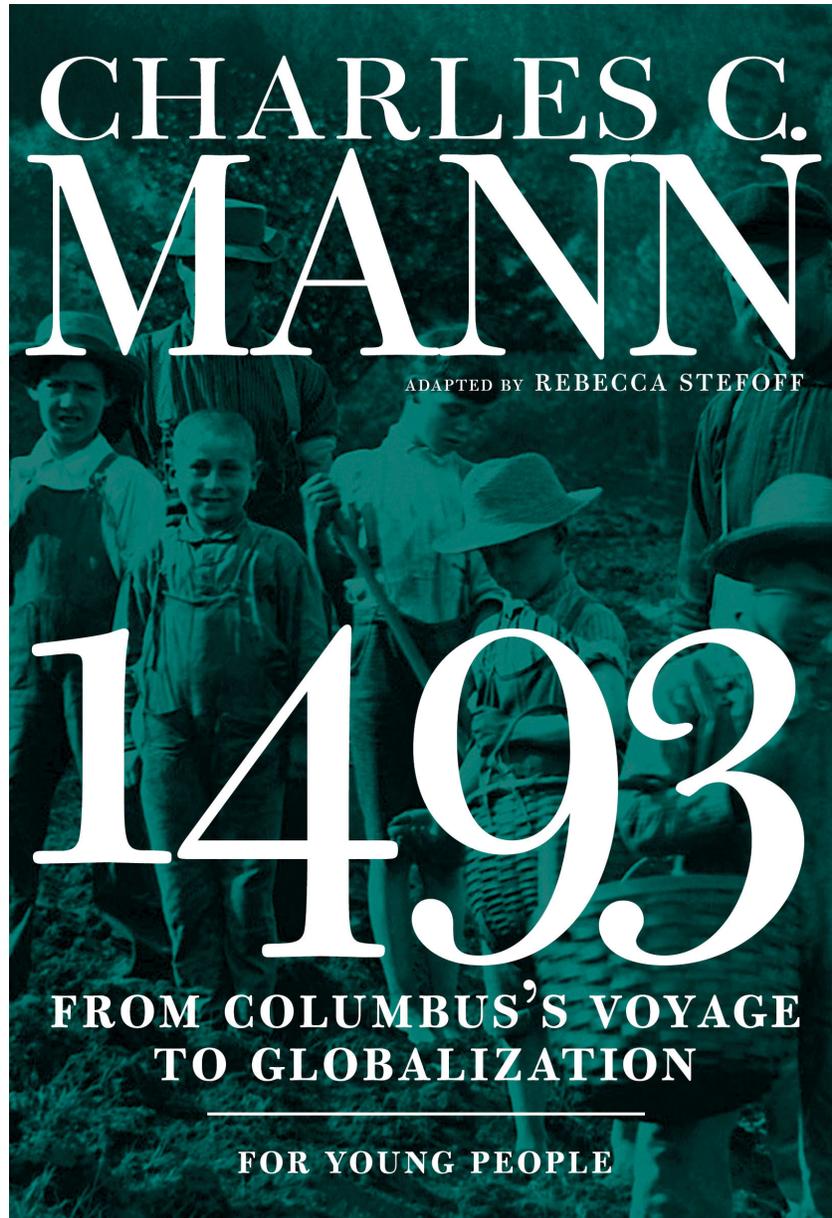


*Study Guide*

**1493**

**FROM COLUMBUS'S VOYAGE TO GLOBALIZATION**

**CHARLES C. MANN**



*The general age range for this book is 11–18 or 6th grade–12th grade. Teachers may want to support some students in earlier grades with the reading, and reading should be independent by 10th–12th grade. This is a high interest book and would do well in a social studies classroom.*

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## PART ONE

# One World

1. Why did Alfred Crosby, who wrote the book *Ecological Imperialism*, argue that Europe's most important advantage was biological?
2. People of European descent who inhabit places such as Australia, the Americas and Southern Africa are considered successful transplants. Explain why and how this happened.
3. Cite evidence for two new fields of study: environmental history and Atlantic studies. Make a prediction of how these studies will evolve based on evidence from the text.
4. Draw a picture of Pangaea and illustrate what happened over time and include the ecological domains.
5. "Of all the people who have ever walked the earth, Columbus is the only one who began a new era in the history of life." Do you agree with this statement? Are there any historical figures or present day people that you feel have also created a new era?
6. People's perceptions of Columbus have changed in recent times. How and why has this happened? Do you believe Columbus's actions and intentions were good, evil, or somewhere in between?
7. Mann gives evidence that Columbus began the era of globalization. Describe how Columbus was instrumental in beginning this important era.
8. The destruction of the Taino people was devastating. What advantages had they brought to the table? How were they killed off?
9. What killed Columbus? Did what he started eventually lead to his demise? Explain.
10. How are the statues in Manila representative of an official recognition of the origins of globalization?
11. Why was there so much war in 1642?
12. The crisis of the seventeenth century was due to a factor called the Little Ice Age. How is this factor the opposite of what is occurring now? Which era will be more detrimental to the planet?
13. Mann says, "We are not surprised to find Japanese loggers in Brazil, Chinese engineers in West Africa, or Europeans backpacking in Nepal or dining in New York." Why did he choose these examples to illustrate his main point?

