

WINDOWS ON THE WORLD BACKGROUND

History

AFRICA

West Africa *Yoruba culture* Benin, a flourishing state, built on the Atlantic slave trade; area called the “Slave Coast” by Europeans; slaves were mainly war captives seized from what is now modern Benin; led to depopulated areas and militarized society; voodoo religion exported along with slaves to the New World, especially to Haiti.

AMERICAS

Latin America *South America* In the viceroyalty of Peru, a troubled period, partly reflective of the internal decay of Spain, the mother country: contraband trade with non-Spanish merchants, attacks by pirates, and growing corruption among public officials. Decline in production of precious metals. *Mexico* Northern frontier of New Spain near the present Mexican-U.S. boundary. Began conquest of modern New Mexico in 1598; founded Santa Fé (in modern New Mexico), 1610; Indian rebellion, 1680–92.

Native North America *Southwest* Pueblo Indians (including Rio Grande, Hopi, and Zuni), the descendants of the Anasazi peoples; centered in northeastern Arizona and northwestern New Mexico; lived in settlements called pueblos (Spanish *pueblo*, “village”). Farming (maize, cotton), using irrigation, and hunting; each pueblo governed by a council made up of heads of religious societies; the societies were headquartered in kivas, underground ceremonial rooms. Led by Popé, a member of the Tewa people, the Pueblo drove the Spanish from their territory around Santa Fé from 1680 to 1692—a feat unmatched by any other American Indian people.

ASIA

China *Ch'ing Dynasty, began 1644* An expansionist state; population growth. Manchus tried to assimilate into Chinese culture, which led to conservative, Confucian political and cultural attitudes; much interest in collecting, cataloging, and commenting on Chinese traditions; fine painting and porcelain.

India *Mogul Empire* Zenith of Mogul culture under Shah Jahan (r. 1628–58); great age of architecture; his wars nudged empire close to bankruptcy; deposed by

Aurangzeb (r. 1658–1707), his son, who abandoned policy of religious toleration and brought empire to its greatest extent.

Japan *Tokugawa period* Starting about 1600, Edo, the sh-ogun's city, was transformed by the influx of people from the lowest level of society, unrelated to the temples or court and without any civic rights. Through native talent and genius, they initiated a new artistic form, the *ukiyo-e* print, the art of the floating world.

Culture

AFRICA

West Africa *Yoruba culture: European Soldier with Firearm* This statuette depicts a European (most likely a Portuguese) soldier, poised to discharge a firearm. Its style reflects the influence of European realism on Benin sculpture. The Portuguese began to trade in the area in 1553, though they explored the coast in 1472.

AMERICAS

Latin America *South America: Detail, Façade Jesuit Church* One of the first churches in the New World to blend the Baroque with native elements was the Jesuit Church in Arequipa, Peru. The exuberant Baroque design on the façade includes pre-Hispanic forms such as birds, Indian heads, and ears of corn.

ASIA

China *Ch'ing Dynasty: Pao-ho-tien (Hall of Preserving Harmony)* was part of the complex of Beijing's Forbidden City, the seat of government and the residences of the imperial family. The Forbidden City was so named because access to the area was forbidden to most. Even state officials and members of the imperial family had limited access. The emperor alone could move at will.

India *Mogul empire: Shah Jahan* Indian miniatures also included the making of portraits, usually of imperial courtiers or even the ruler himself, as in this portrait of Shah Jahan by the court artist Bichtir. The likeness, although dignified and refined, is made lifeless and remote by the formal pose and awkwardly placed feet. Taj Mahal The Taj Mahal is actually a mausoleum complex that includes main gateway, garden, mosque, *jawab* (a building mirroring the mosque), and mausoleum with four minarets. It is built in a blend of Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles.

Japan Tokugawa period: General View of Shoin The *Katsura* imperial villa complex (residences, gardens, and tea house) was conceived by Prince Toshihito in about 1624. Inspired by the *Tale of Genji* and a sixteenth century text on gardens, he created a setting where court scholars and poets could meet. Building was supervised by Enshu (1579–1647). Five pavilions used as meeting places for poets or the tea ceremony stand beside a lake with three islands in it. The villa's design established an aesthetic standard that influenced Japan's architects for centuries.