

# Chapter 2: Trans-Atlantic Contacts and Early Colonies (1491-1690)

AP US History: An Essential Coursebook 2nd Ed  
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# Traveling The World

- Earliest water travel was generally by river. (River Valley Civilization)
- Phoenician, Greek, and Roman ships crossed the Mediterranean Sea
- Chinese junks traveled the Indian Ocean
- 15th century
  - Polynesians explored and settled on islands from the East Indies to Easter Island to Hawaii
  - Scandinavians crossed the North Atlantic to North America
  - Arawak traveled around the Caribbean by 1000 C.E.

# Portuguese and Spanish Voyages and Colonies

- Portuguese and Spanish consolidated their governments and built strong militaries, and they were well situated on the Atlantic Ocean, close to the Strait of Gibraltar.
- The Mediterranean trade was dominated by Venice and Genoa.
- Spain and Portugal were inspired by new cultural and economic forces that transformed Europe.
  - Interested in finding new converts to Christianity
- Spain was united under Ferdinand and Isabelle
  - 1492 - Defeated Granada (Muslim kingdom)
  - Expelled all Jews

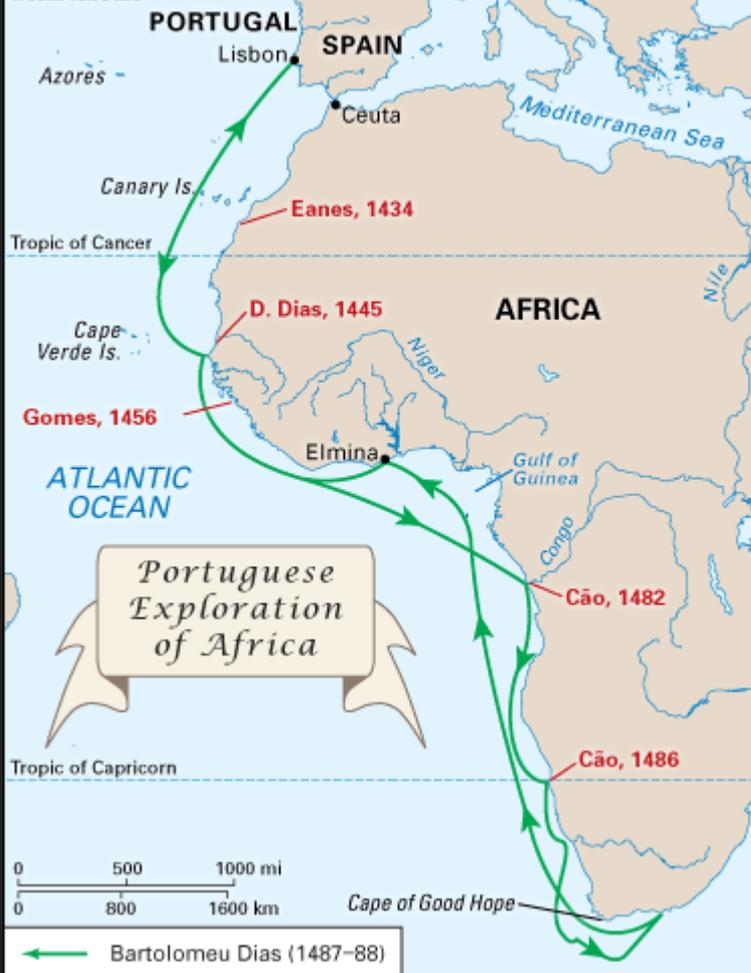
- Portuguese

- Started exploration early 15th century
- Sailed down the African coast in hopes of establishing some trade contacts
- led by Henry the Navigator
  - created a navigation school
  - studied and approved navigation technology (magnetic compass, astrolabe)
- Advancements in the design for ships
- Caravel
  - two sets of sails (one to catch ocean breezes for speed and the other for maneuverability)
- European cannon made the caravel a fighting ship

- Tip of Africa

- Bartholomew Dias and Vasco da Gama
- Accomplished this by the end of 15th century

- 1500 - Pedro Cabral sailed too far west and reached the South American coast by mistake. Claimed Brazil for Portugal



