

# 1 | Notes

## 1.1 | Prologue

- Usually conquest of America is viewed from a Western (Eurocentric) perspective, but we should look at it also from a **Native American perspective**
- This isn't easy because Native Americans didn't really write stuff down
- Text will look at how we might actually do this

## 1.2 | Ch 2

- European settlement didn't seem so significant in the 16th and early 17th century
  - Rivalries between tribes, etc. seemed more important
- Consequences of European settlement
  - Environmental changes that were bad for Indians
  - Cultural changes
  - Spreading of microbes

### 1.2.1 | Pattern of settlements

- Spanish settlement in southeast (e.g. Florida)
- Basque, French, English fishing from Newfoundland to Cape Cod
  - Some made semi-permanent camps which acted as trading camps
- English in Chesapeake Bay, settled Jamestown 1607
- French build Quebec in Stadacona 1608
- Henry Hudson explores Hudson river 1609
- Large European companies start settling in areas

### 1.2.2 | European settlements lead to importing of European objects

- **Trading system created**
- Some European manufacturers made items for Indians or took Indian items and made them into European objects
- Raw materials were important; metal items were valued by what they were made from rather than function
- Indians only started using European goods as they were intended after large colonies were settled
- European goods were valuable to Indians as well as European settlers and improved quality of life
- Some Indian culture shaped itself around European objects / absorbed European culture

- Weapons were much better
  - Ofc guns were cool
  - Metal blades had much greater impact initially
  - Arms race among Indian tribes
    - \* Stabilized after enough European colony settlements (200 years)
  - Guns sought after after arms race stabilization
    - \* Policies in place to prevent trade to Indians, but trade happened anyways because of economic incentive
- Beaver hunting and traps
  - Beaver pelts were very, **very** important
  - Beaver hunting reshaped political power
    - \* Intertribal and intratribal politics shifted from beaver pelts ### Environmental changes
- Demand for beavers led to overhunting led to regional extinctions
  - Didn't impact beaver populations in the long term
  - Impacted environment significantly
- Use of land differed between Indians and European settlers
  - Land as "resource" (Indian) vs "commodity" (European)
  - Indian farming productivity was significant
    - \* Diversity in plants (corn, beans, squash, etc)
  - North America lacked farmable animals
  - Deforestation and pasture creation for domesticated farm animals by Europeans
    - \* Restricted Native American lifestyles
    - \* Pigs, Chickens, etc. stole resources away from wild animals ### Disease introduction
- Crap ton of impact in the form of deaths, even in early days of settlement
- Problem worsened from family migrations to North America
- Disease decreased labor output by Natives
  - Created many socioeconomic problems

## 1.3 | Conclusion

**Native Americans were dynamic and adapted to changing environment**

## 2 | Summary of Reading

- Trading in North America was extremely important for **both European settlers and Native Americans**
  - Trading in North America **influenced environment, politics, and social dynamics**
- Also disease Imao