THE EARLY AMERICAS

Two Different Approaches:
The Iberians and the English/French
## Compare and Contrast American Colonial Experiences

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The Reconquista in Iberia
- Spanish, Portuguese spent 700 years reclaiming land from Muslims
  - State supported, state financed campaign
  - Well trained, well motivated, army and navy
  - State gets its tenth of conquests, soldiers get a share of profits, too
  - Aristocrats obtain estates with feudal labor (Muslims)
- Spanish, Portuguese had to expand overseas or risk local problems

Iberian Model
- Heavily urbanized society with small villages, towns, agriculture
- Aristocrats live in town, do no manual labor
- Bureaucrats, usually judges, lawyers run government, live in town
- Larger towns center of church, schools; church-state alliance, too
- Commoners seek to become nobles, follow similar life, willing to immigrate

Model for Exploitation based on Canaries, Azores example
- Enslave natives, give land to Europeans
- Plantations set up for export of sugar
- Enslaved natives die off, import slaves, usually Africans
SPANISH CARIBBEAN

- **Columbus and Successors**
  - **Early Successes**
    - Arrive Bahamas, Hispaniola
    - Built fort of Santo Domingo
    - 1511: controlled Cuba, Puerto Rico
    - 1520: controlled Lesser Antilles
    - Visited Panama, southern coasts
  - *Encomiendas* set up
    - Land grants to Spanish settlers
    - Total control over locals: use as slave laborers or tax them
- **Royal Administration arrives**
  - Governorship, treasury office, royal courts, professional magistrates
  - Capitals laid out in a grid pattern with royal palace, cathedral
- **Indigenous peoples were the Taino, Carib**
  - Lived in small villages under authority of chiefs
  - Showed little resistance to European visitors
  - Taino conscripted to mine gold, work plantations
  - Brutal abuses plus smallpox = disappearance of natives
CONQUEST OF MEXICO & PERU

- **General Conquests**
  - Not unified but haphazard
  - Group of opportunists led by one man: seek gold, glory
  - Age of Conquest came to end around 1570
  - Royal administration after conquests, abuses
- **Hernan Cortés**
  - Aztec, Inca societies wealthier, more complex
  - No more able to resist Spanish
  - Cortes, 450 men conquered Aztec empire, 1519-1521
  - Tribal resentment against the Mexica helped Cortés
  - Epidemic disease (smallpox) also aided Spanish efforts
- **Francisco Pizarro**
  - Small band toppled the Inca empire, 1532-1533
  - Internal problems and smallpox aided Pizarro's efforts
  - By 1540 Spanish controlled all the former Inca empire
- **Reasons for Indian Collapse**
  - Unable to overcome technology, ruthless leadership
  - Decimated by diseases
  - Internal problems weakened Inca, Aztec
DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT

- **Decline of Indian Population by 1750**
  - Drops from 125 million to 5 million
    - Caribbean Indians disappeared
    - Mexico: from 22 to 2 million by 1580
    - Peru: from 10 to 1.5 million by 1590
    - Diseases: smallpox, influenza, measles
  - **Results**
    - Whole areas abandoned
    - Indian traditions, social norms questioned
    - Economic structures collapse

- **Europeans replace Native**
  - Flora, fauna, cultural norms replace Indian
  - Farmers, ranchers take over Indian lands
  - Sheep, horses, cattle, crops replace Indians, varieties
  - European culture seen as superior – it won, we should adopt it
A QUESTION OF MORALITY

- Conquest involved violence, murder, theft
  - Raised moral, philosophical questions
    - Many scholars justified it as (Sepulveda)
      - Bring civilization, Christianity to backward
      - Conquest of inferior by a superior culture
    - The Leyenda Negra or Black Legend
      - Story circulated by the English
      - Spanish were murderers
      - Spanish conquest and treatment of Indians abnormal
      - Truth: All Europeans rarely differed from Spanish

- 1550: Spanish King calls commission to investigate
  - Bartolome de las Casas spoke against Sepulveda
  - Defended Indians, their lives, conquest unjustified
  - Crown backs de las Casas but conquest too much wealth to ignore
  - Crown orders worst abuses halted
  - Takes direct control of colonies, creates royal government
IBERIAN COLONIES

