

# Global Regents DBQ Essay

**Directions:** Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least four* documents in your essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

**Historical Context:**

Turning points are events that result in regional and worldwide change. Two turning points that transformed societies and regions were the **outbreak of the bubonic plague** and the **Age of Exploration**.

**Task:**

Using the information from the documents and your knowledge of global history, write an essay in which you

Select the *two* turning points mentioned in the historical context and for *each*

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding this turning point
- Discuss changes that occurred within a society and/or region as a result of this turning point

**Guidelines:**

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least four* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

**DBQ Essay Rubric**

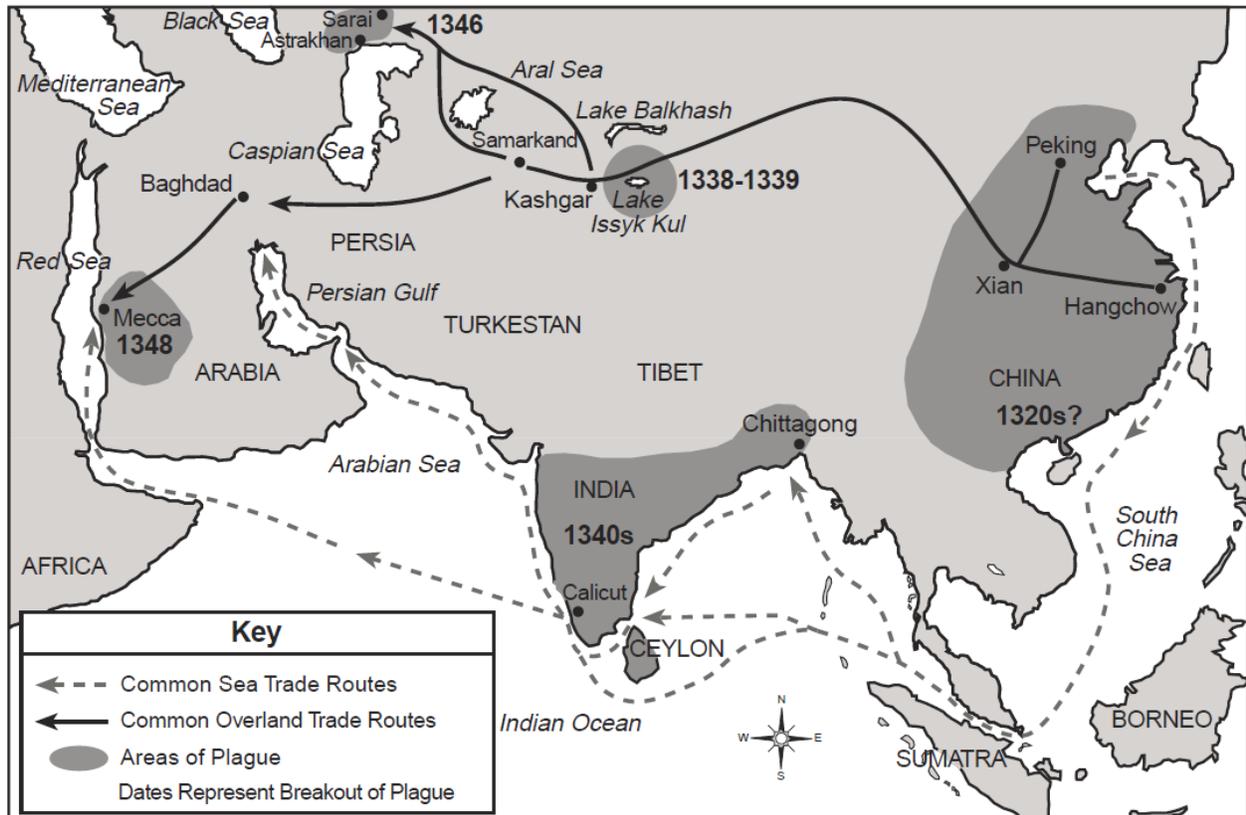
CATEGORY	5 - Excellent	4 - Very Good	3 - Solid	2 - Needs Work	1 - Poor
<b>Introduction and Conclusion</b>	Includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme	Includes an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme	Includes an introduction and a conclusion that may be a restatement of the theme	May lack an introduction and/or a conclusion	May lack an introduction and/or a conclusion
<b>Developing the Task (the "bullet points" in the task box)</b>	Thoroughly develops all aspects of the task evenly and in depth	Develops all aspects of the task but may do so somewhat unevenly	Develops all aspects of the task with little depth or develops most aspects of the task in some depth	Minimally develops all aspects of the task or develops some aspects of the task in some depth	Minimally develops some aspects of the task
<b>Use of Documents</b>	Incorporates relevant information from at least four documents	Incorporates relevant information from at least four documents	Incorporates some relevant information from some of the documents	Incorporates limited relevant information from the documents or consists primarily of relevant information copied from the documents	Makes vague, unclear references to the documents or consists primarily of relevant and irrelevant information copied from the documents
<b>Outside Information</b>	Incorporates substantial relevant outside information	Incorporates relevant outside information	Incorporates limited relevant outside information	Presents little or no relevant outside information	Presents no relevant outside information
<b>Details and Support</b>	Richly supports the theme with many relevant facts, examples, and details	Supports the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes some relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes few relevant facts, examples, and details	Includes few relevant facts, examples, or details
<b>Description and Analysis</b>	Is more analytical than descriptive (analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)	Is both descriptive and analytical (applies, analyzes, evaluates, and/or creates information)	Is more descriptive than analytical (applies, may analyze, and/or evaluate information)	Is primarily descriptive; may include faulty, weak, or isolated application or analysis	Is descriptive; may lack understanding, application, or analysis

