

# Mastering the Essay

by Tony Maccarella

## AP European History Modified DBQ #3

### 3. COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

**Exercise Question:** *To what extent was the Columbian Exchange mutually beneficial to Native Americans and Europeans?*

#### Document A

**SOURCE: Domingo Martínez de Irala, first governor of Paraguay, message left for his successor, 1542**

In one of the islands of San Gabriel a sow and a boar have been left to breed. Do not kill them. If there should be many, take those you need, but always leave some to breed, and also, on your way, leave a sow and a boar on the island of Martin Garcia and on the other islands wherever you think it good, so that they may breed.

#### Document B

**SOURCE: Anonymous aborigine of Yucatan, speaking of pre-Spanish life, circa 1550**

There was then no sickness; they had no aching bones; they had then no high fever; they had then no smallpox; they had then no burning chest; they had then no abdominal pain; they had then no consumption; they had then no headache. At that time the course of humanity was orderly. The foreigners made it otherwise when they arrived here.

#### Document C

**SOURCE: Thomas Hariot, naturalist, writing of his voyage to Roanoke colony, 1585**

... within a few days after our departure . . . people began to die very fast, and many in short space; in some towns about twenty, in some forty, in some sixty, & in one six score, which in truth was very many in respect to their numbers. . . . The disease was also so strange that they neither knew what it was, nor how to cure it; the like by report of the oldest men in the country never happened before. . . .

**Document D**

**SOURCE: John Gerard, English plant expert, *Herball, Generall Historie of Plants*, 1597**

We have as yet no certain proof or experience concerning the virtues of this kind of Corn, although the barbarous Indians which know no better are constrained to make a virtue of necessity, and think it a good food: whereas we may easily judge that it nourishes but little, and is of a hard and evil digestion, a more convenient food for swine than for man.

**Document E**

**SOURCE: Anonymous German missionary to the New World, 1699**

A Comanche on his feet is out of his element, and comparatively almost as awkward as a monkey on the ground, without a limb or a branch to cling to; but the moment he lays his hand upon his horse, his face even becomes handsome, and he gracefully flies away like a different being.