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The Spanish, specifically Queen Isabella, sent Christopher Columbus to discover a new route to Asia, in order to compete with the rising power of the Portuguese. This one decision however, began the race for world colonization and would eventually lead to the death of millions of Native Americans from war, famine, displacement, and disease. The first recorded contact between Native Americans and European powers occurred in 1492 CE when Christopher Columbus arrived in what would later be referred to as "the New World". Contrary to this name however, this new stretch of land was quite old and had been inhabited for thousands of years prior to Columbus' arrival, because of the use of oral traditions by many Native Americans there is little that is known of them prior to the invasion of Europeans in the early 16th century.

In fact, a lot of what is written about Native Americans was not written by the people themselves until quite recently. Instead, a large number of the documents were written by European colonizers as a way to 'justify the slaughter and mistreatment of the native population' (Clare 2). The first native tribe to have contact with European powers was the Lucayan who were described by Columbus as "healthy, generous, and hospitable people, who wore gold jewelry around their necks, hanging off their ears and even adorning their brow" (Zinn 57). When the ship that Columbus was sailing on - the Santa Maria - was shipwrecked, the Lucayan Natives worked for hours to rescue the ship, and save the crew and cargo.

Columbus took twenty-five Lucayan Natives with him on his return voyage to Spain in order to show the king and queen both the wealth and the free labor that was available in the New World. Of the twenty-five Lucayan Natives

that Columbus took, only seven survived to Spain, and none were recorded as having returned to their homeland. Upon returning to Spain, Columbus sold the queen on the idea of a new world saturated in wealth and prosperity beyond her wildest dreams. In return for his services she gave him seventeen ships, 1,500 men, and an arsenal of swords, crossbows, and cannons.

Upon Columbus's arrival back in the "New World" he called the Lucayan elders to his ship and demanded the people give his men not only food and gold but their women as young as eight. When they refused they were sent back to their villages with their ears and noses cut off as a warning to the others. When the natives eventually rebelled Columbus used the opportunity as an excuse to go to war and take their resources with force.

Eyewitness accounts describe the fallen Lucayan warriors being fed to hunting dogs while still alive, screaming and wailing in agony as they died (Zinn 76). Despite having quelled the rebellion, Columbus rounded up 500 Lucayan natives, chained them below the decks of his ships, and sent them to Spain to be sold as slaves. Of the five hundred sent, only three hundred survived the voyage. Another 500 natives were enslaved and kept in the New World to mine for gold (Zinn 81). The remaining Lucayans fled into the mountains to escape enslavement and with that the Lucayan people were no more. Columbus's final departure from America in 1504 left a power vacuum through which the British rushed to steal land and colonies from the Spanish (Morison 653-654). Thus, began Britain's control over the New World, especially the East Coast. The first official British colony was Jamestown in Virginia.

Jamestown was established on May 14, 1607 by a group of roughly 100 members. However, a lot of the settlers had no knowledge of farming since a large majority came from cities. They were also cursed with a long and colder than usual year their first year. This led to famine which along with the resulting diseases from the dead bodies and wars with the local native tribes decimated the number of inhabitants of Jamestown from 100 down to around 60. The third year however saw a forced alliance between the Algonquian chief and the residents of Jamestown. Thus through its consequential growth Jamestown became the first of the large British colonies.

The colonization of Korea began with the end of the Korean Empire in 1910 and officially ended at the conclusion of World War II in 1945. There were three treaties that progressively brought Korea under Japan's rule. The first of these treaties was the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1876. The treaty also known as the Treaty of Ganghwa Island in Korea was signed by representatives between the Empire of Japan and the Kingdom of Joseon on February 26, 1876. There were a few things that led up to the creation of the treaty. One of these events was the Ascendancy of Daewongun.

When King Cheoljong died in January of 1864 without an heir, 12 year old Gojong was pronounced king and his father, Yi Ha-ryong became the Daewongun or lord of the court. As Daewongun, Yi initiated many reforms that strengthened the monarchy. This strength however, came at the expense of the Yangban class.

The strong dictatorship of Heungseon Daewongun was overthrown by Queen Min, who instituted a policy of closing Korea to European powers. During the

dictatorship, both France and the United States tried unsuccessfully to open trade with Korea. However, after he was removed from power, many officials that pushed for the idea of open commerce with foreigners.

