

## **Ch. 14B – Recap: Silver and Global Commerce**

Directions: In your notebook, copy down the following question and brainstorm answers based off of your notes.

- ✓ What was the significance of the silver trade in the early modern era of world history on the following:
  - **Exchange between America and Asia:**
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  - **Spanish Economy and Empire:**
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  - **Japanese Economy and Empire:**
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  - **Chinese Economy:**
    -
  - **Europe's Role in long distance trade:**
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  - **Labor Systems**
    -
  
- ✓ Add to this list after watching Crash Course World History Episode #25, *The Spanish Empire, Silver, & Runaway Inflation*, <https://youtu.be/rjhlzemLdos>

### **TEACHER NOTES**

- ✓ What was the significance of the silver trade in the early modern era of world history on the following:
  - **Exchange between America and Asia:**
    - The silver trade was the first direct and sustained link between the Americas and Asia, and it initiated a web of Pacific commerce that grew steadily over the centuries.
  - **Spanish Economy and Empire:**
    - The silver trade has both a positive and negative impact on the Spanish. On one hand it brought approximately 80% of the world's silver supply under Spanish control which funded further exploration and imperial growth. Yet on the other hand, the influx of silver into the Spanish economy coupled with little to no regulation or control over the economy by the Spanish crown, led to a rampant inflation that would weaken and cripple the Spanish economy by the end of the period.
  - **Japanese Economy and Empire:**
    - The silver trade allowed the Tokugawa military to defeat opposition and unify the Japanese empire. From an economic standpoint the Japanese enforced regulations that minimized negative environmental effects, reduced population growth, and funneled profits to invest in agricultural and industrial development. As a result the Japanese empire and economy were in a stable position and trending upward at the end of the time period.
  - **Chinese Economy:**
    - The Chinese maintained their central role in the changing global economy as it was the leading producer of goods sold during this time. As a result Chinese commercial interests deepened with the influx of silver driving up the price of Chinese goods. The Chinese Ming government worked to keep as much of that silver within Chinese borders through changes in taxation, but over time the Chinese suffered some inflation as a result of these changes and thus shifted to a more open market based economy under the Qing dynasty.
  - **Europe's Role in long distance trade:**
    - Prior to the introduction of silver Europe played a peripheral role in the emerging global economy, but the abundance of silver as a commodity drove long-distance trade and offered Europeans a product that they could produce in high demand around the world. Both the British and Dutch emerged as two of the leading merchant powers, playing middle men to Spanish/Japanese silver and the consumer goods of south and east Asia.
  - **Labor Systems**
    - The increasing global demand for silver greatly increased the need for labor to mine and extract silver from the land. As a result of Spanish imperial efforts in the Americas, Native populations were used as slaves and due to the extremely dangerous working conditions saw a precipitous drop in population and suffered the loss of culture in the New World.