**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: Christopher Columbus, “The Letters of Columbus to**

**Ferdinand and Isabel,” 1493**

“SIR: Since I know that you will be pleased at the great victory with which Our Lord has crowned my voyage, I write this to you, from which you will learn how in thirty-three days I passed from the Canary Islands to the Indies…The harbours of the sea here are such as cannot be believed to exist unless they have been seen, and so with the rivers, many and great, and of good water, the majority of which contain gold. In the trees, fruits and plants, there is a great difference from those of Juana. In this island, there are many spices and great mines of gold and of other metals. The people of this island and of all the other islands which I have found and of which I have information, all go naked, men and women…They have no iron or steel or weapons, nor are they fitted to use them…In conclusion, to speak only of what has been accomplished on this voyage, which was so hasty, their Highnesses can see that I will give them as much gold as they may need…”

1.The excerpt from Columbus’ letter best serves as evidence of which of the following?

1. He accurately believed that he had discovered a new route to Asia from Europe and had arrived in the Indies, off the Asian coast.
2. He accurately believed that he had discovered a new route to America from Europe and had arrived in the Caribbean islands.
3. He mistakenly believed that he had discovered a new route to Asia from Europe and had arrived in the Indies, off the Asian coast.
4. He mistakenly believed that he had discovered a new route to Africa from Europe and had arrived in Madagascar, off the African coast.

2. The excerpt most directly reflects which of the following goals of Columbus’ expedition?

1. to convert the Indians to Christianity
2. to discover gold and other precious metals
3. to study the Native Americans’ culture
4. to gather botanical specimens

3. One direct long-term effect of Columbus’ voyage report was that it

1. increased the number of Indians in the Caribbean islands.
2. led to the decrease of European voyages to Asia.
3. led to the discovery of gold and silver by others in South America and greatly enriched the monarchy in Spain.
4. led to the transformation of European weaponry and the decline of Spain as a world power.

**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: Jose de Acosta, The Columbian Exchange*,* 1590.**

“The cacao tree is most esteemed in Mexico and coca is favored in Peru; both trees are surrounded with considerable superstition. Cacao is a bean smaller and fattier than the almond, and when roasted has not a bad flavor. It is so much esteemed by the Indians, and even by the Spaniards, that it is the object of one of the richest and largest lines of trade of New Spain; since it is a dry fruit, and one that keeps a long time without spoiling, they send whole ships loaded with it from the province of Guatemala…The chief use of this cacao is to make a drink that they call chocolate, which they greatly cherish in that country. But those who have not formed a taste for it dislike it…The Indies have been better repaid in the matter of plants than in any other kind of merchandise; for those few that have been carried from the Indies into Spain do badly there, whereas the many that have come over from Spain prosper in their new homes. I do not know whether to attribute this to the excellence of the plants that go from here or to the bounty of the soil over there. Nearly every good thing grown in Spain is found there…They include wheat, barley, garden produce…such as lettuce…in short, whatever grows well here, for those who have gone to the Indies have been careful to take with them seeds of every description…By profitable plants I mean those plants which not only yield fruit but bring money to their owners.”

4. According to Acosta, a Spaniard, which of the following was true of the Columbian Exchange?

1. It was an unequal one because Europe benefited more than the Americas from it.
2. It was an equal exchange because both Europe and the Americas benefited from it.
3. It was an unequal one because the Americas benefited more than Europe from it.
4. It was a poor exchange because neither the Americas nor Europe benefited from it.

5. Which of the following most directly reflects Acosta’s valuation of plants in the excerpt?

1. whether they are aesthetically pleasing
2. whether the sale of their produce earns money
3. whether their products have medicinal value
4. whether they yield abundant produce

6. One direct long-term effect of the Europeans’ introduction to the cacao tree was

1. increased Indian superstition about the tree’s miraculous properties.
2. the outbreak of European warfare over cacao-growing territories.
3. the popularity of chocolate in Europe.
4. the South American drug trafficking in cocaine.

**Questions 1.34–1.36 refer to the following image.**

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**Hernan Cortez is greeted by Moctezuma’s messenger in 1519.**

7. The image of the Spanish explorer’s arrival in Mexico most directly reflects which of the following?

1. Native Americans presented indigenous horses as gifts to the newly-arrived Spanish.
2. Europeans presented Spanish-grown fruits as gifts to the Native Americans.
3. Native Americans’ unfamiliarity with the use of horses in warfare gave mounted Europeans a decisive military advantage.
4. The Spanish and the Native American societies were at similar levels of technological development.