## PART TWO

# Atlantic Journeys

1. What role did malaria play in the creation of the United States?
2. How did the common night crawler and the red marsh worm dramatically change the North American forest ecosystem?
3. What did the English merchants behind Jamestown get horribly wrong?
4. Why did the monarchy of England agree to let the Virginia Company run Jamestown?
5. What was the misunderstanding that the English had about the Powhatan Indians?
6. Look at the graph on page 67 of your text. What happened to the population and why?
7. Why did the Powhatan trade with Jamestown? Why didn't they see them as a threat?
8. Describe the importance of tobacco in the colonies. Tobacco had and has highly addictive properties. How did this play out in the 1600's? How does this play out in today's societies?
9. Malaria – past and present. Why were there two different strands of malaria endemic (prevalent in a particular area or environment) to the American colonies? What were the effects of each?
10. Draw a diagram on how malaria works. Look at the map on page 96. Where was there malaria? How do the birth sites of Jamestown colonists factor into the widespread malaria in the colonies?
11. Compare and contrast the attributes of an indentured servant and a slave.
12. Africans during the initial part of the slavery movement were considered genetically superior. How did this work for and against them?
13. How has disease shaped colonized regions? How did malaria and yellow fever come to prosper in the new world?

## PART THREE

# Pacific Journeys

1. What two foods affected China adversely and how?
2. Why did the Chinese empire stop long range exploration and what is this like today? Why did they open up trade again? Has any other country stopped long range exploration?
3. What is the difference between fiat money and commodity money?
4. What did merchants carry to counter the money problem? What would they do to make sure money was the correct amount?
5. What is the story of how silver was found in Bolivia? Do you think this story is true?
6. How extravagant were the Potosi? How did they move their silver?
7. Compare the role of the peso with the euro of today.
8. Although Spain and the colony in Mexico had its own cloth producing industry, why did the Chinese silk industry pose such a threat?
9. There are two stories about what happened in Manila in the seventeenth century. What is the Spanish version and what is the Chinese version?
10. How did the conflict between trade as commerce and trade as a political tool of the state present itself?
11. What was “lovesick grass” and why did it have this name? Is there a modern version of “lovesick grass”?
12. What crops were introduced in China as part of the Colombian Exchange and how has it affected crops in China today?
13. What did pengmin or “shack people” who were displaced from the coastal region to the mountains grow in their fields?
14. What ended trade with Spain and who were the only people to carry on the trade?
15. Compare and contrast your thoughts about how pirates are portrayed in the book and how pirates are portrayed in your mind.
16. What were the reasons for the population boom in China at the end of the eighteenth century?
17. How did the Huang He and silt production contribute to environmental issues and deforestation?

**PART FOUR**  
**Europe In The World**

1. Why was the introduction of the potato to Europe a key moment in history?
2. How was chuño like and unlike the potato and how was it important as a food?
3. Why was Parmentier considered to be a potato activist? How far-reaching was his influence?
4. Draw on a map the area where the potato was popular in the 1600's-1800's.
5. What is guano, and how did it help farmers?
6. What was The Great Hunger? What factors led to The Great Hunger?
7. Name the insect plagues of the late nineteenth century.
8. The pesticide industry is controversial. What are arguments for and against pesticides? Why is DDT known as the "toxic treadmill"?
9. Why is the rubber plant so important and what ultimately happened to this commodity?
10. What is bio-piracy? How has this affected the world as we know it?

**PART FIVE**  
**Africa In The World**

1. What did the slavery movement do for America?
2. How did the addition of sugarcane shape the slave movement?
3. What is the meaning of a hybrid society? Why did Spaniards and Indians marry?
4. The costa system is like what other system in the world?
5. Garrido found what, and how did this change the Spanish environment?
6. Look at page 355 in the book. Why did Mann choose to include this photograph? What does it tell you about the Columbian Exchange?
7. What was the maroon problem? Who are the maroons?
8. How much are we shaped by the environment and how much does the environment shape us?
9. Is this story an optimistic tale of resilience, or a cautionary tale of what is to come?
10. What did you think about the book? Out of a scale of ten, one being the lowest score, ten being the highest, how would you rank this book and why?

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**Charles C. Mann**

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[www.sevenstories.com](http://www.sevenstories.com)

[academic@sevenstories.com](mailto:academic@sevenstories.com)