

American History

CHAPTER 1

Collision of Cultures

1400-1620



problem with the theory—the relative absence of much evidence of early human habitation—is explained by the fact that these earliest Americans would have traveled along coastal routes that were subsequently flooded as global warming raised the level of the Pacific Ocean.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- This map shows two possible routes from Asia through the Americas. Were there other ways Asians might have come to the Americas? What geographical barriers would they have had to overcome?

Where Are the People in 1500?

- a. Paris: 20,000
- b. London: 50,000
- c. British Isles: 3 millions
- d. France: 16 millions

HOWEVER:

1. Before European contact, North America has:
 - a. probably 15 million—about the same as France.
2. Central America: most densely settled area in the world
 - a. between 90 and 112 million people, and 1/5 of the world's populations lived in the Americas, more than lived in Europe

Cahokia - The Biggest Cities in North America?



Cahokia:

at its peak in 1200 A.D. => 40,000 people (possibly 60,000), the same as Medieval London (Philadelphia, the largest city in America had only 23,000 people in 1763, and only surpassed the historic size of Cahokia in 1800.)

The Native American Experience - Cahokia

1. Mississippian Civilization:

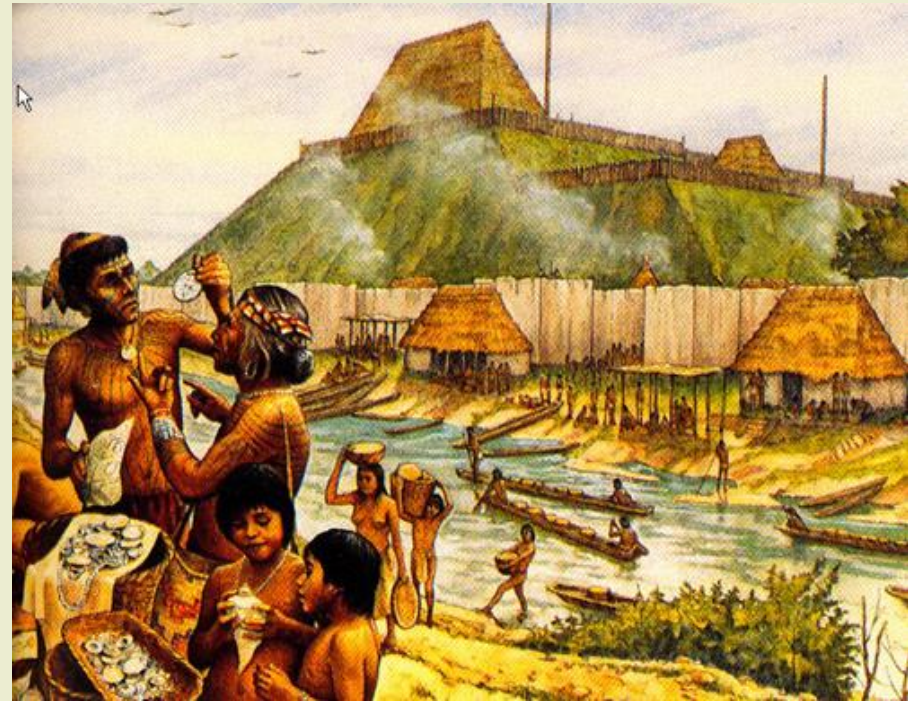
- a. Last large-scale northern Indian culture in Mississippi River Valley; by 1150 Cahokia (near St. Louis) had an estimated population of 15,000 to 20,000 people; poor peasants paid taxes to support nobles and priests; decline began by 1350 as a result of urban diseases, including tuberculosis.



The Native American Experience - Cahokia

1. Cahokia

a. Outside of St. Louis - Missouri





The Native American Experience - Cahokia

1. Chaco Canyon (in New Mexico)



1. Chaco Canyon had between 5,000 and 15,000 at its peak in 1100 A.D.
1. Had 400 miles of roads. By 1300 it had been abandoned.



The Conclusion?

1. The Americas were a densely populated area of diverse peoples who shared certain beliefs, but who also viewed themselves as individual nations, not one nationality/race.
2. United States history began thousands of years before Columbus landed.
3. By 1492, the Americas had been populated for well over 15,000 years.



Map 1.2 Native American Peoples, 1492
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Tom Lovell, *Trading at the Pecos Pueblo*

Courtesy of Abell-Hanger Foundation and of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, Library and Hall of Fame of Midland, Texas, where the painting is on permanent display.

