# European Empires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>European Power(s)</th>
<th>Destinations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15th – 16th centuries</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Caribbean, mainland Central &amp; South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th century</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>Present-day Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th century</td>
<td>England, France, the Netherlands</td>
<td>Eastern coast of North America</td>
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</tbody>
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European Empires

Map 14.1 European Colonial Empires in the Americas
Chapter 14, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, First Edition
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European Motivations for Imperialism

- Aware of their low position in the world of Eurasian commerce and wanted to change this
- European rulers driven by competition and rivalries with other countries
- Merchants wanted direct access to Asian wealth; no Muslim intermediaries
European Motivations for Imperialism

- Poor European nobles and commoners thought they could gain wealth and status in the colonies.
- Christian missionaries wanted to spread their faith.
- Persecuted minorities wanted to start a new life with more freedoms.
Countries and trading companies efficiently mobilized human and material resources.

Seafaring technology allowed them to cross the Atlantic easily.
European Advantages

- Ironworking technology
- Gunpowder weapons
- Horses
Germs and diseases!

- Major ones = Smallpox, measles, typhus, influenza, malaria, yellow fever
- Native Americans had no immunity to these diseases
“The Great Dying”

- Result of European conquest = large-scale decimation of Native American populations and societies
- In many cases, up to 90% of the population in a region would die
- Central Mexico = population went from about 20 million people to 1 million people by 1650
The Columbian Exchange = the enormous network, migration, trade, spread of disease, and transfer of plants of animals between Europe and the Americas.
The Columbian Exchange

NORTH AMERICA
- Quinine
- Tobacco
- Pumpkin
- Squash
- Turkey
- Peppers
- Avocado
- Pineapple
- Cacao Bean

SOUTH AMERICA
- Coffee Bean
- Peach
- Pear
- Citrus Fruits
- Honeybee

ATLANTIC OCEAN
- Tomato
- Peanut
- Potato
- Cassava
- Sweet Potato
- Olive
- Banana
- Sugar Cane

EUROPE
- Turnip
- Grape
- Onion
- Livestock
- Disease
- Smallpox
- Influenza
- Diphtheria
- Typhus
- Measles
- Whooping Cough

AFRICA
- Grains
- Rice
- Barley
- Oats
- Livestock
- Disease
- Malaria
- Diphtheria
- Typhus
- Measles
- Whooping Cough
Positive Impact on Europe

- New information flooded into Europe
  - Led to the Scientific Revolution
- Gained wealth from the colonies ➔ precious metals, natural resources, new food crops, slave labor, financial profits, colonial markets
  - Led to the Industrial Revolution
- Colonies provided an outlet for Europe’s growing population
Belief held by all European powers

Mercantilism = governments served their countries’ economic interests best by exporting more than they import and by accumulating bullion

- Bullion = precious metals like silver and gold

Roles of the colonies:
1) Supplied resources for European factories
2) Provided closed markets = they could only buy products from their “mother country”
Mercantilism

- Gold from colonies
- Exports
- Imports decreased by tariffs
Types of Colonial Economies

- Settler-dominated commercial agriculture
- Slave-based plantations
- Ranching
- Mining
In the Lands of the Aztecs and Incas

AZTECS = CONQUERED BY HERNAN CORTES IN 1519

INCAS = CONQUERED BY FRANCISCO PIZARRO IN 1532

In modern-day Mexico

In modern-day Peru
Economic foundations for these colonial societies:

- Commercial agriculture on large rural estates
- Silver and gold mining

Both = used native peoples as forced laborers
Settlers
Mestizo Population = mixed-race population
Native Peoples (Primary labor force; slaves)

Spanish Settlers

Peninsulares = Spaniards born in Spain

Started from unions between native women and Spanish men

Creoles = Spaniards born in the Americas

Spanish immigration = 1 woman for every 7 men
Mestizos

- Largely Hispanic in culture
- Many looked down upon by “pure” Spaniards
- Worked as artisans, clerks, supervisors of workers, and lower-level officials in church and government organizations
Colonies of Sugar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Controlled By</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>Spanish, British, French, and Dutch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uses for sugar in Europe:
* A Medicine
* A Spice
* A Sweetener
* A Preservative
* In sculptured forms as a decoration → indicated high status and wealth
Involved growing the sugarcane AND processing it into usable sugar
- Very labor-intensive
- Most profitable if done on a large-scale
- Massive use of slave labor → imported Africans
  - Native population had been wiped out