



Western Civilization from 1650 to the Present

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TOPIC 4.1. THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM

Supplement to Chambers, *The Western Experience*, Chapter 18: The Wealth of Nations, pp. 633-665.

THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM	Please read carefully this summary of Immanuel Wallerstein, <i>The Modern World System: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World Economy in the Sixteenth Century</i> (New York: Academic Press, 1974).
ONLINE RESOURCES	Then view this PowerPoint presentation in Course Documents, which illustrates the thesis: "Wallerstein's Modern World System." For more information on this topic, explore one or more of the following online resources: "The Modern World-System" by Per Bylund : Criticism of Wallerstein's thesis. Immanuel Wallerstein, World System Theory : Excerpts from Wallerstein's work. Review of Immanuel Wallerstein's After Liberalism (1995) : Wallerstein's response to the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	Drawing on the resources you have had an opportunity to explore (textbook, course documents, online resources, library resources), answer one or more of the following questions: How does Wallerstein define and characterize the modern world system? What roles do the core, the periphery, and the semi-periphery play in the system? Who is the beneficiary of each? How have European nations consolidated their internal political, economic, and social resources to enhance their positions in the modern world system?