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| **OUTLINE**The Big Picture: Human Activity and the EnvironmentExploration and ConquestThe Tragic End of Tome’s PiresAdvances in Botany and MedicineColonization and the EnvironmentCotton Stresses in India*U.S. Domination of Cotton Exports**“Improving” Indian Cotton**India Cotton Before the Colonizers**A Turning Point: The U.S. Civil War*Tin Mining and the Environment in Malaya*Ancient Tin Mining**The Rush for Tin**European Intervention Escalates*The Bigger Picture: The Environmental Legacy of Colonialism*Costs and Benefits**Scientific Attitude**The Role of Technology**No New Industries* | **THINKING ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE**1. In what ways did pre-modern people interact with and impact the environment?
2. Detail the various phases of European expansion and colonialization from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century. Is there a clear pattern to this? Why or why not?
3. How do the experiences of Tomé Pires give context to the first phase of European commercial expansion into Asia? Did expansion into the region have any lasting environmental impact?
4. What factors led to an explosion of knowledge about plants in sixteenth century Europe? Why is this important to know in relation to European trade with Asia?
5. By 1700, what regions of the world were under European colonial control? Which regions or empires remained independent? Why is it difficult for scholars to establish a signed pattern of early colonization or environmental damage?
6. What was cotton production and marketing like in India before the arrival of the British? What role did environmental factors play in where and how much cotton was produced?
7. How does the life of John Forbes Royle give us insight into the British development of cotton as a monoculture in India? Why is it important to understand the interlocking moral, linguistic, and technological template of colonialism in relation to the British “improvement” of cotton production? What were the human and environmental costs of “improving” Indian cotton production?
8. What does the shipwreck found off of Malaya tell us about tin mining in Asia before the modern period? What impact did tin mining have at that time to the environment? Why?
9. How did changes in demand for tin in the nineteenth century lead to new methods of tin mining in Malaya? What role did Chinese technology and manpower play in these changes? How did European technology radically change the impact of tin mining on the environment?
10. Compare and contrast the evolution of cotton production in India and tin mining in Malaya and their associated environmental costs.
11. What is the overall environmental legacy of colonialism? How is it experienced in the world today? Are there solutions that can limit the impact of this legacy?
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