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Europeans Create a Global World, 1450-1600

1. The Renaissance Changes Europe, 1300-1500
 - A. Innovations in Economics, Art, and Politics
 - B. Maritime Exploration

2. Late fifteenth century—preconditions for overseas settlement attained
 - A. Rise of nation-states
 - B. Spread of new technologies
 - C. Spread of old knowledge

Building New Nation-States

1. Population growth after 1450
2. “New monarchs” forged nations from scattered provinces
 - a. Spain
 - b. France
 - c. England
3. “Middle class” a new source of revenue
4. Powerful military forces deployed

Spain Imagined a New World

1. Spain became the first European nation to achieve conditions for successful colonization
2. Unified under Ferdinand and Isabella
3. 1492—Jews and Muslims expelled
4. Conquest of Canary Islands provided rehearsal for colonization



Columbus - Myths and Reality

1. Columbus persuaded Queen Isabella to finance westward expedition to “Cathay”
2. 1492—initial voyage (his [route](#)) ← click
3. Three subsequent voyages to find cities of China
4. Colonized West Indies



Christopher Columbus Landing - 1492



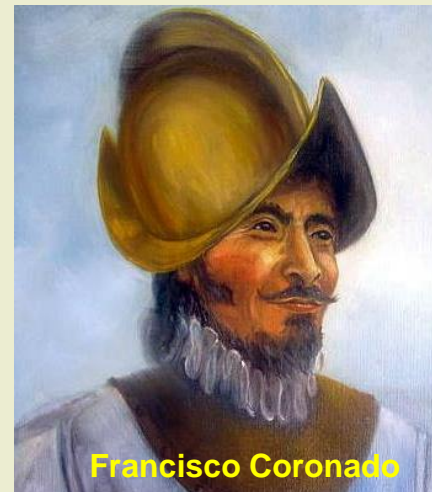
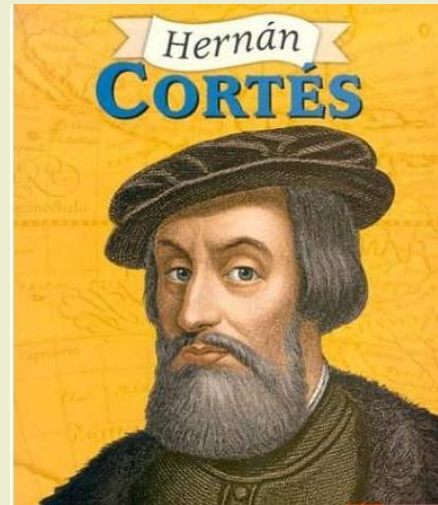
- What is the meaning of these images?
- From whose point of view?

Myths and Reality

1. 1506—Columbus died clinging to belief he had reached the Orient
2. Made Spanish dominion in America possible
3. Columbus and America (How Should We Think of Columbus?)

The Conquistadores

1. Independent adventurers commissioned by Spanish crown to subdue new lands
2. By 1512—major Caribbean islands decimated
3. By 1521—Cortés destroyed Aztec empire
4. 1539-1542—de Soto explored Southeast
5. 1540-1542—Coronado explored Southwest



European Exploration of the Americas 1500-1550



Spanish Conquistadores: Faith and Greed



Conquistadores, ca. 1534 This illustration for a book called the Köhler Codex of Nuremberg may be the earliest depiction of the conquistadores in the Americas. It portrays men and horses alike as steadfast and self-assured in their work of conquest.

Spanish Conquistadores: Faith and Greed



An Aztec View of the Conquest, 1531
Produced just a dozen years after Cortés' arrival in 1519, this drawing by an Aztec artist pictures the Indians rendering tribute to their conquerors. The inclusion of the banner showing the Madonna and child also illustrates the early incorporation of Christian beliefs by the Indian.

14th Century Tenochtitlán – Before Conquest and Destruction



Artist's rendering of Tenochtitlán Amid tribal strife in the fourteenth century, the Aztecs built a capital on a small island in a lake in the central Valley of Mexico. From here they oversaw the most powerful empire yet to arise in Mesoamerica. Two main temples stood at the city's sacred center, one dedicated to Tlaloc, the ancient rain god, and the other to Huitzilopochtli, the tribal god, who was believed to require human hearts for sustenance.



Map 1.5 The Spanish Conquest of the Great Indian Civilizations
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Spain Conquests of North America



De Soto in North America (Rare Books Division, Library of Congress)