During this turmoil, Japan developed a plan to open and exert influence before Western powers were able to. Their plan was put into action in 1875 when the *Un'yō*, a small Japanese warship was dispatched to survey coastal waters without Korean permission. On September 20th, the ship reached Ganghwa Island which in the previous decade had been the site of many violent confrontations between Korean and foreign forces. The memories of these confrontations were still fresh in the minds of the people then, when the *Un'yō* sent a smaller boat to land on the island. When the Korean forts opened fire on the small boat, the *Un'yō* answered back with superior firepower.

It then attacked another Korean port before withdrawing back to Japan. The Japan-Korea Treaty of 1905 was signed on November 17, 1905. This treaty deprived Korea of its diplomatic sovereignty and also made Korea a protectorate of Imperial Japan. The treaty was a result of Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. With Russia's subsequent withdrawal of influence after the Imperial Japanese victory, and the Taft-Katsura Agreement, where the United States agreed not to interfere in Japan's matters concerning Korea, the Japanese government sought to formalize its sphere of influence over Korea. Delegates from both Empires met in Seoul to resolve problems, however, with the Korean Imperial palace being under Japanese occupation, and the Imperial Japanese Army stationed at advantageous locations throughout Korea, Korea was at an obvious

disadvantage throughout the discussions. The treaty, which was signed by the Korean cabinet, gave Japan complete responsibility for Korea's foreign affairs, and placed all trade through Korean ports under Japanese supervisions.

The third and final Japan-Korea treaties were the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1907 and the Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910. The Japan-Korea Treaty of 1907 gave Japan control of Korea's internal affairs. The Japan-Korea Treaty of 1910 was the most influential treaty and officially began the period of Japanese rule in Korea. The treaty also gave the Emperor of Japan all of the rights of sovereignty over Korea. Because of the humiliation that Koreans faced, many call it Kyeongsulgukchi in reference to the year and Gukchil in reference to the day that the treaty was signed. Unbeknownst to Korea, the United Kingdom had already agreed to the annexation of Korea by Japan in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902. The legality of the fourth treaty was later disputed by the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea, as well as the South Korean government.

Their reason for disputing the legality was because by Korean law the treaty would have to be signed by the King of Korea, which it was not, instead, it was signed by Prime Minister Lee Wan-yong of the Korean Empire and Resident General Count Terauchi Masatake of the Empire of Japan.

According to archaeologists, 'prior to European influence, more than 700 distinct Native groups existed, each with their own beliefs, languages, customs and practices' (Hightower-Langston 15). However, due to disease, famine and war, nearly half of the native population has been decimated by today.

Often times, 95% to 100% of a Native population was wiped out from disease alone. This means that once wars and displacement began only 5% of a population would be left to defend themselves. In order to protect what little community they had left, a lot of Native tribes signed peace treaties with European powers. The treaties promised Native peoples the rights to hunt in their assigned territories and fair and equal treatment under the law. The treaties also set aside small areas of land where the natives could live undisturbed by settlers, these areas were called reservations.

However, despite the written agreements between both native and European powers, a lot of treaties were broken or were ignored all together. This meant that the small amount of land that natives were able to hunt on outside of their reservation was taken away and a lot of times they were forced to move to even smaller, less hospitable areas to make more room for settlers. Along with forced migration, settlers began what were called "Indian Boarding Schools". Native American boarding schools were established during the late 19th and early 20th centuries for Native American children and youth in order to teach them about Euro-American traditions and practices.

The first of these schools were established by Christian missionaries. Children at these schools were typically immersed for years on end in European-American culture. Some of the changes they had to undergo included haircuts, being forbidden from speaking in their native languages, and the replacement of traditional names with more "Christian" names. These schools were often harsh, especially for the younger children who were forcibly separated from their families. A large number of children who entered <https://assignbuster.com/the-brow-zinn-57-when-the-ship-that/>

these schools died from diseases such as smallpox and measles which spread fast in the over cramped dorms. Those who did make it home usually could no longer speak their native language and so by the mid-20th century, most Native American languages had died with the last of their speakers.

Only 150 Native languages remain of the original 700 or more. In addition to loss of language and culture, Native Americans also lost their religious beliefs through the spread of Christianity from colonizers. For a few years, Native people were able to live peacefully without much interference from settlers in terms of their religious practices. This is because Europeans considered their lack of Christianity to be due to a lack of civilization that would allow them to comprehend the Christian religion.

