

## **PART IV**

### **THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD, 1450-1750: THE WORLD SHRINKS**

**Summary.** Two big changes occurred in during the period of 1450 to 1750. A number of new trade empires came into being, replacing smaller political units characteristic of the preceding period. Also there was a shift in trade which included new oceangoing routes across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The triggers for this shift included the revival of empire building, a progression of explorations of new military technologies. These triggers led to three broad changes. The first change was the forging of a new global economy. There were also new global biological exchanges. Finally, this period saw the emergence of new, large empires based on guns and gunpowder. But even with this change, there was continuity. The spread of world religions continued and global contacts did not change regional culture patterns and gender relations. Also, there were few technological or political changes. Changes of this period affected ordinary people in many parts of the world by compelling people to work harder to sustain large families.