

Chronology of Conquest of Americas

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The following is a summary of the chronology of the Conquest of the Americas:

40,000 years ago, the first Americans possibly arrived in a series of migration from the Asian continent. The human species evolved in Africa hundreds of thousands of years ago, after the continent had emerged. The chronology will combine a traditional history of the powerful leaders and conquistadores during the 16th and 17th centuries. An amazing array of cultures and peoples emerged in the Americas before 1492.

The most highly developed of the sedentary peoples were the Mayas, Aztecs, and Incas. The complex civilizations that arose in the Americas before the arrival of the European experienced relatively similar processes of development over several millennia. Agriculture was to this process in the Americas, just as it is in the Old world in china, India, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. The Maya civilization was the first and the greatest of these great peoples to merge. The Maya rise and fall as city-states that expanded outward through conquest and empire building.

The Aztec emerged late in the post classic period (900-1500 AD) in the Valley of Mexico. They built on the great cultural accomplishments of the Maya and other Mesopotamia peoples. In the 14th century, they expanded outward, conquering all of central Mexico from coast to coast. The empire reached its peak in the late 15th century under Montezuma I. His son Montezuma II, ascended into the throne in 1502, reigning over an enormous powerful and rich empire.

In the 15th century, the Incas also emerged as a great empire. The development of the Incas Empire parallels many of the developments in Mesoamerica. As in Mesoamerica, several cultures developed in the two millennia before the Incas contributed the key elements of their civilization.

The precursors of the Incas were the civilization that developed in the high plain around Lake Titicaca in modern day Bolivia. Like Mesoamerican cultures, the Incas developed a very sophisticated terraced agriculture, a complex religion with many gods, and an imperial ideology.

A civil war broke out in this vast empire before the arrival of the Spanish in 1530's. The Old World was comprised of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The Mediterranean Sea formed the center of the economic and political networks of Europe, North Africa, and Middle East; Spain and Portugal were at the center of this process. The Romans had conquered the Iberian Peninsula in the 2nd century BC.

After the fall of Rome in the 5th century, the conquerors left the language (Latin), religion (Catholicism), and legal systems. In the early 8th century, Islamic peoples form North Africa

(Moors) overran most of the peninsula. The re-conquest by the Christian would take nearly 800 years. In 1250, Portugal had emerged as the first nation state in Europe. Spain won the battle with the Moors with the fall of Granada in 1492. The peoples of Africa were incredibly diverse in ethnicity, religion, and language. In the 15th century, the Europeans began to establish trade relations with Africa.

In the late 15th century, Europe was one of the many powerful civilizations around the globe. In 1492, the European civilization was on the verge of global expansion and domination, however, Europe was still politically fragmented and splintered. Germany and Italy could not come together as unified nations until the 19th century. France and England were still wracked by civil wars. Only Portugal and Spain had emerged as nations, and they were small compared to the other empires.

The main factors converged to propel the Europeans outward to such enormous success were the following: Dynamic process of competition and capitalism were emerging in Europe; dynamic culture of Europe, the Judeo Christian worldview and emergence of modern science was driving European outward; and the European pulled together all the technology needed to move across the oceans. The combination of these four factors emerged in Europe, first in Spain and Portugal. Portugal, especially, was at the front of the trade revolution. The Portuguese, in particular, were the pioneers in the process of expansion; and were the primary instigators in the creation of the Atlantic world.

The discovery of the Americas is called the “Columbian Moment,” the most important event in world history in the last 1,000 years. Columbus’ voyage began the sustained exchange between these two worlds in an irreversible process that continues today. This moment had enormous consequences for both worlds; it led to the invasion, conquest, and decimation of the peoples of the Americas. The biological exchange of plants, animals, and diseases profoundly reshaped global ecology and culture. Columbus began the process of creating a truly global village.

Beginning with Columbus in 1492, the Spanish swept across the Caribbean within 20 years, conquering and destroying the native peoples of the region. The Spanish moved through the conquest utilizing the stepping stone process, conquered an island, established a base of operations, and then moved outward to the next island. The greater prizes in the Caribbean were the largest islands, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. Hispaniola was the Spanish pivot point; they moved out in all directions, discovering other islands. As the Spanish hopped across the islands, they also landed on and explored coast lines of the American mainland. The most important expeditions to the north moved to Florida, the Mississippi valley, and the southeast of what would become the United States.

The conquest of Mexico is an epic story of two powerful empires colliding and two powerful figures clashing, concluding with the destruction of a once regal ruler and his empire. Hernan Cortes was the most notorious conquistador. He was a ruthless and brilliant leader of a small army of a few hundred Spaniards who would conquer an empire of millions of Indians. Upon arrival on the Mexican coast he deftly exploited the Aztec fears that he was possibly a god, and his brilliant maneuvering to bring enemies of the Aztec empire to his side. It concluded with the triumphant arrival in the Aztec capital, and his bold capture of Montezuma in his own palace.

The conquest of the Incas is another epic tale but without the drama and heroic individuals of the Mexican epic. Following the lead of Cortes, Pizarro and his men seized the Inca ruler, the ahualpa, decapitating the Incas Empire. The Spanish exploit the divisions among the Indians to bring down the empire. The Spanish quickly seize the “cacique” and hold him for ransom, paralyzing his armies. Then they march to the capital, high in the mountainous interior, eventually capturing the main center of power. Shortly before the arrival of the Spanish, the Incas ruler had died and his two sons, Atahualpa and Huascar, were at war over the control of the empire. Once the Spanish succeeded in the initial phase of the conquest, they split into bitter factions, and civil war wracked Spanish Peru for years.

Pedro Alvarado, a lieutenant of Cortes, who led the conquest of the once powerful Maya Empire in Guatemala. The Maya in the Yucatan Peninsula began a resistance to conquest that would last until the 12th century. Alvarado found the Cakchiquel and Quiche Maya at war with each other. He allied with the Cakchiquel to defeat the Quiche, only to later turn on the Cakchiquel and enslave them. He spent the rest of the 1520's conquering the remainder of Guatemala and El Salvador.

In 1510, Pedro Arias de Avila ruthlessly seized control of the Spanish possessions on the Isthmus of Panama. In 1520, he sent expeditions into Costa Rica and Nicaragua, eventually taking residence in the latter. In 1527, Francisco de Montejo began the conquest of the Yucatan peninsula.

The Portuguese stumbled onto Brazil on their way creating first global trade empire, an empire originally centered on Africa, Indian Ocean, and East Asia. They had experience on a small scale with sugar plantations and African slave labor in the 15th century. Brazil covers about 40% of the landmass of South America, Brazil sometimes referred to as the other Latin America. The Portuguese were the great pioneers of the Atlantic.

In 1488, Bartolomeu Diaz had rounded the Cape of Good Hope and founded a sea route to Asia. In 1493, the Portuguese monarchy had rejected Columbus' plan to head west to arrive in Asia. The Portuguese transplanted to Madeira and the Azores in the 15th century. The Portuguese created the first great plantation society in the Americas, a pattern all the other European powers to emulate. Brazil became the engine of growth in the rise of the Atlantic slave trade. The presence of the Portuguese in Brazil, the sugar and slavery trade became the economic engine of economic expansion.

The Atlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in world history. From the mid 15th century to the mid 19th century, some 12-15 million Africans were brought across the Atlantic in chains to labor in the mines and on the plantations from North America to southern South America. The trade took place for 400 years and involved many nations and peoples on both sides of the Atlantic. All major European powers were involved: Spain, Portugal, England, France, and Holland.

The passage across the Atlantic was harrowing at best. It is estimated that 27, 000 voyages were recorded. Transatlantic slave trade began in the 1440's and ended in 1860's. Upon arrival in the

Americas, whether Baltimore, Charleston, Havana, or Rio de Janeiro, the process was similar. The vast majority went to work in fields and mines of the American South, the Caribbean, and Brazil.

40,000 - 12,000BC: Arrival of first humans in the Americas.

8000 BC: Beginning of Paleoindian era. The earliest Americans began to make tools to settle into villages, in the period often called "Paleo-Indian."

8000 - 2500 BC: During the Arctic period, the first signs of agriculture, simple pottery, and the domestication of maize and potato.

2500 BC: Beginning of Archaic, or formative period.

2500 - 500 BC: The cultures that form the great civilizations begin to take shape in Mesoamerica and the Andes, with the beginning of sophisticated agriculture, social stratification, and the first great ceremonial centers.

2500 BC - 250: Across Mesoamerica, several key cultures emerge in the formative or pre-classic period.

5th Century BC: After the fall of Rome, the conquerors left behind their language (Latin), religion (Catholicism), legal system, and settlements that would become many of the principal cities.

2nd Century BC: The Romans had conquered the Iberian Peninsula. Portugal became part of the Roman Empire. The name Portugal is derived from Portus Cale, a former Roman settlement at the mouth of the Douro River.

250 BC: Beginning of Classic periods in Mesoamerica.

250 - 900 AD, 120-1450 AD: The first to develop were the Mayas in what is today Guatemala and southern Mexico, reaching two peaks. They raised an empire in an extremely hospitable environment. The first great Maya civilization reaches full flower during the Classic period, accomplishments ranged from stone architecture to extensive knowledge of astronomy.

