

COLONIZATION

EUROPEAN NATIONS SEND SETTLERS TO THE NEW WORLD

Colonization of America

By 1570 Spain had established colonial settlements on many islands of the Caribbean Sea and in Central and South America. In Mexico there were permanent Spanish colonies all the way to the Pacific coast and up the Rio Grande River. Spain was mostly interested in finding gold and other treasure in the New World and taking it back home. They built their first colonies with that goal in mind. Since no gold had been found in America, Spain saw no need for Spanish colonies there.

Trade Routes

When traders travel the same path every year we call the paths they take trade routes. The map below shows the main trade routes of the Spanish Empire.

It worked like this:

Ships would bring settlers, soldiers and traders from Spain to the New World. They would sail South until the wind was right to blow them across the ocean.

Riding the trade winds the Manila Galleon would take some gold and other valuable things from Mexico to Manila to trade for silk and spices.

Loaded with precious cargo from the Orient the galleon would sail North to catch the West-erly winds for a push back to Mexico.

Other galleons carrying the riches of both the Orient and the New World would make the last part of the journey across the Atlantic to Spain.

The first Manila Galleon crossed the Pacific to Mexico in 1565. Annual voyages began in 1567. Goods from the *Orient* were unloaded on Mexico's Pacific shore and carried overland to ports on the Gulf of Mexico. There they were loaded on other galleons for transport to Spain. Gold, silver, and other valuable products of Mexico were also shipped to Spain from the gulf ports.

While at sea between Mexico and Spain, the galleons were easy prey for pirates and privateers.

Piracy

With so much open sea and so many ships loaded with valuable cargo, it was easy to attack the galleons on their way to Spain. Soon armed warships under command of fierce and *barbarous* captains began to raid the ships and steal their cargo. They often found lonely islands where they could lay in wait. They would attack, take the cargo, and usually kill the crew and burn the ship. They would sell the cargo to merchants in other nations. This is called *piracy*. It was a big problem for Spain.



Privateering

This was an even greater problem. You see, European nations were often at war. (This was largely due to the religious differences we have already described.)

One way they fought each other was to hire crews to fight their battles for them. They were like private navies. They paid captains to take their ships and crews and raid enemy ships at sea. They would bring them back as “prizes.” The cargo would be sold and a share of the sale paid to the captain and his crew. “Privateering.” was very common until about 150 years ago.

The need for colonies

To this point Spain was the only European nation that had successful colonies in the new world. Spain had become very rich and powerful as a result. The other nations were getting jealous and wanted colonies of their own. Here are some major reasons that caused European nations to start colonies in the new world.

1. The search for treasure

We have already seen how the Spanish conquered the Aztecs and Incas and took their gold and silver. Then they started mining the gold and silver themselves. They either sent their riches home to Spain or used them to trade with China.

2. To protect their own ships

A country could base warships in colonial ports to protect their merchant ships from pirates and privateers. Colonial ports would provide a safe harbor and supplies for that nation’s ships. Spain especially needed colonies in order to protect her many treasure ships and galleons.

3. As bases for their privateers

By placing their raiding ships in a colonial port, nations could attack the trade ships of other nations at sea. England and France had many privateers who were hunting the Spanish trade ships. They searched for them as they entered and crossed the Atlantic Ocean. They wanted bases in the New World where they could harbor their privateers.

4. As trading centers

In addition to gold and silver there were many other valuable things to be found in the new world. North America was covered with forests full of tall, straight trees. Beavers and other fur bearing animals lived in the forests as well. Europeans could either do the work themselves or trade with the natives. The French would be especially good at trading with the Indians.

5. A place to send their “un-wanted” population

As time went by this became very important, especially for England. Colonies were a great place to send anyone who did not “fit in” at home. Religious activists, criminals, the poor and unemployed were often given the opportunity to leave Europe for the colonies.

Between 1565 and 1600 England made many attempts to place permanent colonies in the New World. They all failed! (We will study some of them next.)



To protect their colonies from pirates the Spanish often built forts with strong walls like these.

Now look at the map of Spanish Trade Routes. Notice that Spain had started a colony wherever a trade route came near land. Which of the five reasons do you think caused Spain to start these colonies?

Sir Francis Drake

Sir Francis Drake went to sea as a young man in England. It was a time when England, France, Portugal, and Holland were at war with Spain. In 1567 Drake survived a terrible sea battle with ships from Spain.

