



Chapter 9
Transportation and
Information Technology

**GEOGRAPHY OF
ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**

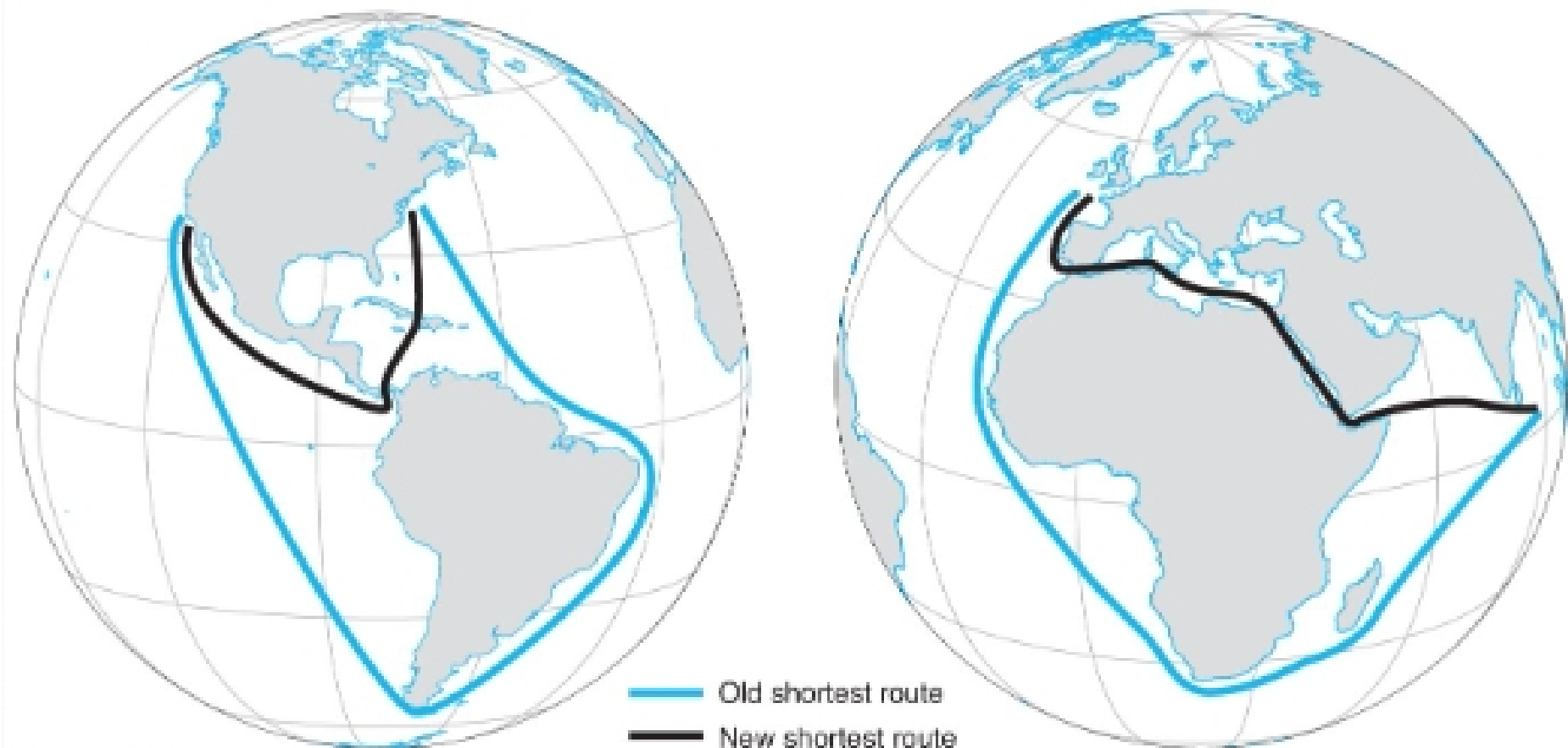
Transportation Networks in Historical Perspective



- **History of transportation**
 1. **Water transport (rivers, canals, oceans) (to 1800s)**
 - Active canal building during early Industrial Revolution (1700s)
 - Application of steam engine in 1807
 - Opening of Suez Canal (1869) and Panama Canal (1914)
 2. **Railroads**
 - James Watt's steam engine (1769) on locomotives in 1829
 - First electric streetcar in 1888 (Richmond, VA)
 3. **Roads and motor vehicles**
 - Initially roads were feeders to railroads
 - In United States heavy reliance on automobile
 4. **Air travel**
 - For passengers and high-value goods

Transportation Networks in Historical Perspective (continued)

History of transportation (continued)



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FIGURE 9.5 The Panama (1914) and Suez (1869) canals greatly shortened world shipping routes, reflecting and contributing to the time-space compression of the Industrial Revolution and the new geographies it brought into being.