8. The image is most clearly an example of which of the following developments?

1. The devastation of the Native American population by European-transmitted diseases.
2. The effects of recent scientific discoveries on the Europeans’ conception of Native Americans.
3. The Europeans’ promotion of manufactured goods in the Americas.
4. The European introduction of horses and other livestock: sheep, cattle, pigs, and goats, to the Americas.

9. One significant effect of the encounter of Spaniards with Native Americans in Mexico was

1. the decline in global trading networks.
2. the resistance of the Spanish by an Aztec-Incan alliance.
3. the emergence of a racially-mixed population: the Mestizos.
4. the disappearance of the Native Americans’ domesticated dogs.

**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: Bernal Diaz del Castillo, “The True History of the Conquest of New Spain,” 16th century.**

“When we saw all those cities and villages built in the water, and other great towns on dry land, and that straight and level causeway leading to [Tenochtitlán], we were astounded. These great towns and [pyramids] and buildings rising from the water, all made of stone, seemed like an enchanted vision from the tale of Amadis. Indeed, some of our soldiers asked whether it was not all a dream…It was all so wonderful that I do not know how to describe this first glimpse of things never heard of, seen or dreamed of before.”

10. The description by a Spanish conquistador who accompanied Cortes’ expedition to the Aztec Empire best serves as evidence of which of the following?

1. the Spaniards’ belief that Moctezuma was a god
2. the Spaniards’ awe of the Aztecs’ engineering skills
3. the Spaniards’ use of hallucinogenic plants
4. the Spaniards’ sense of white racial superiority

11. The excerpt’s reference to “an enchanted vision from the tale of Amadis” most directly reflects which of the following?

1. the uneducated conquistador’s poor abilities of characterization
2. the world-weary conquistador’s jaded reaction to the new culture
3. the influence of Spanish fictional narratives of fantastic adventures on the conquistador’s view of the new culture
4. the influence of the conquistador’s superstitious nature on his opinion of the new culture

12. One significant effect of the wealth found by Cortes in the Aztec Empire was

1. the ending of the Aztec practice of human sacrifice.
2. the financing of the Spanish exploration of the African continent.
3. the building of a trade network with indigenous peoples on the Pacific islands.
4. the launching of Spanish expeditions in search of fabled cities of gold in North America.

**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: Ronald Reagan, The Air Traffic Controllers Strike, August 1981**

“This morning at 7 a.m. the union representing those who man America’s air traffic control facilities called a strike. This was the culmination of 7 months of negotiations between the Federal Aviation Administration and the [PATCO] union. At one point in these negotiations agreement was reached and signed by both sides, granting a $40 million increase in salaries and benefits. This is twice what other government employees can expect. It was granted in recognition of the difficulties inherent in the work these people perform…Let me make one thing plain. I respect the right of workers in the private sector to strike. Indeed, as president of my own union, I led the first strike ever called by that union. I guess I’m maybe the first one to ever hold this office who is a lifetime member of an AFL-CIO union. But we cannot compare labor-management relations in the private sector with government. Government cannot close down the assembly line. It has to provide without interruption the protective services which are government’s reason for being…It is for this reason that I must tell those who fail to report for duty this morning they are in violation of the law, and if they do not report for work within 48 hours, they have forfeited their jobs and will be terminated.”

13. What was President Reagan’s justification for breaking the Air Traffic Controllers’ strike?

1. It is wrong for workers to strike.
2. It is wrong for those who work for the federal government to strike.
3. Air traffic controllers were already paid very well.
4. Union officials did not respond to requests for negotiations.

14. Historians argue that President Reagan took a substantial political risk with his actions toward the PATCO strikers. What sort of risk was involved?

(A) The general public was very sympathetic to the PATCO union.

(B) If an airline disaster had occurred after the president fired many veteran air controllers, it might have been blamed on the president.

(C) Democrats could use the incident to regain union support.

(D) As a former union leader, Reagan risked appearing especially heartless.

15. Which former president would most likely have agreed with the actions of President Reagan regarding the PATCO strike?