In 1577 he left England in an effort to sail around the world. He would be the first English man to do so.

Like Magellan, Drake began by sailing south. On September 6, 1578, he became the first Englishman to enter the Pacific. He sailed up the coast of South America. But he didn’t head west into the Pacific as Magellan had done. Instead, he kept going north.

Along the way he raided Spanish ships and ports. He went all the way up the coast to what is now Washington State.

Some say he was looking for the western end of a short route back to England. We know it as the “Northwest Passage.” He called it the “Strait of Anián.”

But bad weather stopped him. His boat, “The Golden Hind,” needed repairs. He stopped at a bay north of San Francisco. It was probably the bay Cabrillo had named “Bay of Pines.” Today it is called “Drake’s Bay.”

He found the Indians very interesting. They had not seen white men before. They thought Drake and his men



Sir Francis Drake
by Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger

were their ancestors returned from the dead! Before Drake left, an artist in his party made many drawings from which we know much about the Indians of that area and time.

Drake decided California should be a colony of England. He named it "Nova Albion." He left a brass plate to mark it.

At the end of his visit, Drake sailed west. He went across the Pacific and returned to England on September 26, 1580. He had been gone almost three years!

Florida

In our last issue we studied the confrontation between Spain and France in Florida. When it was over, Spain remained at St. Augustine but few French colonists survived. There were no English colonies.

NEW COLONY AT ROANOKE

Roanoke Island, Virginia, July 27, 1585

Sir Richard Grenville arrived today with 108 colonists who will establish an English settlement. It will be the first in the New World and is expected to place this land under the Queen's rule forever.

Sir Walter Raleigh

Today, Raleigh is the capital city of North Carolina. It is named for the man who first inspired an English colony in America. But he never left England!

Sir Walter Raleigh convinced England's Queen Elizabeth that an American colony was needed as a base for privateers who could raid Spanish shipping. This colony would also prevent the northward advance of Spain.

For himself, Raleigh wanted to share in the "prizes" the privateers would capture. What did this mean?

On April 27, 1584, two ships left England bound for America. They were sent to find a site for a new colony. Raleigh knew of a site reported by Verrazano. It was called "Norumbega." Captain Ferdinando, who commanded the expedition, was instructed to find it.

Arriving off America's east coast in July, they sailed northward looking for Norumbega. They could not find it. In fact, they could not even find a good harbor to go ashore. Instead, they found a long series of islands called "barrier islands" that lie offshore along the coast. (Look at a map to see how these islands form a barrier.)

Finally Ferdinando found an inlet through which he could sail. (He named it after himself, but it is no longer there.) Nearby was an island the Indians called Roanoke. When Ferdinando landed there on July 4, he was greeted by friendly Chief Wingina. Ferdinando decided this should be the site for the English colony.

After returning to England, Ferdinando reported to Raleigh who named the new land "Virginia." Then, the next year, Raleigh sent his first party of colonists to the

COLONISTS DISAPPEAR!

Roanoke Island, Virginia, August 17, 1590

John White, Governor of Virginia, has returned to his colony after meeting with Sir Walter Raleigh and reports his entire colony has disappeared. There are indications the colonists have joined the local Indians but no trace can be found.

new land. To raise money for the colony, Raleigh sent privateers who raided Dutch and French ships off the English shores. Raleigh appointed Richard Grenville to direct the colonial effort.

Winter soon came upon the ill-prepared colonists and by spring they were eager to leave. Then Sir Francis Drake arrived on his way to England. (You will read more about what Admiral Drake was doing in America on the next page.) He had been around the world and came back to America to raid Spanish shipping. When the colonists greeted Drake at Roanoke, they begged to be removed from the island and go with him. Thus ended England's first colonial effort.

Another try

In 1587 Raleigh tried again. His ship arrived on July 22. This time there were 177 colonists including 14 families. On August 18, 1587, a daughter who was named Virginia was born to one family, Ananias and Eleanor Dare. She was the first English child born in America. This colony failed as well but we don't know why. The people just disappeared. No one knows what became of the colonists or of baby Virginia. Many think they joined with the Indians and were later killed.



This is a part of an old map showing the location of the Roanoke Colony. The small fort is on the island in the center of the map. The sunken ships mark dangerous rocks and sandbars.

Map by Captain John White, Library of Congress collection

Meanwhile, back to Sir Francis Drake!

