

Systems Under Pressure

Trace how Atlantic encounters disrupted established societies.

9.10d "European colonization in the Americas and trade interactions with Africa led to instability, decline, and near destruction of once-stable political and cultural systems."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a cause of disruption in each paragraph. Circle one effect of each cause.

Atlantic Encounters and Change

- ① The Aztec Empire collected tribute from conquered communities and governed from Tenochtitlan. In 1519, Hernán Cortés entered central Mexico with a small Spanish force. Indigenous allies, including enemies of the Aztec Empire, supplied crucial military support. Smallpox killed many residents and leaders. Disease, warfare, and alliances helped Spanish forces and their allies capture Tenochtitlan in 1521, destroying the empire's political center. Indigenous peoples nevertheless preserved and adapted many cultural traditions.
- ② Francisco Pizarro captured the Inca ruler Atahualpa in 1532 after a civil war over succession. Epidemics had also weakened the empire. Spanish conquest and colonial government gradually displaced Inca authority, though resistance continued. Colonial officials adapted the earlier mita labor draft to compel Indigenous workers to mine silver at Potosí. Dangerous labor disrupted communities. Missionaries promoted Christianity and suppressed Indigenous worship, but Andean peoples preserved and adapted languages, beliefs, and customs.
- ③ Across the Atlantic, European demand for enslaved plantation labor reshaped trade with Africa. Some African rulers and traders supplied captives to European buyers. In later centuries, states including Dahomey and Asante gained wealth and access to firearms through slave trading as well as other commerce. Raids and wars to obtain captives harmed neighboring communities. Over time, millions of people were taken from Africa; families were separated and insecurity grew. Some states strengthened their power while other communities suffered disruption. African responses and outcomes varied.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did smallpox and Indigenous alliances help bring down the Aztec political center?

2 What two changes did colonial rule bring to Inca political and cultural life?

3 How did the slave trade create instability in African communities? Give two effects from the passage.

4 Compare one political change in the Americas with one in Africa.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In four or five sentences, explain how one interaction destabilized a society. Identify the cause, two effects, and why one effect undermined stability.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a cause of disruption in each paragraph. Circle one effect of each cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did smallpox and Indigenous alliances help bring down the Aztec political center?	Smallpox killed many people, including leaders, and Indigenous allies helped the Spaniards capture Tenochtitlan in 1521.
2	What two changes did colonial rule bring to Inca political and cultural life?	Spanish colonial government displaced Inca authority. Missionaries promoted Christianity and suppressed Indigenous worship, although people preserved and adapted traditions.
3	How did the slave trade create instability in African communities? Give two effects from the passage.	It encouraged raids and wars to obtain captives. Communities lost people, families were separated, and insecurity grew.
4	Compare one political change in the Americas with one in Africa.	Spanish conquest displaced Aztec or Inca rule. In Africa, some slave-trading states strengthened their power while raids and wars disrupted other communities.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

European demand for enslaved plantation labor encouraged some rulers and traders to supply captives. Raids and wars harmed neighboring communities. Families were separated and people were taken from Africa. These losses made communities less secure, even as some slave-trading states grew stronger.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that use accurate details from the passage. For the open response, look for one named interaction, two accurate effects, and a clear explanation of instability.