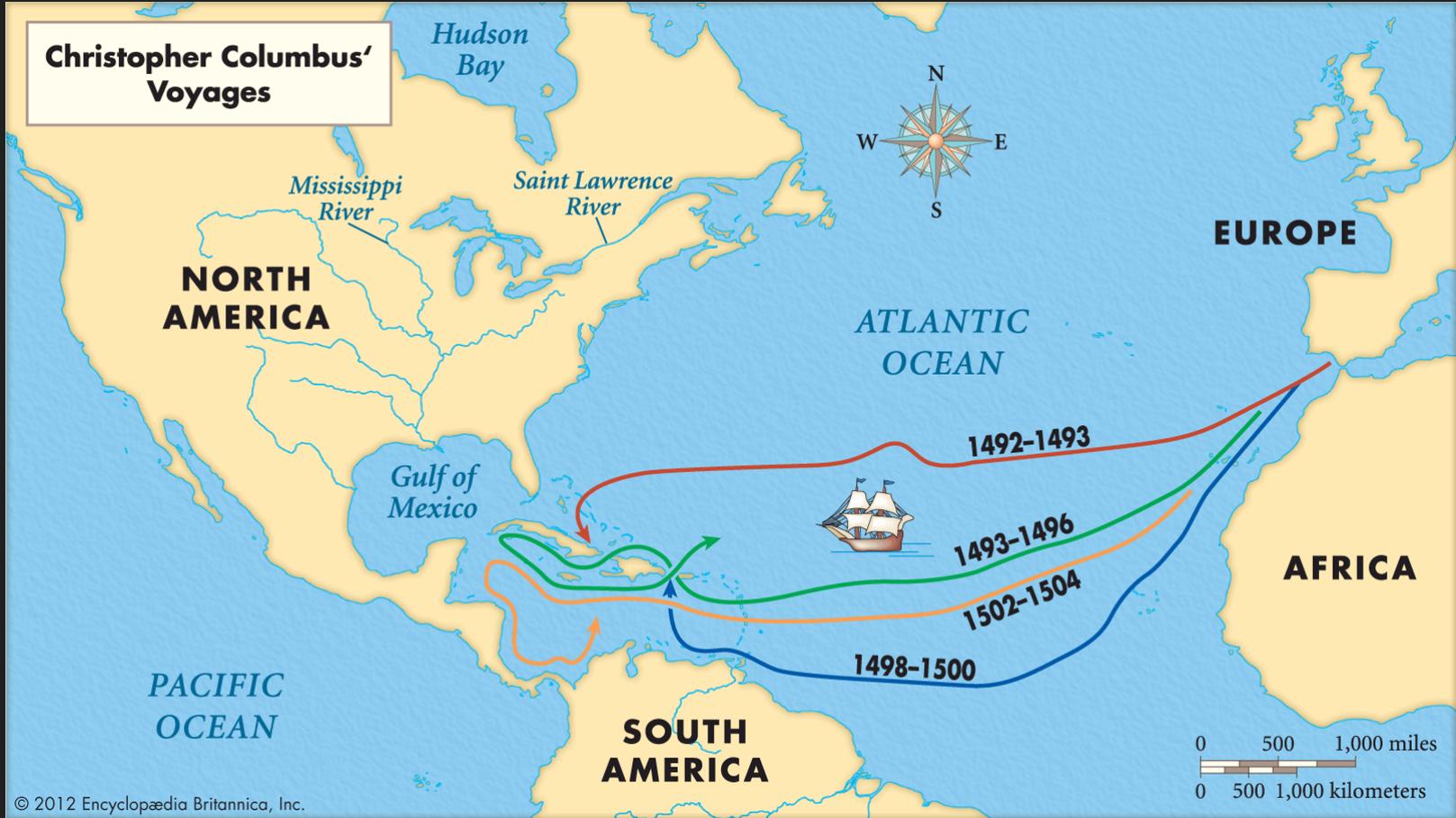
- Spanish

- last decade of the 15th century
- Christopher Columbus convinced Ferdinand and Isabella to sponsor a voyage across the Atlantic. (turned down by the Genoese and Portuguese government)
  - Thought he could reach the East Asia by sailing West.
  - Reached North America in 1492
  - Made three voyages between 1492 and 1498
  - Thought he had reached Asia

