
“He who commits injustice is made more wretched than he who suffers it.”

Plato

“No people came into possession of a culture without having paid a heavy price for it.”

James Baldwin

“I had to break that record. I had to do it for Jackie, and my people, and myself, and for anybody who every called me a nigger.”

Hank Aaron

“When I ran for Congress, I knew I would encounter anti-Black and anti-feminist sentiments, but what surprised me was the much greater virulence of the sex discrimination.”

Shirley Chisholm
First Black woman elected to Congress
How did global commerce promote change in the early modern era?