**Feedback:**

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 30 =

## Document 1

### Origins and Spread of the Black Death in Asia



Source: Melissa Snell, "Origins and Spread of the Black Death in Asia," *Medieval History*, About.com (adapted)

1. Based on the information on this map, what activity contributed to the spread of the Black Death?

## Document 2

In this excerpt, William H. McNeill discusses the interpretation of historical evidence to explain how the plague was spread. He suggests that available evidence makes it unlikely that the plague was found in China before 1331.

...By contrast, after 1331, and more particularly after 1353, China entered upon a disastrous period of its history. Plague coincided with civil war as a native Chinese reaction against the Mongol domination gathered headway, climaxing in the overthrow of the alien rulers and the establishment of a new Ming Dynasty in 1368. The combination of war and pestilence [disease] wreaked havoc on China's population. The best estimates show a decrease from 123 million [in] about 1200 (before the Mongol invasions began) to a mere 65 million in 1393, a generation after the final expulsion of the Mongols from China. Even Mongol ferocity cannot account for such a drastic decrease. Disease assuredly played a big part in cutting Chinese numbers in half; and bubonic plague, recurring after its initial ravages at relatively frequent intervals, just as in Europe, is by all odds the most likely candidate for such a role....

Source: William H. McNeill, *Plagues and Peoples*, Quality Paperback Book Club (adapted)

2. According to William H. McNeill, what was *one* way the plague affected China after 1331?

### Document 3

#### Social and Economic Effects of the Plague in Europe

The plague had large scale social and economic effects, many of which are recorded in the introduction of the *Decameron*. People abandoned their friends and family, fled cities, and shut themselves off from the world. Funeral rites became perfunctory [superficial] or stopped altogether, and work ceased being done. Some felt that the wrath of God was descending upon man, and so fought the plague with prayer. Some felt that they should obey the maxim [saying], “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die.” The society experienced an upheaval to an extent usually only seen in controlled circumstances such as carnival [festival]. Faith in religion decreased after the plague, both because of the death of so many of the clergy and because of the failure of prayer to prevent sickness and death...

Source: “Plague,” *Decameron Web*, Brown University (adapted)