- **Spanish colonial administration formalized by 1570**
  - Administrative centers in Mexico and Peru governed by viceroys
  - Viceroys reviewed by *audiencias*, courts appointed by the king
  - Viceroys had sweeping powers within jurisdictions
- **Portuguese Brazil**
  - Visited by explorer Cabral, named after Brazil nut
  - Given to Portugal by Treaty of Tordesillas 1494
  - Portuguese king granted Brazil to nobles
  - Royal Governor oversees but does not always rule
  - Sugar plantations by mid-16th century
- **Colonial American society**
  - European-style society in cities, at certain elevations
  - Indigenous culture persisted in rural areas, especially jungles, heights
  - More exploitation of New World than settlement
  - Many Iberian migrants settled in the Americas, 1500-1800
    - Administrators
    - Soldiers
    - Landowners
    - Clergy
OTHER EUROPEANS ARRIVE

- Prior to 17th Century
  - Northern European explorations to find Northern route to Asia
  - Northern Europeans fish coasts of Americas, introduce diseases
  - General attempts to establish permanent colonies unsuccessful
  - Northern Europeans more frequently pirates preying on Spanish

- 17th Century
  - Spanish, Portuguese controls weaken
  - European revolts, wars against Spain
    - Dutch Revolt
    - Spanish Armada and England
    - French Minister Colbert
  - Europeans use era to establish settler colonies
    - Made possible by decimation of Indians by disease
    - Lands easy to settle when few Indians around
    - Settled areas the Spanish did not want
    - Europeans seeking religious freedom
    - Europeans seeking profit, gain
  - Dutch, French, English seize a few sugar islands in Caribbean
NORTH AMERICAN SETTLER COLONIES

Foundation of colonies on east coast, exploration of west coast
- France, England came seeking fur, fish, trade routes in early 17th century
- Settlements suffered isolation, food shortages
- France: St. Lawrence Valley, Mississippi Valley, Great Lakes Region
- England: Atlantic Seaboard, St. James Bay (Hudson’s Bay)
- Holland & Sweden: New York, Pennsylvania-Delaware
- Caribbean: All four owned sugar islands earning more than N. America

Colonial government different from Iberian colonies
- North American colonies controlled by private investors
- Little royal financial support except protection, taxation
- Royal authority/governors, but also institutions of self-government

Relations with indigenous peoples in North America
- Settlers' farms interrupted the migrations of indigenous peoples
- Settlers seized lands, then justified with treaties
- Natives retaliated with raids on farms and villages
- Attacks on European communities brought reprisals from settlers
- France actually got along very well with native populations
- Between 1500 & 1800, native population of North America dropped 90%
EXPLOITATION OF INDIANS

- European hierarchy grafted onto existing structure
  - Europeans eliminated Indian leadership, priesthood
  - Europeans used Indian aristocracy to mediate with commoners
- Indian slavery prohibited although distinction minor
- Different forms of labor, taxation created
  - Encomiendas used Indians as feudal like labor
    - Old Indian models but now arbitrary, excessive
    - Ended 1540 as too threatening to royal power
    - Forced labor
      - *Mita* in Peru
      - *Cuatequil* in Mexico
  - *Repartimiento* replaces *Encomienda* system
    - *Repartimiento* redistributed natives for forced labor
    - Little different from encomienda
    - Except village decide whom to send as laborers
    - Natives moved around as migrant workers, laborers on official duties
- 17th century
  - Indians flee villages, work for landlords, in cities; done to avoid conscription
  - Allowed Indians to choose work; began to work for wages
AFRICAN SLAVES IN THE AMERICAS

- Indians, Indentured Servants not sufficient
  - Indians decimated by diseases
  - Labor needs extreme in mines, plantation
  - Europeans will often not work
    - Iberian nobles lose patents of nobility if worked
    - Europeans unaccustomed to hard labor
    - Indentured servants too few to do work

- African Slaves
  - Africa had an overabundance of exportable labor
  - Europeans diverted slaves to Atlantic Coast
  - Slaves gradually introduced to Brazil, Caribbean
  - Slavery spread to coastlines of the Caribbean
  - Slaves used in plantation economies producing exportable cash crops
CARIBBEAN ECONOMY
SPANISH MINING, AGRICULTURE

- Silver more plentiful than gold
  - The basis of Spanish New World wealth
  - Melted Aztec, Inca gold into ingots
  - Two major sites of silver mining
    - Zacatecas (Mexico)
    - Potosi (Peru)
- Global significance of silver
  - 1/5 of all silver mined went to Spanish treasury (the quinto)
  - Paid for Spanish military and bureaucracy
  - Passed on to European, Asian markets for luxury trade goods
- Spanish Americas were largely an agrarian society
- Coastal Plantations
  - Produced cash crops for export: sugar, cocoa
  - Eventually required large imports of slave labor
- Large private estates (haciendas, estancias) set up
  - Were the basis of Spanish American production, aristocratic wealth
  - Spanish transplanted Iberian model
  - Produced grains, grapes, cattle, horses, sheep
SILVER PRODUCTION

