14

Review Questions

•Define capitalism and discuss its strengths and weaknesses as an economic system as described by Adam Smith.

•What were the chief causes of the decline of the Portuguese empire and of the Spanish empire?

•What were the chief causes of the rise of the British, French, and Dutch empires?

•What is a nation-state? Why did European rulers seek to consolidate their countries as nation-states in the period 1500–1750?

•What were the goals of Peter the Great of Russia? In what ways did contact with the outside world encourage him to pursue these goals? To what extent did he accomplish them