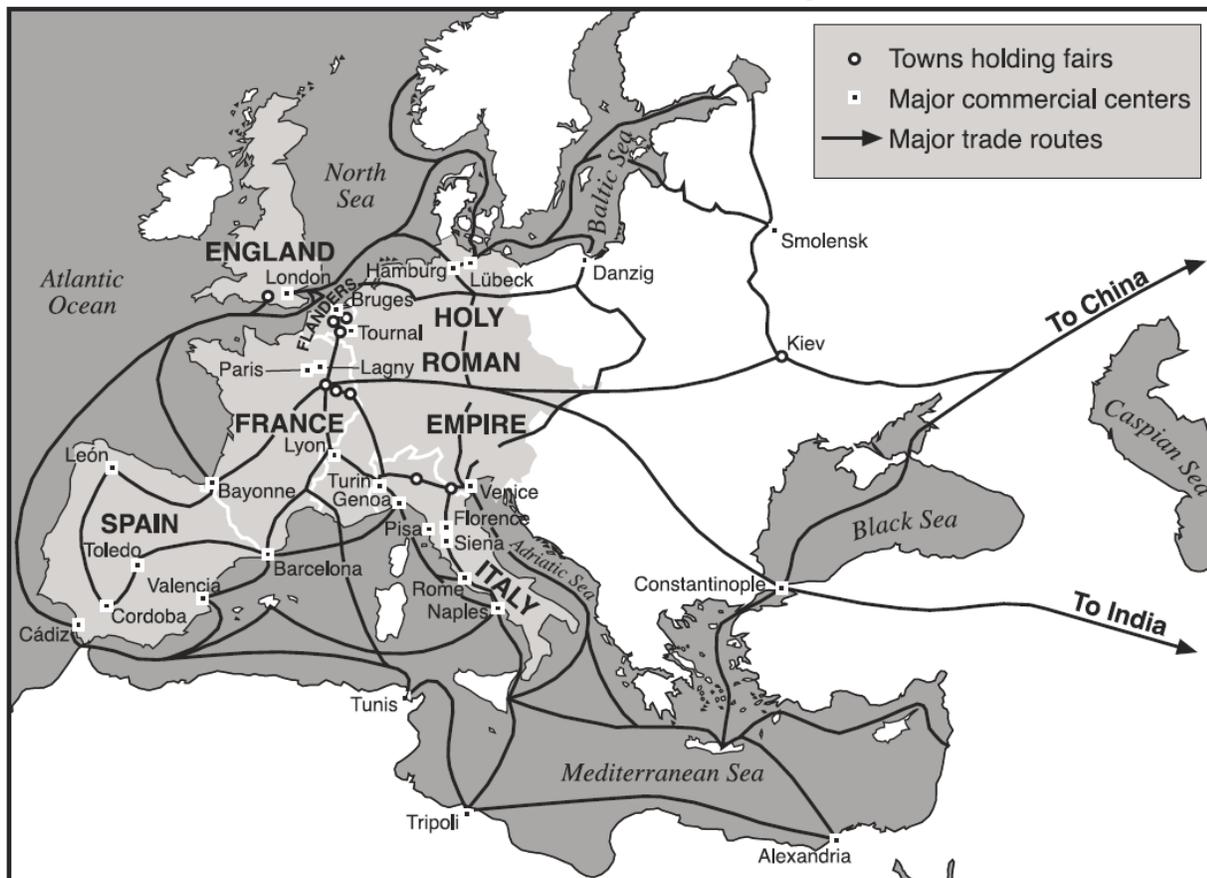
3. According to this article, what was *one* effect of the plague on European society?

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### Document 4a

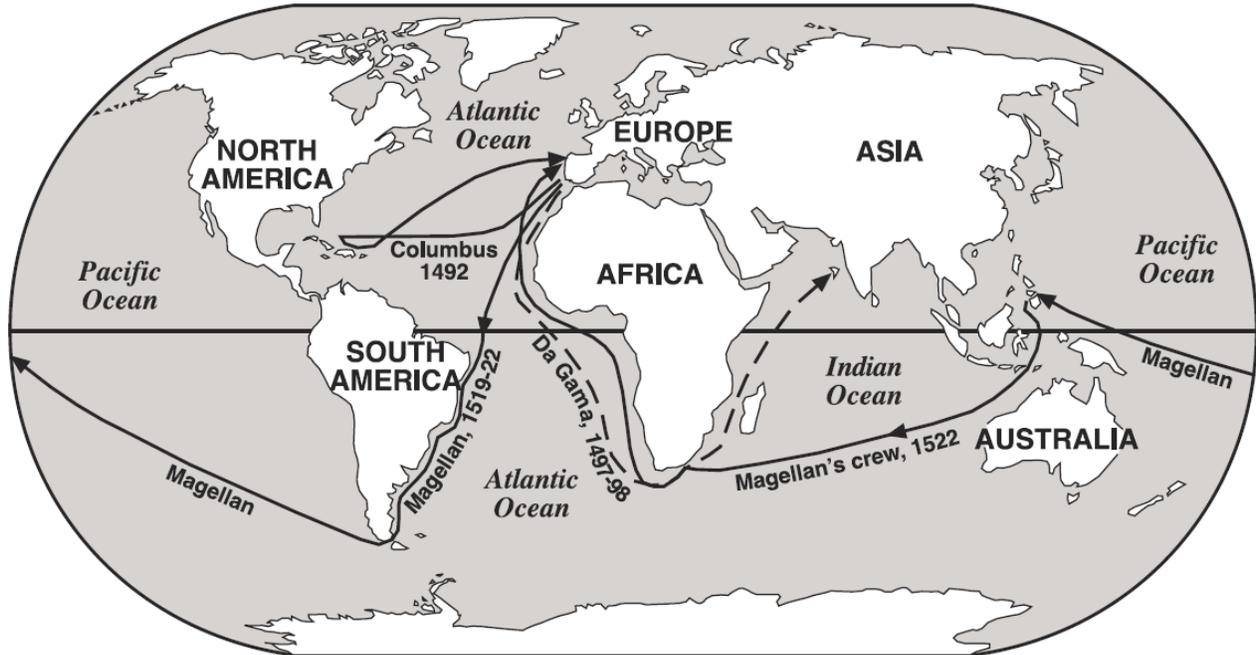
#### Trade in Medieval Europe



Source: Elisabeth G. Ellis et al., *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice-Hall (adapted)

Document 4b

### Voyages of Early European Explorers (1492–1522)



Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)

4. According to these maps, how did the early voyages of discovery change European trade routes?

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Document 5

The conquest of the New World, beginning in 1492, set in motion complex processes of cultural diffusion and population mixture. The seizure and control of the Americas became so important to Europe economically and politically that it had the long-term consequence of altering European interests worldwide. Before 1492, Europe's center was the Mediterranean. After 1492, Europe's orientation shifted radically; it became centered at first around the Atlantic, and much later around the Pacific Ocean.

