

European Empires in the Americas



Chapter 1

**US History
Honors**

Bellringer

What do you see?

- **DIRECTIONS**

- Think deeply about this image...what do you see?
- What do you think the artist is attempting to say?



A photograph of the Machu Picchu ruins in Peru, showing stone terraces and buildings in the foreground, with a large, misty mountain peak in the background. The text "The Spanish Empire" is overlaid in white.

The Spanish Empire

The State and the Church

Spain quickly consolidated rule of the Americas after the conquistadors arrival.

While Spain wanted complete control, factors prohibited being absolute:

- Took almost 200 days round trip to reach Mexico.
- Sailing around South America to Peru took even longer.
- From 1492-1720, the leadership of Spanish lands would change considerably!

Spain and Portugal would established viceroyalties to govern American lands because of communication difficulties.

- Eventually, the Spanish crown would sell appointments for these posts
- Spanish and Portuguese governing institutions were highly developed
- Negative – these institutions were costly bureaucracies that would undermine the local economic initiative and political experimentation



What is the role of the Catholic Church?

- This institution played a significant role in the New World by transferring:
 - European language
 - European culture
 - Christian beliefs

Catholic clergy

- converted large numbers of Native Americans
- Some acted to protect Native Americans from exploitations and abuses by settlers

- **Spain benefited significantly from their colonial possessions:**
 - Silver and gold mines
 - Sugar plantations
- **Monies made helped fund the huge bureaucracies of the colonies.**
- **The colonial possessions were heavily taxed:**
 - Slowed investment in these colonies
 - Hindered economic growth
- **All conquests were justified by religious conversion of native populations.**
- **Despite Spanish exploitation, some took a stand for the native populations:**
 - Bartolome de Las Casas



Spanish Economy:

Economic Development of Colonial America was dominated by

- silver mines – produced the most wealth for Spain and Portugal!
- sugar plantations – Brazil!!!

What fuels the development of European capitalism?

- Mineral wealth of the New World

What helps Europe in their trade with Asia?

- Mineral wealth of the New World

Forced Labor

- Indigenous peoples were forced into the service of the Europeans – a form of slavery!

The Conquest of Mexico

- **Who was the first European to arrive in Mexico?**
 - Hernan Cortes
- **When he arrived, Cortes freed a Spanish castaway and enslaved Malinche (Dona Marina), a female Indian who spoke the Aztec language.**
- **How did Cortes ensure his soldiers would follow him?**
 - He BURNED his ships! This cut off any form of retreat.
 - Cortes also used Dona Marina to understand the Aztecs
- **Initial encounters between the Aztecs and the Spanish were “friendly” – until June 30, 1520!**
- **The Aztec populace diminished from 20 million to 2 million in less than 100 years.**

Spanish Florida, the Southwest, & Pueblo Revolt

- **Florida was the first area to be colonized by the Spanish in North America.**
 - The Spanish wiped out French settlers in their hopes of preventing further French colonization and ending piracy in nearby waters.
 - The Spanish presence in Florida remained small.
- **In the southwest, Juan de Oñate searched for fabled minerals**
 - Natives of Acoma (present-day New Mexico) attacked and Oñate retaliated by killing and enslaving native inhabitants.
 - Women and children were consigned to forced servitude.
 - Men were subjected to the cutting off of one foot.
 - Oñate was recalled by Spanish authorities for his brutal methods and failure to find gold.
 - A period of more stable colonial rule was initiated with the establishment of New Mexico and its capital, Santa Fe.

The Pueblo Revolt

How did the Pueblo Revolt Begin?

- By 1680, a small number of mostly *mestizo* Spanish colonists ruled over the Pueblo.
- Tensions increased over the colonists' exploitation of the Indians' labor and harsh efforts to eliminate indigenous religious practices.

Who led the Revolt?

- Popé was a religious leader who had been arrested by the Spanish for "sorcery."

What happened?

- The Pueblos attacked
 - Almost wiped out the entire population of Spanish colonists
 - Destroying all the symbols and icons of Spanish culture and Catholicism found in the region.
- Cooperation between Pueblo peoples disintegrated again and the Spanish reconquered New Mexico for good.



French Colonization

- Was Spain the only European power-house interested in the New World?
 - NO! As much as other European powers hated Spain's treatment of the Indians, they aspired to match the Spanish empire's incredible mineral wealth.
 - With the balance of economic power altered by Spain's success, established colonies in North America during the seventeenth century.

Colonizing Canada



- **What did the French desire?**
 - The French were hoping to find gold and locate a Northwest Passage to the Pacific.
 - Permanent settlements were established in the Mississippi River valley and along the St. Lawrence River in what became Canada, then called New France.
 - France chose to keep emigration low.
- **When did France begin colonizing?**
 - 1541: St. Lawrence valley
 - 10 ships and 400 soldiers
 - Stadacona Indian Lands were used for a fort near present-day Quebec city
 - The indigenous population would attack – French and Stadacona relations would NEVER be good.