Before arriving at Roanoke where he removed the first colonial party, Drake had sailed south to attack Spain's colonies and shipping. He raided Spanish ports and forts throughout the Caribbean. On June 7, 1586, he *sacked* and burned St. Augustine, Florida. The colony survived, however, and remained the only successful European settlement in America at the time.

Two years later, in the summer of 1588, the religious war between England and Spain reached its climax. An *armada* of 130 Spanish ships was defeated by a small fleet of the Queen's Navy. Sir Francis Drake was second in command! In 1596 Drake died in another sea battle.

SPAIN COLONIZES NEW MEXICO

San Gabriel, New Mexico, December 24, 1599

Governor Juan de Oñate today announced total control of New Mexico as a new province of Mexico.

New Mexico & Texas

Juan de Oñate

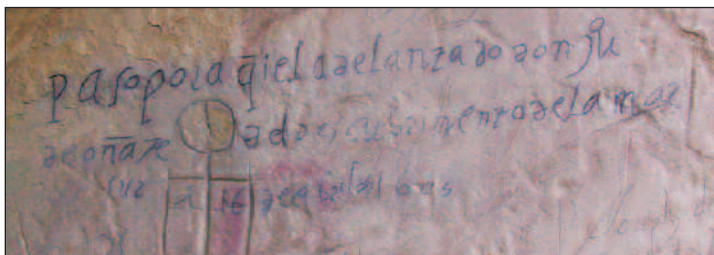
Juan de Oñate was a Spanish general in Mexico. He was sent to establish a colony in an area which would someday be America. He took soldiers, their families, a large herd of cattle, and 300 horses. The colony was to serve as the capital of a new province. It was also to have a mission to teach the Indians. He named the province "New Mexico." It also included Texas.

The Pueblo Indians who lived there did not want him to come. They had already fought Coronado's men. They had bad memories of the "white man."

But Oñate was a very hard general. He told the Indians he would cut one foot off of each man who resisted! By December 1599 he had taken control of the area and planted his colony at a small Indian village. It was the first European colony in the west.

The horses Oñate brought with him became the first to be raised and bred in western America. The Indians began to learn about the horse and what it could do for them. They wanted to use horses too.

After Juan de Oñate passed through where El Paso is now, he went up the Rio Grande Valley in central New



As Oñate marched through New Mexico in 1605, he sought water for his horses at springs along the way. Near one at El Morro, he inscribed his name on a bluff. We might call this "400 year-old graffiti"! Can you find it in the photo? It is on the second line at the far left.

Mexico. He first established a mission at San Juan de los Caballeros in the Chama River Valley in 1598. Then he crossed the Texas "panhandle." He was also searching for the "City of Gold." Like Coronado before him, he found nothing but villages of Indian pueblos.

GOSNOLD ON NORTH COAST

Massachusetts, June 16, 1602

After briefly landing on a nearby coastal shore, English explorer Bartholomew Gosnold has decided not to attempt colonizing this region. He has named it "Cape Cod" for the abundance of that fish found in the area. He also came upon an island he has named "Martha's Vineyard" in honor of his daughter.

As the 17th century began, Gosnold was searching the coast of Maine and Massachusetts still hoping to find a passage to China and Oñate was exploring New Mexico.

Meanwhile, in France, Samuel de Champlain, was preparing for a 1603 voyage up the St. Lawrence River as far as Montreal, after which he went down the Atlantic shore to where Gosnold had stopped at Cape Cod. (These are called "concurrent events.")

Another concurrent event was Vizcaíno's voyage of exploration along the California coast.

Slowly but surely all of America's coastline was being visited by Europeans, but the interior of North America remained a great mystery.

VIZCAINO ON WEST COAST

Monterey, California, December 16, 1602

Explorer Sebastián Vizcaíno today reached this beautiful bay. He thought it would make an excellent port for the Manila Galleon. Vizcaíno named it "Monterey" meaning royal mountain.

OTHER NEWS BULLETINS OF 1570-1607

Here are some other names and events you may want to explore:

- 1571 Eight Jesuit missionaries in Florida are massacred by Indians pretending friendship.
- 1578 English explorer Martin Frobisher discovers the bay named for him in northern Canada.
- 1603 Bartholomew Gilbert seeks lost Roanoke colonists and is slain by Indians.
- 1604 Pierre du Guast establishes a short-lived French colony on the St. Croix River in Maine.

REACTION TIME!

1. Were privateers good or bad? Why?
2. Starting a colony in the new world was very dangerous. Would you like to be the first child born in a brand new colony?

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