**Change and Continuity Analysis Sheet: Western Encounters**

**Society/Societies:**
- Western Africa
- Portugal

**Time Period:**
- 1450-1550

**Significant events during the time period:**
- 1453 - Fall of Constantinople to the Turks
- 1492 - Columbus lands in the New World Jews and Moslems expelled from Spain
- 1492 - Vasco Da Game lands in Goa (Indian subcontinent)
- 1500 - Birth of Charles V of Hapsburg
- 1515 - Charles V of Hapsburg became Lord of the Netherlands
- 1519 – Charles V was elected Holy Roman Emperor
- 1509 - Henry VIII ascends the throne of England

**Key Changes and Continuities**

**Political:**
The political changes were that there was an established royal monopoly on trade with Portugal. While there were not many exports before on behalf of Africa, there main one being gold, they needed slave trade. However, Christian King Alfonso I lost slave trade monopoly and power weakened, some people revolted.

**Economic:**
Portugal became the world's foremost naval power, the emigration of Portuguese to West Africa and the islands, and the beginnings of the black diaspora associated with the slave trade where slaves were kidnapped or purchased by Islamic slave traders south of the Sahara and then transported north to be sold to the Portuguese. The Portuguese, however, were looking for more than just human cargo: they were looking for gold in Africa as well. In 1471, they discovered a gold rich region along the southern coast of West Africa (the "Gold Coast"), and trade with Africa took off.

**Social:**
Until the Portuguese pursuit of the spice monopoly, European powers approached Muslim, African, and eastern states and cultures with a high degree of respect. From the Portuguese, the Europeans learned a new, aggressive type of relationship and the non-European countries adjusted accordingly.
Cultural: (Belief Systems; Intellectual; Artistic)

The Portuguese tried to understand the societies with which they came into contact and to reconcile their experience with the myths and legends inherited from classical and medieval learning. While the Africans adapted Christian ideas to local beliefs, altering their belief systems.

Near/Geography/Demographic:

Portuguese ships sailed all across the world, discovered new routes and started colonies. They influenced many countries worldwide during the height of their empire, but none like their colonies in West Africa where they had the largest, and most significant impact.

Technological:

Portugal had three major advantages in developing its overseas commerce and empire. There was a strategic benefit in being located on the South Atlantic coast of Europe near to the exit of the Mediterranean. Deep sea fishermen provided an important part of the Portuguese food supply and developed an unrivalled knowledge of Atlantic winds, weather and tides. The value of these skills was greatly enhanced by crown sponsorship of Atlantic exploration, research on navigation technology, training of pilots, and documentation of maritime experience in the form of route maps with compass bearings.

Causes and impact of changes and continuity:

Portugal became the world's foremost naval power. Portuguese ships sailed all across the world, discovered new routes and started colonies. They influenced many countries worldwide during the height of their empire; they brought both good and bad to West Africa, including their culture, Christianity, agriculture, and slavery.