1. Franklin Roosevelt
2. Lyndon B. Johnson
3. Calvin Coolidge
4. Bill Clinton

**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: Paul Craig Roberts, *The Supply-Side Revolution*, 1984**

“The focus on the deficit had left the Republicans without a competitive political program. They were perceived by the recipients of government benefits as the party always threatening to cut back on government programs such as social security, while the taxpaying part of the electorate saw Republicans as the party that was always threatening to raise taxes in order to pay for the benefits that others were receiving. The party that takes away with both hands competes badly with the party that gives away with both hands, and that simple fact explained the decline of the Republican Party, which had come to be known as the tax collector for Democratic spending programs…Supply-side economics brought a new perspective to fiscal policy. Instead of stressing the effects on spending, supply-siders showed that tax rates directly affect the supply of goods and services. Lower tax rates mean better incentives to work, to save, to take risks, and to invest. As people respond to the higher after-tax rewards, or greater profitability, incomes rise and the tax base grows, thus feeding back some of the lost revenues to the Treasury. The saving rate also grows, providing more financing for government and private borrowing. Since Keynesian analysis left out such effects, once supply-side economics appeared on the scene the Democrats could no longer claim that government spending stimulated the economy more effectively than tax cuts. Tax cuts were now competitive, and the House Republicans began to make the most of it…The key to a successful economy is incentives. Any economic policy that forgets this—even one that reduces deficits—will fail…Supply-side economics is the economics of a free society. It will prevail wherever freedom itself prevails.”

16. Which of the following best describes the theory of supply-side economics?

1. stimulating the economy by federal spending on public works
2. stimulating the economy by adopting government wage and price controls
3. stimulating the economy by cutting taxes to foster private investment that might lead to the creation of new jobs
4. stimulating the economy by government ownership of major industries

17. Some economists argue that the nation’s economy began to improve during Reagan’s administration because of

1. the launching of the space shuttle.
2. spending at the Los Angeles Olympics.
3. the increase in union membership.
4. expanded military spending.

18. One direct effect of Reaganomics was

1. the reduction of federal tax credits for the poor.
2. the rapid growth in the federal deficit.
3. the reduction of the incentive to work.
4. the diminishment of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

**DOCUMENT EXCERPT: The North American Free Trade Agreement, Preamble, 1994**

“The Government of Canada, the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America, resolved to:

STRENGTHEN the special bonds of friendship and cooperation among their nations;

CONTRIBUTE to the harmonious development and expansion of world trade and provide a catalyst to broader international cooperation;

CREATE an expanded and secure market for the goods and services produced in their territories;

REDUCE distortions to trade;

ESTABLISH clear and mutually advantageous rules governing their trade;

ENSURE a predictable commercial framework for business planning and investment;

BUILD on their respective rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other multilateral and bilateral instruments of cooperation;

ENHANCE the competitiveness of their firms in global markets;

FOSTER creativity and innovation, and promote trade in goods and services that are the subject of intellectual property rights;

CREATE new employment opportunities and improve working conditions and living standards in their respective territories;

UNDERTAKE each of the preceding in a manner consistent with environmental protection and conservation;

PRESERVE their flexibility to safeguard the public welfare;

PROMOTE sustainable development;

STRENGTHEN the development and enforcement of environmental laws and regulations; and

PROTECT, enhance and enforce basic workers’ rights…”

19. NAFTA, which was implemented January 1, 1994, eliminated tariffs between Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Why might such an agreement be seen as disadvantageous to the United States?

(A) Canadian and Mexican goods would be cheaper for U.S. consumers.

(B) Trade would increase between Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

(C) Regional economies would become more integrated.

(D) Industrial competition between the countries would be increased.

20. Which effect of NAFTA would NOT be viewed as disadvantageous to the United States?

1. Union members might experience job loss.
2. Mexico or Canada might not observe the same environmental regulations as the U.S.
3. U.S. goods might become more inexpensive for U.S. consumers.
4. U.S. workers’ jobs might be filled by lower-wage Mexican workers.

21. Which of the following contributed most directly to the negotiation of NAFTA?

1. the support of key elements of the American labor movement
2. the rise of Japan as a producer of industrial goods
3. the goal to offset the economic clout of the European bloc
4. the opening of North Korea to international business

SAQ

The development of European exploration in the New World was an event that did not occur quickly.

a. Choose ONE of the following and explain why your choice represents the event that hindered European exploration in the New World.

* The Black Death
* The Hundred Years War
* The Fall of Constantinople

b. Contrast your choice against ONE of the other options, demonstrating why that option in not as significant as your choice.