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

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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
Portuguese Exploration of Africa

- **Eanes, 1434**
- **D. Dias, 1445**
- **Gomes, 1456**
- **Cão, 1482**
- **Cão, 1486**

A COMPTON'S MAP

Portugal

- Lisbon
- Azores

Spain

- Ceuta

Tropic of Cancer

Canary Is.

Cape Verde Is.

Atlantic Ocean

Africa

- Gulf of Guinea
- Cape of Good Hope

0 500 1000 mi
0 800 1600 km

Bartolomeu Dias (1487–88)
- **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
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 of 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 hold office, run plantations or mines. Maintained dowry throughout marriage
  - Widows ran family businesses and had full rights to inheritance
PENINSULARES
(Spaniards born in Spain)

CREOLES
(born in New Spain of Spanish parents)

MESTIZOS
(born of Spanish and Native American Indian parents)

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS

ENSLAVED PERSONS
(brought from Africa and the Caribbean)
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
• **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
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