

Notes: Europe in the New World

The Spanish, French, and Dutch Colonies

I. The Spanish Colonies in America

- a. Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) – divided New World lands between Spain and Portugal (most W. Hemisphere lands went to Spain)
- b. Reasons for Spanish Exploration
 - i. Love of gold
 - ii. Desire to convert “pagan natives” to Catholicism
- c. Conquistadores
 - i. Balboa (1513) – discovered Pacific Ocean by crossing Panama
 - ii. De Leon (1513) – discovered Florida and searched for fountain of youth
 - iii. Magellan (1519) – first to circumnavigate the globe
 - iv. Cortez (1519) – overtook Aztecs of Mexico
 - v. Pizzaro (1532) – overtook Incas of Peru
 - vi. De Soto (1539) – explored American Southeast – crossed Mississippi River
 - vii. Coronado (1540) – explored American Southwest – discovered Grand Canyon
- d. Spanish Colonies in America
 - i. The first
 - ii. The largest empire in the New World
 - iii. Motives for settlement: “God, gold, and glory”
 1. gold and glory: the conquistadors (encomienda)
 2. God: the friars
 3. 2 institutions of Spanish settlement: the mission and the presidio (fort)
 4. the “black legend”
 - iv. government
 1. centralized rule from Spain through a governor appointed by the King (viceroys)
 2. no elections; trial by jury
 - v. society
 1. Mestizos (Spanish intermarry with Indians)
 2. society and the economy dominated by those of Spanish birth and later by creoles (those of Spanish ancestry, but born in America)
 3. aristocratic domination by a small number of landowning families (most are peasants who work for them in poverty)

II. The French Colonies in America

- a. Canada, Louisiana, and the West Indies (Haiti, Martinique, etc.)
- b. Motives for settlement:
 - i. North America – fur trade
 - ii. West Indies islands – sugar
- c. Canada and Louisiana are very lightly populated. Why?
 - i. Extreme weather
 - ii. Must be a Catholic to come (religious dissidents not allowed)
 - iii. Government: little freedom allowed (much like the Spanish)
 - iv. The main settlers: coureur de bois (“runners of the forest”) – single men, fur trappers, trade with and sometimes marry Indians
 - v. By 1754 (French and Indian War), the English settlers in North America outnumber the French by 10:1

III. The Dutch Colonies in America

- a. New Netherlands located in present-day New York
- b. Motive: fur trade and maritime rivalry with England
- c. Lightly settled: no freedom
- d. Attempt to set up a feudal system (patroonships)
- e. Conquered by England in 1660s during the Anglo-Dutch wars. The English king gives it to his brother, the duke of York, who renames it New York.