Registered Silver Production, 1580-1800:
Mexico’s 18th c. boom outstripped Peru’s 16th c.
(Burkholder and Johnson, p. 139)

- **Peru**, 3 phases:
  - 16th c. boom, -1620
  - 17th c. decline, -1720
  - 18th c. recovery, 1720+

- **Mexico**, 4 phases:
  - 16th c. boom, -1610
  - 17th c. dip, 1630-70
  - 17th c. recovery
  - 18th c. boom, 1720+

- **Why 18th c boom?**
  - New strikes, more areas
  - Cheaper mercury, taxes
  - More investment
IBERIAN INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

- Americas became self-sufficient for needs
  - Foods, textiles, tools produced locally
  - Luxuries imported
  - Raw materials, minerals exported
- Trade was mercantilistic
  - Spanish government regulated trade
  - Trade routed through Spain: Cadiz, Seville
  - Only Spanish merchants could carry goods to Spain
  - All manufactures, imports had to come from Spain
  - Only Spaniards could sell products in Americas
  - Galleon convoys organized to protect, carry trade
    - Ports to Spain: Veracruz, Cartagena, Havana
    - Ports to Manila, China: Acapulco
- Textile Industry
  - Woolens developed from sheep ranching
  - Leather industry developed from cattle
  - Cotton produced locally by Indians also woven
- Portugal had similar guidelines except English, Dutch had encroached
Carrera de Indias (colonial convoy system): bullion from colonies, merchandise from Spain (often from N. Europe):
(Burkholder and Johnson, p. 144)

- 17th c. decline
  1600-: 6,573 ships
  1650-: 1,835

- Intrusions:
  Dutch (1590)
  English (1655)
  French (1665)

- End of great fleets (1748, 1776)
- Opening of ports (1764, 1778)
Mining, commerce and agriculture: New Spain/Caribe 17-18th centuries

Source: Hoberman and Socolow, xii

and--

*textile
mills
*(obrajes):
Puebla
Tacuba
Querétaro
Guadalajara
Oaxaca
Guatemala
Spanish America
(Hoberman and Socolow, xiii)

- Only 1 main source of silver, Potosí district
- Seven clusters of trade and commercial agriculture:
  Lima, Upper Peru
  Caracas,
  Bogotá-Cartagena,
  Quito,
  Santiago,
  Río de la Plata
- Textiles: Quito, Lima, Popayán, Cuzco, La Paz, Santiago, Tucumán
MULTIRACIAL SOCIETIES

• In Spanish and Portuguese settlements, *mestizo* societies emerged
  • Peoples of varied ancestry lived together under European rule
  • *Peninsulares* were European born who dominated government, society
  • *Creoles* were American born Europeans who ran economy, few rights
  • *Mestizo*: Mixed descent of Spanish and Portuguese men, native women
    • Many distinctions based on color, heritage
    • Society of Brazil more thoroughly mixed: *mestizos, mulattoes, zambos*

• Typical social and racial hierarchy in Iberian colonies
  • Strict hierarchy
  • Whites (*peninsulares* and *criollos*) owned the land and held the power
  • Mixed races (*mestizos* and *zambos*) performed much of the manual labor
  • Africans and American natives were at the bottom

• North American societies
  • Greater gender balance among settlers allowed marriage within own groups
  • Relationships of French traders and native women generated some *métis*
  • English disdainful of interracial marriages, going “native”
  • Cultural borrowing: plants, crops, deerskin clothes, words, ideas of nature
SOCIAL HIERARCHY BASED ON RACE, ELEVATION, ECONOMICS
BRAZIL: SUGAR & SLAVES