300 - 900 AD: The Mayas were perhaps the most fascinating of the three, emerging in Central America, then collapsing and reemerging in northern Guatemala and the Yucatan peninsula before collapsing in the mid-15th century.

5th Century AD: After the collapse of Roman rule, Portugal was colonized by Germanic peoples, who came overland from Europe. Portugal was then conquered by Muslims from North Africa, before coming under the control of Spanish kings.

711 AD: Moors conquer most of Iberian Peninsula.

Early 8th Century: Islamic peoples from North Africa (Moors) overran most of the peninsula. The re-conquest by the Christian rulers would take nearly 800 years.

900 AD: Beginning of post Classic period in Mesoamerica. After the collapse of the great city-states across Mesoamerica for which many different explanations exist, another great Maya civilization emerges in the lowlands of the Yucatan peninsula. One of the great mysteries of American archaeology is the cause of the collapse of the Maya civilization.

900 - 1500 AD: The Aztecs emerged late in the post Classic period in the Valley of Mexico. They built on the great accomplishments of the Mayas and other Mesoamerica peoples.

12th Century: Portugal became an independent kingdom.

1200 AD: Northern Guatemala civilization emerged and collapses in the mid 15th century.

1250 AD: The process had been completed in Portugal by this date, and the Kingdom of Portugal had emerged by then as the first nation state in Europe.

1253 AD: Re-conquest complete in Portugal.

1350 AD: Beginning of Renaissance.

1350 – 1550 AD: During the Renaissance, the first nation states began to emerge in Europe.

14th Century: They were already out in the Atlantic discovering and conquering islands. They expanded outward, conquering all of Central Mexico, Coast to coast.

1415: The Portuguese established the first Global trading empire.

1441: First documented shipment of black African slaves to Europe.

1451: John Cabot was born in Genoa to a family of **weavers** and, as a young man, began to ship out on voyages in the Mediterranean.

1470: In Portugal, he formulated what he called the “enterprise of the Indies.”

1474: King Afonso V entrusted his son, Prince John (later John II), with the supervision of Portugal’s trade with Guinea and the exploration of the western coast of Africa.

1475: In the mid 1470’s, his ship went down the coast of Portugal and he took residence in Lisbon.

1476: Italian navigator and explorer, John Cabot, attempted to find a direct route to Asia. Cabot was probably born in Genoa, and as a youth he moved to Venice, where his seafaring career probably began. Cabot had developed a theory that Asia might be reached by sailing westward. His theory appealed to several wealthy merchants of Bristol, who agreed to give him financial support.

1478: He married, fathered a son, and soaked up all the information he could about the expedition into the Atlantic. Columbus spent a decade there. He wasn't a common sailor but a learned mariner. Pizarro was born. He was older than Cortes, without his education or sophistication.

1481: John sought to close the area to foreign shipping and after his accession ordered new voyages of discovery to ascertain the southern limit of the African continent. The navigators were given stone pillars to stake the claims of the Portuguese crown. Thus one of them, Diogo Cao, reached the Congo and sailed down the coast of Angola to Cape Santa Maria at 13°26' S, where he planted one of John's markers, supposing that he had attained the southernmost tip of Africa.

1482: King Phillip I became Duke of Burgundy.

1484/85: He was born in Medellin, Spain, and he fought in Italy and then came to the Caribbean as a teenager participating in the conquest of Cuba.

1485: After failing to persuade the Portuguese to back his venture, Columbus went to Castile to work with the Spanish monarchs, Fernando and Isabel.

1486: Rumor arose of a great ruler, the Ogané, far to the east, who was identified with the legendary Christian ruler Prester John, John II then sent Pero da Covilha (g.v.) and one Afonso Paiva overland to locate India and Abyssinia and ordered Dias to find the southern limit of Africa. Dias' fleet consisted of three ships. His own "São Cristóvão," the "São Pantaleão" under his associate João Infante and a supply ship under Dias' brother, whose name is variously given as Pêro or Diogo. The company included some of the leading pilots of the day, among them Pêro de Alenquer and João de Santiago, who earlier had sailed with Cão.

1486 - 1487: A 16th century historian, João de Barros, places Dias' departure in August 1486 and says that he was away 16 months and 17 days, but since two other contemporaries, Duarte Pacheco and Christopher Columbus, put his return in December 1488. It is now usually supposed that he left in August 1487.

1488: Bartolomeu Dias, Portuguese navigator and explorer, who led the first European expedition to round the Cape of Good Hope, opening the sea route to Asia via the Atlantic and

Indian oceans. Bartolommeo Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope and found a sea route to Asia.

1490-1511: A soldier in his youth, Arias Davila served with distinction in wars against the Moors in Granada in the 1490's and in North Africa in 1508-11.

1491: The pioneering Portuguese led the charge out into the Atlantic and down the African coast, setting the stage for the dramatic voyage of Christopher Columbus to the Americas.

1492: The fall of Granada and the culmination of the re-conquest, Fernando and Isabel finally accepted Columbus' arguments. The long re-conquest of Spain ended with the fall of Granada.

The three famous ships: Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria left Palos, then made a stop in the Canary Islands before heading due west in early September. Columbus had extraordinary luck in his voyage with winds and weather.

October 12, 1492: Some four weeks after his departure, about 2500 miles west of the Canary Islands, he sighted land on the morning of October 12th. Columbus made several later voyages to the New World and probably always believed had landed in the Indies.

1492: Beginning with Columbus, the Spanish swept across the Caribbean within twenty years, conquering and destroying the native peoples of the region. Re-conquest in Spain completed with the fall of Granada; first voyage of Christopher Columbus. This led into the role of Christopher Columbus and the story of his momentous "discovery" of the Americas, the most important event in world history during the last millennium. Indians is a misnomer created by Columbus that has persisted in many languages. Native Americans have gained wide use in the last few decades.

An amazing array of cultures and peoples emerged in the Americas before 1492; we can divide them into a series of types that are useful for analytical purposes. To look around the world in this time frame, one would not have likely picked European civilization as the one on the verge of global expansion and domination. Europe was still politically fragmented and splintered.

1492-93: The island of Hispaniola became the first major staging ground for conquest and colonization. The first settlement on the north side of the island failed after Columbus returned to Spain.

1493: When he returned, he founded Santo Domingo on the south side of the island.

Cabot and his supporters began to make plans for a direct crossing to the Orient. Quite rightly, the Portuguese monarchy had rejected Columbus's plan to head west to arrive in Asia.

1495-1521: The reign of Manuel I as King of Portugal during this period, considered the golden era of Portuguese history. Manuel sponsored sea expeditions that opened new trade routes and sent wealth from the Americas back to Portugal.

1496: King Phillip I married Joanna the Mad, daughter of the Castilian monarchs, Ferdinand V and Isabella I.

March 5, 1496: Cabot's proposed expedition was authorized, by King Henry VII of England.

May 2, 1497: With a crew of 18 men, Cabot sailed from Bristol on the Matthew. He steered a generally northwestward course, and on June 24, after a rough voyage, he made land. Historians have advanced a number of theories concerning his landfall; some say that Cabot landed in Newfoundland; others say it was in Nova Scotia; still others support a landing on present day Cape Breton Island. He subsequently did sail along the Labrador, Newfoundland and New England coasts. Believing that he had reached northeastern Asia, he formally claimed the region for Henry VII.

Cabot returned to England in August and was granted a pension. Assured of royal support, he immediately planned a second exploratory voyage that he hoped would bring him to Cipangu Japan. The King sent a large expedition around the Cape to India under the command at Vasco da Gama.

1497 - 1498: King Manuel however, led him to persecute the Jews in Portugal and to expel them from the country in 1497-98, an act that deprived Portugal of many brilliant people. He has sometimes been called Manuel the Great or Manuel the Fortunate.

1498: Cabot's expedition, consisting of four or five ships and 300 men, left Bristol. The fate of this expedition is uncertain. It is believed that in June, Cabot reached the eastern coast of Greenland and sailed northward along the coast until his crews mutinied because of the severe cold and forced him to turn southward. He may have cruised along the coast of North America to Chesapeake Bay at latitude 38° north. He was forced to return to England because of a lack of supplies, and he died soon afterward.

1499: When Gama returned, he fulfilled the old European dream of direct trade with the East. A 700% profit was achieved in the expedition.

1500: The expedition of Cabral ventured too far west as it moved out into the Atlantic; the explorers spotted what they thought was a large island. The Curacao Island was visited by the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda.

Beginning 15th Century: Three peoples will collide, Native Americans, Europeans, and

Africans. The conquests of the Caribbean, Mexico and Peru; and into the frontiers of the Spanish empire in the Americas. The construction of colonial societies, beginning with the rise of the plantation complex in Brazil, the transatlantic slave trade and the construction of the great estates and silver mines. It was an incomplete spiritual conquest and the emergence of new American religious mixtures.

15th Century: The initial expansion of Europeans into the Atlantic world.

Diaz is usually considered to be the greatest of the Portuguese pioneers who explored the Atlantic during the 15th century. Almost nothing is known of Dias' early life. His supposed descent from one of Prince Henry the Navigator's pilots is unproved, and his rank was the comparatively modest one of squire of the royal household.

The Aztecs in Central Mexico and the Incas in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia were late bloom, emerging as impressive empires in the 15th century, the latter at elevation above 7,000 ft. The Aztecs and Incas build enormous empires driven by powerful religions. Both were at their peak when Columbus arrived in the Americas. The Empire reached its peak in this century, Montezuma I.