Spain Conquests of North America



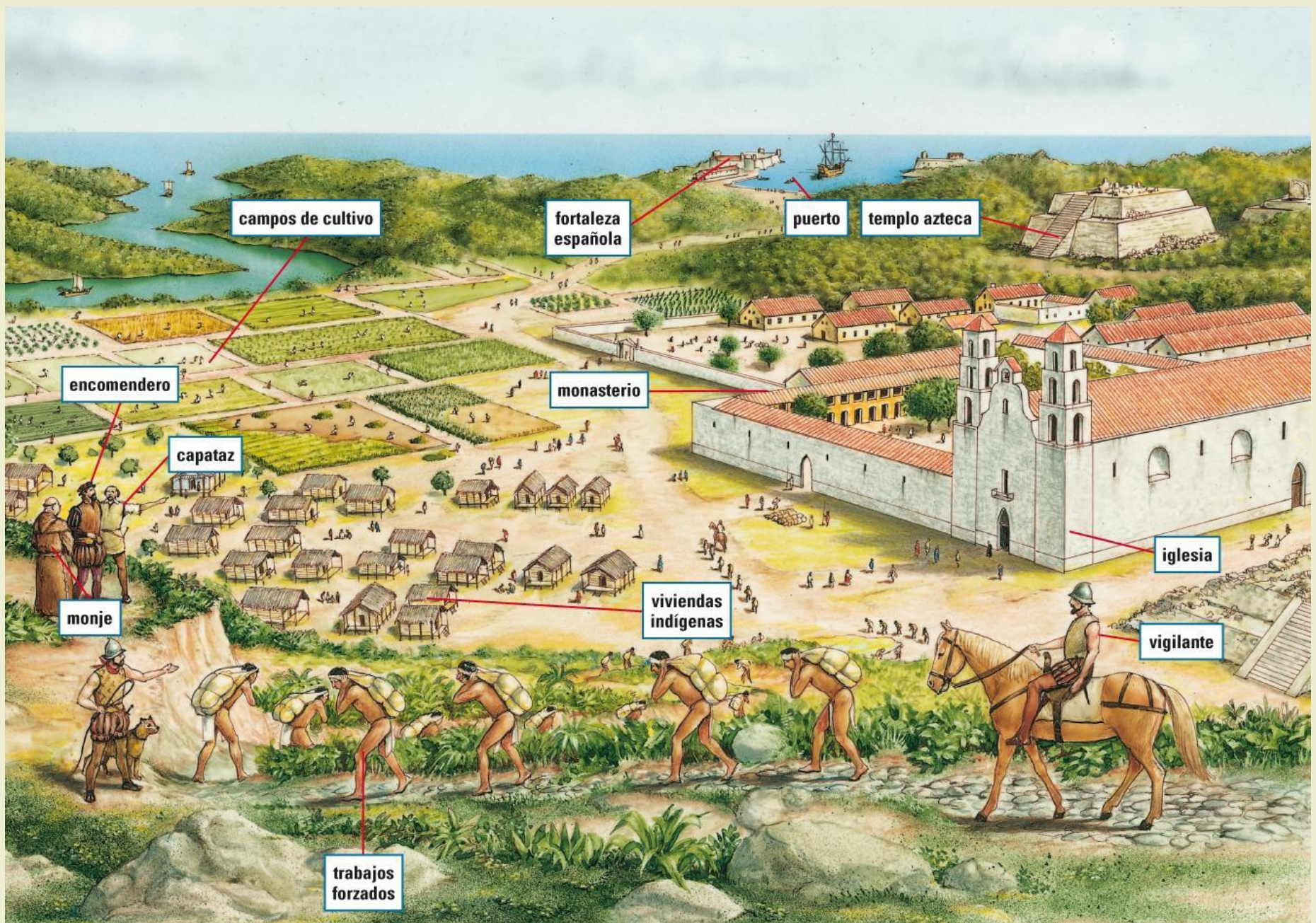
De Soto in North America

Spain Conquests - From Plunder to Settlement

1. Encomienda System rewarded Conquistadors
 - a. Large land grants
 - b. Indian inhabitants provided labor or tribute



Encomienda System



Spain Conquests - From Plunder to Settlement

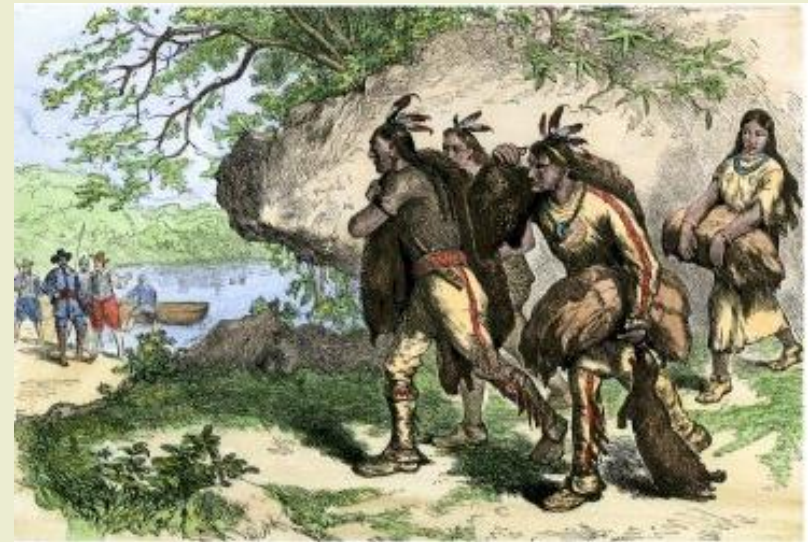
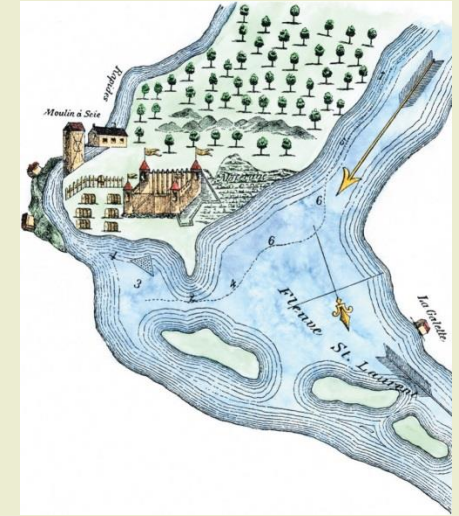
1. Encomienda System rewarded Conquistadors
 - a. Large land grants
 - b. Indian inhabitants provided labor or tribute
2. Appointed officials answered only to crown
3. Catholic Church
 - a. Protected Indian rights
 - b. Performed mass conversions
4. By 1650, half million Spaniards in New World
 - a. Unmarried males intermarried
 - b. Mixed-blood population emerged

Expanding into the Borderlands

1. Land & wealth in: Mexico, Florida, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas.
2. 1565: First Spanish settlement in Florida
3. 1609: New Mexico
4. 1659: El Paso, Texas
5. 1700s: Louisiana

The French Claimed Canada

1. 1608—Samuel de Champlain founded Québec
2. French empire eventually included St. Lawrence River, Great Lakes, Mississippi (view [routes](#) of French explorers)
3. Fur trade underpinned economy. Indians became valued trading partners
4. Missionary activities to convert the Indians to Christianity was a major colonial motivation.