- King distributed land as estates to European landowners
  - Provinces overseen by Captain-Generals ruling almost as feudal lords
  - Colonial court resides in Salvador
- Portuguese empire in Brazil dependent on sugar production
  - Colonial Brazilian life revolved around sugar mill, or *engenho*
  - *Engenho* combined agricultural and industrial enterprises
  - Sugar planters became the landed nobility
  - Brazil was the first European sugar plantation colony and a model for others
- Growth of slavery in Brazil in North, along coast
  - Native peoples of Brazil were not cultivators
    - They resisted farm labor
    - Smallpox, measles reduced Indian population
  - Imported African slaves
    - For cane, sugar production after 1530
    - High death rate, low birth rate
    - Constant demand for slaves
    - Roughly, every ton of sugar cost one human life
- A Golden Age
  - As interior was settled, gold was discovered
  - A land rush and gold rush ensued which open up the interior
- Settlement of the Interior and Southern Plains
  - Ranching becomes common to support mining and sugar plantations
  - Church controlled missions protect Indians in communal living
CARIBBEAN SUGAR ISLANDS

- Europeans seize islands from Spanish
  - Many islands not settled due to Indian die-off
  - Pirates dominate islands for decades
  - European states suppress pirates, seize islands
- By end of 17th century
  - France: Haiti, Martinique, Guadalupe
  - Dutch: Dutch Antilles
  - UK: Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada
- Sugar spread from Brazil to Caribbean
  - Dutch Jews fleeing Brazil, Portugal brought knowledge to area
  - Local islanders switched crops from cotton, tobacco to sugar
  - Sugar economies boomed, profit enormous;
  - Africans had technical knowledge to produce sugar, rum
  - Demand for slaves fueled
- Barbados remained richest American colony for 100 years!
NORTHERN AMERICAN COLONIES

- **Northern Atlantic Colonies**
  - Poor soil, marginally productive; no great mineral deposits
  - Exploitation of forest products
    - Timber, pitch, tar
    - Furs
  - People turn outward for commerce
    - Become merchants, traders, fishers, whalers
    - Built, supported ships; ran slave trade, triangular trade

- **Southern Atlantic Colonies**
  - Tobacco, rice made plantation agriculture possible
  - Both required the importation of slave labor
  - Development began in 18th century
  - Lack of wealth delayed settlement
    - 16th to 17th century saw little European settlement
    - 18th century witnessed massive settlement
    - Led to clearing of richer lands and rise of agriculture, herding

- **Settlers to Northern American colonies**
  - Middle class Europeans with some education not uncommon
  - Families and women immigrated
The fur trade was very profitable
  - Native peoples trapped for and traded with Europeans
  - Hudson Bay Co. (England) and French dominate trade from Canada

Impact of the fur trade
  - Environmental impact
  - Conflicts among natives competing for resources
  - Many Indian wars especially as Iroquois came to dominate Great Lakes

European settler-cultivators posed serious threat to native societies
  - New England, Mid Atlantic, Canadian Atlantic small farms
  - Rich investors, aristocrats acquire best lands downriver, near coast
    - New York, Southern colonies tended towards larger estates, plantations
    - Cultivation of cash crops—grain, tobacco, rice, indigo, and later, cotton
    - Reestablish European feudal, aristocratic society often including cattle
  - Indentured labor flocked to North America in 17th and 18th centuries
    - Many came to Americas as a way to work off passage
    - After contract over, stake own land claims in backwoods (Irish, Scotts)

African slaves replaced indentured servants in late 17th century
  - Slaves not yet prominent in North America (lack of labor-intensive crops)
  - New England merchants participated in slave trade, distillation of rum
RELIGIONS IN THE AMERICAS

- Spanish missionaries introduced Catholicism
  - Mission schools and churches established
  - Missionaries recorded languages, traditions
  - Catholic Church attracted many converts
  - Church taught Indians skills: farming, herding
  - Church became protector of Indians
- Virgin of Guadalupe
  - 1451 Virgin appears to Juan Diego, an Indian
  - Virgin shown as crushing signs of Aztecs
  - Became a national symbol of Mexica people
- French and English missions less successful
  - North American populations not settled or captive
  - English colonists had little interest in converting indigenous peoples
  - French missionaries worked actively, but met only modest success
  - Jesuits, Franciscans successful with Iroquois, S. American Indians
- Native religions survived often underground, disguised
THE CHURCH AND SPAIN

- Catholic Church and Royal Government were allies
  - Church often functioned as a branch of the government
    - Established churches, schools in towns, frontier areas
    - Ran many of the social, intellectual activities of the colonies
  - Catholic orders converted the Indians
    - Settled the Indians in protected missions
    - Introduced farming, herding, industry to Indians
- Missionaries replace by Church Hierarchy
  - Bishops, parishes established in towns, country
  - Crown nominates only supporters to church positions
  - Monasteries, convents organized
- Church stimulates intellectual growth
  - Needs artists, architects to build, beautify churches
  - Printing presses tended to do mostly Church business
  - First universities (Mexico City, Lima) organized, run by clergy
    - Produced bureaucrats for empire, clergy for church
    - First universities in the Americas before Yale, Harvard
  - Sister Juana Ines de la Cruz
    - Mexican poet, musician, author, social thinker
    - Joined Church and became great theologian and social thinker
- Protestants, Jews, Heretics, Dissenters persecuted to maintain Orthodoxy
THE CRISIS OF THE 18\textsuperscript{TH} CENTURY