The Incas also emerged as a great empire in this century. The development of the Inca Empire parallels many of the developments of Mesoamerica. Beginning in this century, the axis of European civilization began to move out into the Atlantic. Under the Avis Dynasty, the Portuguese began to work their way down to the coast of West Africa. The Portuguese established regular trade with peoples down the entire length of the Atlantic coast of Africa.

This was a technically feasible voyage for the ships of this century. The Portuguese were the great pioneers in the Atlantic. For the entire century, they had moved into the islands of the Atlantic and down the west coast of Africa. They emerged as the foremost center of maritime exploration in Europe. Over the next century, Portuguese sailors explored the world and dominated the sea trade. These sailors helped Portugal build the first great European overseas empire, with colonies in Africa, Asia and South America. Today, Portuguese is one of the world's most widely spoken languages, a legacy of Portugal's once vast empire. Facing shortages of labor, they turned in the mid 15th century to importing captive black Africans.

In the late century, Spain had an economy that is usually labeled mercantilist. The basic idea was to control and direct trade to produce profit and taxes for the monarchy. Guilds and bureaucrats abounded and worked hard to regulate trade.

1500: Cabral lands on the coast of Brazil. After 1500, however, the scale of the slave trade fundamentally changed.

1502: His son, Montezuma II, ascended to the throne resigning over an enormously powerful and rich empire.

1502-20: Montezuma, hearing of the arrival of the strangers, hesitated in his response and sealed his fate.

1503: The Board of Trade in Seville, created in 1503, became the conduit for all trade with the American colonies.

1504: On Isabella's death, Joanna became queen of Castile.

1506: They had overrun Puerto Rico, and 1511, they swept across Cuba. The smaller islands fell like dominos.

Because Joanna and Philip were absent in Flanders, however, Ferdinand was the actual ruler until 1506, when the couple returned to Castile to claim the throne jointly. Philip died a few months after his return. His sons became Holy Roman emperors as Charles V and Ferdinand I. Philip was the founder of the Habsburg dynasty in Spain.

1506-1516: Charles V, on the death of his father in 1506, Charles inherited the Burgundian realm; following the death of Ferdinand in 1516. He became ruler of the vast Spanish kingdom.

1509: He fought and then settled in Panama after 1509, becoming one of the more important settlers. Along with Diego de Almagro and a priest, Hernando de Luque, Pizarro raised funds for expeditions to land to the south called Peru.

1509-1511: The most important expeditions to the north moved into Florida, the Mississippi valley, and the southeast what became the United States.

1510: Cortes emerged from obscurity in Cuba and became ruthless and brilliant leader of a small army of a few hundred Spaniards who would conquer an empire of millions of Indians.

Pedro Arias de Avila (Pedrarias Davila) ruthlessly seized control of the Spanish possessions on the Isthmus of Panama.

1513: It is believed that he owed his appointment as captain general of the Spanish lands in the New World, which he received from the bishop of Burgos.

Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León set out in search of the legendary fountain of youth. He did not find it, but he did find Florida, which he attempted to colonize. He was attacked by natives and died after escaping to Cuba.

1513: Balboa managed to cut his way across the deadly jungles and mountains of Panama to become the first European to see the Pacific Ocean. As with the northward expeditions, these unlucky conquistadors failed to find riches and spoils equal to those of the Caribbean.

1514: Arias Davila sailed for the New World with 19 ships and about 1,500 men.

1514—31: Arias Davila's accomplishments include establishing colonies in what are now Panama (1514) and Nicaragua (1522), serving as governor of Panama (1514-26) and Nicaragua (1527-31), and founding Panama City (1519).

1516: He also sent out expeditions of conquest, such as that led by Hernan Ponce and Bartolome Hurtado to what are now Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

1519: He seems to have deliberately promoted discord among the captains placed under his command, and he was held responsible for the trial and execution of the explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa. When Maximilian died, he gained the Habsburg lands in central Europe, where his younger brother, Ferdinand, later Emperor Ferdinand I was governor. Charles, having bribed the electors, was designated in Holy Roman emperor.

1517: Protestant Reformation begins in Europe.

In particular, the expeditions had moved along the Yucatan Peninsula, bringing back stories of a great empire to the west. A generation after arrival of Columbus in Hispaniola, the Spanish had conquered the Caribbean Islands, and they had stumbled on the gateway to one of the two greatest prizes in the Americas—the Aztec empire of Mexico.

1517-18: When word came back from the expeditions during this period, about powerful and wealthy empires in lands to the west, Velazquez began to mount a large expedition to confront and conquer these peoples.

1519: At the last minute, a hearing was held to remove him from his designated post by Velazquez, in turn, Cortes ordered his eleven ships and 600 men to embark for the westward voyage. Cortes had surveyed the coast, acquired Marina, founded a city, and consolidated control over his men.

April 12, 1519: On Easter Day, Cortes established the city of Vera Cruz, where he spent the next four months ferreting out his enemies and cultivating his friends, among both Indians and Spaniards. Cortes requested to Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor for the right to rule the city and to engage in conquest. Cortes began to advance inland toward the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. Cortes marched inland to the Aztec capital, adding thousands of Indian warriors to his band of fewer than a thousand Spaniards.

The Spanish entered the valley of Mexico: The entrance of the Spanish and their reception by Montezuma as they entered the Aztec capital is one of the great moments in the conquest of the Americas. Much to his later chagrin, Montezuma lodged the Spanish in one of his palaces. Within days, the daring Spaniards took Montezuma as their hostage, “decapitating” the empire.

1519: A series of voyages to the west, especially from Cuba, had probed the long coastline of Central America. Cortes begins the conquest of Mexico. As the Spanish hopped across the islands, they also landed on an explored the coastlines of the America mainland.

When Maximilian died, he gained the Habsburg lands in central Europe, where his younger brother, Ferdinand, later Emperor Ferdinand I, was governor. Charles having bribed the electors was designated Holy Roman emperor.

1520: With his forces decimated, his advantage in weapons blunted, and still facing challenges from Cuba, Cortes embarked on a series of brilliant diplomatic maneuvers in the second half of 1520. Almost all their efforts were eventually concentrated around the captaincies of Pernambuco and Bahia in the northeast. They paid little attention to the north, and the Amazon was first navigated by Spanish conquistadores from Peru. The infamous Pizarro and Orellana expedition proved to be a disaster. Several expeditions probed the coast of western South America during this period, moving Pizarro and his men to the fringes of a powerful empire.

In a daring move, Cortes left some of his men under the command of Pedro Alvarado in Tenochtitlan and took several hundred men back to the coast, where he brilliantly outmaneuvered and defeated Narvaez.

On the Infamous “SAD NIGHT,” the Spanish battled their way across the shortest cause way to the western side of Lake Texcoco. Attacked by thousands of Aztec warriors on the causeway and in canoes in the lake, the Spaniards and their Indian allies suffered tremendous losses. Most of the Spaniards’ horses and the artillery were lost.

October 23, 1520: Charles was crowned King of Germany in Aix-la-Chapelle (now Aachen, Germany). Charles was now by far the most powerful sovereign in Christendom. His inherited lands far exceeded those of the Frankish emperor Charlemagne. His territory included the Spanish kingdoms of Aragón and Castile; the Netherlands; the Italian states of Naples, Sicily and Sardinia; Spanish conquests in America and Africa; and the Habsburg lands. He ascended the imperial throne at a time when Germany was agitated by Martin Luther.

1520 - 1530s: Cabeza de Vaca’s trek across Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico demonstrated the futility of expending large amounts of money and men on the northern frontier of New Spain.

The ill fated expedition of Panfilo Narvaez ended in shipwreck, new ships, and shipwreck again on the Texas coast. Alvarado spent the rest of the years conquering the remainder of Guatemala and El Salvador. The irrepressible Alvarado hearing of Pizarro's exploits in Peru, joined in the conquest of the Incas. Avila sent expeditions into Costa Rica and Nicaragua, eventually taking up residence in Nicaragua.

As he moved to lay siege on Tenochtitlan, another deadly ally emerged -- smallpox, which probably arrived with the Narvaez expedition. New men drawn to Mexico by news of the advancing conquest, the growing number of Indian allies, and disease gradually tightened the siege. Cortes used "selective acts of terror" against his own Indian allies to keep them in line.

Hernan Cortes had achieved a seemingly impossible feat, the defeat of one of the largest empires in the world. In less than a year, Cortes and his men had moved from vague notions of an expedition to the west to the heart of the Aztec capital.

Charles V, in an unsuccessful attempt to re-store tranquility, a great diet was held in Worms in 1521, before which Luther made a memorable defense of his doctrines. The diet rejected his position, and Charles subsequently issued an edict condemning Luther. At this time rivalry between France and Spain over the Italian lands and Burgundy led King Francis I of France to take up arms against Charles, whose attention was drawn away from Germany's internal affairs.

The war between King Charles V and King Francis of France, in which Charles was allied with Henry VIII of England and the powerful Charles, Duke of Bourbon, proved disastrous to France. The city finally fell, and the Spanish razed nearly all the major structures in the process. The empire had not been conquered from without but within. Hand to hand combat led to victory.

1521: Fall of Tenochtitlan.