- The Treaty of Tordesillas

- Spain and Portugal fought over who controlled the newly discovered lands
  - 1493 - Spanish born Pope Alexander VI endorsed an imaginary line drawn through the Atlantic from the North to South Pole. Spain received all land west of the line.
  - 1494 - Portugal and Spain agreed to the Treaty of Tordesillas
- Portugal reached India and Spain explored the Pacific Ocean
  - Treaty of 1529 - Boundary was set in the Pacific

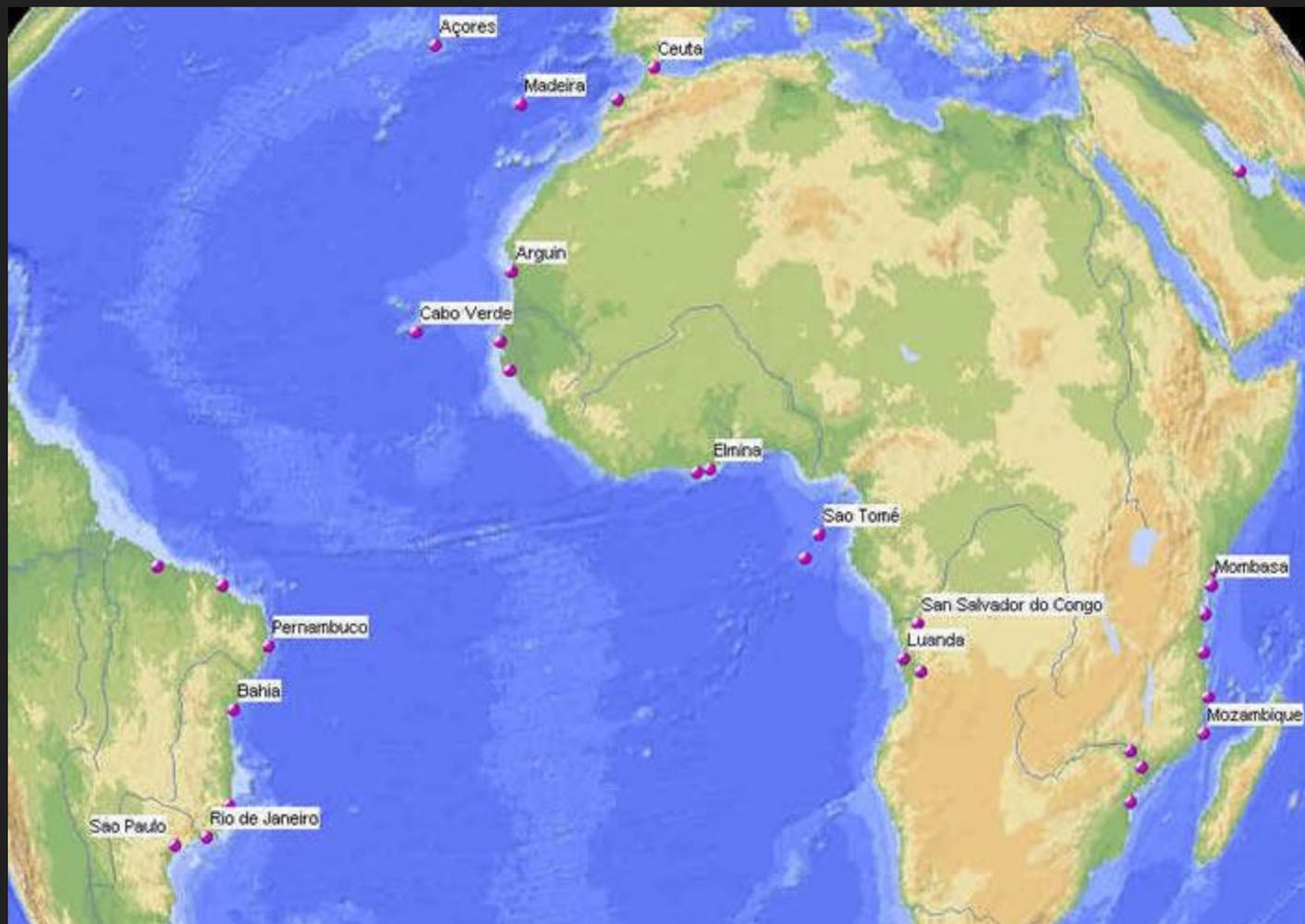
# Christopher Columbus' Voyages





- Treaty of Tordesillas Continued

- 1513 - Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Panama from the east and “discovered” the Pacific Ocean.
- 1519 - Ferdinand Magellan sailed westward from Spain - Atlantic - Americas - Pacific - and return to Spain.
  - Magellan died in the Philippines
  - One ship made it back to Spain (circumnavigated the globe)