5. Unlike Spain, French crown **made little** effort to settle



The French in North America

1. The quest for furs and converts

- a. The growing trade in beaver pelts and fish stimulated the founding of the colony of New France in North America.
- b. Samuel de Champlain established the first permanent settlement at Quebec in 1608.
- c. The fur trade created a partnership between the Indians and the French based on trade.
- d. Missionary activities to convert the Indians to Christianity was a major colonial motivation.

The English Enter the Competition

1. England was the slowest European power to begin New World expansion. Achieved preconditions for colonization under Elizabeth I.
 - a. Only voyages of John Cabot gave them any claims to area
2. Changes in the late sixteenth century propelled the English overseas:
 - a. Rising production of wool cloth sent merchants looking for new markets after 1550
 - b. Population growth and rising prices depressed the economic conditions of ordinary people and made them willing to emigrate in search of opportunity

European Exploration of the Americas 1500-1550



Birth of English Protestantism

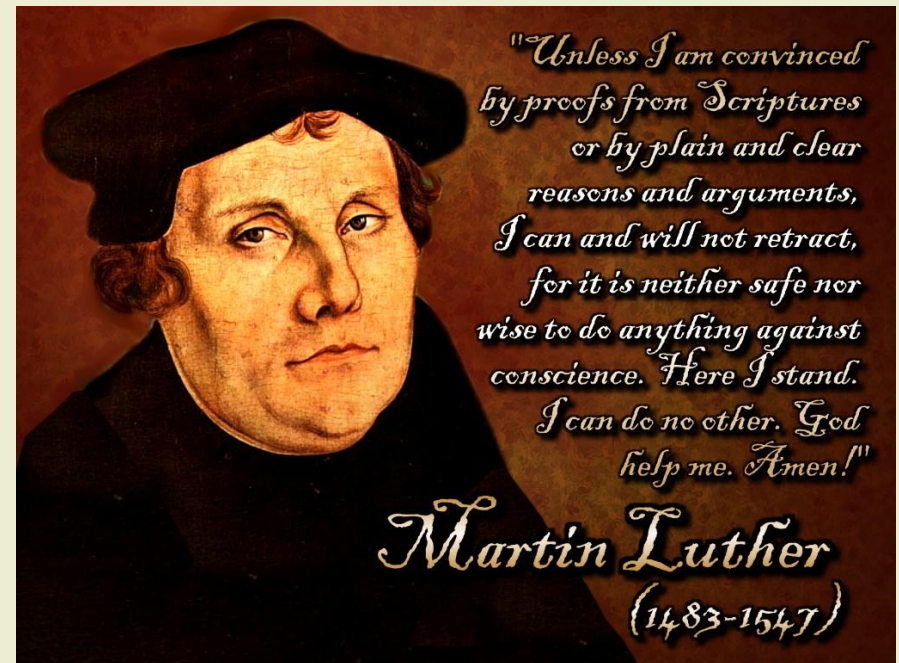
1. Protestant Reformation played a major role in England's rise to dominance
 - a. 1517—Martin Luther sparked reform in Germany
 - b. 1536—John Calvin's *Institutes* published in Geneva