Ferdinand I became governor of the duchy of Württemberg and of the Habsburg hereditary lands, where he sought to check the spread of the Reformation.

December 1523: Alvarado left Mexico; smallpox preceded him, greatly diminishing Indian resistance. After fighting his way to Chiapas in southern Mexico, Alvarado found the Cakchiquel and Quiche Maya at war with each other. Alvarado allied with the Cakchiquel to defeat the Quiche, only to later turn on the Cakchiquel and slave them.

1524: Arias Davila participated in the expedition led by Francisco Pizarro and Diego de Almagro, which conquered the Inca Empire in what is now Peru. Arias Davila, however, has been described both as being too old and as lacking the intellectual and moral capacity needed by a captain general. The peasants took advantage of the turmoil and revolted.

Under John III, Portuguese title to Brazil was confirmed by the Congress of Badajoz, and the country's Asian possessions were expanded. Portuguese influence over the Moluccas, or Spice

Islands increased and several conquests in India were successful. Because of these overseas conquests, however Portugal's debt increased.

1526: The Inca ruler Huayna Capac had died around this time, possibly from smallpox or malaria. He had many sons and no clear line of succession. Atahualpa rallied forces around him in the northern section of the empire based in Quito. King Francis of France was taken prisoner, when the French were defeated at Pavia (near Milan, Italy). The Ottomans controlled the Balkan Peninsula. Ferdinand I laid claim to the Hungarian throne. Sultan Süleyman I swept over Hungary.

King Francis was forced to sign the Treaty of Madrid, relinquishing his claim to Italy and abandoning Burgundy. Soon after his release the following year, Francis renewed the struggle, now aided by Henry VIII and Pope Clement VII, who was anxious to rid Italy of the imperial armies. When Ferdinand I brother-in-law, King Louis II of Hungary, Ferdinand claimed through his wife the thrones of Bohemia and Hungary.

1527: Ferdinand I was crowned king by the Bohemians. Although crowned almost simultaneously in Hungary, he was rejected there by the nobles who were led by John I Zápolya and supported by the Ottoman Empire. A long series of indecisive wars ensued against the Ottoman Empire and the forces of John I and his son, John II. Pope Clement VII was captured at Rome and was kept captive for seven months. The Spanish took possession of the Leeward Islands.

1528: An expedition led by Panfilo de Narvaez was shipwrecked on the Gulf Coast, and a handful of survivors eventually washed up the shores of Texas. Pizarro returned to Spain and met with the triumphant Cortes and Emperor Charles V, receiving royal permission to discover and conquer Peru.

1528 - 1536: Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca gradually worked his way across Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico in the 1520's in one of the epic sagas of the Spanish conquest. He was one of four survivors of an eight year odyssey through the American wilderness. Alvar built ships in Pensacola.

1529: The war ended with the signing by Charles and Francis of the Peace of Cambrai. Francis again renounced the Italian lands, and Charles ceded Burgundy to France. The Ottomans laid siege to Vienna.

1530: The Portuguese established some permanent settlements (Sao Vicente) along the coast, primarily to fend off the French. Pope Clement VII crowned the victorious monarch in Bologna as Holy Roman emperor, the last coronation of a German emperor by the pope.

King Charles V had been anxious to end the war with the French so that he could put down the religious revolt in Germany and prevent the forces of the Ottoman Empire from overrunning Europe. Shortly after his coronation, Charles convoked a diet in Augsburg to discuss the religious problem. The Protestant princes stated their creed in the Augsburg Confession, which was unacceptable to Charles. Civil war broke out in this vast empire shortly before the arrival of the Spanish-Columbus and his entourage. Pizarro's expedition (150 men) left Panama, landing on the coast of Ecuador.

1531: John III established the Inquisition in Portugal, under his brother Henry, who later became king.

1531-32: Negotiations thereafter failed and the princess formed the Schmalkaldic League. The domestic unrest and the continued war with the Turks forced the emperor to postpone his suppression of the Protestants and to grant them some liberties in the Peace of Nuremberg. Ferdinand had been elected king of Germany as a reward for his loyalty to his brother, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Good relations between the brothers, however, did not continue because Charles reserved the imperial crown for this son Philip, later King Philip II of Spain, instead of for Ferdinand.

1532: Pizarro and his men captured Atahualpa at Cajamarca. In one of the defining moments in the conquest of the Americas, Pizarro and his men seized Atahualpa and took him prisoner in Cajamarca. After two years of wanderings and hardships in southern Ecuador and northern Peru, Pizarro finally moved to confront the Inca Empire, with 62 horsemen and 106 foot soldiers.

1533: One last revolt, led by Francisco Hernandez Giron, broke out and lasted nearly a year.

Henry II of France continued the war waged by his father against Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, seizing from him the bishoprics of Metz, Toul, and Verdun. Mary I became queen of England after the death of her half brother, Edward VI. Elizabeth faced different dangers. She was now sought out to lead Protestant conspiracies, despite the fact that she had supported Mary's accession and attended catholic services. The Spanish executed the Inca ruler and began their march to Cuzco, the center of the universe in Incan cosmology.

The embittered followers of **Huascar** joined Pizarro and took control of Cuzco. Pizarro installed a puppet ruler, Manco Inca, who eventually realized that the Spanish were not allies but exploiters.

1534: Jacques Cartier identifies St Lawrence River.

Jacques Cartier, French explorer and mariner, discoverer of the St. Lawrence River, was born in Saint-Malo. Selected by King Francis I of France to lead an expedition to discover the Northwest Passage of China departed from St. Malo with two ships. He sighted Newfoundland after 20 days, and sailing through the Strait of Belle Isle, between Newfoundland and Labrador

proceeded southward along the western coast of Newfoundland and rounded the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence.

1535: He later proceeded up the river to the indigenous village of Hochelaga and climbed the hill behind the village to observe the Ottawa River and Lachine Rapids. Cartier called the hill Mont Réal (Mount Royal), from which the name of the city of Montréal is derived. The Genoese admiral Andrea Doria, in the service of Charles, led an expedition to Africa, defeated the Ottomans at Tunis, and freed about 20,000 Christian slaves.

1536: King Charles was again at war with France. Manco Inca secretly amassed an army of 200,000 and laid siege to the 190 Spaniards in Cuzco. After ten months and the arrival of reinforcements, the Spanish lifted the siege, and Manco Inca and his supporters fell back into the mountains.

1537-43: De Soto expedition in North America.

1538: The war was terminated by the Treaty of Nice granting Francis most of the Piedmont region of Italy. Diego de Almagro, who had left Peru to explore Chile, returned and was defeated by Pizarro at the Battle of Salinas. Pizarro executed Almagro in July 1538. Charles formed an anti-Ottoman alliance with Pope Paul III and the city-state of Venice. The alliance was unsuccessful.

1540: Three regions had emerged as the core centers of Spain's empire in the Americas: Caribbean, Mexico, and Peru. Sugar cane was a luxury crop, originally from the East Indies, and the Portuguese transplanted to Madeira and the Azores in the 15th century. They were about sugar mills in Madeira at this time. John III allowed the Jesuits to enter the country, and their influence in education became dominant toward the end of his reign.

1540-1556: Before succeeding to the throne of Spain upon his father's abdication in 1556, Philip had already received the duchy of Milan (1540), the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily (1554), and the Netherlands (1555) from his father.

1541: Assassination of Francisco Pizarro. Almagro's supporters avenged his death by assassinating Francisco Pizarro, provoking open fighting between the two factions. Beginning his third voyage, Cartier again sailed up the St. Lawrence, this time as far as Lachine Rapids. His purpose was to establish a colony in Canada, but the mission was not successful. He returned to France the following year.

1542: Hernando de Soto, one of the most vicious conquistadores, died after exploring the lower Mississippi valley.

1542 - 44: The war was resumed in 1542 and ended in 1544 by the Treaty of Crépy, which largely reaffirmed the earlier Peace of Cambrai. Charles, no longer fighting the French or Ottomans, turned his attention to the princes and the city-states of the Schmalkaldic League.

1543: Philip II married his cousin Maria of Portugal; she bore him a son, Don Carlos, who later conspired against him.

1544: Manco Inca then offered refuge to the assassins, who killed him in an effort to curry favor with the Crown. Charles V sent a new viceroy, Blasco Nunez Vela, who met immediate opposition from the conquistadores led by Gonzalo Pizarro.

1546: The emperor moved against the southern German principalities and at Mühlberg, Saxony. Gonzalo defeated and killed the new viceroy in battle, a clear act of treason.

April 24, 1547: The emperor scored a decisive victory against the Protestants.

Cortes had moved from a rebellious adventurer to an enormously wealthy royal governor over a vast new empire larger than Spain itself, died when was 52 years old. Ferdinand signed a 5 year treaty with the Ottomans. The failure of Charles to repel the Ottomans resulted in part from his inability to bring religious peace to his empire, particularly Germany. The spread of disorder during the Reformation emboldened the German Princes to seek autonomy for their states.

Edward VI succeeded his father at the age of nine. Because of Elizabeth's position as a member of the royal family, became a pawn in the intrigues of the nobles who governed in the boy's name. One of them twice proposed marriage to her.

1548: A new royal emissary, Pedro de la Gasca, astutely won over many of Gonzalo's supporters, and then defeated him in April 1548.