- Spain focused on the Americas (except Brazil)
- Portugal focused on Africa and the Indian Ocean
  - Dominated trade from Africa to China during the 15th century
  - Could not gain control of the African coast
  - Quick profits from trade
  - Seldom settled in ports
  - Weren't able to convert the people Africa



- The Spanish Empire in the Americas
- Spanish Exploration
  - Reasons - religion, riches, fame
  - Conquistadors
    - Hernan Cortes - 1519 - Cuba - 600 soldiers - Mexico - Aztec capital
      - Aided by local Native Americans
      - Aztec emperor - Moctezuma - welcomed Cortes to Tenochtitlan
      - Thought Cortes was Quetzalcoatl (a God)
      - Cortes seized the city and captured Moctezuma
      - How they won
        - Local Native Americans sided with Cortes
        - Smallpox
        - Guns



- Spanish Exploration

- Conquistadors

- Francisco Pizarro - Andes - Inca

- Incas end of a bitter civil war between two brothers
      - Atahualpa held the throne
      - 1532 - Pizarro met Atahualpa and seized him
      - 40,000 Inca soldiers were defeated by guns and swords
      - Baptized and killed Atahualpa
      - Native Rebellion
      - 1540 - Spanish had the Inca Empire under control

- Other conquistadors marched into other parts of Mesoamerica, South America, and the southern part of North America.

- Claimed land, converted natives, and searched for gold.
      - End of the 16th century had a massive empire in the New World



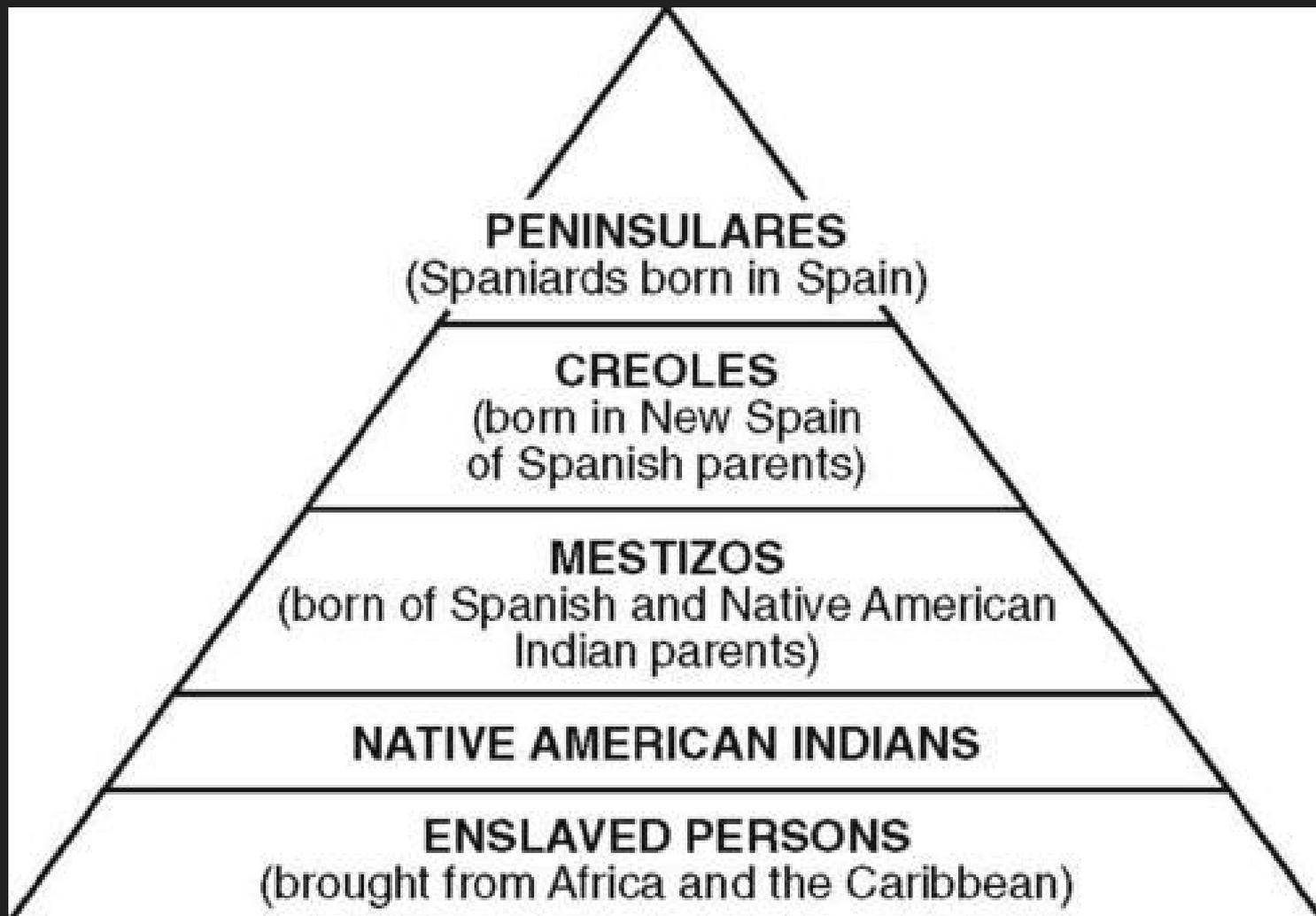
- Perspective: Bartholome De Las Casas On The Spanish in the New World
- Writings of Bartholome de Las Casas
  - conquistador turned priest
  - goal was to protect Amerindian rights
  - *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*
  - “Black Legend”
  - Abuses in the New World



