Old Worlds, New Worlds: European Cultural Encounters c. 1000 - c. 1750

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Abstract:
Pre-modern European history is replete with moments of encounter. At the end of arduous sea and land journeys, and en route, Europeans met people who challenged their assumptions and certainties about the world. Some sought riches, others allies; some looked for Christian converts and some aimed for conquest. Others experienced the forced cultural encounter of exile. Many travelled only in imagination, forming ideas which have become foundational to modern mentalities: race, ethnicity, nation, and the nature of humanity. The consequences were profound: both productive and destructive. At the beginning of the third millennium CE we occupy a world shaped by those centuries of travel and encounter. This collection examines key themes and moments in European cultural expansion. Unlike many studies it spans both the medieval and early modern periods, challenging the stereotype of the post-Columbus 'age of discovery'. There is room too for examining cross-cultural relationships within Europe and regions closely linked to it, to show that curiosity, conflict and transformation could result from such meetings as they did in more far-flung realms. Several essays deal with authors, events, and ideas which will be unfamiliar to most readers but which deserve greater attention in the history of encounter and exploration.

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Indo-Aryan Migration and the Vedic Period. Describe the defining characteristics of the Vedic Period and the cultural consequences of the Indo-Aryan Migration. Key Takeaways.Key Points. The Vedic Period (c. 1750-500 BCE) is named for the Vedas, the oldest scriptures in Hinduism, which were composed during this period. The period can be divided into the Early Vedic (1750-1000 BCE) and Later Vedic (1000-500 BCE) periods. Key Terms. Ganges Plain: A large, fertile plain encompassing most of northern and eastern India, where the Indo-Aryans migrated. Rig-Veda: A sacred Indo-Aryan collection of Vedic Sanskrit hymns. The cultural encounters between the Old and New Worlds are among the most infamous in human history. The Caribbean was the centre stage of the first encounters, the repercussions of which are woven into the fabric of modern multi-ethnic Caribbean society. Yet, our understanding of this important chapter in history is sorely inadequate, because, despite the significant role of the Amerindians in this process, there are large gaps in our understanding of indigenous responses to European colonisation. HI203 European World 1500-1750 Communities Stephen Batess. m.j.bates@warwick.ac.uk Aims of today Consider the way early modern society was structured Examine the importance of status Identify bonds and tensions affecting social relations A differentiated and evolving society built on inequality and collective identities Social Structure clergy nobility commoners A society of estates The third estate carrying the clergy and nobility on its back (French print Aravitsky, Grand Duke Paul Petrovitch in his army uniform (1778) Sir William Ross, Scottish gentleman and architect (d. 1710) Commoners: Peasants Albrecht Drer, Peasants (c. 1512) Hans Holbein the Younger, Portrait of the Merchant Georg Gisze (1532)