1550: With the completion of the conquest of Peru, three "core" regions of the Spanish empire in the Americas were in place. Spain's empire in the Americas would radiate outward from Mexico City in the Viceroyalty of New Spain; from Lima, Peru; and from the gateway to the empire, Havana, Cuba. The first serious French effort at colonization was on the Brazilian coast, an effort that collapsed from internal fighting.

1551: The emperor's success was temporary; Magdeburg, a great stronghold of Protestantism, fell to Maurice, Duke of Saxony, but Maurice, who had previously supported the emperor, suddenly deserted Charles, allying himself with King Henry II of France. Charles fled before the Protestants.

1552: Through his brother Ferdinand, he concluded the Peace of Passau, by which the Lutheran states were allowed the exercise of their religion. Meanwhile, Henry II had seized the bishoprics of Toul, Metz, and Verdun and an attempt by the emperor to re-conquer Metz failed.

1552 - 55: Friendly feeling was restored between Ferdinand and his brother Charles, largely because Ferdinand successfully arranged the Treaty of Passau in 1552 and the Peace of Augsburg in 1555.

1553: Last revolt of Spanish conquistadores against royal officials of Peru. Mary I, on the death of her half brother, Edward VI, became the legal heir to the throne. Lord High Chamberlain John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, however, favored the succession of his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey. He proclaimed her queen on July 10, but the country supported Mary.

1554: Philip married again, this time to Mary I of England, in whose religiously zealous reign he as an unmistakable influence. Mary had Elizabeth imprisoned in the Tower of London, briefly threatened her with execution and then placed her under house arrest. Even more disastrous was Mary's marriage to Philip II, king of Spain. The engagement was greeted in England by a formidable rebellion under the leadership of Sir Thomas Wyatt to depose Mary and put her half sister, Elizabeth, later Elizabeth I, on the throne.

Mary I was the daughter of Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragón. She became known as "Bloody Mary" after she burned to death at the stake more than 300 Protestant clergymen during her five-year reign. She had hoped to restore the Roman Catholics. However she died without children and her Protestant half sister, Elizabeth I, became queen of England in 1558. Mary, however, restored the property that the Crown still possessed.

Philip was an uncompromising Roman Catholic and un-popular in England. At his order, Mary joined in a war against France, with the result that Calais, the last remnant to the English conquests won during the Hundred Years' War with France, was lost in 1558.

The ferocity with which Mary's personal character has been assailed by certain writers must be ascribed to religious zeal. She was called Bloody Mary because of a large number of religious persecutions that took place during her reign; almost 300 people were condemned to death as a result of trials for heresy. Mary died in London on November 17, 1558, and was succeeded by Elizabeth I.

1555: The settlement was reaffirmed in the Peace of Augsburg. Weary of the constant struggles and heavy responsibilities of his scattered realms, Charles resigned the Netherlands and in 1556 Spain, to his son Philip II.

1556: Charles announced his intention to abdicate the imperial crown in favor of his brother, Ferdinand I, who officially became emperor in 1558. Charles retired that year to the monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste in Extremadura, Spain, where he died on September 21, 1558.

1556-58: On Charles's abdication of the Spanish crown, Philip was made king of Spain, while Ferdinand assumed the duties of emperor; he was not crowned, however, until after Charles' formal abdication as emperor in 1558. Ferdinand I became emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, after the death of his brother, Charles V. Ferdinand was born in Spain in 1503. Subsequently Ferdinand attempted to affect a reunion of Roman Catholics and Protestants but failed because he insisted that bishops retain their secular authority.

With the collapse of the colony, the French would concentrate their efforts north of the Amazon and in North America. Quebec was one of two most successful French conquests in the New World.

1556 - 1559: Henry II was involved in a war with Charles V's son, Philip II of Spain, notably mainly for the Spanish victory at Saint Quentin, Picardy (1557).

1556 - 1598: The Spanish Empire reached its height during the reign of Philip II and Spain's great Golden Age of art, literature, and learning began under him. However, Philip's efforts to stamp out Protestantism in Europe, including attempts to conquer England, permanently impaired the financial resources of Spain.

1557-1558: Engaging in war with England, Henry won back Calais and Guînes, the last English possessions in France.

1557-1559: With the throne of Spain Philip also inherited extensive regions of the New World. Shortly after Philip's accession, the Spanish forces were victorious over the French at the battles of Saint-Quentin (1557) and Grave lines (1558), and the 60-year war with France was concluded by the Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis (1559), which was highly favorable to Spain.

1558 - 1603: Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife Anne Boleyn, ruled England during what is known as the Elizabethan Age. Elizabeth's reign was a time of great prosperity and achievement, and her court was a center of poets, writers, musicians, and scholars.

Elizabeth was the longest-reigning English monarch in nearly two centuries and the first woman to successfully occupy the English throne. Gloriana and Good Queen Bess, Elizabeth enjoyed enormous popularity during her life and became an even greater legend after her death. She was the last of the Tudor monarchs, never marrying or producing an heir, and was succeeded by her closest relative, James VI of Scotland. Elizabeth lived quietly at her family's country retreat north of London until she became queen upon her sister's death. Elizabeth's experiences as a

child and young adult helped her develop keen political instincts that allowed her to skillfully balance aristocratic factions and court favorites during her long reign.

1559: Peace with Spain and England was restored by the Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis, by which Henry agreed to give up France's possessions in Italy. He was succeeded by his son, Francis II.

Mid 1560's Cloth exports grew over the course of the reign, but suffered from competition from finer Spanish products and from Antwerp's decline after its harbor silted up and became impassable. Financier Sir Thomas Gresham founded the Royal Exchange to help merchants find secure markets for their goods.

1562: A truce finally concluded gave Ferdinand sovereignty over a small part of Hungary, for which he was obliged to pay tribute to the Ottoman sultan.

1563: Founded as a royal palace by King Phillip II of Spain, El Escorial is the burial place of several Spanish monarchs. In addition to the burial vault, the complex also contains a monastery, church, school and library. It is ranked among Europe's finest architectural monuments.

1564: Ferdinand I died, in Vienna.

1565: St Augustine was founded.

Mary I married the Scottish catholic lord Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, father of the future James I of England. After his death, she married James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell, but the resulting fury of the Scots nobles forced her to abdicate and escape to England. Kept as a virtual prisoner by Elizabeth I of England, she joined Catholic plots to topple her fellow queen, and in 1587 Elizabeth reluctantly agreed to her execution.

Elizabeth's accession marked the final change in the nation's official religion. Her father and half-brother established Protestantism in England, but her half-sister, Mary, attempted forcibly to restore Catholicism. As Henry VIII's reign had terrorized Catholics, so Mary's persecuted Protestants. Under Mary, prominent Protestant clergymen were either executed or they fled abroad. The power of the pope was reestablished in England, though even Mary could do nothing to restore the church lands sold off during Henry's reign.

1566: Phillip II sent 10,000 troops commanded by the Duke of Alba to the region. Phillip II was the nephew of King Sebastian.

1567: The Protestants revolted, and Phillip sent an army to suppress them, thus beginning 80 years of war by which the northern provinces (now the Netherlands) won their independence.

1568 - 71: In Spain Philip's oppression of the Moriscos (Christianized Muslims) provoked them to rebel in 1568; after suppressing the revolt in 1571. Philip exiled almost the entire group, to the great detriment of the country.

1569: A group of powerful Catholic nobles in northern England rose in rebellion but were savagely repressed. The northern earls were executed, their property and those of their followers was confiscated, and their heirs were deprived of their inheritance.

1570: In the core regions of Spanish America, the conquest was complete and the basic institutions of colonial society were in place.

An outgrowth of the peace was Philip's third marriage to Princess Elizabeth of France, who had been betrothed to his son, Don Carlos. He married for the fourth time. In the Netherlands, Philip banned Protestantism and severely restricted the rights of the people. He used the Inquisition as a method of control, and thousands of Protestants were killed or exiled. The pope excommunicated Elizabeth, sanctioning Catholic efforts to dethrone her.

1571: Philip sent his half brother John of Austria on a naval expedition that destroyed the Ottoman navy at the Battle of Lepanto. An international conspiracy was uncovered to assassinate Elizabeth in favor of her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots.

1570 - 1580's: Humphrey Gilbert and Walter Raleigh secured royal charters to found colonies in Newfoundland and Virginia.

1576: Spanish mercenaries destroyed Antwerp. Elizabeth imprisoned a member of Parliament for introducing a bill to change the prayer book, and she refused to accept the Lambeth Articles of 1595, which contained a Calvinist, and more radical interpretation of the doctrine of predestination.

But Elizabeth's efforts did not stop the Puritans from criticizing the established church, attacking bishops, and converting others to their views. The significance of the Elizabethan religious settlement is that it was able to hold the vast majority of the people together, despite being a compromise few would have chosen.

Martin Frobisher was an English privateer (a pirate licensed by the British government), navigator, explorer and naval officer. After years of sailing to northwestern Africa, and looting French ships in the English Channel, Frobisher sailed to North America to search for a Northwest Passage. This was believed to be a sea route across northern Canada from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, making the trip to Asia easier. Frobisher began a series of three trips to what is now Canada, and found some ore on Baffin Island that he thought was gold.