Native American people were made to feel inferior due to their religious practices. Some of these religious practices included respect for nature, long natural hair, and a belief in the connection of people to the earth. These beliefs were very different from those of the Europeans. In terms of nature, Europeans believed that the Earth was made for them to use how they want; Native Americans saw the Earth as their mother and just as how one would not abuse or mistreat their mother they believed that to mistreat the Earth was to mistreat one's own mother. Natives were forced to convert to Christianity or risk losing their lives.

However, if they did convert to Christianity they were ostracized from their tribe and therefore lost their friends and family. At the time of European settlement, Europeans had begun to cut their hair short with the latest fashion trends. This trend followed them to America where they forced the

Native people to do the same. A lot of the problems that Native Americans currently face, such as obesity and unemployment stem from losing not only their culture, but their people and their land as well. Native groups always suffer under the hands of the colonizer. Whether it is for greed or simply for a show of power, the same story plays out time and time again throughout history. Similar to how the Native Americans were killed and their land was taken, and how the Aztecs were completely wiped out by the Spanish; Korea also faced atrocities under Japanese rule. When a colonial nation invades another nation - moral ambiguity of the issue aside - they gain access to the invaded country's financial and economic aspects. The same is true for Japan's invasion of Korea.

Prior to the official annexation of Korea, Japan began land surveying for the consolidation of their colonial economic system. In 1912, the Government-General established laws that granted the Japanese ownership over all Korean land. With this land, Japan began a large-scale resettlement program wherein 98,000 Japanese families settled in Korea prior to 1918 (Ministry of Culture and Tourism). This meant that Korean farmers were forced to work for the Japanese government and were constantly on the brink of starvation. In addition to the hardships faced by farmers, an estimated 724,727 Korean workers were sent to mainland Japan, Sakhalin, and the Pacific Islands as forced labor in mining, construction and shipbuilding. While in theory, Koreans, as technical subjects of the Japanese empire, should have enjoyed the same status as Japanese citizens, this was not the case. Instead, the Japanese government treated Koreans as a conquered people and attempted to destroy as many aspects of Native

Korean culture as possible. However, in order to prevent a resistance from growing with the Korean people, the Japanese Government-General was very careful when it came to public awareness and education.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism states " Thus, in a nationwide search conducted in 1910 for books on Korean history and geography, between 200, 000 and 300, 000 were confiscated and burned. Some confiscated materials included Korean readers, biographies of national heroes, and Korean translations of foreign books relating to independence, nationalism and revolution. Japan also ordered historians at the Research Department of the Southern Manchurian Railroad Company were ordered by Japanese officials to rewrite Korean history in order to prevent nationalism. The History of the Korean Peninsula written in 1915 is one example of the books written by these historians. Japan further expanded its control in the area of education. As the Ministry of Culture and Tourism states that the Japanese attempt to annihilate the Korean national consciousness was even more conspicuous in educational policy. Many schools were closed leaving 90% of the youth uneducated and illiterate.

Between the years of 1910 and 1922 the number of private schools dropped dramatically from 2, 000 to around 600. Another atrocity that Koreans faced under Japanese rule was the use of " comfort women". It is estimated that 200, 000 Korean women were forced into sexual servitude by the Japanese military. Often times girls were packed into trains and sent to the front lines of the war in the Pacific and were forced to work in Japanese military brothels. These girls were taken to shacks near the frontlines and only given a blanket on the floor, they were identified by numbers instead of names and

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were often times drugged and beaten before being raped. One survivor, Yun Doo Ri gave a gruesome account of her experiences as a "comfort woman": "When my cuts and bruises had healed slightly, they put me back into the same room. Another officer was waiting for me.

They must have warned him about me. He did not wait and did not give me a moment even to think of protesting. He swiftly knocked me down, and started pushing his thing inside of me. It happened all so fast. I found myself bleeding. I wasn't even sure where the blood was coming from. I only felt pain.

Something in my body was torn apart. I put my teeth into his cheek. Now we were both bleeding, he from his face and I, somewhere below . . . I was fifteen." While other countries in Japan's empire had "comfort women" Korea provided the most, with most of the women being tricked into thinking that they would be working in factories or hospitals.

Still other women were seized by soldiers who were sent to villages to collect virgins. Many of the "comfort women" died in the brothels from disease or malnourishment.

In conclusion, while both Koreans and Native Americans faced atrocities under colonial rule both faced them in different ways, with a lot of the atrocities differing due to era differences. Although, Koreans went through such a horrifying time of destruction and death, Korea has become a powerful nation and is the 11th nominal GDP in the world.

While Native Americans are slowly taking back their culture and land and embracing what made them different from the colonizers that stole their identity from them.