- \textbf{Shifting Balance of Trade and Politics}
  - Spanish model outmoded, Spanish hold on Americas not secure
  - Increasing wars, competition from Northern Europeans
    - French seize Santo Domingo, some lesser Antilles, Mississippi Valley
    - English seize Jamaica, Bahamas, some lesser Antilles, E. North America
    - Dutch seize Aruba, other lesser Antilles
  - Failure of Spanish central administration to control colonies
  - Decline of Spanish industry, merchants, treasure fleets

- \textbf{War of Spanish Succession: First World War!}
  - Last Hapsburg king dies, sparks war
  - Empire willed to French king
  - English, Dutch refuse to accept agreement
  - French obtain Spain, colonies but lose much
  - English merchants to operate out of Seville
  - English to supply slaves to Spanish Americas (asciento)
  - English even get to send one ship a year to Americas to collect silver
THE COLONIAL MAP
IBERIAN REFORMS

- **Bourbon kings of Spain initiate reforms**
  - King moved by economic nationalism, need for centralization
    - Better administration, new jurisdictions created
    - Reforms for material improvement not social, political revolution
    - Opened whole new regions to development; new technologies
    - Monopolies, royal charters granted; liberalized trading guidelines
  - Crushed opposition such as Jesuits
  - Better defense, military arrangements created including local units
  - New colonists settled in areas: California, Chile, Texas

- **Pompal reforms in Portugal effect Brazil**
  - Wanted to break English hold on Portugal, Brazil
  - Pursued mercantilism, autocratic reform from top down
  - Brazil became the centerpiece of his reforms
    - Vigorous, honest colonial administrators
    - Monopolies created to exploit areas
    - Large importation of slaves began to increase production
    - Cotton, cocoa produced introduced
    - Restricted Church influence so he could use Indians as slaves
    - Encouraged immigration of Europeans, women to Brazil
CHANGES IN NORTH AMERICA

- **French and Indian Wars**
  - English, French contest for North America
    - British government forced to pay for defense
    - Many burdens, deprivations fell on colonists
  - Resulted in the loss of colonies by French
- **English rule of North America**
  - English had to balance competing colonial interests
    - English-speaking colonists wanted to settle new lands
    - English sought to protect Indians, Catholics (Quebec Act)
    - Lands closed to English colonists
  - English needed colonists to pay for local defenses
    - Created a series of taxes, rules to raise funds
    - Colonists resented, resisted
  - Colonists demand representation or no taxation
    - Colonists favored free trade, opposed mercantilism
    - English react by basically repealing English Bill of Rights
  - Enlightenment ideas spread amongst colonists, local notables
BRITISH NORTH AMERICA, 1775
REACTION, REVOLTS

- Resistance to European rule by indigenous people not new
  - Various forms of resistance: rebellion, indolence, retreat
  - Difficult for natives to register complaints
- 18th Century: Rapid Population, Economic Growth
  - Declining morality, increasing fertility
  - Increasing immigration from Europe
  - Thriving slave trade
  - Increased demand for American goods, products
  - Increased influence, wealth of Europeans born in Americas
- Americans began to resent distant control
  - Local born Americans demand greater say in their own future
  - Urban riots, boycotts over foreign controls
  - Tax revolts
  - Slave revolts not uncommon
  - Revolts against mercantilist policies, controls
    - Spanish: tobacco, liquor, taxes led to Comunero Revolt in 1781
    - Tupac Amaru led Indian revolt in Peru in 1783
    - Lead up to the American Revolution: many Acts and then actual rebellion
• Compare and contrast the economic, social, and political structures of the Spanish colonies from 1500 to 1750 with the American colonies of one of these states:
  • England
  • France
  • Portugal
Within the period 1450 to 1800, compare the processes of empire building (e.g. political, social, and economic) in the Spanish empire with the process of empire building in one of the following:

- The Ottoman Empire
- The Russian Empire
- The English Empire
- The Dutch Empire
- The Manchu (Qing) Empire