He claimed Baffin Island for England. He also discovered Resolution Island and Frobisher Bay. Sir Humphrey Gilbert an English navigator, of Compton, near Dartmouth, was a half-brother of Sir Walter Raleigh. In early life, he followed a military career, soldiering France, in Ireland where he was knighted for his services and in the Netherlands. He had a lifelong ambition to voyage in search of the North-West Passage to Cathay and 1576 published a famous discourse on the subject.

1577: Francis Drake on Roanoke Island. The most dramatic expedition was Drake's circumnavigation of the globe, which included a reconnaissance of the coast of California.

1578: On his third trip, Frobisher sailed 15 ships up the Hudson Strait, and set up a temporary mining settlement near Frobisher Bay and formed a mining company called the Cathay Company. The mining venture was a failure because there was no gold to be found.

Kin Sebastian leads an expedition to North America. In retrospect, the Dutch arrival was the beginning of a centuries-long decline for Spain and Portugal, even though they managed to hold on to their possessions in the Americas.

Gilbert was eventually granted a charter by Elizabeth I for the search of the North-West Passage to Cathay, as well as to plant a colony in Newfoundland of which he was to be the governor. His first expedition, which set off that year, got no farther than Cape Verde where it met disaster at the hands of the Spaniards.

1580: Portugal suffered because it had come under control of the Spanish monarchy.

1580-1640: Portuguese possessions were in fact, more vulnerable than such places as Mexico and Peru. Phillip II of Spain crowns Phillip I to manage Portugal. His desire to return the English to Catholicism, as well as to check their rival maritime power, led Philip to the decision to invade England, and to that end he ordered the construction of a great fleet.

There were more than 200 Spanish American town and cities, and more than 300 by 1630. In Brazil, Salvador was the largest city, with smaller urban centers at Olinda and Recife. The English cities in North America were much smaller than those of Latin America and later in developing.

1581: Williams of Orange denounced the independence of the Portugal provinces.

1583: Money and credit exhausted, Gilbert returned to soldiering where he was able with Raleigh's help, to raise enough money to get another expedition together.

Gilbert sailed from Plymouth in the *Delight*, with the *Ark Raleigh* furnished by Sir Walter and the biggest vessel in the flotilla, the *Golden Hinde*, the *Swallow*, and the little 10-ton *Squirrel*. The *Ark Raleigh* soon deserted the expedition and returned on the pretext of sickness on board. Gilbert and the remainder continued and reached St. John's, Newfoundland, where having taken possession of the territory in the queen's name, Gilbert set up the first English colony in North America.

The *Delight* ran aground and was lost. Two days later the *Golden Hinde* and the *Squirrel* shaped course for home. Fierce storms were met off the Azores. *Squirrel* was lost during the night and there were no survivors.

1584: The El Escorial was completed. It became Philip's second residence and he died there on September 13, 1598.

1585: Frobisher was a vice admiral on Sir Francis Drake's expedition to the West Indies.

1587: Although Mary was beheaded after years of being at the center of Catholic plots against Elizabeth, such plots did not end until England defeated the Spanish Armada in 1588.

Elizabeth's battles against the Puritans were less conclusive. She suspended Archbishop of Canterbury Edmund Grindal when he would not punish Puritans who refused to kneel or make the sign of the cross.

Philip began organizing an immense naval fleet, the Spanish Armada, for a direct attack upon England. His objectives were to destroy the English navy, force Elizabeth out of the war in the Netherlands, and gain concessions for English Catholics.

1587 - 1590: The miserable failure of the Roanoke Island (North Carolina) colony is emblematic of the inability of the English to get into the game of conquest and colonization.

1588: Independence of Dutch provinces secured. Philip dispatched the Armada, one of the most powerful fighting forces ever known, was no match for the "Protestant Wind" that blew many of the Spanish ships off course in August 1588, or for the smaller, swifter English vessels that were able to fire cannonballs more quickly than the Spanish galleons. This was the high point of the queen's reign and united the nation. But it did not end the war with Spain, which continued for the remaining 15 years of Elizabeth's life.

1590 - 1598: Philip was again at war with France, aiding the Catholic forces of the Holy League in its war against the Huguenot Henry IV.

15th - 16th Centuries: These cities (Florence, Genoa, and Venice) became the incubators for the rise of modern capitalism. The early explorers were businessmen and entrepreneurs. The most important point to make is that these peoples of Africa met the Europeans as equals.

The trade between Europeans and Africans initiated a profound transformation that would shift the axis of power out of the Mediterranean into the Atlantic. The Europeans expanded across the globe and dominated the rest of the world.

We have about as much information about Columbus as any person in the late century, but nearly all of it is controversial and uncertain.

15th - 17th Centuries: Throughout these centuries, the French encroached on the South American Coast and on the islands of the Caribbean.

1590's: The worst years of the century, marked by starvation, epidemic disease and roving bands of vagrants looking for work. Elizabeth's government enacted legislation known as the Poor Laws, which made every local parish responsible for its own poor, created workhouses, and severely punished homeless beggars. Parliament also passed bills to ensure fair prices in times of shortage and to regulate wages in times of unemployment.

16th Century: It was not until the last third of this century that the Portuguese colony began to develop, with rapidly expanding sugar plantations and slave labor at its core. The Portuguese created the first great plantation society in the Americas, a pattern all the other European powers would emulate.

During these years, the Dutch ended the Portuguese domination of the Asian trade establishing bases in Ceylon, Indonesia, and Japan. For the first time sugar cane became a major world commodity. Like Portugal before it, a small country had established a world empire.

Portugal's power and resources were exhausted, and most of the country's Asian colonies were lost.

During this century, the population of England and Wales would roughly double, and by Elizabeth's death 1603 would reach 5 million. The continued population growth placed strains on the economy, which was made worse by serious harvest failures in every decade of Elizabeth's reign. Prices for food and clothing skyrocketed in what became known as the Great Inflation. For the men and women in this century, there was no separation of the sacred and the secular as we think of them today.

When the Reformation broke in central and northern Europe, it did not cross the Pyrenees.

Early in this century, they had long and valuable experience with growing a cash crop for export to Europe. The initial phases of Portuguese conquest and colonization were tentative and weak.

1st Half - 16th Century: Like the English, the French had been probing into various regions of the Americas.

16th - 17th Centuries: The mine owners in Upper Peru became, quite possibly, the richest men in the world.

Mid 16th Century: The French's efforts in the conquest, outside of the Caribbean, such as Brazil was a failure. The most successful effort was the establishment of a colony in Canada-Quebec. Jacques Cartier probed the St Lawrence River in this century. During the reformation, the region, especially what we loosely call Holland, became primarily Calvinist. The region had long been a "hotbed" of trade, finance, fishing, and shipping-medieval merchants.

In late century, the fleet typically departed from Seville in April, sailed to the Caribbean via the Canaries, and split there. About 50 ships went to Panama and a smaller number to Veracruz, Mexico.

16th Century: As the military conquest in the core regions drew to a close in this century, the Spanish and Portuguese turned to making their new possessions productive, long term enterprises.

Priests and nuns moved into Latin America to bring the word of their god to Native Americans and Africans. Two kinds of clergy engaged in the construction of the Catholic Church in the Americas-regular and secular. The Franciscans were founded in the Middle Ages, while the Jesuits were a new order founded in the 1530's. both set to serve as the vanguard of Christian missionaries. Not until they consolidated the state in this century, especially under Elizabeth I, would they begin to pose a serious challenge to the Iberian monopoly in the New World. Two of the colonists left accounts, both published in this century.

Calvinist Jean de Lery, who lived with the Tupinamba Indians to learn their culture and language, was one of the great ethnographies of this century. These Indians practiced cannibalism.

Spanish treatment of Indians was roundly condemned and led to the birth of the so called Black Legend. The Native Americans in regions the Spanish conquered died in droves. The Berkeley School calculates a population of 25 million Indians in central Mexico along at the time of contact. They died of brutality and mistreatment, and Las Casas passionately and politically condemned the Spanish abuses and atrocities. The vast majority of deaths came from the

devastating impact of new diseases that killed some eighty to ninety percent of all Native Americans. The last thing the Spanish wanted was to see their source of labor disappear.

With the rise of sugar plantations in the Caribbean in this time frame, the trade accelerated dramatically to Spanish, English, and French colonies. The French and the English has fished in the Grand Banks in the north Atlantic throughout this century, eventually establishing trade relationship with the Indians in Canada. Although most of the region would have some sort of wage labor system after 1600, the “repartimiento” system endured in some regions of Spanish America into the 20th century.

16th - 17th Centuries: The mine owners in Upper Peru became, quite possibly, the richest men in the world.

The legacies of these conquests have been enduring and pronounced across all of the Americas. The colonial heritages of Latin America and the United States have been fundamentally different. Origins don't lock a nation or region into an inevitable path, but they do shape all future directions. In the case of Latin America, for example, the bitter price of the subjugation of Indian and enslaved African peoples in a centralizing and hierarchical political culture has had profound consequences. The Creole elites eventually replaced the Spanish.

The nation-states of our time, legal and political systems of these countries and their economies are the direct descendants of the European conquistadores and colonists. Beneath this European political, legal, and economic surface, however, lays the legacy of non European peoples' resistance to complete Westernization. Through intense resistance and calculated accommodation, Native Americans and Africans held onto much of their pre-contract culture. The famous or infamous English privateers were the early wave of English expansion.

