CHAPTER LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the variety of empires of the early modern period
- To emphasize that empire building was not just a Western European phenomenon
- To explore the range of colonial societies that evolved and the reasons for differences between them
- To emphasize the massive social reordering that attended European colonization in the Western Hemisphere

Big Picture Questions

1. In comparing the European empires in the Americas with the Russian, Chinese, Mughal, and Ottoman empires, should world historians emphasize the similarities or the differences? What are the implications of each approach?
2. In what different ways was European colonial rule expressed and experienced in the Americas?
3. Why did the European empires in the Americas have such an enormously greater impact on the conquered people than did the Chinese, Mughal, and Ottoman empires?
4. In what ways did the empires of the early modern era continue patterns of earlier empires? In what ways did they depart from those patterns?

Margin Review Questions

Q1. What enabled Europeans to carve out huge empires an ocean away from their homelands?
Q2. What large-scale transformations did European empires generate?
Q3. What was the economic foundation of colonial rule in Mexico and Peru? How did it shape the kinds of societies that arose there?
Q4. How did the plantation societies of Brazil and the Caribbean differ from those of southern colonies in British North America?
Q5. What distinguished the British settler colonies of North America from their counterparts in Latin America?
Q6. What motivated Russian empire building?
Q7. How did the Russian Empire transform the life of its conquered people and of the Russian homeland itself?
Q8. What were the major features of Chinese empire building in the early modern era?
Q9. How did Mughal attitudes and policies toward Hindus change from the time of Akbar to that of Aurangzeb?