- The Colonial Economy in Latin America
- Epidemic diseases affected the economic development of the colonies
  - large number of natives died from smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, and influenza
  - Spanish had silver mines in Peru and Mexico
  - Spanish had agricultural plantations in the Caribbean
  - Portuguese had sugar plantations in Brazil
  - Plantations and mines had too few workers to function
  - Needed large work forces that the Europeans planned to fill with native workers
    - Individual conquistadors had forced natives to work
      - Encomienda system - Spanish settlers had the right to force natives to work in their mines or fields. Responsible for the well-being of workers. Converted them to Christianity
  - Plantations and mines had too few workers to function
  - Spanish and Portuguese had to import slaves from Africa

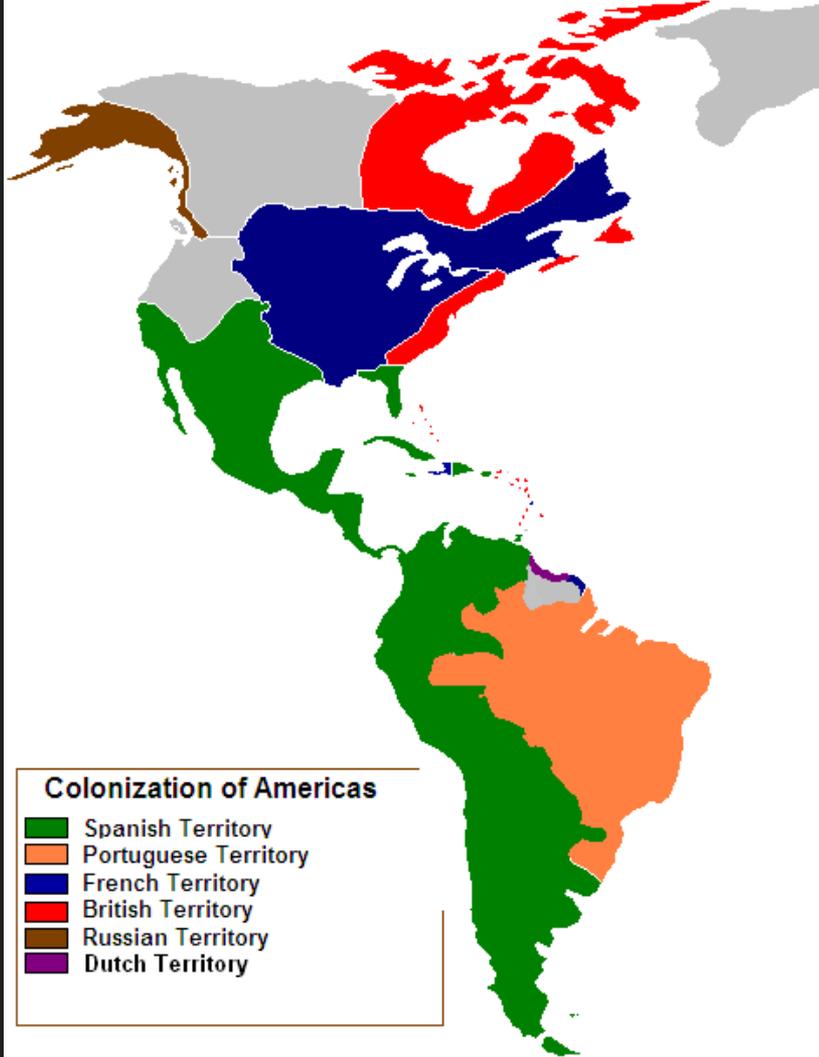
- Portuguese sugar plantations relied on slave labor
  - Importing slaves was more expensive
  - African proved to be more resistant to disease
- Mexican and Peruvian mines
  - System of wage workers
  - Paid good wages
  - Late 16th century - silver production rose
  - Affected the world economy - Spain became one of the richest states in the world.
- Rural estates (haciendas) produced food for workers
  - small textile shops made clothing
- Spain used the silver to pay for wars with England, France and the Ottoman Empire.
  - Bought manufactured goods
  - Inflation wounded the Spanish economy

- **Society in Colonial Latin America**
- Native Americans were seen as subjects and were all treated equally
- Political administrators, military leaders and soldiers, plantation and mine owners were Europeans.
- Old World Europeans (peninsulares) and New World Europeans (creoles)
- Spanish soldiers and officials took native wives, mistresses
  - Children were called mestizos
- Children of European and African descent were called mulattoes
- Class System (Caste System)
  - Europeans
  - Mulattoes
  - Native American and Blacks
- Fathers had authority over children
- Women were subordinate to men, could not not office, run plantations or mines. Maintained dowry throughout marriage
  - Widows ran family businesses and had full rights to inheritance



# The Exploration and Settlement of North America

- 16th Century - French explored and claimed territory in North America
- 1587 - English attempted to create a colony at Roanoke Islands off the North Carolina coast
  - Both colonies failed
- By 1590 - only permanent European settlement was St. Augustine (Spanish colony) in Florida.
  - 1586 - English privateer Francis Drake looted and burned the colony
- 17th Century - Netherlands, Britain, and France finally settled North America.



- Spanish Explorations and Settlements in North America
- Juan Ponce de Leon
  - Florida
  - 1513
  - Search of slaves, wealth, and the fountain of youth
- Francisco Vasquez de Coronado
  - 1540
  - Search for seven golden cities of Cibola
  - Saw the Grand Canyon in Arizona and grasslands of central Kansas
- Hernan de Soto
  - Army of 600 gold-seeking soldiers
  - Southeast between 1539-1542
  - Discovered and described the Mississippi River
  - Died of disease and wounds