Last third, 16th Century: Under Elizabeth I, the English expeditions had two main objectives: To find a northwest passage to Asia and raid the Spanish fleets and ports. The Dutch appeared on the scene in the last two decades of this century in a spectacular fashion. The Dutch burghers fought a series of bloody wars with the Spanish monarchy, eventually leading to the rise of the Dutch Republic in 1609.

1600: They had little success anywhere in the Americas before this century. The Portuguese reached this stage at this time. The English, French, and the Dutch did not have their colonies in place until well into this century. In comparative terms, then, much of Latin America developed for more than a century before English, French, and Dutch America. Some of the central creations of the conquistadores were cities and estates.

The government granted the English East India Company a monopoly to trade in Asia, Africa and America. The desire to expand overseas trade was also a motive in the ventures of English explorers such as Sir Francis Drake, Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh. Such adventurers established the first English outposts in North America.

1601: Essex's attempt to overthrow Elizabeth was successfully put down, but it demonstrated that the queen's power had weakened.

1603: Elizabeth I died and was succeeded by her closest relative, James VI of Scotland, who became James I of England.

Samuel de Champlain was a French explorer and navigator who mapped much of northeastern North America and started a settlement in Quebec. Champlain also discovered the lake named for him (Lake Champlain) and was important in establishing and administering the French colonies in the New World.

Champlain sailed to France on Francois Grave Du Pont's expedition. They sailed up the St. Lawrence River and the Saguenay River; they also explored the Gaspé Peninsula. He returned to France in 1603, and decided to search for a Northwest Passage and to settle the Gaspé Peninsula.

1604: Champlain returned to Canada on Pierre de Mont's expedition.

1604 - 07: Champlain sailed around and charted most of the coast of Nova Scotia and down the coast to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard and later to Rhode Island.

1607: The English arrived in Jamestown, Virginia after one third of the colonists died at sea - 1/3 of 144 colonists - 3500 Arrivals? The story of John Smith, Pocahontas, and John Rolfe is a near legendary account of cultural contact.

1608: Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec and began a growing and lucrative fur trade with the Hurons. Several Jesuits arrived soon after and, like those in Brazil, began preaching among the Indians.

1609: Champlain befriended the Huron Indians and helped them fight the Iroquois (this battle led to 150 years of bitterness and hostility between the Iroquois and the French). It was during this venture that he discovered Lake Champlain.

Santa Fe, New Mexico was founded.

1609 - 1610: 400 colonists died, many of starvation, 400 out of 500 colonists died.

1610: Best estimates. Spanish silver production 10-11 million kilograms in this time frame. American silver became the lifeblood of the Spanish empire, and the Crown gradually developed an elaborate system to ensure its continual flow across the Atlantic.

Henry Hudson, English navigator and explorer set sail on four voyages in his lifetime. He looked for a Northwest Passage, discovered the Hudson Bay and Hudson River. His efforts led to the eventual establishment of New Amsterdam (later called New York). During his last voyage, rebellious mutineers seized Hudson, his son, and seven others and set them adrift in a small boat without provisions. They were never heard from again.

1613: Champlain again sailed up the St. Lawrence and explored the Ottawa River. Two years later, after returning from France, he retraced this route and ventured into what is now northern New York state and the eastern Great Lakes.

1620's: When Spain and the Dutch Republic went to war, English pirates began seizing islands vacated by the Spanish. The religious refugees from England known as the Pilgrims settled at Massachusetts Bay. The Mayflower Compact established for them civil body politic.

1620 - 1630: The Dutch would seize Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and Recife, as well as Elmina and Luanda.

1621: Barely surviving (102 people on board with 18 different families) with the assistance of some Indians, they eventually made their living from trading goods with the Indians.

1622: A bloody Indian uprising failed to uproot the English. Just as Virginia would become the model for the development of "southern" society, so would Massachusetts become the model for "northern" society?

1625: Manhattan Island was founded by the Dutch.

1627: English seized Barbados.

1628: Piet Heyn captured the entire fleet as it left Havana. The great weakness of the Spanish was the fleet system, the lifeline of the American empire.

1629: Champlain headed the Quebec settlement for years, until the English attacked and took the Fort at Quebec in. Champlain one again returned to France.

1632 - 33: After a French-British peace treaty in 1632, Quebec was once again French and Champlain returned in 1633 as its governor.

1634: The Dutch ran in this grab for territory, seizing Curacao. With the English, French, and Dutch conquests, the Caribbean became multinational, multilingual, and multiracial region. Curacao remained a Spanish possession until 1634, when it was seized by the Dutch.

1650 - 1670: In a series of Anglo Dutch wars, the English replaced the Dutch as the great naval power in the oceans. Much like that of the Portuguese, the Dutch empire endured for centuries but primarily as a trading and maritime empire.

1651: Juana de Asbaje was born on the outskirts of Mexico city; she was the illegitimate daughter of a landowner with connections with the vice-regal court. Still short of her birthday, she accompanied an older sister to school, quickly learning how to read, not only in Spanish but also eventually in Latin. Juana became a protégé of the viceroy's wife and, with her great beauty and enormous learning, a star of the court. She must have been an intimidating figure for any male, she was clearly too strong a woman of her own time. She became a nun, because she was not interested in either of the two options open to women of her station at the time: becoming a wife or a courtesan. The poetry of Sor Juana is some of the greatest poetry ever produced in Spanish and outshines any other writing produced in Latin America in the colonial era.

1655: An English fleet seized Jamaica and held it.

1660's: The French Crown took control of the settlement (1500 troops), which began to expand rapidly with new colonists - 2500.

1661: The Spanish were also in the Chesapeake Bay. The Indian later known as "Don Luis de Velasco" is a fascinating case of divided loyalties.

1665: French begin to establish permanent settlement at Saint Domingue.

1670's: Joliet and Marquette (The University of Market is Jesuit) moved into their upper reaches of the Mississippi River.

1680's: La Salle descended the entire length of the Mississippi and claimed it for France. But the French control over the interior was tenuous at best.

1690's: The Brazilians would find enormous gold deposits in the 1690's, setting off the first great gold strike in the Americas. Two regions dominated the silver economy of Spanish America, Mexico and Upper Peru (Bolivia).

1695: Sor Juana died of the plague in Mexico City. Although the cities were vital centers, the social life and labor of most Americans took place in the countryside. Most Americans lived and worked in rural areas and in small villages and towns.

1st half 17th Century: The English began serious colonial projects in North America and Caribbean. The Dutch emerged as the great maritime power in this time frame, and immediately struck at Spanish and Portuguese possessions on both sides of the Atlantic, in the Indian Ocean, and East Asia. As Spain and Portugal declined in this century, the French, along with the English and Dutch, became an important new entrant into the colonization of the Caribbean, North America, and the northwest coast of South America.

17th Century: Declining silver production sent Spain into an economic decline that would not end until the late 20th century. This is the beginning of globalization. Protecting the fleet became increasingly difficult. The imperial fleet system forced the colonies to trade with Spain only, a monopoly that resulted in economic underdevelopment. With the disruption of the fleet system in this century came the long slide of Spain from the greatest power in the world to a weak and unimportant nation, even in Europe.

The core regions of the Americas would be conquered and controlled by the European powers by the end of this century. The military conquest of the frontiers will last until the 20th century in most regions of the Americas. The parallel “spiritual contest” of the native peoples, Africans, and their descendants will never be completed.

The English movement into the Americas was part of a larger wave of European powers breaking the Iberian monopoly on their region. In each case (England, France, and Holland), new station states emerged to challenge Spanish power in Europe and across the globe. The tide would turn against the Spanish and Portuguese quite dramatically in his century, as the English and French, in particular, conquered and carved out important New World possessions. They also foreshadowed the ways that their successors would deal with Native Americans, and they were the beginning of large wave of immigrants who would follow them throughout this century.

With the appearance of the new challenges, the Caribbean became a battleground for imperial rivalries. The English were the most successful challenger to the Spanish in the West Indies. As the power struggles emerged, Spain concentrated its forces in the larger islands: Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica. As Spain and Portugal declined in this century, the French, along with the English and Dutch, became an important new entrant into the colonization of the Caribbean, North America, and the northwest coast of South America.

The latecomers from England, France and the Netherlands saw how the Americas became a battleground for contending imperial powers. The results of the collision of peoples and cultures

and the creation of new peoples and new “American” societies. The larger structures and institutions with specific stories of individuals-both elites and entire masses.

Theater of war: Their successes, along with those of the English and the Dutch, turned the Americas into the battleground for contending European powers in this century. The rise of the Dutch Republic at the beginning of this century initiated a series of global struggles among the European powers. The Dutch Republic was the first nation in the world controlled by “capitalists” rather than landed elite.

Mid 17th Century: Dutch supremacy lasted, when the English emerged as the greatest maritime power ever. The Dutch had challenged the English with settlements on Manhattan island, in the Caribbean, and in south America.

At the end of the 17th Century, the English, French, and Dutch had established a permanent colonial presence in the Americas, ending the first wave of European conquest. The Spanish and Portuguese exercised a virtual monopoly on European conquest and colonization in the Americas for nearly a century.

Late 17th Century: The English held 20 colonies, from the Mosquito Coast in Central America, to British Guiana in South America to the Bahamas. New York, Boston, and Philadelphia have emerged as the leading cities and ports, with Charleston a distant fourth.

