

Milestone Two - Rough Draft.docx

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Rough Draft

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The development of nation states in the west starting from the 1500 to the present was influenced by Spain's involvement in the transoceanic trade, the French westward expansion and varying government structures. Countries such as Spain, France, and Britain had emerged to be strong monarchical powers. Additionally, these nations were dependent on commerce for them to remain economically stable so they had to explore and find new territories where they could get extra resources such as minerals. As a result, nation states sprouted whenever they set foot in lucrative areas¹.

Christopher Columbus instigated Spain's desire to bring civilization to the west. His voyages resulted in the discovery of new lands, most of which Spain wanted to explore with the aim of extracting resources and improving commerce. It is apparent that Spain was more advanced in terms of civilization and as a result, they had been able to explore the world. Additionally, there was increased worry about population growth in Europe; therefore, they had to seek alternative places to settle.

When the Spanish first made entry in the west, they encountered an uncivilized population. They named the people "savages" whereby it implied that they were not exposed to the European customs². As a result, the Spanish felt as if they were superior, therefore, they were compelled to establish their rule. Nonetheless, they decided that they were not to treat the local people as slaves but they were to teach them European ways. As Spain was setting up base so that it could facilitate trade, more and more people were becoming civilized. Therefore, nation states began to sprout, as there was increased demand for financial centers.

¹ Braudel, Fernand. *A history of civilizations*. New York: Penguin Books, 1995.

² Spielvogel, Jackson J. *Western civilization*. Cengage Learning, 2014.


Additionally, there was an upsurge in technology and as a result, transoceanic connections were established. People could travel from Europe to the west due to the thriving business; therefore, nation states began to develop. Furthermore, Spain was a country that was deeply entrenched in religion whereby catholic was the primary denomination³. Therefore, the missionaries wanted to spread the religion to other parts of the world including the west. In their quest to improve civilization, nation states mushroomed in the Americas.

The arrival of the French had a profound impact on the continent before permanent settlers came. As a result, the French and English colonies displaced Indian- American tribes. The only alternative they had was to move west so that they could start their lives. In addition, the more they moved west the deeper they engaged in farming. It became apparent that most of the settlers in the west would become farmers. As time passed by doctors, lawyers, mechanics, storekeepers, Politicians and lawyers joined them. This affirms that a civilized society was beginning to establish its



When more people flocked west, population growth was witnessed whereby it led to the mushrooming of nation states. Additionally, acquisition of government land was cheaper thus prompting many people to settle in the west. Furthermore, the state could avail farming tools to the people and as a result, farming improved⁴. However, the expansion could not go beyond Mississippi since it was French territory. In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson realized that

³ De Hamel, Christopher. *A history of illuminated manuscripts*. London: Phaidon Press, 1994.


⁴ Perry, Marvin, Myra Chase, James Jacob, Margaret Jacob, and Theodore H. Von Laue. *Western Civilization: Ideas, Politics, and Society, Volume II: From 1600*. Cengage Learning, 2012.

France was undergoing tough economic situations due to its ongoing war with Britain. As a result, he decided to take advantage and purchase Louisiana from the French. This propelled the President to go ahead and purchase New Orleans states from Emperor Napoleon Bonapart  4


After purchase of the territories, the President ordered an expedition to find out how resourceful the region was. During their expedition, they encountered local indigenous people many of whom established diplomatic ties with them⁵. Furthermore, trade routes were established thus giving a chance to the development of other nation-states.

It is apparent that different government structures played a pivotal role in the development of nation states. For instance, Spain and Britain had a monarchial system of government while an emper  5 d France. These European countries competed in all aspects including trade. As a result, they wanted to expand their territories so that they could gain more economic muscle. A country like Spain was strict follower of the catholic faith, therefore, when they set foot in the west they wanted to exploit resources and spread the catholic faith. However, exploration voyages were given consent by the king whereby he established that when any new territory would be found, it would belong to that country.  6

When missionaries from Spain and Britain entered the west, their purpose was to bring civilization. In the line of duty, the supreme authority from their governments guided them. For instance, Spanish missionaries championed for their leadership back home⁶. As a result,



⁵ Kishlansky, Mark A., Patrick J. Geary, and Patricia O'Brien. *Civilization in the West*. Pearson Longman, 2008.

 ⁶ Nyhart, Lynn K., and Thomas Hoyt Broman, eds. *Science and civil society*. Vol. 17. University of Chicago Press, 2002.

resources from the mother nations were channeled to the west whereby nation states began to develop.

To conclude, it is apparent that western civilization was influenced by many factors especially in the development of nation states. Spain was a country that had huge financial muscle and its involvement in the transoceanic trade boosted the development of states⁷. Additionally, the French westward expansion was another thriving force in the sprouting of nation states. Lastly, varying government structures influenced the mushrooming of nation states.

⁷ Perry, Marvin. *Western civilization, a brief history*. Cengage Learning, 2015.

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GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

PAGE 1

PAGE 2



Comment 1

very loaded term that is not accurate--consider modifying it, I think you mean they encountered a population the Spanish labelled "uncivilized"

PAGE 3



Comment 2

this is really about imperialism, not "improvement"--don't buy into the European myth of conquest



Comment 3

this is a very problematic interpretation of what happened to Native American tribes (decimation and exploitation not "civilization"). Need to refocus your argument on how France and Spain became nation-states themselves

PAGE 4



Comment 4

need to reduce/cut this section to focus on France/Spain.



Comment 5

what time period are you discussing? need to be more specific about who/what you are talking about



Comment 6

do you mean Napoleon? Because France had a king before 1789 (birth of French nation-state)