**Juan Ponce de Leon**



**Francisco Vasquez  
de Coronado**



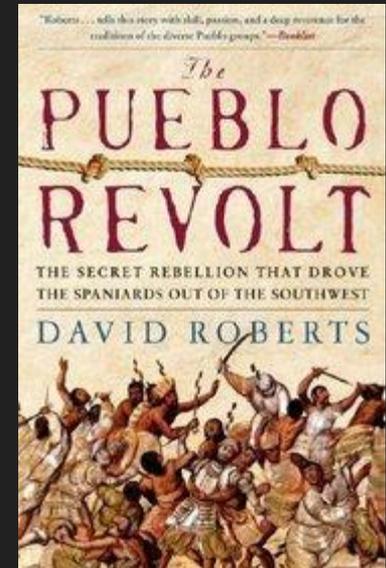
**Herman de Soto**

- **St. Augustine**
  - Established in 1565
  - Purpose: Ensure Spanish dominance of the sea-lanes used by treasure ships on the way back to Europe.
  - Franciscan missionaries established a chain of missions across northern Florida.
    - Set up missions among the Pueblo people “Nuevo Mexico”
    - Spanish landowners collected tribute from the natives and forced them to labor on their land.
- **1598 - Juan de Onate and a group of settlers moved into Pueblo land**
  - seized corn and clothing and raped women
  - Residents of Acoma killed 11 soldiers
  - Spanish troops killed more than 800 people
  - Spanish settlers left New Mexico
- **1610 - Santa Fe**
  - Spanish returned and set up a colony
  - Reestablished the system of missions and forced labor
  - Pattern of dominance and resistance continued throughout the 17th century



- 1680 - Pope's Rebellion

- Led by the Indian shaman Pope
- Catholic churches were destroyed
- Hundreds of Spanish settlers were killed
- 1696 - Compromise allowed Pueblo to practice their own religion. Agreed to help protect Spanish lands.
- Spanish settlement stopped in the area



# ● Dutch Explorations and Settlements

- Protestant Work Ethic
  - Encouraged individual endeavors to gain wealth
- Netherlands gained their freedom from Spain in the late 16th century
- Early 17th century Dutch ships brought back products from East and Southeast Asia.
- Organized joint-stock companies to share the risk and profit of business ventures
  - Dutch East India Company
    - Spice and luxury trade
    - Gained control of Dutch trading in the Pacific (early 17th century)
    - 17th century - focused on the trans-Atlantic African slave trade
  - 1624 - Dutch West India Company established the colony of New Netherland
    - Capital - Manhattan Island in North America
    - 1609 - Henry Hudson - Northwest Passage to Asia
    - New York Harbor - claimed for Netherlands

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- 1614 - Dutch traders established a post near Albany.
- 1624 - Dutch West India Company had exclusive rights to Dutch trade in America
  - Settled New Amsterdam
  - Bought Manhattan Island for \$24 in trinkets
  - Wanted to expand trade network
  - Used practical approaches with Native Americans
    - No conquest or religious conversion
- New Netherland
  - No democracy
  - DWI Company - distributed land to patroons (shareholders) who agreed to import tenants for agricultural labor.
  - Patroons ruled their estates
    - Claimed 10% of each tenant's annual income
    - Complete authority over law enforcement

- New Netherland Cont.

- No elected assembly
- Religious freedom/tolerance
  - Protestants, Catholics, Jews
- Diverse population (Africans, Belgium, English, French, Germans, Irish, and Scandinavians)
- By 1630 - 18 languages were spoken
- Opened the fur trade to all comers
- Slaves could own land
  - employed on family farms, household, or craft labor
- Women
  - allowed to go to court
  - borrow money
  - own property
- Most of the Dutch who traveled to the Americas moved to other areas
- Mid-1660s - Population of New Netherland was about 9,000 Europeans



**Henry Hudson**



# French Explorations and Settlements

- 1604 - French explored the waterways of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River.
  - Established colony at Port Royal.
  - Established Quebec in 1608
- 1642 - Established a post at Montreal
- Set up forts along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers
- Colonies created in the Caribbean
- Worked at converting natives to Catholicism
  - Jesuit Priest
- Focused on a fur market
  - Traded guns, textiles, and alcohol for fur

- Population in French colonies grew more slowly than in English colonies.
  - Cold weather
  - Didn't allow Protestant Huguenots to settle in colonies
  - Fur traders were constantly on the move - not a good life for a family.
- Society of Jesus (Jesuit Priests)
  - Wanted to find new converts to Christianity
  - Arrived in Quebec in 1625
  - Called "Black Robes" by the Indians
  - Traveled to remote areas and lived among the natives.
  - Spread Christianity and literacy

	France
	Great Britain
	Territories disputed between France and Great Britain
	Spain
	Territories disputed between Spain and Great Britain
	Forts
	Towns