End 17th Century: Less than 5% of the population lived in the cities of North America, a bit lower than Latin America. The cities also served as funnels for trade. Philadelphia developed much like the grid plan of Spanish America.

1700: The most important gold deposits in the Americas before 1700 were in the region that is modern nation of Colombia. Ironically, the weakness of the conquest, the lack of peoples and riches in the US North, set the region on another path of less hierarchy, no great estates, and move toward what would become the economic cutting edge of the future: commerce and trade. The conquest of the Americas was over, except for the frontiers of North and South America.

The French had established settlements at the mouth of the Mississippi, and the Louisiana colony grew throughout the 18th Century. But these were frontier regions, far different from the colonial core regions in Spanish and Portugal America. Along with Saint Domingue (Santo Domingo), Quebec, and Louisiana were France most successful ventures in the Americas.

1765: Samuel Hearne after spending his teenage years as a sailor joined the Hudson’s bay Company. He was responsible for establishing the first Hudson’s Bay Company in Saskatchewan.

1769: Hearne headed north to find the copper ore samples the HBC had heard about from the natives. He is the first European to cross the Barren Lands of Northern Canada.

April 1770: Cook claimed the entire eastern coast of Australia for Great Britain. On Cook's second journey he sailed farther south than any other European. He circled Antarctica in his famous ship Resolution, but the ice surrounding the continent prevented the sighting of land. The existence of the Antarctica remained unproved until 1840.

1771: Hearne discovered Great Slave Lake. Also, the river they followed north to the copper mine was later called the Coppermine River.

1774: Samuel Hearne set up the first inland trading post called Cumberland House. This allowed the HBC to have access to more beaver pelts sooner than the Northwest Company as the fur traders would not have to go as far north.

1775: Cook set sail on his third voyage, again in Resolution, to look for a possible northern sea route between Europe and Asia. He returned to England and was promoted to Captain.

1778: Cook became the first known European to reach the Hawaiian Islands.

1779: Alexander Mackenzie was a Scottish born fur trader and explorer who charted the Mackenzie River in Canada and also traveled to the Pacific Ocean. Mackenzie immigrated to Canada.

February 14, 1779: Cook was stabbed to death by Hawaiian natives while investigating a theft of a boat by an islander.

October 1780: The expedition arrived back in England. Captain Cook's voyages led to the establishment of colonies throughout the Pacific by several European countries. He is considered one of the world's greatest explorers.

September 1784: David Thompson was born in Westminster, England, April 30, 1770. His Welsh father died when he was two years old. At the age of seven his mother enrolled him in the charitable Grey Coat School near Westminster Abbey. At the age of fourteen, he apprenticed to the Hudson's Bay Company as a clerk, arriving at Churchill Factory on Hudson Bay. His first two years were spent on the shores of Hudson Bay at the Churchill and York factories before being stationed at several posts on the Saskatchewan River. David Thompson ranks as the premier surveyor, map maker and one of the leading explorers of North America.

1788 to 1796: Mackenzie commanded the trading post Fort Chipewyan, on Lake Athabasca in Alberta.

1789: Mackenzie went on an expedition to chart the 1,100 mile Mackenzie River, travelling from the Great Slave Lake to the mouth of the Mackenzie in the Arctic Ocean.

1790: George Vancouver born 1757 died 1798. After joining the Royal Navy in 1771, Vancouver served as a midshipman in the service of Captain James Cook during Cook's second and third voyages. He was promoted to commander of the ship Discovery.

1791 - 92: Vancouver led an expedition to Australia, New Zealand and the Hawaiian Islands and then came to the Pacific coast of North America, where he explored the coast from San Francisco to Southern Alaska.

1792 - 1794: Captain Vancouver circumnavigated the coast of Vancouver Island and then mapped the Pacific coast of B.C. He kept a very detailed account of all his expeditions, but it was not published before his death.

1792 - 1812: David Thompson mapped most of the country west of Hudson Bay and Lake Superior, across the Rocky Mountains to the source of the Columbia River, and the length of the Columbia to the Pacific Ocean. For the Hudson Bay company and then as a wintering partner for the North West Company, David Thompson traveled fifty-five thousand miles.

The map prepared by David Thompson filled in the blank spaces on one million, nine hundred thousand square miles of northwest Canada. But this was not his only contribution to our historical heritage. David Thompson and his men erected the first establishments west of the Continental Divide in Washington, Idaho and Montana. He opened the first trade with the northwestern Indian tribes of the United States and Lower Canada.

David Thompson made the first recorded information on Northern Plains Indian warfare, guns and horses. It should be added that he accomplished all of this, much to the chagrin of several North West partners, without trading whiskey to the Indians. The North West Company map prepared by David Thompson covered an area of two million three hundred and four thousand square miles from Lake Superior and Hudson Bay to the mouth of the Columbia River.

The David Thompson map was placed in the Great Hall of the North West Company headquarters at Fort William, which was located on Thunder Bay of Lake Superior.

1793: On his second expedition, Mackenzie went from Ft. Chipewyan across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific coast to what is now British Columbia, going via the Peace, Parsnip, McGregor and Fraser Rivers and overland. He was the first European to cross the North American continent north of Mexico. Mackenzie later retired to his native Scotland.

18th Century: The English would have to fight Indians, rebellious slaves, pirates, and European rivals to hold on to these colonies. The French and Dutch had less dramatic success in conquering and colonizing, but they did establish permanent settlements. We have already seen the initial French incursions in the region.

The cities of Latin America far outstripped those of North America. In Spanish and Portuguese America, their conquistadores built their principal cities on the ruins of ancient indigenous cities or in completely new locations.

Mid 18th Century: Mexico City, built on the razed Aztec city, was the largest urban area in the Americas, with one exception, Potosi, in Bolivia. Lima and Havana, on the other hand, were completely Spanish cities created fresh out of the conquest. In the long run, Saint Domingue would be the prize French colony, becoming the richest colonial possession in the world. Nearly 2/3 of the slaves who crossed the Atlantic made the passage in this century.

Late 18th Century: The Portuguese turned increasingly to Mozambique in East Africa for slaves. In the Americas, the single largest imported was Brazil, absorbing possibly thirty three percent of the trade.

1804: Louisiana Purchase. Under Thomas Jefferson, the transaction was completed for 12.5 million dollars doubling the size of the country. Prolific educators, the Jesuits were also powerful businessmen. Eventually, their operations were closed down by the Spanish and Portuguese crowns.

1808: Slave imports ended in the USA.

1814: David Thompson revised all of his surveys into a second great map that measured six and half by ten feet long. The revised David Thompson map showed an accurate location of all the North West Company posts.

1815: The island of Curacao subsequently changed hands between the Dutch and English several times but was awarded to the Netherlands.

1819 - 22: Sir John Franklin was an English explorer and Admiral who proved the existence of a Northwest Passage (a water route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean through Canada). Franklin surveyed part of the northwestern Canadian coast of the Coppermine River.

1825 - 27: On a second expedition, Franklin explored the North American coast from the mouth of the Mackenzie River, in northwestern Canada, westward to Point Beeches (Alaska).

1835 - 1843: Franklin was knighted and then served as the governor of Tasmania.

1845: Franklin sailed from England with an expedition of 128 men to Canada in search of Northwest Passage. The ship became trapped in ice and the desperate, freezing and starving survivors resorted to cannibalism. Frobisher was one of the first people to explore this area of Canada, although he failed to find either a Northwest Passage or gold.

1846: At age 76, David Thompson's vision became so bad that he could no longer work. The following year, he began to write his Narrative. Over the remaining years, he was forced to sell all of his possessions, including his navigation and surveyor instruments to support his family.

February 10, 1857: David Thompson died two months before his eighty-seventh birthday. Charlotte, his faithful companion for most of her life followed three months later. They are buried side by side in Montreal's Mount Royal cemetery.

1862: Frobisher's stone house was discovered by the American explorer Charles Francis Hall. Frobisher is said to have held the first Canadian Thanksgiving feast in what is now known as Newfoundland.

1870: With the rise of an anti-slave trade and anti-slavery movement in this time frame, the trade would gradually decline until its extinction in this year.

19th Century: The ruins of the Yucatan peninsula were fully appreciated. Our notions of pillage and imperialism arise out of the events. In earlier centuries, these African states were the political, military, and technological equals of the Europeans. Germany and Italy would not come together as unified nations until the 19th Century.

1939 - 45: During World War II (1939-1945), after Germany invaded the Netherlands, French and British troops reinforced Dutch defenses on the island.

1942: The United States assumed full responsibility for the defense of Curacao and the other Dutch islands for the duration of the war.

1950's: In the words of famous scholars, these are "hydraulic" civilizations. The central crops were maize in Mesoamerica and potatoes in the Andes.

19th Century: Portugal kept its largest colony, Brazil, until the 19th century and its huge African empire until the late 20th century. Despite its extensive possessions, Portugal remained one of Europe's least developed nations.

1960's: Curacao was the scene of much racial strife and general unrest.

1986: Aruba seceded from the Netherlands Antilles and became self-governing.

1992: The moment and its meaning are also controversial, as we saw in the "hoopla" surrounding the 500th anniversary of the event.

20th Century: The Maya of Yucatan peninsula began a resistance to conquest that would last until the 20th century. The European empires were in place and would last, in some cases, into this century.

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