

European exploration and empire

U.S. History to 1877

Medieval Europe

- Hierarchical
- Agrarian
- Feudal and unfree
- Stable world

The Rise of Europe

- Crisis
 - Plague (1347-51)
 - Gunpowder
- Rise of competitive nation-states

The Italian Model of Empire

- Italy's rise to wealth and power, 1000-1600
 - Venice's trading empire: colonies; commercial enclaves; armed ships; glass & textile manufactures
 - European woolens, Indian spices & cotton, Islamic sugar & cotton, German silver, African gold

Genoa's Privatized Empire

- Slaves, sugar on Cyprus, Sicily
- Genoa loses access to east
 - Bankers: Portugal, Spain
 - Mariners: England, Spain, Portugal
 - Merchants, plantation owners, slave traders

Portugal

- Centuries of war against Islamic kingdoms in Spain and Morocco
- Advances in ship design & navigation techniques
- Lure of Africa's exports: gold, ivory, slaves

Portuguese Empire

- Slaves & sugar: Madeira, Canaries, São Tomé

- Vasco da Gama reaches India, 1498
 - Trading empire: India, Indonesia, and China
- Claims Brazil, 1500
 - Sugar plantations with Indian & African slaves

Spain

- Columbus, 1492
 - Genoese mariner
 - Sugar plantation on Madeira
 - Enslaves Indians & plants sugar on Hispaniola

Spanish Empire

- Spain: feudalism and crusades
- The Spanish imperial system
 - Extremaduran Conquistadors
 - Cortés conquers Mexico, 1519-21
 - Pizarro conquers Peru, 1532-34
 - Encomiendas
 - Viceroys
- Silver from Potosí and Mexico

Spanish Empire

- Failure of the encomienda
 - Epidemics, war, and brutality kill millions
 - African slaves imported to repopulate the Americas

Slavery

Effects of discovery on Europe

- Economic changes
 - Expansion & inflation
 - England
 - Enclosure & the “wandering poor”

Beginnings of “Globalization”

- International economy

- Slave trade becomes international network
- International trade & development

The English Come to America

- Why colonize at all?
 - Spain's example
 - Mercantilism
 - Richard Hakluyt, *The Principal Navigations of the English Nation*, 1589
 - Destiny
 - Religion
 - Benefits of English civilization
 - Exotic products
 - Surplus population

England's first colony

- Elizabeth I versus Philip II
 - Privateers
 - Sir Walter Raleigh
 - Roanoke, 1587
- 1588: Spanish Armada

Founding Virginia

- The Virginia Company
 - Organized 1606
 - April 1607: Jamestown
 - Near disaster
 - 4800 die out of 6000 colonists, 1607-1624

Saving Virginia

- Headrights
- Tobacco: John Rolfe, 1612
- House of Burgesses, 1619

Plantation colonies

- Royal colony, 1624
 - Indian war, 1622
 - Tobacco culture
 - Indentured servants
- Maryland, 1634: tobacco & Catholics

From servants to slaves

- Governor Sir William Berkeley, 1642-1677
- Nathaniel Bacon's rebellion, 1676
- After 1660, fewer indentured servants
- The turn to slavery 1660-1700

A slaveowning elite takes charge

- Proud, independent elite, demands obedience
- Establish conservative political culture
 - Control government & church
 - Weak govt., low taxes to protect slavery & wealth
 - Quick to defend their liberty against outside control
 - Profound lack of sympathy for the unlucky

Southern Cultural Legacy

- Least educated
- Biggest gap between rich and poor
- Most violent
- Most conservative; least innovative
- Fewest public institutions & amenities (parks, libraries)
- Weak social services