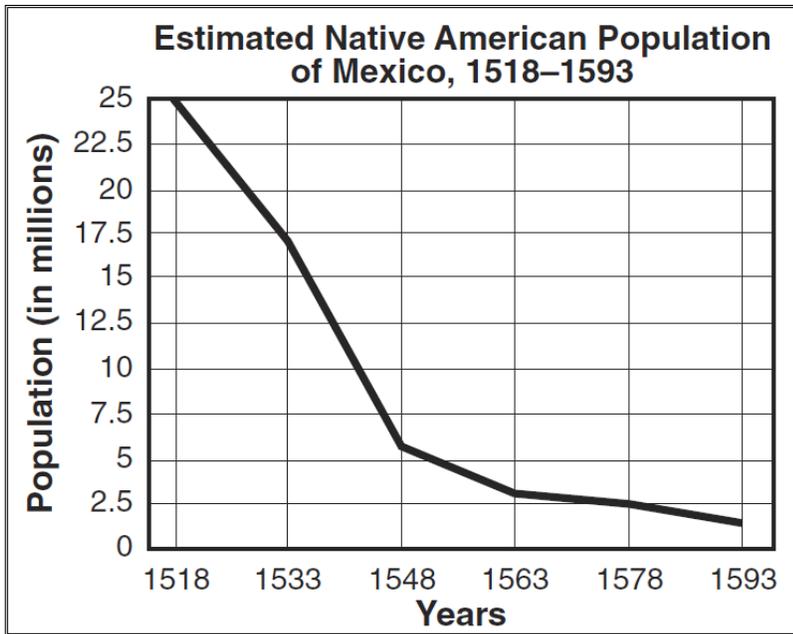
— Sidney W. Mintz, anthropologist

5. Based on this document, state *one* way Europe's focus on the world changed after 1492.

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Document 6a



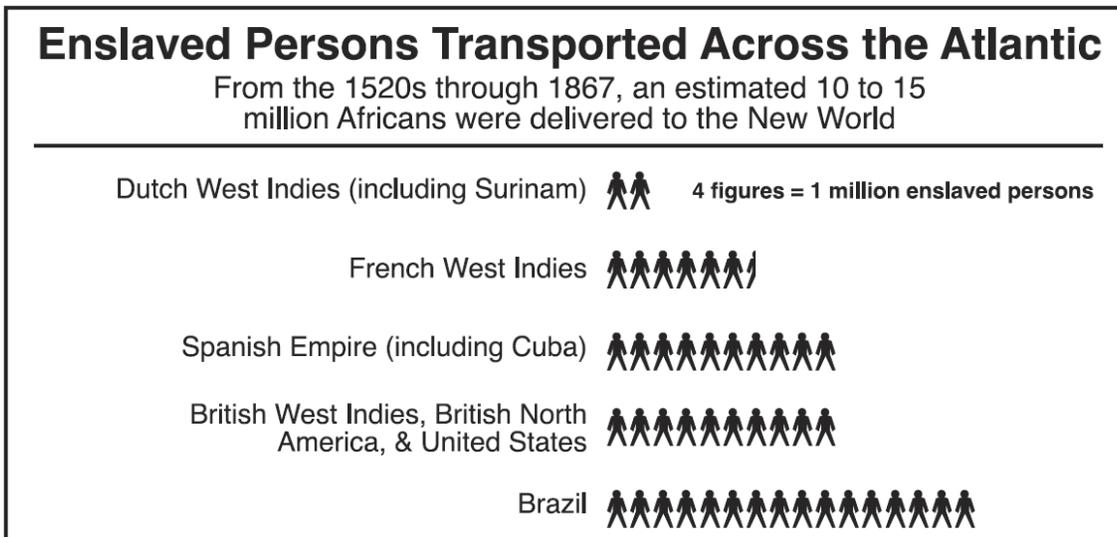
Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)

6a. Based on this document, identify **one** population change that took place in Mexico during the Age of Exploration.

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Document 6b



Source: Sue Ann Kime and Paul Stich, *Global History*, N & N Publishing (adapted)

6b. Based on this document, identify **one** population change in the Americas that began during the Age of Exploration.

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