It was a period of European colonization and mercantilism which lasted from 1488 with the first European sailing around the Cape of Good Hope and ended around the time of the American Revolution in 1776.

http://www.preceden.com/timelines/39150-ap-european-history-timeline
Factors of Commercial Revolution

1. Geopolitical factors
2. Monetary factors
3. Technological factors
4. Important people

http://www.ambrit-rome.com/clasproj/middleschool/7commerce/7commerce.html
Geopolitical Factors

English laws were changed to benefit the navy.

These laws also contributed to the demise of the Hanseatic League, which traded in northern Europe.
Monetary Factors

The need for silver coinage also had an impact on the desire for expanded exploration as silver and gold were spent for trade to the Middle and Far East.

Another issue was that European mines
Technological Factors

They developed new sail arrangements for ships, skeleton-based shipbuilding, the Western “galea” (at the end of the 11th century).

Starting in 1670, the entire world was measured using essentially modern latitude instruments.
Technological Factors

• In 1676, the British Parliament declared that navigation was the greatest scientific problem of the age and in 1714 offered a substantial financial prize for the solution to finding longitude.

• This spurred the development of the marine chronometer, the lunar distance method and the invention of the octant after 1730.

• By the late 18th century, navigators replaced their prior instruments with octants and sextants.
Important People

Significant contributors to European exploration include Prince Henry the Navigator of Portugal,

Bartolomeu Dias
Vasco da Gama
Christopher Columbus
Amerigo Vespucci
Ferdinand Magellan,
Activity #1 The Commercial Revolution Mind Map

Commercial Revolution

- Towns and Cities
- Social Classes
- Trade
- Money/Capitalism
Effects

The Commercial Revolution, coupled with other changes in the Early Modern Period, had dramatic effects on the globe:

Christopher Columbus and the conquistadors, through their travels, were indirectly responsible for the massive depopulation of South America.

They were directly responsible for destroying the civilizations of the Inca, Aztec, and Maya in their quest to build the Spanish Empire.

Other Europeans similarly impacted the peoples of North America as well.

An equally important consequence of the Commercial Revolution was the Columbian Exchange. Plants and animals moved throughout the world due to human movements. For example, Yellow fever, previously unknown in North and South America, was imported through water that ships took on in Africa. Cocoa (chocolate), coffee, maize, cassava, and potatoes moved from one hemisphere to the other.
The Commercial Revolution, coupled with other changes in the Early Modern Period, had dramatic effects on the globe:

For more than 2000 years, the Mediterranean Sea had been the focus of European trade with other parts of the world. After 1492, this focus shifted to the Atlantic Ocean by routes south around the Cape of Good Hope, and by trans-Atlantic trade.

Another important change was the increase in population. Better food and more wealth allowed for larger families. The migration of peoples from Europe to the Americas allowed for European populations to increase as well. Population growth provided the expanding labor force needed for industrialization.

Another important outcome of Europe's commercial revolution was a foundation of wealth needed for the industrial revolution. Economic prosperity financed new forms of cultural expression during this period.
Activity #2 Commitment Statement

How can you help advocate the appreciation of the Commercial Revolution’s contributions to today’s generation for them in realization of the value and impact of these contributions to our daily lives?

Rubrics:
Mastery of Content - 5 points
Organization of ideas (by giving specific examples) - 5 points