Fur Trading and Settlement

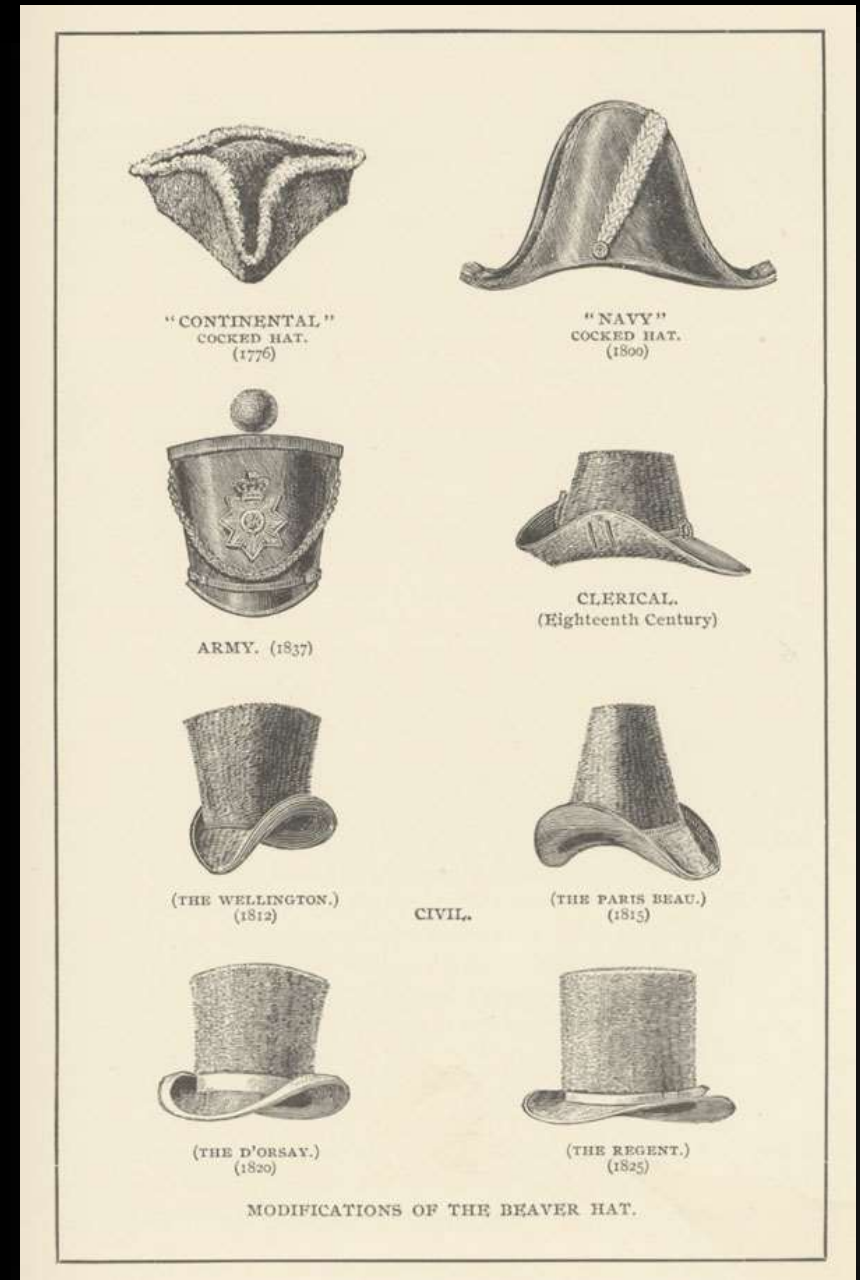
- **French colonists depended on friendly relations with local Indians.**
 - The French prided themselves on being more humane than rival empires.
 - The French created elaborate military, commercial, and diplomatic connections with natives, creating alliances with Indians unparalleled in North America in their durability.
 - Samuel de Champlain
 - denied that Indians were inferior to Europeans
 - the French generally were more tolerant of Indian religions and spiritual practices than rival European colonists.
 - In the “middle ground” of the upper Great Lakes region, French and Indians mixed in relative equality.
 - Though Indians were encouraged to adopt European customs, it was more common for settlers to adopt the “free” life of the Indians.



Saint Augustine, Florida

French Trade

- **What eventually drove the French trade in the New World?**
 - Beaver pelts
- **Why beaver?** Demand for beaver hats!
 - The French would dominate fur trading in the New World
- **How was French relation different with the Indians?**
 - Reciprocity!
 - French relationships were more successful because of mutual trade and treatment.
 - France traded: axes, knives, copper kettles, cloth, and glass beads for pelts.





Impact

- French colonialism brought disease and warfare to native populations.
- As fur trading and new European commodities increased, conflicts increased!
 - Competition between native groups for trade with the French.
 - Wars between European powers eventually brought the natives into various alliances with different European powers.

The Dutch Empire

The Dutch first came to the New World in 1609

- Henry Hudson explored New York Harbor and the Hudson River
- New Amsterdam (1624) became the Dutch outpost on Manhattan

New Netherlands

- The Netherlands was the center of a global maritime empire of trade, culture, and enlightenment.
- The Dutch invented practices, such as the joint stock company, that were critical to the birth of modern capitalism.
- The Dutch prided themselves on their devotion to liberty.
- The Dutch Reformed Church was the official national church, but individuals were free to choose their religious preference.
- That freedom led people from all over Europe to seek religious and economic refuge among the Dutch, and many of those people would eventually settle in the Dutch colonies.