2. Reformation pitted European Protestants against Catholics

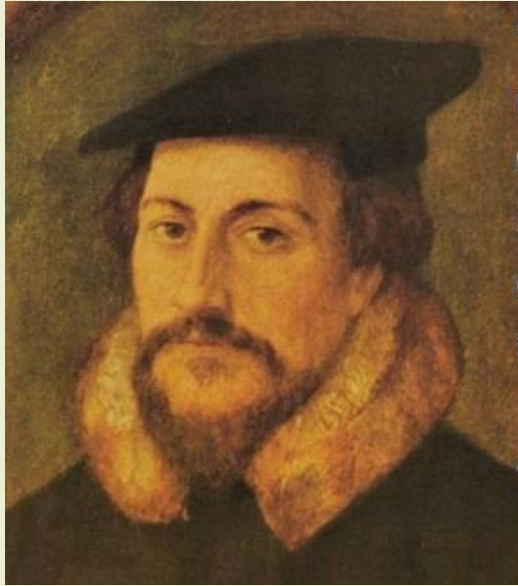
The Rise of Protestant England, 1500-1620

1. The Protestant Movement

- a. Martin Luther's Attack on Church Doctrine – 1517
- b. The Doctrines of John Calvin



The Rise of Protestant England, 1500-1620



"A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent."

John Calvin

1. Calvinist Christianity expanded in northern Europe
 - a. John Calvin (French theologian) stressed God's omnipotence
 - b. Predestination—some persons chosen by God for salvation
 - c. France—Huguenots
 - d. Scotland—Presbyterians
 - e. England—Puritans

Woman in Power – Rise of Protestant England

1. Elizabeth I (r. 1558–1603) was a very capable monarch. She consolidated English Reformation.
 - a. Retained “Catholic” ritual, but approved Protestant faith.
 - b. Ended religious turmoil in England
2. Elizabeth’s excommunication by Pope prompted Spanish crusade against England
3. England aligned with Protestant nations against Catholic powers (Spain!)



The “Virgin Queen” (c. 1575)

England Challenges Spain

1. Under Elizabeth I, tensions between Protestant England and Catholic Spain worsened
 - a. Pope excommunicated Elizabeth in 1571 and absolved her subjects from paying her allegiance

2. Anti-Protestant Spanish actions
 - a. 1560s King Philip II of Spain had sent 20,000 troops into the Netherlands to suppress Protestantism
 - b. 1572: helped arrange massacre of thousands of French Protestants

The Westward Fever

1. English success depended on merchant adventurers soliciting wealth and support of prospering middle class

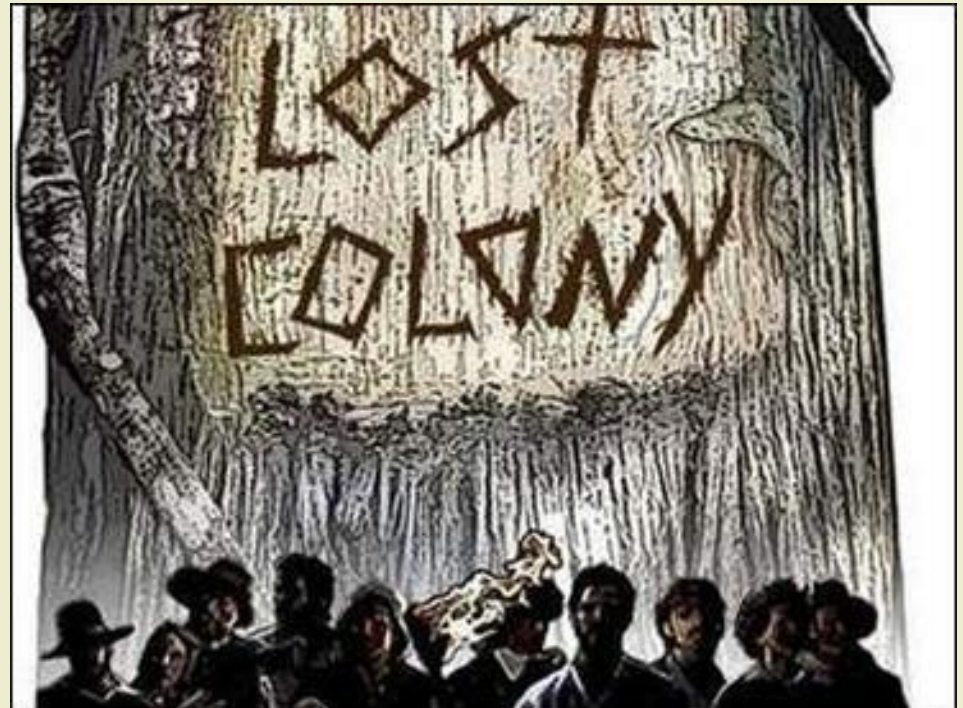
1. In addition to financing, colonies needed colonists
 - a. 80,000 left England as a result of changing economic conditions between 1600 and 1640
 - b. Over the next 20 years, another 80,000 left
 - c. Decline of wool market in 1618 as a result of renewed European religious wars encouraged further emigration
 - d. Religious persecution and political considerations also contributed to decisions to leave

