



Writing Center

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A Good Essay Answer

Question: The fifteenth- and sixteenth-century voyages of exploration produced lasting changes in the political and social structure of Western Europe. Would you say that these voyages tended to hasten or delay the growth of national states? Explain.

Answer:

Starts with a direct answer to the question. Pre-outlines order of topics. The exploration of the 15th and 16th centuries *hastened the growth of national states*. The reasons have to do with *danger, wealth and trade, and prestige or pride*.

Starts with one of the reasons *One of the prime ingredients* for the beginning of national states was a common danger from the outside. Because countries went to war over the right to control certain colonies and trade routes, they had to unite within in order to fight off an aggressor.

Transition Specifics Specifics *Other forms* of competition between one country and another contributed to the growth of national states. Competition for land and wealth was fierce. The *resources* of the new lands such as coffee, spices, and minerals, were considered valuable. Each country was eager to gain land because the products of the land meant more wealth, as when Cortez *conquered the Aztecs*. A united country *could best succeed in this form of competition*.

Phrase to show relevance to question These resources brought about by the new discoveries increased the power of mercantilism. With the opening of new trade routes, the Northern and Western European states were able to break the Venetian-Arab trade monopoly with the Indies. The colonization led to a system involving a state-controlled market between the colony and the mother country. This permitted the nations of Europe to become economically separate units, with no common market existing between them--*a condition which fostered nationalism*.

Amplifies with an example *It is interesting to note* that Italy, which did very little exploration, took longer to become a united nation than did the other countries of Europe.

Transition A new point which came to mind during the writing. *Another feature* in producing national states was the *national pride* these voyages tended to produce. The voyages were financed by a national government. Any new discovery was associated with the sponsoring governments and added to the spirit of nationalism.

Compare this answer to 'A Poor Answer' to the same question.