Campaign to Sell America

1. By 1600, no English settlements in New World
2. Richard Hakluyt advertised benefits of American colonization
 - a. Claimed that England needed American colonies
3. Began with small settlements:
 - a. 1583 in Newfoundland
 - b. 1585-1588 in Roanoke Island off North Carolina coast (colonists had vanished by 1591)
 - c. 1607 established colony in Virginia (Jamestown)
 - d. 1612 established colony in Bermuda
4. British colonial ventures had the Queen's blessings but, unlike Spanish and Portuguese attempts, not her money.

An Unpromising Beginning: Mystery at Roanoke

1. Sir Walter Raleigh established Roanoke colony in 1584
 - a. He named the region Virginia after the Virgin Queen
2. The colony failed and Raleigh tried again in 1587
3. In 1591, the colonists disappeared without a trace and their fate remains a mystery



A World Transformed

1. Large numbers of whites profoundly altered native cultures
2. The rate of change varied from place to place
3. Native traditions changed radically for cultural survival
4. “cruelty and kindness, greed and deception, trade and theft, surprise and sickness, captivity and enslavement” (Mary Beth Norton) are factors that helped accelerate these changes

A World Transformed



[Click](#) to watch

Threats to Survival: Trade

1. Native Americans were eager for European trade
2. They became dependent on, and indebted to, Europeans
3. Commerce also influenced warfare patterns

Threats to Survival: Disease

1. Contact brought population decline among American Indians
2. Cause: lack of resistance to epidemic disease
 - a. Smallpox
 - b. Measles
 - c. Influenza
3. In the first 130 years of contact about 95 percent of the people in the Americas died from disease.
4. Disease killed as much as 90 percent of the people of coastal New England.



Native American Population Loss, 1500–1700

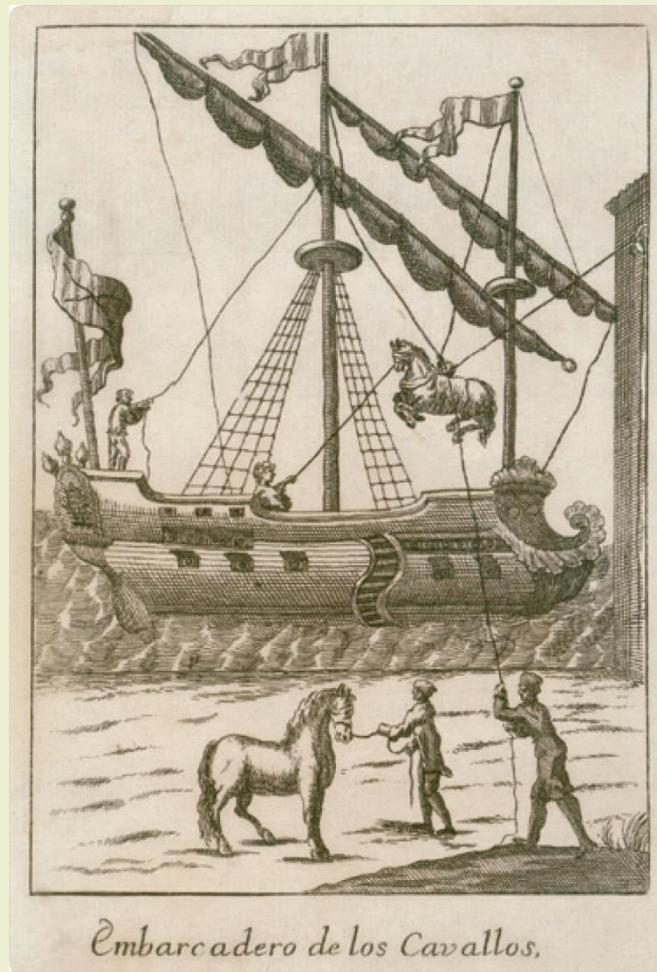


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Columbian Exchange

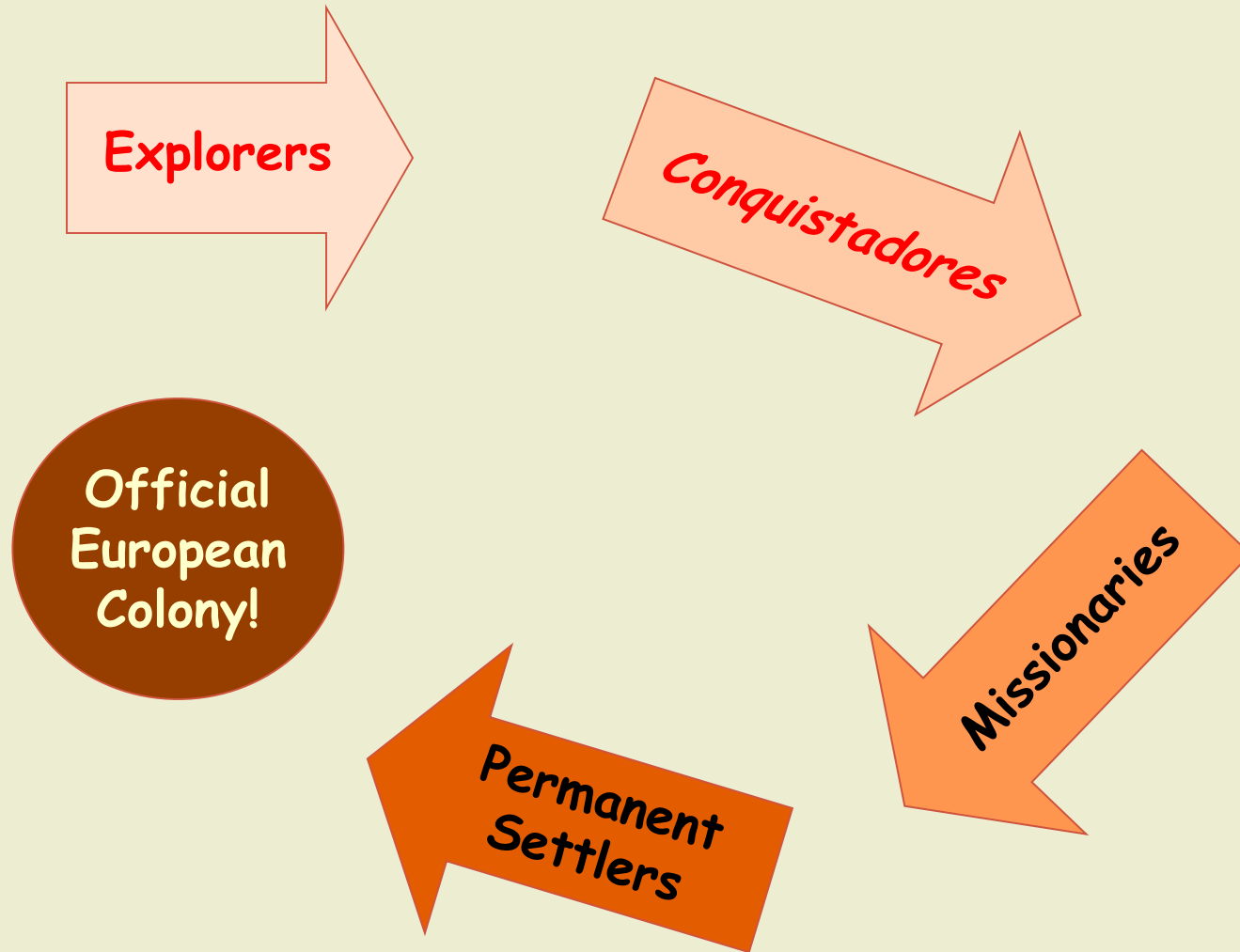


The Columbian Exchange and the Global Environment



Embarcadero de los Cavallos,

Cycle of Conquest & Colonization

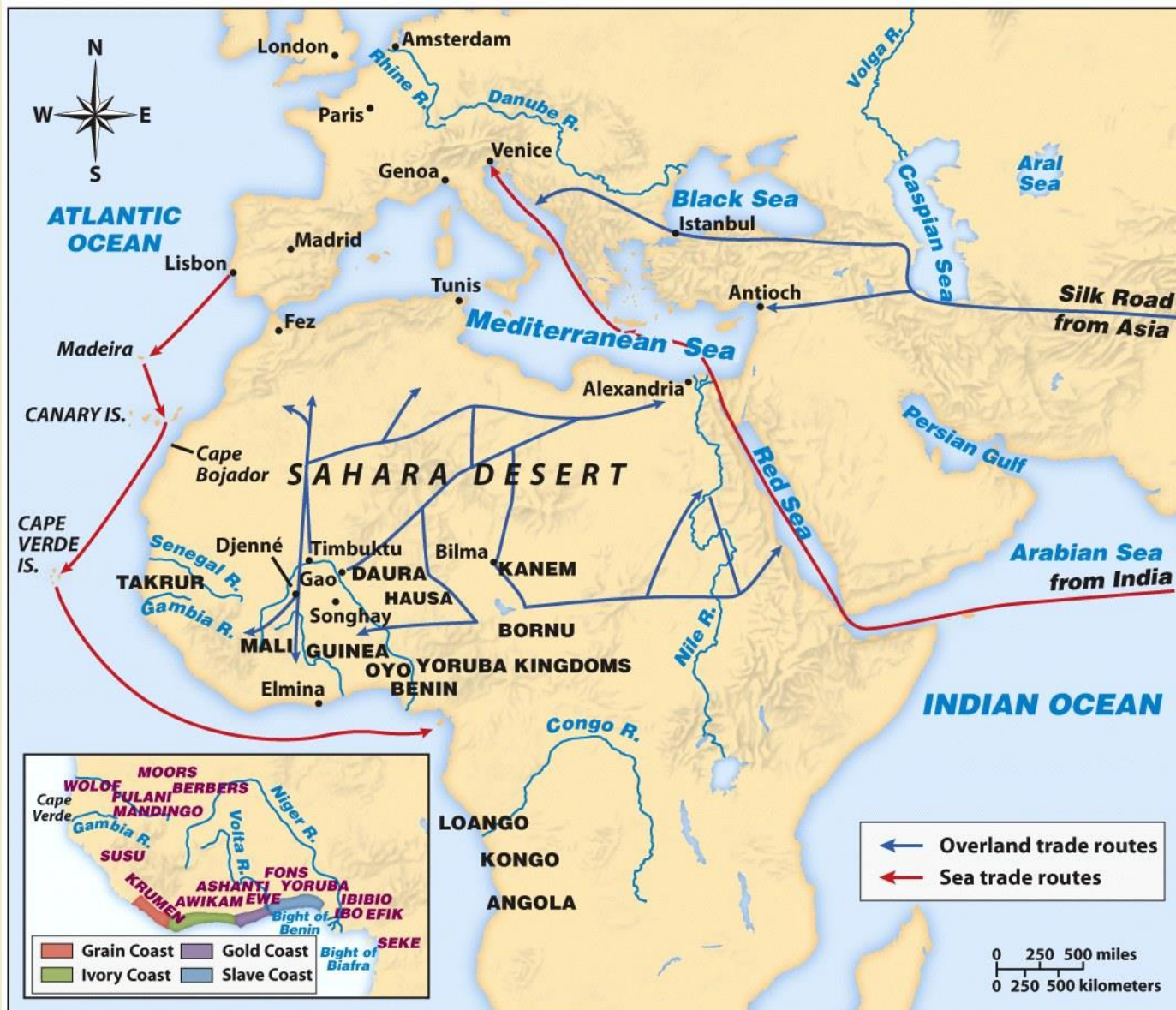


West Africa: Ancient and Complex Societies

1. Diversity of sub-Saharan cultures
 - a. Islam
 - b. Strong traditional beliefs

2. A history of empires
 - a. Mali
 - b. Ghana

3. Daily life centered on elder-ruled clans



Map 1.4 West Africa and the Mediterranean in the Fifteenth Century
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Beginnings of the Slave Trade

1. Slavery existed as a normal social condition in this period and had little to do with skin color
2. Slaves were a sign of wealth for the owners
3. Mostly African societies sold criminals or prisoners of war
4. From the tenth to the fifteenth century, 5000 West Africans were sold:
 - a. as sugar workers in Egypt
 - b. as domestic servants and craftspeople throughout the Arabic world, and
 - c. as soldiers in North Africa

The Slave Trade

1. The African slave trade began as an attempt to fill a labor shortage in the Mediterranean world
2. Portuguese merchants were the first European slave traders following decades of trade by the Arabs and Moors
 - a. Native rulers sold prisoners of war to Portuguese as slaves
 - b. Portuguese were merely new trading partner who could provide guns, horses, copper and brass, and textiles
3. Slavery had long been part of African life with wars being fought to capture slaves



The Slave Trade



Gorée island Slave Fortress From this holding station off the coast of Senegal, thousands of African captives passed through the “Door of No Return” into a lifetime of slavery in the New World.

The Atlantic World

- A. In the 14th century, the Atlantic Ocean emerged as the stage for one of the most dramatic series of cross-cultural encounters in human history.

- A. Watch the dramatic movement of peoples across the ocean as slaves, indentured servants, religious refugees, and adventurers.



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama look out the “Door of No Return” during their tour of the Maison des Esclaves Museum on Gorée Island, Senegal, June 27, 2013. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

How Many Slaves?

1. Seventeenth century—ca. 1000 Africans per year
2. Eighteenth century—5.5 million transported to the Americas
3. By 1860—ca. 11 million
4. *Before 1831, more Africans than Europeans came to the Americas*